



STAFF REPORT
City of Dripping Springs
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Submitted By: Roman Baligad, Emergency Preparedness and Homeland Security Director

Council Meeting Date: August 4, 2025

Agenda Item Wording: Discuss and consider approval of the 2025 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Agenda Item Requestor: Council Member Tahuahua

Summary/Background: The Hays County Hazard Mitigation Plan (first adopted in 2006, updated in 2011 and 2018, and undergoing a 2024 revision) is a region-wide, FEMA-compliant strategy developed in coordination with all local jurisdictions—including San Marcos, Kyle, Dripping Springs, Buda, and others—to reduce long-term risks from natural hazards such as floods, wildfires, drought, tornadoes, and severe weather .

Risk Assessment & Hazard Ranking

- Flooding: A critical concern—modeling shows over \$275 million in expected losses in a 100-year flood event, mainly in the Blanco and Onion Creek areas.
- Wildfire: Wildfire risk largely affects WUI zones around San Marcos; intense fires (FIS 4-4.5) documented historically.
- Severe storm & tornado: Hundreds of wind events documented since the 1970s; tornadoes (up to EF1) have occurred county-wide.

Community surveys across jurisdictions consistently ranked floods, wildfires, and drought as the top three threats.

Strategy & Capabilities

The plan is structured into four core components:

1. Risk assessment – hazard identification, historical data, and spatial exposure
2. Capabilities & resources inventory – coordination led by Hays County OES; includes CAD, flood warning systems, school safety programs, UAV/Haz-Mat assets

3. Mitigation Actions – prioritized list by benefit-cost analysis; examples include flood-prone property acquisition, strengthening of emergency communications, vegetation management in WUI, stormwater infrastructure upgrades
4. Maintenance & public involvement – periodic reviews every five years; continuous public outreach via open houses, surveys, and comment periods.

Funding Eligibility & Partnerships

- The plan’s FEMA approval is required to qualify jurisdictions for federal mitigation grants under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) .
- Hays County secured a \$100K planning grant from the Texas General Land Office in 2023 for the update .
- Regional partnerships with CAPCOG, TDEM, and FEMA ensure best-practice integration and resource coordination .

Benefits & Justification

- Economic resilience: Reduces potential flood losses of \$275M and wildfire/economic damage—prior mitigation yields higher returns than post-disaster recovery.
- Life safety & community well-being: Early investment in floodproofing, evacuation planning, and public warning systems saves lives in high-risk zones.
- Inter-jurisdictional cohesion: Unified planning across cities and county promotes efficient use of resources and equitable hazard protection.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Dripping Springs City Council formally adopt the 2025 Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan following final FEMA approval. Adoption will:

- Unlock eligibility for vital federal mitigation grants
- Support pre-disaster risk reduction initiatives across the region
- Promote coordinated investment strategies and community resilience
- Demonstrate proactive leadership in protecting residents and assets from future hazards

Staff Recommendations: City staff recommends adoption of the hazard mitigation plan.

Commission Recommendations: Emergency Management Committee recommends adoption of the hazard mitigation plan.

Recommended Council Actions: Adoption of the hazard mitigation plan subject to FEMA approval.

Attachments: Draft Resolution, attaching Hazard Mitigation Plan
Letter dated May 27, 2025 from FEMA confirming plan compliance with FEMA mitigation planning requirements

Next Steps/Schedule: Submission to FEMA for approval