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9 BUFFALO BAYOU & LOWER WHITE OAK BAYOU FEDERAL FLOOD
10 DAMAGE REDUCTION AND ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION STUDY
11 PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
12 held at
13 WESTCHESTER ACADEMY FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES
14 901 YORKCHESTER DRIVE
15 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77079
16 held on
17 NOVEMBER 13, 2007
18 7:05 PM TILL 7:40 PM
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PROCEEDINGS
MS. DYKE: Good evening. Welcome to the
public scoping meeting for the Buffalo Bayou and Lower
White Oak Bayou Federal Flood Damage Reduction and

5 Ecosystem Restoration Study. My name is Jennifer Dyke,
6 and I am the Harris County Flood Control District Study
7 Manager for this study.

8 We are recording this meeting to insure
9 accurate documentation for permanent record. The time
10 is 7:05. Thank you for attending.

11 The purpose of tonight's meeting is to
12 introduce you to the study for Buffalo Bayou and lower
13 White Oak Bayou. This study is being undertaken by the
14 Harris County Flood Control District in partnership with
15 the US Army Corps of Engineers and is expected to last
16 through 2012.

17 We would like to involve you in the study
18 and to hear your thoughts on flooding and the
19 environment within the study area. Public participation
20 in the study is also important for compliance with the
21 National Environmental Policy Act.

22 Because of the large geographic reach of
23 the study, we are hosting two identical public meetings.
24 This is the second meeting. The first meeting was held
25 at the United Way Resource Center on November 7th.

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1 I would like to start with an overview of
2 our agenda for the meeting which is as follows: I will
3 speak briefly about the Flood Control District and our
4 partnership with the Corps of Engineers; this will be
5 followed by an overview of the federal study and our
6 work efforts to date; lastly, we will begin the verbal
7 public comment period of the meeting.

8 Altogether, my presentation will run about
9 25 minutes followed by the verbal public comment period.

10 There are representatives from the district
11 in the foyer, along with several exhibits related to the
12 study area. District staff will be available to speak
13 with you in the exhibit area once the verbal comment
14 period begins. Bilingual assistance is also available.

15 A bit of housekeeping before we get
16 started. We want to thank Westchester Academy for
17 International Studies for allowing us to use their
18 facility tonight.

19 I would also like to recognize a few of our
20 audience members. There are members of our community
21 who are here tonight in their official capacities.
22 Emily Klein with Congressman John Culberson's office.
23 Thank you for coming. I also want to recognize Captain
24 David Bryant, Robert Van Hook, and George Dabney from
25 the US Army Corps of Engineers, our partner with us on

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1 this study. Thank you for coming.

2 The district began its public involvement
3 efforts by communicating with several organizations with
4 an interest in the study area. Representatives from
5 these organizations, some of whom are listed here, meet
6 regularly with the district to review the progress of
7 the study and provide input.

8 We have been coordinating with several
9 federal and state resource agencies. I want to thank

10 community representatives and resource agencies for
11 their time, commitment, and continued involvement with
12 the study.

13 I would like to speak briefly about the
14 Harris County Flood Control District. I know many of
15 you are familiar with the district, but I want to take a
16 moment to provide an overview and tell you about our
17 role in this study.

18 The district's mission is to provide flood
19 damage reduction projects that work with appropriate
20 regard for community and natural values. This is
21 accomplished by devising the flood damage reduction
22 plans, implementing the plans, and maintaining
23 infrastructure.

24 The district is undertaking the study to
25 identify how we can reduce the damage due to flooding

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1 within the study area and explore opportunities to
2 improve the natural environment along these bayous.

3 Established in 1937, one of the district's
4 purposes is to partner with the Corps of Engineers on
5 federal flood damage reduction studies in Harris County.
6 Over time, our responsibilities have grown to include
7 the planning, design, construction, operation, and
8 maintenance of more than 2,500 miles of channels in
9 Harris County, as illustrated on-screen. Today, we have
10 more than 170 studies and projects underway in the 22
11 watersheds in Harris County.

12 Federal legislation referred to as Section
13 211(f) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996
14 enables the district to take the lead on the planning,
15 design, and construction of specific flood damage
16 reduction projects in partnership with the Corps of
17 Engineers. Throughout the study, the Galveston District
18 of the Corps of Engineers shares its experience,
19 participates in site investigations, and performs
20 technical reviews.

21 Working with the Corps of Engineers enables
22 the district to share in the cost of a federal study and
23 potential project. This partnership stretches district
24 funds which often allows the district to build projects
25 faster. Additionally, taking the lead in the study

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1 allows the district more local control.

2 Working with the Corps of Engineers, we
3 comply with all the laws and regulations pertaining to a
4 federal study, including compliance with the National
5 Environmental Policy Act.

6 Some of the projects the district and Corps
7 of Engineers have partnered on include Addicks and
8 Barker reservoirs and projects on Brays, Sims, and White
9 Oak Bayous.

10 As a federal study, the district follows
11 the same process the Corps of Engineers would follow if
12 they were leading the study. The graphic on-screen
13 displays this process.

14 We are currently at the beginning of the

15 study as indicated by the red arrow. In this first
16 phase, we are analyzing current conditions by collecting
17 engineering, economic, and environmental data and
18 determining the existing conditions for the Buffalo
19 Bayou and lower White Oak Bayou.

20 These findings represent the study area
21 today, that is, what the conditions are without a flood
22 damage reduction or ecosystem restoration project.
23 Public comments in this phase are important to insure
24 accurate definition of existing conditions. These
25 existing conditions will be used to compare and contrast

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1 components in the second phase.

2 Overall, we expect the study process to
3 last about seven years.

4 This meeting is part of the scoping efforts
5 for the study. Our goal tonight and throughout the
6 study is to share with you the progress of the study and
7 receive your input.

8 Let's talk about the study. The Buffalo
9 Bayou and lower White Oak Bayou watersheds are located
10 in western and central Harris County and drain a
11 113-square-mile area. Most of the study area is within
12 the City of Houston with some of the area in the
13 Villages of Piney Point, Bunker Hill, Hunters Creek,
14 Hilshire, Hedwig, and Spring Valley.

15 To help orient you, I would like to point
16 out a few landmarks on this map. Starting here on east
17 side is the Houston Ship Channel and Turning Basin. And
18 here's downtown. Highway 10 cuts across the middle of
19 the study area. 610. Beltway 8 located in this area
20 tonight. And then Highway 6 at the far western edge.

21 The area we are studying extends along
22 Buffalo Bayou from Barker Reservoir eastward through
23 downtown Houston to the Houston Ship Channel Turning
24 Basin, a distance of about 32 miles.

25 Additionally, the study area extends along
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1 White Oak Bayou north and west from downtown Houston to
2 Loop 610, a distance of about seven miles.

3 The purpose of this study is to investigate
4 flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration
5 opportunities and to identify a plan that has public
6 support and is competitive for federal funding.

7 Let's take a closer look at flooding and
8 the importance of flood damage reduction within the
9 study area. Flooding is Harris County's primary natural
10 hazard. There have been major storm events in the last
11 50 years that have resulted in flood damage in Buffalo
12 Bayou and lower White Oak Bayou watersheds.

13 A recent event, and economically the most
14 costly in Houston's history, was Tropical Storm Allison
15 in June 2001. Tropical Storm Allison brought 60 percent
16 of the area's average annual rainfall to some areas of
17 Harris County in less than 12 hours. Within the study
18 area, portions of the lower White Oak watershed received
19 15 to 25 inches of rain during a five-day period. The

20 western portion of the Buffalo Bayou watershed received
21 about five inches of rain while the eastern portion near
22 the Houston Ship Channel received about 30.

23 This storm directly affected more than 2
24 million people and caused an estimated \$5 billion in
25 damage across Harris County. In addition to the

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1 devastating flooding caused by Tropical Storm Allison,
2 more frequent flood events have caused damages.

3 Repetitive loss data, developed by the
4 Federal Management Agency, indicates that there are a
5 number of structures reporting flood damage more than
6 once within the study area.

7 The causes of flooding in Harris County are
8 a combination of naturally intense rainfalls, flat
9 topography, and clay soils that absorb little water.

10 Flooding damages homes and businesses,
11 causes disruption to the lives of its victims, and
12 places demands on emergency services.

13 The district utilizes a number of
14 techniques or components throughout the county to reduce
15 damage due to flooding.

16 Components that will be considered include:
17 stormwater detention basins, channel modifications,
18 purchase and relocation of homes and businesses that
19 flood frequently, bypass channels, and improvements to
20 bridges.

21 Flood damage reduction components are
22 evaluated by comparing the cost to construct the
23 component versus the benefit resulting from the
24 component. Additionally, when considering flood damage
25 reduction components, the district must evaluate the

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1 beneficial and adverse impacts to environmental, social,
2 and economic resources. Some of these impacts to
3 natural resources, construction costs, and the economic
4 value of homes and businesses.

5 In addition to flood damage reduction, the
6 district will investigate the potential for cost sharing
7 an ecosystem system restoration project with the Corps
8 of Engineers. The purpose of an ecosystem restoration
9 project is to restore portions of the study areas's
10 environment that have degraded along the channels. The
11 district can partner with the Corps of Engineers to
12 study ecosystem restoration; but if a plan is
13 identified, a sponsor must partner and cost share the
14 plan with the Corps of Engineers.

15 The growth of Houston and Harris County has
16 resulted in dense urban land use along the bayous for
17 residential, commercial, industrial, recreational, and
18 transportation purposes.

19 The study area has been impacted compared
20 to presettlement or natural conditions. Concerns
21 include degraded aquatic habitat, loss of wetlands and
22 vegetation along the channels, and the lack of healthy
23 ecological systems.

24 Examples of the ecosystem restoration

25 components include plantings and trees and vegetation

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1 along the channels, creation of tidal marshes,
2 restoration of wetlands in stormwater detention basins,
3 and reconnection of oxbows.

4 The success of an ecosystem restoration
5 component is calculated by the changes in quantity and
6 quality of habitat. Some opportunities will be more
7 feasible than others as specific sites along the bayous.

8 If an ecosystem restoration project to cost
9 share with the Corps of Engineers is not identified, the
10 district can develop flood damage reduction components
11 that incorporate environmental features into their
12 design. Examples of this could include the
13 incorporation of tree plantings, bank stabilization
14 efforts, and the creation of wetlands into flood damage
15 reduction components.

16 As mentioned earlier, our data collection
17 efforts during this initial study phase have focused on
18 engineering, economic, and environmental issues.

19 Engineering investigations included
20 performing hydrological and hydraulic studies in
21 compiling utility and infrastructure information. This
22 information is represented in floodplain models
23 developed for the study. Here is an exhibit showing the
24 floodplain in downtown. It was determined that the
25 100-year floodplain covers around 5,000 acres along

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1 Buffalo Bayou and lower White Oak Bayou.

2 When compiling information for engineering
3 studies, it was determined that there are 12 industrial
4 pipelines and 109 bridges crossing the study area
5 channels. Additionally, 360 storm sewer outfalls empty
6 into Buffalo Bayou and lower White Oak Bayou. This
7 information and more will be used to evaluate components
8 for a plan.

9 During our economic analyses, we collected
10 several types of data: an inventory of about 14,000
11 existing structures in the 500-year floodplain, their
12 elevations, and estimated economic value. As a part of
13 the study process, we calculated that the estimated
14 value of all existing structures in the 500-year
15 floodplain is around \$18 billion.

16 The exhibit on-screen illustrates the
17 expected annual damages for the study area. The
18 collected data reveals the highest damages are located
19 around downtown. The next highest damage areas are
20 along White Oak Bayou and west of Loop 610 along Buffalo
21 Bayou.

22 Based on analysis of damage from historical
23 flood events, we estimate that over a long period of
24 time the average amount of monetary damage from flooding
25 in the study area would be about \$40 million annually.

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1 In comparison, the study area for the lower
2 Brays Bayou Federal Project, which includes the Texas
3 Medical Center, has around 85 million in average annual

4 damages; and the study area for the White Oak Bayou
5 Federal Project has around 54 million in estimated
6 annual damages.

7 This illustration is located in the exhibit
8 area where staff are available for further discussion.
9 I encourage you to stop by if you have questions.

10 The environmental data collection includes
11 documenting the existing and natural -- existing natural
12 and human environment to serve as a basis for evaluating
13 components and determining future environmental
14 conditions in the study area. Data is collected on
15 information such as air quality, aquatic environment,
16 vegetation, wildlife, demographics, cultural, and
17 recreational resources.

18 Although the study area watersheds are
19 around 80 percent developed, initial data collection has
20 identified over 600 acres of wetlands and 2,500 acres of
21 forests within the Buffalo Bayou and lower White Oak
22 Bayou watersheds. As a part of the study process, we
23 discovered remnant oxbows and large mature trees exist
24 along areas of the channels. In addition to these
25 findings, 54 parks totaling over 2,500 acres are located

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1 within the study area watersheds. There are also
2 historical cemeteries, buildings, district, and Native
3 American campgrounds along Buffalo Bayou and lower White
4 Oak Bayou.

5 Also in this phase, we have worked with
6 community representatives to identify preliminary goals
7 and objectives. These goals and objectives will be used
8 to evaluate flood damage reduction and ecosystem
9 restoration components and select a plan for the study
10 area.

11 The goals include conducting the necessary
12 studies to evaluate flood damage reduction, ecosystem
13 restoration, enhancements to the existing environment,
14 and recreation measures. Additionally, we would like to
15 identify a project that is acceptable to the public and
16 Corps of Engineers and competitive for federal funding.

17 We have several objectives that support the
18 study goals. The complete text of the goals and
19 objectives are presented in a handout in the exhibit
20 area.

21 As we conclude the initial study phase
22 determining the existing conditions for the study area,
23 we will move into the next phase where we will begin to
24 formulate, evaluate, and select a plan. This phase will
25 last approximately two to four years, during which time

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1 we will be identifying and evaluating components for
2 flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration.

3 If the study identifies a plan, a document
4 discussing the plan and potential impacts will be made
5 available for public review and comments. At the end of
6 this phase, if all goes well, we anticipate identifying
7 a plan that will be coordinated with the Corps of
8 Engineers and environmental agencies and verified for

9 technical, environmental, and policy compliance.
10 Throughout this study process, we will be
11 reaching out to communicate with you in several ways.
12 We want to hear from you. This public meeting is one of
13 our first large scale outreaches in the community.

14 Information about the study is also
15 available on the Flood Control District Web site. If
16 you are interested in learning more about the study or
17 would like to sign up to receive information, please
18 contact us. District representatives will also be
19 available tonight in the exhibit area once the verbal
20 comment period has started.

21 The contact information on the screen is
22 included in the handout provided to you tonight.

23 We have now reached the verbal public
24 comment phase of the public scoping meeting. We ask
25 that you share with us information you think would be

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1 relevant to the study. For example, your concerns might
2 be related to historical flooding problems or ideas that
3 will help reduce flooding; possible ecosystem
4 restoration opportunities; information on the
5 environment such as locations that have valuable natural
6 characteristics and should be avoided or sites in need
7 of restoration. Comments may also include social and
8 economic issues, aesthetics, and even recreation.

9 We want to receive your inputs on ideas for
10 what to do and what not to do and what your concerns are
11 for a successful project. You may comment on anything
12 you feel is important for the district to know that
13 might be relevant to the study.

14 You may present verbal comments in this
15 auditorium tonight.

16 When you came in tonight, you received a
17 blue speaker registration card. If you wish to make a
18 verbal comment, please turn in your speaker registration
19 card. If you did not receive a card, please raise your
20 hand now and staff in the auditorium will provide you
21 with one.

22 Members of the study team will be assisting
23 me in the verbal comment period. Wayne Crull is the
24 senior study manager of Feasibility Studies at the
25 Harris County Flood Control District. He will be

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1 assisting me tonight in receiving your verbal comments.
2 Additionally, my associate Claudia Morlan will call on
3 those who filled out a speaker registration card.

4 You may also submit written comments on a
5 comment form. Comment forms are available in the
6 exhibit area. You may leave your written comments with
7 us in the comment boxes in the exhibit area or you may
8 mail them back to the district. You may also visit our
9 Web site and fill out a comment form online.

10 Due to time considerations tonight, we will
11 be receiving your comments only. Questions will not be
12 answered during the receipt of comments. However,
13 district staff will be available to speak with you in

14 the exhibit area once the comment period begins.
15 The time period to receive written comments
16 by mail, e-mail, or from the Web site is from now
17 through December 20th, 2007.

18 All comments will be documented, reviewed,
19 and considered during the study.

20 In a moment, Claudia will call the names of
21 the first five individuals who registered to speak. We
22 ask that those individuals proceed to the microphone,
23 and we will receive your comments sequentially.

24 Please state your name clearly before you
25 begin so we may document your name and comment for the

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1 record. We ask that you please limit your verbal
2 comments to three minutes so that everyone will have an
3 opportunity to speak.

4 If you have not turned in your speaker
5 registration card, please raise your hand and we will
6 collect them.

7 At this time we are ready to begin the
8 verbal public comment period. If you do not wish to
9 make a comment verbally, please feel free to visit with
10 district staff in the exhibit area.

11 MS. MORLAN: Good evening. I'm going to
12 call the first few individuals. And then we'll take
13 just a quick break, and I'll call the next four.

14 If anyone needs assistance with a handheld
15 mike, let me know.

16 Oh, sorry. I'll call the first four
17 individuals. Jim Lloyd. George Richards. Clark
18 Martinson. Bill Turpin. Kevin King.

19 MR. LLOYD: My name is Jim Lloyd.

20 L-L-0-Y-D.

21 I have two comments. One is the premise
22 for flood control should be based on the premise that:
23 Flooding of streets is good; flooding of homes is bad.

24 The second comment is the Harris County
25 Flood Control District needs to work with the Fort Bend

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1 County Flood Control District and make sure that the
2 Clodine Ditch, which bypasses Barker Reservoir, does not
3 produce too much water into Buffalo Bayou.

4 I suspect that Fort Bend County is doing
5 their best to put as much water into that Clodine Ditch
6 as they can. And as you know, when we have heavy
7 rainstorm, Clodine Ditch brings the main source of the
8 floodwaters in Buffalo Bayou.

9 MS. DYKE: Thank you, Mr. Lloyd, for your
10 comment.

11 MS. MORLAN: George Richards? Clark?

12 MR. MARTINSON: Thank you. My name is
13 Clark Martinson. I'm the general manager of the Energy
14 Corridor Management District. I live in the Buffalo
15 Bayou watershed. I work in the Buffalo Bayou watershed.
16 And we commute along I-10 and Buffalo Bayou watershed.

17 I would like to make a comment that tonight
18 we're looking for accurate definitions of existing

19 conditions. And the Barker and Addicks reservoirs at
20 the west end of the study area would be the areas I'm
21 most particularly interested in.

22 Today the ditches at the base of those dams
23 are eroding, and I would suggest that some sort of
24 mitigation be taken into account to respond to that.

25 And then as I have been a part of the, you

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1 could say representative of, some of the business
2 community on this task force looking at this for the
3 last year, as I have observed the infrastructure from
4 downtown to the Addicks Reservoir, just have to comment
5 historically on the underground nature of all the flood
6 control infrastructure, you could say all the storm
7 sewers from Shepherd to downtown, the combination of
8 underground and concrete ditches primarily towards the
9 West Loop. And then west of the West Loop, there's
10 mostly natural ravines and then channelized channels
11 that are still earthen. And most significant would be
12 the Buffalo Bayou earthen detention facility from
13 Beltway 8 to the reservoirs.

14 The recreational use of those is the
15 greatest park in our region; and specifically, it's the
16 Terry Hershey Park. And I would commend the US Army
17 Corps of Engineers for the easements it has provided to
18 the city and to the county to build new hike-and-bike
19 trails at the base of the Addicks and Barker reservoirs
20 that connect to the Terry Hershey Trail.

21 And like to give a plug for the
22 organization I work for: The Energy Corridor Management
23 District just received notice from the National Park
24 Service that we will begin a master plan with the US
25 Corps of Engineers, Harris County Precinct 3 Parks, the

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1 City of Houston Parks, the City of Houston Public Works
2 Department to create a long range master plan for the
3 federal lands and the flood control lands along Buffalo
4 Bayou and in the two reservoirs. That will start in
5 December.

6 And the requirements of the National Park
7 Service is that that be conducted with a very public
8 participatory process, and so we'll be inviting
9 neighbors to be a part of that as well. Thank you.

10 MS. DYKE: Thank you, Mr. Martinson, for
11 your comment.

12 MR. TURPIN: I'm Bill Turpin. I live in
13 the Yorkshire subdivision. I've been a 20-year resident
14 back up on Buffalo Bayou.

15 Two comments. One, the work that they did
16 a long time ago -- 10, 15 years ago -- doing the
17 retention ponds, they did an excellent job.

18 In the early study and plan, the early
19 plans called for the total removal of all the trees
20 behind Wilchester and Yorkshire. We ask that they not
21 do that. They have left those trees, the tree stand
22 there.

23 It's a beautiful tree stand. We would

24 encourage you guys to still maintain the trees there now
25 in Terry Hershey Park.

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1 Number two, I agree with the earlier
2 comment. We use the hike-and-bike trail there
3 frequently. I think there's a big opportunity to clean
4 out that area now. There's lots of trees and fallen
5 debris that clog up and that I don't feel should wait to
6 the end of the study just to do basic maintenance on
7 that waterway.

8 MS. DYKE: Thank you, Mr. Turpin, for your
9 comment.

10 MR. KING: My name is Kevin King, and I was
11 glad to see in the beginning slides that environmental
12 impact is one of the factors that you're going to
13 consider.

14 I was also pleased to see that habitat
15 restoration is part of the goal because I live along --
16 my house backs up to what Harris County Flood Control
17 District calls ditch 151 but what most of us who live in
18 the area call Stoney Creek. It would be a shame, in my
19 mind, to see -- Stoney Creek is a natural creek that
20 flows right behind my backyard.

21 Just to give you an example, I had a
22 opossum in my backyard last night that I had to rescue
23 from my dog, which maybe means I shouldn't have a dog.
24 But it's still pretty cool having an opossum that's in
25 your backyard, and I have all kinds of other wildlife.

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1 But it strikes me as contradictory to the
2 goals of the study to straighten and concrete the creek,
3 which is a proposal that is currently being floated, if,
4 in fact, the goal of the -- the stated goal is to
5 consider environmental impact and restore habitat areas.

6 In addition, there was an article in the
7 neighborhood paper -- I think it's the Greater Houston
8 Weekly, or maybe it was the neighborhood insert to the
9 Chronicle -- this last week that said the City of Bunker
10 Hill Village buried the storm sewer in Bunker Hill
11 Street, in the street, in order to avoid destroying 200
12 trees along the street -- along Bunker Hill Street.

13 Well, I think that's fantastic. But I
14 think it would be a shame for us to bury the storm
15 sewers in the street to avoid killing 200 trees along a
16 public street and then come right back around and
17 bulldoze thousands of trees in a natural vegetation area
18 along Stoney Creek.

19 I do want to say that I absolutely agree
20 with the first speaker that I don't believe any homes or
21 businesses should flood. But the late Bill Marshall,
22 who was at that point mayor of Bunker Hill, told me that
23 there were other alternatives, one of which would have
24 been to put a larger pipe in Bunker Hill Street to
25 reroute that water that they're trying to address by

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1 straightening ditch 151.

2 Again, I just want to make sure my comments

3 are clearly understood. I do not believe that we should
4 destroy the habitat along Stoney Creek, ditch 151, when
5 the stated goal of the study is to minimize
6 environmental impact and to restore natural vegetation
7 areas. Thank you.

8 MS. DYKE: Thank you, Mr. King, for your
9 comment.

10 MS. MORLAN: We have two more signed up to
11 speak. Carter Copeland. Robert Kerr. If there's
12 anyone else that has a card, just raise your hand.

13 MR. COPELAND: My name is Carter Copeland.
14 And I was wondering if the county -- or excuse me. I
15 think the county should incorporate into their planning
16 some restraint on impervious cover with building codes
17 within some fairway of these efforts.

18 I mean, it seems like all the work we're
19 doing on the flood control we're exacerbating with the
20 flood of McMansions that are going up all along there
21 and/or some areas of the country where they make in situ
22 retention of water, either to get more -- let -- depend
23 less on vertical movement of the water and more actually
24 working on getting it to take it internally to the lots
25 rather than this acceleration of impervious cover with

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1 all of the construction along the entire corridor going
2 to these massive homes. Thank you.

3 MS. DYKE: Thank you, Mr. Copeland.

4 MS. MORLAN: Robert Kerr?

5 (Mr. Kerr waived from the audience.)

6 MS. DYKE: Did you have a comment? No.

7 MR. THORNTON: Hello. My name is Chris
8 Thornton, and I live in the Wilchester subdivision off
9 of Indian Creek Road at Wilcrest.

10 I would just want to address or voice my
11 concern over the continual decline of the embankment at
12 Wilcrest along Buffalo Bayou. Most of you that have
13 been in the park have seen them constantly having to
14 repair that.

15 I know they have had some problems with the
16 current through there. I just would like to state that
17 I hope they take in the aesthetic beauty of that area
18 and not just simply make it a concrete retention without
19 doing some type of aesthetic work to make it more
20 pleasing.

21 There's a tremendous amount of traffic with
22 people hiking, biking, using the park facilities. I
23 would think that it would be in best interest of the
24 park, which I think they consider to be their crown
25 jewel when you talk to any of these people, to make sure

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1 that this problem that I know they're working on is
2 something that is addressed in an aesthetic view as
3 well.

4 Also, reiterate with rest of the community
5 the appreciation of that park and the hope that the
6 study and all the things that you're going through
7 really reiterates the fact that that park has become a

8 crown jewel for the neighborhood as well, and we'd like
9 to make sure that it is -- all factors are taken into
10 consideration, not to cause any problems with that.
11 Thank you.

12 MS. DYKE: Thank you, Mr. Thornton, for
13 your comment.

14 Is that it?

15 In conclusion, Harris County Flood Control
16 District and the US Army of Corps of Engineers thank you
17 for your participation tonight. We will consider your
18 comments as we move forward with the Buffalo Bayou and
19 Lower White Oak Bayou Federal Study.

20 If you would like to make additional
21 comments, please pick up a comment form in the exhibit
22 area or fill one out online.

23 The mailing address, phone number, and Web
24 site are printed on the meeting handouts and on the
25 form.

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1 The time period for accepting public
2 comments as part of the meeting ends December 20th,
3 2007.

4 District staff will be available to speak
5 with you until we begin to close down the exhibit area.

6 For the record, the time is 7:40. Thank
7 you and good night.

8 (Proceedings concluded at 7:40 PM.)
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I, Kaetheryne B. Kyriell, a Certified
Shorthand Reporter in and for the State of Texas, do
hereby certify that the above and foregoing contains a
true and correct transcription of all portions of the
above-referenced public comments to be included in the
transcript of said public comment section, and were
reported by me.

Given under my hand and seal of office on
the 19th of November, 2007.

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Kaetheryne B. Kyriell, Texas CSR 6083
Expiration: 12/31/09
Esquire Deposition Services
CRCB Firm Registration No. _____
3401 Louisiana, Suite 300
Houston, Texas 77002