

LOOK UPSTREAM

MAY 2004

Look Upstream. This is the 2nd in a series of monthly articles we anticipate will be published to inform our readers about what government officials in Harris County and the City of Houston are doing in response to public and community organizations requests to **be accountable for improvement in implementing flood damage reduction measures**. Board of Director resolutions have been passed by several large community organizations in recent months citing the need for such improvement. One passed by the Greater Houston Partnership (GHP) which is representative states, *"Managing storm water in the Houston area to prevent loss of life and loss of property has reached a crisis situation"*. It includes in the recommendations that it is imperative regional planning of storm water management by the major players; namely Harris County, Harris County Flood Control District, the City of Houston, FEMA and the Corps of Engineers be improved and carried out on a coordinated basis.

Flooding respects no political boundaries. Lines of demarcation separating incorporated municipalities from unincorporated county areas are simply marks on a map which have no bearing on the effectiveness of flood control regulations except to create political issues. In addition, reliance on varying regulatory enforcement can create tension and degradation of trust among involved parties, neighbors and public officials. Hence, CCFCC believes the GHP recommendation is fundamental to success if we are to obtain improvement in this vital quality of life issue. Consensus is essential.

With the above considerations in mind, CCFCC believes we should participate in a cooperative approach in which all sides can benefit from wise floodplain management. Mayor Bill White and Judge Robert Eckels have shown in the last few months they are willing to provide the leadership to bring such a process to fruition.

Thus, CCFCC has accepted an appointment to serve in a group chartered to act in an advisory capacity to the City of Houston, Flood & Drainage Issues Committee on **"development of policies and programs which can prevent and/or mitigate flood damage to Houston residents and businesses"**.

All things considered, it is now incumbent on the City Council members and the Harris County Commissioners in spirit and actions to follow suit by voting their conscience, not their political inclinations, to approve the regulatory measures and independent technical reviews advocated by Mayor White and Judge Eckels.

Look Upstream articles are provided to your neighborhood newsletter editor by CCFCC as a public service. Questions will be welcomed at all times.

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