

# IT'S FLOODING DOWN IN TEXAS

## BLANCO RIVER IN HAYS COUNTY



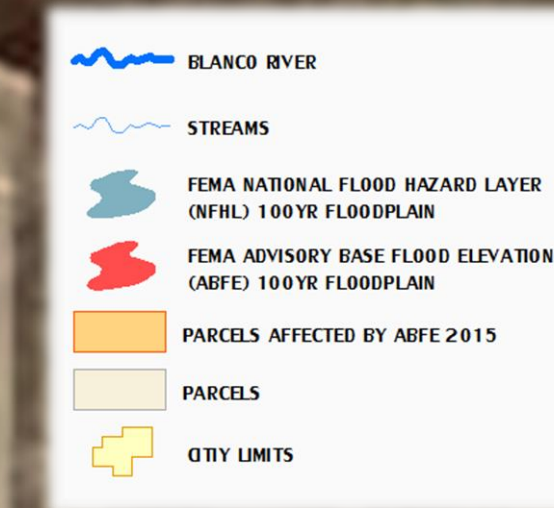
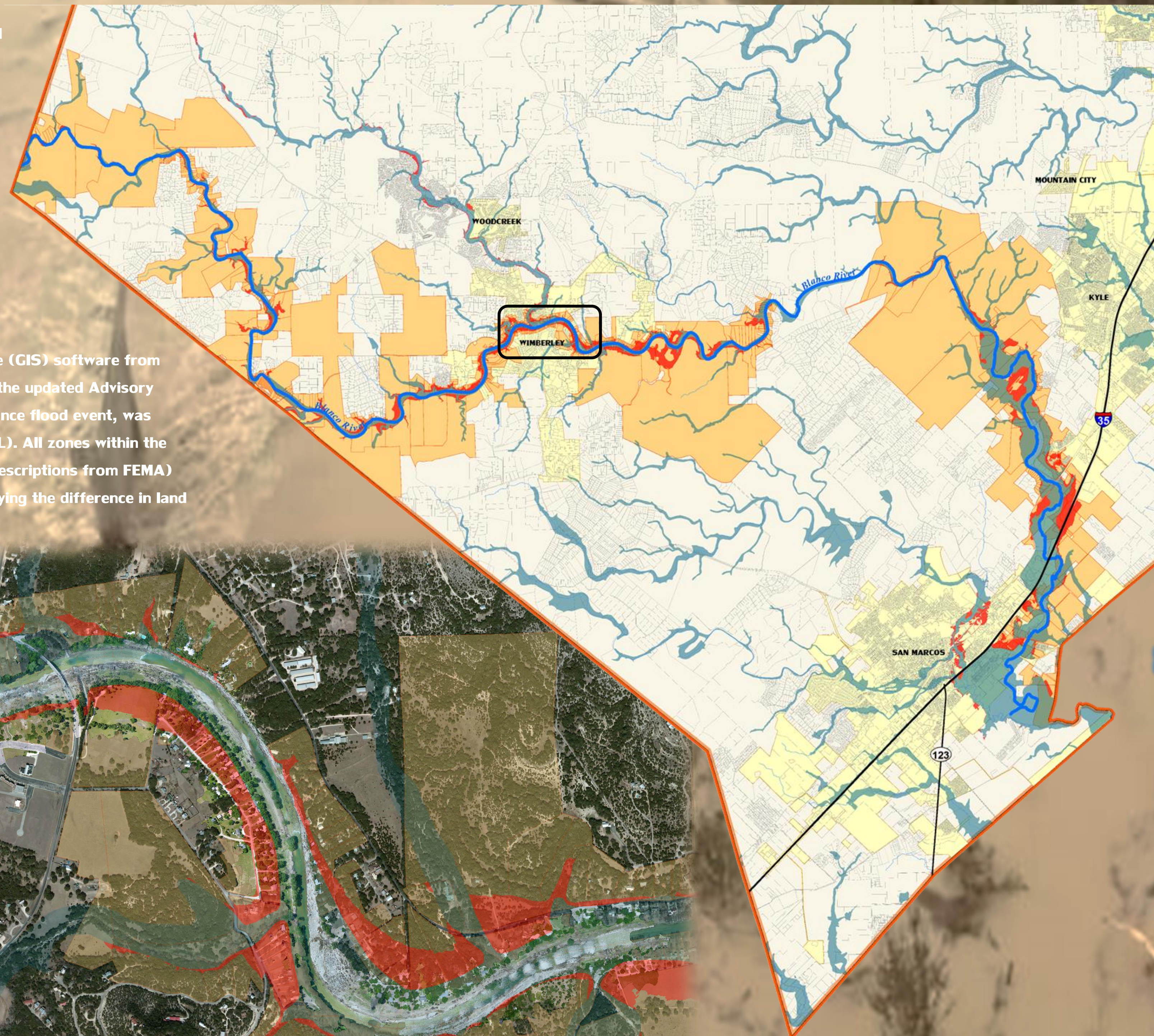
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**2015 Memorial Day Floods** sparked urgency for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to assess the extent of the Floodplain along the Blanco River in Hays County. The Land and Structures affected by recent flood events are undergoing the laborious process of Recovery as these Communities in the Texas Hill Country band together to Rebuild.

FEMA is engaged in a Flood Recovery Mapping project which includes the delineation of Advisory Floodplains mapped to the 100yr and 500yr (1% and 0.2% annual chance) flood elevations. The Advisory Base Flood Elevation (ABFE) data is intended to be used as a tool for Federal, State, and local officials, building officials, planning staff, builders and architects, insurance professionals, and property owners to make informed decisions during rebuilding and to mitigate against losses from future flood events, safeguard lives, and protect the private and public investments in rebuilding. The ABFE for Hays County was delineated in cooperation with FEMA, Guadalupe Blanco River Authority (GBRA), Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

### METHODOLOGY

Geospatial Analysis conducted using Geographic Information Systems/Science (GIS) software from Esri (ArcGIS Desktop 10.3) quantifies the land area and parcels affected by the updated Advisory Floodplain boundary. The 100yr Floodplain, also known as the 1% annual chance flood event, was analyzed for both the ABFE and the FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL). All zones within the 100yr flood risk, Zone A, Zone AE, and Zone AH (see Table A for detailed descriptions from FEMA) were grouped [dissolved] for both the ABFE and NFHL layers prior to quantifying the difference in land acreage now deemed at risk [select by location and geometry calculations].



**TABLE A: FEMA High Risk Area Flood Zone Designations**  
In communities that participate in the NFIP, mandatory flood insurance purchase requirements apply to all of these zones:

ZONE	DESCRIPTION
A	Areas with a 1% annual chance of flooding and a 26% chance of flooding over the life of a 30-year mortgage. Because detailed analyses are not performed for such areas, no depths or base flood elevations are shown within these zones.
AE	The base floodplain where base flood elevations are provided. AE Zones are now used on new formal FIRMs instead of A1-A30 Zones (old format BFE).
AH	Areas with a 1% annual chance of shallow flooding, usually in the form of a pond, with an average depth ranging from 1 to 3 feet. These areas have a 26% chance of flooding over the life of a 30-year mortgage. Base flood elevations derived from detailed analyses are shown at selected intervals within these zones.

### RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

**2008.5 additional Acres** of land across 1289 Parcels (Tracts) along the Blanco River in Hays County are now within the 100yr Advisory Floodplain that was not previously included in the FEMA NFHL 100yr Floodplain. **370 additional Parcels** along the Blanco River in Hays County that were not intersecting the FEMA NFHL are advised to rebuild under the regulations of tracts of land within the FEMA NFHL 100yr Floodplain. The Advisory Floodplain boundary will be considered for future releases of FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM). Property owners now within the Advisory Floodplain should research of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) for details regarding the purchase of flood insurance. Visit [www.riskmap6.com](http://www.riskmap6.com) for more information on the release of the FEMA ABFE map and efforts to Rebuild the Texas Hill Country Communities to be more resilient to future flood events.

