



City of Wimberley

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Don Ferguson, (512) 847-0025

The City of Wimberley has announced plans to seek funding assistance for the elevation and buyout of flood-damaged properties. The grant funding will be sought from the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (the "HMGP") managed by the Texas Division of Emergency Management.

"To apply for HMGP funding, the City needs to know the names and addresses of those property owners who are interested in obtaining funding assistance to properly elevate their flood-damaged homes," said City Administrator Don Ferguson. "In addition, the City needs the names of those property owners who would like the City to consider buying out their flood-damaged property."

The property owner information obtained by the City will be utilized to prepare the City's HMGP grant application that is due in mid-December 2015. If the City's grant application is approved, HMGP grant funding will be used to cover 75% of the cost of an approved elevation or buyout project. The community is responsible for picking up the remaining 25% of the project cost. It has not been formally decided if the City pass its share of the project cost on to the benefiting homeowner or if the City will pick up the cost.

"The City of Wimberley is very concerned about its property owners and those who have been adversely affected by recent flooding," said Ferguson. "We encourage our residents to apply for this grant."

Each potential elevation and buyout project will be evaluated by program administrators and engineers to determine if it meets the HMGP criteria to be funded.

Projects funded with HMGP grants will be required to follow certain state and federal guidelines. For example, homes that qualify for elevation assistance will be required to have their lowest floor, including the basement, elevated to a level that is one (1) foot above the Advisory Base Flood Elevation ("ABFE") rather than the current Base Flood Elevation ("BFE").

Those property owners interested in obtaining funding assistance for the elevation or buyout of their flood damaged properties are asked to contact the City of Wimberley by calling 512.847.0025 Ext. 22 or by emailing their name, phone number and address to dferguson@cityofwimberley.com. Participation in these flood mitigation programs is voluntary. The deadline for interested property owners to notify the City is 5 p.m. on Tuesday, December 1st.