

WPD Staff Summary: Overview of Main Flood Mitigation Task Force (FMTF) Themes

(In order of when presented in Final Report Recommendations Subsections)

Key Themes	Brief Summary
1. Focus on life-safety-property-protection priorities	Want WPD and all City Depts. to increase funding and attention on life, safety, property protection and decrease same for things that do not.
2. Inspect, maintain & repair local drainage systems	See current staffing and resources of Operations & Maintenance insufficient and want more staff and to use greater share of DUF resources to address.
3. Significant capital funding needed	See current capital funding insufficient to resolve existing, known flooding problems in a timely fashion and want bond monies to resolve.
4. Future FMTF role	Make FMTF permanent to oversee WPD, implement FMTF report, provide for continued citizen engagement.
5. RSMP evaluation	Want to ensure accountability and effectiveness of the Regional Stormwater Management Program (RSMP).
6. Open channel O&M ("cleaning")	Believe more vegetative and debris management ("cleaning") of creeks will have major benefits and should be given more resources.
7. Floodplain Variance policy	Support current approach with several suggestions (e.g., public notice for surrounding property owners / community for Council variance cases).
8. Buyouts: Lower Onion & Williamson	Support current Lower Onion/Williamson buyout programs and want them expedited, want evaluation of efficiency of process.
9. Buyouts: Upper Onion	Support immediate, limited buyouts for Upper Onion properties with structures "substantially damaged" in the 2013 & 2015 floods.
10. Buyouts: New options	Create & fund (1) recovery buyouts for "catastrophically flooded" homes & (2) voluntary buyouts of individual properties (e.g., those in 10-year floodplain).
11. Buyouts: Education	Evaluate buyout program for improvements, ensure citizens understand how works, consequence of opting out, etc.
12. Buyouts: consistent benefits offer	Adopt a consistent buyout approach to give all participants access to equitable benefits
13. Reduce interdept. transfers	Noticed portion of annual WPD budget does not go to mitigate watershed concerns and hopes to reduce the amount transferred.
14. DUF structure concerns	Want to reopen DUF fee structure to resolve problems (roof overhangs, pct. IC factor, etc.).
15. Annexations	Want Council to include flood problems and mitigation costs when considering potential annexations.

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16. Partnerships	Want more multi-jurisdictional partnerships to solve regional problems (e.g., Onion flooding) and public-private partnerships to save money.
17. Public Education & Outreach	Propose a wide range of potential ways to increase public education about flood risks and prepare for future flooding.
18. Plan & regulate for flood-prone areas	Call for improved coordination between City planning (e.g., Imagine Austin) and development permitting to ensure new/re-development intensity does not exceed capacity of drainage infrastructure; support for CodeNEXT prescription for flood mitigation for redevelopment.
19. Level of Service	Consider lower Level of Service (LOS) for CIP projects to stretch funding and implement more solutions.
20. Anchor objects in floodplains	Require anchoring of dumpsters, furniture, etc. in floodplains to prevent clogging downstream culverts & drainage infrastructure.
21. Green infrastructure incentives	Green Infrastructure: incentives to build onsite flood controls, one-time DUF discounts, cost-sharing options, and integration with "grey" infrastructure.
22. Environmental Commission	Various recommendations (e.g., Env. Comm. be forum for citizens with flood concerns; review WPD performance measure effectiveness).
23. Regional flood regulations	Encourage communities upstream of Austin adopt improved flood mitigation regulations on Austin model to prevent future problems and expense.
Onion Creek Flood Study & Mitigation Options	
24. Creek Cleaning	Believe more vegetative and debris management ("cleaning") of Onion Creek may be effective and should be considered as a management option.
25. Targeted buyouts	See "Buyouts: Upper Onion" above.
26. Channelization	Believe channelization of Onion Creek may be effective and should be considered as a management option in combination with regional detention.
27. Discourage interim development near floodplain	Want to discourage new/re-development in Onion Creek 500-year floodplain until FEMA review and map updates.
28. Study more detention, funding & partnership options	Want ongoing Halff study to add analysis of multiple large-scaled regional detention ponds; implement via regional partnerships and taxing district.