

Flood Mitigation Task Force

1a - Overall Flood Mitigation and Preparedness strategies

Recommendations:

1. Adopt a global prioritization policy based on loss of life, general health and safety, property damage, and/or other criteria. All subsequent policy and budget decisions should be evaluated through this framework. In addition:
 - a. Implement repairs and replacement of the highly critical local drainage systems within 5 years. If necessary, issue debt instruments every five years until the major local flood mitigation CIPs are completed.
 - b. Develop a schedule to perform routine maintenance, inspections, and repairs to all storm water infrastructure (such as pond, pipes, inlets) on a minimum 5-year cycle.
2. Conduct a financial and organizational audit of the Watershed Protection Department (WPD) no later than 2017 and every successive 5 years to evaluate staffing resource allocations, program effectiveness, and successful implementation of master plan goals and objectives. Evaluate if WPD should be moved to the City's Infrastructure Services Department to better reflect WPD's role in city services.
3. Consider continuation of FMTF or establishment of a new related permanent board/commission to oversee WPD and issues addressed in this report.
4. Develop a more rigorous and defensible approach for allocating resources between the various watershed protection missions to stress CIP and O&M needs.
5. Update the Drainage Master Plan on a 5 year basis and tie-in program performance measures with the plan.
6. Set goals to reduce the number of habitable structures at risk of flooding based on all mitigation solutions and tools, not simply buyouts.
7. Develop a revised unified prioritization scheme that combines multiple approaches including risk- and event-based, and individual as well as cluster prioritization.
8. Restructure the Regional Storm Water Management Program (RSMP) to incorporate performance measures and to create shared responsibility between private developers and WPD.
9. Expand the RSMP to cover the entire city, not just certain regions, and expand these asset management tools into a more robust capital investment planning resource.
10. Establish a deadline to complete the comprehensive asset management plan for use in short- and long-term capital improvement planning and maintenance.
11. Investigate and review detention methods not currently listed in the Drainage Criteria Manual (see appendix).
12. Dedicate resources and funding to complete local flood modeling to have known local flood areas modeled by the end of Fiscal Year 2019.

13. Create a proactive approach in desired development areas and neighborhoods with storm drainage systems constructed before the Drainage Criteria Manual was adopted in 1977.
14. Gather community input early in the Preliminary Engineering Report phase (possibly during the scoping stage) regarding strategies to be examined; allow the public to see the results, costs, and benefits for the alternatives studied.
15. Ensure a system and process exists such that the Development Services Department's "One Stop Shop" can easily determine if new development, or redevelopment, is in or near any known local flood problem areas. Consider this data during the building and/or site plan review, and include this data in the Development Viewer.
16. Where channels do not have sufficient or significant freeboard:
 - a. Maintenance should include cleaning bridges and culverts, cutting fallen trees that can act as debris dams, and obvious obstacles that could cause increased water surface elevation.
 - b. If little to no maintenance is/will be performed on a creek(s), WPD should ensure that assumptions in the models account for higher roughness factors.
17. City should disperse O&M assets around the city, first considering existing city facilities, to be more responsive to flooding and more proactive in preventative maintenance.
18. Continue to update FEWS equipment and software due to the reliance of many departments, the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), and the general public that rely on this system.
19. Coordinate with the US Geological Survey to add more rain and flood stage gauges for better flood forecasting.