




## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor and Council

**FROM:** Michael L. Personett, Interim Director  
Watershed Protection Department 

**DATE:** July 23, 2018

**SUBJECT:** Atlas 14 Activities – Code Amendment Process and Public Engagement

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As a follow up to the [June 14, 2018](#) memo on Atlas 14 Activities, the Watershed Protection Department is proposing code amendments to address our new understanding of flood risks based on Atlas 14. This includes significant revisions to the definition of the 100-year regulatory floodplain, simplification of floodplain regulations, and introduction of new ways to incentivize redevelopment in the floodplain while also reducing flood risks. The process to amend city code regarding our floodplain regulations formally began with Planning Commission's approval on July 10.

A key element of the code amendment process is a public engagement and education effort to inform the community of our new understanding of flood risks and to gather feedback on the code amendment process. Within the next week, informational postcards will be mailed to approximately 13,000 property owners and utility account holders within the current 100- and 500-year floodplains containing information about the process and ways for the public to get involved. A copy of each mailing is attached to this memo. We anticipate the postcards will generate a significant amount of questions from the community, some of which may be directed to you and your staff. We have the following methods for residents to pass along their questions and concerns:

On the web: [www.AustinTexas.gov/Atlas14](http://www.AustinTexas.gov/Atlas14)

Email: [Atlas14@AustinTexas.gov](mailto:Atlas14@AustinTexas.gov)

Phone hotline: 512-974-2843

In the week following Planning Commission's approval, two stakeholder meetings were held in addition to an Environmental Commission briefing. The process continues with additional stakeholder meetings and public hearings in August.

This is the first proactive step that we are recommending in what will be a multi-year process of adapting current policies, programs, and future capital flood risk reduction projects to the new understanding of flood risk. Additional explanation of the

recommendations and the code amendment process is found in presentation materials located on our Atlas 14 website. In the meantime, if you or your staff have questions or would like a more in depth briefing please contact Kevin Shunk, P.E., CFM, Managing Engineer, WPD Watershed Engineering Division at [Kevin.Shunk@austintexas.gov](mailto:Kevin.Shunk@austintexas.gov) or at (512) 974-9176.

cc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager  
Assistant City Managers  
Department Directors

**CITY OF AUSTIN-WPD**  
Drinda Pennini-WPD 12th Floor  
PO Box 1088  
Austin, TX 78767

**ATX FLOOD SAFETY**



## **NEW STUDY REVEALS FLOODING IS MORE LIKELY** **NUEVO ESTUDIO MUESTRA QUE INUNDACIONES SON MÁS PROBABLES**

You are receiving this notice because your home, business or investment property is in or near the floodplain. A recent National Weather Service study analyzed historic rainfall in the Austin area. It shows that heavy rainfall is more frequent than was previously thought. As a result of this study Austin's floodplains will be changing. Your risk of flooding may be greater than you thought. Find out more at [austintexas.gov/Atlas14](https://austintexas.gov/Atlas14).

Usted está recibiendo este aviso porque su casa, negocio o propiedad de inversión está en o cerca de la zona de inundación. Un estudio reciente del Servicio Meteorológico Nacional analizó datos históricos de lluvia en el área de Austin. El estudio muestra que las lluvias fuertes son más frecuentes e intensas que antes se pensaba. Como resultado de este estudio, las zonas de inundación cambiará. Su riesgo de inundación puede ser mayor de lo que pensaba.

Aprenda más en [austintexas.gov/Atlas14](https://austintexas.gov/Atlas14).



# PROTECT YOURSELF FROM FLOODING

## PROTÉJASE DE LAS INUNDACIONES



### Please be aware that you may be at risk from floods.

We recommend that you:

- Learn about your risk of flooding.
- Contact your insurance agent about flood insurance.
- Make a flood safety plan.

### Tenga en cuenta que puede estar en riesgo de inundaciones.

Recomendamos que:

- Aprenda sobre el riesgo de inundación.
- Llame a su agente de seguros sobre el seguro contra inundaciones.
- Tenga un plan de seguridad de inundaciones.

### Changes to Floodplain Regulations and Opportunity for Input

There are limits on developing, redeveloping and remodeling in the floodplain. City staff are proposing to change City code to address the higher degree of flood risk established by the National Weather Service study. We have started the process to make these changes, which will include opportunities for public input. For more information, visit [austintexas.gov/Atlas14](http://austintexas.gov/Atlas14).

If you have questions for City staff, please leave a message on the floodplain hotline at 512-974-2843 or email [Atlas14@austintexas.gov](mailto:Atlas14@austintexas.gov).

### Cambios en las regulaciones de la zona de inundación

Hay límites en el desarrollo, la rehabilitación y la remodelación en la zona de inundación. El personal de la ciudad está proponiendo modificar el código de la ciudad para abordar el mayor nivel de riesgo establecido por el estudio del Servicio Meteorológico Nacional. Hemos empezado el proceso para hacer estos cambios, que incluirá oportunidades de participación del público. Para más información, visite [austintexas.gov/Atlas14](http://austintexas.gov/Atlas14).

Si usted tiene preguntas, por favor deje un mensaje en la línea directa de zonas de inundación al 512-974-2843 o envíe un correo electrónico a [Atlas14@austintexas.gov](mailto:Atlas14@austintexas.gov).

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You are receiving this notice because your home, business or investment property is in or near the current 500-year floodplain. A recent National Weather Service study analyzed historic rainfall in the Austin area. It shows that heavy rainfall may be more frequent and intense than was previously thought. As a result of this study, Austin's floodplains will be changing in the next few years. Changes to City code could affect how you can develop, redevelop or remodel your property. If you have a mortgage, you may eventually be required to purchase flood insurance. Find out more [at \*\*austintexas.gov/Atlas14\*\*](https://austintexas.gov/Atlas14).

Usted está recibiendo este aviso porque su casa, negocio o propiedad de inversión está en o cerca de la zona de inundación de 500 años. Un estudio reciente del Servicio Meteorológico Nacional analizó datos históricos de lluvia en el área de Austin. El estudio muestra que las lluvias fuertes son más frecuentes e intensas que antes se pensaba. Como resultado de este estudio, las zonas de inundación cambiarán en los próximos años. Los cambios en el código de la ciudad podrían afectar cómo puede desarrollar, rehabilitar o remodelar su propiedad. Si usted tiene una hipoteca, es posible que eventualmente se requiera que compre el seguro contra inundaciones. Aprenda más en [austintexas.gov/Atlas14](https://austintexas.gov/Atlas14).



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### **Changes to Floodplain Regulations and Opportunity for Input**

City staff are proposing to change City code to address our new understanding of flood risk established by the National Weather Service study. Currently there are limits on developing, redeveloping and remodeling in the 100-year floodplain. We are proposing to revise these rules in a manner that may affect your property. We have started the process to make these changes, which will include public hearings. For more information, visit [austintexas.gov/Atlas14](http://austintexas.gov/Atlas14).

**If you have questions for City staff, please leave a message on the floodplain hotline at 512-974-2843 or email [FloodPro@austintexas.gov](mailto:FloodPro@austintexas.gov).**

### **Cambios en las regulaciones de la zona de inundación**

El personal de la ciudad está proponiendo modificar el código de la ciudad para abordar nuestra nueva comprensión de riesgo de inundación establecido por el estudio del Servicio Meteorológico Nacional. Actualmente hay límites en el desarrollo, la rehabilitación y la remodelación en la zona de inundación de 100 años. Proponemos revisar estas reglas de una manera que pueda afectar su propiedad. Hemos comenzado el proceso para realizar estos cambios, que incluirá audiencias públicas. Para más información, visite [austintexas.gov/Atlas14](http://austintexas.gov/Atlas14).

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