

## September 14, 2023 | 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. Driftwood Community Center



Comment Period: September 14 – 28, 2023 Submit comments at the meeting, on the website, by email to jmolina@cdandp.com, or by mail to PO Box 5459, Austin, TX 78763.

# Welcome

# Onion Creek Watershed Hydraulic Study

# Study Overview

Administration (NOAA).



**ONION CREEK WATERSHED HYDRAULIC STUDY** 

### Hays County, in collaboration with the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), is conducting a hydraulic study of Onion Creek Watershed to update existing floodplain maps based on updated Atlas 14 rainfall data provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric





# History of Rainfall Data Collection

### **1961 TP-40**



**ONION CREEK WATERSHED HYDRAULIC STUDY** 

**1998 USGS** 

6.01 - 7.00	9.01 - 10.00	13.01 - 14.00
7.01 - 8.00	10.01 - 11.00	14.01 - 15.00
8.01 - 9.00	11.01 - 12.00	15.01 - 16.00



5.01 - 6.00



### 2018 ATLAS 14

NOAA Atlas 14, Volume 11 Precipitation Frequency Atlas of the United States, Texas

Based on rainfall data up-to-2017





Maps are based on 24-hour, 100-year Precipitation Totals

# Increase in Historical Rainfall





### **ONION CREEK WATERSHED HYDRAULIC STUDY**

# ATLAS 14 (2018) 183 45 Creedmoor BASTROP Niederwald CALDWELL

### **RAINFALL CHANGES IN HAYS COUNTY**

Many Central Texas communities currently utilize the 1998 United States Geological Survey (USGS) Depth-Duration Frequency of Precipitation for Texas report to define rainfall totals for floodplain and stormwater analysis. This publication utilized historical rainfall data up-to-1994. -USGS Water Resources Investigations Report 98-4044

On September 27, 2018, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) published new precipitation-frequency values for Texas. This new publication, Atlas 14, is a reassessment of historical rainfall data up-to-2017, adding an additional twenty years of record to the analysis. Major events during this time period include Tropical Storm Hermine in 2010, Blanco River Memorial Day Flood in 2015, and Hurricane Harvey in 2017. - NOAA Atlas 14, Volume 11 Precipitation-Frequency



Atlas of the United States, Texas

### WHAT IS THE EFFECT?

Rainfall data is commonly used to define flood risk and to analyze and design stormwater infrastructure such as bridges, culverts, channels, storm drainage systems, and detention facilities. Atlas 14 indicates that the 1% (100-year) annual chance event may be greater than what we previously considered. The greatest rainfall changes occur in central Texas and along the Texas coast.

On average in Hays County, Atlas 14 indicates that the 1% (100-year) annual chance event is closer to the rainfall previously considered the 0.2% (500-year) annual chance event utilizing the 1998 USGS rainfall data.

It also indicates that the new 2% (50-year) annual chance event is closer to the previous 1% (100year) annual chance event. These differences vary slightly across the county.

**ONION CREEK WATERSHED HYDRAULIC STUDY** 

Frequency Event	Annual Chance Exceedance	Countywide Average 24-hour Precipitation Depths (inches)		
		USGS (1998)	ATLAS 14 (2018)	
500-year	0.2%	13.8	19.9	
100-year	1%	10.5	13.3	
50-year	2%	9.2	11.0	
25-year	4%	7.9 2	9.1	
10-year	10%	6.4	7.0	
5-year	20%	5.3	5.6	
2-year	50%	3.8	4.2	
1-year	100%	1.4	3.1	



# Study Objectives & Purpose

### **OBJECTIVES**

- Update hydraulic models for the Onion Creek Watershed for both existing and fully-developed land-use conditions utilizing Atlas 14 flows.
- Update Onion Creek Watershed floodplain maps.
- Develop flood risk products to support the evaluation and communication of flood risk and floodplain management.
- Help the County and cities determine ideal areas and conceptual solutions for flood mitigation.

### PURPOSE

The main purpose of this study is to update hydraulic models and floodplain maps in the Onion Creek Watershed to best reflect both current and future flood risk and to identify potential regional flood mitigation.

**ONION CREEK WATERSHED HYDRAULIC STUDY** 



# Why this Study Matters

### **ANTICIPATED FLOOD RISK INCREASE**

An increase in rainfall indicates that flood risk of existing infrastructure, such as buildings, roadways, channels, dams, storm drains, and ponds in the Onion Creek Watershed may increase.

### **ADDITIONAL IMPACTS**

- Larger floodplains
  - Greater flood depths
  - Faster-moving water
- Increased cost to mitigate risk
  - Capital improvements
  - Future development

**ONION CREEK WATERSHED HYDRAULIC STUDY** 





Onion Creek at IH-35 2015 Halloween Flood Source: KVUE





# **Anticipated Study Timeline**

**Public Meeting** Project Kick Off

September 2023

> Project Initiation

Late 2023 to **Early 2024** 

Receive Atlas 14 Hydrology from City of Austin

We are here

**ONION CREEK WATERSHED HYDRAULIC STUDY** 

**Public Meeting** Presentation of floodplains

### Early **Summer 2024**

Complete Modeling and Mapping



**Public Meeting Conceptual Mitigation** Alternatives

### Late **Summer 2024**

Complete Conceptual Mitigation Analysis

# Help Us Validate Study Results

- Do you have locations, elevations, measurements, photos or videos of creek/river flooding?
  - Email to: jmolina@cdandp.com
  - Deadline: Thursday, September 28, 2023
  - Questionnaire available online at bit.ly/OnionCreekWatershed
- What to include:
  - Location information
  - Date (time, if possible)
  - Descriptions of flooding (where the water came from and how it impacted your property)

**ONION CREEK WATERSHED HYDRAULIC STUDY** 





Onion Creek, First Independent Baptist Church, 2013 Halloween Flood Source: KVUE

# **Comments and Questions**



### Visit us online at **Bit.ly/OnionCreekWatershed**



**Onion Creek Study** c/o CD&P PO Box 5459 Austin, Tx 78763

**ONION CREEK WATERSHED HYDRAULIC STUDY** 

## Submit your comments: September 14 – 28, 2023



**Email**:





### jmolina@cdandp.com

Scan the QR code to submit your input online!