

Pasadena Citizens' Advisory Council

Flood Control Efforts in Pasadena: What's Underway? What's Planned

May 24, 2022

Pasadena Citizens' Advisory Council's continued a series of meetings on flooding with a focus on flood prevention and control projects underway or planned in the City of Pasadena. Presentations were made by Rick Masters, City of Pasadena Storm Water Consultant, Public Works – Engineering, and by Jeremy Ratcliff, Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) Precinct Coordinator, Precinct Two. Both speakers provided their presentations for posting on this website and recommended checking the websites of the city and the flood control district for more details and easier-to-read maps.

Masters said the City of Pasadena Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) may be found at www.pasadenatx.gov. More than \$307 million in the 2022-2026 plan are slated for drainage and flood mitigation projects. Funding comes from city, county, and federal sources for several street, drainage, and detention pond projects shown in the CIP and on the attached slides. Floodplain permitting requirements in the Harris County region have grown stricter for new construction. Pasadena is a FEMA Community Rating System community, meaning it regulates and reduces flood risks beyond the minimum required by the National Flood Insurance Program. As a result, residents receive reductions in flood insurance premiums.

Ratcliff described the work of the Harris County Flood Control District, formed in response to major Houston area floods in 1929 and 1935. The district aims to “provide flood damage reduction projects that work, with appropriate regard for community and natural values.” HCFCD operates open channels that would extend from Los Angeles to New York City. The district devises and implements plans, and it maintains HCFCD infrastructure. The district currently has 5 active projects in Pasadena, some in conjunction with the City of Pasadena. Ratcliff recommended www.hcfcd.org, including the interactive maps. Concerns may be directed to 346-286-4197 or CitizensService@hcfcd.hctx.net.