MEMORANDUM

File 160.836

BOARD MEETING: November 16, 2011
AGENDA ITEM NO.: 10b

FROM: Bob Van Wyk BVW
General Manager-Secretary

SUBJECT: **Adoption of Resolutions of Appreciation:**

b. First 5 Fresno County Grants for Basin "D" Oso de Oro Lake Park (Forkner & Barstow); Basin "TT-2" (Grove w/o Walnut); Basin "FF" (West s/o Kearney); and Trolley Creek Park, Basin "Y" (Kings Canyon & Adler)

Summary

In December of 2010, the First 5 Fresno County Commission awarded four Special Projects grants to the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (District) for the construction of shade structures at four of its basin parks. The grants totaled $67,957 and funded construction of six shade structures at Basins "D", "FF", "TT2", and "Y". Grants were up to $20,000 per site and also included trees provided by Tree Fresno.

Recommendation

It is recommended the Board of Directors adopt the attached resolution recognizing the grants awarded by First 5 Fresno County to the District.

Discussion

The six grant-funded shade structures were distributed among the four sites; one each at Basins "FF" (Sunset Park) and "Y" (Trolley Creek Park), and two each at Basins "TT2" and "D" (Sloan Johnson Oso de Oro Lake Park). The shade structures were completed in time to provide shade from the summer sun for play areas at these four basin parks. The finished structures not only provide needed shade to keep children cooler during Fresno's hot summers, but are also attractive additions to the neighborhoods and add a finished look to these established basin parks.

Two of the projects totaled more than the allowed $20,000 per project, and the District was responsible for $4,898 of the projects' total cost of $76,237. Basins "TT2" and "FF" could accommodate more trees and the District made necessary adjustments to the existing irrigation systems to support them. A public tree planting event was held at Basin "TT2" to plant 14 trees, and District and Tree Fresno staff planted another eight trees at Basin "FF". Basins "D" and "Y" landscape plans are complete with trees from prior planting events with Tree Fresno.

Brandy Swisher

Brandy Swisher
Program Assistant II

BGS/nl
Enclosure

board\memo\perm\2011-11-16-10b

Resolution No. 2011-721

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

Be it Resolved that the Board of Directors of the

Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District

Wishes to Extend its Grateful Appreciation and Hereby Honor the

FIRST 5 FRESNO COUNTY

for their Grants to the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District

The Board of Directors Further Wishes to Recognize
their Dedication Towards the Community
and thereby benefitting the constituents of the
Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District

Unanimously Passed and Adopted this 16th day of November 2011

Chairman

General Manager-Secretary

Basin "D"

Basin "D"

"PLAYSHAPER"
Basin "Y"

Basin "TT2"

Basin "TT2"

Basin "TT2"

Basin "TT2"

Basin "FF"

Flood Line

Volume 18, Number 2
Summer 2011

A Newsletter of the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District

2011/2012 Budget Adopted

The Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District's $29,652,562 budget for 2011/2012 was adopted at the June 29 budget hearing before the District's Board of Directors. As in years past, this budget focuses heavily on capital projects; one-quarter of the budget is committed to building urban drainage and flood control infrastructure.

The budget funds activities within the District's service area, the 399-square mile watershed including Fresno and Clovis. A substantial part of the agency's activities take place within the Fresno/Clovis area. A staff of 77 people manages and operates the District and facilities. These include nine major flood control features which intercept and control foothill-borne flood flows, 154 urban stormwater basins and over 600 miles of pipeline, and more than 40 streams encompassing over 175 miles of streams that the District is actively involved with maintaining.

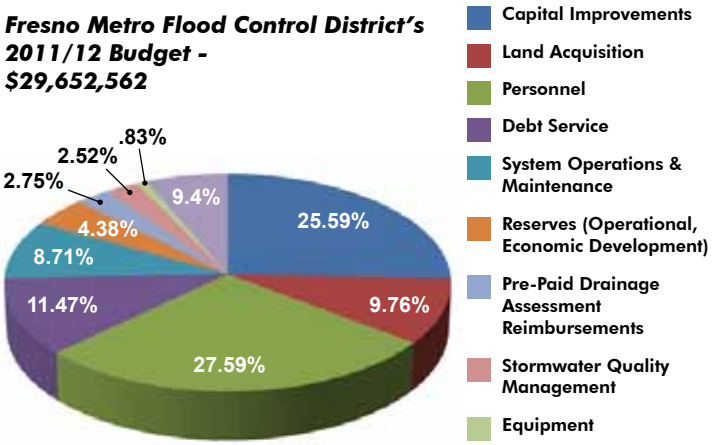
Assessment Tax and Property Tax Share

The District funds its operation through three major funding sources: property taxes, benefit assessments and development fees. Each source is committed to specific purposes by the District's enabling legislation.

The District is authorized to collect a benefit assessment

'Budget' continued on page 3

Fresno Metro Flood Control District's 2011/12 Budget - $29,652,562



Stormwater Basins & Wildlife

The 154 stormwater basins operated by the District throughout Fresno and Clovis serve primarily to protect people and their property from rain season flooding. Stormwater basins are also used to replenish our community's groundwater supply through recharge, and some sites have been developed into parks and open space.

When basins need maintenance

To keep basins functioning at their best for flood control and groundwater recharge, they are maintained approximately every three to five years. Water is temporarily drained to dry the basin floor and soil. Then silts are

'Stormwater Basins & Wildlife' continued on page 3

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Message from the General Manager

Bob Van Wyk

The Board of Directors of the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District is committed to sound financial management practices ,which provide the community with both accountability and value in the programs and services provided. Over the past year the Board has worked to improve the clarity, transparency and timing of various financial reports that will enhance the way in which the District presents financial information to its constituents and to the public. This effort was consistent with recent requirements of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement 54 which attempts to clarify the manner in which governmental funds are reported and audited. Efforts undertaken by the Board included an evaluation of long-term liabilities, the review of capital improvement projects needed over the next five years, refinement of the balance sheet and updating of the quarterly budget report.

Through this process, the Board ad hoc committee and staff developed a five-year financial forecast that has been incorporated into the annual budget process. The evaluation includes assumptions regarding general economic trends, impacts on sources of revenue, market conditions and other factors that may impact revenues or costs over time. This information is used to develop a budget projection that allocates expected resources to future projects, allowing the Board to better understand the long-term impact of decisions made in the current fiscal year. As part of the model, actual revenues and expenditures from the prior four fiscal years are used to help project future trends. The forecast also reviews long-term liabilities of the District.

Since assumptions can change, the forecast will be prepared annually, including current information allowing the Board an up-to-date look into the upcoming five years. I am pleased with the outcome of this planning process as it has resulted in the development of a tool that will be used by the District to better plan for coordinated projects, allocate resources for future projects and help to ensure the District remains on a solid financial foundation.

Thanks for Your Military Service

News coverage of our fighting men and women in all branches of the U.S. military is constant. It is even more in the public consciousness as we reach the tenth anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Many of us know people in the military (present and past), have served ourselves, or are currently serving as reservists. The District recognizes with grateful appreciation the past military service of our staff and Board of Directors. Thank you to those listed here, and to the family members of the staff and Board Directors who are now serving in all branches of the U.S. military.

- Roy Spina, Board Chairman - Air National Guard, Dec. 1958 to April 1982. Retired as commander of the 144th Civil Engineering Flight as Lt. Colonel.
- Kendall Groom, Immediate Past Board Chairman - United States Air Force, 1969-1972.
- Bob Van Wyk, General Manager - California Army National Guard, 1970-1976.
- Jerry Lakeman, District Engineer - United States Army, January 20, 1971 to January 19, 1973. Explosive Excavation Research Group, Livermore, CA.
- Daniel Rourke, Environmental Resources Manager - United States Navy, August 1973-August 1977, Aviation Jet Mechanic, Pensacola, FL.
- Mike Folsom - United States Navy, 1989-1992, Nuclear Machinist's Mate.

District Board and staff have served in five branches of the military, in an array of roles and across five decades. Family members are currently serving, carrying on the long tradition of service to the United States. Hats off to them all.

This story was inspired by a story in the City of Fresno Airports Department's Summer 2011 newsletter.

Budget
Continued from cover

of up to 20 cents of every $100 of assessed property value on parcels within its service area. Historically, the District has operated conservatively and only utilized 11 cents, or 55% of its assessment authority. The District also receives a share of property taxes within its service area. Taxes are used for:

- Area-wide flood control improvements
- Water conservation/groundwater recharge
- Operations and maintenance
- Storm drainage and flood control master planning
- Stormwater quality
- Development review
- Public information
- Engineering data systems
- Administration

Development Fees

The District funds construction of planned local drainage facilities and improvements with drainage fees charged to new development. The fees are collected when a parcel of land is developed or divided. The fees pay for the majority of the cost of planned local drainage facilities and improvements identified in the Storm Drainage and Flood Control Master Plan. Fees are deposited into a separate trust account to fund exclusively the construction of Master Plan improvements within a planned drainage area, and can only be spent in the drainage area for which they were collected. At present the Fresno/Clovis area is divided into 162 separate drainage areas, each with its own account to fund the planned urban drainage infrastructure improvements.

Looking Ahead

This year marks the first time the Board has considered and adopted a five-year financial forecast to guide the District's activities (see Message from the General Manager). Longer range planning allows for prediction of revenues and expenses, and scheduling of facilities construction and maintenance projects. To view the adopted budget and the five-year financial forecast, visit www.fresnofloodcontrol.org/About Us/about_us.html

Stormwater Basins & Wildlife
Continued from cover

removed, typically from the top inch or less. Maintenance removes the fine layers of sediment that accumulate. Sediments accumulate undesirable chemicals and slow the rate at which water soaks into the ground to replenish the groundwater aquifer. Sediment removal also makes more room for water during storms.

Basins as incidental habitat

The presence of water in basins attracts water fowl and other wildlife, and the combination of water, food and protection from predators has produced a very secure (albeit accidental) and inviting habitat. Mallard ducks, Canada geese (above), egrets (r), night herons, coots, foxes, and occasional coyotes in rural areas can be found. Birds are the most mobile of the visiting wildlife and can travel between basins. They travel to nearby basins during maintenance and return once water flow resumes. During maintenance work the District provides a temporary alternative water source for birds unable to leave.

Please don't feed the wildlife

You can help keep the basin-dwelling wildlife healthy by not feeding them. Human food is unhealthy, nutritionally incomplete and is discouraged by the California Department of Fish and Game. It causes birds to become dependent on the artificial food source, less able to forage on their own and can interfere with natural migration patterns. Poor nutrition can cause wing deformity in goslings, hindering their ability to fly.

Human food, like bread and hotdog buns, is unhealthy for birds.

Feeding wildlife can also lead to population increases in basins. Artificial population increases leading to overcrowding put birds at risk of diseases such as botulism and cholera, and can put more animals at risk during necessary maintainance work. To improve the chances of survival for waterfowl and other wildlife, don't feed them.

New Playground Shade Structures

One of six shade structures at District parks funded by a grant from First 5 Fresno County

Six new shade structures have been installed at four District parks, thanks to a grant from First 5 Fresno County. Shade structures can now be found at Trolley Creek Park at Huntington, east of Willow; Sloan Johnson Oso de Oro Lake Park on Forkner south of Bullard; Sunset Park at Teilman and Eden, and the basin park on Kaviland west of Walnut Avenue. The special purpose grants provided up to $20,000 for shade structures at each site, as well as trees and the expertise of Tree Fresno in planting them. The shade structures are the first ever built at District parks, and will provide much-needed shade for children during the hot summer months. As the trees grow, they will provide both shade and beauty for many years to come.

Planting shade

Staff and families from Tree Fresno and First 5 Fresno County, a First 5 commissioner and her family, Fresno City Council District 3 Chief of Staff Gregory Barfield, as well as District directors and staff came out to the Kaviland Street basin park the rainy morning of June 4 and planted 14 grant-funded trees. Another eight trees were planted about a mile away at Sunset Park. The District made improvements to the existing irrigation systems to support the new trees. Varieties planted were Chinese pistache, white alder, and Chinese evergreen elm.

Oso de Oro Park Improvements Coming

Starting in early July, Sloan Johnson Oso de Oro Lake Park began undergoing extensive work to repair, replace and refresh the park's appearance and some of its features. Work is scheduled to take place in phases, with project completion expected in October. On the to-do list: a new big kids' play structure and underlying play matting, two new first-ever shade structures (see story above), new play matting around the fort and the ruins, a new seesaw, and many other improvements park-wide.

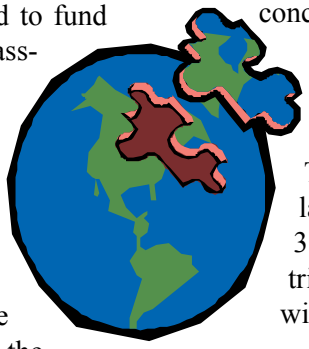
Jumpstart from the Fansler Foundation

Fresno's Fansler Foundation provided the start to restoring Oso de Oro Lake Park to its peak condition by awarding the District a $74,416 grant to replace the big kids' play structure located in the southwest corner of the park. The structure is at the end of its projected life and has served thousands of visitors over the years. The Fansler Foundation was one of the first park project sponsors and provided one of the first grants for park construction.

Sloan Johnson Oso de Oro Lake Park opened to the public in 1995. Since then, it has received local, state and national recognition for excellence in providing recreation for visitors with a range of physical abilities. The park's design was the first of its kind and was done in close coordination with volunteers passionate about providing all kids with a great place to play together, regardless of their physical abilities. The improvements will give the park a refreshed appearance, and most importantly, the improvements will enhance public safety. Once work is completed, we look forward to the public's enjoyment of the park and its new features.

Board Awards Over $37,000 in Grants

The 2011 Clean Stormwater Grant awards were made by the District's Board of Directors on March 23, 2011. This year, $37,340 was awarded to 17 environmental education and stewardship projects, and to fund San Joaquin River field trips for 10 fifth grade classes. Schools, non-profit groups and municipal educational programs were among successful applicants. Eligible applicants are within the District's service area, metropolitan Fresno/Clovis, and whose projects educate about local water resources and pollution prevention.



The more people are exposed to the knowledge that what they do in their daily lives can impact the world around them, the more conscious they become of behaviors that can cause pollution and will replace them with pollution-reducing behaviors. That is the goal behind the Clean Stormwater Grant program. The District helps fund projects that teach the connection between our daily lives and the health of our environment, and also provide participants with hands-on activities that reinforce these concepts.

The Clean Stormwater Grant program began in 1995 and has provided funding for a variety of community education and involvement projects. The San Joaquin River field trip grants were launched in 2009 and have already given roughly 3,000 students transportation and docent-led field trips. The grants establish District partnerships with community groups and local schools.

Applications will be available again in October, and are due in December. Check www.fresnofloodcontrol.org for updates in September, as well as information on past Clean Stormwater Grant projects and project ideas.

Overwatering Focus of Joint Spring Media Campaign

The District, the City of Clovis, City of Fresno, County of Fresno and Caltrans (as *Partners for a Clean Community*) have wrapped up another joint television and radio public service announcement campaign. The Partners for a Clean Community ran its spring mixed media campaign from May 30 to June 29. The campaign consisted of English and Spanish TV, and English, Spanish and Hmong radio spots and interviews. The spots and interviews made the connection between overwatering landscapes and impacts on water quality.

But what, you may ask, does overwatering have to do with the Flood Control District and water quality? Excellent question! Overwatering landscapes causes runoff, which carries pollutants off-site to gutters, into the storm drain system and on to stormwater basins throughout Fresno and Clovis. Plus, it wastes water, and costs you money if your property is already on a water meter.

Encouraging residents to check their sprinklers for leaks, making sure they are watering the right amounts at the right time, while not watering concrete instead of plants is a major part of the Partners for a Clean Community message. Another important message encourages people to follow label directions on yard and garden products to make sure they use only the necessary amount, AND that they use less-toxic products whenever possible.

These two elements - preventing pollution from happening, and stopping the wasteful flow of water that carries pollutants - are key in helping people understand that their behaviors and habits impact the health the of the community. While these are small and simple behavior changes, their impacts can be huge when practiced by the nearly 400,000 adults (18 years and older) in the Fresno/Clovis area.*

For information on pollution prevention at home, locally-relevent water use guidelines for yards and watering schedules, visit www.fresnofloodcontrol.org and follow the *Pollution Prevention and Water Conservation* link on the home page. For detailed information on less-toxic products and natural controls for many household and yard pests, visit the University of California's Integrated Pest Management web site at www.ipm.ucdavis.edu.

*Based on U.S. Census figures.

Using the San Joaquin River to Teach Kids

Guest writer:
Steve Bock
Associate Director of Scout Island Education Center, Fresno County Office of Education

As the bus pulls up to the staging area, you can see their faces pressed to the windows straining to see, eyes wide with excitement. "What will the river be like? Will we see deer? What are these macro-invertebrates we have been hearing about?" These questions and more are running through their eager minds as they are about to begin their field trip to Scout Island. These fifth graders are on a field trip sponsored by the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District in partnership with Fresno County Office of Education's Scout Island Outdoor School.

The eighty five acre Scout Island Outdoor School sits on the San Joaquin River at the end of Van Ness Avenue in North Fresno. The site was purchased by the Fresno County Office of Education in 1997 from William Whitehurst to develop an outdoor education center where local students could learn about the river environment in a safe, controlled setting. The Fresno County Board of Education especially wanted a site close to the city to provide easy access for inner-city youth, students with disabilities, and traditionally under-represented students who are often excluded from these kinds of field experiences.

Scout Island offers single and multi-day field trips led by experienced, credentialed teachers. Trips can accommodate a single class or an entire grade level from a school. Field study lessons can include a variety of hands-on learning stations, nature explorations, kinesthetic science games, experiential discoveries and canoeing. Many of these activities help foster a more complete understanding of our current watershed issues and teach students about the importance of protecting our underground aquifers.

Scout Island is also host to the valley's only universal challenge course. Our challenge course is equipped with

low and high element activities which are used to practice teamwork, leadership, trust building, communication and many other skills. This helps prepare students and adults for success. Our challenge course has been designed to host those without and with disabilities on our climbing wall and many other activities.

We also offer a C. I. T. (Confidence, Initiative and Teamwork) program consisting of a set of physical group activities that help students develop self-confidence, learn the value of becoming a self starter, discover the advantages of teamwork and an understanding of compromise, leadership and the synergy of group efforts.

These opportunities are open to all students in Fresno and surrounding counties. Unfortunately, some of our schools cannot afford the transportation or program costs even though their students would benefit tremendously from the experience. The Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District recognizes the need and has generously offered support for these schools through their Clean Stormwater Grant Program. Teachers can apply for field trip mini-grants through this program to bring their classes to Scout Island for the day. This partnership between the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District and the Fresno County Office of Education is a great example of community partners and education working together for mutual benefit and the betterment of the community.

Since 2009, approximately 3,000 students have benefitted from this program and experienced first-hand the wonders of the San Joaquin Riparian ecosystem. We hope that these students will grow up to be good stewards of the environment and choose to protect the local watershed and the precious groundwater our lives depend on.

- Steve Bock

20-Plus-Year Employee Club Grows

Welcome to the eight newest members of the 20-year club, and one to the 30-year club! There are now 15 employees with 20 years or more under their belts, which translates to 18.75% of the 77-person staff. That frequency of longevity is uncommon, and means that FMFCD is an agency rich in institutional knowledge and experience.

New Club Members

The following employees were recognized this spring by the Board of Directors for reaching their 20-year milestone with the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (listed in order of hire-date seniority):

- Paul Allen, Facilities Manager
- Verlyn Neufeld, Construction Manager
- Carol Ann Gerking, Accountant
- Kurt Hupp, Rural Program Manager
- Peter Sanchez, Operations Engineer
- Gary Newmark, Real Estate Staff Analyst
- Julia Norvell, Accounting Technician
- Frances Lopez, Office Manager

These people join a distinguished group: Bob Van Wyk, General Manager; Ruben Galindo, Senior Engineering Technician; Jerry Lakeman, District Engineer; Alan Hofmann, Assistant District Engineer/Design Engineer; Bob Notley, Senior Design Technician; Debbie Campbell, Development Services Manager; and Ricky Hara, Engineering Services Manager. All but Ricky have reached their 30-year milestone, and he will join them in 2012.

The Board of Directors and all FMFCD staff thank these 15 people for their many years of quality, dedicated service, and for doing extraordinary work to help the District meet its mission of providing flood control and urban drainage to protect lives and property within the Fresno/Clovis area.

Know Your Water Safety Basics

Hot, hot sun and cool, refreshing water are a natural summer combination, particularly in the Central Valley where summertime temperatures routinely top 100 degrees. While swimming and fun around water are popular hot weather pastimes, and they also present danger, particularly to children. Did you know that drowning is the number one cause of unintentional injury and death in California for children under the age of 5 years? More California children aged 0-5 will die from water-related injuries than from motor vehicle accidents. Keep your family safe this summer - know your water safety basics and follow the ***ABCs*** recommended by the Water Safety Council of Fresno County:

Adult Supervision - Continuous, active, direct line-of-site supervision by a responsible and designated adult is the best method for prevention of water-related injuries and death among young children. Children should **always** have adult supervision around any body of water.

Barriers - Make sure barriers are in place between your home and swimming pool or spa. The extra time gained will help you get to your child before an injury happens. Most drownings occur because of a lapse in adult supervision. Even the best parent finds it challenging to watch a child every minute of every day. The best pool barrier is a 4-sided fence with a self-closing and self-latching gate that opens outward. If the home opens directly to the pool, door alarms and locks should be installed.

Classes - Give your kids the gift of qualified swim instruction! According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, kids are developmentally ready to understand swimming instruction starting at about age four. There are many options for Red Cross-certified swim lessons courses available in Fresno County. Check your area's yellow pages for choices. In the Fresno/Clovis area, the City of Fresno Aquatics Program, SwimAmerica and Break the Barriers all offer Red Cross-certified swim instruction.

The Water Safety Council of Fresno County is made up of many agencies and groups, including the District. Visit www.watersafe.org to learn more.

Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District

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www.fresnofloodcontrol.org

Board of Directors
• Roy Spina, Chairman • Jennette Williams, Vice-Chairwoman
• Kendall Groom • Mike Rastegar • Barbara Goodwin
• Frank Fowler • James E. "Buzz" Burleson, Jr.

Need a speaker?
If your agency, organization or community group is in the Fresno/Clovis area and you'd like a presentation on the flood control and urban storm drain system, water resource management or pollution prevention - contact Brandy Swisher at brandys@fresnofloodcontrol.org or (559) 456-3292.

Close Up: Gary Newmark

Gary Newmark, Staff Analyst, his parents, and older sister moved to Clovis from Glendale, near Los Angeles, in 1957 when he was just three years old. Gary attended Clovis schools, and graduated from Clovis High. He then earned his Bachelor degree in English, with a minor in music, from California State University, Fresno.

He has spent most of his adult working life here in the Fresno/Clovis area, and has been with the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District since 1991 (see anniversary story on page 7). Before coming to the District, he worked for the County of Fresno as Grading and Drainage Inspector, and also as a surveyor and draftsman in the Geology Department.

At the District, Gary is a one-man show with varied responsibilities in real estate acquisition, risk management, and employee safety. "I view my job as an opportunity to participate in community building, working with a very talented and supportive staff," explains Gary. And because the District has historically had a small staff that must be flexible in its duties, he seized the opportunity and became involved with grant writing, fund raising, community relations and park design in the creation of Sloan Johnson Oso de Oro Lake Park. Of the many special projects he has been part of, Gary considers Oso de Oro as one of the most fulfilling.

Bob Van Wyk, the District's General Manager, has worked closely with Gary over the past twenty years, and he explains, "Gary is a real asset to the District and our community. He performs his work with a strong desire to achieve quality results and is always friendly to his coworkers and the public."

Gary and his lovely wife of 30 years, Alysia, are the proud parents of Sarah, 21, a senior at Westmont College in Santa Barbara, and Chris, 17, freshly-graduated from Buchanan High School, and newly arrived at SUNY Albany to study nanotechnology. Alysia is a special education pre-school teacher for Fresno Unified School District.

Apart from his fantastic and close-knit family, Gary's great love is music. He is an active professional drummer in his life outside of work, and played his first paid gig when he was just 13 years old. He primarily plays jazz, and has performed throughout the United States and England. Gary also teaches drumming to private students.

Volume 18, Number 3
Winter 2011-2012

Flood Line

A Newsletter of the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District

DWR approves $2.2 million grant for storm drainage project

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has approved $2.2 million in grant funding for a $4.4 million storm drainage improvement project in southeast Fresno. The money comes from the Disaster Preparedness and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2006, also known as Proposition 1E.

The project is a continuation of work done upstream at the Fancher Creek Detention Basin. Channel improvements and significant excavation at that 270-acre site resulted in revisions to the FEMA flood map for the area and the removal of 650 parcels from flood zone designation, relieving them of flood insurance requirements. The Fancher Creek Flood Control Improvements Project will provide adequate storm drain capacity for underserved neighbhorhoods, eliminate direct stormwater discharges to Fancher Creek, increase groundwater recharge capacity in the existing stormwater basin, and provide surface water irrigation facilities for future planned development.

The total project cost is $4,432,000, which includes $2,658,000 of future expenses. Of the future expenses, the DWR grant will fund $2,216,000 and the District will fund $442,000. Local match credit of $1,774,000 was given for work already done to excavate and rebuild the channel at the Fancher Creek Detention Basin.

'DWR grant awarded' continued on page 3

Inner city infrastructure focus - 10 years later

In 2001, concentrated work started on completing and upgrading the urban storm drain systems in the Tower District and the South Van Ness Industrial areas. They were developed before 1960, prior to creation of a community-wide storm drainage plan. In 2000, the District secured a $20 million State Infrastructure Bank loan to construct planned pipeline and related facilities to serve those areas, and committed roughly $4.2 million of its capital projects funding to the infrastructure work. Work has continued since that 2001 kick-off, one project after another.

What was done and why

The goal was to reduce decades-long rain season flooding that interfered with livability, travel and commerce, and made the areas less attractive to businesses. The District, with the support of other local government service providers and community groups, obtained the $20,000,000 loan from the State to upgrade the existing infrastructure to help in local efforts toward economic revitalization.

1969 - Shields and Lorna (west of Hughes), facing southwest

'Inner city infrastructure' continued on page 3

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Message from the General Manager

Bob Van Wyk

The Board of Directors recently approved membership of the District in the Upper Kings Basin Integrated Water Management Authority (Authority) and in doing so extended its ongoing effort to manage water resources in a manner that provides for the beneficial use of water within the District. In joining the Authority, the District will participate in partnership with 18 member agencies and 31 interested parties that are responsible for water supply, water distribution, groundwater management, fisheries, and environmental resource management. The Authority covers a geographic area extending from Fresno south past Armona, from east of Orange Cove, to San Joaquin on the west. The Flood Control District will be represented on the governing board of the Authority by District Board Chairman Roy Spina. Director Buzz Burleson, District Engineer Jerry Lakeman, and I will be alternates.

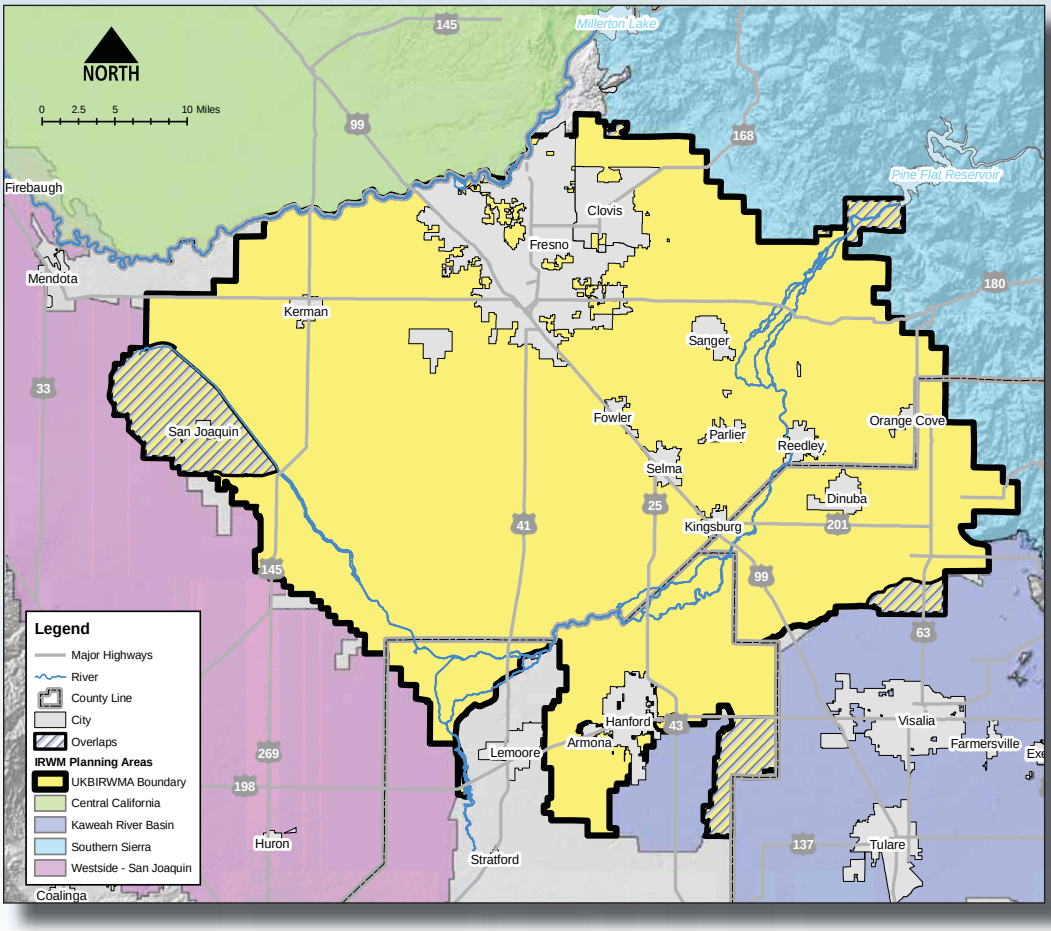
The State Department of Water Resources (DWR) has divided the state into 49 geographic units to develop resource management tools to improve water supply and use. Each unit throughout the state is known as an Authority and many have Integrated Regional Water Management Plans recognized and adopted by the State. An area Authority's recommendation is required to submit Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) grant projects for funding consideration.

The IRWM concept requires local entities to work together rather than compete with each other for grant funds. IRWM is described on DWR's website as, "...a collaborative effort to manage all aspects of water resources in a region. IRWM crosses jurisdictional, watershed, and political boundaries; involves multiple agencies, stakeholders, individuals, and groups..." and seeks mutually beneficial solutions to water issues.

Participation in the Authority will offer many opportunities for the District as we look to leverage local monies with state bond funding to provide flood protection in our community. An example of such an opportunity is the $2.2 million grant described on the cover page of this newsletter. Without the support of the Authority, the project could not have been submitted to DWR for funding consideration.

Participation will also present an opportunity for the District Board and staff to share information, exchange ideas, and coordinate long-term planning efforts to address water supply, flood protection and water quality challenges in the future. Learn more about the Authority at www.krcd.org/water/ukbirwma.

I commend the Board for taking this step as I believe the effort will provide our community with needed solutions to water issues in the future.



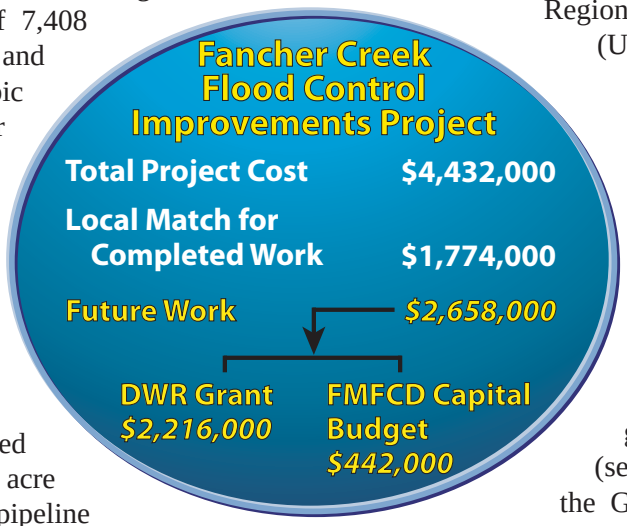
Upper Kings Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Authority's service area map (posted at www.krcd.org/water/ukbirwma)

DWR grant awarded

Continued from cover

Work to be done

Work to be funded by the Prop. 1E grant includes removal of three direct stormwater discharges to Fancher Creek, construction of 7,408 linear feet of storm drain pipeline, and excavation of another 79,400 cubic yards of dirt from the stormwater basin at Sunnyside Avenue, south of Belmont Avenue increasing its depth from 16 to 30 feet. This will boost storage capacity and increase annual recharge capability. At present, average annual groundwater recharge is 540 acre feet of surface water. Following excavation the expected annual recharge total will be 1,280 acre feet. A pump station and internal pipeline will be constructed in the basin, and the top one-third of the basin perimeter will be landscaped with turf and trees. The irrigation system to support the landscaping will draw water from the basin instead of using potable water. Stormwater stored in the basin will also be pumped to a private development for non-potable water uses. Nearby drainage areas "Y" and "W" were previously updated to meet current design standards and are funded with this grant.



Support of the project area's Integrated Regional Water Management Authority was required by DWR for project eligibility. The Upper Kings Basin Integrated Regional Water Management Authority (UKBIRWMA) reviewed and agreed to approve submittal of the project application. The City of Fresno acted as the lead agency on the application, as the District was not a member of UKBIRWMA at the time. The District has since become a member agency, but without the City of Fresno's support and advocacy for the project the grant may not have been possible (see opposite page - Message from the General Manager). Without the Prop. 1E grant award from DWR, these improvements would have been years away from being completed due to budget limitations.

Inner city infrastructure

Continued from cover

Seven stormwater basins had already been excavated to serve the roughly 10 square-mile area, but curb inlets and pipelines were needed to carry stormwater from streets to the basins and between basins, and a few pump stations were needed to move water between basins in high-volume storm seasons and during basin maintenance. In total, system completion required 11.4 miles of pipeline to serve the Tower District and Roeding Business Park area (called Drainage Area "RR"*), and 13.6 miles of pipeline to serve the South Van Ness Industrial area (Drainage Area "II"*).

Continued leverage of local funds

In 2009, the District secured an additional $2.3 million in Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding for the same drainage areas ($3.9 million in total was granted to District projects by ARRA) to continue needed infrastructure improvements. The District contributed $100,860 in additional construction funds to the "II" and "RR" projects. The District also contributed the design, construction staking and inspection.

The Fresno-Clovis area is divided into 162 drainage areas of roughly one square mile, each with an alpha-numeric name.

Projects yet to complete

There is roughly $2.7 million in project costs left to complete the two drainage systems - $800,000 in "RR" and $1.9 million in "II". It is anticipated that work on the last of the planned projects for Drainage Areas "II" and "RR" will be completed over the next 10 years. Project "II-109", the latest in the series of construction projects, is a $455,000 pipeline construction project scheduled to start in June of 2012. Pipe sizes range from 18" to 30", and will pass under four different railroad crossings. "The project will provide permanent storm drain service to the California and East Avenue area, along with the Monterey and O Street area, both industrial areas," explained Jason Clarke, Capital Projects Manager.

Work continues to systematically design and build remaining Master-Planned pipelines, basins, drain inlets, and basin pump stations throughout Fresno and Clovis.

Project and field trip grants awarded

At its December meeting, the District Board of Directors awarded a total of $35,000 in Clean Stormwater Grants to 13 schools and community groups and 15 San Joaquin River Field Trip Grants to elementary schools. Up to $2,000 was available for community environmental grants. The river field trip grants cover the cost of transportation to Scout Island and Lost Lake, plus docent fees.

Clean Stormwater projects funded

Thirteen Clean Stormwater Grants were awarded to:

- CART
- Center for Land-Based Learning
- Center for Multicultural Cooperation
- Clovis West High School
- Fresno High School
- HandsOn Central California
- Harvest Elementary/Central USD
- Liberty Elementary/Clovis USD
- Pinedale Elementary/FUSD
- Quail Lake Environmental Charter School/Sanger USD
- RiverTree Volunteers
- San Joaquin Valley Leadership Forum

San Joaquin River Field Trips

The 15 San Joaquin River field trips to Lost Lake or Scout Island were awarded to:

- Bullard TALENT
- Dailey Charter School/
- Eaton Elementary/Fresno USD
- Houghton-Kearney/Central USD
- Jefferson Elementary/Clovis USD
- Jefferson Elementary/Fresno USD
- Lincoln Elementary/Clovis USD
- Our Lady of Victory/Fresno
- Polk Elementary/Central USD
- Pyle Elementary/Fresno USD
- Quail Lake Charter School/Fresno
- St. Anthony's/Fresno
- Valley Arts and Science Academy/ Fresno USD
- West Fresno Elementary/Washington Union SD
- West Park Elementary/West Park SD

Hands-on learning

Everybody learns better when they get to do what they're learning about. That's the idea behind funding service projects and field trips for elementary school students. Grant applications for 2012 will be available in September at www.fresnofloodcontrol.org.

Winter pollution prevention public service announcements

"Keep pollution from happening." That is the core message of the multi-agency public service announcements wrapping up their run on television and radio. The winter PSA campaign is part of the District's ongoing public education effort to change the way people view their role in keeping stormwater and their community clean. The Fresno/Clovis metropolitan area is subject to federal Clean Water Act stormwater rules that require stormwater pollution prevention.

The District is the storm drainage and flood control agency serving our community, and is the lead agency of a multi-agency group subject to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit aimed at reducing stormwater pollution. As co-permitees, the Cities of Fresno and Clovis, along with Fresno County and Fresno State, all implement and promote stormwater pollution prevention practices.

The easiest way to keep stormwater clean is to not get it dirty

This is a simple idea, but it is true. Stormwater running off of yards, parking lots, and streets travels through gutters, to pipelines, to stormwater basins throughout Fresno and Clovis. This journey gives stormwater plenty of chances to pick up hitch-hiking pollutants. Once people know how their behavior can pollute stormwater, they can replace those behaviors with pollution-preventing behaviors. Here are easy ways we all can prevent stormwater pollution:

- Automotive fluids - fix leaks and clean up drips and spills, and recycle motor oil.
- Garden and household chemicals - use less toxic garden and home products when possible, don't apply yard chemicals when rain is forecast, read the label directions before using any pesticide, herbicide or cleaning product.

For the past four years, the NPDES co-permitee agencies have worked together under the umbrella of the Partners for a Clean Community to pool resources for more cost-efficient public outreach. The Partners are: City of Clovis, City of Fresno, County of Fresno, California State University Fresno, Caltrans, and the District. Caltrans operates under its own permit, but partners with the District and its co-permitees in conducting public outreach in Fresno and Clovis.

Oso de Oro Park improvements completed

New and improved Sloan Johnson Oso de Oro Lake Park *- Brand new big kids' play structure funded by a grant from the Fansler Foundation and two shade structures funded by a grant from First 5 Fresno County.*

The District is pleased to announce that work begun this summer to repair and improve Sloan Johnson Oso de Oro Lake Park has been completed. Among the most visible changes are the new big kids' play equipment installed to replace a 15-year old structure that had reached the end of its projected life, and the addition of two large shade structures over the swings. These major improvements were funded by grants from local organizations.

Replacing the play equipment was made possible by a grant from the Fansler Foundation, one of the original donors during the park's construction. The shade structures were part of a larger county-wide initiative by First 5 Fresno County to provide shade for children, which also funded structures at three other District basin parks. A new foundation of soft, rubber play matting was laid under the big kids' play structure. It serves to cushion falls and is wheelchair-friendly.

Two picnic tables were added on the south side of the park near the new play equipment and shade structures, the tunnel and fort were refurbished, a new sidewalk was installed around the raised physical therapy platform, a fresh sign was installed near the park entrance, two new barbecues were added at the south picnic pavilion, and the wrought iron fencing around the stream and park perimeter was painted.

The District's Board of Directors has adopted resolutions of appreciation to recognize the generous support of the Fansler Foundation and First 5 Fresno County through their respective community grant programs. The Fansler Foundation's grant jump-started work that would otherwise have started much later, and the First 5 Fresno County grants provided shade structures that otherwise would not have been purchased.

Inter-agency teamwork critical during storms

Guest writer:
Gary R. Serrato
General Manager
Fresno Irrigation District

My first year with the Fresno Irrigation District (FID) began in January of 1986. That year still stands as one of the wettest years on record in the Kings River watershed at 187 percent of an average hydrological year. Flood control was something that was historically performed by FID and the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD). The agencies worked together to collect and dispose of flood waters within an intricate matrix of pipelines and canals within the service area. FID's responsibility in flood control efforts is to convey storm waters that were collected from the eastside watersheds and the metropolitan areas of Fresno and Clovis through its irrigation facilities and to safely dispose of them on the westside of the District.

One day in January of 1986, the eastside watersheds received nearly six inches of rainfall within a 24 hour period on a watershed that was already saturated. The eastside creeks, which included Fancher, Dry, Dog, Holland and Pup creeks, were producing volumes of waters that were easily overtaxing the capacities of the FID canals. To provide you an idea of the magnitude of water within the FID system, Fancher Creek alone was producing 500 cubic feet per second.

FID and FMFCD employees worked diligently for a 36 hour period, many with little to no sleep, to ensure that the runoff was managed to prevent flooding and to minimize damage as much as possible. Unfortunately the volume of water that was produced that night had entirely inundated the FID conveyance system and it was impossible to prevent flooding as water was flowing in every canal within the FID system. The protocol was to allow flooding in the rural areas at locations that would create the least amount of damage to crops and structures and to reduce flooding within the metropolitan area.

Both agencies did a remarkable job that night. That effort required a tremendous amount of cooperation which included the gathering and sharing of information. Information was gathered by stationing employees at key locations throughout the rural and metropolitan areas all through the night and the following day. Vital information required gathering flow and elevation readings in the canals and flood control ponding basins on a continual basis. The information was then relayed to the FID Watermaster and the FMFCD Operations Engineer who then made decisions to divert waters into and within the FID system when conveyance capacity became available, or to turn pumps on or off when water collected in ponding basins had created capacity or became full.

New technology, major infrastructure improvement within the metropolitan area, and the construction of major facilities such as Fancher Creek Dam, Fancher Creek Detention Basin, Red Bank Detention Basin, increasing the storage capacity of Dry Creek and the implementation of telemetry systems within the FID and FMFCD systems that provide information instantaneously have substantially improved the management of storm waters. The benefits of the improvements are made evident by the minimal amount of flooding problems that have occurred in this area during the most recent wet years.

Canal and stormwater basin working to manage flood water *- Water from Basin "S" at Ashlan Avenue, east of Peach Avenue, is pumped into the Gould Canal to create more capacity in preparation for a coming storm.*

The managing and capturing of the runoff water supply in this semiarid region is still a significant challenge and will still need the expansion and increase of our ability to recapture and recharge all waters produced in this area.

Long before my "initiation" in 1986 and for many years into the future, the management of flood water to prevent both flooding and damage has been and will continue to be the joint and cooperative goal of both agencies. Our efforts must also include the reuse of these same waters to the extent possible.

- Gary Serrato

Economic development benefits all

"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success." - Henry Ford. The Economic Development Corporation serving Fresno County knows that, and it knows that nothing in the life of a community happens in a vacuum. There are connections and ripple effects that must be considered in any action, or inaction. EDC is recognized by its many partners as the catalyst and hub of new and expanded business activity. One of EDC's strengths is its understanding of the function of local government as partners in making a community ready for business attraction and growth.

When business owners are considering a new location or expanding their existing location the EDC frequently plays the role of business and community advocate. EDC serves as the clearninghouse for resources and information the businesses owners can rely on in helping them make an informed decision on location. EDC can advocate for both the community and for the business because they know with the right match everybody wins.

Steve Geil's retirement

EDC recently celebrated its 30th anniversary, and shortly after that President/CEO Steve Geil announced his retirement. Since then people from all over the community have expressed their deep appreciation for his dynamism and commitment to facilitating economic growth within Fresno County. Bob Van Wyk, District General Manager, explains the District's perspective, "We look forward to our continued work with EDC and with Steve in his future private endeavors." The District became a partner in 1999 and has worked with EDC to assure smarth growth and development.

Land exchange with Fresno Unified for new Southwest Fresno Middle School

On November 2, 2011, the Board of Trustees of Fresno Unified School District (FUSD) authorized a project to expand and entirely rebuild Carver Academy Middle School. Carver Academy, currently on an 8.45-acre school site, will expand north to Church Avenue and east to include the upper floor of adjacent stormwater Basin "II_1", also known as Carver Park. Carver Park is presently developed for recreation use. In 2010, FUSD contacted FMFCD to request relocation of 4.55 acres of the upper floor/park portion of Basin "II_1". The District determined that partial basin relocation would work. FUSD will acquire 4.55 acres of Basin "II_1" from the District as part of its total 14.1-acre expansion and replace the District facilities.

According to a September 29, 2011 story in the Fresno Bee, "Preliminary plans call for the district [FUSD] to level Carver Academy and build a larger, two-story campus on 22 acres." To get the other 14.1 acres to create a contiguous property, FUSD needed to work with owners of 38 surrounding residential properties, a store, a church, as well as the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District and City of Fresno Parks Department on land exchanges or purchases.

FUSD will purchase a 6.2-acre replacement basin property southeast of the intersection of Grove Avenue and Clara Avenue. The replacement basin will connect to the lower floor of the existing basin and will allow FMFCD to operate both basins together and independently, providing operational flexibility. Improvements FUSD will complete as part of the land exchange include excavation of the replacement basin to provide comparable storage, basin landscaping, and curb and gutter along Clara Street.

Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District

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Board of Directors
• Roy Spina, Chairman • Jennette Williams, Vice-Chairwoman
• Kendall Groom • Mike Rastegar • Barbara Goodwin
• Frank Fowler • James E. "Buzz" Burleson, Jr.

Need a speaker?
If your agency, organization or community group is in the Fresno/Clovis area and you'd like a presentation on the flood control and urban storm drain system, water resource management or pollution prevention - contact Brandy Swisher at brandys@fresnofloodcontrol.org or (559) 456-3292.

Close Up: Barbara Goodwin

It was just over a year ago that Barbara Goodwin was appointed by the City of Fresno to the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District Board of Directors. It has been a busy year with a steep learning curve, and she has proved to be a valuable addition to the Board. Her background and experience in transportation, infrastructure, and legislative issues brings an important perspective to the work of the District.

Mrs. Goodwin joined the Board two years into her retirement from the Fresno County Council of Governments, where she served 35 years, 14 as Executive Director. During her tenure there, her involvement in regional transportation issues was extensive and wide-ranging, including both the passage and renewal of the Measure C 20-year transportation 1/2-cent sales tax, participation on the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council, appointment by Governor Schwarzenegger to the Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley, and advocacy for the Central Valley at the federal and state levels through "One Voice" lobbying efforts.

Of her experience on the District Board so far, she says, "I am honored to serve on this Board, as the members' individual expertise and knowledge is impressive, and it's apparent they are committed to community service. The staff is also great to work with - thorough, thoughtful and very professional. I'm particularly pleased with the way the District handles its primary mission of flood control and protection of the public while being environmentally and community friendly in the way it integrates the flood basins. I think the public truly forgets the amount of flooding we used to experience." General Manager Bob Van Wyk stated, "Mrs. Goodwin's experience working with multiple local government entities brings a refreshing perspective to the District. Her common sense approach to crafting solutions and protecting public resources is much appreciated."

In addition to her achievements during her career with Fresno COG, Mrs. Goodwin has been active in serving the community through leadership roles on the board of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Fresno County, and through past membership in Rotary Club of Fresno. In 2001, the Fresno Business Council recognized Mrs. Goodwin as that year's recipient of the Excellence in Public Service Award.