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CYPRESS CREEK
OVERFLOW MANAGEMENT
PUBLIC MEETING
THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 2012

BEAR CREEK COMMUNITY CENTER
3:30 P.M.

Transcript provided by:
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281-347-881 (fax)
captioningcompany@comcast.net

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Meeting began at 3:30 p.m.)

MR. POTOK: Okay. I've got a smartphone with me that says it's 3:30, so we'll get started. At this time of the afternoon on Thursday, my smartphone is probably the smartest (indiscernible).

So I want to start by thanking you all for coming to this initial meeting, and it will be the first of three public meetings we have on a planning effort being undertaken by the Harris County Flood Control District. This planning effort is being conducted in joint sponsorship with the Texas Water Development Board and Harris County. It is being conducted under the State of Texas Federal Flood Protection Planning Grant.

With us today is Gilbert Ward, who's the head of the flood mitigation planning grant program for the state, Pam Rocchi with Precinct Four is here, Josh Stuckey, I know I saw walk in from the Harris County Permits Office, and we have a number of people from Harris County Flood Control District here as well.

My name is I'm Alan Potok. I'm the assistant director, and again, I want to thank you all for coming.

With the recent flood we had on Cypress Creek, we

1 really weren't sure what was going to happen today. We
2 realized it was a late afternoon opportunity, and
3 sometimes that conflicts with people's work schedules,
4 but we knew that a lot of people had interest because of
5 the flooding that occurred in portions of Cypress Creek.
6 I need to emphasize at the outset that that's not what
7 this planning effort is to address today, but Mike
8 Garmon, who will be giving a formal presentation prior
9 to receiving public comments, will talk just a little
10 bit about that flood and kind of make some
11 distinguishing remarks about it.

12 I'd like to talk just a little bit about why this
13 effort is important to not only us but probably the
14 entire Harris County community, and I think why the
15 Texas Water Development Board saw fit to become a
16 financial partner in the planning itself. You know,
17 they say necessity sometimes is the mother of invention,
18 and I'm not sure that that's not what transpired here.
19 The Cypress Creek watershed, just in of itself being one
20 of the largest watersheds in Harris County, suffers some
21 very unique hydrologic considerations. It's a natural
22 channel for most of its length. The community prefers
23 to keep it that way. It has a very limited flood
24 control capacity. It's got a very large contributing
25 watershed upstream, and actually, part of that watershed

1 is in Waller County.

2 And while I mention Waller County, is anybody here
3 from Waller County? Yancy is here from Waller County.

4 And so we've got a situation where you have
5 multiple counties involved, a known concern downstream
6 on Cypress Creek, and then we have kind of an
7 interesting situation because of the topography that we
8 have a very shallow watershed divide between two major
9 watersheds, one being Cypress Creek and one being the
10 upper Buffalo Bayou watershed. We call it the "Addicks
11 watershed" because the upper Buffalo Bayou flows into
12 Addicks and Barker reservoirs, which then controls flow
13 downstream into the lower Buffalo Bayou.

14 While this is going on, the western part of Harris
15 County, and Waller County too, is expected to be the
16 next major growth area in this region. Mike will show
17 you some figures as to how dramatic that growth is, so
18 this is not something that you prevent; this is
19 something you plan for. And what we wanted to do was to
20 get a number of pertinent entities with the capability
21 of making decisions and collaborating together that
22 combine and develop a consensus of how we can in fact
23 appropriately plan for development while at the same
24 time conserving and enhancing the natural environment of
25 roughly 400 square miles of Harris County, which is

1 about one-sixth of the total county area. So it's a
2 major initiative. There are a lot of factors to
3 consider and a lot of balancing of interests that have
4 to be addressed to reach a good consensus solution.

5 Our presentation today really is in three parts.
6 I'm giving the welcome and introductions, and then I'll
7 stand back up and moderate the public comment period.
8 The comments -- by the way, we have a number of people.
9 I don't know how many have signed up for comments. We
10 probably will limit comments to three minutes each. We
11 do have someone that is recording all of the comments
12 and taking the transcript of the meeting. I understand
13 she came in second in the national thumb texting
14 contest, so I think we've got that under control.

15 Mike Garmon of our staff is the project manager.
16 He will give a formal presentation that will last about
17 10 minutes, and then following that formal presentation,
18 I'll get back up, and then we'll step in and let you all
19 handle the comments. Now -- and we'll talk about the
20 format for that after Mike's presentation. So, Mike?

21 *MR. GARMON:* I'm going to have to try
22 real hard to make this last 20 minutes. Every time I
23 practice this, they keep telling me to slow down, slow
24 down.

25 Before I begin, I'd like to remind everyone that we

1 have hard copies of the grant application available
2 here. They're over on this information table, so If
3 you're interested in the details of the application,
4 feel free to pick up a copy.

5 This slide shows the topics that we're going to
6 talk about today: What is the Cypress Creek overflow?
7 Why are we planning? We're going to talk about a
8 Steering Committee, critical success factors for our
9 planning to succeed. We're going to discuss the scope
10 of the study, the timeline, or the schedule for the
11 study, and talk about stakeholder interaction.

12 The Cypress Creek and Addicks Reservoir watersheds
13 are located in northwest Harris County, north of I-10.
14 Cypress Creek begins over here in Waller County and
15 flows easterly into Spring Creek, which flows into the
16 San Jacinto River. The Addicks Reservoir drains into
17 Buffalo Bayou and then into the Houston Ship Channel.

18 The reservoir was built by the Corps of Engineers
19 back in the '40s to protect downtown Houston and the
20 Houston Ship Channel from catastrophic floods like those
21 that occurred in the '20s and '30s. The naturally
22 occurring drainage divide between Cypress Creek and
23 Addicks watershed is not well defined. When we talk
24 about the drainage divide, that's this line that comes
25 right along here. As Alan mentioned, it's a very

1 shallow divide, and water overflows from Cypress Creek
2 watershed into Addicks watershed during significant
3 floods.

4 This map shows the floodplains from the Flood
5 Insurance Rate Maps published by FEMA. The maps show
6 the location of the 100 year floodplain, the floodway,
7 and the 500 year floodplain. This hatched area here is
8 labeled "Rate Zone A0" on the FEMA maps. It is the
9 location of the overflow.

10 In general, the overflow from Cypress Creek flows
11 southeasterly into Bear Creek and South Mayde Creek,
12 which drain in the Addicks Reservoir. The flooding is
13 broad, shallow and slow moving. The hatched area on
14 this map is about two miles wide, and the flooding is
15 usually less than two feet deep, flowing at less than
16 one foot per second.

17 To put some additional perspective on what we're
18 talking about, we can discuss the overflow in terms of
19 the recent flood event that took place last month, the
20 week of July 9th through the 13th.

21 Okay. I'm going to talk you guys through this map.
22 This legend over here shows the different rainfall
23 intensities for a 48 hour rainfall event. Most of the
24 area is this red color that shows that the rainfall was
25 somewhere between a 50 year and 100 year rainfall event.

1 There's a couple of places here and here where you can
2 see a hundred year event. This is Cypress Creek here,
3 and this is Little Cypress Creek. Most of the areas
4 received somewhere between a 50 year and a hundred year
5 rainfall event. This caused some flooding of structures
6 along certain segments of Cypress Creek. We're still
7 collecting the data on the flood event, but our records
8 show most of the flooding occurred downstream of Highway
9 290. And this is 290 here, and the green stars are
10 neighborhoods where the structural flooding took place.
11 This orange dot here is the location of the Grant Road
12 gauge, which actually indicated a record flood level for
13 the event.

14 Also shown on the slide are the FEMA floodplains
15 and the location where the overflow is occurring. Note
16 the relative location of the overflow where the flooding
17 occurred back in July. I wanted to use this graphic to
18 emphasize that the overflow and flooding that took place
19 along Cypress Creek in July are actually two separate
20 issues and that the focus of this planning effort is on
21 the overflow.

22 We also want to point out here real quick that this
23 is the location that drainage (indiscernible) that we
24 were talking about. This is Sharp Road, this little --
25 it's kind of hard to see for probably most of y'all,

1 this little line here. That's Sharp Road, so the divide
2 part of the divide runs along Sharp Road. And so as I
3 mentioned before, the dividing line on Sharp Road --
4 here's a picture of the flooding over Sharp Road. This
5 is actually from the July event.

6 Because the overflow is a flooding issue that's
7 primarily limited to the upper part of the watershed,
8 we've defined the study area as the Cypress Creek
9 watershed upstream of 290 combined with the Addicks
10 Reservoir watershed. The drainage area of Cypress Creek
11 above 290 is about 140 square miles, and the Addicks
12 watershed is about 138 square miles, so the size of the
13 study area is about 278 square miles.

14 While much of Addicks -- much of the Addicks
15 watershed is urbanized, development in the overflow area
16 is primarily rural residential, farmland and undeveloped
17 land. So most of this area right in here is primarily
18 undeveloped land.

19 However, the area is growing with respect to
20 population. The most recent Texas Water Development
21 Board projections show that the study area will grow by
22 about 45 percent over the next 50 years, and with that
23 growth comes development, and the Flood Control District
24 is trying to be proactive and prepare for it. The
25 primary purpose of this study is to proactively prepare

1 for the future development of this area that is
2 inevitable.

3 Due to the complex nature of the overflow problem
4 and the limited drainage network, it's the District's
5 concern that the development of the area could occur in
6 a way that is haphazard and difficult to manage.

7 Furthermore, there's a need to balance future
8 development and other environmental interests in the
9 area, so in June of last year we began meeting with a
10 Steering Committee made up of key stakeholders to
11 discuss the problem.

12 The purpose of the Steering Committee is to provide
13 direction for the study. The Steering Committee is made
14 up of representatives of groups that meet the following
15 criteria: They have a major investment in the property
16 in the watershed. They're able to make regulatory
17 policy affecting the land use in the watershed. They
18 have developed a master plan for a major portion of the
19 watershed. They are able to construct major public
20 infrastructure projects in the watershed. They're
21 willing to collaborate with other Steering Committee
22 members to reach a consensus regarding future plans for
23 drainage and flood control, and they can dedicate the
24 time to complete the study on schedule.

25 The Steering Committee members represent the

1 following groups: Harris County Flood Control District,
2 the West Houston Association, the Harris County Public
3 Infrastructure, Harris County Precincts 3 and 4, the
4 City of Houston, Waller County, the Katy Prairie
5 Conservancy, the Bayou Preservation Association, the
6 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

7 After some discussion and consideration with the
8 Steering Committee, we decided that planning was needed,
9 and in order for that planning to be successful, we
10 decided the planning needed to be a workable solution
11 that allows Flood Control to fulfill its mission. It
12 needs to define the roles and responsibilities of all
13 the parties that support the plan both economically and
14 from a policy perspective. It must also respond to
15 conflicting priorities between the environment and
16 business interests and should be completed in advance of
17 future land development. The plan has to incorporate
18 major planned public infrastructure projects like
19 roadways and thoroughfares.

20 To help fund the planning effort, the District
21 applied for a Flood Protection Planning Grant from the
22 Texas Water Development Board in January of this year.
23 We were notified by the Board in April the grant would
24 be awarded and that we could begin work on April 19th.
25 The contract between the District and the Water

1 Development Board was signed last month. According to
2 our agreement, the final draft report must be submitted
3 on or before the end of October of 2014. I also want to
4 note this is a 50/50 cost share between Water
5 Development Board and Flood Control, with Water
6 Development Board funding \$750,000 and Harris County
7 Flood Control funding \$750,000 dollars as well.

8 With help of the Steering Committee, we arrived at
9 the following goals for the planning effort: We want to
10 gain consensus on the facts relating to the flooding,
11 flood volumes, flood peaks and flood risks. We want to
12 gain understanding of the needs and objectives. We want
13 to develop a consensus plan for flood risk reduction
14 that incorporates the needs and objectives. We want to
15 establish interim criteria while adoption of the final
16 consensus plan is ongoing. We want to design a business
17 plan to implement the strategies, including the roles
18 and responsibilities, and we want to get adoption of the
19 consensus plan and the business plan by Harris County
20 Commissioners Court.

21 Again, I'd like to remind everyone that copies of
22 the grant application are available. A detailed scope
23 of work for the study can be found in the application,
24 but I want to summarize the scope of the study here.
25 The scope of work is multi-disciplinary through

1 engineering, environmental and financial planning
2 elements.

3 The engineering portion of the work involves
4 quantifying and delineating the flood risk. What this
5 means is that we're going to determine where, what
6 volume, and how deep the flooding occurs.

7 Estimate flood mitigation requirements -- we're
8 going to try to decide what it would take to manage,
9 move or store the overflow, and then set basic goals for
10 regional strategy. This means we're going to try to
11 figure out what we think we want to do to manage the
12 flooding problem and reduce the risk of flooding.

13 The environmental portion of the planning effort
14 involves estimating the benefits of prairie restoration
15 for flood control. What we're going to do here is we're
16 going to collect and analyze data from prairie
17 grasslands to identify unique runoff characteristics
18 that may be helpful with the flooding problem.

19 Identify critical conservation areas -- here we're
20 going to be looking for important tracts of land that
21 could potentially be preserved for flood control,
22 environmental or other reasons.

23 Investigate mitigation bank requirements and
24 options -- here we're going to be looking for tracts of
25 land that can be used for environmental mitigation for

1 future flood control projects, and during this, we'll be
2 considering regional and community enhancements. That
3 means we're going to take into consideration
4 multipurpose land use in our planning with things like
5 recreation and green space.

6 The business plan portion of the planning effort
7 involves the cost pro forma, which is, of course,
8 eligible regional facilities, but basically this is a
9 cost analysis for any proposed capital improvements that
10 we come up with for the strategy.

11 The cash flow analysis -- we're going to estimate
12 the cost of the strategy over time.

13 Roles and responsibilities -- we're going to look
14 at who's responsible for what and who's going to pay for
15 it.

16 Land acquisition -- we're going to look at what
17 land is needed for the proposed strategy.

18 Guidelines for development -- we're going to
19 develop criteria for future development of the area.

20 And finally, we're going to come up with an
21 implementation plan which tells us what the nuts and
22 bolts of making the strategy a reality are.

23 This is the planning effort schedule, the timeline.
24 We're here where this red star is. This is the first
25 public meeting, so we just started. About a year from

1 now, we're going to have another public meeting after
2 we've had a chance to develop some alternative
3 strategies. A few months after that, we'll be working
4 on the final report. We'll have another public meeting
5 to incorporate the comments from the public.

6 We realize that there are individuals or other
7 groups that may want to be involved in our planning
8 efforts, so we're inviting you to participate as a
9 stakeholder if you're interested. The best way for you
10 to do that is to go to the project website, which is
11 hscu.org/cypressoverflow. There you will find a copy of
12 the grant application. The website is currently still
13 under design, but eventually we plan to put summaries of
14 the Steering Committee meetings on there as well as
15 project deliverables. This is also the place for public
16 comment, for your input; or you can send your comments
17 to us by mail. This is our information. We're located
18 at 9900 Northwest Freeway, Houston, Texas. Make sure
19 you put it to the attention of Cypress Creek Overflow;
20 or you can call us at 713-680-4000.

21 So the main thing we wanted to do today is to
22 introduce you to our planning effort and receive your
23 comments. So that's what we're going to do right now.
24 Comments will be recorded, and a transcript of the
25 comments will be put on the study website. Names will

1 be called from the comment cards, so make sure if you
2 want to make -- come and give your comment, write your
3 name on a comment card. We'd like for the comments to
4 be limited to three minutes per speaker so that everyone
5 has a chance to talk, and we want to have the meeting
6 concluded by 5:00 p.m.

7 So now I'm going to turn it over to Alan.

8 *MR. POTOK:* Okay. On the -- just as a
9 follow up on the comments itself, it's important to
10 understand that your comments can be received throughout
11 the planning effort by commenting at the website itself.
12 So those of you who have comments today, we encourage
13 you to give them. Those comments will be posted on the
14 website, and as we move through the planning process, we
15 will respond to the comments as they become applicable
16 and the answers are known.

17 Comments today will be treated exactly the same as
18 comments that are written and exactly the same as
19 comments that are provided to us by getting on our
20 website. We will -- the website is active now, correct?

21 *UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:* Yes.

22 *MR. POTOK:* And it will be enhanced, as
23 we indicated, so that you're able to view the progress
24 of the study as it's moving forward.

25 So right now -- and I have my smartphone with the

1 little clock. But if you would, those of you who have a
2 comment, there's two ladies here. If you could provide
3 your comments to them, we can then go ahead and take
4 them.

5 *UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:* We do need them
6 to.

7 *MR. POTOK:* Do we -- now, is this going
8 to work, where I'm going to hand you this microphone?
9 Is that --

10 *UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:* No, they need to
11 come up there.

12 *MR. POTOK:* Okay. They're going to come
13 up here? Okay. Great.

14 There's one at the very back?

15 All right. Mr. Mannchen?

16 *MR. MANNCHEN:* My name is Brandt
17 Mannchen, and I'm speaking here on my own behalf. I
18 have just a couple of preliminary comments, and then I
19 want to go ahead and submit some written comments.

20 First, I'm glad to see that this study is beginning
21 because the overflow areas have been a long issue of
22 discussion. And in particular, I'm concerned about
23 protecting portions of the Katy prairie because I
24 believe the prairie actually holds water and assists in
25 flood control naturally, so I would hope that would be

1 part of the discussions with the Steering Committee.

2 In addition, I'm sad to see that this does not
3 include the Buffalo Bayou watershed because that
4 (indiscernible) Houston because whatever happens in
5 Addicks and Cypress has an effect downstream on Buffalo,
6 and I just wanted to make that comment.

7 I would also like to see a map of the overflow
8 areas with how many there are and approximately what the
9 volume is of each of the overflow areas. That would be
10 very helpful to me, to take a look at that map in
11 responding as far as my comments go.

12 And that's all I have to say at this point. Thank
13 you.

14 *MR. POTOK:* Thank you.

15 Mr. Bolton?

16 *MR. BOLTON:* Sorry for the wait. First
17 of all, I come to you as flooding -- filing two flood
18 claims, flooding three times. I live on Horsepen Creek,
19 which wasn't mentioned, but it's also part of the
20 Addicks watershed. What we just saw was mainly going
21 into Mayde and Bear Creek, but of course the water backs
22 up into Horsepen Creek, too.

23 Currently we have a project just finishing up. It
24 was 1.1 million, 3.25 miles of Horsepen Creek from
25 Highway 6 all the way down to Addicks Reservoir, and

1 they're finishing up there. But unfortunately there was
2 a lot of erosion, and where they started last year,
3 they've already got about the same amount of dirt. And
4 one of the guys told me that they're back to where they
5 started because of all the erosion.

6 But the comments or the questions I'd like answered
7 is, number one, on the Steering Committee, I would
8 involve national flood insurance because anybody in here
9 that has flood insurance has to pay the federal
10 government, and they're the ones that have to insure the
11 houses, or the buildings or whatever, that were built on
12 the floodplain.

13 And number two, in 2010, the Army Corps of
14 Engineers did a presentation on how dangerous the Barker
15 and Addicks dams are. In fact, they were looking for
16 money, and I contacted my congressman, John Culberson,
17 during his town hall meeting when he was running in
18 2010, and he didn't know anything about it.

19 But basically the Corps of Engineers -- and he also
20 said that the Corps of Engineers have enough money,
21 they're not getting any more. The Corps of Engineers
22 were very concerned about Barker and Addicks. The dams
23 and the downstream can cause tremendous amount of damage
24 on Buffalo Bayou.

25 And then also what wasn't mentioned here, in April

1 2009, according to the Houston Chronicle, 2,300 homes
2 flooded in the Addicks watershed, so I want that
3 addressed, too. And I think that's about it. So...

4 Oh, and the overflow area, if it's only two miles
5 wide, ten feet deep -- or less than one foot deep, that
6 doesn't sound like much of an overflow area. It sounds
7 like they're really the same watershed, so unless you do
8 something to separate them, you're talking about a huge
9 watershed. And we already have a lot of flooding in the
10 Addicks Reservoir, especially in April of 2009. So we
11 don't need anymore. Thank you.

12 *MR. POTOK:* Is there anybody else who
13 would like to make a comment?

14 Yes, ma'am?

15 *MS. CARTER:* I'll talk loud, and I think
16 I can make it from here. I have a question.

17 *MR. POTOK:* Can we get your name, please.

18 *MS. CARTER:* Pat Carter. I live at the
19 corner of Lost Spring and Pine Mountain.

20 We had no flooding until Ike in September of '08.
21 All right. I'm wondering what went amiss. Been there
22 40 years and no flooding. We've flooded ever since.

23 *MR. POTOK:* Okay. Did you copy that
24 comment? We will make a point of responding to every
25 comment.

1 Anybody else?

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: There are a couple
3 filling out cards over here.

4 MR. POTOK: Yes, sir?

5 MR. YUHNKE: Do I come up?

6 MR. POTOK: Uh huh.

7 MR. YUHNKE: My name is Jim Yuhnke. I
8 live in Bear Creek Subdivision over here.

9 I wanted to follow up on this last guy's comments.
10 I'm one of the houses that got flooded back in 2009.
11 Whatever -- excuse me. All I want to say is this:
12 Whatever y'all do, you need to get the Corps of
13 Engineers involved. The -- they widened Horsepen Creek
14 to allow for water to come down to the Addicks
15 Reservoir, but unfortunately, once it gets to the
16 northern part of the Addicks Reservoir, the water
17 doesn't go down to the dam.

18 The Corps of Engineers refuses to clear out Langham
19 Creek through Bear Creek Park to let the water go on
20 down. In their mind, their mission is to keep downtown
21 Houston from flooding, and I would say that the best way
22 to do that is to not let any water into the Addicks
23 Reservoir. So whatever you do, you're going to have to
24 get the Corps of Engineers -- because if you allow a lot
25 more water from Cypress down this direction, us poor

1 folks that live just north of here, we're going to eat
2 all that water. So that's my comment.

3 *MR. POTOK:* Thank you.

4 *UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:* Sir, excuse me.

5 *MR. YUHNKE:* Sure.

6 *UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:* Just fill that out
7 for me.

8 *MR. POTOK:* Mr. Merz? Or Ms. Merz?
9 Evelyn Merz?

10 *MS. MERZ:* My name is Evelyn Merz. I'm
11 the conservation chair of the Houston Sierra Club. My
12 concern is that undergoing the process, that you take
13 into account the July 2010 revision to the operating
14 plan for the Addicks Dam that was performed by the U.S.
15 Army Corps of Engineers, which states that they are out
16 to -- for the safety of the dam, that they want the
17 maximum level behind the dam to be that of the historic
18 25 year storm in the watershed. (Indiscernible) the
19 release from behind the dam downstream into Buffalo
20 Bayou so that it does not get above that historic 25
21 year level, which is the point of record within the dam
22 itself.

23 My other concern is that I would like to be able to
24 find out how and -- how high and when there are
25 overflows from Cypress Creek into the Addicks Reservoir.

1 It is very difficult to find out when actually we do
2 have a rainfall event that contributes water into the
3 Addicks watershed. I would like to know (indiscernible)
4 a gauge to measure that point and how high it is and the
5 extent and the approximate (indiscernible) that are
6 going into the Addicks Dam. Thank you.

7 *MR. POTOK:* Thank you.

8 Troy Maxwell?

9 *MR. MAXWELL:* I don't know much, but I do
10 know one thing. That floodplain wasn't created, you
11 know, in the last ten years, you know. If you've owned
12 a house for a long time or anything else, you didn't
13 have any detention. And, you know, as a landowner out
14 in the area, I think it's kind of interesting that we
15 talk -- or everybody's talking about it's wrong to do
16 anything for the benefit of the landowner. You know?

17 So that's all I got to say.

18 *MR. POTOK:* Thank you.

19 Mary Sullivan?

20 *MS. SULLIVAN:* My name is Mary Sullivan.
21 I've lived in the Katy area for approximately 30 years,
22 off of Fry Road when Fry Road didn't go past Clay. So
23 I've seen a lot of growth. And my concern about this is
24 the expansion of Highway 99. And everyone's
25 anticipating that with -- oh, one side of the fence or

1 the other. I'm not going to get into it, but it's going
2 to come, and the fact that if you lived in this area and
3 you watched the south side, I think there's a gross
4 underestimate that we saw in these figures as to the
5 potential population increase that would happen in that
6 general vicinity as you build up the Grand Parkway up
7 and around to I-45.

8 Having a 40 percent increase in population over 50
9 years I think is a gross underestimation if you look at
10 the growth that happened on the south side of 99 going
11 down to Sugar Land. So I would really like to see this
12 board, this group address the true potential growth that
13 will happen and involve some of the major landowners
14 that have been sitting on property in that area, waiting
15 for that monster highway, and really work with them to
16 ensure that no houses are built in harm's way and that
17 green spaces that can absorb flood waters are truly
18 taken into account.

19 *MR. POTOK:* Thank you.

20 Pete Smullen?

21 *MR. SMULLEN:* Yes. I'm sure I can be
22 heard from here. With the flood that happened just
23 recently, it's a golden opportunity to collect data on
24 the overflow. I hope that Harris County Flood Control
25 has collected information on the overflows in terms of

1 volume, and I request that they publish their findings,
2 the best estimates of what those overflows were in terms
3 of volume, before the end of the study and that they be
4 published soon.

5 *MR. POTOK:* Okay.

6 Have I missed anybody? Any other comments?

7 Robert Grundy?

8 *MR. GRUNDY:* Actually, my comment is on
9 the back if you just want to read it.

10 *MR. POTOK:* Okay. Mr. Grundy's comment
11 is as follows:

12 "You have a map that shows the overflow area and
13 the area subdivision, Bear Creek and others, showing
14 which residential areas have historically flooded or may
15 be subject to future flooding.

16 "Is there a monitoring system in place, and if so,
17 are the flood measurements posted on your website? If
18 so, where? URL address? If not, could the
19 water/flooding levels be shown on the website in real
20 time?"

21 Okay. Thank you.

22 Again, I would encourage anyone who has an interest
23 in the scope of (indiscernible) there are copies over
24 here, and it will be posted on the website so that you
25 can understand the depth of the investigations we intend

1 to conduct.

2 I was doing so well. These were easy names,
3 Sullivan and Smith. Now I've got Julie Hejducek.

4 *MS. HEJDUCEK:* Hejducek.

5 *MR. POTOK:* I apologize.

6 *MS. HEJDUCEK:* I live on Fern Ridge in
7 Bear Creek, and we will get one or two inches of rain,
8 and the street will flood. We have one overflow drain
9 at the end of the street (indiscernible). My concern is
10 that this one drain we have -- first, we don't have
11 enough drains. Secondly, it's probably full of grass
12 clippings, debris, leaves, whatever from different
13 yards, and I was wondering whose responsibility is it to
14 clean the drain out? I really think it needs to be
15 cleaned. It just started doing that within the last
16 (indiscernible).

17 Does that fall under the responsibility of the
18 subdivision or (indiscernible)?

19 *MR. POTOK:* Okay. I appreciate the fact
20 that many of these are questions, and my response to you
21 is we will respond as soon as (indiscernible) the
22 website. But we appreciate the questions and the
23 comments.

24 I saw a hand back there?

25 *UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:* Ask them to please

1 come forward (indiscernible).

2 *UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:* I couldn't hear.

3 Was that Stone Ridge subdivision?

4 *UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:* No, Bear Creek.

5 *UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:* Oh, Bear Creek.

6 *MR. POTOK:* Any other questions,

7 comments?

8 Okay. Well, thank you all very much for your time
9 this afternoon.

10 There's coffee and water if you'd like to mull
11 around. We will be staying here for a few more minutes.
12 Again, the website (indiscernible).

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14 (Meeting adjourned at 4:16 p.m.)

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