



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Lee Leffingwell, Mayor  
Council Members

**CC:** Marc Ott, City Manager  
Michael McDonald, Deputy City Manager

**FROM:** Otis J. Latin, Sr., Director Homeland Security & Emergency Management *OJL*

**DATE:** June 10, 2014

**SUBJECT:** FEMA Funding Obligations from the 2013 Halloween Flood

---

On October 31, 2013, the Austin area saw an unprecedented amount of rain that resulted in flooding in several areas, the worst of which was in Onion Creek. In December 2013, it was declared a disaster and the City of Austin applied for Public Assistance, Individual Assistance, and Small Business Assistance. While the request for Individual Assistance, and the subsequent appeal, was denied, Public Assistance and Small Business Assistance were approved.

The Public Assistance enabled the City of Austin to work with FEMA to obtain funding to bring City of Austin owned and maintained facilities and infrastructure back to pre-disaster condition. The Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management has coordinated the gathering and submittal of debris removal, emergency protective measures, and infrastructure projects.

The initial focus has been on identifying and processing well defined projects. At this point, FEMA has approved the damage estimates gathered on 16 out of a total of 43 potential projects. The State of Texas has processed these approvals and created a funding obligation for each of the approved projects, and is waiting for the City of Austin to accept these. In effect, these are treated by the City of Austin as grants.

We are asking City Council to approve the initial 16 funding obligations and to amend the budgets of the departments receiving these grants so that they can start processing invoices for flood repairs and costs and receive reimbursement from the State. The total estimate for these projects is \$2,229,000, with reimbursement by FEMA expected at \$1,780,003 (75%). Match from the City is estimated at \$448,996 (25%).

Several large projects are still being developed and we anticipate that further bundles of projects, in the form of funding obligations, will come to Council in subsequent months for approval.

Please contact me at 974-0461 if you have any questions.