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A PUBLICATION OF MEMORIAL MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

WHATS INSIDE:

Why are my Rates Going Up?

Flood Preparedness

What is a MUD?

Water Emergency Prep

MEMORIAL M.U.D. NEWSLETTER

SPRING | 2016

MEMORIAL
MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

Tim Miller – President

Elected to the Board: 05/10/2014

Term Expires: 05/07/2018

Miguel G. Hull – Vice President

Elected to the Board: 05/12/2012

Term Expires: 05/07/2016

W. F. Trotter, Jr. (Buddy) – Secretary

Elected to the Board: 05/10/2014

Term Expires: 05/07/2018

Crystal M. Sampson – Assistant Secretary

Elected to the Board: 05/10/2014

Term Expires: 05/07/2018

Tom Williams – Investment Officer

Appointed to the Board: 06/24/2013

Term Expires: 05/07/2016

WHY ARE MY RATES GOING UP?



***West Harris County Regional Water Authority:** The WHCRWA was created to provide surface water and groundwater for various uses, the reduction of groundwater withdrawals, the conservation, preservation, protection, recharge, and prevention of waste of groundwater and of groundwater reservoirs, the control of subsidence caused by withdrawal of water from those groundwater reservoirs, and other public purposes.*

As “sticker shock” over water bills is resonating among households, it is important to understand the circumstances surrounding the decisions being implemented by the WHCRWA.

Community Growth Because of the rapid growth that our area is experiencing, there is a larger demand for water than original forecasts had predicted. It was previously estimated that the 2020 population in the WHCRWA would be at 455,000. However, based on the 2010 Census, the WHCRWA had already reached that level. Thus the area must increase its water conversion to keep pace with the rise in water demand. To serve the fast-growing master-planned communities like Town Lake, Cypress Lakes, and Bridgeland, the WHCRWA extended water lines to these three additional water districts. In an effort to avoid subsidence from building more groundwater wells, these communities agreed to pay a portion of the early conversion

costs. This arrangement will allow for additional savings.

Water Delivery WHCRWA adopted increased fees on water usage that took effect January 1, 2016. The board of directors of the WHCRWA agreed to the new pumpage fee of \$2.25 per 1,000 gallons of groundwater pumped and a new surface water fee of \$2.65 per 1,000 gallons of water delivered by the WHCRWA. Memorial MUD passes along these fees to our residents to avoid an increase in our property tax rate.

Bridging Partnerships The Authority is working to acquire an easement for a new 96-inch “second source” cross-town pipeline that will bring surface water from Lake Houston to West Harris County. The WHCRWA is also expected to acquire roughly 690 new easements and widen approximately 600 existing easements. In order to pay for the construction of new water lines throughout West Harris



County, the Harris-Galveston Subsidence District voted to delay a key conversion deadline from 2020 to 2025. This will afford residents a more gradual increase in rates over time.

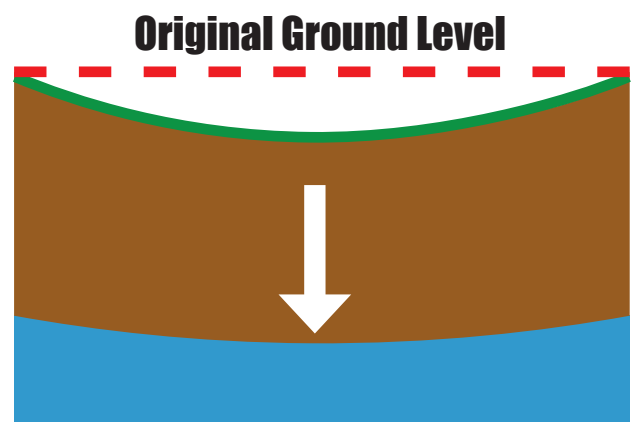
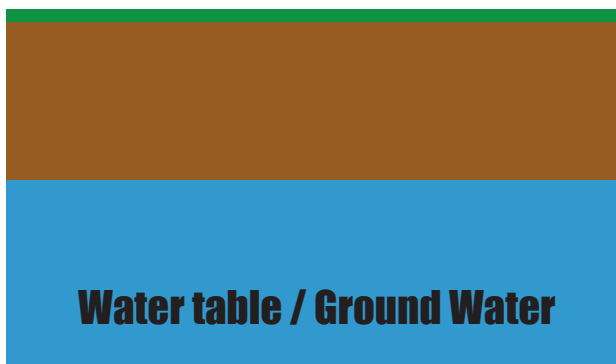
Alternative Sources Reducing groundwater pumping through conversion to surface water sources has had a positive impact on subsidence in the Houston, Galveston, and Fort Bend County areas. By sourcing from surface water, we've reduced chances of increased flooding and foundation problems often found by

excess groundwater pumping.

Memorial MUD passes along these rate increases from the WHCWRA to prevent increases in our tax rate. Unfortunately, rate increases from WHCRWA are unavoidable and homeowners should do their best to conserve our invaluable water supplies as we stretch ourselves to make better decisions about our limited resources. Residents are encouraged to examine their water usage habits and practice conservation as we move forward in better utilizing our water resources.

WHAT IS SUBSIDENCE?

Subsidence is the sinking of land resulting from groundwater extraction, and a major problem in the developing world as cities swell without adequate regulation and enforcement. Excessive extraction of groundwater also has the long term effect of predisposing areas to flooding, even in locations previously not at risk.





FLOOD

Preparedness

Last year our region felt the significant and immediate impact that heavy thunderstorms can bring. As we saw, flooding can happen quickly and without warning, so it is imperative to have a flood plan in place before you are caught off guard and scrambling to respond to a serious situation.

Flash floods are the #1 cause of weather-related deaths in the U.S, but there are several basic steps you can put in place to prepare your home and your family.

1 It is imperative to find out if your home is located in a flash-flood prone area. You can contact your local county planning department to determine this. You should familiarize yourself with your community's emergency plans, evacuations routes and know the locations of emergency shelters. You should also make sure your family has a plan for a flood evacuation and practice what to do.

Also, inform your local authorities if you have anyone in your home that is elderly, bedridden or has special needs.

2 Other steps you can take before a flood strikes are to identify potential hazards in your home and know how to secure them. You should be prepared to turn off water and gas supplies in case you have to evacuate. As you prepare for the storm, it is wise to secure structurally unstable building materials. Be sure to anchor all items that could easily be swept away and bring in outdoor possessions such as lawn furniture and grills. In an effort to reduce the risk of a possible fire or explosion, you should turn off your gas and electricity at the main switch or valve.

3 If you have to evacuate make sure you only take essential items with you such as medical documents, medications, and other personal documents such as insurance policies and birth certificates.

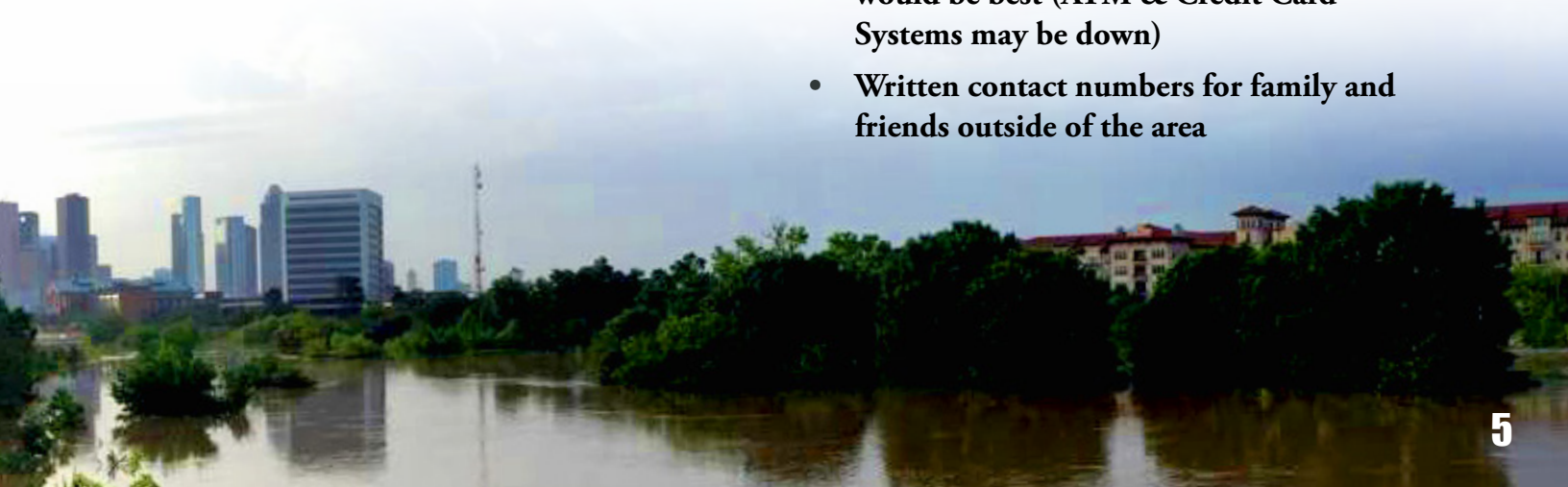


4 You should head to higher ground, but do not attempt to drive or walk across creeks or flooded roads. If water is above your ankles, turn around and go another way. Six inches of swiftly moving water can sweep you off of your feet. If you are driving and are caught on a flooded road, and waters are rising, you should quickly get out of the car. On average, six inches of standing water can stall some cars, a foot of water can float a vehicle, and a car can be swept away by less than two feet of moving water. Flood waters can often erode roads and walkways so be cautious and aware even if floodwaters have receded.

Hopefully you will never find yourself having to face dealing with rising floodwaters, but if you do, having a plan in place will afford you valuable time and greater ease in responding to the crisis.

Supplies

- **Water:** one gallon of potable water per person per day for at least three days for drinking
- **Food:** at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food
- **Battery-powered or hand crank radio and a NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert and extra batteries for both**
- **Flashlight and extra batteries**
- **First aid kit**
- **Necessary prescription or nonprescription medications**
- **Whistle to signal for help**
- **Dust mask to help filter contaminated air**
- **Plastic sheeting and duct tape to shelter-in-place**
- **Moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties for personal sanitation**
- **Wrench or pliers to turn off utilities (Channel locks, or crescent wrench)**
- **Manual can opener**
- **Printed Local maps: (cell phone GPS may not work)**
- **Cell phone with chargers, car inverter or solar charger, and/or USB batteries**
- **At least \$100 in cash small bills, \$500 would be best (ATM & Credit Card Systems may be down)**
- **Written contact numbers for family and friends outside of the area**





A Municipal Utility District (MUD) is a political subdivision of the State of Texas authorized by state law to provide water, sewage, drainage and other services within the district boundaries.

How is a MUD created

Municipal Utility Districts (MUDs) are special-purpose districts authorized to provide water, sewer and drainage services and facilities, as well as recreational facilities to the District. MUDs are created either by the State Legislature or through the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and are run by a board of five directors elected by voters in the District. A majority of property owners in the proposed district may petition the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality to create a MUD.

Why do MUD's exist?

A MUD is created to finance, construct, and operate necessary water, sewer, and storm drainage facilities to serve the District. The districts are created by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) or by the State Legislature. The city in which the boundaries or extra-territorial jurisdiction (ETJ) within the district must consent to the creation.

Additional Services From a MUD

In addition to their common functions of water and wastewater service, MUDs are legally empowered to engage in conservation, irrigation, firefighting, solid waste collection/disposal, and recreational activities (parks, pools, and sports courts). A MUD can pro-

vide for itself the recreational amenities that are approved by the Board of Directors and funded by the District.

Are MUD Meetings Open to the Public?

Absolutely! You are welcome to attend the monthly meetings of the Board of Directors. All meetings are open to the public under Texas law. These meetings are normally held on the 4th Monday of each month at 12pm in the administrative offices of Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 81 located at 805 Hidden Canyon, Katy, Texas 77450. The Texas Open Meetings Act honors the principle that government at all levels in this state should operate in a way that is open and accessible to the people to view deliberations of elected officials. Texas law only allows closed meetings in certain limited circumstances.

Questions?

If you have any further questions or inquiries about MUD services in your area, want to pay your bill online or check your trash pickup schedule, visit our website: www.memorialmud.com

Water Emergency Preparation



Water emergencies can happen unexpectedly. Chemical spills, floods, earthquakes, pipe breaks, and equipment malfunctions are just a few examples. These situations can drastically affect the water system and the community that depends on it. Preparing a response plan can save lives, prevent illness, and minimize property damage.

Minimizing Household Water Use to Prevent Sewage Backups

In flood-prone areas flooding can cause sewage from sewer lines to back up into houses through drain pipes. If sewage backup has occurred in your home you should restrict access to these areas. If your entire home has been saturated, vacate your home until the affected areas including carpets, rugs, sheetrock, and drywall have been properly cleaned and disinfected. Avoid open sewage contaminated areas—it is imperative to follow these steps to limit the spread of disease caused by contaminated waters.

Storing Water

After a crisis has occurred water is usually highly contaminated and supplies can be disrupted for months. So it is essential to have clean drinking water stored. We can live for weeks without food, but FEMA recommends having access to at least one gallon of drinking water per person per day for a minimum of three days. You should keep the bottles sealed and stored in a cool, dark area and be sure to rotate the bottles out every six months.

Water Purification

Be prepared by having a camping stove and fuel for boiling and/or distilling water during an emergency. It is also important to identify sources of water that can be filtered for consumption. Some examples are rainwater, tap water, or even lake water can be filtered with proper equipment. While water may look safe to drink during an emergency, it can be contaminated with different types of contaminants such as heavy metals, radioactive contaminants, petrochemicals and bacteria, as well as viruses and parasites that make it very harmful to consume. Boiling or chlorination can kill most microorganisms. However, boiling is the safest method of treating water and should be done for at least 1 full minute. Before treating, you should let any suspended particles settle to the bottom or strain them through layers of paper towel, clean cloth, or coffee filter.

Chemical Treatment

According to FEMA, the use of unconcentrated bleach can kill microorganisms as well. Use only unscented household liquid bleach that contains 5.25—6.0 percent sodium hypochlorite. Add 16 drops (1/8 teaspoon) of bleach per gallon of water, stir and let stand for 30 minutes. Do not use scented bleaches, color-safe bleaches, or bleaches with added cleaners. Because the potency of bleach diminishes with time, use bleach from a newly opened or unopened bottle.

MEMORIAL

MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

MUD DIRECTOR ELECTION

The Board of Directors for Memorial MUD will be having an election in order to determine which candidates shall fill the two available positions. Details on voting may be found below:

Schedule

-Early voting will take place from 8:30am-4:30pm in person on April 25-May 3 except on weekends and state holidays.

-Election Day voting will be from 7:00am-7:00pm on May 7th, 2016.

Polling Place for Early Voting & Election Day
21503 Brookgreen Falls Drive, Katy, Harris County, Texas 77450

