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**COMAL COUNTY, TEXAS
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE**

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Comal County to seek federal reimbursement for emergency funds

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, JANUARY 4, 2016:

NEW BRAUNFELS — Comal County is seeking federal reimbursement for damage expenses incurred during the Oct. 30 flash flood.

Comal joins several other area counties in being part of a federally declared disaster area because of heavy rains and flooding that occurred across the county. The declaration, which came Dec. 28, means the county is eligible for public assistance – or reimbursement for money spent by public agencies, utilities and certain nonprofits – in addition to the individual assistance for which Comal County residents have been eligible since November.

“Comal County residents are working hard to recover from this fall’s flooding, and so are we,” said Jeff Kelley, the county’s emergency management coordinator. “We’re glad to be able to make sure county tax dollars are used as efficiently as possible as we continue this process.”

On Nov. 2, Kelley submitted estimated costs to the state, which collected similar reports from other counties and submitted them to the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Later this week, Kelley and other county officials will meet with FEMA to begin the process of gaining approval for reimbursement of specific expenses

The estimated costs to the county include \$640,000 in damaged infrastructure and other repairs; \$165,000 in emergency protective measures, such as overtime for sheriff’s deputies and other employees; and more than \$1.75 million in direct economic impact, primarily to the county’s river-tourism industry.

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