

Jersey Village City Council Meeting August 15, 2016

Fred W. Ziehe public comments

Good evening. My name is Fred Ziehe and I live at 8409 Hawaii Ln and am a member of the JV citizens' flood committee, "Residents Working to Improve Jersey Village.

Last Tuesday, several members of our group met with two engineering Project Managers with the HCFCD. Originally, they allocated an hour for our meeting. However, I am pleased to say we concluded the meeting after 2-1/2 hours. It was a very informative, interactive meeting.

They made a Power Point presentation describing the work that has been completed on the WOB, as well as the projects that have been selected and processed, but are waiting on funding. The HCFCD is still waiting on federal funding for work that has already been completed. HCFCD has completed certain joint County and Federal projects, but have not been reimbursed for the federal share. They indicated that when they again receive additional reimbursement, they can begin more of these "shovel ready" projects. Included in these uncompleted projects, which amount to 40 MM\$, are projects identified as those affecting the main bayou channel through JV.

HCFCD has been working on a new updated flood model which will be reviewed and ultimately used by FEMA in November this year to establish the latest flood maps. This new model will incorporate all the various improvements to WOB, such as the Jersey Village Detention Pond, the By-Pass and others. This new model is also now using the new and improved LIDAR elevation data. We asked if this new model would be available to the engineering firm selected by JV and they said "Yes they would by mid to late September, even though it would still be somewhat preliminary at that date because FEMA might still tweak it a bit before their final approval in November". This alone should be of great benefit to the engineering firm.

Without being presumptuous, and being unaware of the process the selected engineering firm is to follow, we all came away from this meeting with the strong belief that there is great benefit to be gained early on in the process of facilitating the direct interaction between the JV engineering firm and the engineering staff of HCFCD. The JV engineering firm can:

- Review what has already been vetted by HCFCD (though maybe with the older model), and verify it's validity with the new model.
- Possibly challenge particular options that the HCFCD may have reduced in importance based on benefit / cost ratios or old data, and thereby serve as our technical advocate for projects now beneficial to the residents of JV based on the latest information.
- Compare the effects of the Tax Day Flood against the new model.
- Review conclusions made concerning the effectiveness of the By-Pass, and consider increasing its utilization for moving water around JV.
- Consider additional out-of-the-box ideas specific to JV that the HCFCD might not have considered.