

RESOLUTION NO. R-2015-23

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF BASTROP, TEXAS, RELATED TO AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE CITY TO ADDRESS AND CORRECT THE INACCURACY OF THE FORECASTS OF THE FLOOD'S CREST LEVEL AND SEEK COORDINATION BETWEEN AGENCIES RESPONSIBLE FOR FORECASTING FLOOD LEVELS ON THE LOWER COLORADO RIVER.

WHEREAS, the Halloween 2015 flooding on the Colorado River throughout the Bastrop Community caused considerable damage and presented a threat to the health and safety of the citizens of this community and their property; and

WHEREAS, forecasts of the Lower Colorado River's flood crest level at the City of Bastrop, issued by the West Gulf River Forecast Center, a part of the National Oceanic and Atmosphere Administration (NOAA), was tragically inaccurate at 29.9 foot, when the actual flood crest level reached more than 36 feet (an inaccuracy factor of 20%); and

WHEREAS, the imprecision of the forecast seems to lie in a lack of reliable data and lack of coordination between agencies responsible for forecasting flood levels on the Lower Colorado River; and

WHEREAS, this failure created hardship for many b residents with property lying between the 29 and 36 foot flood levels who relied on the inaccurate information; and

WHEREAS, in decades past, when the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) managed the flood forecasting process, the results were accurate within a small margin, thereby enabling citizens of the Bastrop Community to prepare accordingly and safely.

NOW THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BASTROP HEREBY RESOLVES THAT:

All federal, state, regional, and local entities that collect, manage and disseminate flood forecasts for the Lower Colorado River, including NOAA,

the National Weather Service, local Directors of Emergency Management and LCRA, are called upon by the City of Bastrop, Texas to cooperate, concur and communicate on this vital information for the safety and welfare of citizens of the Bastrop Community and the entire lower river basin; and

Further, the City of Bastrop calls upon the LCRA, as the State agency responsible for the management of the Lower Colorado River, to take a leading role in gathering and coordinating the Colorado River information, including making forecasts of flood stages when needed; and

The City of Bastrop hereby requests that LCRA install additional gauges between Austin and Smithville to enhance real-time flood data resulting in earlier detection of flooding, timely flood communication with communities potentially effected thereby, and more timely evacuations by such communities.

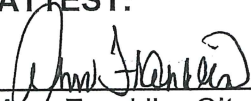
PASSED AND RESOLVED on the 10th day of November 2015.

APPROVED:



Ken Kesselus, Mayor

ATTEST:



Ann Franklin, City Secretary