



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council

FROM: Michael L. Personett, Interim Director, WPD

DATE: May 18, 2018

SUBJECT: Lower Shoal Creek Slope Failure

The purpose of this memo is to provide an update on the Shoal Creek slope failure that occurred Friday, May 4, 2018. A great deal of progress has been made over the past week. Our priority has been ensuring public and employee safety; we continue to collect information to better understand area conditions and develop next steps.

Actions completed or underway are summarized as follows:

- Letters were hand delivered to seven property owners on the bluff where the failure occurred. The letters included information regarding what happened, staff contact information, and guidance on safety precautions to be taken. The same information has also been shared via the Nextdoor app to inform the larger community.
- Safety protocols have been distributed to all City department safety officers working in and around the impacted area. The primary directive is to refrain from entering the site, and from moving or removing rocks, soil, or debris from the area until a stabilization system can be installed.

The initial geotechnical review has been completed and confirms:

- This natural slope failure was caused by the fractured nature of the underlying geology. The material deposited is still unstable and should not be disturbed.
- Fallen trees may be carefully trimmed to provide some mitigation of the channel obstruction. Watershed Protection (WPD) Field Operations personnel are carefully removing downed trees from Shoal Creek.
- Monitoring of the slope for movement or changes should continue. WPD staff are designing temporary measures to divert storm drain runoff from the failed slope to reduce the possibility of more soil movement.
- Soil core samples should be obtained for more detailed technical analysis of the geologic conditions to develop short and long-term action plans. Contractors are drilling core samples from the top of the bluff and will do the same from the bottom of the slope in Pease Park beginning Friday, May 18.
- Austin Water (AW) continues 24/7 pumping to divert wastewater from a collapsed section of pipe to a nearby parallel wastewater line. AW staff are developing interim solutions that will be able to withstand potential flood events that would be designed to remain in place for up to five years until a permanent relocation/repair solution can be implemented.

WPD is leading this multi-departmental effort and Mike Kelly, P.E., Managing Engineer, is the point of contact. He can be reached at (512) 974-6591 or at mike.kelly@austintexas.gov.

cc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager
Sara Hensley, Interim Assistant City Manager
Robert Goode, Assistant City Manager
Joe Pantalion, Interim Assistant City Manager
Kimberley McNeeley, Interim Director, Parks and Recreation Department
Greg Meszaros, Director, Austin Water
Richard Mendoza, Director, Public Works Department
Rodney Gonzales, Director, Development Services Department