

## A G E N D A



## Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council

Item ID

33612

Agenda Number

67.

Meeting Date:

6/26/2014

Department:

Watershed Protection

## Subject

Approve an ordinance amending the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Watershed Protection Department Capital Budget (Ordinance No. 20130909-002) to increase appropriations by \$35,500,000 for the buyout and demolition of single family houses in the floodplain of Onion Creek near the intersection of South Pleasant Valley Road and East William Cannon Drive. Related to Items # 12, # 28 and # 66.

## Amount and Source of Funding

Funding in the amount of \$35,500,000 will be provided by the future issuance of Certificates of Obligation.

## Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is attached.

Purchasing Language:

Prior Council Action:

For More Information: Mapi Vigil, 512-974-3384; Diane Gonzales, 512-974-9789; Pam Kearfott, 512-974-3361

Boards and  
Commission Action:

MBE / WBE:

Related Items:

## Additional Backup Information

On October 31, 2013, a flood of record occurred in Onion Creek. Although there was damage in many parts of the city, the most substantial damage was concentrated in the lower Onion Creek area. There are more than 450 residences at risk of flooding in the 100-year floodplain in this area, and the Watershed Protection Department would like to continue acquiring properties based on their risk of flooding and providing means for occupants to relocate to homes safe from flooding.

The Watershed Protection Department has partnered with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) since 1999 to find solutions to flooding in the Onion Creek watershed. The joint study recommended a project to buy out homes in the 25-year floodplain within the Lower Onion Creek area. The study selected the homes due to their high risk of flooding. These neighborhoods were temporarily evacuated in 1998, 2001, and again in the Halloween Flood of 2013.

There are an estimated 140 properties located outside of the USACE buyout project area that will remain at risk of flooding in the 25-year floodplain of the Lower Onion Creek watershed. Approval of this budget amendment will

allow the Watershed Protection Department to continue the buyouts and demolition of houses at risk of flooding in this area.

A reimbursement resolution is a separate, but related, item on this Council agenda. A reimbursement resolution is required by federal and state law whenever a bond issuer plans to use bond proceeds to retroactively reimburse itself for expenditures already incurred. The use of a reimbursement resolution is approved in the City's financial policies and allows the City to start projects to be funded with bonds in advance of the City's next scheduled bond sale. The city typically schedules its annual issuance of general obligation debt in August to coordinate with the budget cycle.