Flood Glossary for Twomile Canyon and Upper Goose Creek Flood Mitigation Study

100-Year (or Base) Flood:
A flood event that statistically has a 1 out of 100 (or one percent) chance of being equaled or exceeded on a specific watercourse in any given year.

Channel:
An open conveyance of surface stormwater having a bottom and sides in a linear configuration. Channels can be natural or man-made. Constructed channels can be plain earth, landscaped, or lined with concrete, stone, or any other hard surface to resist erosion and scour.

Culvert:
A hydraulically short conduit that conveys surface water runoff through a roadway embankment or through some other type of flow obstruction.

Detention Basin:
A basin or reservoir where water is stored for regulating a flood. It has outlets for releasing the flows during the floods. (Note: a retention basin is a basin or reservoir where water is stored for regulating a flood but does not have outlets for releasing the flows. Instead, the water must be disposed by draining into the soil, evaporation or pumping systems.)

Embankment:
A man-made earth structure constructed for the purpose of impounding water.

Federally-Mapped Floodplain:
A flood prone area that has been mapped and accepted by FEMA as the result of a flood insurance study (FIS) for a watercourse and surrounding areas. Mapped floodplains are used for flood insurance needs and for other regulatory purposes.

Floodplain:
The area adjoining a watercourse that may be covered by floodwater during a flood.

Floodplain Management:
A program that uses corrective and preventative measures to reduce flood and erosion damage and preserve natural habitat and wildlife resources in flood prone areas. Some of these measures include: adopting and administering Floodplain Regulations, resolving drainage complaints, protecting riparian habitat
communities, and assuring effective maintenance and operation of flood control works.

**Floodway:**
The channel of a watercourse and portion of the adjacent floodplain that is needed to convey the base or 100-year flood event without increasing flood levels by more than one foot of floodwater.

**Sediment:**
Soil particles, sand, and minerals washed from the land into aquatic systems as a result of natural and human activities.

**Spill:**
A predicted flow of water that escapes the stream channel and flows in a different direction.

**Spillway:**
An outlet pipe or channel serving to discharge water from a dam, ditch, gutter, or basin.

**Storm Drainage System:**
A drainage system for collecting runoff of stormwater on highways and removing it to appropriate outlets. The system includes inlets, catch basins, storm sewers, drains, reservoirs, pump stations, and detention basins.

**Stormwater:**
Precipitation from rain or snow that accumulates in a natural or man-made watercourse or conveyance system.