



# ADDRESSING FLOOD RISK: *A Path Forward for Texas After Hurricane Harvey*

Produced by Task Committee on Post Hurricane Harvey Recommendations  
of the Texas Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers

FLOODED APARTMENT BUILDINGS IN PORT ARTHUR, TX FOLLOWING HURRICANE HARVEY,  
CREDIT: TASK COMMITTEE CHAIR, ANDREW WELLS

The **Task Committee on Hurricane Harvey Recommendations** was formed by members of the Houston & Southeast Texas Branches of the American Society of Civil Engineers and now encompasses engineers from across the State. The communities of many Task Committee members have been severely impacted by flooding due to Hurricane Harvey. Their impetus to form this committee came from a desire to improve flood management practices based on their personal & professional experiences.

Throughout Texas, communities are reevaluating their flood risk management strategies, their floodplain maps & funding for flood risk reduction infrastructure. Building off the recommendations of the *2017 Report Card for Texas's Infrastructure*, which graded the State's overall flood risk management infrastructure a "D", the Task Committee's report proposes solutions applicable across all levels of government to address the issues highlighted by the results of Hurricane Harvey.

Visit [www.TexASCE.org/FloodRisk](http://www.TexASCE.org/FloodRisk) to view the full report

CONNECT WITH US



TexASCE.org



Texas Section ASCE



@TexASCETweets



Texas Section ASCE



asce\_texassection

*Texas civil engineers are leaders in their communities building a better quality of life across the street and around the world.*

# ABBREVIATED EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the *2017 Report Card for Texas's Infrastructure*, ASCE Texas Section graded the State's overall flood control infrastructure a "D." This grade does not reflect the quality or adequacy of any individual local government's facilities, but is rather an overall statewide grade. To improve this grade, civil engineers made several recommendations to lawmakers & the public, including increasing funding for flood control infrastructure, flood warning systems, flood risk mapping, & enhancing state involvement in these programs.

The issues identified in the *2017 Report Card for Texas's Infrastructure* were highlighted when Hurricane Harvey made landfall.

While eliminating the risk from extreme storm events such as Hurricane Harvey is impossible, communities across the State can reduce risks associated with larger storms, reduce their impacts, & improve recovery capabilities. Because flood water does not respect political boundaries, the Texas Section of ASCE calls for improved communication & coordination among local governments within each watershed.

Our recommendations for a path forward after Hurricane Harvey include:

## 🇹🇽 DEVELOP A STATEWIDE FLOOD MITIGATION PLAN

The Texas Water Development Board should develop and regularly update a statewide flood mitigation plan, with input from all levels of government, citizens and the private sector.

## 🇹🇽 FUND DAM SAFETY

The state should provide additional funding for Texas's Dam Safety Program as well as a funding program for dam improvements.

## 🇹🇽 IMPLEMENT A STATEWIDE LEVEE SAFETY PROGRAM

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality should develop & implement a program for inventorying the condition of all levees in Texas.

## 🇹🇽 FOCUS ON A WATERSHED APPROACH

Communities should take a watershed approach to flood risk management.

## 🇹🇽 EDUCATE CITIZENS ABOUT RISK

Entities with authority over floodplain management should collaborate to implement a public outreach program to educate the general Texas population about flood risk management & preparedness, including the roles of public agencies during emergency conditions.

## 🇹🇽 EMPLOY ALTERNATIVE FLOOD MITIGATION STRATEGIES

Continue to invest in the development & deployment of alternative flood mitigation strategies, including green stormwater infrastructure (also known as "low impact development").

Visit [www.TexasASCE.org/FloodRisk](http://www.TexasASCE.org/FloodRisk) to view detailed explanations of these recommendations