



Recommendation for Action

File #: 21-1961, **Agenda Item #:** 17.

6/10/2021

Posting Language

Approve a resolution adopting the City of Austin Hazard Mitigation Action Plan Update.

Lead Department

Management Services - Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

Fiscal Note

There is no fiscal impact.

Prior Council Action:

August 4, 2016 - City Council adopted the City of Austin's Hazard Mitigation Action Plan

For More Information:

Juan Ortiz, Director, Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, (512) 974-0461 and Bill Wilson, Senior Emergency Plans Officer, Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, (512) 974-0465.

Additional Backup Information:

The Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management is requesting that the Austin City Council formally adopt the update to the City of Austin Hazard Mitigation Action Plan (HMAP). The plan is attached as back-up to this item.

The hazard mitigation planning process is a collaborative process between City departments, partner agencies, stakeholders, and the public to identify hazards that are likely to impact the community, how vulnerable the community is to those hazards, and strategies are identified to minimize or eliminate the risks.

On February 26, 2002, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) published 44 CFR Parts 201 and 206 - Hazard Mitigation Planning and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program; Interim Final Rule in the Federal Register. This Rule, required by the Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, outlines requirements for local government Hazard Mitigation Actions Plans. For disasters declared after November 1, 2003, governments must have HMAP approved by FEMA to be eligible for certain disaster-related funding. This law encourages and rewards local pre-disaster planning, promotes sustainability as a strategy for disaster resistance, and has as its aim, the strengthening of local and statewide mitigation planning.

The City of Austin's initial HMAP was completed and adopted by City Council and FEMA in 2004 and updated in 2010 and 2016. FEMA requires communities to update their approved HMAP every five years. New mitigation actions have been identified to address hazards that are believed to be most likely for this area. Additionally, mitigation actions identified in the previous plan were evaluated and revised if needed.

The process to update this plan takes more than a year and started with a hazard analysis and plan development in late 2019. The public engagement and final development of the update was completed by the fall of 2020. The HMAP update was submitted to the Texas Division of Emergency Management and to FEMA

for approval. FEMA granted approval for our update to the HMAP on February 11, 2021. The HMAP update process was completed in its entirety before Winter Storm Uri. While the HMAP updated process did not include Winter Storm Uri in the hazard analysis, severe winter weather is still outlined as a hazard and mitigation strategies are identified. We have engaged H2O partners, the consultant who helped in the development of this plan, to develop supplemental information regarding Winter Storm Uri to incorporate in the HMAP update. Additional mitigation strategies for severe winter weather will be added after the completion of the Winter Storm Uri after action and audit processes already underway.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Safety.