




City of Austin

Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management



Memorandum

To: Mayor and Council

From: R. Scott Swearengen, Assistant Director 
Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM)

Date: November 23, 2015

Subject: Governor Abbott Disaster Declaration

In the days following the 2015 Halloween flood, City of Austin and Travis County staff along with Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM), conducted Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs) of homes flooded in Southeast Austin and areas in the Eastern portions of unincorporated Travis County. This data was sent to Governor Greg Abbott. Travis County, as well as 14 other Texas counties, were declared disaster areas by the Governor.

The declaration by the Governor Abbott was a major step in determining whether Austin will receive access to federal assistance. The Governor's declaration will be submitted directly to President Obama who will then determine whether the affected Texas Counties will receive a Presidential Declaration.

Should a Presidential Declaration be approved for Travis County, the details of what types of assistance will be available to our residents will be provided by FEMA and other Federal agencies. There is no specific timeline as to when the President will approve or disapprove the request. Should we receive a Presidential Declaration, our office will update Mayor and Council.

Cc: Marc A. Ott, City Manager
Assistant City Managers
Chief of Staff