

*TPDES Permit No. WQ0004705000 (EPA I.D. No. TXS000401)*  
*STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM*  
*City of Austin*

# **STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

### **1. MS4 Maintenance Activities**

- A. Structural Controls
- B. Floatables Program
- C. Roadways Program

### **2. Post-Construction Storm Water Control Measures**

- A. Areas of New Development and Significant Redevelopment
  - 1. Comprehensive Planning Process
  - 2. Development Regulations
  - 3. Zoning, Subdivision and Site Plan Regulations
- B. Flood Control Projects
  - 1. Existing Flood Control Retrofit Program
  - 2. Future Flood Control Review Program

### **3. Illicit Discharges Detection and Elimination**

- A. Illicit and Allowable Discharges
- B. Detection and Elimination of Illicit Discharges
- C. Overflows and Infiltration
- D. Household Hazardous Waste and Used Motor Vehicle Fluids
- E. MS4 Screening and Illicit Discharge Inspections
- F. NPDES and TPDES Permittee List
- G. MS4 Map
- H. Spill Prevention and Response

### **4. Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations**

- A. Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping Program
- B. Waste Handling
- C. Pesticide, Herbicide and Fertilizer Application
- D. List of Municipal Facilities

## **5. Industrial and High Risk Runoff**

- A. Industrial and High Risk Inspection Program

## **6. Construction Site Storm Water Runoff**

- A. Site Development Plan Regulations
- B. Construction Waste
- C. Inspection of Sites During Construction
- D. Public Education for Construction Site Operators

## **7. Public Education and Involvement**

- A. Public Education
  - 1. Water Quality Education and Awareness Programs
- B. Public Involvement and Participation
  - 1. Keep Austin Beautiful
  - 2. Pollution Hotline Public Education
  - 3. Austin Resource Recovery Public Education
  - 4. Barton Springs Zone Specific Education

## **8. Monitoring Programs**

- A. Dry Weather Screening
- B. Wet Weather Screening
- C. Industrial and High Risk Monitoring
- D. Water Quality and Biological Monitoring
  - 1. Barton Springs Complex Sediment Monitoring
  - 2. Barton Springs Complex Water Quality Monitoring
  - 3. Environmental Integrity Index (EII)
  - 4. Critical Environmental Feature Protection

# Storm Water Management Program

## 1. MS4 Maintenance Activities

### A. Structural Controls

#### **Introduction**

The inspection and maintenance programs are part of a comprehensive drainage maintenance plan to identify, evaluate and solve flooding, erosion and water quality problems, including those related to non-point source pollution. The goal of the inspection and maintenance of drainage works program is to ensure satisfactory operation of those facilities and to preserve and enhance the quality of storm water runoff. Specific elements of the current maintenance and inspection program are described below:

#### **Program Activities Description**

##### Maintenance and Inspection Activities

The City's storm water conveyance system is composed of natural and engineered creeks and channels, a network of drainage pipelines, and structural storm water management controls. The Watershed Protection Department (WPD) Field Operations Division (FOD) is responsible for the maintenance of this system, which includes a variety of activities to ensure conveyance for storm water runoff. FOD staff removes excessive vegetation debris and obstructions from open channels and waterways, culvert and bridge locations. The frequency of maintenance activities varies from creek to creek and includes creek bank and flow line stabilization projects as needed to address significant erosion. Routine vegetation control is achieved primarily through private sector maintenance contracts.

FOD staff also maintain storm drain pipes and inlets. They inspect, clean and repair the system as needed throughout the year to maintain proper operation and conveyance of storm water runoff. The frequency of routine maintenance and cleaning activities varies from location to location based on identified needs.

WPD staff, including FOD and Watershed Engineering Department (WED), inspects storm water structural controls associated with the residential development and City facilities annually. Excess vegetation and any identified structural issues are addressed as necessary to ensure proper functionality. Storm water controls associated with commercial development are inspected on a three year schedule, by the FOD Commercial Pond Inspectors. Any necessary repairs identified are documented, and staff works with the responsible parties to ensure functionality and compliance with City code and criteria.

WPD and Development Services Department (DSD) staff are responsible for the identification and inspection of residential and commercial storm water controls in the Barton Springs Zone, repairing non-functioning residential ponds as necessary and ensuring compliance and enforcement of commercial pond maintenance and repair requirements.

WPD staff will maintain the Department's residential and commercial pond databases in order to ensure more accurate documentation of:

- pond type and function
- inspection records
- maintenance records
- compliance records

#### Engineering Activities

The WPD project planning process involves procedures to allow for multi-disciplinary review of proposed projects; opportunities for flood, water quality and erosion control needs to be addressed simultaneously (within one project) are identified and discussed prior to project scheduling. The goal is to reduce sedimentation in receiving streams by mitigating erosion in contributing creeks. Erosion control features are incorporated in previously authorized flood control projects whenever that work can address both flood control and erosion control needs simultaneously.

### Public Participation

Public involvement in the inspection and maintenance programs will be provided through customer service representatives in the WPD. Citizen complaints, inquiries and requests are assigned to an investigator. If a solution is determined to be feasible and appropriate, the work is assigned to a maintenance unit for action. Critical or emergency situations are dispatched by two-way radio and pagers to a maintenance unit for immediate attention. Citizen input is also received at various public meetings and forums to identify long-term planning needs as well as current drainage problems.

### **Program Activities Description**

The following program tasks will be performed on an annual basis to accomplish the City's inspection and maintenance goals:

- Remove debris and excessive vegetation from approximately 50 miles of open channels to maintain and improve flood flow conveyance and improve water quality.
- Provide scheduled vegetation maintenance at 75% of all storm water controls identified to be the responsibility of the City of Austin.
- Inspect 75% of the storm water controls identified to be maintained by the City of Austin.
- Inspect 1,200 storm water controls associated with commercial development to enforce compliance with City Code.
- Clear at least three miles of open waterways of sediment and obstructions in order to maintain flood flow conveyance, minimize erosion and improve water quality.
- Remove debris, sediment, vegetation and obstructions from at least 500 culvert and bridge locations in order to maintain flood flow conveyance and improve water quality.
- Clean at least four miles (21,120 ft.) of the storm drain pipe system annually to maintain flood flow conveyance and improve water quality.
- Clean at least 2,500 storm drain inlets to maintain flood flow conveyance and remove collected sediment and other pollutants.

The inspection and maintenance program activities may be modified during the permit period as a result of City annexations, development activity and identification of additional drainage maintenance needs. Additional program changes may be made if efficiencies in operating procedures or costs are realized. Significant increases to service activities that are determined to be critical with respect to the public's safety, health or welfare can be requested through the City's annual budget process to provide funding for that work.

As stated in the introduction, the City of Austin has assumed responsibility for the inspection and maintenance of drainage infrastructure that it either owns or has the legal authority and responsibility to maintain. The City cooperates with adjacent counties, the State of Texas, school districts and the Lower Colorado River Authority to determine appropriate responsibility for inspection, maintenance and operation of the local drainage infrastructure.

## **B. Floatables Program**

### **Introduction**

The City of Austin's floatables program has established collection sites at the mouth of two urban creeks just prior to their discharge into Lady Bird Lake. Each site consists of one boom, made of plastic material that floats at the water surface and extends across the width of the creek to trap floating materials flowing toward the mouth of the creek. Each boom is anchored on either shoreline to maintain its position in the creek.

### **Program Activities Description**

The FOD staff checks the condition of each monitoring site on a weekly basis, and each site is cleaned on a monthly basis if necessary. In addition, FOD staff checks the condition of the sites after major storm events, and removal activities commence when the access areas to the monitoring sites have dried sufficiently to allow the use of mechanical equipment without damage to the surrounding ground.

FOD crews remove all trapped floating material using nets that reach the middle of the creek, allowing removal from both sides of the creeks. Heavier material such as wet wood is pulled to the shorelines and removed with mechanical equipment. The material removed from each site is loaded into City dump trucks, hauled to an acceptable local landfill and measured by weight at the disposal site. The unit of measurement is wet tons. The amount of material removed and taken to the landfill is tabulated on a monthly basis.

**Monitoring and Collection Locations**

Site Selection

Site selection criteria for the floatables program were generally based on the following:

- Ability to access site in a safe and secure manner
- Public access to creek
- Impact by urban land use activities
- Suitable conditions for boom deployment and cleaning activities

Site Locations

Two urban creeks that receive storm water discharges from Austin’s MS4 are used as the collection locations for the floatables program. See Table 6-1.

Table 6-1. Floatables Removal Site Locations

<b>Watershed</b>	<b>Site No.</b>	<b>Monitoring and Collection Site Location</b>	<b>Land Use</b>
Shoal Creek	1	Shoal Creek at Lady Bird Lake	Mixed Urban
West Bouldin Creek	2	West Bouldin Creek at Lady Bird Lake	Residential Urban

### Site Descriptions

As noted in the site selection section, each stream used for the monitoring program has been identified as having characteristics that would make it likely to be impacted by urban land use activities and the associated human-generated debris. The following is a more detailed description of each proposed stream, the characteristics of the associated drainage basins and the site selection considerations.

- **Shoal Creek** runs north south through the western portion of central Austin. It is 11.2 miles in length and has a drainage area of 12.9 square miles of highly urbanized development. The land-use break down for the watershed is 54% residential, 19% business, 9% civic, 6% roadways and 12% undeveloped. Shoal Creek is a highly utilized public resource that passes through several City parks and includes a Hike and Bike Trail that runs the length of the stream. This stream was selected due to the abundance of impervious cover in the watershed, the extensive amount of public use along the stream length and the potential for refuse to enter the stream. Site conditions are suitable for proper boom deployment and continuous operation.
- **West Bouldin Creek** winds through a primarily residential area of south central Austin, is three miles in length and has a drainage area of approximately 2.9 square miles. West Bouldin Creek passes through several parks before entering Lady Bird Lake at Auditorium Shores and has been identified by neighborhood associations as a potential location for greenbelt development. The land-use breakdown for the watershed is 69% residential, 12% business, 4% civic, 3% roadways and 12% undeveloped. This stream was selected due to the abundance of impervious cover in the watershed, the numerous public access locations along the stream, the potential for refuse associated with human activities to enter the stream and the possibility of increased public use in the future. Site conditions are suitable for proper boom deployment and continuous operation.

## C. Roadways

### A. Roadways Operation and Maintenance Program

#### Introduction

In the effort to reduce the amount of pollutants discharged into local waterways from streets and roadways, the City of Austin has developed a Roadways Program that addresses snow and ice response, road repair, street cleaning, litter control, and pollutants from traffic.

## **Program Activities Description**

### Snow and Ice Response

Snow, ice, and sleet create unsafe driving surfaces on streets and bridges. As such, the City has developed an emergency response program that uses barricading and sanding to effectively treat slick streets and roadways during the rare ice and snow events.

During these events Public Works Department (PWD) staff evaluates the road conditions and identifies the streets and bridges that need to be sanded or barricaded to ensure public safety.

Based on the staff determinations, PWD sand trucks and staff are dispatched to the various locations and appropriate treatment (sanding or barricading) is completed. Once it has been determined that the ice or snow conditions are no longer a threat, PWD will dispatch staff to remove barricades and start street sweeping activities in the areas where sand was used. The PWD will continue to use the described snow management activities during the remaining permit period, although changes to the scope of the program activities may occur during the annual review of the program budget and effectiveness.

### Road/Right of Way Maintenance and Repair

Routine maintenance of the streets, bridges, and ROW within the City of Austin are the responsibility of the PWD. The primary maintenance functions of the Street and Bridge Operations Division of PWD include, but are not limited to:

- repairs to potholes, surface replacements and pavement failures
- overlays and leveling of streets
- pavement milling
- crack sealing
- seal coating
- grading and maintenance of unpaved streets and alleys
- removal of debris from the Rights of Way (ROW)
- Bridge repair and management
- Utility excavation repairs, concrete structure repairs

PWD roadway maintenance projects involving excavation are completed under a General Permit issued by the City's Development Services Department (DSD). The General Permit is an "umbrella" work permit issued on an annual basis to City departments and commercial entities operating within the City's jurisdiction under inter local agreements. Work covered involves on-going repair, maintenance and some types of infrastructure extensions within the City's planning jurisdiction. Work to be completed under a General Permit requires written notification to the General Permit Office, including information concerning the location and duration of the work to be performed, who will be performing the work, contact information and the erosion and sedimentation controls to be used. The PWD General Permit requires the use of erosion and sedimentation controls on all projects and will typically include:

- Temporary inlet protection
- Silt fence
- Rock berms
- Mulch logs and socks
- Stabilized construction entrances
- Work areas dewatering measures;
- Seeding and sodding revegetation measures
- Soil stabilization matting, as appropriate

The controls to be used for each type of maintenance activity are reviewed and approved by DSD staff during the General Permit development process. Inspections by the projects responsible party are also required by City Code. Public Works provides inspections of all projects covered under the general permit. In addition to the project specific controls used, the PWD incorporates storm water control measures at all PWD aggregate stockpile sites, where silt fencing and/or storm water structural controls are located appropriately to provide storm water treatment. PWD staff use approved cleaning materials, good house cleaning practices, proper waste disposal methods and other best management practices (BMP) to minimize the occurrence of non-storm water discharges.

Over the five year permit period the PWD will continue the roadway maintenance as described, although changes to the scope of the program activities may occur during the annual review of the program budget and effectiveness.

### Street Cleaning

Routine street cleaning in the City of Austin is the responsibility of the City's Austin Resource Recovery (ARR). The City of Austin Street Cleaning Program targets the cleaning of City streets in all areas within the City limits for removal of trash, litter and dirt that has collected in the streets and gutters for health, safety, aesthetic and water quality reasons.

Each year, this program cleans over 52,955 curb miles of streets in Austin and collects over 6300 tons of trash, leaves, debris and dirt from impervious roadway surfaces. ARR Street Cleaning Program uses regenerative air street sweepers in its operations to clean the streets in Austin. During the permit period, the Central Business District will be swept daily to maximize removal efficiencies. Residential curbed streets will be swept on an average frequency of twice per year. Other areas are swept on varying schedules depending on traffic and need.

Changes or improvements to the Street Cleaning Program may be considered as part of the City's annual operating budget review. In addition, consideration may also be given to conducting controlled studies in selected areas of the City to determine the impact of varying street cleaning intervals on resultant storm water runoff quality.

### Litter Control

The Litter Control Program of the City of Austin is the responsibility of ARR, Litter Abatement Division. The Litter Control Program is implemented within the City limits and targets:

- some of the City-owned property within the City limits for removal of trash, litter, and debris which has collected in the streets and the public rights-of-way
- neighborhood cleanups as requested

- brush and bulk pick-up approximately twice per year (Brush and Bulk Collection Program)
- trash collection and maintenance for litter receptacles
- removal of dead animals from roadways and public property
- marketing of anti-littering programs in Austin

Programs to control litter are also implemented by the Collection Services Division, which include Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) and Curbside Single Stream Recycling. PAYT is a garbage collection system that aggressively encourages recycling and “smart” trash habits. Residents are issued a 24, 32, 64 or 96 gallon wheeled plastic trash cart for their garbage, which is collected once a week. Recyclables are collected every other week, and grass clippings and leaves are collected weekly and taken to Hornsby Bend for composting into “Dillo Dirt.” Periodically, there are brush and bulky pick-ups scheduled for neighborhoods which include items such as old furniture, appliances and large tree limbs. PAYT reaches residential and commercial customers through billboards, print ads, utility bill inserts and the City's website.

The Curbside Single Stream Recycling Program provides biweekly collection of newspaper, corrugated cardboard, plastic, glass bottles and jars, tin and aluminum cans and all #1 through #7 plastic containers to all households served by City garbage collection. Qualified commercial customers located in residential neighborhoods also receive collection every other week. The program also includes the Block Leader Program and “Recycling Right” projects to promote public awareness and participation in the program. In addition ARR staff works with other groups on seasonal projects such as Christmas tree recycling, and used oil recycling.

ARR also provides convenient recycling services to all City employees through the workplace recycling program known as “office stream” recycle. This program is continually evaluated to provide the most efficient service, and as a result the frequency of collection may vary.

## **Program Goals**

During the permit period, ARR Litter Abatement Crews will complete the following tasks:

- Litter containers in the downtown area will be emptied of accumulated litter daily
- Litter crews will remove litter from uncurbed streets, uncurbed right-of-ways and other City property as needed
- Illegal dumping of trash and waste material on public property will be removed as necessary
- Dead animals on roadways will be removed, within 24 hours of being reported, six days per week
- Brush and bulk items will be collected on a scheduled basis each year from residences, so that such items do not get dumped along city watercourses
- Street cleaning crews will remove trash, litter and dirt that has collected in the streets and gutters on a scheduled basis

The City does not anticipate any changes to the Litter Abatement Program. However changes to the scope of this program may be considered during review of the City's annual operating budget. Although the City maintains most of the roadways in the Austin area, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is responsible for the maintenance, cleaning and closure management of certain State and Federal highways within the corporate limits of the City in accordance with an interagency maintenance agreement. The City does not anticipate any changes to the Roadways Program. However changes to the scope of the program components may be considered during review of the City's annual operating budget.

## **2. Post-Construction Storm Water Control Measures**

### **A. Areas of New Development and Significant Redevelopment**

One goal of the City's land development process is to protect water quality within the City's jurisdiction. To that end, the City has adopted a number of planning and water quality regulations. Among other things, the ordinances referenced in this section establish effluent limitations and are required, at a minimum, to meet water quality standards.

#### **1. Comprehensive Planning Process**

##### **Introduction**

The Planning and Zoning Services (PAZ) are responsible for comprehensive planning in the City. Comprehensive planning is done to assure orderly growth, protect environmentally sensitive areas and maintain an efficient infrastructure within the City's planning jurisdiction, which is defined as the areas within the City's territorial and extra-territorial boundaries. Major program areas within Austin's comprehensive planning scope include:

- Implementation of the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan (Imagine Austin)
- land use inventories and projections
- demographics and population projections
- neighborhood planning

The land use and population information produced by the PAZ are utilized by a number of City departments for comprehensive planning activities. Comprehensive planning activities are conducted by other City of Austin departments as well. These activities include, but are not limited to the following:

- Implementation of Imagine Austin through the eight identified priority program teams

- Watershed, land use and natural resource studies are conducted by the WPD which is responsible for the development of water quality control programs, planning and design for flood control structures, erosion control and prevention projects and implementation of regulatory controls
- Wastewater facility planning is conducted on an on-going basis by the Austin Water, as part of the City's Capital Improvements Program
- Transportation planning conducted by the Transportation Department
- The base-map maintenance program provided by the Geographic Information Systems Section of the City's Communication and Technology Management Office, which is directed at building and maintaining a uniform land use base map to be used by all utilities and City departments, as one of several on-going planning support programs. Additional mapped data available includes topography, floodplains, geological features and political jurisdictions.

### **Program Activities Description**

The Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan was adopted by the Austin City Council in June 2012. Informed by broad community input, Imagine Austin provides a vision and roadmap for our community's future. This vision includes ensuring the city "will be safe and affordable; promote physical activity, community engagement, and inclusion; make amenities and services for current and future residents. Imagine Austin is a broad plan covering many areas that when realized will make Austin a better place to live, work, and play. Two major themes of Imagine Austin are "Complete Communities" and "Sustainability." In order to transform the plan's vision into reality, several priority programs were identified to provide the structure and direction to implement the plan: See <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/imagine-austin>

On October 17, 2013 the Austin City Council passed a new Watershed Protection Ordinance to improve creek and floodplain protection; prevent unsustainable public expense on drainage systems; simplify development regulation where possible; and minimize the impact on the ability to develop land. The Watershed Protection Ordinance is the result of a resolution approved by City Council on January 13, 2011. The City held an extensive series of stakeholder meetings with over 200 participants from August 2011 through June 2013 to obtain public input. (See Table 6) and revised (Table 5)

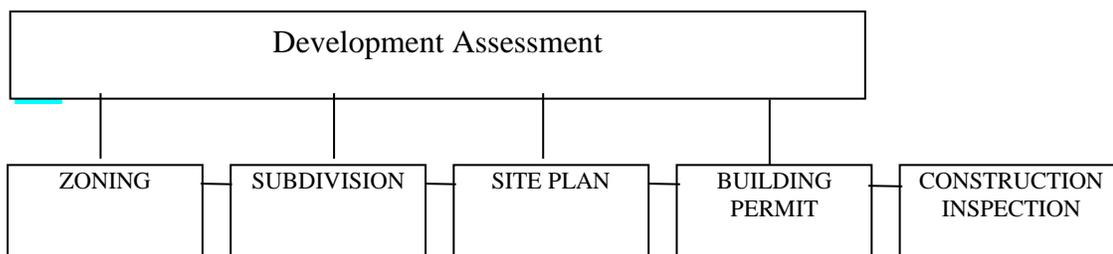
In 2001, the WPD developed a Watershed Protection Master Plan to better prioritize service needs and refine program direction. Through the Master Plan process, the City assesses technical information to identify erosion, flood and water quality problem areas; prioritizes problem areas; and identifies, evaluates, develops, and implements solutions. Solutions include capital infrastructure projects, operating program enhancements, and regulatory modifications.

Other active planning functions that support water quality planning are demographics and population forecasting and land use planning analysis. The 2000 and 2003 land use data has been collected and correlated with the 2010 census data. Development information that tracks new construction modeling efforts and infill project creation is continuously updated, analyzed and mapped, resulting in a wide variety of development activity trend analysis. PAZ staff has created a 2010 land use inventory.

## 2. Development Regulation

### Introduction

New development and redevelopment activities in the City of Austin’s planning jurisdiction are subject to internal review for compliance with water quality regulations of the Austin City Code. Development or redevelopment of an individual parcel of land generally undergoes the following review process:



The DSD includes development review staff that are responsible for the water quality related aspects of project review, including:

- the general review of new subdivisions for compliance with City drainage standards with respect to structural water quality controls, drainage easements and other proposed drainage facilities; and

- the detailed review of specific water quality control structures, drainage easements and drainage facilities in the construction plans for subdivisions, site development projects and utility projects.

Austin Water's On-site Sewage Facilities (OSSF) division has the primary responsibility for regulation of on-site wastewater facilities. A permit is required to construct any new on-site system. Development on state-owned property lying within the City's jurisdiction is not regulated by the City. However, in some cases, a development agreement that addresses water quality issues has been negotiated between the City and the relevant state agency. See Tables 2,3,4. Current water quality regulations in the Austin City Code were developed as part of the 1986 Comprehensive Watersheds Ordinance (CWO), and amended by the 1991 Urban Watersheds Ordinance. As part of the citizens Save Our Springs (S.O.S.) initiative to further protect the Barton Springs Zone, additional water quality regulations were adopted by City Council. The CWO combined environmentally related site development and subdivision regulations into one document, thereby combining water quality regulations for all non-urban watersheds within the City five-mile ETJ in one document. The Austin City Council passed a new Watershed Protection Ordinance which became effective October 28, 2013 amended the CWO;

#### **Program Activities Description**

Applications for site development permits are submitted to the Central Intake Facility. At that time, DSD staff review the construction element of site plan for the structural and nonstructural water quality control requirements. The DSD staff review the structural design of water quality control structures proposed in the site plans. The design and maintenance criteria for these systems are specified by the City in the Environmental Criteria Manual. In addition, grading and the provision for drainage and drainage easements (including the 100-year floodplain) is reviewed. The Erosion Hazard Zone is reviewed for development within 100 feet of waterways with more than 64 acres of drainage. See Table 5 for the environmental site plan review function description. See Table 6 Watershed Protection Ordinance Regulations Summary Table.

**Table 2.** City of Austin Zoning Process within the City Limits

Submittal	To DSD Intake
Environmental Regulation Review Elements	<i>Development:</i> Intensity Density <i>Environmental:</i> Water resources/quality Floodplain/flooding Critical environmental features Existing trees Significant slopes greater than 15%
Review Authority	DSD PAZ Planning Commission Environmental Commission Zoning and Platting Commission
Notice	Property owners within 500 feet Registered neighborhood organizations within 500 feet Utility Customers within 500 feet Public hearings notification through sign posting and newspaper advertisements
Approval Authority	City Council
Product	Zoning change

**Table 3.** City of Austin Subdivision Development Process within City Limits and ETJ

Submittal	To DSD Intake
Environmental Regulation Review Elements	<p><i>Design and Engineering:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lot size and layout</li> <li>Drainage and floodplains</li> <li>Erosion Hazard Zone</li> <li>Runoff controls and water quality controls</li> </ul> <p><i>Environmental:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water quality zones</li> <li>Impervious cover calculations</li> <li>Non-structural water quality controls</li> <li>Structural water quality controls</li> <li>Critical environmental features</li> <li>Existing trees</li> <li>Significant slopes greater than 15%</li> </ul>
Review Authority	<p>DSD</p> <p>Environmental Commission</p> <p>Planning Commission</p> <p>Zoning and Platting Commission</p>
Notice	<p>Property owners within 500 feet</p> <p>Registered neighborhood organizations within 500 feet</p> <p>Utility customers within 500'</p> <p>Public hearings notification through sign posting and newspaper advertisements (preliminary plan only)</p>
Approval Authority	<p>Planning Commission</p> <p>Zoning and Platting Commission</p> <p>DSD &amp; PAZ Director</p>
Product	<p>Preliminary plan</p> <p>Final plat</p> <p>Released subdivision construction plan</p>

**Table 4. City of Austin Site Plan Process\***

Submittal	To DSD Intake
<p>Environmental Regulation Review Elements</p>	<p><i>Design:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intensity</li> <li>Density</li> <li>Setbacks</li> </ul> <p><i>Environmental:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water quality zones</li> <li>Impervious cover calculations</li> <li>Non-structural water quality controls</li> <li>Structural water quality controls</li> <li>Critical environmental features</li> <li>Existing trees</li> <li>Significant slopes greater than 15%</li> <li>Landscape requirements</li> </ul> <p><i>Construction:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drainage and floodplains</li> <li>Erosion Hazard Zone</li> <li>Runoff controls and water quality controls</li> </ul>
<p>Review Authority</p>	<p>DSD Environmental Commission Planning Commission Zoning and Platting Commission</p>
<p>Notice</p>	<p>Property owners within 500 feet Registered neighborhood organizations within 500 feet Utility customers within 500 feet Public hearings notification through sign posting and newspaper advertisements</p>
<p>Approval Authority</p>	<p>Planning Commission for: Hill Country Roadway site plans Conditional use site plans Variances Administrative approval for all others if complying with City Code</p>

**Table 5.** Summary of Water Quality Regulations in the Austin City Code, Chapter 25-8 Relative to the Watershed Protection Ordinance (Applicable Within City and ETJ)

<i>General Standards – Chapter 25-8, Subchapter A</i>	
Critical Water Quality Zones (CWQZ)	Establishes CWQZs along creeks with drainage basins over 64 acres as well as the shorelines of lakes and rivers. The geometry of the buffer can vary with the size of the contributing drainage area and the watershed classification. Most waterways are classified as minor, intermediate, or major. Development or alterations within the CWQZ is prohibited, with exceptions for limited roadway
Water Quality Transition Zones (WQTZ)	Established WQTZs parallel to all CWQZs, except for waterways in the Urban and Suburban watersheds. Width differs depending on type of waterway. Limited development and impervious cover is allowed within WQTZs depending on watershed category.
Construction on Slopes	Prohibits roadways or driveways on slopes over 15% unless providing access to flatter slopes. Prohibits structures on slopes over 25%. Allows structures on slopes between 15-25% if less than 10% impervious cover on slopes of 15-25% with containment and terracing.
Erosion & Sedimentation Controls (ESC)	Requires ESC for all construction and development within all watersheds. ESC plan must comply with standards in the City of Austin Environmental Criteria Manual.
Clearing and Temporary Site Disturbances	Limits survey width to 15 feet. Limits length of time between rough cutting and surfacing/stabilization to 18 months. Limits roadway clearing to twice the surface width. Required in all watersheds.
Cut and Fill	Prohibits cut or fill over four feet except for within roadway rights-of-way and for structural excavation. Not applicable within Urban watersheds.
Water Quality Controls	Requires water quality controls to capture, and treat runoff from all contributing areas in all watersheds. Innovative runoff management practices must be reviewed and approved by WPD. Requires water quality controls for all development in the Barton Springs Zone and for greater than 8,000 square feet of impervious cover in all other watersheds
Optional Payment-In-Lieu of Structural Controls	Allows developer the option to request authorization to deposit a cash payment with the City in lieu of constructing onsite structural water quality controls. Applicable only with Urban watersheds.
Floodplain Modification	Floodplain modification is permitted if the modifications are necessary to protect public health and safety; would provide a significant, demonstrable environmental benefit; are necessary for development allowed in the CWQZ; or are located outside of the CWQZ in an area determined to be in poor or fair condition by a functional assessment of floodplain health.
Impervious Cover	Impervious cover is defined as the total area of any surface that prevents the infiltration of water into the ground, with exceptions for things like trails, water quality controls, and pools. Limits in upland areas vary by watershed classification.

Table 5. Continued

Redevelopment Exception	Properties that meet all the requirements of the redevelopment exception (e.g., no increase in impervious cover, install water quality controls) do not have to comply with the rest of the requirements of Section 25-8 Subchapter A. The Redevelopment Exception varies by watershed regulation area.
Spoils Disposal	Prohibits spoils sites in 100-year floodplains or on slopes over 15%, with some exceptions. Sites require reasonable access, restoration, and revegetation. Required in all watersheds.
Critical Environmental Features (CEFs)	Requires 150-foot setbacks from bluffs, springs, canyon rimrocks, caves, sinkholes, karst features, and wetlands. Setbacks may be administratively reduced upon inspection by staff geologists/biologists in WPD. No wetland protection in the central business district.
Wastewater Treatment	Wastewater treatment by land application prohibited on slopes greater than 15 percent, in a critical water quality zone, in a 100-year floodplain, on the trunk of surveyed trees, in a CEF buffer, or during wet weather conditions.
Storm Sewer Discharges	Allows issuance of a certificate of occupancy only if it is in compliance with requirements of Discharges to Storm Sewers or Watercourses of the City Code.
<i>Additional Standards</i>	
Environmental Resource Inventory	Requires an environmental resource inventory in accordance with the Environmental Criteria Manual regarding hydrology, vegetation, wastewater treatment, critical environmental features, and storm water runoff and pollution abatement.
Overland Flow	Requires maintenance of overland flow patterns, natural drainage features and dispersion of runoff to sheet flow whenever possible.
Blasting	Restrictions placed on blasting for projects in CWQZs or WQTZs over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone and within 300 feet of critical environmental features.
Industrial Uses	Requires pollutant attenuation plans and refers to City Code storage design requirements for hazardous materials. Requires detention of storm water onsite and filtration before discharge.
Roadways and Driveways	Requires alternative designs for streets in water quality transition zones, minimum lot sizes and lot frontage and reasonable driveway access relative to design, grades and joint use.
Wastewater Treatment	Wastewater treatment by land application prohibited on slopes greater than 15 percent, in a critical water quality zone, in a 100-year floodplain, on the trunk of surveyed trees, in a CEF buffer, or during wet weather conditions.
Storm Sewer Discharges	Allows issuance of a certificate of occupancy only if it is in compliance with requirements of Discharges to Storm Sewers or Watercourses of the City Code.

**Table 5.** Continued

<i>Additional Standards for Watersheds in the Barton Springs Zone</i>	
Impervious Cover Limits	All percentages listed are maximums allowable values calculated on a net site area basis. 15% is allowed over the Recharge Zone. 20% is allowed over the Barton Springs Contributing Zone within the Barton Creek Watershed. 25% is allowed over the remaining portion of the Barton Springs Contributing Zone.
Pollutant Load Restrictions	Requires that runoff be managed and treated such that no increases occur in the average annual loadings of total suspended solids, total phosphorus, total nitrogen, chemical oxygen demand, total lead, cadmium, E. coli, volatile organic compounds, total organic carbon, pesticides, and herbicides from the site.
Pollution Reduction Measures	Impervious cover must be reduced if needed to assure compliance with pollutant load restrictions.
Critical Water Quality Zones (CWQZ)	Boundary of the CWQZ shall not be less than 200 feet from the centerline of a major waterway, or less than 400 feet from the centerline of the main channel of Barton Creek. No pollution control structures or residential or commercial buildings may be established within the CWQZ.

**Note:** Pre-existing and non-conforming development approvals are subject to the grandfathering provisions of ordinance No. 20140612-084 which may be amended from time to time.

**Table 6. City of Austin Watershed Protection Ordinance Regulations Summary Table**  
Effective: October 28, 2013

Red Text = Change from Previous Requirements

REGULATORY CATEGORY	ZONE	DESIRED DEVELOPMENT ZONE			DRINKING WATER PROTECTION ZONE		
		Urban	Suburban City Limits	Suburban N. Edwards / ETJ	Water Supply Suburban	Water Supply Rural	Barton Springs Zone
Impervious Cover (IC)	Calculation Basis	Gross Site Area	Gross Site Area	Gross Site Area	Net Site Area	Net Site Area	Net Site Area
	Transfers Allowed	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
	Uplands: Max Pct IC	Max Pct	Max Pct Std / w Transfer	Max Pct Std / w Transfer	Max Pct Std / w Transfer	Max Pct Std / w Transfer	Max Pct [No Transfers]
	Single-Family Res. (Lot > 5750 ft <sup>2</sup> )	No Watershed IC Limit: Zoning Limits only	50% / 60%	45% / 50%	30% / 40%	1 unit per 1 ac. / 1 unit per 2 ac.*	R / BC / C **
	Single-Family Res. (Lot < 5750 ft <sup>2</sup> )		55% / 60%	55% / 60%			15% / 20% / 25% for all uses
	Multi-Family Residential Max Pct		60% / 70%	60% / 65%	40% / 55%	20% / 25%	
	Commercial Max Pct		80% / 90%	65% / 70%			
	WQ Transition Zone Max Pct IC (outside floodplain)	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	18%	1 SF unit / 3 acres	1 SF unit / 3 acres None over recharge
Critical WQ Zone: Max Pct IC	None (except road crossings)	None (except limited road crossings)	None (except limited road crossings)	None (except limited road crossings)	None (except limited road crossings)	None (except limited road crossings)	
Critical Environmental Feature (CEF) Max Pct IC	None within 150 to 300 ft radius	None within 150 to 300 ft radius	None within 150 to 300 ft radius	None within 150 to 300 ft radius	None within 150 to 300 ft radius	None within 150 to 300 ft radius	
Waterway Classifications	Minor	64 acres	64 – 320 acres	64 – 320 acres	64 – 320 acres	64 – 320 acres	64 – 320 acres
	Intermediate		320 – 640 acres	320 – 640 acres	320 – 640 acres	320 – 640 acres	320 – 640 acres
	Major		over 640 acres	over 640 acres	over 640 acres	over 640 acres	over 640 acres
	Notes	Urban creeks not classified					
Waterway Setbacks	Critical Water Quality Zone						
	Minor	50 – 400 ft.	100 ft.	100 ft.	50 – 100 ft.	50 – 100 ft.	50 – 100 ft.
	Intermediate		200 ft.	200 ft.	100 – 200 ft.	100 – 200 ft.	100 – 200 ft.
	Major		300 ft.	300 ft.	200 – 400 ft.	200 – 400 ft.	200 – 400 ft. (Barton mainstem 400 ft.)
	Notes	Between min and max width, coincides with the 100-year fully-developed floodplain	"Buffer averaging" allows sites to reduce width of buffers by up to one-half if the overall amount protected remains the same		Between min and max width, coincides with the 100-year fully-developed floodplain		
	Water Quality Transition Zone						
	Minor	Not Required	Not Required	Not Required	100 ft.	100 ft.	100 ft.
	Intermediate		200 ft.	200 ft.	200 ft.	200 ft.	200 ft.
Major	300 ft.		300 ft.	300 ft.	300 ft.	300 ft.	
Variances from Buffers	Administrative under certain conditions	Must apply for Land Use Commission variance		Must apply for Land Use Commission variance.			
Water Quality Controls	Treatment Standard	Sedimentation/ Filtration	Sedimentation/ Filtration	Sedimentation/ Filtration	Sedimentation/ Filtration	Sedimentation/ Filtration	Non-Degradation
	When Required	All new/redeveloped if IC > 8,000 sq. ft.	All new/redeveloped if IC > 8,000 sq. ft.	All new/redeveloped if IC > 8,000 sq. ft.	All new/redeveloped if IC > 8,000 sq. ft.; all IC in WQTZ	All new/redeveloped if IC > 8,000 sq. ft.; all IC in WQTZ	All development
	Allowed in Creek Buffer	CWQZ = Yes per ECM WQTZ = N/A	CWQZ = Yes per ECM WQTZ = N/A	CWQZ = Yes per ECM WQTZ = N/A	CWQZ = No WQTZ = Yes per ECM	CWQZ = No WQTZ = Yes per ECM	CWQZ = No WQTZ = Yes per ECM
	Alternative Strategies Allowed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
	Optional Payment-in-Lieu	Yes	No	No	No	No	No

key: CWQZ = Critical Water Quality Zone; ETJ = Extra-Territorial Jurisdiction; IC = Impervious Cover; SF = Single-Family Residential; WQ = Water Quality; WQTZ = Water Quality Transition Zone

## B. Flood Control Projects

### 1. Existing Flood Control Retrofit Program

#### Introduction

The WPD Watershed Engineering Division evaluates storm water structural controls throughout the City's MS4 to determine if retrofitting is feasible.

#### Program Activities Description

Although historically many structural flood control devices have been implemented through the City's Regional Storm Water Management Program (RSMP), many other flood and water quality controls were built through private development. The WPD will evaluate the existing RSMP flood control structures (regional detention ponds), non-RSMP flood control structures and other urban sites as potential flood/water quality retrofit locations. Each of the identified facilities will be assessed utilizing the following site evaluation criteria:

- General size and layout
- Critical or constraining environmental features
- Topographic constraints or opportunities
- Drainage area size and pollutant load
- Opportunities for BMP integration with existing features
- Community acceptance

The following are examples of the water quality technologies that may be considered for use at each identified facility as determined practicable by the City:

- Permanent wet pool
- Bio-retention systems
- Extended detention

Erosion detention and base flow augmentation may also be considered for use in combination with these water quality technologies. Cost effectiveness of retrofit activities will be taken into account during the evaluation process to determine implementation priority.

**Program Schedule**

Evaluations and consideration of flood/water quality retrofit potential will continue at each of the identified structures throughout the five-year permit period. No specific schedule will be set for the retrofit evaluation process as it will be done in conjunction with other master planning processes, to be based on a needs assessment currently underway.

**2. Future Flood Control Review Program****Introduction**

In the effort to assess the potential water quality impacts from proposed flood control projects, the City of Austin uses both regulatory design requirements and technical review to evaluate both municipal and private flood control projects.

**Program Activities Description**

City of Austin Land Development Code (LDC) currently requires an Environmental Assessment (EA) be filed with the director of the WPD for any proposed development located in a floodplain. This includes both City and private flood control projects such as large regional detention facilities and any type of floodplain modification. The requirements of the EA include a Hydrogeological Report which must demonstrate that the proposed drainage patterns resulting from the construction of the project will protect the quality and quantity of recharge at significant points. The EA must also include a Vegetation Report, a Wastewater Report, and a Pollutant Attenuation Plan for any proposed industrial use that is not completely enclosed in a building.

For both City and private flood control projects, the flood control facility design and the accompanying EA are submitted with the permit application and reviewed by WPD staff. The proposed project must also comply with the requirements of the City's LDC, Environmental Criteria Manual (ECM) and Drainage Criteria Manual (DCM). LDC and ECM codes and rules require project impacts to water quality and riparian systems to be evaluated and minimized. The DCM outlines design, performance and safety criteria for storm water management.

As part of the Master Plan, WPD's MIP Team will integrate, to the greatest extent possible, flood control, erosion control and water quality goals into future WPD projects. Currently, all WPD flood control projects meet LDC, ECM and DCM requirements and include evaluations of opportunities to incorporate erosion control and water quality design features.

During the five-year permit period the City of Austin will continue to evaluate proposed flood control projects as outlined above, with more refined evaluation and assessment criteria to be developed based on the Master Plan activities. The City does not anticipate any changes to the flood control programs. However changes to the scope of these programs may be considered during review of the City's annual operating budget.

### **3. Illicit Discharges and Improper Disposal**

#### **A. Illicit and Allowable Discharges**

##### Ordinance

To effectively prohibit illicit discharges to the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4), the City of Austin uses a series of ordinances. The City code sections that address illicit discharges and improper disposal are as follows:

##### Water Quality Regulations

Title 6, Chapter 6-5. Water Quality

The chapter 6-5 Water Quality regulations of the Austin City Code contain regulatory language that prohibits non-storm water discharges into storm sewers or water courses and provides requirements for pretreatment, monitoring and specifications related to specific activities. In addition, provisions for inspection by the City and penalties due to violations are included in this chapter.

##### Watershed Regulations

Title 25, Chapter 25-8. Environmental

This chapter of the Austin City Code contains language that prohibits illegal connections to the storm sewer system or any other illicit discharges at newly constructed facilities. Section 25-8-362 (Storm Sewer Discharge) of the Chapter states: “A certificate of occupancy may not be issued for development subject to this subchapter unless the development is in compliance with Chapter [6-5, Article 5](#) (*Discharges Into Storm Sewers Or Watercourses*).”

##### Hazardous Materials Storage and Registration Regulations

2003 International Fire Code

The Austin Fire Department enforces the 2003 International Fire Code (IFC) to regulate hazardous materials storage and registration in the City of Austin. Included in IFC is regulatory language that prohibits the discharge of materials into the storm sewer or watercourses. Section 2703.3 of the IFC states: “Hazardous materials in any quantity shall not be released into a sewer, storm drain, ditch, drainage canal, creek, stream, river, lake or tidal waterway or on the ground, sidewalk, street, and highway or into the atmosphere.”

The City of Austin also has amended sections of the IFC to include provisions for reporting emergencies and cost recovery. In addition, the Fire Department requires adherence with Section 6-5-51 of the City of Austin Code.

### Litter Regulations

#### Title 10, Chapter 10-5. Litter

Chapter 10-5, Article 3 of the Austin City Code prohibits litter. Section 10-5-42 (Littering Prohibited) of the chapter states: (A) A person commits an offense if the person deposits or throws litter on a street, alley, sidewalk, premises, vacant lot or public property, including a park or playground.

(B) A person commits an offense if the person deposits or throws litter along a street, alley, sidewalk or public property, including a park or playground.(C) A person commits an offense if the person deposits or throws litter from cleaning the interior of a residence, business or premises on a street, alley, sidewalk or creek.”

### On-Site Sewage Facility Regulations

#### Title 15, Chapter 15-5. Private Sewage Facilities

Chapter 15-5 of the Austin City Code provides regulations for sewage facilities. Section 15-5-26 (discharge or spill) of the chapter provides specific guidelines for reporting and cleanup activities so that appropriate action is taken to “protect public health and the environment.”

### **Enforcement**

The City investigates illicit discharges on a complaint or emergency response basis and on the results of the dry weather screening activities. Investigations of suspect facilities or activities include a thorough inspection of the premises and the connections to the MS4 to determine if an illicit discharge has occurred, or if the potential for illicit discharges exists. When an illicit discharge is found, City investigators work with the responsible party(s) to obtain voluntary compliance with City Code requirements. If voluntary compliance cannot be achieved, legal action can be taken against the violators in Municipal Court (See Prosecution). Illicit discharges to the storm sewer system found during routine facility inspections conducted by other City programs are addressed by the investigator conducting the inspection. If the illicit discharge cannot be addressed in this manner, the problem will be reported to the Pollution Hotline for follow-up inspection and investigation. In addition, other City field staffs have been instructed to follow the proper procedures for reporting illicit discharges.

### **Municipal Court Prosecution**

If voluntary compliance is not obtained, evidence of the violation, including investigation reports, photo documentation of the violation and all correspondence with the responsible party is obtained for the DSD Environmental Inspection Legal Enforcement Liaison and City's Law Department staff. The DSD legal enforcement liaison will then file a complaint in Municipal Court and work with a prosecutor to prepare the case against the violator and any responsible party(s).

The City's Law Department prosecutes environmental cases, as necessary in Municipal Court, and in most cases Chapters 25-8 (Land Development Code) and 6-5 (Water Quality Code) of the Austin City Code are cited as the legal mechanism for prosecution.

Violations of Chapters 6-5 and 25-8 are Class C misdemeanors, finable up to \$2,000 per violation. The penalty and fines imposed by the Municipal Court Judge are generally based upon the recommendation of the City Prosecutor, but in most cases a plea bargain is negotiated and a "deferred disposition" verdict is reached. In such cases, the defendant may be required to post a \$1,000 bond that will be returned upon completion of the court ordered cleanup or corrective activities. If the defendant corrects the violation in the negotiated time frame to the satisfaction of the investigator and the court then the charges will be dropped from the defendant's record. If the defendant fails to comply with the court Order, a "revocation hearing" will be held, at which time the judge will rule on the case. Depending on the court ruling, bond money may not be returned and additional fines may be assessed. New charges may be filed against the defendant the next working day (as the violation of City Code still exists), beginning the process again.

### **Criminal Prosecution**

During a site investigation or inspection of a permitted site in Travis County, if the investigator determines criminal or malicious intent associated with a violation, the investigation may be referred to the Travis County District Attorney's Office for

possible criminal prosecution under Texas Water Code Section 7.145. As with municipal prosecution, staff provide Travis County officials with evidence of the violation, reports, photo documentation and any correspondence with the responsible party. Travis County then conducts a thorough review of the evidence and determines if there is enough evidence to support filing criminal charges in County court. A violation of Texas Water Code 7.145 is a Class B misdemeanor. Fines of between \$1,000 and \$100,000 as well as jail time of up to five years are possible for a responsible party, if found guilty. If Travis County determines that there is not enough evidence to support prosecution, the case is handed back to WPD investigators for further investigation or possible prosecution in Municipal Court (see Municipal Court Prosecution above).

### **Referral to the TCEQ**

During a spill investigation or a site inspection of a permitted site in Williamson County or Hays County, if the investigator determines criminal or malicious intent associated with a violation, the investigation may be referred to the TCEQ for possible prosecution under Texas Water Code Section 7.145. Furthermore, if a responsible party is unwilling or financially unable to mitigate an illicit discharge, notification to the TCEQ is made for legal enforcement and/or possible mitigation funding.

## **B. Detection and Elimination of Illicit Discharges**

### **Wastewater Pipelines**

#### **Introduction**

The City's wastewater collection system (separate from the storm water system) is operated and maintained by the Pipeline Operations Program. Austin Water (AW) who is responsible for inspection and repair of wastewater infrastructure within the utility's service area.

### **Program Activities Description**

Austin Water (AW) continues its active Operation and Maintenance (O&M) program that includes cleaning, TV inspection, and smoke testing to clean and identify public and private defects in the collection system. In addition AW continues to repair and improve the collection system and has an emergency response plan that includes emergency crews and contractors available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. These O&M activities as well as improvements and emergency response resources to the collection system have continued to reduce the number of overflows and their duration. AW has installed permanent flow monitoring equipment with telemetry at its major wastewater interceptors to monitor significant sources of inflow and infiltration (I&I). The utility conducts Sewer System Evaluation Survey (SSES) studies for the collection system in the drainage basins of its wastewater service area. The collection system located within the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone (EARZ) is televised once every five years to comply with the Texas Commission Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Edwards Aquifer Rules. In addition to the closed circuit TV inspection required by TCEQ, the utility also cleans the wastewater lines and inspects manholes located in the EARZ.

Interceptors in creeks are “walked” for visual inspection of any damage after indication of significantly high flows. The utility uses television trucks for conducting closed circuit TV inspection of its wastewater lines. Sources of infiltration and seepage that cannot be eliminated through the routine maintenance are evaluated as part of a SSES to determine the best method of rehabilitation/repair/replacement. Illegal connections of storm sewers to sanitary sewers are removed as soon as they are detected during the various monitoring activities such as flow monitoring, sewer cleaning, TV inspection, smoke testing, dye testing and creek walking. Any illicit discharge of sewage or wastewater from a private or public system may be reported to the Austin Water or WPD Pollution Hotline by the public. The City’s Spills and Complaint Response Program (SCRCP) of the WPD investigate any Pollution Hotline reports of overflows that threaten to discharge to a storm sewer or waterway.

As noted in the introduction, SCRP staff is responsible for determining the source of illegal discharge such as wastewater discharges into Austin waterways, and enforcing regulations preventing these discharges.

The Plumbing Inspection Division of the DSD enforces appropriate provisions of the plumbing code relative to on-site sewage piping and connections. In addition Austin Water has a division called Utility Development Services (UDS) who has a team that investigates wastewater issues related to private laterals. This team works on the resolution of stop-ups, back-ups, and SSO's on the lateral side. The Austin city code requires customers to repair sections of their private plumbing that are not per code or functioning properly. UDS has legal authority to require homeowners to repair their private plumbing using the Private Lateral (PLAT) program. AW and SCRP staff may also coordinate with other governmental agencies, such as the TCEQ, and/or the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) during emergency spill incidents.

During the five year permit period, the City's program to prevent the infiltration or seepage of wastewater from wastewater lines into its storm sewer system and waterways will be responsible for completing the following of activities each year:

- Clean wastewater lines
- TV inspection of wastewater lines
- Smoke test wastewater line interceptors
- Provide routine maintenance of wastewater lines as necessary
- Replace or rehabilitate wastewater lines as necessary

## C. Overflows and Infiltration

### **On-site Sewage Facilities (Septic Systems)**

#### **Introduction**

The Water Department of the City of Austin (Austin Water) regulates On-Site Sewage Facilities (OSSF's) Utility located within the City's jurisdictional boundaries for OSSF's. The City's jurisdictional boundaries include the City's corporate limits and areas annexed for the implementation of the Health and Safety code.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has granted authority to Austin Water to enforce the requirements established in Title 30 of the Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 285 and has approved additional requirements under City Code 15-5 article I for the regulation of OSSF's. The focus of the OSSF program is to abate and/or prevent pollution and injury to the public health from the inadequate treatment and disposal of on-site treated sewage.

### **Program Activities Description**

The OSSF Program uses a multi-step process to reduce or prevent illegal discharges of improperly treated on-site sewage into the city's municipal separate storm sewer system. Potential unpermitted discharges include but are not limited to; seepage/infiltration and runoff of partially treated effluent and/or raw wastewater.

### *City Regulations*

To increase public protection and prevent the introduction of partially treated effluent into the environment, Austin Water is proposing to amend Article 1 of City Code Chapter 15-5.

### *Monitoring of Existing Systems*

Properties with an OSSF in which the property owner is seeking to obtain a building permit from the City of Austin must be evaluated for potential impacts to the OSSF before a building permit can be issued. Design plans for the installation of new or modified systems are reviewed by Austin Water to ensure compliance with City and State design and installation requirements.

### *Enforcement*

City code does not require existing OSSF to be abandoned unless the systems are failing (e.g., the OSSF are known sources of pollution, nuisance conditions and/or a threat to public health, or when the system is altered). The City may inspect OSSF reasonably believed to be causing pollution. Enforcement action may be taken for any non-compliant OSSF.

Enforcement actions may include citations for failure or refusal to remedy conditions prohibited by City Code. Violations of City Code may be issued through the appropriate municipal court. Violations of the City Water Quality Code, which include any un-permitted or illicit discharges of sewage or wastewater from a private or public system, into a storm sewer system or waterway are reported to City's WPD Spill Complaint Response Program (SCRCP). The SCRCP is responsible for determining the source of illegal discharges such as wastewater discharges to storm water sewers, evaluating the impacts of such discharges to Austin's waterways and enforcing regulations preventing these discharges. When necessary action may be taken through Municipal Court to enforce these provisions of the City Code. Additional remedies available to the City include; but are not limited to, the temporary disconnection of water and/or electric services to non-compliant sites. Austin Water also coordinates enforcement activities with several other local agencies such as the TCEQ, the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA), Travis County Transportation and Natural Resources Department and the Williamson County Health District on an as needed basis. TCEQ may assist with the enforcement of special regulations for the construction of wastewater systems over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone. LCRA may assist with regulations regarding private sewage facilities near Lake Travis and the other Highland Lakes.

#### *Control Measures*

The effectiveness of the City's program to prevent the infiltration or seepage, or runoff of partially treated wastewater into its storm sewer system and waterways will be measured through several indirect means, including:

- the number of new OSSF's permitted and inspected;
- the number of enforcement actions taken against poorly maintained OSSF's with advanced treatment systems (secondary and tertiary);
- the number of investigations and enforcement actions taken to correct failing OSSF's ; and
- the number of complaint responses related to illegal discharges from private sewage systems.

## D. Household Hazardous Waste and Used Motor Vehicle Fluids

### **Introduction**

The City's Austin Resource Recovery ARR is responsible for the development and management of the City's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program. These programs fall within the disposal services operational area. In October 2015, the HHW Program was combined with the Resource Recovery Center (RRC) to become the Recycle and Reuse Drop Off Center (RRDOC). Within the umbrella of the RRDOC the HHW still operates in the same manner as before with a staff of environmental professionals. Staff members provide the day-to-day operations and management of the facility and program.

The City of Austin's HHW Program serves the residents of Austin and Travis County, Texas. Funding is primarily from the City ARR customers, although 10-15 percent of program participants come from Travis County outside the City's service area, and Travis County contributes close to 10 percent of the annual program budget. The program focus is on decreasing pollution from indiscriminate use or disposal of home chemical and used oil, thus preventing pollution of local watersheds. Citizens from surrounding counties may use the program's services, although they must pay a fee for the use. Publicity is provided through local newspapers and other news media, and talks provided to area schools, professional organizations and environmental conferences. With the assistance of the TCEQs Pollution Prevention and Education Section, and the North American Hazardous Materials Management Association (NAHMMA), information on the operation and success of Austin's program is made available to communities throughout Texas and the United States.

This program continues to benefit Austin and Travis County residents by providing convenient, responsible disposal options so that hazardous household wastes are removed from the City's and County's regular liquid (sanitary sewer) and solid waste streams. Proper disposal of hazardous waste also decreases this category of material from being disposed of in vacant yards, easements or storm sewers.

Removing flammable, caustic or explosive hazards from solid waste collections contributes to a safer work place for sanitation workers and lessens risks for fire fighters. Program awareness and participation also helps make homes safer. Public education efforts are detailed in Section 7, Public Education and Involvement.

### **Program Activities Description**

#### Household Hazardous Waste Program

The HHW Program consists of a daily collection program at a permanent solid waste transfer facility, and customers who require home pickups or other accommodations will be helped throughout the week. Household battery collection and recycling through numerous area stores, latex paint recycling through numerous area stores, latex paint recycling and distribution, and reusing safe, good quality products in a product reuse program will continue.

In October 2015, the HHW Program expanded to include the Resource Recovery Center (RRC) and became the The Recycle and Reuse Drop-off Center (RRDOC). This new name and larger scope of services increased participation dramatically. The Household Hazardous Waste Program is fenced separately per TCEQ requirements. The RRDOC takes Styrofoam, rigid plastics, appliances, electronics, single stream recycling and brush from the public. Additionally the facility will operate the ReUse store. In December 2016 the RRDOC will started collecting textiles as well. Although the City can no longer accept Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator (CESQG) wastes, as 30 TAC 335 Subchapter N disallows this practice, CESQG customers will be provided a list of vendors. The City of Austin's HHW Program operations will be reviewed to maximize waste reductions and enhance recycling whenever possible.

City of Austin staff accepts and segregates waste into approved shipping containers for storage until the disposal contractor can transport the waste for disposal or recycling. Mixed solvents, antifreeze, oil, and latex paint will be bulked into drums (or storage tanks for oil and antifreeze) during collection hours.

Oil-based paint is packaged into cubic yard boxes. A qualified, permitted hazardous waste transporter and disposal contractor is present, on a weekly basis, to further segregate the collected material, manifest, package and transport collected wastes for disposal at U.S. EPA licensed disposal facilities. Collected waste will be stored at the HHW Facility in accordance with Title 30 Texas Administrative Code (30 TAC) Chapter 335 Subchapter N.

#### Paint Recycling Program

Another successful program under the HHW umbrella is the latex paint recycling program. Part of the segregation operation at the facility includes determining if latex paint, which is dropped off, is in usable condition. Good latex paint is poured into two separate containers to make up white, green and dark latex paint. The City of Austin has a contract with a local paint company to blend and package the latex paint into 3.5 gallon containers. It is given to the general public 501(c) groups for building projects, to the Physical Graffiti Abatement Program of the Austin Police Department and to other groups deemed candidates for the paint.

#### Public Education Involvement and Intergovernmental Coordination

Another key component to the success of the HHW Program will be continued public involvement and coordination with other government entities. The City's HHW Program works closely and coordinates program planning and implementation with the TCEQs Pollution Prevention and Education Section. Notification of any HHW collection program is required 45 days prior, and a full operational plan with specific regulatory requirements is required to be available on site for any HHW collection. For permanent sites such as Austin's, the notification is required to be updated periodically (typically annually) while the operational plan is updated as changes occur within the program. The City will also continue to work closely with the LCRA and Travis County. Travis County contributes funds to pay for the county's share of hazardous waste transportation and disposal costs and additional employees to handle the workload in managing HHW from County residents outside the City.

The county and the City have agreed that County funding contributions to the program will be based on the percentage of participation coming from areas in the county outside the City limits.

## E. MS4 Screening and Illicit Discharge Inspections

### **Introduction**

The primary goal of the illicit discharge inspection program is to detect the source of illicit discharges to the City's municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) in the effort to prevent or minimize the impact to water quality or other natural resources in the Austin area. This goal will be achieved through investigation of portions of the MS4 identified as potential sources of non-storm water discharges due to illicit connections or improper disposal practices.

### **Program Activities Description**

The illicit discharge inspection program is based primarily on the activities of the SCRIP of the WPD. The SCRIP staff investigates reports of illicit discharges to the storm sewer system. The SCRIP investigators track the route of an illicit discharge and attempt to identify its source and cause. The standard procedures for conducting illicit discharge investigations have been summarized in the following outline (Figure 7-1).

The SCRIP staff maintains written documentation on all illicit discharge investigations. The documentation will include, as necessary, information such as field observations, potential responsible party information, causes, sources, specific violations (or potential violations) observed, response action requested and final resolution. Incident reports are kept in a computer database that can be queried by map grid, watershed, facility name and various other pertinent fields. Any supporting material acquired during the investigation, including MSDSs, photos, phone logs or waste manifests are kept in respective hard copy incident files.

Illicit discharge investigation and inspection activities are not scheduled; rather they are initiated as warranted by the dry weather screening program referrals or reports of

illicit discharges or improper disposal practices submitted by citizens, other City departments or agencies. The City does not anticipate any changes to the illicit discharges and improper disposal program, however changes to the scope of the various program components may be considered during review of the City's annual operating budget.

#### F. NPDES and TPDES Permittee List

The SDPP staff has implemented a database of industrial and high-risk facilities discharging to the City's MS4. SDPP staff utilizes the TCEQ NOI database, and information from field inspections to maintain the database. Summary data is reported annually in Section 5 of the System-wide Annual Report.

#### G. MS4 Maps

The WPD maintains a Geographic Information System (GIS) feature class of the mapped MS4 system. This information is continually updated and MS4 system maps are produced upon request.

#### H. Spill Prevention and Response

##### **Introduction**

This program seeks to protect the water quality of streams and related natural resources in Austin. This program targets illegal or illicit discharge to the storm sewer system and spills of hazardous and non-hazardous materials, which might be a threat to water quality within the City's planning jurisdiction and water supply watersheds. Discharges may occur through illicit plumbing connections to the City's storm sewer system, deliberate dumping or accidental spills of hazardous and non-hazardous materials. This program will work to reduce the number of these discharges by tracking and eliminating illicit connections, enforcing state and local statutes regarding illegal discharges and responding to accidental spills to monitor material containment and clean-up.

The responsibility for responding to surface water quality complaints and hazardous and non-hazardous materials spills for water quality protection is held by the WPD, ERM Division, Pollution Prevention and Reduction (PPR) Section. The Austin Fire Department (AFD) is responsible for responding to hazardous material spills for protection of human health and safety. AFD also responds to certain non-hazardous materials releases that may be a threat to life, property, or the environment. The TCEQ is responsible for regulating disposal of hazardous waste.

### **Program Activities Description**

The WPD maintains a rapid response capability by having investigators on-call on a rotating basis, and after-hours notification of environmental emergencies is accomplished through a 24-hour hotline operated by the WPD. In a typical response situation, the Spills and Complaints Response Program (SCRP) investigators are notified of hazardous material incidents by the AFD dispatch office. Occasionally, this notification is from the TCEQ or the Austin and Travis/Travis County Health and Human Services (HHSD). Water pollution complaints are received from many sources: directly from private citizens calling the department's Pollution Hotline, and referrals from other City departments such as the ATCHD or AW and referrals from other regulatory agencies such as TCEQ or LCRA. Figure 7-1 shows the procedures for conducting an investigation and Figure 7-2 describes each procedure.

The SCRП classifies incident investigations into two different categories: Priority Incidents and non-priority incidents. “Priority Incidents” are generally emergency spill incidents and situations that pose an immediate threat to water resources. “Non-priority incidents” are general environmental complaints that do not pose an immediate threat to water resources. SCRП investigators respond to priority and non-priority incidents within the scope of WPD programs. However, when the investigators note other problems outside their jurisdiction, they will refer them to other departments or agencies for action as appropriate.

SCRIP investigators attempt to obtain voluntary compliance with applicable water quality regulations when violations are found. If unable to obtain voluntary compliance with City regulations, WPD staff has the option of filing complaints against the responsible party(s) in municipal court. Uncooperative offenders are referred to the TCEQ or EPA for enforcement as well. Criminal investigations where necessary are referred to Travis County Attorney's Office. Ultimate enforcement may be through one or more City departments or external agencies as their jurisdictions apply. Investigators in this program work with a large number of regulatory entities, including interactions with government organizations at the federal, state, county and local level. It is the policy of the WPD to provide all possible cooperation with these agencies, and SCRIP staff meets periodically with the different agencies to discuss cooperation and coordination, lines of communication and areas of jurisdiction.

The SCRIP staff provides a data retrieval service for industry and interested citizens seeking data on spills and complaints. Investigation reports are recorded from a field notebook into a computerized database. Materials gathered during an investigation, such as photographs, reports, correspondence and Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) are kept in an investigation file. Information requests under the Freedom of Information Act are also received from businesses, citizens and the media. Program staff also provides an educational service by offering information to regulated businesses, City departments that work with WPD and citizens groups. This information is provided in the form of written handouts and staff presentations. Currently handouts include general program description, regulatory contact information, good housekeeping and spill clean-up procedures, and waste recycling information.

During the permit period, the SCRIP will continue spill and complaint response activities. However the program expects to see continued growth in the number of investigations. This increase is expected to be due in part by efforts to increase community awareness of environmental issues and the City's pollution prevention programs.

Enhanced public awareness may be achieved through the development of educational materials for public distribution, working with local media and marketing program staff and giving public presentations to targeted organizations.

The WPD currently sponsors a youth monitoring program that monitors the water quality of local streams, creeks and lakes. These young citizens are an excellent source of routine information on polluting discharges to storm sewers and watercourses. They have been briefed on how to contact the SCRCP in the event that they observe a polluting discharge while in the field. These efforts are expected to increase the number of spills and pollution problems reported to the program.

Over the five-year permit period WPD will continue to seek advanced training opportunities to expand emergency response personnel knowledge and experience in addition to maintaining the current level of training, which includes:

- Hazardous Materials Operations and Emergency Response 40 hour course (satisfies OSHA 1910.120)
- In house training using staff resources, training manuals, videos, WPD safety liaison and various reference manuals
- Various conferences, workshops and seminars related to spill clean-up techniques, disposal of contaminated materials, federal and state environmental regulations, emergency response, and investigation techniques, and other related subjects such as confined spaces and rail car releases

Periodic review of the City the Water Quality Code, which regulates discharges to storm sewers and watercourses, may also occur during the five year permit period to consider whether modifications are appropriate.

Figure 7-1. Spill & Complaint Flow Chart

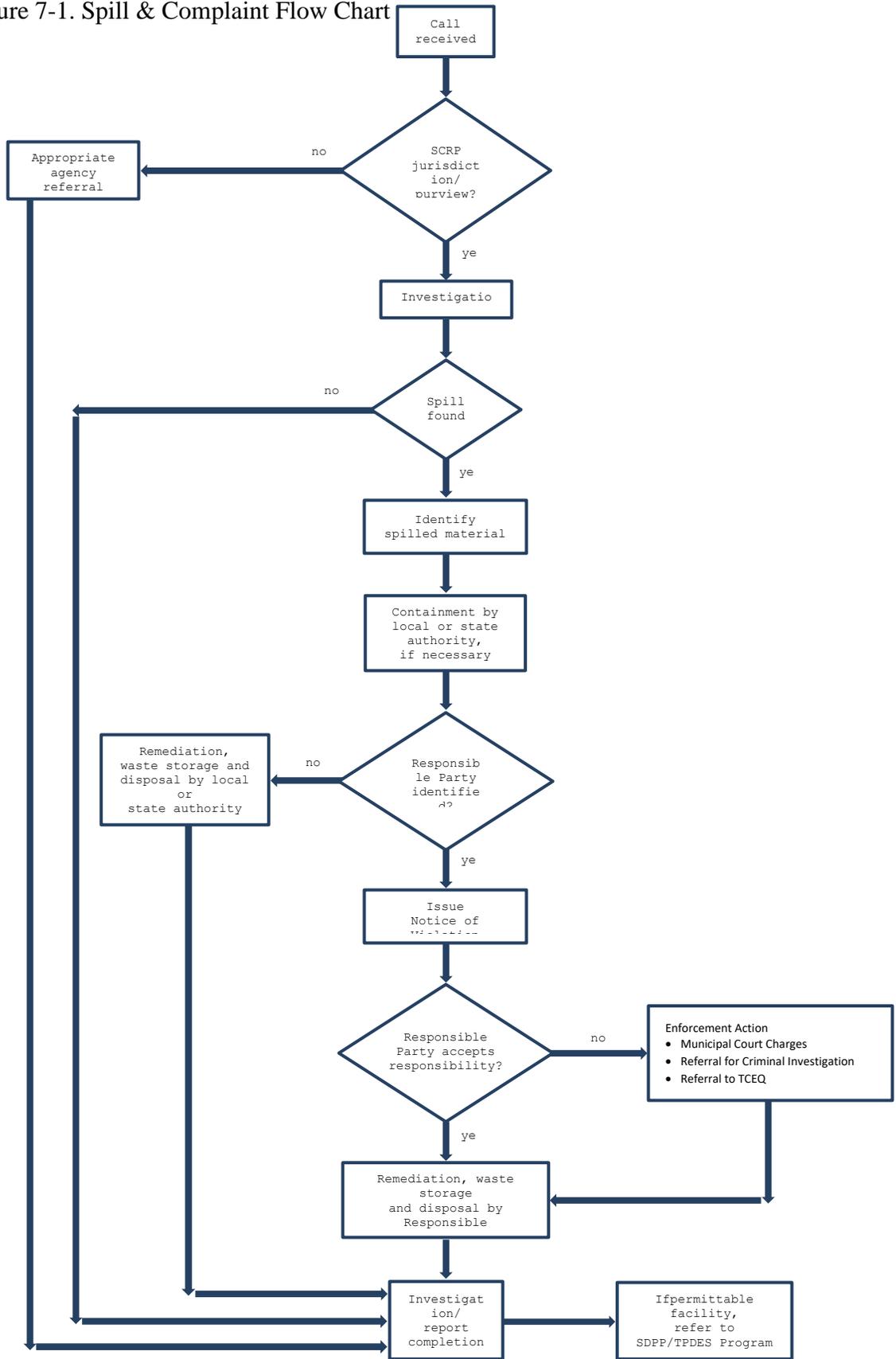


Figure 7-2. Spills and Complaints Response Program Investigation Procedure

CALL RECEIVED

- Call is received by WPD Spill and Complaint Response Program Investigators through the City of Austin
- 24-Hour Pollution Hotline.

SCRIP JURISDICTION / PURVIEW?

Yes:

- Investigator prioritizes call according to potential environmental impact and responds to calls in order of priority.

No:

- Refer to appropriate agency (see *Appropriate Agency Referral*).

APPROPRIATE AGENCY REFERRAL

- Refer to appropriate agency.  
For example: Austin Health and Human Services Department, Travis County, TCEQ.

INVESTIGATION

- Review information reported.
- Check and prepare equipment anticipated for the investigation.
- Mobilize to Site.
- Observe from safe distance and approach with caution from upwind direction, if necessary.
- Establish contact with potential responsible party(ies) and/or other agency representatives. Present credentials, explain authority and purpose of investigation.
- Record observations in field notebook, documenting violations or potential violations.

SPILL FOUND?

Yes:

- See *Identify Spilled Material*.
- Assess general properties of material spilled to determine method of initial containment, if necessary.
- Evaluate environmental impact(s).
- Coordinate with other agencies and contractors, if necessary.
- Collect samples, if necessary.
- Communicate applicable regulations and associated legal responsibilities to suspected or potential responsible party(ies).

No:

- Verify spill / complaint information with caller.
- Gather all pertinent information and evidence if a spill is suspected, but not found.
- Communicate applicable regulations and associated legal responsibilities to suspected or potential responsible party(ies).
- Complete investigation report (see *Investigation / report completion*)

IDENTIFY SPILLED MATERIAL

- If material is not positively identified by observation, consult resources such as: AFD, Safety Data Sheet(s), Chemtrec, Emergency Response Guidebook, other reference books.
- Take appropriate safety precautions for exposure to material.

CONTAINMENT BY LOCAL OR STATE AUTHORITY

- AFD conducts initial spill containment when material is a public hazard.
- SCRIP Investigator conducts initial spill containment when material is an immediate threat to a storm sewer or watercourse, but is not a significant public hazard.

Figure 7-2. Spills and Complaints Response Program Investigation Procedure *continued***RESPONSIBLE PARTY IDENTIFIED?**

Responsible party is person(s) or business causing the illegal discharge. If no responsible party is identified, the owner of the property on which the material is spilled is responsible. Unknown property ownership is determined by accessing City of Austin utility records or county tax records.

Yes:

- See *Issue Notice of Violation*.

No:

- See *Cleanup, storage, disposal by local or state authority*.

**REMEDATION, WASTE STORAGE AND DISPOSAL BY LOCAL OR STATE AUTHORITY**

- When no responsible party is identified, and if necessary, local or state authority (e.g. WPD, AFD or TCEQ), or contractor hired by local/state authority, performs remediation, waste storage and disposal.
- SCRP Investigator makes recommendations on remediation methods, sample parameters, waste storage and disposal methods, etc.

**ISSUE NOTICE OF VIOLATION**

- Verbally issue notice of violation and request for remediation.
- If violation is a repeat-offense, egregious, neglectful or malicious, or the Responsible Party is absent, issue a written Notice of Violation with a compliance deadline.

**RESPONSIBLE PARTY ACCEPTS RESPONSIBILITY?**

Yes:

- See *Remediation, storage and disposal by Responsible Party or RP contractor*.

No:

- See *Enforcement Action*.

**ENFORCEMENT ACTION**

- Notify personnel necessary to begin enforcement process, potentially including WPD management and COA legal staff and superior authorities.
- SCRP Investigator gathers case documentation (SDS, photos, field notebook entries, NOVs) and files affidavit for civil charges in municipal court.
- Notify County District Attorney, if investigation reveals potential criminal intent.
- Notify TCEQ for enforcement and/or possible funding if Responsible Party refuses or is financially-unable to perform remediation.
- Conduct legal enforcement seeking Responsible Party remediation (see *Cleanup, storage, disposal by responsible party or RP contractor*).

**REMEDATION, WASTE STORAGE AND DISPOSAL BY RESPONSIBLE PARTY OR RP CONTRACTOR**

- If necessary, Responsible Party (or contractor hired by Responsible Party) conducts remediation.
- SCRP Investigator makes recommendations on remediation methods, sample parameters, waste storage and disposal methods, etc.

**INVESTIGATION / REPORT COMPLETION**

- Inspect Site to verify remediation of observable contamination.
- Review lab analyses, waste manifests and other remediation documentation.
- Complete and document follow-up investigations, as necessary, enter report into database.

## **Austin Fire Department Special Operations Division**

### **Introduction**

The AFD Hazardous Materials Response Team was reorganized in 2002 and was combined with other specialty teams within AFD. The Hazardous Materials Team is now referred to as the Special Operations Division. The Special Operations Division supplies hazardous material response personnel, apparatus and equipment from four fire stations located in the central, north, east and south sectors of Austin. This Division also supplies Special Operations personnel who act as incident advisors, provide training, evaluate new equipment and maintain specialized response equipment.

### **Program Activities Description**

Generally, this program targets the control of potentially hazardous material spills or other incidents that may endanger human health and safety within the City limits. The AFD emergency response activities are not targeted to any specific industry or business, rather the Special Operations Division is trained to handle a wide variety of hazardous materials incidents including liquid spills, gas releases and rescues under hazardous conditions.

In addition to providing personnel, training and equipment for emergency response, the AFD maintains a large inventory of equipment for use during hazardous materials incidents, including spill containment, chemical monitoring, personnel protective clothing, confined space entry, decontamination and water rescue equipment.

Incidents are responded to in an expeditious manner with a priority given to life safety and protection of property. Fire suppression may not be initiated due to possible run-off of toxic substances. The "no attack" strategy has become an important consideration during the incident pre-planning effort. Once an immediate hazard has been alleviated, the Special Operations Division has required follow-up remediation when a responsible party is identified, or actually performs cleanup operations.

The AFD Special Operations Division coordinates with the City of Austin WPD, TCEQ, and the HHSD to ensure that current environmental and life safety regulations are met. The Special Operations Division will continue to provide emergency response capabilities as described throughout the permit period.

The City does not anticipate any further changes to the Spill Response Program, however changes to the scope of the program components may be considered during review of the City's annual operating budget.

## **4. Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations**

### **Introduction**

In the effort to reduce the amount of pollutants discharged into local waterways from municipal operations, the City of Austin has developed and implemented several programs. Many of these programs are also described in detail throughout various sections in the SWMP.

### **Program Activities Description**

#### **A. Pollution Prevention and Reduction/Good Housekeeping Programs**

The Pollution Prevention and Reduction for Municipal Operations programs are implemented by several departments as described in the Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP). The WPD screens a list of all City properties and facilities for the purpose of identifying those operations with potential municipal sources of stormwater pollution. Site visits to those identified city facilities are then conducted on a rotational basis.. Some examples of City facilities and properties included in this program are fleet service stations, power plants, fire stations, municipal pools, golf courses, airport operations, the household hazardous waste facility, and material storage areas.

Inspections include confirmation of proper waste storage, handling and disposal practices; plumbing connections to the storm sewer system; and review of housekeeping and facility maintenance practices. In addition, staff initiates training to periodically advise City personnel on stormwater best management practices (BMPs). City staff also determines which of these facilities require coverage under the Texas Pollution Discharge Elimination System (TPDES). Facilities that are subject to TPDES permit requirements receive a more detailed inspection that includes a thorough review of the facility's Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWP3), including the description of potential pollutants and their sources and required documentation. Staff monitors the facility's active implementation of the SWP3 to verify that the plan is current and site specific.

Spill and Complaints Response Program (SCRP) staff responds to emergency spill incidents and investigates pollution complaints involving City properties. Calls are typically reported to the City's 24-Hour Pollution Hotline and response is rapid to prevent and/or minimize potentially polluting discharges to the storm sewer system. Staff identifies illicit discharges and requests that corrective actions and preventive measures be taken. Again, SCRCP staff provides training on best management practices and other environmental regulatory requirements. Follow up visits are conducted to ensure compliance.

The ARR Litter Abatement Program targets City owned property within the City limits, including parks, for removal of trash, litter and debris which has collected in the parks, streets and the public rights-of way. The ARR Street Cleaning Program targets the cleaning of curbed City streets within the City limits for removal of trash, litter and dirt streets and gutters, for health, safety, aesthetic and water quality reasons. ARR also provides convenient recycling services for municipal facilities, through the workplace recycling program known as "Office Stream" Recycle, Reduce, Reuse, Rethink.

The City of Austin supports Keep Austin Beautiful (KAB) which targets business and citizens in the City of Austin, through activities that center on litter abatement, recycling, environmental education, and beautification in Austin. WPD, Scoop the Poop Program, partners with the Parks and Recreation Department. Pet Waste dispensers are located in over half the City's parks and facilities to encourage dog owners to clean up after their pets. The City of Austin's education and awareness programs are conducted by the WPD, ARR, AW, and Austin Energy (AE). Training for internal customers, (employees), is used to maximize participation in water quality, waste reduction, and water and energy conservation programs. Safety training is mandatory for City employees and provided quarterly on a variety of subjects including BMP's for municipal operations.

## B. Waste Handling

The City of Austin properly disposes of waste that is removed from the MS4, and other municipal operations, including maintenance of storm water structural controls. For example WPD, FOD crews when removing trapped floating materials from its two locations on Lady Bird Lake, load the materials into City dump trucks and haul the material to an acceptable local landfill. The materials removed from the maintenance of City of Austin storm water structural controls are taken to a local approved landfill. FOD vactor trucks remove materials from the City of Austin storm sewer pipes and drains. The materials are taken to a Field Operations maintenance facility with dewatering areas, and solids are taken to an approved local landfill. PWD takes all the litter and debris picked up from streets to an approved landfill.

## C. Pesticide, Herbicide, and Fertilizer Application

### **Integrated Pest Management Program Activities Description**

In order to satisfy the MS4 storm water permit requirement to implement controls to reduce the discharge of pollutants related to the storage and application of pesticide, herbicide and fertilizers, the City of Austin uses the activities of the City's Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program.

The IPM Program, managed by the WPD, will be responsible for the following activities over the course of the permit term:

- Implementation of an IPM public education campaign;
- Providing guidance to City of Austin departments and programs in pest management issues;
- Review IPM plans when they are required in the land development review process;
- Providing technical assistance on IPM practices for negotiated development agreements between the City and other entities;
- Ensuring compliance of the Save Our Springs (SOS) water quality ordinance via review of IPM plans required for development projects in the Barton Springs Zone;

- Coordination of compliance with the TPDES Pesticides General Permit TXG870000;
- Maintain pesticide application and pesticide applicator license records for some city departments that use pesticides.

The activities listed above would target audiences such as:

- Homeowners and the general public in the Austin area
- Professional communities including those who design, and manage outdoor areas
- Retail distributors of pest control products and gardening supplies
- City of Austin contractors responsible for pest management and area maintenance

#### Conduct an IPM Public Education Campaign

The primary focus of the City's IPM public education program is to provide information related to IPM principles and practices and non-point source pollution that may result from improper fertilizing and pest management practices.

Program staff also provides information related to specific yard and garden products, general water quality, xeriscaping, erosion control practices, rain gardens, and wet pond maintenance. Information is disseminated through various means including the Grow Green/IPM websites ([www.GrowGreen.org](http://www.GrowGreen.org)) and ([www.austintexas.gov/ipm](http://www.austintexas.gov/ipm)) social media, public service announcements, and printed media. Printed material include posters, bookmarks and brochures distributed in displays at local gardening centers, City libraries, and facilities, at fairs, festivals, trades shows on billboards; via one-on-one conversations; and presentations to community and professional volunteer and non-profit organizations.

#### Administration of an Internal City of Austin IPM Program

The focus of the internal City of Austin IPM program is to provide guidance to City of Austin departments who are responsible for application of pesticides, herbicides, or fertilizers on City-owned or managed land by staff or contractors;

- When requested by city staff, the IPM Coordinator conducts on-site visits, consults, researches, advises diagnosis and treatment methods when unique IPM situations arise.

- IPM Program staff coordinates compliance with the TPDES General Pesticide Discharge Permit TXG870000.

#### Administration of an IPM Program for Private Development Projects

City of Austin codes and criteria require certain development projects to prepare and submit an IPM plan for the proposed development. IPM plans for water quality protection are required when one or more of the following conditions exist;

- If development is to occur within identified environmentally sensitive areas within the City's planning jurisdiction.
- On intensive landscape management sites such as athletic fields and golf courses;
- When required by a negotiated agreement, such as a Planned Unit Development;
- To qualify for Green Building certification credits;
- When certain storm water control measures are utilized to meet development requirements; these measures can include; Wet Ponds, Retention/irrigation systems, Vegetated filter strips, Biofiltration systems, Rainwater harvesting and Rain gardens.

The IPM program staff review proposed private IPM plans for the minimum pollution prevention and source control measures outlined in the City of Austin Environmental Criteria Manual and provide approval. IPM program components required by the Environmental Criteria Manual include:

- Lists of any pests (insects, mammals, plant disease, weeds, etc.) anticipated to require control
- For each pest, a hierarchy of treatments must be developed beginning with cultural, mechanical, biological and other non-toxic controls and ending with chemical control.
- A description of the monitoring plan, damage level or other method to be used to determine when treatments are necessary
- A list of control products included in the hierarchies, identified by active ingredients and toxicity class, if necessary
- A description of the project for which the plan has been developed (commercial, residential, etc.), including approximate acreage of each landscape type(s) (i.e., turf, ornamental, etc.)

- If the project is being developed under the Save Our Springs (SOS) Ordinance, a drawing that identifies any watercourse, creek, spring, pond, storm sewer inlet, sinkhole, cave or fault within 150 feet of the area to be maintained. Additionally, no pesticide and fertilizer may be applied within 100 feet of these features or within the setback of any Critical Environmental Feature, as defined by the City of Austin Land Development Code.

The IPM plans are considered dynamic documents that may be amended to eliminate measures proven to be ineffective, add additional measures, amend pest control hierarchies or address pest problems that may arise after the original IPM plan submittal. Program staff also provide technical guidance to development applicants as needed.

.

D. List of Municipal Facilities  
See appendix

## 5. Industrial and High Risk Program

### Industrial and High Risk Inspection Program

#### Introduction

The goal of the City's Industrial and High Risk Runoff Program is to identify and control pollutants in storm water discharges to the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4). This goal will be achieved through the establishment of priorities and procedures for inspections and monitoring of the industrial facilities identified in § 122.26 (d) (2) (IV) (C) of the NPDES regulations.

#### Program Activities Description

The Industrial and High Risk Program will be based on the activities of the AFD Aboveground Hazardous Material Permit Program and the WPD programs related to the inspection of municipal landfills and industrial facilities the City may determine as potentially contributing a substantial pollutant load to the municipal storm sewer system.

Hazardous waste treatment, disposal or recovery facilities and facilities subject to SARA Title III: The permitting of hazardous material locations in Austin began in 1985 with City Council approval of the Hazardous Materials Ordinance. Since that time the AFD Aboveground Hazardous Materials Permit Program has been permitting and conducting inspections of facilities that store or handle hazardous materials. As defined in the International Fire Code (IFC) and Local Amendments, industries and commercial facilities storing hazardous materials that meet the following requirements are required to obtain an Aboveground Hazardous Materials Storage Permit:

- The Hazardous Material has a health, flammability, or instability rating of 2 or more as defined in the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 704.
- The Hazardous Material is stored or used aboveground in quantities exceeding the amounts specified in the Local Amendments to the IFC.
- The Hazardous Material is a compressed or liquefied compressed gas in a quantity exceeding 100 cu. Ft at NTP.

The Aboveground Hazardous Materials Permit Program has identified approximately 2,486 facilities in the Austin city limits that meet the above noted criteria.

These facilities are issued Aboveground Hazardous Materials Storage Permits that are renewed every three years. These locations are subject to periodic, routine inspections to ensure proper storage, handling and disposal practices. Of the total number of facilities included in the Aboveground Hazardous Materials Storage Permit Program, there are approximately 376 above ground storage/use facilities that are considered Texas Tier Two facilities. None of these facilities are known to be federally permitted hazardous waste treatment, storage or disposal facilities. The Tier Two facilities are subject to the federal (EPCRA Title III) and state "Community Right to Know" reporting requirements and as such, provide the AFD with all the reports required by the regulations.

The AFD currently inspects the Tier Two facilities on an as needed basis, usually in response to new construction permit approvals, or as a result of citizen complaints. During inspections, AFD reviews the facility's hazardous material storage, handling and disposal practices and enforces City and IFC requirements. Many of the Fire Code requirements that are enforced have the potential to impact storm water discharges at the facility.

These requirements include, but are not limited to

- proper storage of raw and finished materials
- proper spill control, drainage control and secondary containment
- prohibitions on unauthorized discharges
- proper procedures for outdoor storage, dispensing and use of materials
- leak detection, leak reporting and emergency shut-off equipment maintenance

If during facility inspections or reviews AFD observes practices or procedures that may affect storm water discharge quality but are not violations of the IFC, the City's Pollution Hotline will be notified and an inspection by WPD will be initiated. In addition to coordinating efforts with the WPD, AFD also coordinates its permitting activities with the TCEQ, and the HHSD.

Coordination with these agencies should result in the identification of additional facilities that have not obtained an AFD Aboveground Hazardous Materials Permit.

Municipal Landfills: The City of Austin currently has no active landfill locations. As such, the City has implemented a program to investigate inactive landfills that is directed primarily by WPD, with assistance from the AW, and the ARR. The goals of the Inactive Municipal Landfill Investigation Program include enforcing code provisions, preventing polluting discharges to waterways, eliminating nuisance conditions and preventing hazardous public health conditions. These goals are accomplished by:

- Providing information on the location and history of closed and abandoned landfills in the City of Austin to the public via the Internet and in response to public information requests.; and
- Requiring applicants for certain site development permits over closed landfills to certify that the development is in fact not over a closed landfill or otherwise provide a copy of a development permit from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality; and
- Investigating complaints as necessary including performing visual inspections or analyzing leachate as necessary.

Forty-six former landfills have been inspected in the Austin area. Additional sites have also been identified that appear to contain only buried construction debris. Efforts to investigate former landfill sites will continue to be coordinated with the TCEQ, HHSD, AFD, and Travis County environmental staff as appropriate. Investigations of specific sites will also be conducted based on complaints or evidence of a particular pollution problem. When investigated, sites are examined for access, proximity to waterways, presence of exposed waste, odors, landfill gas generation, land subsidence, erosion or cracking of waste cover, water ponding, vegetative stress, leachate discharge, conditions of adjacent waterways and presence of structures or buried utility lines.

Surface water, groundwater or leachate samples may be collected to determine public health threats or environmental hazards. Photographs may also be taken to document site conditions and demonstrate changes that occur over time.

During the five year permit period, WPD staff will provide visual inspections:

- periodically at the inactive municipal sites
- at initiation of remediation activities at selected sites and
- upon receipt of complaints or reports of pollution problems

Industrial facilities that the municipality determines may contribute a substantial pollutant load to the municipal storm sewer system: In the effort to identify facilities that may be contributing a substantial pollutant load to the City's municipal storm sewer system (MS4), the WPD Storm Sewer Discharge Permit Program (SDPP) has implemented a database of industrial and high-risk facilities discharging to the City's MS4 within the Austin city limits. The SDPP staff will continue to utilize the TCEQ NOI database and information gathered during field inspections by the AFD and other City departments to populate and maintain information in the database. In addition, the SDPP will send out periodic surveys to:

- industrial facilities the City has identified as high-risk based on the criteria listed in §122.26 (d)(2)(iv)(C) of the NPDES regulations; and
- facilities required to obtain TPDES industrial storm water permit coverage.

The survey includes specific questions related to the facilities operations, maintenance practices and activities that may contribute pollutants to storm water discharges. The survey also requests that the facility certify that one of the three following scenarios is accurate:

- The facility is not an industrial facility required to obtain TPDES Storm Water Permit coverage;
- The facility currently has a TPDES Storm Water Permit; or
- The facility is eligible to use the "No Exposure" exclusion for TPDES Storm Water Permit coverage.

If the facility has obtained a TPDES Storm Water Permit, the SDPP requests that the operator submit a letter certifying that a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWP3) has been developed and is available for viewing by inspectors. The SDPP also requires that the operator submit a copy of any monitoring results for the facility (if monitoring is required). SDPP staff will review the monitoring results submitted by each facility, and if the results are questionable, SDPP staff may conduct a facility inspection. SDPP may also conduct a facility inspection if questionable structures or activities are identified during inspections by other City departments. When a facility is identified as requiring a TPDES storm water permit but does not currently possess proper permit coverage, SDPP staff will inform facility representatives of the TPDES regulations and their responsibilities to obtain permit coverage. If the facility does not obtain proper permit coverage or is violating provisions of a storm water permit, SDPP staff will report the facility to the appropriate permitting agency, in most cases the TCEQ, for possible enforcement action.

Over the five year permit period the City will continue the industrial and high-risk inspection activities as described, focusing primarily on:

- Tier II facilities in the AFD Aboveground Hazardous Materials Permit Program,
- Inactive landfills, and
- Facilities identified as posing the greatest threat to discharge pollutants to the City's MS4 through the City's survey and inspection efforts.

The SDPP will continue efforts to identify permit and inspect facilities located within both the Barton Springs Zone (BSZ) and the Full Purpose City limits that conduct activities with a high potential for illicit discharges of pollutants. Staff targets facilities with activities such as motor rebuilding and repair, machine shop services, transmission rebuilding and repair, radiator repair, fuel storage and dispensing facilities. During inspections of facilities, SDPP staff will confirm proper waste storage, handling and disposal practices, inspect plumbing connections to the storm sewer system and review housekeeping and facility maintenance practices.

### Underground Storage Tank

The Underground Storage Tank (UST) Leak Detection Program continues to focus efforts on all permittable facilities with underground storage tanks found within both the Barton Springs Zone (BSZ) and the Full Purpose City limits. The UST Program staff conducts inspections of identified facilities, and construction of new facilities ensuring compliance with City Water Quality Codes, including proper storage, monitoring and leak detection activities. UST Program staff recommends best management practices and provides educational materials applicable to each operation as needed, during permit review and renewals. The UST Program will issue UST storage and/or construction permits to facilities in the targeted BSZ area.

### Monitoring

Most of the EPCRA Title III facilities found in the Austin area are included in one of the industrial activity SIC codes or in one of the narrative industrial activity descriptions that require storm water permit coverage. As such, the City of Austin will not conduct any storm water discharge monitoring at facilities where the terms of the TPDES storm water permit are considered by the City to be sufficient, and if the review of the monitoring results (based on monitoring conducted by the facility) are in compliance. If the SDPP staff determines that the monitoring results submitted to the City by the facility are not in compliance, a letter will be sent to the facility requesting compliance. If repeated non-compliance occurs, the program will notify the appropriate permitting agency, TCEQ, for possible enforcement action. If it is determined that a facility included in either the AFD or SDPP high-risk inspection program does not meet the eligibility requirements for TPDES storm water permit coverage, a self-monitoring and reporting program may be established for the facility. The City does not anticipate any changes to the Industrial and High Risk Program.

## **6. Construction Site Storm Water Runoff**

### **A. Site Development Plan Regulations**

As noted in the Areas of New Development and Significant Redevelopment section two of the Storm Water Management Program, the City of Austin requires the approval of a site plan and release of a site development permit for multifamily or commercial development on a specific parcel of land. For a detailed description of responsibilities and procedures related to the site development plan regulations, please refer to the Areas of New Development and Significant Redevelopment Section 2 of the SWMP.

### **B. Construction Waste**

DSD Environmental Inspectors inspect all projects which have site development plans during construction for compliance with BMPs and the erosion and sedimentation control (ESC) plan. The ESC plan shows appropriate areas for staging, construction waste, spoils, concrete washout, dumpsters for litter and sanitary waste from porta-toilets. The pre-construction meeting handout includes a page stating “all spoils, fill, and waste from the construction site is required to go to an approved land fill.” The inspector can request trip tickets from construction site managers to verify where the construction waste and spoils have been taken.

### **C. Inspection of Sites during Construction**

#### **Introduction**

The purpose of this program is to inspect projects being constructed in the City of Austin to ensure compliance with requirements of approved development permits and the Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan. The DSD Environmental Inspectors also ensure proper construction of drainage and water quality facilities during construction. Environmental Inspection staff provide assistance to contractors with compliance of site construction sequencing of water quality and drainage structures, and maintenance of erosion and sedimentation controls.

Environmental Inspection staff also respond to citizen complaints. All construction and development projects involving land-disturbing activities within the City are required to use erosion and sedimentation controls in accordance with technical guidelines found in the City's Environmental Criteria Manual (ECM), and Drainage Criteria Manual (DCM).

### **Program Activities Description**

At the commencement of development or construction activity, the project site engineer/manager is required to contact the supervisor of the DSD Environmental Inspection, and/or PWD Construction Inspection Section. A pre-construction meeting is conducted at project inception, to verify installation of the ESC's and BMP's per the approved plan and followed by regular site inspections.

If during site inspections the inspector finds the applicable ESC plans to be inadequate at a given site, minor modifications to the approved ESC plan and construction sequencing plan may be made in the field to upgrade erosion controls without written DSD approval. Major modifications may require a plan correction. At the final inspection, the appropriate inspector confirms the proper completion of runoff and water quality controls, permanent ESC controls and site restoration as a prerequisite to project acceptance or issuance of a certificate of occupancy.

If a development project is found in non-compliance with conditions of the development permit during a site visit, an inspector may give the project manager a verbal warning with instructions to achieve compliance within 24 to 48 hours. This action is followed by a written warning if remedial action was not taken to resolve the problems. If corrective actions to bring about compliance are not achieved, a cease-and-desist order may be issued, whereby all work at the project site is stopped until compliance is achieved. A "red-tag" is posted at the site, and a written notice of the cease-and-desist order is mailed to the alleged violator with an explanation of the site factors resulting in non-compliance. If a development project is found to be without a valid development permit and in non-compliance with applicable water quality regulations, or a high priority violation exists, a cease-and-desist order may be issued

immediately. Environmental Inspection staff are responsible for enforcement of City Land Development Code, and water quality codes and regulations.

In addition, DSD will continue to dedicate environmental inspectors to the Barton Springs Zone (BSZ) to ensure development projects comply with applicable erosion control standards. This program coordinates with and assists inspectors from other governmental entities in controlling erosion from active construction sites. Such inspection coordination most commonly occurs with Travis County and the TCEQ. Citizens in the Austin area call Environmental Inspection with complaints and requests for inspections, on sites that appear to not be in compliance with the site development permit or might not have a site development permit. Environmental Inspection investigates these complaints, or requests for inspection, and documents the investigation and reports the findings to the concerned citizen.

#### D. Public Education for Construction Site Operators

##### **Introduction**

In the effort to reduce the amount of pollutants discharged into local waterways from construction related activities, the City of Austin has developed and implemented a variety of public information and education tools for construction site operators and the development community.

##### **Program Activities Description**

The City provides educational information related to storm water management techniques such as erosion and sedimentation controls, construction sequencing, permanent water quality controls and site restoration activities. The City provides this information to developers and construction site operators in the following ways:

- Written materials, City of Austin Development Website
- One-on-one meetings
- Training and seminars

### Written Materials

The City has found that written materials are an effective tool in communicating regulatory guidelines, technical guidance and basic non-technical information to both the development and construction communities. The WPD and DSD have developed many of these documents that range from fact sheets on good housekeeping practices for construction sites to detailed criteria for the design and implementation of various storm water control structures.

### One-on-One Meetings

The City's Development Assistance Center (DAC) provides the first one-on-one interaction with the development community. During the initial discussions, City staff provides general information and guidance to the development proponents related to the various permit applications, certification and regulatory requirements that may be associated with their particular type of development project. The DAC has environmental, water quality & drainage staff to assist with issues owners, engineers, contractors, consultants, and citizens may encounter.

During the project review and approval process, DSD staff members assigned to projects continually coordinate with the project proponents to resolve many of the details related to the site specific environmental needs, including the particular erosion control and sedimentation requirements. Environmental Inspectors work with on-site operators during routine site inspections to achieve compliance.

### Training and Seminars

The City has developed and implemented several training courses that provide storm water management and pollution prevention information to the development and construction communities.

The following are the types of training tools utilized:

- Topic Specific Presentations
- Technical Seminars & Workshops

- Conferences & Trade Shows

Training of the TPDES Construction General Permit has been developed specifically for the City's construction project management and inspection staff to relate regulatory requirements and provide superior inspection services to new and redevelopment projects.

The City does not anticipate any changes to the Construction Site Runoff Program. However changes to the scope of the program components may be considered during review of the City's annual operating budget.

## 7. Public Education and Involvement

### A. Public Education

#### 1. Water Quality Education and Awareness Programs

##### Introduction

The City of Austin's public education and awareness programs are conducted by the WPD, and ARR. Advertising, education, both internal and external, and outreach activities are used to maximize participation in water quality, waste reduction and conservation programs. The target audience for educational programs includes homeowners, students, businesses and professionals.

The Policy and Planning Division of the WPD has primary responsibility for the management of the water quality component of these programs. ARR is responsible for the trash abatement, hazardous chemical and recycling components. When possible, these departments have formed partnerships to increase their ability to reach a larger audience with a wider, yet compatible, message.

##### Program Activities Description

The public education and awareness efforts of the City of Austin encompass a number of different elements reflecting the wide variety of water quality-related programs that are supported by the City. Specific elements, which will likely continue through the permit period include the following:

- **Grow Green** – This interdepartmental homeowner and landscape professional outreach program provides Earth-Wise gardening tips in nearly all of the nurseries and the big box retail in Travis County. The Watershed Education group coordinates this effort to provide “one-stop shopping” for citizens for all their gardening needs. Six City departments participate and address water quality, water conservation, composting Dillo Dirt, The Don't Bag It Program among other issues. The effort helps prevent duplication of effort and provide cost savings. Display units contain a wide variety of fact sheets to help homeowners make informed decisions on least toxic alternatives for their yard care at the point of purchase for pesticides and fertilizers. A full-color Native and Adapted Plant Guide is also available to encourage the use of plants that require fewer pesticides and less water, and is available as an online searchable database. Grow Green offers classes for homeowner's and a Landscape Professional Training series.

- ***Integrated Pest Management*** – The City’s IPM program produces brochures, posters and a web page (under the auspices of the Grow Green program) containing information on least toxic pest management techniques. Presentations and public appearances on TV and radio also supplement the public outreach activities of this program. Grow Green includes television spots that ask homeowners to avoid inappropriate use of pesticides in the spring gardening season. Assistance to City of Austin staff and the general public is offered via a telephone assistance line.
- ***Earth Camp*** - The camp is offered to fifth grade students in the lower socio-economic areas of Austin and focuses on watershed and aquifer education. Earth Camp provides teacher training, curriculum and materials for classroom lessons, as well as field trips, outdoor activities and environmental expertise, all of which are provided free of charge. Components include water quality testing, lessons on macro-invertebrates, green gardening, cave tours and visits to Splash! Into the Edwards Aquifer, a hands-on, interactive educational exhibit. A teacher-led version of Earth Camp allows teachers who have attended regular Earth Camp to come back, and lead the following year. The City supports this program with full time and temporary staff, training, equipment, and bus funding.
- ***Earth School*** - This one-hour, in-school lesson provides hands-on watershed and aquifer education to Austin Independent School District (AISD) and Eanes Independent School district (EISD) fifth graders. Using models developed by WPD and other educational sources, students learn how storm water carries pollutants to creeks and aquifers. Earth Camp, teacher Led Earth Camp, or Earth School are offered to 100% of AISD elementary schools.
- ***Watershed Detectives*** – The middle school curriculum involves students in a hands-on simulation of an investigation of a real live fish – kill. Students use topographic maps and a watershed model to determine flow paths and then locate the source of contamination by conducting simulated tests.
- ***Hydrofiles*** - This program teaches high school students how to monitor water quality in our creeks. Classes are also given the opportunity to go on field trips to local creeks or caves.
- ***Storm Drain Marking*** - Volunteers are recruited to affix tile markers to storm drains, informing citizens, “*No Dumping, Drains to Creek*”. The tiles are available in both English and Spanish.
- ***Scoop the Poop***: In partnership with the Parks and Recreation Department, pet waste bag dispensers have been placed in City parks to encourage dog owners to clean up after their pets. The program also partners with dog focused non-profits to raise awareness about the importance of picking up pet waste by distributing branded giveaways and including educational articles in newsletters and social media.

- ***East Austin Environmental Initiative (EAEI)*** - The WPD publishes the *Eastside Environmental News*, a biannual newsletter that has hard copies and electronic versions which focus on environmental issues and City activities affecting east Austin communities. Staff may participate in community events such as neighborhood cleanups, meetings, and special events.
- ***Austin Enviro Mechanics*** – This program is a cooperative effort between WPD and local businesses. The program encourages businesses to adopt shop practices that keep pollutants from entering storm drains and waterways. Those who participate are given rewards that benefit both the shop operators and their customers.
- ***Shade Tree Mechanic*** – This program is targeted at do it yourself citizens who like to take care of vehicles. Citizens are allowed to pick up a free oil change bucket, sun shade and educational materials by providing proof of residency at the WPD office, or Household Waste Facility. Home site inspections are performed if there is a violation reported to the 24-hr pollution hotline, or by citizen request.

Some additional programs currently created for the education programs are:

Printed Material - Watershed and Aquifer Education:

Brochures, posters, and signage are produced as new needs are defined.

Media: As funding allows, the City will run advertisements and radio spots in the local media to promote water quality education.

As noted in the introduction, City departments have formed partnerships to increase their ability to reach a larger audience. The City of Austin also coordinates its various public education and awareness efforts with other governmental entities. Partners have included Austin Independent School District, Lower Colorado River Authority, Keep Austin Beautiful, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and The Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District the Friends of the Colorado River, Children in Nature Collaborative of Austin, and other groups.

## B. Public Involvement and Participation

### 1. Keep Austin Beautiful Program

#### Introduction

Keep Austin Beautiful (KAB) Program is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization, officially certified affiliate of Keep America Beautiful. KAB's core purpose is to inspire and educate individuals and our community towards greater environmental stewardship. The organization operates with the support of the City of Austin, Travis County, local businesses, community groups and citizens. Extensive coordination occurs between the KAB program staff and the staff of City and County programs that benefit from KAB's public education and awareness efforts in the areas of water quality, non-point source pollution, littering, recycling and beautification. Continuing support of this program is provided yearly by the City of Austin and Travis County through funding approval during budget cycles. Responsibility for the operations of the program rest with the KAB staff and policy and oversight is the responsibility of a volunteer board of directors. The programs of KAB target all business and citizens in the greater Austin area through activities, that center on litter abatement, recycling, environmental education and beautification. The primary goal of KAB is to clean, beautify and protect the Austin environment through physical improvements and hands-on education:

- ***Clean*** - Removing litter from our neighborhoods, streets, schools, parks and public spaces, and promoting a litter-free Austin.
- ***Beautify*** - Empowering and supporting schools, neighborhood groups and local businesses in efforts to beautify their communities and restore habitats.
- ***Educate*** - Promoting environmental stewardship through presentations, hands-on activities and service-learning projects.
- ***Recognize*** – honoring the most outstanding environmental efforts of individuals, schools, and organizations.

Effectiveness of the Keep Austin Beautiful Program has been measured utilizing a number of parameters including:

- estimated litter reduction
- the number of river and creek clean-up events sponsored each year
- the number of student and teachers reached through the education program
- the number of promotional materials distributed
- the number of volunteers engaged in service projects
- the number of volunteer hours donated to the community

### **Program Activities Description**

The KAB board and staff develop and implement projects and programs in the areas of cleanup, beautification, habitat and creek restoration, and education. Major activities sponsored or supported through the efforts of KAB in past years have included the following:

- Environmental Education - Providing environmental presentations and activities to students K-12.
- Awards - Recognizing positive behavior in all segments of the community
- Clean Sweep - Providing opportunities for grassroots involvement in city-wide clean-ups
- Community Cleanups - Providing opportunities for grassroots involvement in cleanups year-round
- Adopt a Creek - providing the community with an opportunity to take ownership of local creeks and help keep them clean.

KAB anticipates these activities will continue over the five year permit period. In addition KAB will continue to coordinate its program with public agencies with the same or similar environmental focus. These include the City of Austin, Travis County, Keep America Beautiful, Keep Texas Beautiful, LCRA, TCEQ, Texas General Land Office, AISD and the University of Texas at Austin, Austin Community College, Capital Area Council of Governments and Texas Department of Transportation.

## 2. Pollution Hotline Public Education

### **Introduction**

In the effort to protect water quality, the City of Austin established a 24-Hour Pollution Hotline for citizens to report pollution concerns in 1986. The City has promoted the Pollution Hotline in a variety of ways over the years and the WPD Spills and Complaint Response Program (SCRP) staff now investigates approximately 1,400 pollution complaints each year, the majority of which are citizen pollution complaints received through the Pollution Hotline. The increase in calls to the Pollution Hotline over the years is believed to be in large part due to the increase in public awareness about the reporting system and not just an increase in the number of incidents occurring in the Austin area.

### **Program Activities Description**

The Pollution Hotline is a system that allows the general public to report pollution 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The hotline is answered by a WPD staff member during normal business hours and by an automated voice mail and paging system after hours. The SCRP staff investigates the complaints received on the hotline, identifying the pollutants, the potential pollutant sources and the party responsible for the illicit discharge. All complaints received on the Pollution Hotline are treated as anonymous complaints and the WPD makes every effort attempt to keep complainants' names confidential. The SCRP staff believes citizens are more inclined to use the public reporting system if there is an attempt to restrict access to their names. The WPD promotes public reporting of illicit discharges and improper disposal activities on the hotline in a variety of ways, with some of the Pollution Hotline promotional materials published in both Spanish and English. The following is a list of promotional materials and activities the City uses:

- Newsletters, fact sheets and specific promotional materials such as brochures and magnets are provided to the public at trade shows, libraries, community centers, community events and a variety of speaking engagements
- The WPD web site provides information on the Pollution Hotline, the SCRP activities and common pollutants and potential sources

- Radio announcements, newspaper advertisements and periodic press releases to the media are used to publicize the hotline, the SCRP and specific pollution prevention initiatives
- Magnets, brochures and door hangers promoting the Pollution Hotline, the SCRP and specific pollution prevention practices are provided to citizens by SCRP staff during complaint investigations
- Other City Department staff provides Pollution Hotline magnets and materials to the public at their offices and during field inspections

The WPD and the SCRP will continue to promote the Pollution Hotline and facilitate public reporting of illicit discharges and improper disposal activities in the Austin area during the five year permit period.

### **3. Austin Resource Recovery Public Education**

#### **Introduction**

ARR implements education programs that reduce the generation of litter and promote proper disposal of household hazardous waste.

#### **Program Activities Description**

##### *Pay-As-You-Throw Educational Support*

Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) is a garbage collection system that aggressively encourages recycling and “smart” trash habits. The PAYT program reaches residential and commercial customers through billboards, print ads, utility bill inserts and the City's web site.

##### *Curbside Single Stream Recycling Educational Support*

The Curbside Single Stream Recycling Program provides weekly collection of newspaper, corrugated cardboard, glass bottles and jars, and tin and aluminum cans and many plastic bottles to all households served by City garbage collection. The program includes the Block Leader Program and Recycling Pays projects to promote public awareness and participation in the program.

The Recycling Program reaches the various audiences through brochures, magnets, billboards, radio ads, public service announcements, print ads, seasonal event fliers, compost kitchen buckets made from recycled materials, rulers and pencils made from 50% post-consumer material.

*Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility Education*

The City of Austin operates a permanent facility to collect hazardous home chemicals from Austin and Travis County residences a throughout the week in the effort to direct the citizenry to properly dispose of waste and prevent disposal in the landfill or dumping on the ground where chemicals can cause pollution. A key to the HHW Program's long-term success is effective public education on aspects of waste reduction, pollution prevention and consumer behavior.

The program's educational mission is to encourage the use and purchase of non-toxic or less-toxic alternative products, wise consumer practices, and to avoid purchase or acquisition of materials and products that may not be used. One of the program goals is for individual residents or participants to need HHW programs less often and for less material in the future. Information is provided over the telephone, webpages, to ARR/AW customers through utility bills, fliers, newspaper advertising, presentations to area schools, professional organizations, and environmental conferences, and outreach at the facility during collection activities. Public education and information efforts will be reviewed each year.

#### **4. Barton Spring Zone Specific Education**

The WPD will continue the following activities over the five year permit period:

- Maintain the educational signage at Barton Springs Pool that explains how the Edwards Aquifer functions and provides information on the Barton Springs Salamander, and Austin Blind Salamander endangered species that reside in the Barton Springs.
- Maintain two education stations at the Splash! Groundwater education exhibit.
- Coordinate storm drain marking activities in portions of the Barton Springs Zone watersheds within the permit area.

The City does not anticipate any changes to the Public Education Program. However changes to the scope of the program components may be considered during review of the City's annual operating budget.

## **8. Monitoring Programs**

### **A. Dry Weather Screening**

#### **Introduction**

The general topography of the City of Austin is characterized by a large number of natural creeks and tributaries that serve as the primary conveyance of storm water through the City. For this reason, the typical storm sewer pipe system is short in length and serves to carry storm water runoff from a limited drainage area to the nearest waterway. The result is a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) that is comprised of numerous small pipe networks and many outfalls. In past dry weather screening activities, relatively few outfalls were found to have dry weather flow.

#### **Program Activities Description**

The goal of the dry weather screening program will again be to screen a proportionate number of storm water outfalls within the City of Austin MS4 during the five year permit term, focusing screening efforts in several watersheds each year, and using a ratio of outfalls screened to total number of outfalls to calculate and report the percent of MS4 in which outfall evaluations have been completed. Storm water outfalls with a diameter of 36 inches or larger identified and located during the first permit term and additional outfalls identified for inclusion in the screening program will be screened, based on visual observation of flow during field investigation activities.

#### **Program Procedures**

During dry weather periods (no rainfall in the previous three days), Storm Water Monitoring Program staff will physically locate each targeted outfall. Once an outfall has been located in the field, the physical description of the outfall will be recorded in a field logbook. The physical characteristics to be recorded will include the dimensions of the storm sewer pipe, a description of any stains, deposition or vegetative growth present and any other site-specific information that may be relative to the screening efforts. If flow exists at an outfall, a sample will be collected and flow conditions, discharge color and odor information will be recorded.

Samples will be tested for pH, TDS, temperature, ammonia, chlorine, detergents, TPH, fluoride, potassium and chromium using Hach field test kits and hand held Oakton probes to help determine the possible source. The City's Spills and Complaints Response Program (SCRCP) staff will be notified of the flow and results of the analyses. If flow is present at an outfall, the outfall will be resampled after eight hours but before 24 hours to determine if any changes in the discharge have occurred. Any change in analyses will be reported to SCRCP.

### **Program Schedule**

As noted previously, the Storm Water Monitoring Program staff will work in dry weather periods throughout the permit period to evaluate storm water outfalls in each of the twenty-eight watersheds found within the City's permit area. Building on experience from the screening during the first permit, the dry weather screening program will focus on fewer watersheds, concentrating on those most likely to have illicit connections.

The following is a list of the watersheds that will be included in the screening program:

- Blunn
- Boggy
- Bull
- Buttermilk
- Carson
- Country Club E
- Country Club W
- East Bouldin
- Fort Branch
- Harper's Branch
- Huck's Slough
- Johnson
- Little Walnut
- Shoal
- South Boggy
- Tannehill
- Taylor Slough S.
- Taylor Slough N.
- Lady Bird
- Waller
- Walnut
- West Bouldin
- West Bull

## **B. Wet Weather Screening**

### **Introduction**

The general topography of the City of Austin is characterized by a large number of natural streams and tributaries that serve as the primary conveyance of storm water through the City. As such, the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) is comprised of numerous pipe networks that carry storm water runoff from a limited drainage area to the nearest waterway.

**Program Activities Description**

In order to satisfy the TPDES storm water permit requirements related to wet weather monitoring, the City of Austin will use a visual assessment to provide a post-storm event evaluation of the storm water runoff in the Austin area waterways.

The program will be implemented over the five year permit term, using watersheds as the basis for defining the City's MS4 and measuring program progress. The City anticipates that the wet weather monitoring program will accomplish the following objectives over the permit period:

- Provide a tool to detect excessive levels of pollutants in waterways after storm events
- Provide information related to the type of pollutants present in waterways after storm events
- Provide a tool for investigating the origin of pollutants
- Provide a limited assessment of storm water impact on aquatic life
- Provide a tool to detect acute pollution events

**Site Selection**

Because the majority of the MS4 discharges into nearby waterways, the City will use watersheds to define the MS4 areas and track the progression of the monitoring activities. The proposed monitoring sites within each watershed have been selected based on the following criteria:

- within the City's permit area
- along the main stem of the stream
- longitudinal distribution along the stream length
- ability for staff to access site safely
- ability to determine the MS4 area discharging to the stream segment upstream of the site;

### Site Locations

The wet weather monitoring program will complete visual assessments of storm water flow in the following watersheds: Barton, Blunn, Bull, Buttermilk, Carson, Country Club East, Country Club West, Decker, Dry Creek, Eanes, East Bouldin, West Bouldin, Fort Branch, Harper's Branch, Huck's Slough, Johnson, Little Walnut, North Boggy, South Boggy, Tannehill Branch, Taylor Slough North, Taylor Slough South, Waller, Walnut, West Bouldin, West Bull, and Williamson.

### **Program Procedures**

Each watershed monitoring site(s) will be screened at least once during the permit term. A visual assessment of storm water flow will be completed at each monitoring site within 36 hours of a storm event. For the purposes of this monitoring program, a storm event will be defined as any event with greater than 0.10 inches of rain. After determining that a storm event has occurred within the target watersheds, WPD staff will conduct a visual evaluation related to the type of pollutants that may be present in the storm water flow at each monitoring site. WPD staff will review each monitoring site assessment form for indications of elevated pollutant levels. If unusual conditions exist at a monitoring location, the WPD Spills and Complaint Response Program (SCRCP) may be notified and a complaint investigation could be initiated. If, during an assessment, site conditions indicate that an acute pollutant event may have occurred, the SCRCP will be notified immediately, and the SCRCP investigator will respond to initiate a detailed investigation of the situation.

### **Program Schedule**

WPD staff will complete an assessment at each monitoring site at least once during the permit period. In doing so, the City will have completed the required wet weather screening of the City's MS4, as defined for the purposes of this monitoring program.

## C. Industrial and High Risk Monitoring

### **Introduction**

The AFD and WPD have an Industrial and High Risk Runoff Program that identifies and prioritizes facilities that have the potential to discharge pollutants into the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4). As part of this effort, staff identify facilities eligible for NPDES/TPDES storm water discharge permit coverage and request that analytical monitoring data collected by the facility (to comply with state or federal permit requirements) be submitted to the City for review.

### **Program Activities Description**

As noted in the Industrial and High Risk Runoff section of the Storm Water Management Program, most of the type 1 and 2 facilities found in the Austin area are included in one of the industrial activity SIC codes or narrative industrial activity descriptions that require storm water permit coverage. As such, the City of Austin will not conduct any storm water discharge monitoring at facilities where the terms of the TPDES storm water permit are considered by the City to be sufficient, and if the review of the monitoring results (based on monitoring conducted by the facility) are in compliance. This will avoid unnecessary cost and duplication of efforts. If the WPD staff determines that the monitoring results submitted to the City by the facility are not in compliance, a letter will be sent to the facility requesting compliance. If repeated non-compliance occurs, the program will notify the appropriate permitting agency, either EPA or TCEQ, for possible enforcement action. If it is determined that a type 1 or 2 facility included in either the AFD or WPD high-risk inspection program does not meet the eligibility requirements for TPDES storm water permit coverage, a self-monitoring and reporting program will be established for the facility. The City does not anticipate any changes to the monitoring programs. However, changes to the scope of the program components may be considered during review of the City's annual operating budget.

## D. Water Quality and Biological Monitoring

### 1. Barton Springs Complex Sediment Monitoring

The City's ERM division of WPD will continue periodic sediment sampling of Barton Springs and other associated spring outlets as well as sediment monitoring from the contributing watersheds to the Barton Springs Zone. The monitoring will consist of quarterly monitoring at Barton Springs; annual sampling of Eliza, Old Mill, and Upper Barton Springs, where accumulations of sediment and flow conditions allow for collection. The type of parameters to be analyzed will include metals, oil and grease, semi-volatile organics, petroleum hydrocarbons, polychlorinated biphenyls and selected pesticides.

### 2. Barton Springs Complex Water Quality Monitoring

WPD will conduct a variety of ambient and storm water monitoring during the permit period,

- Intensive spring outlet and surface water sampling will continue at Barton Springs Pool. The frequency will be sufficient to identify trends that threaten this water resource in a timely manner. Sampling will occur at a minimum on a monthly basis and include analysis for nutrients and Total Suspended Solids (TSS).
- Water quality sampling will be conducted at Barton Springs and at the other associated spring outlets on an annual basis. Samples will be analyzed for an extensive suite of parameters including metals, volatiles, semivolatiles, bacteria and selected pesticides and herbicides. Parameters approaching levels of concern or detected frequently enough that trends may be examined will be examined at a minimum biannually.
- A data logger will be continually deployed (except for maintenance and data retrieval) at a cave at the bottom of Barton Springs Pool to collect basic physical parameters.

### 3. Environmental Integrity Index (EII)

During the five year permit period, the Environmental Resource Management Division of the WPD will continue to monitor and assess the ecological integrity and the degree of impairment of creeks within the watersheds of the Barton Springs Zone (BSZ) using the Environmental Integrity Index (EII). ERM staff will conduct EII assessments of the Onion Creek, Barton Creek, Little Barton Creek, Williamson Creek, Slaughter Creek, Bear and Little Bear Creek watersheds located within the Barton Springs Zone on a semi-annual monitoring schedule.

The following six protection categories (sub-indices) are used in the EII:

- **Contact Recreation (Swimming/Wading)** - The suitability of a water body for contact recreational use is evaluated using *Escherichia coli* bacteria concentration, which is an indicator of fecal contamination. Concentration numbers are converted to an index score relative to common State of Texas criteria for human health protection.
- **Non-Contact Recreation/Aesthetic** - The parameters included in the non-contact recreation field assessment include water surface appearance, litter, odor, clarity and percent algae cover. Scoring is primarily from visual assessment by trained staff.
- **Water Quality** - Water quality subcomponents are calculated from chemical analysis of grab samples from all study sites during baseflow conditions.
- **Sediment Quality** - Sediment sampling is also conducted at one site in each watershed located near the mouth. Scoring is from concentration data compared to local reference conditions for water and aquatic toxicity effects levels published for sediment.
- **Habitat Quality Index** - Parameters used to measure habitat quality include instream cover, embeddedness, velocity/depth regimes, channel alteration, sediment deposition, frequency of riffles, channel flow status, condition of banks and riparian zone width. Scoring is from field measurements and visual assessment by trained staff.
- **Aquatic Life Support** - Aquatic life support evaluates biological health using benthic macroinvertebrate and diatom community structure. Scoring is from biological indices calculated from taxonomic identification and compared to a reference condition.

Scores of the six sub-indices are averaged to obtain one EII score for each monitoring site. EII scores range from 0 to 100 and are characterized by using the following eight ranges: very bad (0-12), bad (13-25), poor (26-37), marginal (38-50), fair (51-62), good (63-75), very good (76-87), and excellent (88-100). Overall watershed scores are determined by averaging the site specific scores for all reaches within the watershed.

#### **4. Critical Environmental Feature Protection**

Critical Environmental Feature (CEF) is defined by COA Land Development Code, and includes wetlands, springs, seeps, rim rocks, bluffs, sinkholes and caves.

Protective buffers from 150 feet to 300 feet are typically established to protect the character and function of CEF during and after the development process. During the site development permit application process, City of Austin staff review site plans for large-scale residential and commercial development to ensure that critical environmental features are properly identified and buffered from the development. These buffers are critical to maintaining the quality and quantity of recharge to karst aquifers, maintaining the stability of vertical rock outcrops, and maintain the water quality functions of wetlands. The number of CEF identified, and protective CEF buffers established by COA staff will reported annually.