



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Water and Wastewater Commission

Recommendation Number: 20190109-E1: Acknowledgement of Extraordinary Efforts during the Colorado River Flood 2018

WHEREAS, Austin Water has consistently provided safe, reliable drinking water of the highest quality to our Community for more than 100 years; and

WHEREAS, Austin Water experienced conditions during the Colorado River Flood of October 2018 which were unprecedented in Austin's history, including historically high raw water turbidity, which created significant challenges in the water treatment and delivery process; and

WHEREAS, utility personnel including plant operators at all three water treatment plants, engineers, pumping and reservoir personnel and others provided 24-hour response, working unceasingly for days on end, making constant adjustments to treatment processes and to the distribution system, and solving problems through innovation, teamwork, and perseverance; and

WHEREAS, Austin Water's Longhorn Dam operations personnel were also called upon to work greatly extended hours to provide 24-hour response, making necessary adjustments to floodgates and otherwise tending the dam around the clock during a twenty-three day period, maintaining lake levels within prescribed parameters, and maintaining safe operations throughout the flood event; and

WHEREAS, personnel supporting Austin Water's Incident Management Team and Department Operations Center provided 24-hour support for operational needs during the Colorado River Flood and provided superior coordination across all utility operations through established emergency management protocols; and

WHEREAS, Austin Water management personnel responded rapidly in the face of these extreme conditions to provide relevant and timely information to City leaders, and to provide reliable information and guidance to the public throughout the Colorado River Flood; and

WHEREAS, in the face of unprecedented challenges, Austin Water workers preserved the availability of water within the distribution system to maintain fire suppression capabilities and public sanitation, and to protect the public from illness, injury, or harm; and

WHEREAS, residents of Austin and customers of Austin Water have expressed their appreciation to members of the Water and Wastewater Commission for the dedicated service provided by Austin Water staff;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Water and Wastewater Commission does hereby express, on behalf of the community, its profound appreciation for personnel who operate the utility on a daily basis, as well as for utility management and administrators; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Water and Wastewater Commission hereby acknowledges the extraordinary efforts of those personnel who responded selflessly during this historic incident, giving generously of their time and making personal sacrifices to be available around the clock for emergency response activities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Water and Wastewater Commission encourages the City Council and the community to commend Austin Water's personnel for their dedication, professionalism, and perseverance in their extraordinary service during the Colorado River Flood of 2018.

Date of Approval: January 9, 2019

Record of the vote: 9-0

Attest: *Felicia Cancino*
Felicia Cancino, Liaison