

# Flood Mitigation Task Force

Revised 04/12/2016

## 1a - Overall Flood Mitigation and Preparedness strategies

### Recommendations:

1. Adopt a city wide prioritization policy based on loss of life, general health and safety, property damage, and/or other criteria to prepare for and mitigate flooding. All subsequent policy and budget decisions should be evaluated through this framework.
  - a. Develop a plan to repair and replace 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, and open waterways) on a minimum 5-year cycle.
  - c. Create a proactive approach to repair and maintain drainage systems in desirable development areas and neighborhoods with storm drainage systems constructed before the Drainage Criteria Manual was adopted in 1977.
2. Conduct a financial and organizational audit of the Watershed Protection Department, (WPD) to evaluate staffing resource allocations, program effectiveness, and successful implementation of master plan goals and objectives. Conduct the audit on a regular basis, i.e. every 5 years.
3. Evaluate whether WPD should be moved to the City's Infrastructure Services Department to better reflect WPD's as an infrastructure rather than a development service.
4. Consider continuation/permanence of FMTF with oversight of WPD, including follow-through on this report and further address certain parts of the resolution, and provide for continued citizen engagement.
5. Develop a more balanced approach for allocating the Drainage Utility Funds (DUF) between the various watershed protection missions to better support CIP and O&M needs.
6. Review and update the Drainage Master Plan on a 5 year basis and tie-in program performance measures with the plan.
7. Set goals to reduce the number of habitable structures at risk of flooding based on all mitigation solutions and tools i.e. ponds, street gutters, drainage pipes, flood walls, and maintenance of closed and open waterways.
8. Review and revise the prioritization methods used to identify problem flooding, combining multiple approaches that would include risk and event-based, as well as individual property damage and clustered property damage.
9. Expand the Regional Storm Water Management Program to cover the entire city so as to aid in the replacement/upgrading of storm water infrastructure and not only regional

detention, and expand these asset management tools into a more robust capital investment planning resource. The Regional Storm Water Management Program (RSMP) should be evaluated against performance measures for effectiveness and accountability of long-term goals to mitigate flooding.

10. Establish a comprehensive asset management plan allowing for better short and long-term planning of maintenance and capital improvement costs and needs.
11. Investigate and consider additional detention methodologies used by other jurisdictions.
12. Complete local flood modeling to have known local flood areas modeled by the end of Fiscal Year 2019.
13. Gather community input early in the project development in a flood plain regarding strategies to be examined; allowing the public to see the results, costs, and benefits for the alternatives studied.
14. 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 flood problem areas. Advise applicant, staff, and the Neighborhood Plan Contact Team (NPCT) of this data during the building and/or site plan review, and include this data in the Development Viewer.
15. Where creek and channel conveyance can be impeded by vegetative growth or debris:
  - a. Maintenance should include cleaning under bridges and around culverts, removing 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.
  - c. Add personnel and/or employ contractors to remove vegetation and debris.
16. City should stage personnel and assets around the city to improve response time to flooding and be more proactive in preventative maintenance.
17. 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.
18. Coordinate with the US Geological Survey to add more flood-hardened rain and flood stage gauges for better flood forecasting.