



## MEMORANDUM

To: City Council  
From: Christopher Sims  
CC: John Baumgartner, Bo Bass, Michael Kramm, Nghiem Doan  
Date: 11/12/2020  
Re: City-wide 2-D Drainage Model and the Leisure Lane Area Drainage Study

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### Comments:

During the November 10<sup>th</sup> City Council Meeting, a question was asked about why the Leisure Lane/Orange Grove Area Drainage Study was needed if the City already had a contract with LJA to perform the City-wide 2-D Drainage Model. Unfortunately, I could not make this meeting due to having a family member contracting COVID-19 and I had prepared Matthew Brown on questions related to this topic but not the specific question asked by Council. As a result, this item was pulled and delayed until the November 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting.

The City-wide 2-D Drainage Model project will create a high-level Master Drainage Plan that (1) identifies strategies for mitigation of flooding problems and (2) addresses improved drainage infrastructure required for future development. Because this is a high-level plan, it will develop strategies for the watersheds as a whole, but not necessarily get into the sub-water shed areas such as the proposed Leisure Lane/Orange Grove Drainage Study will perform. When the City-wide 2-D Drainage Modeling PSA was being set-up, we did realize that in certain areas we wanted to have the drainage modeled in specific areas on top of the higher-level watershed modeling. We specifically had LJA review the drainage systems associated with the Tallow Forest/Mary Lane area, Bayou Brae Subdivision, and Autumn Lake Subdivision as well as a closer look at the greater Bay Colony area. This project received grant funding and is required by the grant allocation to be completed by May 2022. This drainage model will help us create a Master Drainage plan backbone but was not contracted to go into each subdivision to outline adjustments needed. Staff did not include that into the scope for this

project because (1) it was outside the boundaries of the grant funding which is paying 75% of the costs, and (2) without the major outfalls being brought up to date, quality drainage adjustments within subdivisions would be limited.

As part of the FY21 CIP Budget process, drainage studies of the Leisure Lane/Orange Grove Area and a smaller portion of the Jarbo Bayou Watershed (specifically along Columbia Memorial) were added to the CIP. Both of these areas were added because (1) residents and business owners in these areas experience street flooding during small storm events, (2) residents and business owners contacted the City asking for drainage relief, and (3) Staff assessment of the drainage issues in these areas appear to be localized issues and not dependent on improvements to the larger applicable watersheds. Projects that come from these smaller area studies can be looked at for inclusion into the City's FY22 CIP program and potentially be under construction and/or completed prior to the City-wide 2-D Drainage Modeling project being completed.

Gauge Engineering has worked with Staff on preparing a scope of work for the Leisure Lane/Orange Grove Area Drainage Study that will take 152 days to complete. Staff expects to have the drainage study for the Columbia Memorial area of Jarbo Bayou on the City Council Agenda in December 2020 or January 2021.