



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Victoria J. Li, P.E., Director
Watershed Protection & Development Review

DATE: March 18, 2008

SUBJECT: Oil spill containment, Waller Creek, January 10, 2008

On January 10, 2008, a below ground tank in an alley off 6th Street broke open, spilling oil into a storm drain connected to Waller Creek. The tank contained about 15,000 gallons of oil which if uncontained would have had a devastating impact on the property and environment of landowners, utilities, Waller Creek, and Lady Bird Lake, as a minimum. The spill had to be rapidly contained to keep the cost of cleanup from rising exponentially; if the spill had reach Lady Bird Lake, it would have moved downstream from there.

The City has a price agreement in place for rapid response remediation for small spills and abandoned hazardous materials (NO07*74, Eagle Construction.) However, the large size of this spill required more resources than were available under the provisions of the price agreement.

Currently, the cost of containment, recovery and remediation of the spill into Waller Creek from the storm drain is currently about \$220,000.

If you require additional information regarding this situation, please contact Sharon Cooper at 974-2448.

Victoria J. Li, P.E., Director
Watershed Protection & Development Review Department

xc: Marc Ott, City Manager
Laura Huffman, Assistant City Manager
Nancy McClintock, Assistant Director, WPDR
Tom Ennis, Division Manager, WPDR
Sharon Cooper, Environmental/Conservation Program Manager, WPDR