



GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY

Proposed Amendment to the Existing Hazard Mitigation Action Plan for the City of Austwell



Contents

Narrative.....	3
Plan Amendment.....	4
City of Austwell’s Participation in the Plan.....	4
Proposed Mitigation Action	5
Adoption Resolutions.....	6
City of Austwell.....	6
Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority.....	8

Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority

Proposed Amendment to the GBRA Hazard Mitigation Plan City of Austwell, Texas

Narrative

The City of Austwell, a tiny Gulf Coast town with a population of 200, suffered extensive damage from Hurricane Claudette in 2003, and experienced flooding problems more recently from coastal storms in 2006 and 2007.

Community officials have worked diligently to survive coastal hurricanes and flooding by adopting and enforcing stricter building codes. Austwell adopted the IBC Building Code, which requires residents building or remodeling a home to have their plans reviewed by a windstorm engineer. The community building official also requires new construction to be elevated at least one foot above street grade to minimize flooding, given that the city is virtually flat, with little slope to ensure adequate drainage.

Austwell is situated on a bluff approximately 25 feet above seal level, so it is relatively safe from storm surge. However, even with stricter provisions for construction in place, the City continues to flood due to existing ditches and culvert crossing that are at inadequate depths and slopes, which do not allow for proper drainage to the outfalls at Hynes Bay. Area farming is creating small dams, which also causes ditches to overflow. Water from fields enters the City from a culvert crossing on FM 239 on the southwest side of the City. These ditches should flow away from the City, but due to inadequate depth of the culvert crossing on FM 239, the existing grade of area ditches, and on-going farming activities throughout the year, the water flows back into the City. By regrading the City's ditches toward the Bay, resizing the outfall at the Bay, adjusting driveway/street culvert crossings throughout the City, and eliminating the outfall on FM 239, drainage to the City's three outfalls located in Hynes Bay will improve. Drainage across farmland to Hynes Bay will be much improved as well, and eliminate back flows into the City.

The community has completed a preliminary drainage study, which included surveying elevations of ditches and culverts and making recommendations. The City of Austwell is now seeking funding from FEMA and ORCA grants to begin implementation of the proposed drainage project.

Proposed Amendment to the existing Hazard Mitigation Action Plan for the City of Austwell

Plan Amendment

This Amendment proposes to revise the 2004 Hazard Mitigation Plan for the City of Austwell, a stakeholder and participating community in the existing Guadalupe River Basin Hazard Mitigation Plan entitled “*Protecting the Region Against all Hazards.*” It proposes to amend the Plan to add citywide drainage improvements for the City of Austwell, including regrading of major ditches and upgrade of outfall structures.

City of Austwell’s Participation in the Plan

The City of Austwell, in partnership with the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA), is one of 26 participating jurisdictions in GBRA’s seven-county district that participated in development of a Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Guadalupe River Basin. The Plan was funded under a Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and approved by FEMA on May 31, 2005. The purpose of the Plan is to reduce future damage from a full range of natural and man-caused disasters. The Plan is available at:

<http://www.gbra.org/Projects/HazardMitigaion.aspx>

Proposed Mitigation Action

ACTION: Conduct a comprehensive drainage study that will recommend improvements described herein. LNV Engineering has conducted a preliminary drainage study; recommendations include design and construct drainage improvements, remove and/or replace culvert crossings, remove and/or replace driveway culvert crossings, and upgrade three (3) outfall structures into Hynes Bay.

HAZARD: Flooding, hurricanes

BACKGROUND: The City experienced flooding in 2003, 2006 and 2007. The City of Austwell, situated along the Gulf Coast, is approximately 25 feet in elevation above Hynes Bay. While Hynes Bay does not pose a serious threat in terms of rising floodwaters, any substantial rainfall within the City Limits of Austwell causes drainage problems and flooding to streets and residences. Flooding due to inadequate drainage is a citywide problem affecting all 192 residents, and affects area residents due to backflow.

BENEFIT: Improved drainage, reduced flooding for residents of Austwell, and improved drainage conditions for area farmers and residents outside the municipal boundary affected by backflow caused by inadequate drainage in the City.

PRIORITY: High

ESTIMATED COST: \$1,400,000.00

RESPONSIBLE ORGANIZATION: Public Works

TARGET: January 2009

COMPLETION DATE: June 2009

FUNDING SOURCES: FEMA and ORCA Funds

NEED FOR THE PLAN AMENDMENT: Upon completion of the proposed drainage improvements, the flood occurrences within the proposed project area will be eliminated by allowing water to flow directly to the Hynes Bay outfall structures, which in turn will eliminate the flood risk to private and public property.

**Resolution for Adoption of a Proposed Amendment to the Hazard Mitigation Plan
for the Guadalupe River Basin
City of Austwell**

WHEREAS, certain areas of the Guadalupe River Basin are subject to periodic coastal or surge flooding due to hurricanes; and

WHEREAS, the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) desires to mitigate against damages due to the threat of coastal flooding; and

WHEREAS, the GBRA has developed, with the assistance of H2O Partners, Inc. a multi-jurisdictional, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-approved, Hazard Mitigation Action Plan (HMAP), entitled “*Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Guadalupe River Basin: Protecting the Region Against all Hazards;*” and

WHEREAS, the City of Austwell adopted and participated in the development of the HMAP; and

| WHEREAS, the City of Austwell requests ~~City~~ approval for the addition of a mitigation action as an amendment to the HMAP; and

WHEREAS, this action will be developed on September 11, 2008 and posted on the GBRA website for public comment.

NOW, therefore, be it resolved that the City of Austwell hereby:

Adopts the proposed amendment to the HMAP; and

| Vests the ~~General Manager~~ Mayor Pro-Tem of the City of Austwell with the responsibility, authority and means to:

- (a) Inform all concerned parties about this action; and
- (b) Develop an addendum to the HMAP if such an addendum is required by the Governor’s Division of Emergency Management (GDEM) or the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Agrees to take such other official action as may be reasonably necessary to carry out the objectives of the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Adopted on: _____

Date

Mustafa Curtess, Mayor Pro-Tem
City of Austwell

Resolution for the Adoption of the Proposed Amendment to the Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Guadalupe River Basin, Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority.

WHEREAS, certain areas of the Guadalupe River Basin are subject to periodic coastal or surge flooding due to hurricanes; and

WHEREAS, the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) desires to mitigate against damages due to the threat of coastal flooding; and

WHEREAS, the GBRA has developed, with the assistance of H2O Partners, Inc. a multi-jurisdictional, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-approved, Hazard Mitigation Action Plan (HMAP), entitled “*Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Guadalupe River Basin: Protecting the Region Against all Hazards;*” and

WHEREAS, the City of Austwell adopted and participated in the development of the HMAP; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austwell requests GBRA Board approval for the addition of a mitigation action as an amendment to the HMAP; and

WHEREAS, this action will be developed on September 11, 2008 and posted on the GBRA website for public comment.

NOW, therefore, be it resolved that the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority hereby:

Adopts the proposed amendment to the HMAP; and

Vests the General Manager of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority with the responsibility, authority and means to:

- (c) Inform all concerned parties about this action; and
- (d) Develop an addendum to the HMAP if such an addendum is required by the Governor’s Division of Emergency Management (GDEM) or the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Agrees to take such other official action as may be reasonably necessary to carry out the objectives of the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Adopted on: _____

Date

Myrna P. McLeroy, Chair
Board of Directors
Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority