

# Memorandum

**TO:** Mayor W. Jeff Williams and Members of City Council

**FROM:** Amy Cannon, PE, CFM – Interim Assistant Director - Public Works and

**Transportation Department** 

**SUBJECT:** Repetitive Loss Area Analysis Plan Annual Progress Report for FY 2018

**DATE:** October 11, 2018

# I. Background

The City of Arlington City Council approved Resolution No. 16-027 on February 23, 2016 authorizing the adoption of the Repetitive Loss Area Analysis (RLAA) Plan. The RLAA Plan identifies and evaluates repetitive loss properties throughout the City. The RLAA Plan delineates repetitive loss areas (RLA) based upon the location of the repetitive loss properties and suggests ways to mitigate or reduce flood losses in each RLA. The RLAA Plan also identifies specific projects for the City to complete to mitigate or reduce repetitive flooding in these areas. There is a total of twenty-one (21) Repetitive Loss Areas (RLA) identified throughout the City by the RLAA Plan.

The RLAA Plan was prepared as part of the City's participation in the FEMA Community Rating System (CRS) Program. Inclusion in the CRS Program provides flood insurance rate premium discounts to all property owners in the City. In May 2018, the City achieved a Class 6 rating in the CRS Program allowing property owners to receive a 20% discount if they are within the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) and a 10% discount if they are outside of the SFHA

In order to retain CRS credit for the RLAA Plan, the City must prepare an annual progress report on the various activities the City is performing as referenced in the RLAA Plan. This memorandum shall serve as the City of Arlington's annual progress report for the period of October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018.

The annual report has been distributed to the Texas Water Development Board via email and is currently available to the public for viewing through the City of Arlington's website. A copy of the annual report is available for download off the City of Arlington's website or by visiting the Public Works and Transportation Department office located in City Hall at 101 W. Abram Street.

# II. General Mitigation Actions

<u>Mitigation Action Item #1 Progress</u>: Mitigation Action Item #1 included annual outreach efforts to encourage property owners and tenants in the repetitive loss areas to obtain and keep a flood insurance policy. This is achieved through a mailout to every property identified in a Repetitive Loss Area (RLA). The Public Works and Transportation Department completed this item in November 2017 for FY 2018.

<u>Mitigation Action Item #2 Progress</u>: Mitigation Action Item #2 included encouraging property owners to consider dry floodproofing measures such as flood gates when appropriate. The Public Works and Transportation Department promotes effective flood protection measures by providing technical advice to property owners who wish to implement such measures on their

property. In FY 2018, Public Works and Transportation continued to provide this service upon request by residents.

Mitigation Action Item #3 Progress: This action item included prioritizing CIP projects to focus drainage improvement projects in watersheds containing repetitive loss areas. In FY 2018, the City adopted the Rush Creek Watershed Study and submitted Stream WF(A)-2, Ditto Creek and Crystal Canyon Creek to FEMA for mapping. Capital improvement projects identified in these watershed studies are being scheduled into the Stormwater Capital Improvement Plan. The Lynn Creek, Bowman Branch and Upper Village Creek watershed studies started in FY 2018 and are scheduled for completion in 2020.

<u>Mitigation Action Item #4 Progress</u>: This action item included encouraging property owners to elevate inside and outside mechanical equipment above the base flood elevation or known flood protection level. This action item is achieved through building permit review of all properties located within the repetitive loss areas.

Mitigation Action Item #5 Progress: This action item included the acquisition and demolition of high-risk flood prone properties. The Public Works and Transportation Department continues to manage the Voluntary Flood Mitigation Buyout Program. The department received ten (10) requests from property owners in FY 2018 to be considered for the buyout program. The Public Works and Transportation Department is currently evaluating each property for participation in the buyout program. The selected properties from the FY 2018 requests will be included in the 2019 Capital Budget.

Mitigation Action Item #6 Progress: This action item includes the implementation of volume control and runoff reduction measures as specified in the City's Design Criteria Manual and City Building Codes in order to reduce flooding impacts of development and reduce susceptibility to flooding. The City's Planning and Development Services Department continues to ensure that all building code and design criteria are implemented on new construction and substantial improvements within each repetitive loss area.

# III. Updates for Specific Mitigation Actions

#### Hollow Creek Road/Doty Lane Repetitive Loss Area

The RLAA Plan identified Mitigation Action Items #7 and #8 for the Hollow Creek Road/Doty Lane RLA. These action items included the purchases and demolition of 6 homes and completing the design of the Sublett Creek Neighborhood Drainage Improvements. The Sublett Creek Neighborhood Drainage Improvements Project is scheduled to begin construction in 2019.

#### Mitigation Action Item #7 Progress:

In September 2016, the City of Arlington was awarded a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant (HMGP) to purchase and demolish repetitively flooded properties. Four (4) properties were selected for acquisition with HMGP funding. One property owner decided to withdraw during the buyout process and a total of three (3) were purchased using HMGP funding. Two (2) additional properties were purchased using Stormwater Utility Funds.

The following properties were purchased in this Repetitive Loss Area in FY 2018:

Property Address	Funding Source
3401 Doty Lane	HMGP Funding
3409 Doty Lane	HMGP Funding
3415 Doty Lane	HMGP Funding
3501 Doty Lane	Stormwater Utility Funds
3404 Doty Lane	Stormwater Utility Funds

Demolition of the structures on these properties is currently underway and scheduled for completion by the end of October 2018.

The property owner who withdrew from the Voluntary Flood Mitigation Buyout Program has requested to be reconsidered for buyout in FY 2019. The property has been re-added to the buyout program and will be evaluated for scheduling in FY 2019.

<u>Mitigation Action Item #8 Progress</u>: The design of the Sublett Creek Neighborhood Drainage Improvements Project was completed in September 2018. It is currently scheduled to be bid November 5, 2018 and construction will start in January 2019.

## **Redstone Drive Repetitive Loss Area**

The RLAA Plan identified Mitigation Action Item #14 for the Redstone Drive RLA. This area is located to the north of the Hollow Creek Road/Doty Lane RLA and was included in the design of the Sublett Creek Neighborhood Drainage Improvements Project.

<u>Mitigation Action Item #14 Progress</u>: The design of the Sublett Creek Neighborhood Drainage Improvements Project was completed in September. It is currently scheduled to be bid November 5, 2018 and construction will start in January 2019.

#### Inwood/Meadow Lane Repetitive Loss Area

The RLAA Plan identified Mitigation Action Item #9 for the Inwood/Meadow Lane RLA. This action item included the purchase and demolition of repetitively flooded properties.

Mitigation Action Item #9 Progress Report: In September 2016, the City of Arlington was awarded a FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant (HMGP) to purchase and demolish repetitively flooded properties. Two (2) properties were selected for acquisition with HMGP funding in this RLA. One property owner decided to withdraw from the buyout process. One additional property was purchased with Stormwater Utility Funds. 505 E. Inwood was purchased in this RLA in FY 2018. Both properties will be demolished by the end of October 2018.

## IV. Revisions to Current RLAA Plan Mitigation Action Items

Due to the flooding that occurred in September 2018, the City will re-evaluate the RLAA Plan in FY 2019 to incorporate any properties that become repetitive loss properties. The update will be submitted to City Council in September 2019 for adoption.

# **Abram Street/Overhill Repetitive Loss Area**

The RLAA Plan identified Mitigation Action Item #11 for the Abram Street/Overhill RLA. This action item included monitoring the RLA for flooding. The City is revising this action item to include the acquisition and demolition of properties located at Abram Street and Gay Street that flooded in FY 2018.

#### Willow Oak Lane Repetitive Loss Area

The RLAA Plan identified the evaluation and design of drainage improvements project to alleviate flooding concerns in this RLA in Mitigation Action Item #12. The City completed the evaluation conceptual drainage improvements with the Harris Road (Calender Road to Cooper Street) Improvement Project in FY 2018. The City evaluation revealed that the flooding could not be reduced within this RLA without causing impacts to surrounding properties.

The City obtained the finished floor elevations of the homes in this RLA during this study and compared them to the base flood elevations developed in the Rush Creek Watershed Study to determine the level of flood risk in this area. Based upon this information, the City is revising this Mitigation Action Item to include providing property protection and floodproofing guidance material to all property owners in the RLA in the annual Repetitive Loss Area mailout.

#### Mitchell Street Repetitive Loss Area

The RLAA Plan identified the purchase of the repetitive loss property in this area in Mitigation Action Item #13. At this time, the homeowner does not wish to participate in the Voluntary Flood Mitigation Buyout Program. The City will evaluate and incorporate the purchase of this property into the program schedule when the property owner requests to be included in this program.

### **Peyco Industrial Park Repetitive Loss Area**

Mitigation Action Item #10 in the RLAA Plan included the evaluation of the project identified in the Rush Creek Watershed Study to determine the most feasible and cost-effective solution to mitigate repetitive flooding. The City is revising this Mitigation Action Item to include the recommendation to elevate all equipment above the base flood elevation as property owners apply for building permits to do improvements to their buildings. The City will also send floodproofing guidance material to all property owners in this RLA in the annual Repetitive Loss Area mailout.

## **Royal Colonnade Repetitive Loss Area**

The RLAA Plan identified Mitigation Action Item #15 for the Royal Colonnade RLA. This action item included modifications to the grading and headwall that is adjacent to the only repetitive loss property in this RLA during the construction of the Meadow Park Drainage Improvements Project. Prior to the start of construction, the upstream golf course re-graded around headwall which reduced the amount of flow to the RLA. It was determined during the design of the Meadow Park Drainage Improvements Project that the golf course's improvements mitigated

the repetitive flooding at this location. The City will remove this RLA from the RLAA Plan when it is updated in 2019.

# **Parkchester Drive Repetitive Loss Area**

The RLAA Plan identified the buyout of the repetitive loss property located within the RLA. This property was purchased and demolished in FY 2017. The City is currently evaluating the need to expand the RLA to include the area upstream of this RLA to include additional areas that flooded in September 2018.