

PROJECT: Sabine Regional Flood Planning Group (RFPG)
NAME OF MEETING: Region 4 Sabine RFPG Meeting – September 2021
RECORDED BY: Mat Leclair, PE, CFM, CPESC
DATE: September 21, 2021; 11:00am
LOCATION: Virtual and In-Person (SRA Office – Orange, TX)
DATE SENT FOR APPROVAL:
DATE FINALIZED:

The following reflects our understanding of the items discussed during the subject meeting. If you do not notify us within five working days, we will assume that you are in agreement with our understanding.

Voting Member	Interest Category	Present (x) / Absent () / Alternate Present (*)
James (Bill) Bruce	Agriculture Interests	
Johnny Trahan	Counties	x
Francis X. Shannon	Electric Generating Utilities	x
Clyde V. McKee III	Environmental Interests	x
Don Carona	Flood Districts	
Nikki Davis	Industries	x
Alton Bradley	Municipalities	x
Michelle Falgout	Public	x
Travis Williams	River Authorities	x
Jeff Rogers	Small Business	
Roman D. Griffin	Water Districts	x
Ross Gordon	Water Utilities	x

Voting Members: 12

Voting Members Present: 9

Quorum: **Yes**

Non-Voting Member	Interest Category	Present (x) / Absent () / Alternate Present (*)
Colleen Jones	General Land Office	x
Kathy Saucedo	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	x
Manuel Martinez	Texas Department of Agriculture	x
Brian Hurtuk	Texas Division of Emergency Management	
Robert (Bob) Baker	Texas Parks and Wildlife	x
Trey Watson	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	
Ryke Moore	Texas Water Development Board	x

Other Meeting Attendees:

Mike Reedy (FNI)

Mat Leclair (FNI)

Sarah Foshee (MTG)

Chris Perry

Sonia Martinez

Mark Howard (SRA)

Allison Hand (FNI)

James Bronikowski

Morgan White (TWDB)

Doug Manning (OCDD)

Vance Liles

James East

Jim Brown

Agenda Item 1: Call to Order

- Johnny Trahan called the meeting called to order at 11:05 am.

Agenda Item 2: Roll Call

- Mark Howard confirmed quorum with 9 out of 12 voting members.

Agenda Item 3: Welcome, Meeting Facilitation Information, and Instructions

- Johnny Trahan welcomes everyone to the meeting.

Agenda Item 4: Receive general public comments (public comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker).

- No members of the public online.
- No comments from the public.

Agenda Item 5: Discussion and Approval of minutes from the previous Region 4 Sabine RFPG meeting held August 11, 2021.

- Change voting members to 12
- Reem Zoun, James Bronikowski, Mark Howard, Jim Brown, Cory Stull, John Grounds, Robert Adams were added to the attendees list
- Meeting adjourned at 11:50am.
- Travis motions to approve minutes as amended
- Clyde McKee seconds motion.
- Motion passes.

Agenda Item 6: Consider approving expenses for August Meeting

- Johnny Trahan mentions payment to City of Center for August 11th RFPG Meeting for the use of the Wyndham Civic Center.
- Travis Williams motions to approve payment to City of Center in amount of \$350
- Clyde McKee seconds motion
- Motion passes.

Agenda Item 7: Updates from Chairman

- Changes and discussion regarding flood insurance rates
- Building secured for public meeting which was pushed back to October.
- Travis Williams mentions a call on September 15th for all the chairs of the RFPGs
 - o Delay Task 2B items pushed back to March while Tech memo submittal is January 7th.
 - o \$10M in appropriated funds from TWDB. Tentatively considering Sept. 23rd by SRA may get an additional \$569,000.

Agenda Item 8: Update from the Texas Water Development Board

- Ryke Moore mentions an email went out this morning (9/21) regarding the additional funding.
- 9/22 – Webinar on the BCA Input Tool for benefit cost analysis.
- Notes the tech memo extension on task 2
- Webinar for payment requests will be held on 9/24 for sponsors
- RFPG documents will be removed in the near future
- Water for TX conference on 10/27-29th registration ends 10/24.
- 9/28 – Panel for RFPG chairs

Agenda Item 9: Region 5. Neches RFPG Report.

- Don Carona is not present today.
- Mike Reedy notes that Neches RFPG group meets tomorrow.

Agenda Item 10: Update from Freese and Nichols

- Mat Leclair gave a presentation on the latest updates Regional Flood Plan developments
 - o Task 1
 - The watershed is 14th out of 15 regions in population and 12th out of 15 for watershed size (within Texas) but additional analysis shows the Sabine Basin is 3rd in the state in terms of flood damages per capita. This was based on the FEMA claims data which only accounts for existing flood insurance policies. As noted in previous meetings, there were a significantly larger number of structures that flooded during recent storm events; thus, the damages may be higher than the data which currently exists.
 - FNI notes that 7 stakeholders have completed the online survey and there have been 9 public responses, all of which have come from Orange County.
 - o Task 2
 - Mat Leclair discussed the different floodplains, notable the Fathom data and the differences between the first round received earlier this summer and the second round of data to come in October.
 - The Fathom data fills in the gaps in unstudied areas and creates floodplains on the smaller streams which are usually not mapped either by a detailed Zone AE study or an unstudied Zone A.
 - Mat Leclair mentions the first round of Fathom data did not include the 500-year data, but the second round of the data will include it.
 - Images were shown highlighting the analysis of identified structures within the floodplain and a majority of them being in Orange County. Additionally, a large number of critical facilities within the floodplain were also located in Orange County. Additionally, the length of roads within the mapped floodplain were also shown.
 - Travis Williams discussed the impact of flooding in the Sabine basin regarding evacuation routes. The Texas side is considered as it's part of the overall data, but evacuation out to Louisiana is not accounted for as it's not within the state of Texas.
 - o Task 3
 - FNI discussed that 100% of counties and 82% of communities within the Sabine basin participate in the NFIP. The 13 non-participating communities are all quite small with a combined population around approximately 19,000.
 - Mike Reedy started the level discussion about goals for the Regional Flood Plan. The goal categories are as follows:
 - Protect Life Safety

- Protect Property
 - Improve Data
 - Improve Policy & Regulations
 - Improve Flood Infrastructure
 - Expand Funding
 - Expand Education and Outreach
- The subgoals within each goal group were discussed and an additional goal of installing more gages in the watershed was added to the Improve Data goal category.
- Mentimeter was then used to do an interactive poll for the voting members of the group. Results of the poll are provided as an attachment at the rear of these meeting minutes.
- Task 4
 - Mat Leclair discussed the FME/FMS/FMP process which the technical consultant will use in identifying which category potential mitigation needs will fall under. This process will be voted on in the October RFPG meeting.
 - Mat Leclair mentioned how the task 1 data, the task 2 floodplains, and the task 3 goals to go into the identification and assessment of FMEs/FMSs/FMPs and that a majority of the identified areas would likely fall into the FME category.

Agenda Item 11: Consider date and agenda items for next meeting.

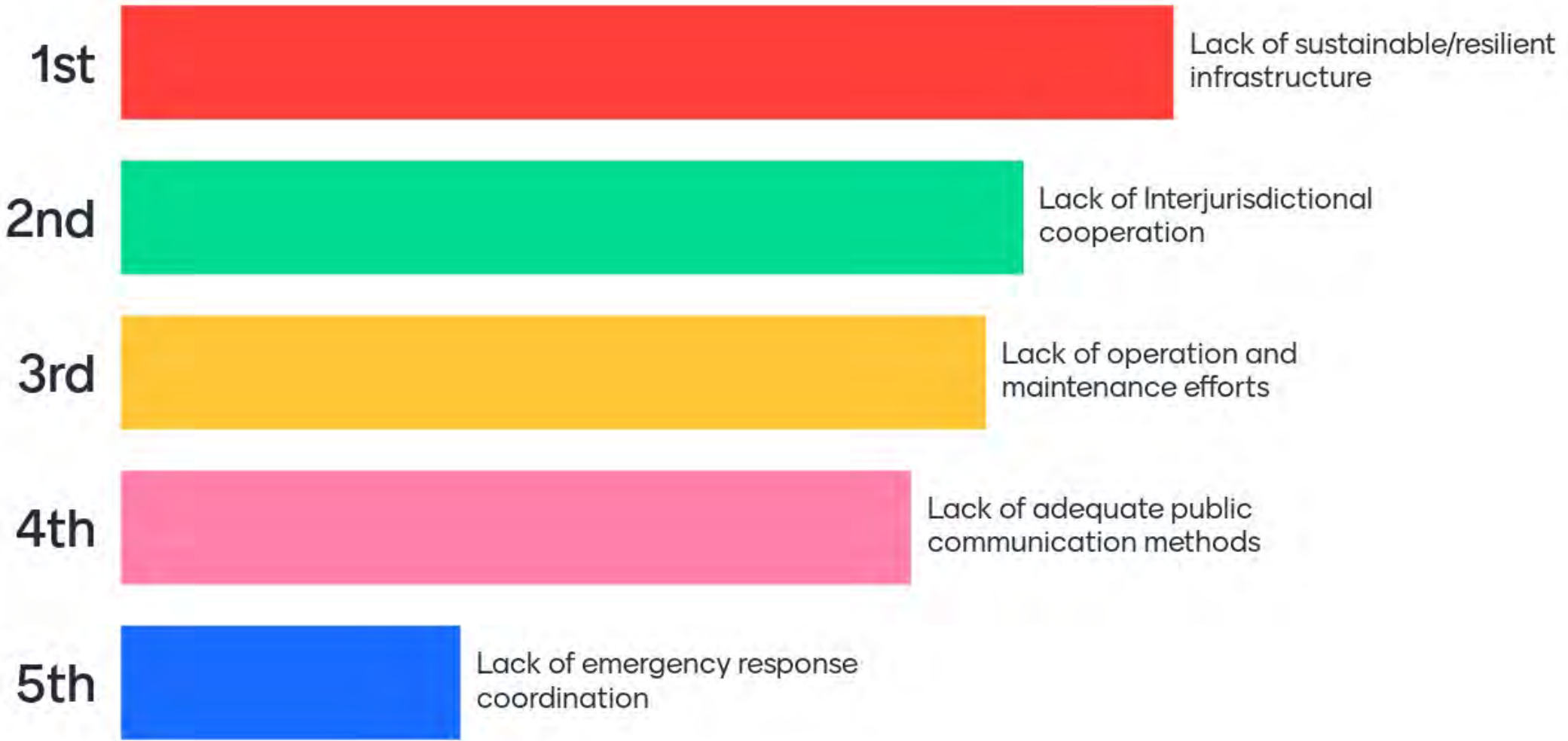
- Johnny Trahan recommends the next Sabine RFPG Meeting to be held on October 21st at 11am.

Agenda Item 12: Adjourn

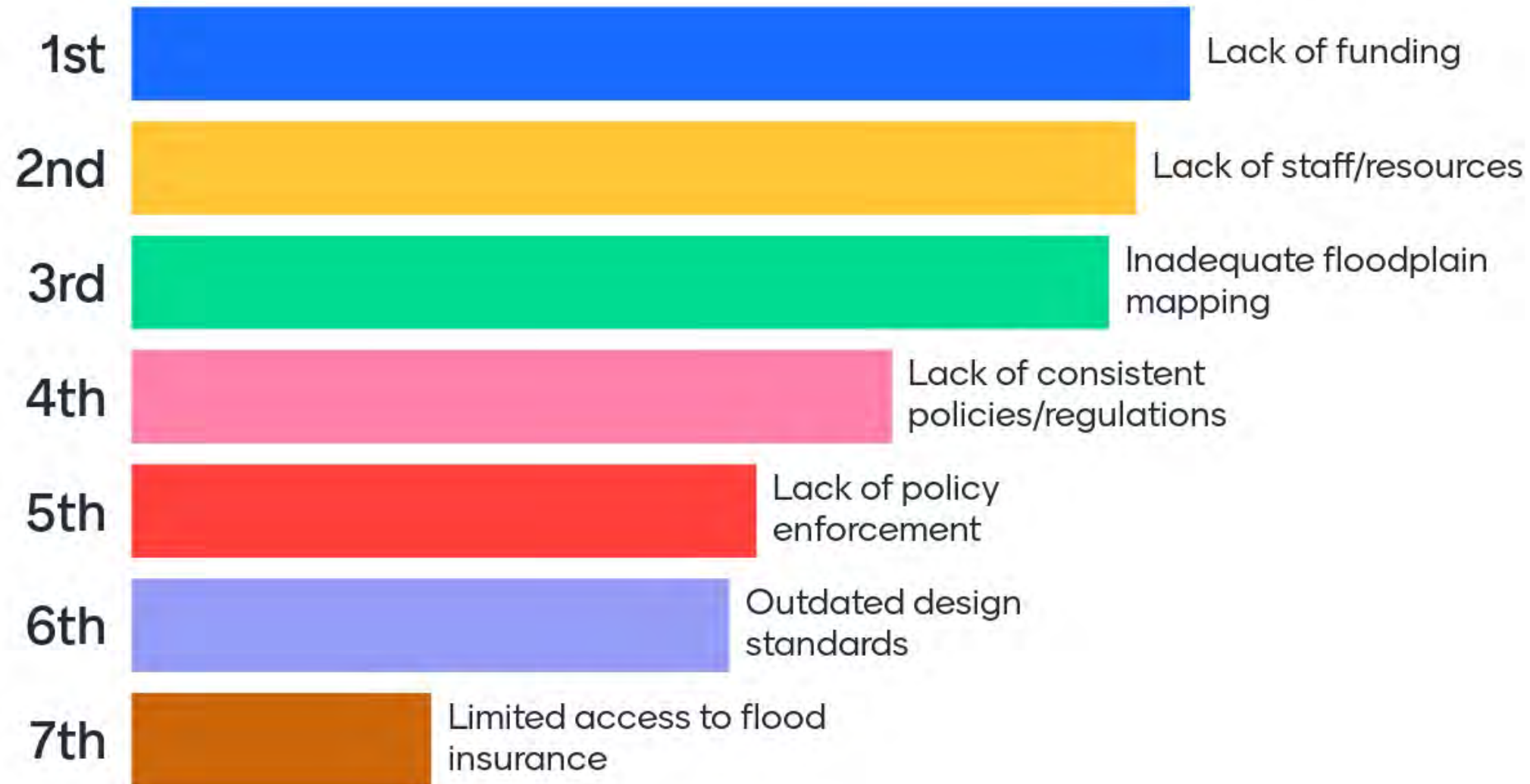
- Johnny Trahan adjourned the meeting at 1:18 pm.

Overall Plan Goal: "to protect against the loss of life and property"

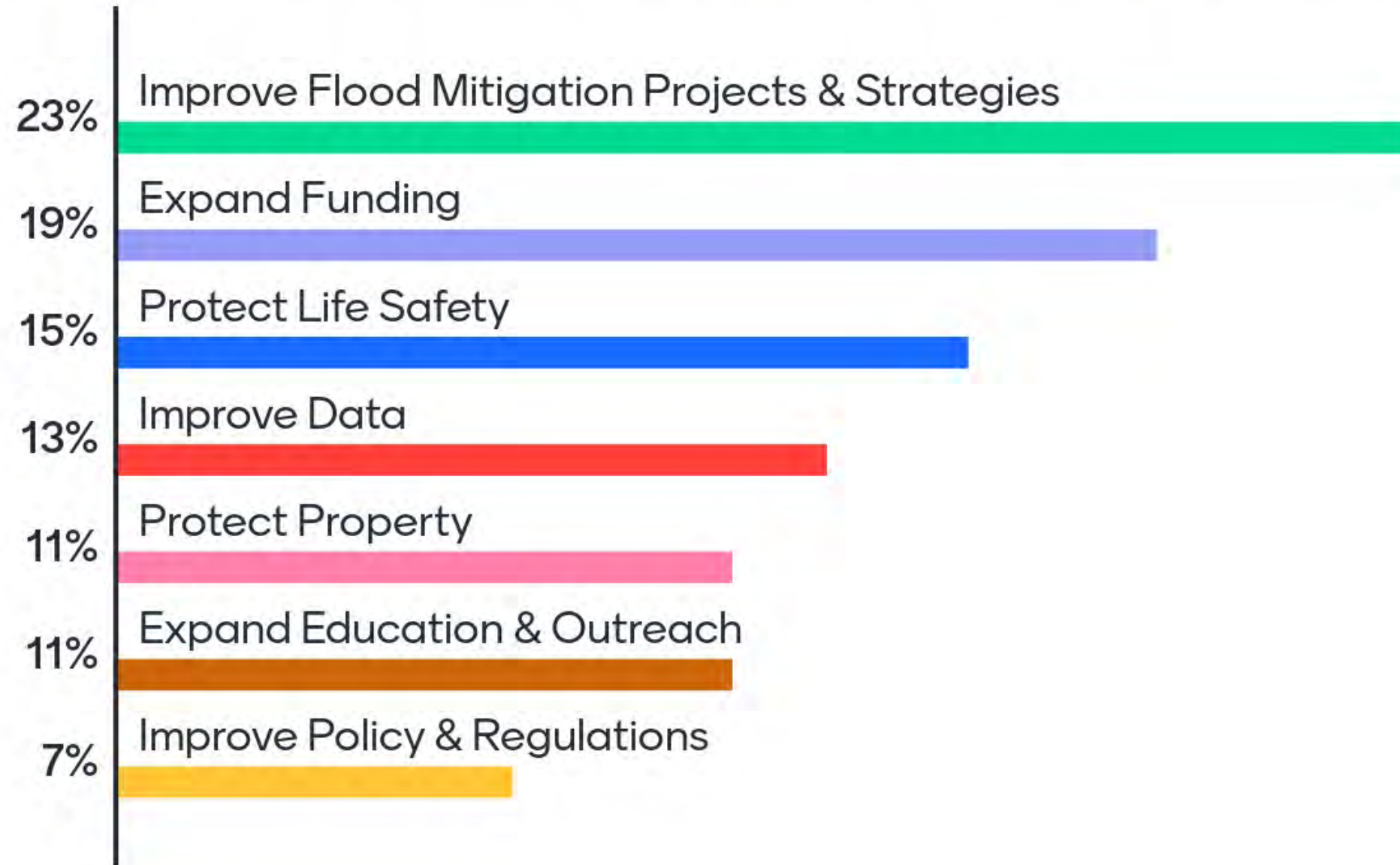
What do you consider to be an impediment to managing flood risk to life and property in the Region?



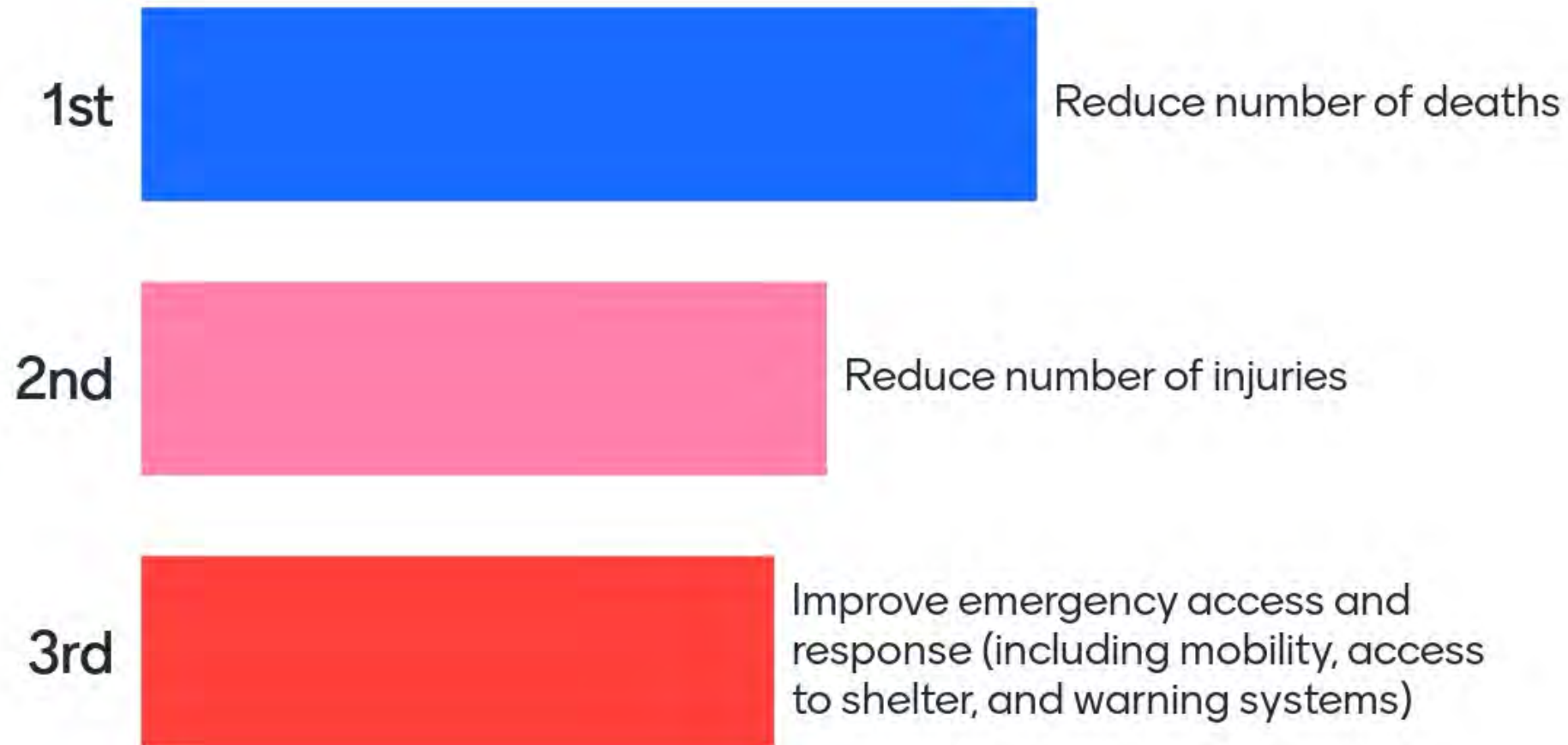
What do you consider to be an impediment to effective floodplain management in the Region?



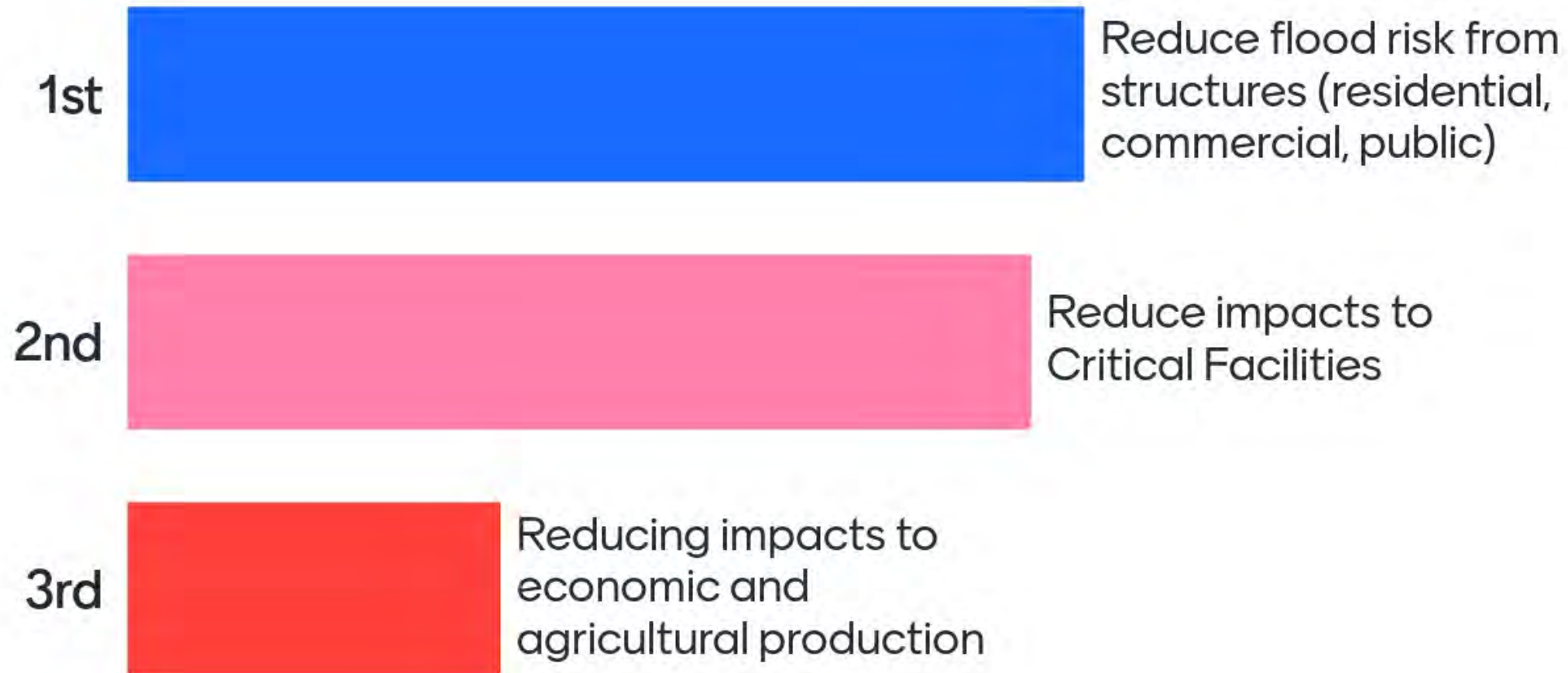
Which RFPG goal category should be the most important for the Sabine Region? (Assign weight out of 100 points)



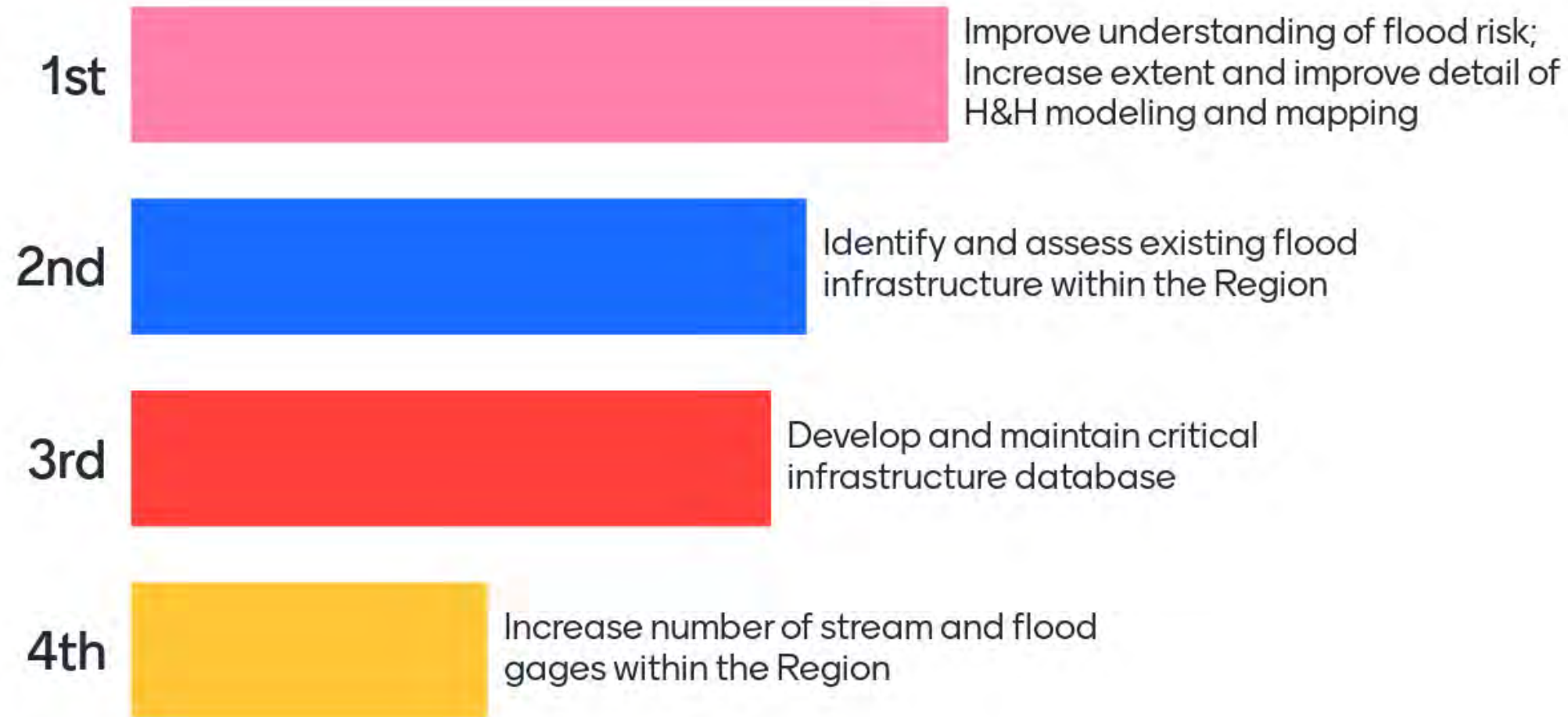
Rank the most important sub goals within the goal category: PROTECT LIFE SAFETY



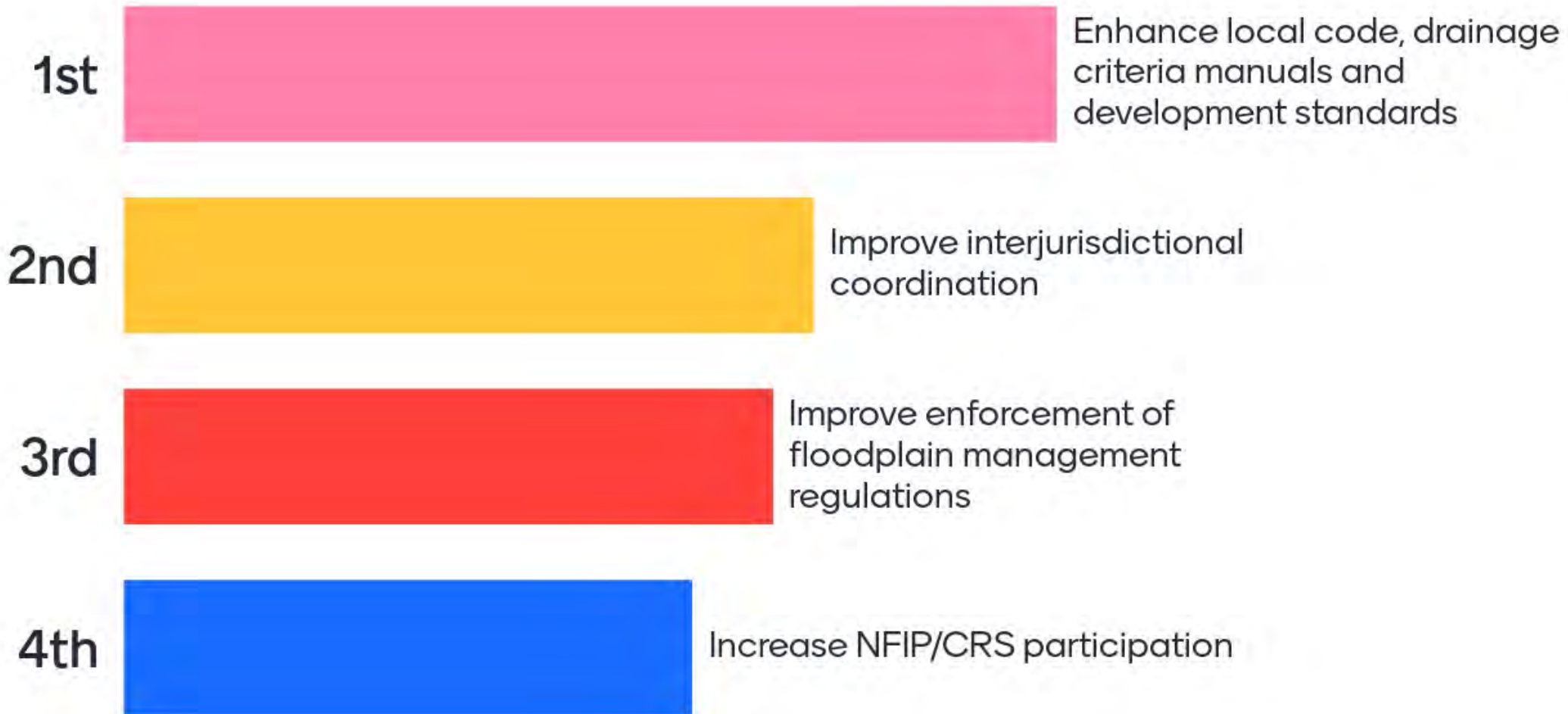
Rank the most important sub goals within the goal category: PROTECT PROPERTY



Rank the most important sub goals within the goal category: IMPROVE DATA



Rank the most important sub goals within the goal category: IMPROVE POLICY & REGULATIONS



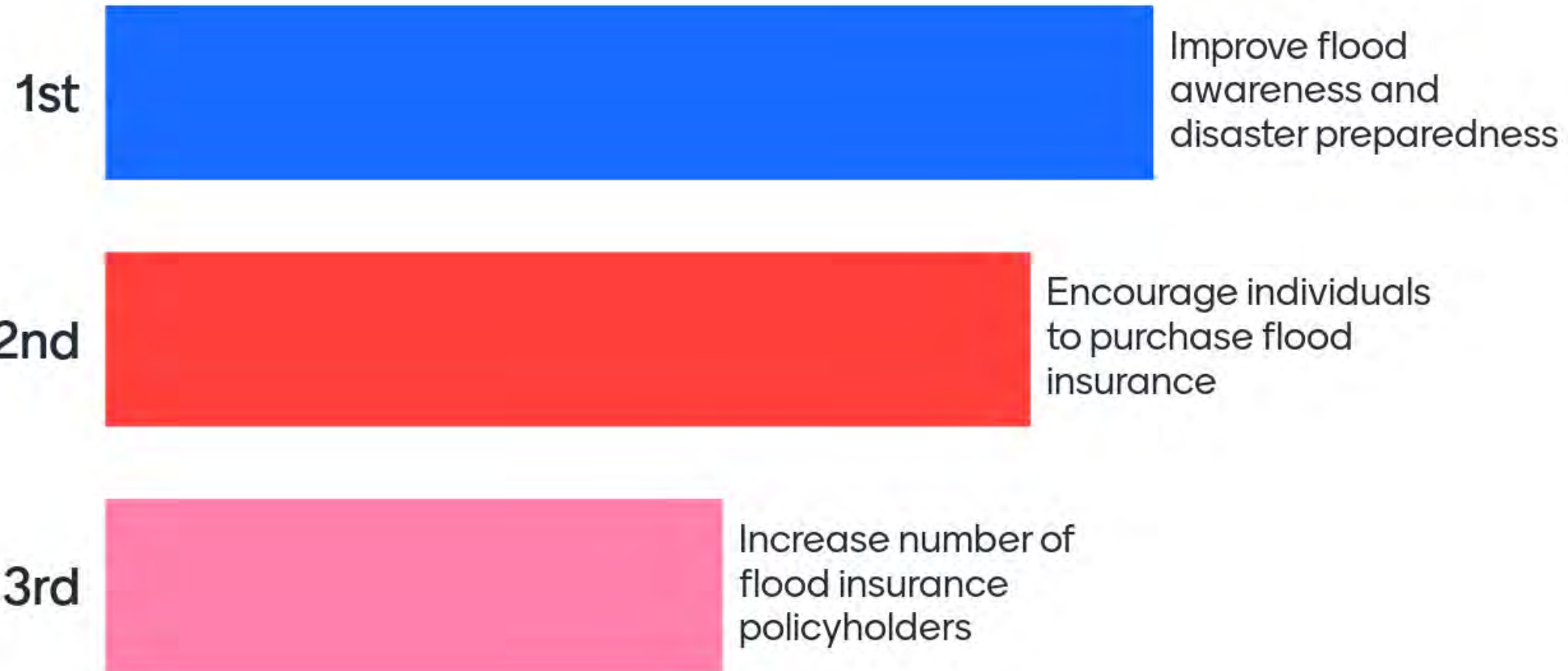
Rank the most important sub goals within the goal category: IMPROVE FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECTS & STRATEGIES



Rank the most important sub goals within the goal category: EXPAND FUNDING



Rank the most important sub goals within the goal category: EXPAND EDUCATION & OUTREACH



Return to powerpoint

