



Recommendation for Action

File #: 20-3134, **Agenda Item #:** 25.

10/29/2020

Posting Language

Approve an ordinance authorizing amendment of the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Watershed Protection Department Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20200812-001) to accept \$1,200,000 in grant funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and amending the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Watershed Protection Department Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund (Ordinance No. 20200812-001) to appropriate \$1,200,000 for Atlas 14-based flood studies and floodplain mapping for various watersheds.

Lead Department

Watershed Protection Department

Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$1,200,000 is available from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). A City funding match of \$9,057,582 is required and available in the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Watershed Protection Department's Capital Budget. A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information:

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Additional Backup Information:

On August 17, 2020, the City of Austin Watershed Protection Department (WPD) received a Notice of Grant Award from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 6 for the fiscal year 2020 Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP) program funding. The total grant award is \$1,200,000. The City received a similar grant for fiscal year 2019 that is being used on a restudy of the Onion Creek watershed (Onion Creek and all its tributaries). This fiscal year 2020 grant funding will be combined with funding from the Watershed Protection Department to complete flood studies and floodplain mapping based on Atlas 14 rainfall data for all other watersheds that impact the City.

The five major floodplain studies to be initiated as part of the fiscal year 2020 grant agreement with FEMA will continue the work begun with the fiscal year 2019 grant. The floodplain studies will be updated based on the Atlas 14 rainfall and new topographic data and will be initiated in fiscal year 2021. These studies will result in new floodplain models and maps for all streams within the City of Austin jurisdictional area. The studies may include all or portions of the following work elements: surveying, engineering hydrologic and hydraulic analyses, analysis of levee structures, floodplain mapping for fully developed and existing watershed conditions, flood insurance rate map production, public meetings and outreach, and development of associated documentation.

The Watershed Engineering Division will manage the flood study projects. Consultants from the 2020 Floodplain Modeling and Mapping Engineering Services Rotation List will perform the engineering and mapping work for the flood studies.

The grant funding will be used in combination with capital funds from the WPD Drainage Utility Fee allocated under the Department's five-year plan to fund the studies. WPD is committed to funding the studies included

the Mapping Activity Statement (MAS) that is part of the grant agreement with FEMA.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Safety, Government that Works for All