

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action (Real Estate)

Austin City Council	Item ID:	38229	Agenda Number	14.
Meeting Date:	March 5, 2015			
Department:	Office of Real Estate Services			
Subject				
Authorize negotiation and execution of all documents and instruments necessary or desirable to purchase in fee simple 240 properties at high risk of flooding in the 100-year floodplain of the lower Onion Creek area, in an amount not to exceed \$60,000,000.				
Amount and Source of Funding				
Funding is available in the 2014-2015 Capital Budget of the Watershed Protection Department.				
Fiscal Note				
A fiscal note is attached.				
Purchasing Language:				
Prior Council Action:	June 26, 2014 – Council approved Resolution No. 20140626-028, authorizing acquisition and relocation of 140 properties at high risk of flooding located in the 25-year floodplain of the lower Onion Creek watershed. November 20, 2008 – Council approved Resolution No. 20081120-013, authorizing acquisition and relocation in the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers study area. June 18, 2008 – Council authorized negotiation and execution of professional services agreement for the Flood Hazard Mitigation Buyout Program.			
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Boards and Commission Action:				
MBE / WBE:				
Related Items:				

Additional Backup Information

On October 31, 2013, a flood of record occurred on Onion Creek. Although there was damage in many parts of the City, the most substantial damage was concentrated in the lower Onion Creek area. This area also experienced flooding in 1998 and 2001.

The Watershed Protection Department has partnered with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) since 1999 to find solutions to flooding in the Onion Creek watershed. The joint study recommended a project to buy out 483 properties in the 25-year floodplain within the Onion Creek Forest, Onion Creek Plantation and Yarrabee Bend neighborhoods.

In June 2014, Council approved \$35,500,000 in certificates of obligation and authorized acquisition and relocation of an estimated 140 properties located outside of the USACE buyout project area at risk of flooding in the 25-year floodplain of the lower Onion Creek watershed. Acquisitions of these tracts are ongoing.

There are properties still remaining at risk of flooding within the 100-year floodplain in the lower Onion Creek area outside of the USACE project area. 240 of these properties have residential structures that are at risk of interior flooding during a 100-year flood event and approximately 140 of them were substantially damaged in the 2013 flood. As part of the fiscal year 2015 budget, Council approved funding for the acquisition and relocation for the remaining properties at risk of structural flooding. This request will authorize the necessary acquisition and relocation activities to acquire by gift, auction, or negotiation the purchase of the remaining properties with residential structures at risk of flooding within the 100-year floodplain of the lower Onion Creek area.

The City will acquire these properties under the guidelines of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act. Authorization to acquire properties through condemnation proceedings is not included in this request.