



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: October 2, 2012

Prepared By: Melinda Mallia **Phone #:** 854-4460

Division Director/Manager: Jon White, NREQ

Department Head: Steven M. Manilla, P.E., County Executive-TNR

Sponsoring Court Member: County Judge Samuel T. Biscoe

AGENDA LANGUAGE: Consider and take appropriate action to adopt the 2011 Hazard Mitigation Plan Update for Travis County.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Travis County's Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) was updated in response to a requirement by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requiring local governments to develop HMPs. The plans must be updated every five years in order to maintain eligibility for mitigation grants and other federal assistance after declared natural disasters.

The 2011 HMP Update was prepared by Jeffrey S. Ward and Associates, with input from a Mitigation Planning Committee that included representatives from Travis County Emergency Services (ES), Transportation and Natural Resources (TNR), the City of Sunset Valley, the City of Pflugerville, and Village of the Hills. TNR managed the planning process, in coordination with Emergency Services (ES). When the HM Plan is approved by FEMA and adopted by the County, it will become an annex to the County's Emergency Management Plan.

The plan examines Travis County's risks from natural hazards, analyzes hazards that have occurred in the past, and identifies measures to be taken to reduce life and loss of property due to hazards in the future. Nine hazards were profiled: floods, tornadoes, wildland grass/brush fire, drought, severe storms, winter storms, seismic/earthquakes, landslides and dam failure.

The hazards were ranked and evaluated using five criteria to identify those with the most potential impact to the County: 1) history, 2) potential for mitigation, 3) presence of susceptible areas, 4) data availability, and 5) federal disaster declarations and local emergency declarations. A detailed risk assessment was then undertaken for the two hazards of greatest significance to Travis County, floods and tornadoes.

Flooding remains the most significant risk in Travis County. An estimated 20% of buildings in the County are exposed to some degree of flooding. Nearly 6,800 buildings are located within flood hazard areas on FEMA maps.

After the draft plan was submitted to TXDEM and FEMA for review in March 2011, the county experienced record-setting drought and wildfires. Travis County joined the City of Austin, Emergency Service Districts, and local municipalities to form the Joint Wildland Fire Task Force. The group is working on a series of new initiatives to address wildfire response, recovery, preparedness and mitigation. Among them, a regional Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) is in development, to provide a wildfire risk assessment and new mitigation actions for wildfires. This plan will become an annex to the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Staff recommends adoption of the plan and approval of the Resolution of Adoption.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

The draft plan was discussed in Executive Session by the Commissioners' Court on January 20, 2011 and submitted to TXDEM for state and FEMA review in March 2011. FEMA completed the review and authorized county adoption August 15, 2012. The county has 90 days, until November 15, 2012, to adopt the plan.

The cities of Sunset Valley, Pflugerville and Village of the Hills are also covered by the plan, with detailed jurisdictional information in Annexes H, I and J. Each of these communities contributed funding and participated in the planning process and each must adopt the plan by Resolution.

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

A FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance grant, passed through the Texas Water Development Board, paid for plan development. The grant cannot be fully reimbursed or closed until the Commissioners' Court adopts the plan.

ATTACHMENTS/EXHIBITS:

Resolution of Adoption

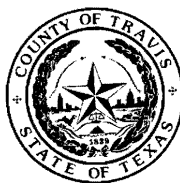
REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

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|------------------|-------------------|----------|----------|
| Cynthia McDonald | Financial Manager | TNR | 854-4239 |
| Steve Manilla | County Executive | TNR | 854-9429 |
| Jon White | Division Manager | TNR-NREQ | 854-7212 |
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CC:

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|----------------------|-------------------------------|----|----------|
| Danny Hobby | County Executive | ES | 854-9367 |
| Pete Baldwin | Emergency Mgmt Coordinator | ES | 974-0472 |
| Stacey Scheffel | Flood Plain Administrator | ES | 854-7565 |
| Stacy Moore-Guajardo | Asst. EMC | ES | 974-0473 |

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Resolution

WHEREAS Travis County Texas has experienced natural hazards that result in public safety hazards and damage to private and public property;

WHEREAS Travis County had a FEMA approved hazard mitigation plan. FEMA requires that hazard mitigation plans be updated and re-adopted every five years.

WHEREAS the hazard mitigation planning process and the update process set forth by the State of Texas and the Federal Emergency Management Agency offers the opportunity to consider natural hazards and risks, and to identify mitigation actions to reduce future risk;

WHEREAS the Texas Water Development Board provided federal mitigation funds to support the update to the mitigation plan;

WHEREAS an update to the *Hazard Mitigation Plan* has been completed by the Mitigation Planning Committee;

WHEREAS the updated *Hazard Mitigation Plan* includes a prioritized list of mitigation actions including activities that, over time, will help minimize and reduce safety threats and damage to private and public property, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Travis County Commissioners Court that:

1. The updated *Hazard Mitigation Plan* is hereby adopted as an official plan of Travis County.
2. The Travis County departments identified in the Plan are hereby directed to pursue implementation of the recommended high priority activities that are assigned to their departments.
3. Any action proposed by the Plan shall be subject to and contingent upon budget approval, if required, which shall be at the discretion of the Commissioners Court, and this resolution shall not be interpreted so as to mandate any such appropriations.
4. The Transportation and Natural Resources Department and Emergency Services Department will coordinate to report on the activities, accomplishments, and progress on the plan, and prepare an annual progress report to be submitted to the Texas Division of Emergency Management.

PASSED by the Travis County Commissioners Court, this 2nd day of October, 2012.

SAMUEL T. BISCOE
County Judge

RON DAVIS
Commissioner, Precinct One

SARAH ECKHARDT
Commissioner, Precinct Two

KAREN HUBER
Commissioner, Precinct Three

MARGARET J. GÓMEZ
Commissioner, Precinct Four