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## CITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION ITEM

### CITY OF FAIR OAKS RANCH, TEXAS

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AGENDA TOPIC: Consideration and possible action approving a resolution authorizing the execution of an Interlocal Agreement with the San Antonio River Authority regarding FEMA Floodplain Management, and execution of all applicable documents by the City Manager

DATE: August 7, 2025

DEPARTMENT: Public Works – Engineering Services

PRESENTED BY: Lee Muñoz, P.E., CFM, Manager of Engineering Services

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#### **INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND:**

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) was established by the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968. It provides federally-backed flood insurance coverage to property owners in participating communities, reduces risks to life and property through floodplain management regulations, and conducts comprehensive floodplain mapping to identify areas at risk.

The San Antonio River Authority (SARA) started the Cooperative Technical Partnership (CTP) with FEMA in 2012. This program permits approved entities to perform technical reviews of floodplain submittals on FEMA's behalf to improve efficiency, increase local accuracy and reduce FEMA processing time. SARA currently performs these reviews for Bexar County and has offered to expand this service to Kendall County, including the portion of the City that falls within Kendall County. In the future, SARA may expand services to Comal County and other nearby counties as well.

The current process for obtaining a Letter of Map Change (LOMC), which includes Letter of Map Amendments (LOMA), Letter of Map Revisions (LOMR), and Physical Map Revisions (PMR), involves a detailed review by the City's Floodplain Administrator. Once approved locally, the LOMC is submitted to FEMA for final review and implementation. FEMA may take up to 90 days to review each submittal and an additional 90 days for any required resubmittals. Due to the frequent need for multiple rounds of submittals, this process often results in a prolonged approval timeline.

This Interlocal Agreement (**Exhibit A**) aims to streamline this process by transferring FEMA's technical review responsibilities to SARA. SARA is in the process of updating the hydrologic and hydraulic models for Cibolo Creek, which runs through the heart of the City. Their familiarity with this watershed makes SARA well-suited to serve as the reviewing agency for LOMC submittals. Upon completion of their technical review, SARA will prepare and submit all required documentation, along with a recommendation for approval, directly to FEMA for final action.

On May 13, 2025, Kendall County approved the same ILA for LOMC reviews within the county. On July 22, the City of Boerne also approved the same ILA for LOMC reviews within their city limits. Once SARA has obtained signed ILAs from Kendall County, the City of Boerne, and the City of Fair Oaks Ranch, SARA will submit the ILAs to FEMA for approval under the CTP program.

**POLICY ANALYSIS/BENEFIT(S) TO CITIZENS:**

- Supports Priority 2.5 to Develop, Implement and Update Environmental Sustainability Programs of the Strategic Action Plan.
- Supports Priority 3.3 to Enhance and Ensure Continuity of Reliable Drainage Improvement Initiatives.
- Engaging SARA, a FEMA CTP agency, to review LOMCs on behalf of FEMA will significantly reduce review and response times. In addition, SARA maintains a web-based repository, the D2MR website, which provides access to current and approved LOMCs as well as effective modeling data for download.

**LONGTERM FINANCIAL & BUDGETARY IMPACT:**

In accordance with ILA Article III, there is no cost to the City for services rendered by SARA.

**LEGAL ANALYSIS:**

The resolution and ILA have been reviewed by the City Attorney and approved as to form.

**RECOMMENDATION/PROPOSED MOTION:**

I move to approve a resolution authorizing authorizing the execution of an Interlocal Agreement with the San Antonio River Authority regarding FEMA Floodplain Management, and execution of all applicable documents by the City Manager.