

WATER DROPS

Harris County Municipal Utility District 132 Board of Directors

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MUD 132 Annexes Over 32 Acres of the Former Atascocita Country Club Property

On August 15, 2013, MUD 132 completed the annexation of The Overlook event center and the Lifetime Fitness tennis facility, adding just over 32 acres to the District's existing 1,115 acres. The site includes roadways, parking lots, storage buildings, ponds, etc. Located on the former site of the Atascocita Country Club, the annexation of both properties was required by the District for the businesses to receive water, sewer, and related services going forward.

The Annexation History of MUD 132

In the 39 years since the creation of MUD 132, there have been several key annexations that have contributed to the total service area managed today. Below is a brief history of those annexations:

September 10, 1974: Municipal Utility District 132 is created to provide water, sanitary sewer, and drainage systems to an original service area of 886.394 acres – located in northeast Harris County, approximately 25 miles from the City of Houston.

July 29, 1975: MUD 132 reaches an agreement with Atascocita Country Club to provide out-of-district water and sewer service to Atascocita Country Club property adjacent to the District (the original 18-hole course was within MUD 132 boundaries when the District was established). As part of this agreement, the District acquired a water well from the country club.

November 22, 1976: MUD 132 annexes two parcels totaling 227.755 acres. This includes 148.018 acres of the northern portion of the District, including The Point, Pinehurst Section 4, and Kings River Estates, and 79.737 acres in the northern portion of the Pines and the adjoining commercial area south of FM 1960.

August 4, 1978: MUD 132 annexes one parcel of .875 acres at the northern corner of Golf Villas.

July 29, 2012: MUD 132 terminates the 1975 Atascocita Country Club service agreement on the agreement anniversary date (Atascocita Country Club closed at the end of 2009).

August 15, 2013: MUD 132 annexes the former club house and tennis activity 32.117 acre campus to provide service to the new businesses: Lifetime Fitness and The Overlook. The annexation process required approval by Houston City Council as the District is located within the Extra Territorial Jurisdiction of the City of Houston. These businesses now participate and receive District services on the same basis as all owners within the District.

For a total listing of areas served by MUD 132, visit the "Areas Served" page of the District website (www.hcmud132.com).

Do you have a water or sewer-related **EMERGENCY**? Call MUD 132's new dedicated **EMERGENCY** line at 281-398-8211. For other service-related questions, view our full list of contact numbers on the District website at: www.hcmud132.com/contact.

Conserve Water (and Dollars) in the Kitchen and Laundry Room

Our kitchens and laundry rooms can have some mighty thirsty appliances. Depending on the age (or old age) of your dishwasher and washing machines, replacing them with newer, more efficient models might result in significant savings in the long run – in both water and energy usage.

Wash Your Way to Savings

The washing machine, for example, **is the second largest water user in your home**, accounting for as much as 22 percent of the total residential water use. Thankfully, there are a wide variety of high-efficiency (HE) washers on the market, most with front-loading drums that require only 27 gallons or less per load. In comparison, conventional washers (manufactured between 1980 and 1990) use roughly 56 gallons of water per load. That means switching to a new HE model can result in a savings of around 50 percent! And if you combine this conserving technology with efficient use practices, like running only with full loads, selecting minimum volume settings and shorter wash cycles – even more savings are possible.

Tips to Save Water in the Kitchen

In the kitchen, the way you use your dishwasher and garbage disposal can impact the amount of water consumed. The water efficiency of dishwashers has improved steadily since the mid-1990s and because they are typi-



cally not used more than once a day, they do not account for a huge portion of the household demand. Today's newer, more efficient models, however, use only half of what the earlier ones did...about 7 gallons per load.

Avoiding waste is the key here...and **using a dishwasher properly can actually consume less water than doing them by hand**. The next time you go to run the dishwasher, remember this:

- Run with full loads only
- Minimize pre-washing by scraping off food using a utensil not water
- Make sure dishes are positioned to get good water flow during the cycle
- Select the shortest practical cycle

Garbage disposals also use a surprisingly large amount of water as they grind solid food waste into small particles that water washes down the drain. Consider composting your food scraps. It saves water twice – in the kitchen and in the final organic product which reduces the need for water for your plants. For more information on the best composting plan for your family, talk to an expert at your local garden supply store or nursery. There are countless options and many folks out there willing to help!

*Source: NHCRWA website – www.nhcrwa.com



Planning Ahead Helps to Reduce Downtime and Save Money When Dealing With an Aging Infrastructure

At MUD 132, we believe that a proactive approach to maintaining the District's infrastructure and in planning for future water supply needs is a key component in avoiding major issues down the line. The Board is always working in the best interests of our fellow neighbors, taxpayers and customers, and in a community with an aging infrastructure, planning ahead takes on even greater importance.

One example of how careful project planning today benefits the District and our customers for years to come is in the **Televising of Storm Sewers**. The District's storm sewers are being televised to determine if any obstructions exist that could potentially cause flooding.

The safety of our community is paramount, and we want to ensure that any obstructions found are cleared **BEFORE** an event occurs.

Whenever possible, a proactive approach to maintenance and water supply projects is preferred. There will be unforeseen issues, but as always, we will do our very best to resolve them quickly and with as little disruption to service as possible. The Board will continue to evaluate needs with a keen awareness that taxpayer dollars must be used in the most efficient and effective manner possible.

If you have any questions regarding MUD 132 projects or services, feel free to give us a call at 281-209-2100.

Proposition 6 on Ballot in November – Passage Will Transfer Dollars from Rainy Day Fund for Important Water Supply Projects



Water quality and water availability are important issues...some of the most important issues this country and our growing state face today and in the future. So, it's not surprising that the record drought of 2011 has a bi-partisan group of Texas legislators concerned and in full planning mode to secure adequate supplies of water for years to come.

In 2011, Texas suffered the worst, single-year drought in our state's history. The drought, which continues today, costs Texans billions of dollars in lost income annually. And some Texas communities struggle to maintain sufficient supplies of clean, affordable water.

Predictions have the population of Texas nearly doubling in the next 40 to 50 years. With current groundwater supplies declining, certain areas of the state will experience significant shortages if new supplies of water are not developed. To help ensure supplies are available, state legislators have brought forth a plan of action and voters will decide that plan's future.

Proposition 6 – On the Ballot

Proposition 6 is a constitutional amendment up for passage on November 5th (early voting runs October 21st through November 1st). In basic terms, the amendment authorizes the transfer of \$2 billion to the State Water Development Board from the State's Economic Stabilization Fund (**commonly called the "Rainy Day Fund"**) to loan to political subdivisions of the state. Those subdivisions will then implement water projects identified in the State Water Plan. Proposition 6 **IS NOT A TAX**. It simply allows for funds to be dispersed for approved projects identified in the State Water Plan.

Note: As the loans with favorable interest are repaid, new loans are provided for additional water projects, creating a revolving low-interest loan program that can leverage the \$2 billion into \$30 billion over the next 50 years.

If passed, TWBD will administer the fund, and water projects will originate from 16 regional water planning groups. So, who are these planning groups? Dividing up the state, each of the groups is comprised of public and private interests, including Texans representing public health, economic development, agriculture, local

government, ground and surface water management, and power generation. Each planning group evaluates population projections, water demand projections, and other factors that identify Texans who will not have enough water during times of drought. The groups are also responsible for recommending strategies and projects that could be implemented to obtain more water. It is a planning process that is driven by each region's local concerns.

Both the regional planning groups and the state must prioritize projects when they are needed, and assess project viability, sustainability, and cost-effectiveness. The highest priority must be given to projects that serve a large population, and the TWBD will make the final priority selection.

A Historical View

In 1997, the Texas Legislature adopted a consensus-driven water planning process which has since received praise nationwide and is considered by many to be the model for successful, locally-driven state water planning efforts. While our State Water Plan is essential to public health and the success of our economy, it is not yet fully implemented – a move that requires ongoing state financing. If we fail to implement the plan, by 2060, half of Texans will not have enough water during certain drought conditions. As stated earlier, drought conditions cost us billions of dollars in lost income every year. If we don't implement the State Water Plan, those losses could grow to \$116 billion annually.

In 2011, Texas voters approved \$6 billion in evergreen General Obligation Bond authority for the Texas Water Development Board (TWBD). That authority allows the TWBD to provide low interest loans to political subdivisions of the state (public water providers, water utilities, river authorities, etc.) for water projects that will help ensure a reliable supply of water in the future.

In May of 2013, the first step in the comprehensive program outlined in Proposition 6 was completed when an overwhelming bipartisan majority of the Texas Legislature approved the bill and set the matter for a vote by the people this November. Final passage of Proposition 6 requires the

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**Turn off the water while
brushing your teeth...and
save **ONE GALLON** of
water **EVERY MINUTE!****



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support of the majority of Texas voters.

A plan for the future of our water supply is imperative. Whatever voters decide in November, this must be a priority. If the drought has taught us anything, it is the importance of water to our daily lives. If we do not work now to ensure its availability in the future, this state will be in serious trouble. The recent rainfalls are welcome and a relief, but we cannot let this lure us into complacency. Harris County is still behind its normal rainfall level for the year. Much of Texas is still in a drought, and it would take little time without rain to bring us back to a difficult and challenging place.

Please exercise your right to vote and remember that this will be the first election where Texas' new photo identification will be implemented for those voting in person.

For the latest information on all things water in our region and throughout the state (including drought statistics, legislation, etc.), visit the homepage of our website at www.hcmud132.com and click on the "Drought Information" link. The information is updated on an almost daily basis (via www.watrnws.com) and is a fabulous and interesting source for Texas water news. For more about the implementation of the State Water Plan, you can go to www.H2O4Texas.org.

**Rainfall Statistics:
 January 2011 – September 2013
 (Total Inches/Month)**

For the latest rainfall statistics (by month), visit our website anytime at www.hcmud132.com and click on the "Rainfall Statistics" link.

<u>Month</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
Jan	5.50	4.65	6.25
Feb	1.05	9.20	3.90
March	1.55	6.95	0.55
April	0.00	2.75	5.60
May	0.40	1.25	3.50
June	2.30	1.60	2.56
July	3.10	5.70	6.45
Aug	0.40	2.95	3.00
Sept	0.75	4.40	7.00
Oct	4.35	1.15	
Nov	3.15	0.25	
Dec	6.70	3.90	
Total In./Yr	29.25	44.75	38.81 <i>(to date)</i>

*Source: Severn Trent Services (STS) Rain Gauge at Sewer Plant #109

Who to Call...

<p>Water, sewer and drainage questions: Harris County MUD 132 Customer Service Office 283 Lockhaven, Suite 208 Houston, TX 77073</p> <p>Billing Questions: 281.579.4500</p> <p>Service Calls: 281-209-2100</p> <p>Emergencies: 281-398-8211</p>	<p>NOTE: If you have water or sewer related problems, PLEASE CALL US BEFORE YOU CALL THE PLUMBER! We will investigate the problem at no cost to you. If it is found to be a water district-related problem, we will arrange to correct it. If it is not a water district issue, we will provide our advice. Remember, we are here to help!</p>	<p>HCMUD 132 Tax Questions Bob Leared Interests 713.932.9011 (Ask for the HCMUD 132 representative)</p> <p>HCMUD 132 Board Meetings The Harris County MUD 132 Board generally meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. For meeting location, please check the District website. Visit us online: www.hcmud132.com</p>	<p>Garbage Service Waste Management 713.686.6666</p>
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