

Section 6. Collaborating with other jurisdictions and agencies that have interest, expertise, and investment authority regarding flood mitigation potentially impacting areas inside and outside of the City of Austin as well as with work groups or other regional initiatives focused on flood issues and storm water management.

Recommendations:

1. Form a regional council or task force comprised of water management, safety and environmental organizations to look at regional storm water management. There does not appear to be a regional authority or strategy to manage flooding incidents. City of Austin Watershed Protection Master Plan 2015 Update recommends Watershed Protection continue to partner with other jurisdictions to achieve watershed protection goals, but there is no recommendation to partner with other jurisdictions to achieve regional storm water management and flood mitigation strategies.
2. Consider partnering with the following organizations to develop the council or task force.
 - Hays County
 - Travis County
 - Bastrop County
 - Lower Colorado River Authority
 - Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District
 - Texas Department of Transportation
 - Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
 - Texas Water Development Board
 - Texas Facilities Commission
 - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 - NOAA, National Weather Service
 - U.S. Geological Survey
 - U.S. International Boundary and River Commission
 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 - U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
 - Department of Homeland Security
 - Federal Emergency Management Agency
3. Investigate flood management programs used by El Paso County Water Improvement District, Elephant Butte (New Mexico) Irrigation District, City of Tulsa Oklahoma, City of El Paso Texas and Louisville Kentucky. See recommendations in Section 3. Peer Cities.
4. Although the City of Austin has partnered with the Army Corp of Engineers and Federal Emergency Management Association to buyout flooded properties along Onion Creek, there is no plan to deal with the additional 5,000 structures in Austin that are in the 100 year flood plain.
5. Coordinate with Travis and surrounding counties in areas of future annexation where drainage may have been designed to a lower level of service than what would currently be required within the City.

6. Incorporate information from the University of Texas at Austin (UT) National Flood Interoperability Experiment with the National Weather Service needed to enhance the safety of all COA residents.
7. Coordinate with the University of Texas at A&M for emergency veterinary services in response to flood events: <http://vetmed.tamu.edu/files/vetmed/vet/texvet-0815-pages-34-35.pdf>
8. Coordination with USGS to add more flood hardened rain and flood stage gauges for better flood forecasting in order to assist first responders during extreme rain events and for potential evacuations of Austin citizens. Investigate opportunities for grants or cost sharing with US Geological Survey to install additional flood hardened rainfall and stage gauges through the City.
9. The Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) has its own meteorologist. Should the COA consider having a meteorologist dedicated to its unique flood challenges?
10. Install, inspect, and maintain an Emergency Siren System designed to alert residents and visitors in flood prone areas to (*refer to Tulsa Emergency Siren System*).
11. Coordinate a flood warning system to include local news media, NOAA Weather Radios and local wireless phone and pager services. Have contingency plan for massive power failures and lightning strikes, and destroyed communication infrastructures.
12. Coordinate with AISD to ensure each school campus located within a floodplain has an updated Emergency Preparedness Plan in response to flooding incidents each year.
13. Form a Regional Flood Control District to focus on flood mitigation and storm water management, and to fund flood mitigation programs.