



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Victoria J. Li, P.E., Director
Watershed Protection Department

DATE: July 16, 2014

SUBJECT: Staff Report - Resolution No. 20140515-028 – Onion Creek Flood Hazard Mitigation Study and the Drainage Utility Charge

On May 15, 2014, Council approved Resolution No. 20140515-028 directing the City Manager to bring forward funding options for a buyout of homes in the 100-year Onion Creek floodplain and the 25-year Williamson Creek floodplain as part of the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 budget process, conduct stakeholder meetings with impacted homeowners, and provide a report to Council regarding the history of the monthly drainage charge.

Onion Creek Flood Hazard Mitigation Study:

The Resolution directed the City Manager to prepare a report identifying the resources required to study the feasible flood mitigation options within the Onion Creek floodplain outside the William Cannon Drive and Pleasant Valley Road area and to bring for Council consideration as part of the fiscal year 2014-15 budget process the funding identified in the report.

Onion Creek has been studied extensively to determine not only flood hazards but to identify flood mitigation solutions within the City and Travis County. A 2006 study by the United States Army Corps of Engineers identified buyouts as the most feasible mitigation alternative for lower Onion Creek (the area just upstream and south of William Cannon Drive) in addition to analyzing other mitigation alternatives for areas outside the William Cannon Drive area. The goal of an updated floodplain study of Onion Creek would be to confirm the existing mitigation alternatives and evaluate new alternatives within the City but outside of lower Onion Creek.

In addition to this goal, identifying flood hazards for several tributaries of Onion Creek that are currently unstudied or are in need of updating creates the potential to realize cost savings while identifying flood hazards in these other areas. A new floodplain study of this magnitude would cost approximately \$1 million and could be completed in 18 months. This study is not currently included within the Watershed Protection Department (WPD) 5-year budget plan. WPD will work with the Budget Office to ensure this initiative is brought forward for Council consideration as

part of the Fiscal Year 2014-15 budget process. Attached for your information is a detailed assessment.

Drainage Utility Fund:

Resolution No.20140515-028 directed the City Manager to provide a report to Council regarding the history and use of the drainage utility fund, including a ten year history of the monthly drainage charge, the charge rates, and where the funding has been allocated on an annual basis.

The drainage utility charge was established in 1981 in response to the Memorial Day flood of 1981, when 13 people lost their lives and when the City suffered millions of dollars in property damage. The drainage charge began at \$3.32 per account for residences and \$35.83 per developed acre for non-residential properties and is now (FY2014) \$9.20 per equivalent residential unit (ERU) and \$227.33 per impervious acre for non-residential properties. The charge is used to fund the work of the Watershed Protection Department (the drainage utility), whose mission is to protect lives, property and the environment of our community by reducing the impact of flood, erosion and water pollution. Please see Appendix X in the attached report for more detailed information.

Resolution No. 20140515-028 included several other tasks, due in July, that are currently underway. Those items include:

- Funding options for the purchase the remaining homes in the William Cannon Drive and Pleasant Valley Road area in the 100-year Onion Creek floodplain and in the Radam Circle, Heartwood Drive, and Meadow Circle Drive area in the 25-year Williamson Creek floodplain;
- Information related to the federal reimbursement process with regard to insurance proceeds;
- Opportunities for additional federal reimbursement for buyouts; and
- A report summarizing the outcome of the requested stakeholder meetings.

As directed, staff will prepare a response to each deliverable. The final report will be distributed by July 31st.

Please contact Jose Guerrero, Assistant Director, Watershed Protection Department, should you have any detailed questions or concerns at (512) 974-3386 or via e-mail at Jose.Guerrero@austintexas.gov.

Attachment

Cc: Marc A. Ott, City Manager
Sue Edwards, Assistant City Manager
Joe Pantalione, P.E., Deputy Director, Watershed Protection Department
Jose M. Guerrero, P.E., Assistant Director, Watershed Protection Department



**WATERSHED PROTECTION DEPARTMENT
REPORT FOR COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. 20140515-028**

Council Resolution No. 20140515-028 directed the City Manager to bring forward funding options for the buyout of homes in the 100-year Onion Creek floodplain and the 25-year Williamson Creek floodplain as part of the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 budget process, conduct stakeholder meetings with impacted homeowners, and provide a report to Council regarding the history of the monthly drainage charge.

Attached is a report on two of the tasks included in the referenced resolution.

Onion Creek Flood Hazard Mitigation Study:

This section provides information regarding the summary of the staff, programmatic, and budgetary needs necessary to study the feasible flood mitigation options within the Onion Creek floodplain outside the William Cannon Drive and Pleasant Valley Road area. The study will include evaluation of flood mitigation options for at risk areas within City of Austin full purpose jurisdiction, but outside of the specified area. This will focus the evaluation on the portions of the Onion Creek subdivision adjacent to Pinehurst Drive, River Plantation Drive and Wild Dunes Drive. The flooding problem areas in the vicinity of the Bear Creek and Onion Creek confluence, Bluff Springs Road / Perkins Valley, and Timber Creek, which are in the City's 2-mile extra territorial jurisdiction and within Travis County will not be directly included.

Flood Mitigation Options and Previous Studies:

In addition to an updated evaluation of potential flood mitigation options, the study will consider the solutions proposed in previous studies of the area. These include the 2006 Interim Feasibility Report and Integrated Environmental Assessment prepared by the Fort Worth District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the 1997 Onion Creek Flood Control Study prepared by Loomis & Moore, Inc. These prior studies considered structural solutions in the problem areas listed above and regional detention options that could benefit the entire lower watershed.

Updated Hydrologic and Hydraulic Models:

Hydrologic models are used to model watersheds to produce the flow rates that are then input into hydraulic models that translate those flow rates to flood depths in creeks and rivers. In order to provide a comprehensive evaluation of flood mitigation options, the hydrologic and hydraulic modeling for the Onion Creek watershed will first need to be updated. This would include minor revisions to the hydrologic modeling and updates to the hydraulic modeling to incorporate the 2012 topographic data, new survey and several Letters of Map Revision (LOMR) that have been completed for Onion Creek. The LOMR process is a detailed FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) process to revise and update flood insurance rate maps. The final hydrologic analysis would also include an evaluation of the impacts of potential development scenarios in the upper Onion Creek watershed.

Incorporation of Related Floodplain Study:

The Bear Creek, Little Bear Creek, and Rinard Creek tributaries of Onion Creek are also high on the Watershed Protection Floodplain Office's list of watersheds that need updated floodplain studies. These

watersheds are experiencing significant development that warrants updated flood risk information for floodplain regulation enforcement purposes. The hydrology for these watersheds will be updated as part of the overall Onion Creek update. Incorporation of these additional streams into the Onion Creek study would provide significant cost savings over the separate studies that the Floodplain Office currently has budgeted within its 5-year plan.

Staff and Budget Needs:

The proposed study is of sufficient magnitude and urgency that it should be performed by an outside consultant. We estimate that the cost of the study will be approximately \$800,000. If the cost of high water mark surveys and elevation certificates is included, the cost increases to approximately \$1,000,000. This study is not currently included within the WPD 5-year budget plan. Coordination and review of the study along with associated public outreach efforts will require approximately 800 to 900 hours of Watershed Protection Department (WPD) staff time depending on whether the high water mark survey and elevation certificate effort is included with this project. We anticipate that the engineering components of the study could be completed within 18 months after the City issues a notice to proceed. Preparation, submittal and approval of a FEMA LOMR based on the study would extend the overall schedule several months. Creation of new FIRM maps through a Physical Map Revision (PMR) would take up to two additional years and would involve the participation of FEMA's mapping contractors.

Contracting Mechanism:

We have identified four potential contracting mechanisms for the proposed project.

1. The existing 2010 Floodplain Modeling and Mapping rotation list
2. The existing 2010 Creek and Local Flood Hazard Mitigation rotation list
3. A new Floodplain Modeling and Mapping rotation list
4. A new stand-alone contract

Each of these options presents certain challenges. We have already used most of the capacity of the existing 2010 Floodplain Modeling and Mapping rotation list and would need City Council's approval to expand this capacity. This would be the second such expansion for this rotation list. The existing 2010 Creek and Local Flood Hazard Mitigation rotation list does not have capacity for the proposed project. We have created the scope of work for a new Floodplain Modeling and Mapping Rotation list and circulated the scope to the WPD leadership team for review. However, even an expedited process to issue RFQs and select firms for either a new rotation list or a stand-alone project would take considerably longer than if we utilize an existing rotation list.

After weighing the options, WPD has determined that expansion of capacity of the existing 2010 Floodplain Modeling and Mapping rotation list would be the best option for this project. This would allow us to use a firm that has been specifically selected for their floodplain modeling and mapping capabilities and would allow us to initiate the work more quickly than any of the other options.

We are currently working with one of the two firms selected for the existing 2010 Floodplain Modeling and Mapping rotation list to develop a scope of work for post Halloween flood services in the Onion Creek watershed. This scope of work could be expanded to include the additional items called for in the Council resolution and to address the additional floodplain modeling and mapping needs that we have identified in the watershed. Incorporation of these additional floodplain study needs would yield considerable cost savings over separate studies for the smaller watersheds. The draft scope already includes several of the items that would be required for the flood mitigation study and the existing 2010 Floodplain Modeling and Mapping rotation list firm also has familiarity with the Onion Creek watershed through their management of the 2008 floodplain map updates for Travis County and their recent master planning work in the Hays County portion of the watershed.

Summary of Study Scope Elements:

This section provides a brief summary of the tasks that comprise the proposed flood hazard mitigation study. A planning-level schedule for the project is provided in Figure 1.

Task 1. Project Administration

Task 2. Data Collection and Surveying – This task will include research for incorporation of information from LOMRs and site plans for Onion, Rinard and Bear Creeks; survey of bridges, culverts, dams and other hydraulic structures; and survey of channel cross sections as required by FEMA guidelines and specifications. The streams to be studied along with the structures that will need to be surveyed are listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of Study Streams

Study Stream	Length (miles)	Study Extent	Structures
Onion Creek	27.9	Mouth to Travis County Line	13 – SH 71, SH 130, FM 973, Burleson Road, US 183, McKinney Falls Parkway, William Cannon Drive, Bluff Springs Road, Slaughter Lane, River Plantation Drive, IH 35, Old San Antonio Road, Twin Creeks Road
Unnamed Tributary to Onion (west of Bergstom)	3.3	Onion Creek to Metropolis Drive	3 – US 183, McKinney Falls Parkway, Abandoned Road
Various A Zone Tributaries	5.0		
Rinard Creek	6.5	Onion Creek to Turnersville Road	4 – Bradshaw Road, FM 1327, SH 45, Turnersville Road
Rinard Creek Tributary 1	3.2	Rinard Creek to Turnersville Road	3 – FM 1327, SH 45, Turnersville Road
Rinard Creek Tributary 1.1	1.0	Rinard Creek Tributary 1 to SH 45	2 – FM 1327, SH 45
Various A Zone Tributaries	4.8		
Bear Creek	7.1	Onion Creek to Travis County Line	6 – Twin Creeks Road, railroad, FM 1625, low water crossing, low water crossing, low water crossing
Bear Creek Tributary 1	0.9	Bear Creek to Frate Barker Road	3 – FM 1626, Hewitt Lane, Frate Barker Road
Bear Creek Tributary 2	1.7	Hays County line to Hays County line	5 – Private road, private road, private dam, private dam, Jim Bridger Drive
Little Bear Creek	1.7	Bear Creek to Travis County Line	No crossings
Various A Zone Tributaries	2.6		
Total	65.7		39

Task 3. Terrain Processing – The City's consultant will develop refined digital elevation models from the 2012 LiDAR dataset for use in hydraulic analysis, flood hazard mitigation evaluations, and floodplain mapping.

Task 4. Hydrologic Analysis – The portion of the Onion Creek hydrologic model within Travis County will be revised and updated in the same way that the Hays County portion of the model was recently

updated as part of the Hays County master planning study. This will include standardization of the methodologies used in the development of parameters for the hydrologic model.

Task 5. Hydraulic Analysis – New hydraulic models based on 2012 LiDAR data and survey will be developed and calibrated for the streams listed in Table 1.

Task 6. Floodplain Mapping – Floodplain mapping will be developed for both City of Austin (fully developed condition) and FEMA (existing condition) regulatory purposes for the study streams listed in Table 1.

Task 7. LOMR/PMR – A LOMR/PMR submittal will be prepared based on the modeling and floodplain mapping performed for the study.

Task 8. Hydrologic Sensitivity Analysis – The revised hydrologic model developed in Task 4 will be used to evaluate various development scenarios in the upper portion of the Onion Creek watershed.

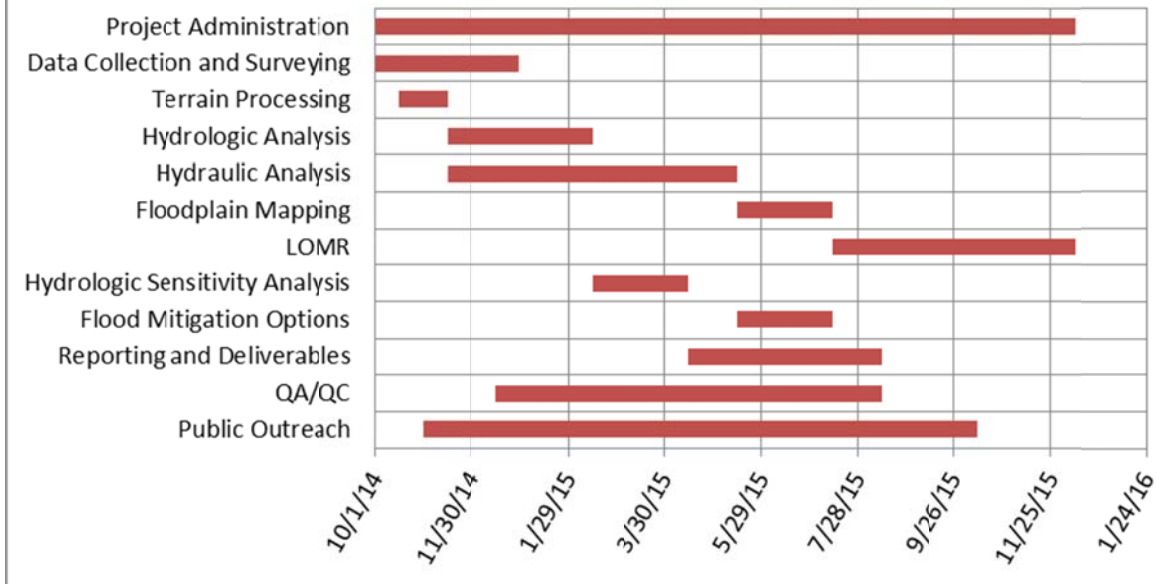
Task 9. Flood Mitigation Analysis – The flood mitigation analysis will consider the structural alternatives (channel modifications, flood walls, levees, etc.) that were conceptually considered in the previous 2006 USACE and 1997 Loomis & Moore studies. Any additional options identified by the consultant and city staff will be evaluated for feasibility. The feasibility of the structural alternatives will be compared to that of buyouts.

Task 10. Reporting and Deliverables – A report summarizing the hydrologic sensitivity and flood mitigation analyses will be produced upon completion of these tasks. The report will discuss the feasibility of the options evaluated and provide recommendations for implementation. Note: It is quite possible that buyouts will prove to be the most cost effective option. Technical Support Data Notebooks prepared according to FEMA guidelines and specifications, will be produced for Survey, Hydrology, Hydraulic, and Floodplain Mapping tasks under those respective tasks.

Task 11. QA/QC – An independent quality control team will review all major deliverables for the project. Deliverables also will be reviewed by City staff.

Task 12. Public Outreach – Public meetings will be held to communicate the purpose and results of the flood mitigation study and to communicate any significant revision of the identified flood risks. Additional information also may be communicated by mail or email.

Figure 1: Onion Creek Study Planning-Level Schedule



Drainage Utility Fund:

The City Manager was directed to provide a report to Council regarding the history and use of the drainage utility, including a ten year history of the monthly drainage charge, the charge rates, and where the funding has been allocated on an annual basis.

The drainage utility fee was established in 1981 in response to the Memorial Day flood of 1981, when 13 people lost their lives and when the City suffered property damage in the millions. The drainage charge began at \$3.32 per account for residences and \$35.83 per developed acre for non-residential properties and is now (FY2014) \$9.20 per equivalent residential unit (ERU) and \$227.33 per impervious acre for non-residential properties. The fee is used to fund the work of the Watershed Protection Department (the drainage utility), whose mission is to protect lives, property and the environment of our community by reducing the impact of flood, erosion and water pollution. Please see the attached **Appendix X** for a Drainage Utility Fund Summary of where funds were allocated.

Appendix X

Drainage Utility Fund Forecast Fund Summary

	2003 Actual	2004 Actual	2005 Actual	2006 Actual	2007 Actual	2008 Actual
BEGINNING BALANCE	2,229,156	4,198,471	4,421,645	6,947,972	9,633,789	11,196,187
REVENUE						
Drainage Fee						
Residential	19,056,613	21,634,390	23,965,566	26,034,538	26,685,701	27,150,345
Commercial/City	11,897,456	15,947,601	19,619,355	23,321,058	23,908,978	24,038,514
Storm Sewer Discharge Permits	121,335	118,034	119,370	119,288	115,433	95,658
Underground Storage Permits	86,413	31,613	31,322	72,262	35,870	34,239
Development Fees	602,128	642,015	631,812	748,471	831,692	901,246
Monitoring and Maintenance	35,420	34,950	9,100	48,780	13,440	18,480
Maple Run	63,450	63,311	64,153	58,159	-	-
Interest Income	920,669	615,540	1,048,944	1,960,633	2,805,951	2,591,233
Property sales	14,785	8,024	40,067	18,624	25,446	11,691
Miscellaneous	17,862	11,044	3,097	16,809	10,762	14,000
Building Safety	-	-	-	-	-	-
General Government	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL REVENUE	32,816,131	39,106,522	45,532,786	52,398,622	54,433,272	54,855,406
TRANSFER IN FROM AWU for WTP4	-	-	-	-	-	76,316
TRANSFER IN FROM GENERAL FUND	298,504	298,504	298,504	298,504	298,504	298,504
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS	33,114,635	39,405,026	45,831,290	52,697,126	54,731,776	55,230,226
OPERATING REQUIREMENTS						
Stream Restoration	506,839	565,771	550,489	515,467	518,868	616,134
Flood Hazard Mitigation	1,902,844	2,153,215	2,432,098	3,005,782	3,188,746	3,261,691
Infrastructure and Waterway Maintenance	6,655,151	8,130,577	8,467,028	9,105,361	9,610,313	10,101,841
Watershed Policy and Planning	139,213	159,178	156,643	160,945	515,477	610,629
One Stop Shop	-	-	3,766,730	4,224,609	4,660,843	5,036,260
Land Development Review & Inspection	2,716,523	3,313,867	-	-	-	-
Support Services	2,905,410	2,622,015	2,047,531	2,421,572	2,467,236	2,802,490
Water Quality Protection	4,816,117	5,683,975	5,687,198	6,316,730	6,702,041	7,142,458
TOTAL OPERATING REQUIREMENTS	19,642,097	22,628,598	23,107,717	25,750,466	27,663,524	29,571,503
OTHER OPERATING REQUIREMENTS						
Neighborhood Planning & Zoning	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bad Debt	476,448	537,919	478,830	214,097	214,832	183,682
Hazardous Materials Response	369,428	222,515	222,515	222,515	222,515	222,515
Information Systems Support	758,004	758,004	804,876	1,060,436	1,408,915	1,949,214
PARD Flood Control	-	68,024	67,832	76,299	50,977	50,977
Transfer to AE - Greenbuilder Program	-	17,835	17,835	-	-	-
UCSO Billing Support & LIS Upgrade	467,218	467,220	752,918	824,740	817,797	945,632
UWO Law Water Quality	-	66,000	66,000	65,990	66,000	66,000
Compensation Adjustments	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL OTHER OPERATING REQUIREMENTS	2,071,098	2,137,517	2,410,806	2,464,077	2,781,036	3,418,020
TOTAL EXPENSES	21,713,195	24,766,115	25,518,523	28,214,543	30,444,560	32,989,523
TRANSFERS OUT						
Austin Water Utility	540,000	432,000	324,000	216,000	108,000	-
Environmental Remediation Fund	241,500	241,500	241,500	241,500	241,500	241,500
Transfer to GGCIP	272,000	-	-	-	-	-
General Obligation Debt Service (Crystalbrook)	918,983	1,265,699	1,280,465	1,278,170	1,112,861	1,169,144
Other Enterprise CIP	3,582,500	9,402,000	11,715,000	16,552,000	17,113,450	17,315,000
NW Austin MUD Settlement	-	-	-	-	-	-
RSMP Transfer	-	-	-	-	102,000	554,184
CTECC	-	-	-	-	-	-
Radio Communication Fund/Trunked Radio	4,241	22,544	38,999	42,644	56,675	57,386
Sustainability Fund	323,358	388,011	434,460	496,176	526,039	542,146
UWO Local Control Structural Match	354,959	500,616	400,000	664,038	987,573	374,136
Transfer to PARD CIP	-	-	-	-	-	-

	2003 Actual	2004 Actual	2005 Actual	2006 Actual	2007 Actual	2008 Actual
TOTAL TRANSFERS OUT	6,237,541	12,252,370	14,434,424	19,490,528	20,248,098	20,253,496
OTHER REQUIREMENTS						
Accrued Payroll	88,325	50,506	124,312	198,720	69,332	180,124
27th Pay Period Expense	-	-	-	-	-	-
27th Pay Period Funding	-	-	-	-	-	-
Administrative Support - City wide	1,654,635	1,879,280	2,254,000	1,997,471	1,976,390	2,210,901
Comp Adjustment (Employee Awards)	-	-	38,113	31,025	46,508	21,544
Insurance-Fire/EC	-	-	3,191	-	-	-
Liability Reserve	16,000	23,000	37,000	90,000	269,455	269,000
Disaster Relief Expenses	-	-	14,123	8,364	-	-
Additional Retirement Contribution	-	-	-	-	144,535	147,135
Workers' Compensation	53,554	65,941	63,228	112,000	112,000	112,000
TOTAL OTHER REQUIREMENTS	1,812,514	2,018,727	2,533,967	2,437,580	2,618,220	2,940,704
TOTAL REQUIREMENTS	29,763,250	39,037,212	42,486,914	50,142,651	53,310,878	56,183,723
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS OVER REQUIREMENTS	3,351,385	367,814	3,344,376	2,554,475	1,420,898	(953,497)
ADJUSTMENT TO GAAP	(1,382,070)	(144,640)	(788,357)	131,342	141,499	93,711
ENDING BALANCE	4,198,471	4,421,645	6,977,664	9,633,789	11,196,186	10,336,401
FTEs	257.25	265.25	268.25	288.50	289.50	301.00
Drainage Fee						
Residential (one equivalent residential unit)	\$ 5.79	\$ 6.30	\$ 6.74	\$ 7.15	\$ 7.15	\$ 7.15
Commercial - per impervious acre	\$ 94.62	\$ 120.41	\$ 147.92	\$ 176.66	\$ 176.66	\$ 176.66

Drainage Utility Fund Forecast Fund Summary

	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual
BEGINNING BALANCE	10,336,401	11,151,339	12,909,212	9,319,070	8,414,139
REVENUE					
Drainage Fee					
Residential	28,012,907	30,648,187	31,617,906	32,074,997	34,904,498
Commercial/City	24,523,879	26,406,478	26,475,224	26,491,669	29,237,814
Storm Sewer Discharge Permits	80,279	100,248	131,830	93,210	110,160
Underground Storage Permits	103,790	47,856	46,957	94,589	40,725
Development Fees	618,022	526,885	703,985	751,130	992,565
Monitoring and Maintenance	1,820	-	3,080	-	-
Maple Run	-	-	-	-	-
Interest Income	1,665,683	919,160	474,070	230,336	185,678
Property sales	4,370	77,595	40,213	372,296	63,465
Miscellaneous	11,000	12,750	13,088	-	8,668
Building Safety	-	-	-	14,886	38,120
General Government	-	-	-	5,048	-
TOTAL REVENUE	55,021,750	58,739,159	59,506,353	60,128,161	65,581,693
TRANSFER IN FROM AWU for WTP4	-	-	-	-	-
TRANSFER IN FROM GENERAL FUND	298,504	298,504	-	-	-
TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS	55,320,254	59,037,663	59,506,353	60,128,161	65,581,693
OPERATING REQUIREMENTS					
Stream Restoration	577,313	553,202	618,709	568,466	769,005
Flood Hazard Mitigation	3,368,526	3,344,466	3,601,149	3,540,842	2,620,014
Infrastructure and Waterway Maintenance	10,204,712	10,574,269	11,614,605	11,935,824	13,185,324
Watershed Policy and Planning	1,348,838	1,640,735	1,901,387	2,301,120	4,224,623
One Stop Shop	4,988,165	-	-	-	-
Land Development Review & Inspection	-	-	-	-	-
Support Services	2,822,583	2,722,070	2,890,077	2,913,437	3,044,953
Water Quality Protection	6,561,550	6,892,779	6,825,423	7,000,742	7,397,681
TOTAL OPERATING REQUIREMENTS	29,871,687	25,727,521	27,451,350	28,260,431	31,241,600
OTHER OPERATING REQUIREMENTS					
Neighborhood Planning & Zoning	-	4,838,286	4,649,134	4,626,201	4,931,830
Bad Debt	211,595	338,236	226,297	254,852	333,868
Hazardous Materials Response	222,515	222,515	222,515	222,515	222,515
Information Systems Support	1,929,312	2,181,493	1,526,980	1,053,707	1,055,957
PARD Flood Control	50,977	50,977	50,977	56,075	10,796
Transfer to AE - Greenbuilder Program	17,835	17,835	17,835	17,835	17,835
UCSO Billing Support & LIS Upgrade	1,212,061	1,212,061	990,558	1,083,025	1,086,060
UWO Law Water Quality	66,000	66,000	66,000	66,000	66,000
Compensation Adjustments	-	15,380	15,996	16,077	15,642
TOTAL OTHER OPERATING REQUIREMENTS	3,710,295	8,942,783	7,766,292	7,396,287	7,740,503
TOTAL EXPENSES	33,581,982	34,670,304	35,217,642	35,656,718	38,982,103
TRANSFERS OUT					
Austin Water Utility	-	-	-	-	-
Environmental Remediation Fund	241,500	241,500	241,500	413,627	700,627
Transfer to GGCIP	-	-	-	-	-
General Obligation Debt Service (Crystalbrook)	1,138,368	1,198,759	1,164,390	1,557,045	1,081,308
Other Enterprise CIP	16,140,000	17,140,000	22,140,000	19,140,000	21,000,000
NW Austin MUD Settlement	-	-	411,127	-	402,027
RSMP Transfer	-	-	24,000	-	-
CTECC	-	-	7,690	5,994	7,117
Radio Communication Fund/Trunked Radio	66,647	49,688	54,008	180,585	175,366
Sustainability Fund	391,625	576,030	591,487	644,676	-
UWO Local Control Structural Match	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer to PARD CIP	-	100,000	-	-	-

	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual
TOTAL TRANSFERS OUT	17,978,140	19,305,977	24,634,202	21,941,927	23,366,445
OTHER REQUIREMENTS					
Accrued Payroll	(61,974)	94,590	89,527	108,527	65,203
27th Pay Period Expense	-	-	755,001	-	-
27th Pay Period Funding	-	-	(760,984)	-	-
Administrative Support - City wide	2,223,687	2,132,664	1,920,109	1,716,904	3,106,945
Comp Adjustment (Employee Awards)	16,422	-	-	-	-
Insurance-Fire/EC	-	-	-	-	-
Liability Reserve	269,000	269,000	269,000	240,000	240,000
Disaster Relief Expenses	-	-	-	-	-
Additional Retirement Contribution	320,996	639,100	867,527	1,163,377	-
Workers' Compensation	191,153	271,056	241,420	243,873	289,788
TOTAL OTHER REQUIREMENTS	2,959,284	3,406,410	3,381,600	3,472,681	3,701,936
TOTAL REQUIREMENTS	54,519,406	57,382,691	63,233,444	61,071,326	66,050,484
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS OVER REQUIREMENTS	800,848	1,654,972	(3,727,091)	(943,165)	(468,791)
ADJUSTMENT TO GAAP	14,089	102,901	136,953	38,233	594,570
ENDING BALANCE	11,151,338	12,909,212	9,319,074	8,414,138	8,539,918
FTEs	298.00	249.50	255.25	259.25	257.25
Drainage Fee					
Residential (one equivalent residential unit)	\$ 7.15	\$ 7.75	\$ 7.75	\$ 7.75	\$ 8.35
Commercial - per impervious acre	\$ 176.66	\$ 191.50	\$ 191.50	\$ 191.50	\$ 206.33



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Victoria J. Li, P.E., Director
Watershed Protection Department

DATE: August 14, 2014

SUBJECT: Staff Report – Resolution No. 20140515-028 – Summary of Stakeholder Meetings and Process for Federal Reimbursement of Insurance Proceeds and Buyout Expenditures

On May 15, 2014, Council approved Resolution No. 20140515-028 directing the City Manager to provide Council with information related to floodplain buyouts for segments of the Onion and Williamson Creek watersheds.

A preliminary report was distributed on July 16, 2014, responding to the portions of the referenced resolution specifically related to resource requirements for an Onion Creek Flood Hazard Mitigation Study and a history of the drainage charge. On August 1, 2014, the Financial Services Department distributed a memo responding to Council's request for floodplain buyout funding options. This memorandum serves as the final report and responds to Council's request for information related to the federal reimbursement process for insurance proceeds, opportunities for additional federal reimbursement for buyouts, and the outcome of the requested stakeholder meetings.

Federal reimbursement process with regard to insurance proceeds:

The City Manager was directed to provide a report to Council regarding the federal reimbursement processes where insurance proceeds were available or have been paid, the ability under current regulations to issue buyouts without deducting insurance money previously paid from the purchase, and the fiscal impact of issuing buyouts without deducting insurance money previously paid.

Immediately following the Halloween Flood, the City chose to have appraisals conducted based on the pre-flood condition of properties to provide a greater benefit to the affected property owners. Anticipating Federal funds and/or credit for the acquisition of homes in the U.S Army Corps of Engineers project area in Onion Creek, the City complied with Federal regulations regarding duplication of payments when calculating the amount of money to be paid to property owners for the purchase of their homes. In doing so, the City subtracted the amount of the flood insurance received for the structure from the purchase

price offered to a homeowner. However, if the property owner had receipts showing that the money from flood insurance was spent for its intended purpose, such as repairing the home to make it livable again, the City did not subtract the amount for eligible documented repairs. This was done to ensure that the City receives Federal reimbursement for money spent in the buyout.

As a further point of clarification, these issues arise when buyouts to homeowners are made using pre-damage market values. Moving forward, the City has elected to have appraisals conducted on properties based on their existing, post-flood condition. In this case, any insurance proceeds received or available as a result of the flood will not be factored into the purchase price of the properties.

To date, approximately \$3.4 million in flood insurance building claims that were not used to repair the structure have been determined to be duplication of payments and have been deducted from the purchase prices of those properties.

Opportunities for additional federal reimbursement for buyouts:

The City of Austin's Onion Creek Buyout Project, in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Travis County, Sunset Valley and the LCRA has more than \$73 million in allocated project costs from both Federal and non-Federal funding based on a Limited Reevaluation Report of July 2014. Those costs are applied to: 1) property buyout, 2) ecosystem restoration, and 3) recreation elements of the project. The most recent City total cost share is almost \$25 million, of which approximately \$22 million are expenditures for the buyout portion of the project.

The federal budget includes a \$10.8 million appropriation for the Onion Creek Buyout Project for Fiscal Year 2014 and the President has included a request for \$3.6 million in his budget for Fiscal Year 2015. With the anticipated execution of a Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) with the Corps by August 29, 2014, this project will have moved beyond the "new start" procedural barrier. Thus, it is highly probable that the project will be funded in future years, along with other on-going projects of the Corps, until the project is completed.

A significant issue that is currently unresolved is whether the City will be reimbursed for expenditures beyond the City's allocated share of the buyout portion of the project, which has already been exceeded. The projected buyout expenditures by the end of this fiscal year will be over \$45 million, surpassing the City's buyout cost share of \$22 million. The anticipated PPA may clarify to what extent we will be reimbursed. Staff anticipates completing the agreement for Council approval on August 28, 2014.

The Watershed Protection Department has also submitted a FEMA application for \$6 million to assist with the acquisition of 45 additional homes outside the Corps' project area and located in the 100 year floodplain of Onion Creek. Approval of the funds is not anticipated until spring of next year.

Stakeholder Meetings:

The Watershed Protection Department, assisted by the Communications and Public Information Office, conducted three October Flood Recovery Open Houses at Perez Elementary School on Thursday, July 10, Saturday, July 12, and Monday, July 14, for residents in the William Cannon Drive and Pleasant Valley Road area and for residents in the Williamson Creek area near Radam Circle, Heartwood Drive and Meadow Circle Drive. The

goal of the open houses was to provide an opportunity for residents to consult with a variety of City departments about recovery efforts from the October floods and to find out more information about key topics such as the buyout program, substantial damage designation and flood safety.

The open houses consisted of information sessions on buyouts, home repairs and the October floods, as well as an exhibit area with booths staffed by 11 different City departments. The three information sessions were conducted three times at each open house to allow residents to hear all the presentations. Attendees were also offered a flood emergency kit and 311 ambassadors helped register attendees for emergency notifications through both ATX Floods Alerts and the CAPCOG notification system. Attendees were also informed if their homes had received a designation of "substantial damage." A staffed booth was dedicated to Williamson Creek issues in the exhibit area, and the October Floods presentations discussed the October 12/13 flood in the Williamson Creek area. The open houses ran smoothly with no major incidents and appeared to be well received by the community. In total, 252 families registered at the sign-in table for an estimated 500 attendees. The open houses were covered by all the major news outlets including KXAN, KVUE, KEYE, KTBC, Time Warner Cable News, KUT, KLBJ and the Austin American-Statesman.

Follow up activities will include posting videos of the information session on the web site, posting answers to frequently asked questions on the web site and at various locations in the neighborhoods, continued coordination with TARG, and other neighborhood groups.

Please contact Jose Guerrero, Assistant Director, Watershed Protection Department, should you have any detailed questions or issues at (512) 974-3386 or via e-mail at Jose.Guerrero@austintexas.gov.

Cc: Marc A. Ott, City Manager
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Jose M. Guerrero, P.E., Assistant Director, Watershed Protection Department