



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and Council Members

From: Greg Meszaros, Director, Austin Water

Date: October 17, 2016

Subject: Water Forward – Austin's Integrated Water Resource Plan Update

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on the progress of the Water Forward Integrated Water Resource Plan (IWRP). This 100-year water resource plan is being developed by Austin Water with support from the Council-appointed Water Forward Task Force, which also includes representatives from various City departments. The Water Forward Task Force convened in May 2015 and has been meeting on a monthly basis since then.

Background

In response to the recent drought, the Austin City Council created the Austin Water Resource Planning Task Force (2014 Task Force) to make recommendations regarding future water planning. One of the key recommendations of the 2014 Task Force was the development of an Integrated Water Resource Plan (IWRP). In December 2014, City Council passed a resolution that created the Austin Integrated Water Resource Planning Community Task Force (Water Forward Task Force) to support the IWRP development process, and directed staff to hire a consultant to assist in the planning process. The current City Council began appointing members to the Water Forward Task Force in early 2015. A table of the Council-appointed Task Force members is included as an attachment to this memo.

From May 2015 through summer 2016, Austin Water and the Water Forward Task Force built a foundation for the plan by developing a knowledge baseline, supplemented with presentations on multiple topics from various industry experts. Also during this time Austin Water, in collaboration with the Task Force, developed a scope of work to procure a Main IWRP Consultant to support the development of the plan. In June 2016, Council approved CDM Smith as the Main IWRP consultant and work on the project began shortly thereafter. Consultant resources for the plan also include a Climate Consultant to develop forecast data to be used to analyze climate change impacts on supply and demand and a Consulting Hydrologist to perform river system Water Availability Modeling (WAM) analyses of supply and demand management portfolios. These two additional consultants are working in collaboration with the Utility and the Main IWRP Consultant.

Provided below are key tasks completed to date.

Key task progress

Austin Water, in collaboration with the Task Force and Consultant teams, has made progress on a number of key task items, including:

- Development of the Water Forward Public Outreach Participation Plan
- Development of the plan evaluation methodology, including plan objectives
- Creation of a geospatial Disaggregated Demand Model, including preliminary sector and end use estimates
- Development of preliminary demand management and supply side options
- Completion of a Climate Change and Hydrology Pilot Study, with current analysis focusing on development of basin-wide climate and hydrology projections
- Completion of a Water Conservation Study, including a qualitative assessment of Austin Water's conservation efforts and comparison to peer cities
- Ongoing public engagement through attendance at community events, presentations to stakeholder groups, information-sharing, and online and printed surveys

Provided below is a summary of the Water Forward public outreach goals and approach.

Public Outreach

Public outreach and engagement is a key component of the Water Forward planning process. Austin Water, working in collaboration with the Task Force and others, is committed to a robust public outreach program as part of this project. Staff and the consultant team are currently working to implement a dynamic outreach approach that extends to each Council district and across a wide range of demographic and interest groups.

Water Forward public outreach goals include:

- Identifying community values that should be reflected in the plan
- Seeking input from stakeholders which reflect the diversity of Austin's population and customers
- Informing and educate the community throughout the plan development process

In addition to attendance at community events, presentations to stakeholder groups, and online and printed surveys, the first Water Forward public workshop on plan objectives was held September 7th at Waller Creek Center. Two more public workshops are planned at later stages in the project, along with numerous additional community outreach and stakeholder activities.



Looking Ahead:

The plan is expected to be complete in spring 2018. Near-term efforts will include:

- Continued collaboration with the Water Forward Task Force, other City departments, and others
- Continued public engagement activities
- Water Forward plan process information-sharing with regional entities
- Development of disaggregated demand model projections through the year 2115
- Completion of climate and hydrology projections
- Development of preliminary water supply needs analysis

If you would like Austin Water to speak about the Water Forward plan at an upcoming event please let us know. Should you have any questions or need any additional information please contact me, or Teresa Lutes, P.E., Managing Engineer, at (512) 972-0179.

cc: Elaine Hart, Interim City Manager
 Robert Goode P.E., Assistant City Manager
 Daryl Slusher, Assistant Director, Austin Water
 Kevin Critendon P.E., Assistant Director, Austin Water
 Teresa Lutes P.E., Managing Engineer, Austin Water
 Marisa Flores Gonzalez, Senior Planner, Austin Water

Attachments: **Current Water Forward Task Force Members (October 2016)**



Attachment 1 – Current Water Forward Task Force Members (October 2016)

Task Force Members	Appointed By
Sharlene Leurig - Chair	Council Member Casar
Jennifer Walker – Vice Chair	Mayor Pro Tem Tovo
Todd Bartee	Council Member Zimmerman
Clint Dawson	Council Member Houston
Marianne Dwight	Council Member Troxclair
Diane Kennedy	Council Member Gallo
Perry Lorenz	Council Member Renteria
William Moriarty	Mayor Adler
Sarah Richards	Council Member Garza
Lauren Ross	Council Member Kitchen
Kate Zerrenner	Council Member Pool



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