

New Irving Flood Control District Section III Board Committed to Service with Conservative Spending

You can't pick up a newspaper, turn on a radio or watch a news program without hearing a story about financial challenges in the public sector. Fortunately, there are public entities that are exceptions to this common situation and I'm pleased to tell you that the Irving Flood Control District Section III is one of them.

While many people live, work, shop and play in Valley Ranch without giving it a second thought, the community is benefiting from flood control services that ensure proper storm water drainage from our properties. In 1980, the levee on the eastern edge of Valley Ranch was constructed to isolate our properties from the 100-year flood plain and allow for the development of our residential community. An interconnected series of canals, storage "sumps" and pump station were built to collect storm water runoff within Valley Ranch and "move the water" to a point of outflow to the Elm Fork of the Trinity River.

This unique system of canals and sumps extends over 5.5 miles within Valley Ranch and together with the levee to the east, the hills to the west and the "valley" in between make Valley Ranch an attractive area in which to live and work in the Metroplex. But these features constitute a functioning storm drainage and flood control system that requires focused maintenance and operating efforts.

The good news is that the Irving Flood Control District Section III, also known as IFCD 3, oversees this function for the Valley Ranch community. The even better news is that the District is doing so in a well-managed, fiscally responsible manner.

This past year, the Irving City Council named five new IFCD 3 board members. Joining me on the board are Chris Wallace, vice president; William Correa, treasurer; Chris Calvery, secretary; and, through an appointment in 2009, Rakesh Patel, board member. Each of us is a resident of Valley Ranch. We work as a board to administer the flood control services for the betterment of the Valley Ranch community. Our board is committed to preserving the high quality of residing in Valley Ranch while working to fulfill these responsibilities within a stable budget.

One of our first initiatives was to strengthen the stewardship of District funds by enlisting the Dallas County Utility and Reclamation District (DCURD) to provide an efficient, ongoing maintenance and operations program. DCURD is a governmental entity that is also responsible for constructing, operating and maintaining drainage infrastructure and other amenities within the Las Colinas development in Irving. Working with DCURD significantly improves the efficiency

of our projects in Valley Ranch and reduces our operational costs, allowing us to make effective use of our resources.

Since we teamed with DCURD we have completed a number of successful projects:

- Repaired the canal bank sinkhole located on the Sundance Canal next to the Villas of Beacon Hill subdivision
- Installed security fencing to protect our pump station facility and floodgates and to facilitate pedestrian access from Valley Ranch alongside the pump station facility to the City's newly completed Sam Houston Trail Park.
- Completed repairs to the main sluice gate at our storm water pump station
- Implemented routine waterway debris removal program throughout the Valley Ranch community

Future projects further being developed include:

- Engineer, design and construct improvements to stabilize the Ledbetter sump area at the north east intersection of MacArthur and Avenue of Champions.
- Commence erosion repairs to the waterway slope and shoreline along Valley Ranch Pkwy. East at the bridge just north of Cimarron Park
- Implement a functional fencing program along the inside perimeter of the levee as it extends from the Lakes Subdivision north and west to connect with MacArthur Blvd.
- Improve monitoring and operational functions of the flood control facilities with the supervisory control and data acquisition or "SCADA" system

In supporting our commitment to strengthen communication and transparency, we launched a new web site, www.ifcd3.org. The site provides a wealth of knowledge and, more importantly, a tool for taxpayers to communicate questions or comments to the IFCD 3 board members.

More than ever, today's environment requires that groups set the bar high for cost efficient and effective management of facilities and funds. We believe that the members of the Valley Ranch community are correct in expecting this from a group responsible for a basic necessity such as flood control. The IFCD 3 board is committed to being careful stewards of taxpayer funds, delivering continued flood protection and ensuring that we keep residents of the District informed as we move forward.

Kim Andres is the president of the board of directors for the Irving Flood Control District Section III. Ms. Andres is a 15-year resident of Valley Ranch and is an attorney with Citi.