Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

July 22, 2025

The Honorable Gene Dodaro Comptroller General U.S. Government Accountability Office 441 G Street, NW Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Comptroller General Dodaro,

We write to request a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report on the coordinated federal preparation, alert system, and response to the catastrophic flooding and subsequent loss of life that occurred in the Texas Hill Country along the Guadalupe River on July 4, 2025. We request that the report include recommendations across agencies, including NOAA, NWS, FEMA, and on the federal, state, and local levels for both the steps taken ahead of the historic flooding to alert the community and prepare the area, as well as the subsequent response and rescue efforts. This report is essential to understanding what happened and to ensuring that we learn the lessons from this disaster and do all we can to prevent future tragedies.

In the early hours of July 4, 2025, floods swept across the Texas Hill Country. The Guadalupe River rose nearly 30 feet within 45 minutes. This is the deadliest flood in Texas in recent history, and the loss of life has been devastating. To date, the death toll has risen to over 130 individuals, many of them children at summer camp, with officials still searching for more people who are known to be missing. The devastation is extraordinary, impacting every corner of the State of Texas. These people are our friends, family, colleagues, schoolmates, and neighbors. As members of Congress representing Texas, we must do everything we can to ensure that the response from the federal government adequately addresses the needs of the community now and in the future.

We look forward to GAO's insights on the federal government's coordinated response to this event, which will help inform our legislative and oversight responsibilities as our communities work to recover and rebuild.

Sincerely,

Lizzie Fletcher

Member of Congress

Juis Helder

Jasmine Crockett

Al Green

Al Green Member of Congress

Julie Johnson

Member of Congress

Greg Casar Member of Congress

Veronica Escobar Member of Congress

Lloyd Doggett
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Marc A. Veasey
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oaquin Castro Member of Congress

Vicente Gonzalez
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Sylvia R. Garcia
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Henry Cuellar Member of Congress