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Executive Summary

Background

El Paso experienced extreme flooding in 2006 with residents and businesses suffering millions of dollars of damage. While the city had an extensive stormwater system in place, other fiscal priorities meant that maintenance had been neglected and the city had grown without an overall plan or construction of projects to improve the system and provide a greater level of protection. After the flooding, the City hired URS, an internationally known engineering firm, to assess the damage to the system: URS determined that 40 of 108 channels needed immediate attention, 41 storm drains were significantly undersized or in critical need, 19 ponds were severely damaged, two of the three largest dams needed upgrades, and all of the pump stations were in need of repair or replacement. The City issued $115 million in bonds and spent $100 million in existing funds to repair damage to some of the components of the stormwater system, but the total system repair cost was initially estimated by the City at over $400 million.

Recognizing that the stormwater system needed both an overall plan and dedicated funding to pay for maintenance and capital construction needs, the City Council delegated responsibilities for El Paso’s stormwater system to El Paso Water Utilities. EPWU is a public enterprise that assesses fees for the services it provides, which include obtaining, treating and supplying a reliable supply of fresh water to residents and businesses throughout the city, as well as collecting, treating and disposing of wastewater. In addition to making the new Stormwater Utility responsible for all phases of the stormwater system, the City Council mandated that 10 percent of the revenue from stormwater fees be used to acquire open space that had a connection to proposed flood control projects or would enhance flood control or provide additional water supply for the city.

In March 2008, the Stormwater Utility began assessing a fee based on the area of impervious surfaces at residences and businesses throughout the city, a common approach for such funding. This fee would fund regular maintenance of the channels, culverts, crossings, ponds and dams that make up the stormwater system, as well as purchase equipment to complete those tasks. It also would fund the development of a Stormwater Master Plan or roadmap for necessary improvements to the system to increase flood protection throughout the city and the construction of needed capital improvement projects.

The Utility has budgeted $75 million to fund capital projects during the first three years of this program.

Community Advisory Committee

The Stormwater Master Plan Community Advisory Committee (Committee) was convened because EPWU wanted to encourage public involvement in developing the CIP and identifying acquisitions from the 10 percent set-aside for open space. There were 31 active Committee members who represented neighborhoods throughout the city, business, civic and community organizations, schools, contractors and engineers, and other governmental entities. Over the course of five months, Committee members participated in nine regularly scheduled meetings including an informational tour of a
portion of the stormwater system. Each meeting included presentations related to the stormwater system and the master plan, and provided time for Committee members to ask questions and provide advice to EPWU as the Utility moved forward with this critical program.

The principle role of the Committee was to become familiar and knowledgeable about El Paso’s stormwater system, develop a list of community values the technical team could use in ranking CIP projects, and provide input on the priority order both of open space acquisitions and projects in the first three years of the CIP.

**Stormwater System Tour**

The Committee members also participated in a tour of a portion of the stormwater system. The tour began at McKelligon Dam and followed the path of flood water from that point to the Rio Grande. The entire system is composed of 267 ponding basins that cover approximately 1,347 acres, 87 drainage channels (approximately 101 miles in total length), 13 agricultural drains (approximately 47 miles in total length, which includes 40 miles owned by El Paso County Water Improvement District No.1 that are used for stormwater management and maintained by the Utility) and 16 pump stations. Committee members were able to see first-hand some of the numerous maintenance challenges with such a large system, as well as gain a greater understanding of issues such as flow paths and debris from the mountains and the need for correctly sized culverts and crossings.

**Community Values**

One of the most important tasks the Committee had was developing a list of community values related to El Paso’s stormwater system. The technical team developed criteria used to weight and rank project alternatives from an engineering perspective, but they needed to know what was important to the community as they looked at those alternatives. Committee members developed a lengthy list of points they felt were important when evaluating alternative ways to solve flooding problems. The summary of that list is reproduced here:

**Safety**
- Ensure personal and public safety in flood events.
- Prevent property damage to the extent possible.

**Aesthetics**
- A natural, aesthetic look is preferred wherever possible, including a preference for the use of natural materials.

**Dual Use**
- Ensure multi-functionality of structures, ponds and channels to the extent possible for drainage, recreation, habitat and aesthetics.

**Natural Systems**
- Maximize the use of existing natural drainage paths and arroyos wherever possible.
• Use natural vegetation for erosion control where possible.
• Use greenbelts or materials such as porous concrete for stormwater absorption where possible.
• Maintain natural plants and trees as part of the stormwater system when possible.

Design Considerations (Should be included in all stormwater project design.)
• Ease of maintenance is important throughout the system.
• Provide cost-effective solutions.
• Ensure the long-term reliability of the system.
• Solve the drainage problems in low-lying areas.
• Design/appearance of arroyo terminus is important.

Identification of Recommended Measures

Over the course of nine meetings, the Committee had extensive opportunity to listen and comment about stormwater issues.

• The first meeting included a presentation of background information about El Paso’s stormwater system, an overview of stormwater management, regulatory concepts, and how other communities are mitigating stormwater problems. Also included was a discussion of the parameters under which the Stormwater Utility operates: emergency projects will arise and repairs to the system must be made as needed; the recommendations for CIP years 1 – 3 must be made by February 2009 and the final master plan is due to City Council in March 2009; the CIP budget is set for the first three years as rates will not be increased during that time; and 10 percent of the stormwater revenue is allocated for open-space acquisition that benefits the stormwater system.

• At the second meeting, details were provided about the Stormwater Master Plan process and schedule. The Committee also had a detailed historical look at how El Paso’s stormwater system evolved, and then saw the extent of the maintenance projects that have been completed or are ongoing since March 2008.

• The Committee met on January 13, 21 and 28 to review the draft proposed priority list of CIP projects and open space acquisitions, including a review of the criteria and weighting factors for open-space parcels. URS presented a list of 103 proposed stormwater projects totaling over $570 million to bring the City’s stormwater infrastructure up to the standards in the Drainage Design Manual. URS also reviewed the prioritization process that was used to identify the projects proposed for the 10-year CIP program and of those, which projects were recommended for the first three years of the CIP program. These meetings were a forum for healthy discussion and many suggestions from members about how to explain what the recommended projects would do and the benefits they will provide to El Paso.

The result of this process is the list of recommendations contained in this report. EPWU will cash finance the recommended list of open-space projects, including park ponds as
City funds become available. The Utility will also proceed with CIP years 1 – 3 projects as recommended by the technical team, incorporating a map and clear description of the benefits each project will provide. In addition, the Utility will set aside $1 million annually to address localized flooding problems to enable minor street flooding problems to be corrected in conjunction with planned City street improvement projects. Several other recommendations are included in the report that may be considered by the City and EPWU as they continue to work together to ensure public and personal safety during flood events in the future.
Mission Statement and Principles of Participation

A mission statement and principles of participation were developed by the project team and reviewed by members of the Committee at the first meeting. The mission statement and principles of participation were the foundation for the Committee’s involvement in developing the Stormwater Master Plan and purchasing associated open-space properties. The mission statement defined the tasks asked of the Committee and the principles of participation outlined the general ground rules for meeting participation and participant conduct. The mission statement and principles of participation are provided in the following paragraphs.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Stormwater Master Plan Community Advisory Committee is to assist El Paso Water Utilities staff in developing a master plan for repairing, constructing and maintaining a system of facilities that safely, efficiently and cost-effectively conveys stormwater while minimizing the impacts to water quality and preserves and enhances the environment.

Principles of Participation

EPWU Goals
El Paso Water Utilities has established the following goals for the Stormwater Utility and associated stormwater system:

- Prevent flood-related deaths
- Improve EMS response time in storm events
- Reduce the number of structures susceptible to flood damage
- Ensure compliance with applicable laws
- Identify methods of keeping arroyos and channels erosion-free and stable
- Ensure that stormwater quality is maintained at a high level
- Identify opportunities where stormwater can cost-effectively add to groundwater recharge
- Identify ways stormwater system improvements can co-exist with recreational opportunities
- Open-space acquisition is a priority
- Incorporate community values in the Stormwater Master Plan development
- Balance available funding and community input to determine priority improvements to the stormwater system
- Accomplish stormwater system capital improvements in a cost-effective manner

Role of Committee Members
El Paso Water Utilities is asking participants of the Stormwater Master Plan Community Advisory Committee to assist EPWU staff to achieve these goals. Committee members are being asked to:

- Become knowledgeable about stormwater: what it is, why it needs to be managed, impacts from stormwater in urban areas, and related issues.
Become familiar with El Paso’s stormwater system, including all of its various components and what can and cannot be done to control the impacts from storm runoff.

Provide informed input to El Paso Water Utilities staff that will be used to complete the Master Plan. Specifically, it is requested that Committee members:
- Develop a list of community values related to El Paso’s stormwater system.
- Review the criteria developed by the technical team to rank alternatives to address flooding risk and refine criteria based on community values.
- Provide input on the priority of areas to be acquired as “open space” with the ten percent of stormwater fee revenue allocated for this purpose.
- Review the list of projects included in the first three years of the capital improvement program and provide input regarding the priority order of projects to be implemented.

**Representation**
Participants are being sought based upon several qualities:

- Willingness to work cooperatively with other Committee members.
- Commitment to attend the Committee meetings.
- Ability to present the perspective of an organization or constituency.

Every Committee member is asked to report back to his or her respective constituency to inform them about the Committee’s discussions and progress of the Stormwater Master Plan development. EPWU staff and consultants will be available to assist in this communication process, if desired.

**Discussion Process**
Committee members agree to abide by the following discussion process:

- All perspectives are valued.
- One person speaks at a time.
- The preferred deliberation process is collaborative problem solving.
- In cases of non-consensus, alternative perspectives will be documented.
- Committee members treat each other with respect.
- A neutral third-party of Katz & Associates, Inc., will facilitate the meetings.

**Meeting Attendance**
In order for the process to work effectively, full participation of members will be essential. Committee members are asked to commit to attend meetings consistently. If a Committee member becomes unavailable to attend a meeting, he or she may send an alternate to monitor that meeting. The alternate should be briefed by the Committee member regarding the status of prior discussions and decisions, and should be able and willing to represent that member and the perspectives the member represents. Active participation by the alternate is permissible if the alternate does not impede the progress of the Committee.

**Support**
A neutral third-party facilitator of Katz & Associates, Inc. will conduct all Committee meetings. The role of the facilitator is to ensure all perspectives are heard through a collaborative discussion process. EPWU staff and consultants will provide technical and
logistical support, including making presentations, answering questions, coordinating meetings and documenting meeting content. Meeting discussions may be audio taped to aid in the preparation of meeting summaries.

**Meeting Agendas**
Committee participation in establishment of agendas and matters of discussion will be encouraged. EPWU staff and the facilitator will be responsible for preparing the agendas in collaboration with Committee members. At the conclusion of each meeting, staff and Committee members will recommend items for inclusion in the next agenda and any action items requiring additional research. Agendas will be distributed by e-mail in advance of each meeting.

**Timeline**
The draft Stormwater Master Plan will need to be completed by January 2009, and finalized by March 2009. In order to accommodate this aggressive schedule, it will be important for the Committee to address items presented at each meeting as fully as possible. Lengthy discussions on items in which a majority consensus cannot be made, or where differing positions impede the process of the Committee as a whole, should be limited.

**Observers**
Observers are welcome at Committee meetings. However, meetings are intended for the benefit of the Committee members to promote balanced, constructive interaction. Observers will be asked to refrain from commenting during the proceedings. There will be an opportunity for public comment at the end of each meeting.

**Media**
Media present, if any, will be identified for the benefit of Committee members. Members will be asked not to make public statements about the group’s deliberations to the media that would tend to hamper constructive discussions. EPWU staff and consultants will also refrain from such statements about the Committee’s deliberations.

**Work Product**
The Committee will be asked to summarize its discussions at the conclusion of its work in the form of a written report. The written report will be prepared by the facilitator, in collaboration with Committee members. A draft summary report will be presented to the Committee for review and comment. It is suggested the report document the following:

- The scope and content of the Committee’s discussion.
- Recommendations to El Paso Water Utilities staff regarding specific improvements to El Paso’s stormwater system.
- Individual opinions and observations that may not be reflected in the main body of the report.

The Committee’s recommendations will be presented to the Public Service Board and the El Paso City Council.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member Organization</th>
<th>Member Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Associated General Contractors of America</td>
<td>Will Martinez</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associated General Contractors of Texas</td>
<td>Mike Brown</td>
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<td>Borderland Mountain Bike Association</td>
<td>Dr. Richard Bonart</td>
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<td>District 1 Representative</td>
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<td>Canutillo Independent School District</td>
<td>Dr. Pauline Dow</td>
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<td>City of El Paso Open Space Sub-Committee</td>
<td>Carl Pataky</td>
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<td>District 2 Representative</td>
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<td>City of El Paso Plan Commission</td>
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<td>Robert Bowling IV*</td>
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<td>El Paso Council of Engineering Companies</td>
<td>Mike Pink</td>
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<td>El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1</td>
<td>Jesus “Chuy” Reyes</td>
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<td>El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce</td>
<td>Cindy Ramos-Davidson</td>
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<td>Tanny Berg*</td>
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<td>El Paso Interreligious Sponsoring Organization</td>
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<td>El Paso Regional Economic Development Corp.</td>
<td>Bob Cook</td>
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<td>Richard Dayoub</td>
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<td>International Boundary and Water Commission</td>
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<td>Neighborhood Association – Central</td>
<td>Matthew Carroll</td>
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<td>Neighborhood Association – East</td>
<td>Mark Benitez</td>
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<td>Neighborhood Association – Lower Valley</td>
<td>Andres Ramirez</td>
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<td>Neighborhood Association – Northeast</td>
<td>Daniel Schulte</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alternate: Daniel Schulte, Jr.</td>
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<td>Neighborhood Association - West</td>
<td>Douglas Echlin</td>
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<td>Paso del Norte Group</td>
<td>Lisa Colquitt-Muñoz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alternate: Jorge Ramos</td>
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<td>Save the Valley Neighborhood/Civic Association</td>
<td>Mary Frances Keisling</td>
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<td>Socorro Independent School District</td>
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<td>Alternate: Rafael Padilla</td>
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<td>Texas Board of Professional Engineers</td>
<td>Joe Cardenas</td>
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<td>Texas Department of Transportation</td>
<td>Horacio Fernandez</td>
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<td>Alternate: Antonio Santana</td>
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<td>University of Texas at El Paso</td>
<td>Dr. John Walton</td>
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<td>Alternate: John Sproul</td>
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<td>U.S. Army of Corps of Engineers</td>
<td>Ben Alanis*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Village of Vinton</td>
<td>Jessica Garza*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ysleta Independent School District</td>
<td>Santiago Loredo</td>
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*These members either attended no meetings or only one meeting.*
Recommendations

The recommendations listed below include motions from the January 28, 2009, meeting as well as recommended actions identified during discussions at various Committee meetings. Examples of other recommendations are ensuring: the Drainage Design Manual is updated to address Community Values and Green Design Techniques; the City and EPWU are communicating well from design to construction; and the public is well informed about proposed projects and impacts. The recommendations outlined in this report gained general support from a majority of the community advisory Committee members.

Motions Related to Open Space, CIP Project Priority and Localized Flooding

Three motions were passed by the majority of members attending the January 28 meeting (21 votes in favor, two abstentions [Socorro Independent School District and Texas Department of Transportation] and one member not voting [El Paso New Car Dealers Association, Mayor’s Representative]).

- **Cash fund the open space acquisitions included on the proposed list distributed at the meeting and the Saipan Park Pond Project as the City has available funding to make improvements to the park ponds, begin to fund those projects on a cash basis.** (see Appendix D)
  Stormwater funds for the Saipan Project are for turf and landscaping and the City will pay the remainder of costs for this project. However, the Committee was concerned that the City might not have available funding to make improvements required at the other park pond projects presented at the January 13, 2009 meeting. For this reason, the group did not want to move forward with these projects until the funding issues are resolved. Committee members also expressed concern with the concept of debt financing for these acquisitions for several reasons, including the fact that the debt service cost would use funds that could otherwise be put to use on projects. The recommended list of open space acquisitions is estimated at $3.9 million, which can be accomplished during the first three years of the program. The Committee also urged the City and the Utility to revisit the issues of funding park ponds periodically as updated information on funding becomes available.

- **Approve the project list and priority order as presented for CIP years 1 – 3 with the debt-financing plan as described.** (see Appendix C)
  Committee members understood and supported the need to issue revenue bonds to fund the first three years of CIP project construction to accomplish a significant level of protection for life and property, the Committee’s top community value related to stormwater. In fact, there was consensus that the amount of debt financing proposed for open-space acquisition be transferred to the CIP projects in order to construct an additional project.

- **Support the allocation of $1 million annually to address localized-flooding problems, which will be completed in conjunction with planned City projects.**
  Committee members acknowledged that resolving localized flooding problems was important and approved the proposal. As the City works on projects, EPWU will work on stormwater system improvements in conjunction with the City’s work.
Other Recommendations

Stormwater Management Policy

1. The City needs to ensure that all future developments provide for adequate stormwater management. The current Drainage Design Manual identifies the criteria and standards for ensuring that new designs must meet the minimum standards. However, it is recommended that the Drainage Design Manual be revised to provide more general development guidelines such as the Community Values developed by this Committee. The Drainage Design Manual should also contain a section describing Green Design Techniques that should be considered when designing stormwater infrastructure projects.

2. Developers, engineers and City staff will follow the requirements in the Drainage Design Manual, to ensure stormwater is managed in an effective way consistent with the Community Values as listed in this report.

3. The Committee would like to see the County consider implementing the Drainage Design Manual.

4. The Stormwater Utility, given its responsibilities, should be a formal partner in the approval process for subdivision plans to ensure that new developments comply with the Drainage Design Manual.

5. The City should develop a policy of encouraging the use of Green Design Techniques in all stormwater infrastructure projects.

6. The City and Utility should develop best management practices (BMPs) for the land development process. Appropriate levels of vegetative/permeable cover and other “green” requirements for new development to mitigate against increased runoff should be developed. The use of arroyos and other natural drainage features should be maximized. These would enhance the BMPs already incorporated in the DDM.

Ponding Areas

7. Ponding areas should be allowed to have natural vegetation on the slopes, as long as it does not interfere with access and function of the pond in order to provide bird and wildlife habitat.

8. EPWU should maximize beneficial use of silt removed from ponds where appropriate.

Public Information and Education

9. The Stormwater Master Plan Community Advisory Committee (or its successor) should be used as an oversight committee that meets periodically with EPWU staff to hear updates on the open-space acquisition and CIP project progress and provide advice as needed.
10. Educate El Paso residents about what they need to do to help protect their property against flooding. For example, people need to know how to landscape their lawns so that they drain properly.

11. Conduct a community outreach program in areas where projects are proposed to be constructed during the environmental and design phases, as well as when construction is underway.

12. Identify stormwater projects by installing signs to inform the community that stormwater funds are used for this project.
Conclusion

Over the course of nine meetings and four months of information sharing and discussions, the Stormwater Master Plan Community Advisory Committee met for the last time on February 4, 2009. The major recommendations made by the group include:

- Funding the recommended list of open space acquisitions and improvements to the Saipan Park Pond Project through available revenue from the 10 percent set-aside for this purpose.
- Approving the list of stormwater projects in the priority order recommended by the technical team for CIP years 1 – 3.
- Supporting the allocation of $1 million annually to address localized flooding problems. This will be done in conjunction with planned City street improvement projects.

In addition, the Utility intends to reconvene the Committee on occasion to update them on progress.
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<th>Meeting</th>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting 1</td>
<td>Thursday, September 11, 2008</td>
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<td>Meeting 2</td>
<td>Wednesday, October 1, 2008</td>
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<td>Meeting 3</td>
<td>Saturday, October 11, 2008</td>
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<td>Wednesday, October 29, 2008</td>
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<td>Wednesday, November 19, 2008</td>
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<td>Meeting 9</td>
<td>Wednesday, February 4, 2009</td>
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Stormwater Master Plan Community Advisory Committee
Agenda - Meeting #1

Thursday, September 11, 2008
Carlos M. Ramirez TecH2O Water Resources Learning Center
10751 Montana Avenue, El Paso, Texas

5:30 to 6 p.m. – Meet and Greet
6 to 8:30 p.m. – Community Advisory Committee Meeting

1. Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review
   Patricia Tennyson, Facilitator

2. Introduction to El Paso’s Stormwater Utility
   Ed Archuleta, President and CEO, El Paso Water Utilities

3. Mission Statement and Principles of Participation
   Patricia Tennyson

4. Stormwater: What is it, what are its impacts, and what are other communities doing to address stormwater issues?
   Karen Stearns, Stormwater Master Plan Program Manager, URS Corporation

5. EPWU Parameters and Constraints Related to the Stormwater Master Plan
   John Balliew, Vice President of Operations and Technical Services, El Paso Water Utilities

6. Administrative
   - Meeting Schedule
   - System Tour (8:30 a.m. start time)
   - Roster (what information public?)
   Patricia Tennyson

7. Public Comment
   Patricia Tennyson

Appendix B
Stormwater Master Plan Community Advisory Committee
Agenda – Meeting #2

Wednesday, October 1, 2008
Carlos M. Ramirez TecH2O Water Resources Learning Center
10751 Montana Avenue, El Paso, Texas

5:30 to 6 p.m. – Meet and Greet
6 to 8:30 p.m. – Community Advisory Committee Meeting

1. Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review
   Patricia Tennyson, Facilitator

2. Storm 2006 Projects
   R. Alan Shubert, City Engineer
   City of El Paso

3. El Paso’s Stormwater System: Overview of the system and recent maintenance projects
   Gonzalo Cedillos, EPWU Stormwater Engineering Manager
   Jose Luis Sierra, EPWU Stormwater Operations Manager

4. Stormwater Master Plan Overview
   Rick French, Stormwater Master Plan Project Manager
   URS Corporation

5. Community Values Identification – Brainstorming
   Committee Members

6. Administrative
   • System Tour: Logistics, schedule and participant confirmation
   • Other items
   Patricia Tennyson

7. Public Comment
   Patricia Tennyson
Stormwater Master Plan Community Advisory Committee
Agenda – Meeting #4

Wednesday, October 29, 2008
Carlos M. Ramirez TecH2O Water Resources Learning Center
10751 Montana Avenue, El Paso, Texas

5:30 to 6 p.m. – Meet and Greet
6 to 8:30 p.m. – Community Advisory Committee Meeting

1. Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review, Review September 11 and October 1 Meeting Summaries
   Patricia Tennyson, Facilitator

2. Review Stormwater System Tour Highlights
   Committee Members

3. Review/Refine Community Values List
   Committee Members

4. Technical Criteria for Ranking Alternatives to Address Stormwater System Problems
   Rick French, Stormwater Master Plan Project Manager
   URS Corporation

5. Suggest Additional Criteria or Refinements to Proposed Technical Criteria
   Committee Members

6. City Trees: A Green Infrastructure That Makes a Difference
   Oscar Mestas, Staff Forester III
   Texas Forest Service

   Shamori Whitt, Parks and Recreation Department
   City of El Paso

8. Administrative
   ▪ Review meeting schedule
   ▪ Other items
   Patricia Tennyson

7. Public Comment
   Patricia Tennyson
Stormwater Master Plan Community Advisory Committee
Agenda – Meeting #5

Wednesday, November 19, 2008
Carlos M. Ramirez TecH2O Water Resources Learning Center
10751 Montana Avenue, El Paso, Texas

5:30 to 6 p.m. – Meet and Greet
6 to 8:30 p.m. – Community Advisory Committee Meeting

1. Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review, Review
   October 1 and 29 Meeting Summaries; Review
   Committee Requests from October 29 meeting
   Patricia Tennyson, Facilitator

2. Review Revised Community Values List and
   Summary
   Committee Members

3. Questions on City Trees and “Towards a Bright
   Future” Presentations from October 29
   Committee Members

4. Green Design Considerations for the Stormwater
   Master Plan
   Karen Stearns, Stormwater Master
   Plan Program Manager
   URS Corporation

5. “Non-dig” Alternative for Castner Range
   Rick French, Stormwater Master
   Plan Project Manager
   URS Corporation

6. Use of Open Space Funds
   John Balliew, Vice President –
   Operations and Technical Services
   El Paso Water Utilities

7. El Paso’s Parks Master Plan
   Nanette Smejkal, Director –
   Parks and Recreation
   City of El Paso

8. Clarification Regarding CIP Budget Schedule
   John Balliew

9. Administrative Issues
   ■ Review meeting schedule
   ■ Other?
   Patricia Tennyson

10. Public Comment
    Patricia Tennyson
Stormwater Master Plan Community Advisory Committee
Agenda – Meeting #6

Tuesday, January 13, 2009
Carlos M. Ramirez TecH2O Water Resources Learning Center
10751 Montana Avenue, El Paso, Texas

5:30 to 6 p.m. – Meet and Greet
6 to 8:30 p.m. – Community Advisory Committee Meeting

1. Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review; Review October 29 and November 19 Meeting Summaries
   Patricia Tennyson, Facilitator

2. Stormwater Capital Improvements Program and Open Space Project Update
   John Balliew, Vice President–Operations and Technical Services
   El Paso Water Utilities

3. City of El Paso Parks and Recreation Master Plan: Dual Use “Park Ponds”
   Nanette Smejkal, Director–Parks and Recreation
   City of El Paso

4. Draft Open Space Matrix
   John Balliew
   Committee Members

5. Capital Improvement Program Project Recommendations and Priority List
   Rick French, Stormwater Master Plan Project Manager
   URS Corporation

6. Begin Discussion Regarding Priority List
   Committee Members

7. Administrative
   - Review meeting schedule
   - Other items
   Patricia Tennyson

8. Public Comment
   Patricia Tennyson
Stormwater Master Plan Community Advisory Committee
Agenda - Meeting #7

Wednesday, January 21, 2009
Carlos M. Ramirez TecH2O Water Resources Learning Center
10751 Montana Avenue, El Paso, Texas

5:30 to 6 p.m. – Meet and Greet
6 to 8:30 p.m. – Community Advisory Committee Meeting

1. Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review; Review January 13 Meeting Summary  
   Patricia Tennyson, Facilitator

2. Additional Information Regarding Capital Improvements Program Project Draft Priority List  
   Rick French, Stormwater Master Plan Project Manager  
   URS Corporation

3. Make Recommendations Regarding the Capital Improvements Program Draft Projects/Priority List for Years One Through Three  
   Committee Members

4. Open Space Criteria Descriptions  
   John Balliew, Vice President–Operations and Technical Services  
   El Paso Water Utilities

5. Open Space/Park Ponds Draft Recommendations and Priority List – Begin Review  
   John Balliew  
   Committee Members

6. Administrative
   ▪ Look ahead to final committee report  
   ▪ Other items?  
   Patricia Tennyson

7. Public Comment  
   Patricia Tennyson

(Note: Order of presentations may change.)
Stormwater Master Plan Community Advisory Committee
Agenda – Meeting #8

Wednesday, January 28, 2009
Carlos M. Ramirez TecH₂O Water Resources Learning Center
10751 Montana Avenue, El Paso, Texas

5:30 to 6 p.m. – Meet and Greet
6 to 8:30 p.m. – Community Advisory Committee Meeting

1. Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Review; January 13 and 21 Meeting Summaries
   Patricia Tennyson, Facilitator

2. Open Space Recommendations:
   Committee Members
   - Open Space Project List as presented? Revisions?
   - Dual Use Park Ponds List as presented? Revisions?
   - Debt financing for open space purchases?
   - Approval of final recommendations

3. Capital Improvement Program Project List
   Recommendations for Years 1 to 3
   Committee Members
   - Should any projects move in or out of years 1 to 3?
   - Should the priority order of projects in years 1 to 3 be changed?
   - Approval of final recommendations

4. Other Recommendations
   Committee Members
   - Is the proposed $1 million per year for localized flooding problems adequate?

5. Administrative
   Patricia Tennyson
   - Look ahead to final committee report
   - Other?

6. Public Comment
   Patricia Tennyson
Stormwater Master Plan Community Advisory Committee
Agenda – Meeting #9

Wednesday, February 4, 2009
Carlos M. Ramirez TecH2O Water Resources Learning Center
10751 Montana Avenue, El Paso, Texas

5:30 to 6 p.m. – Meet and Greet
6 to 8:30 p.m. – Community Advisory Committee Meeting

1. Welcome, Introductions, Review, January 21 and 28 Meeting Summaries
   Patricia Tennyson, Facilitator

2. Adopt Final Committee Report
   Committee Members

3. Public Comment
   Patricia Tennyson
Stormwater Master Plan
Community Advisory Committee

Thursday, September 11, 2008
Carlos M. Ramirez TecH2O Water Resources Learning Center
10751 Montana Avenue, El Paso, Texas

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Tanny Berg, El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Rick Bonart, Borderland Mountain Bike Association
Bobby Bowling, El Paso Association of Builders
Mike Brown, Associated General Contractors of Texas
Jerry Carlson, El Paso Apartment Association
Matt Carroll, Neighborhood Association Representative – Central
Bob Cook, El Paso Regional Economic Development Corporation
Doug Echlin, Neighborhood Association Representative – West
Horacio Fernandez, Texas Department of Transportation
Steve Hoy, El Paso New Car Dealers Association
Mary Frances Keisling, Save the Valley Neighborhood/Civic Association
Jimmy Loredo, Ysleta Independent School District
Belinda Luna, City Plan Commission
Will Martinez, Associated General Contractors of El Paso
Cassie McKenzie, Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce
Oscar Mestas, Neighborhood Association Representative – East
Gerald Miller, El Paso New Car Dealers Association
Dan Olivas, Greater El Paso Association of Realtors
Rafael Padilla, Socorro Independent School District
Kenneth Parker, El Paso Independent School District
Mike Pink, El Paso Council of Engineering Companies
Andy Ramirez, Neighborhood Association Representative – Lower Valley
Jorge Ramos, Paso del Norte Group
Cindy Ramos-Davidson, El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Jane Ratcliff, District 4 Representative
Jesus Reyes, El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1
Alfredo Riera, International Boundary and Water Commission
Dan Schulte, Neighborhood Association Representative – Northeast
Teodora Trujillo, El Paso Interreligious Sponsoring Organization
John Walton, University of Texas El Paso

STAFF AND CONSULTANTS

Ed Archuleta, El Paso Water Utilities
John Balliew, El Paso Water Utilities
David Brosman, El Paso Water Utilities
Gretchen Byram, El Paso Water Utilities

Gonzalo Cedillos, El Paso Water Utilities
Nick Costanzo, El Paso Water Utilities
Rick French, URS
Shane Griffith, El Paso Water Utilities
1. Welcome and Introductions

At 6:08 p.m., Patricia Tennyson, meeting facilitator, welcomed everyone to the first Stormwater Master Plan Community Advisory Committee meeting. She introduced Shane Griffith, EPWU, who was preparing the meeting summaries and audiotaping the meetings. Ms. Tennyson reviewed the materials included in the binders that had been distributed to committee members. Members and observers then introduced themselves and identified the organization/constituency they represented.

2. Introduction to El Paso’s Stormwater Utility

Ed Archuleta, EPWU, pointed out the diversity of interests represented by the members. He expressed EPWU’s desire to make the meetings as inclusive as possible for the benefit of the City of El Paso. He offered tours of TecH2O and the Kay Bailey Hutchison Desalination Plant to interested parties.

Mr. Archuleta recounted his experience of collaborating with many groups in the private and public sectors over the past 20 years to improve El Paso’s water supply, treatment and distribution systems, as well as the wastewater collection, treatment and disposal systems. He said these projects would not have been successful without community input and participation.

Mr. Archuleta said stormwater had not been a priority for the City of El Paso in the past, but that could change now that EPWU was responsible for the system. He added that members would provide critical input to the first comprehensive Stormwater Master Plan. He presented an overview of the stormwater infrastructure. The system contains 267 ponding basins (approx. 1,347 acres), 87 drainage channels (approx. 101 miles), 13 agricultural drains (approx. 47 miles) and 16 pump stations.

Mr. Archuleta said the El Paso grew without regard to an overall plan and system maintenance had been sporadic. Storm 2006 was a disaster and became the wake up call for the need of a better stormwater system. As a result, URS, one of the world’s largest engineering firms, was retained to assess damage to the system and recommend a strategy for repairing it. URS determined that 40 of 108 channels needed immediate attention, 41 storm drains were significantly

Appendix C
undersized or in critical need, 19 ponds were severely damaged, two of the three largest dams needed upgrades and all of the pump stations needed repair or replacement.

Mr. Archuleta noted that many of the projects were previously proposed, but there was a lack of funding due to competing needs. After Storm 2006, the City issued $115 million in bonds for the prioritized Phase I, II and III projects, which are repairing the system that suffered $200 million-plus in damage during Storm 2006.

The City Council delegated stormwater responsibilities to EPWU as a self-sustaining business enterprise effective March 1, 2008. Council also mandated that 10 percent of the revenue from stormwater fees would be used to acquire hydraulically connected open space. One of the advisory committee’s responsibilities would be to recommend a priority order for open space purchases identified by the engineering consultant. Members would also identify community values related to El Paso’s stormwater system and recommend the priority order of projects for the first three years of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The three-year capital expenditures were originally estimated to be $75 million; however, after rate reductions in May 2008, the expenditures dropped to $42.9 million for the first three years.

Mr. Archuleta said the stormwater utility had responded to more than 800 work request orders since assuming responsibility for the system in March. One reason for the maintenance needs was the tremendous amount of silt carried into the stormwater system.

3. Stormwater Background

Karen Stearns, URS Stormwater Master Plan Program Manager, introduced herself and began her presentation on “Stormwater 101” to inform committee members on the topic.

The stormwater system includes storm drains, channels, arroyos, dams, ponds, and pump stations. The capacity of this system varies throughout the city. El Paso was declared a federal disaster by FEMA on August 15, 2006. The amount of damage sustained by the city underscored the need for a stormwater master plan. One of the elements of the master plan will be a 10-year CIP. Ms. Stearns encouraged the members to think about how that budget should be spent and what projects should be implemented first. Part of the master plan is to identify alternative solutions or options to solve a particular area’s problem.

Ms. Stearns defined common stormwater terms and explained the “100-year storm,” which is a commonly misunderstood term. She said a 100-year storm is really a one in one hundred chance, or statistical probability, that engineers use to describe a rain event. It is based on the historical rainfall measurements of a particular region. There are many false statements regarding this term, i.e., a region just had a 100-year storm; therefore, it won’t happen again in 99 years. Ms. Stearns said that was not true. A 100-year storm can occur two years in a row, or year after year. She also discussed the significance of runoff and watersheds.

John Walton, UTEP, asked how a 100-year storm relates to all design basis storm projects. Ms. Stearns responded that the drainage design manual typically requires projects to be designed for the 100-year storm design storm. Dr. Walton asked if the 100-year storm has anything to do with duration. Ms. Stearns said it does.

She continued with true statements about a 100-year storm: it can occur year after year; it does not always cause a 100-year flood because it depends on the extent of rainfall in the watershed, soil saturation levels before the rain, relation between the size of the watershed and the
duration of the storm. In addition, the determination of a 100-year storm can be adjusted as more measurements are collected over a longer period.

Matt Carroll, Central Neighborhood Association Representative, asked how often the 100-year-storm definition is recalculated for a particular area. Ms. Stearns said it usually occurs as part of an initiative by national or local agencies like NOAA or EPWU can commission a consulting engineer. She said it is not practical to do calculations every year. El Paso last updated its 100-year storm definition after Storm 2006. Jerry Thiedt, community member, commented that the term “100-year storm” is confusing and leads people to believe the wrong thing.

Ms. Stearns then focused on the hydraulics of stormwater. She said the capacity of a stormwater system is the cross-sectional area (i.e., width by depth of water) multiplied by the velocity. This is affected by the amount of rainfall, the soil type and saturation level, vegetation coverage and effects of development. She then discussed natural arroyos and channels, their ability to move water quickly and the problems of erosion due to high velocities. She said common problems occur with road crossings and improperly designed and undersized culverts.

Cassie McKenzie, Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce, asked if the roads were initially designed to carry water. Ms. Stearns said that roads naturally transport stormwater. When stormwater becomes too deep for vehicles and pedestrians, the water is diverted off road by way of storm drains, channels and ditches.

Ms. Stearns discussed the hydraulic importance of levees, bridges, culverts, pump stations, retention and detention ponds, dams, sediment traps, drop structures, alluvial fan flooding and keeping stormwater runoff clean. She explained that metropolitan areas go through different stages of stormwater management as they develop. A small town cannot afford a large, long-term stormwater solution that might be needed by a larger city.

El Paso is moving to the next level of stormwater development. The first step was the Drainage Design Manual, which contains the guidelines and requirements for engineers building stormwater infrastructure. She said the manual is available on the City’s website.

She then discussed refining storm predictions; stormwater construction options; defining community values, i.e. not installing dams in residential areas when community members dislike them; watershed/floodplain management, i.e. the need to analyze drainage from a watershed and community perspective rather than an individual homeowner’s perspective; and initiating dual use for stormwater infrastructure, i.e., opening a channel’s maintenance road for runners and bikers.

Ms. Stearns concluded her presentation by showing evaluation criteria for stormwater solutions. She said the objectives of stormwater solutions are: reduced flood risk, cost-effectiveness, easily built and maintained, reduced pollutants, aesthetically-pleasing and safe, and conforming to community values.

Questions and Comments

Dan Olivas, Greater El Paso Association of Realtors, asked if Ms. Stearns, URS Stormwater Master Plan Program Manager, had compared El Paso to Albuquerque when she said El Paso has many ponds. Ms. Stearns replied no, but most of the stormwater infrastructure in Northeast El Paso was ponds. Mr. Olivas asked if that was good. Ms. Stearns said that it was not good or bad; it’s just how it was.
Belinda Luna, City Plan Commission, asked about incorporating dual-use applications with detention ponds. Ms. Stearns said they can be used for soccer fields, for example. Ms. Luna agreed, but said developers might agree to other dual-use alternatives.

Cassie McKenzie, Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce, said there was a provision for developers to construct dual-park ponds, but that the City had moved away from this practice. She recommended rewriting the subdivision code to allow for park ponds. Ms. Luna repeated she would like to see alternatives other than park ponds, which have not had dual usage and are not aesthetically pleasing.

Bobby Bowling, El Paso Association of Builders, said developers have always had the option of building dual-usage park ponds. He expressed his hope that it would get easier with rewrites to the subdivision ordinances, but cost was the primary limiting factor since the Parks and Recreation Department had unreasonable standards for the slope on the sides of the banks. They require gentle slopes for safe mowing, which means ponds require much more land. Ms. Luna asked Mr. Bowling to suggest a solution to this problem. Mr. Bowling said privatizing park maintenance might result in companies finding a way to maintain a pond with steep sides. He expressed his concern that the stormwater advisory committee was not formed before the stormwater fee was implemented. He said it was unfair that businesses had to pay more per square foot of impervious area than residential properties.

Ed Archuleta, EPWU, explained that the Utility was asked to develop a fee structure first and then do the planning to improve the system because of the emergency of Storm 2006. EPWU will issue bonds to fund construction of the capital improvement projects rather than cash-funding them. EPWU has also doubled the amount of maintenance the City had been doing and would buy equipment to operate and maintain the system.

Patricia Tennyson, meeting facilitator, asked members not to focus on the stormwater fee issue, because their charge was prioritize to the initial projects for the master plan. She said there might be a way to address stormwater fee issues outside of the committee. Mr. Carroll said he attended the first meetings of the Public Service Board and City Council in which it was agreed that residential properties should pay 40 percent of the stormwater cost and the commercial properties 60 percent. He said most of the people who complained about the fee structure were conspicuous in their absence from those meetings, and they could not say they were denied an opportunity for input. He agreed that the rate structure was not the responsibility of the advisory committee.

Mr. Carroll commented on the dual use of stormwater infrastructure and recommended allowing ponding areas to grow natural vegetation on their slopes if it did not interfere with access and function. He said this would provide a tremendous amount of bird and wildlife habitat. He pointed out that roadrunners were once dominant in residential areas, but were now quite scarce because of a lack of nesting habitation.

Andy Ramirez, Lower Valley Neighborhood Association Representative, asked for suggested solutions to the stormwater problem. He said the City should implement code enforcement to prevent homeowners from changing their yards and affecting the neighbors down the street. Ms. Stearns said some communities require backyard ponds within easements. If a property owner reconstructs the pond, the City can reshape it. She said this might not be a good idea for new development, but might be a good idea for existing developments. She said the committee could look at different ideas.
Will Martinez, Associated General Contractors, said Colorado Springs controls its melting snow packs through greenbelts. Whenever a new development is constructed it has to leave a minimum amount of greenway on the ground to absorb the moisture. He said El Paso shot itself in the foot by encouraging everyone to xeriscape their yards and providing rebates to do so. This contributed to increased stormwater runoff and decreased revenue because of reduced water use.

Ms. McKenzie asked Mr. Archuleta about the origin of the capital expenditure estimate on page 7 in the binder. Mr. Archuleta said the three-year capital expenditure estimate was based on the initial fee structure, which was reduced in May 2008. He said Mayor Cook and City Council wanted the PSB to set the rate for three years so the capital program could begin. He reminded the committee of its responsibility to review the priority of projects for the first three years of the capital program to determine if they agreed or wanted to suggest changes.

Mr. Olivas asked if there was a figure for the actual cost of cleaning existing structures and building new structures. Mr. Archuleta said the figure was not known yet and it was part of what the committee would review. The charge was to develop a 10-year capital program with specific prioritized projects detailed for the first three years, so they could be implemented within the budgeted CIP. Mr. Olivas said part of the public’s confusion was the cost of stormwater projects.

Mr. Archuleta said although the City issued $115 million in bonds to repair the system, a lot more was needed. In addition, the City did not have enough money for proper maintenance, so there was a backlog of unfunded stormwater needs. EPWU expected to collect about $17 million in fees this year, about half of which would be for maintenance, and the rest for capital improvements and equipment purchases. Ms. Tennyson said in-depth information about maintaining El Paso’s stormwater system would be presented at the next meeting.

Gerald Thiedt, community member, said he conducted a study and discovered that xeriscaped property contributed greatly to the stormwater problem. He asked how EPWU would convince people to reverse that process. Mr. Archuleta said lack of a master plan, improper installation of xeriscaping by uncertified landscapers, lack of design materials and an individual-development mentality rather than a watershed or citywide perspective of stormwater management have all contributed to the problem.

Mr. Bowling said it was not fair to say there was no design manual because developers were required to follow the City ordinance. Mr. Archuleta said the design manual provided a more comprehensive way to approach stormwater design. Mr. Bowling said each subdivision was required to follow its own stormwater design for a 100-year event. Mr. Archuleta said that illustrated his point – developers were only responsible for a stormwater system designed for one area.

Tanny Berg, El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, asked Mr. Archuleta if the City was making the contribution it should out of its regular budget toward stormwater management. Mr. Archuleta said the City reduced its stormwater budget essentially to zero, and he estimated that managing the system effectively would cost about $7 million for maintenance and at least that much for the capital program. Mr. Berg said the City still had to pick up some of the responsibility. Mr. Archuleta said that was a possibility, but unlikely because it would require a tax increase, which was viewed unfavorably in El Paso.

Mr. Olivas said it was easy to find fault by looking toward the past. He encouraged members to move forward in a positive way and make sure that the City did not commit the same mistakes in the future. Ms. Stearns added that stormwater management occurs at very different levels. El
Paso was once a small town that had limited general funds. As the city grew and produced more runoff, there never seemed to be enough money to address the needs of the stormwater system. Homeowners want parks, good schools, fire and police protection and other services that tend to get more focus than stormwater.

4. Mission Statement and Principles of Participation

Patricia Tennyson, meeting facilitator, reviewed the committee’s mission statement and principles of participation. She read aloud from the document to ensure that committee members were aware of the goals for the stormwater system, as well as what members were asked to do. Members would identify community values regarding stormwater in El Paso, provide input on the priority of areas to be acquired as open space using 10 percent of stormwater fee revenue, and offer suggestions related to the priority list of stormwater projects to be completed within the first three years of the capital improvement program.

She asked members to commit to attending each meeting or naming an alternate who would attend on their behalf. Members were asked to provide the name of their alternate, if applicable, and to inform the alternate about the meeting background so he or she could contribute to committee discussions.

Ms. Tennyson reviewed the committee’s timeline: provide recommendations on the first three years of the capital program by January 2009 so this can go to the PSB for budget allocations. The final stormwater master plan is due to City Council in March 2009.

She noted that guests were welcome to attend meetings, but meetings were scheduled for the benefit of committee member discussion and balanced, constructive interaction. Ms. Luna asked how she could share information about the process with her colleagues. Ms. Tennyson said the project staff would be happy to assist with presentations.

Oscar Mestas, Neighborhood Association Representative – East, asked how he could share his knowledge of stormwater with the other committee members. Mr. Archuleta said other views on this topic would be helpful, and Ms. Stearns invited Mr. Mestas to discuss his ideas after the meeting.

Jesus Reyes, El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1, said he and former City Representative Vivian Rojas developed a walking/jogging path with picnic tables and park benches along the banks of ponds and behind drains that could be developed for dual use. He said it was possible to create miles of safe jogging/biking paths with no danger of car traffic. Ms. Tennyson said EPWU would take members on a tour of the stormwater system on Saturday, Oct. 11 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and they would consider adding this area. She then reviewed the remaining meeting dates.

Mr. Bowling proposed that when EPWU removed silt from ponds they consider partnering with developers that need dirt and might clean the pond and haul away the silt because this might save maintenance costs. A community member said the committee’s charge included developing a community standard. He acknowledged park ponds as a sore spot and hoped there would be a map and inventory of the 400 ponds dispersed throughout the city.

5. EPWU Parameters and Constraints

John Balliew, EPWU, said everyone in the room had an opportunity to shape the face of El Paso in an extremely beneficial way.
He presented four parameters/constraints that the Utility must operate under:

- Emergency projects arise each year and repairs must be made to the system as necessary.
- Recommendations for the first three years of capital projects must be sent to the Public Service Board in January 2009, and the final master plan must be submitted to the City Council in March.
- The CIP and its budget are set for three years because the rates are set for three years. The CIP for the first three years will be detailed, but the remaining projections will have less detail and must be reviewed after a few years. Prioritization will be extremely important because all the projects must fit into the budgeted funds.
- Ten percent of the stormwater revenue is allocated to acquiring open space, but the open space must benefit the stormwater system. Open space funds are estimated at approximately $1.6 million per year.

Mr. Balliew then addressed the following points: revenue is limited, projects must stay within budget, and the reduced stormwater rates trade affordability for risk. He said the points on park ponds being sore spots were well taken, but park ponds would be a viable option.

Questions and Comments

Kenneth Parker, El Paso Independent School District, asked if the 10 percent open space decision was made by the City Council. John Balliew, EPWU, said the ordinance that created the stormwater utility specifically stated that 10 percent of the stormwater revenue was to be dedicated to the acquisition of real estate for open space.

An observer asked when members would see the list of all of the capital improvement projects. Patricia Tennyson, meeting facilitator, said additional background information would be provided at the next meeting; on October 29 members would identify community values and review and comment on criteria the technical team proposed to use to rank alternatives; on November 19 members would talk about open space; and in January they would review the list of capital projects.

Matt Carroll, Central Neighborhood Association Representative, said every member deserved to be treated with dignity.

Adjournment

At 8:33 p.m., Ms. Tennyson thanked members for their participation, and the meeting was adjourned.
Stormwater Master Plan
Community Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary

Wednesday, October 1, 2008
Carlos M. Ramirez TecH2O Water Resources Learning Center
10751 Montana Avenue, El Paso, Texas

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mark Benitez, Neighborhood Association Representative – East
Cesar Boisselier, International Boundary and Water Commission
Rick Bonart, Borderland Mountain Bike Association – District 1 Representative
Mike Brown, Associated General Contractors of Texas
Joe Cardenas, Texas Board of Professional Engineers
Jerry Carlson, El Paso Apartment Association
Bob Cook, El Paso Regional Economic Development Corporation
Doug Echlin, Neighborhood Association Representative – West
Thomas Eyeington, Socorro Independent School District
Richard Dayoub, Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce
Steve Hoy, El Paso New Car Dealers Association
Mary Frances Keisling, Save the Valley Neighborhood/Civic Association
Jose Lares, City Plan Commission

STAFF AND CONSULTANTS

Ed Archuleta, El Paso Water Utilities
John Balliew, El Paso Water Utilities
Antonio Borrego, El Paso Water Utilities
Dave Brosman, El Paso Water Utilities
Gretchen Byram, El Paso Water Utilities
Gonzalo Cedillos, El Paso Water Utilities

Jimmy Loredo, Ysleta Independent School District
Jesus Luna, El Paso Interreligious Sponsoring Organization
Will Martinez, Associated General Contractors of America
Gerald Miller, El Paso New Car Dealers Association – Mayor’s Representative
Dan Olivas, Greater El Paso Association of Realtors – District 7 Representative
Kenneth Parker, El Paso Independent School District
Mike Pink, El Paso Council of Engineering Companies
Andy Ramirez, Neighborhood Association Representative – Lower Valley
Jorge Ramos, Paso del Norte Group
Jane Ratcliff, District 4 Representative
Jesus Reyes, El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 – District 6 Representative
Dan Schulte, Neighborhood Association Representative – Northeast
Maria Trunk, City Open Space Subcommittee – District 2 Representative
John Walton, University of Texas at El Paso

Rick French, URS
Shane Griffith, El Paso Water Utilities
Bill Hutchison, El Paso Water Utilities
George McNenney, El Paso Water Utilities
Karol Parker, El Paso Water Utilities
Alan Shubert, City Engineer
1. Welcome and Introduction
   At 6:10 p.m., Patricia Tennyson, meeting facilitator, welcomed the members to the advisory committee’s second meeting. She asked them to review the minutes from the last meeting prior to the October 29 meeting and provide comments or revisions at that meeting.

2. Storm 2006 Projects
   Alan Shubert, City Engineer, presented an overview of the stormwater projects the City performed following Storm 2006. He said the City of El Paso approved $116 million in bonds to fund repairs and improvements to the stormwater system. Projects began in August 2006. Mr. Shubert said 17 projects were complete or nearing completion, six projects were underway, EPWU’s stormwater utility was managing six projects, one project had been deleted, one project was on hold and options were being evaluated for one other project.

   During his review of the Priority I and II projects, Mr. Shubert spoke in detail about a few of them. After Storm 2006, the first task was to repair the damage to the system. Together with enlisted contractors, the Street Department started a $1.6 million project to clean the agricultural drains. Glory Road endured sewer collapse and the repairs had been completed.

   Mr. Shubert provided background on the Gravity Flow Outlets to the Rio Grande project, which is related to flood plains, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the National Flood Insurance Program. He said that when FEMA interpreted its levee standard in 2005, it required the certification of all levees by professional engineers. The International Boundary and Water Commission objected, saying the levees could not be certified in their present condition. FEMA responded that the levees then ceased to exist for purposes of flood plain mapping. Mr. Shubert said that puts the entire river valley back in the flood plain for mapping purposes. He said the City has worked with the IBWC, the PSB and the Water Improvement District to address its responsibility, which is to certify the closures of City outlets through the levees. He also said the IBWC has been improving the levees south of the American Dam. He thought the IBWC had finished that project, although he was not sure if the certification was complete. He said areas north of the American Dam were a bigger issue because levees were not present in certain areas.

   Mr. Shubert explained that the City had filed protests with FEMA regarding the certification of levees and the mapping in the Upper Valley. FEMA is now restudying that area.
Mr. Shubert said Colonia Escondido encountered an issue with the homeowners’ association, which prohibited the City from building a necessary pump station. He said it is a difficult project because the drainage ponds are in New Mexico, while the subdivisions are in Texas. This required the City to overcome legal challenges, but the legal challenge presented by the homeowners’ association effectively ended the project.

Mr. Shubert said the Cebada Pump Station would have cost $4.5 million to upgrade because of inadequate electrical power, installation of a telemetry system to start and stop the pumps, and the installation of other necessary instrumentation. The Northeast Channel No. 1, commonly called the Butterfield Trail Apartment Project, was first estimated to cost $5 million, but soon increased to $18 million. After reanalysis, it was determined that most of the problems could be fixed for $10 million without having to take private property or relocate residents. He said in the future, the City intends to possibly install retention ponds upstream, either through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or the stormwater utility.

He then showed pictures of completed City stormwater projects.

Questions and Comments

Rick Bonart, Borderland Mountain Bike Association asked for the meaning of the term “freeboard.” Alan Shubert, City Engineer, said the freeboard is the difference between the elevation of a water source and the height of the dam, levee or impoundment.

Mary Frances Keisling, Save the Valley Neighborhood/Civic Association, asked if the IBWC had received funding to install levees in the Upper Valley. Mr. Shubert said the IBWC had received some funding, but he was not sure how much or the status. Cesar Boisselier, IBWC, said the IBWC would start raising levees in areas north of the American Dam in November. Ms. Keisling then asked Mr. Boisselier about the status of plans for Canutillo. He said Canutillo is not included in the current phase.

Maria Trunk, City Open Space Subcommittee, asked Mr. Shubert to describe the project plans for Castner Range and the source of funding for the project. Mr. Shubert said it was a Corp of Engineers project on private Fort Bliss property; therefore, it is off limits to the City. He added that the City is still considering projects to alleviate flooding downstream. From a flood plains management perspective, more detention and retention upstream would better control flooding downstream. Other improvements to help the Butterfield Trail area included adjustments to PSB Channels 1 and 2.

Jesus Luna, El Paso Interreligious Sponsoring Organization, asked Mr. Shubert to repeat his comments regarding Canutillo and Vinton. Mr. Shubert said the discussion involved the IBWC because City projects must remain within city limits. He added that the stormwater utility was looking for ways to fund projects outside the city limits.

John Balliew, EPWU, said the scope of the master plan covers the city limits and its extraterritorial jurisdiction. Projects upstream toward the mountains would benefit the downstream communities. He said EPWU had applied for grants from the Texas Water Development Board to extend the master planning into the El Paso County area and anticipated success in receiving those grants. Ed Archuleta, EPWU, said all of the Upper Valley is in the ETJ, or extraterritorial jurisdiction.

A committee member asked if the Priority I and II projects would exceed the $116 million in City-issued bonds. Mr. Shubert answered that the projects he outlined in his presentation did not
exceed the bond funds, but the total number of proposed Priority I and II projects would exceed the funds by about a project and a half. The cost of the unfunded projects would be provided to the City Council, which might issue additional bonds to cover the shortfall.

Ms. Keisling asked if there were plans to dredge the Rio Grande again to prevent flooding of the Heritage River Trail. Mr. Shubert responded that land located near the river is designed to flood because it is in a flood plain, and that portion of the river is the responsibility of the IBWC. However, this was another reason to construct more detention and retention upstream. Ms. Keisling said that was why she had brought it up, and Mr. Boisselier said he would consider Ms. Keisling’s comments.

3a. Overview of the Stormwater System

Gonzallo Cedillos, EPWU, presented a chronological history of El Paso’s stormwater growth from 1850-2008. In 1873, El Paso was 13.5 square miles in size, but by 2008, the city had expanded to 256 square miles. Mr. Cedillos explained that the arrival of the railroad in 1859 was the first drainage barrier in the city. He explored the construction and expansion of stormwater infrastructure throughout the city, and concluded with a list of EPWU stormwater operations assets: 38 dams, 16 pump stations, 270 detention/retention ponds, 103 miles of channels, 48 miles of agricultural drains, more than 500 miles of storm drain conduits, and nearly 4,100 storm drain inlets. Mr. Cedillos commented that a system this large required a lot of maintenance.

Questions and Comments

Cassie McKenzie, Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce, asked if using roads to convey water is a common practice in other communities. Gonzalo Cedillos, EPWU, said it is a common and permissible practice in many communities. Karen Stearns, URS Stormwater Master Plan Program Manager, explained that using roads to convey water was a common practice in the Southwest because of the type of storms that occur in this part of the country. Although storms are infrequent, they are very intense, and using roads is an efficient and cost-effective way to convey nearly all of the stormwater at once. In regards to wide roads with heavy vehicle traffic, it is becoming more common to design the roads so at least one lane remains water free. Maria Trunk, City Open Space Subcommittee, expressed her concern that Railroad Drive and Dyer Street flood every rain event.

Mr. Cedillos said the railroad created a major barrier to the flow pattern of stormwater. He speculated that the original city builders assumed future citizens would have to weather the storm. The task of the master plan is to understand why the structures were built the way they were and how to overcome those flow problems. Ms. Trunk added that the flooding occurs both in the streets and in businesses, which is a big problem.

3b. Recent Stormwater Maintenance Projects

Jose Luis Sierra, EPWU, distributed maps showing the locations of the stormwater assets under his responsibility. He noted that all 16 pump stations would have remotely operated telemetry control sensors by December 2008. He then provided an overview of the maintenance required for the stormwater infrastructure.

Mr. Sierra said the stormwater headquarters was located at 410 S. Cotton and there were three satellite offices. A crew of 40 field employees clean tumbleweeds and trash out of the
ditches, drains, conduits and culverts. His crews are very familiar with the system and know where problems recur, so they have become very effective at responding to them.

Mr. Sierra showed pictures of stormwater infrastructure to illustrate the maintenance that has occurred since the stormwater utility was created in March 2008. Twenty percent of the work is preventative maintenance like clearing unwanted vegetation from the 38 dams, 18 of which must pass annual inspections by the Army Corps of Engineers. Vegetation also occurs at more than 270 ponds and along 107 miles of channels. The crews use push mowers, trimmers, large-winged mowers and herbicides. The stormwater utility is initiating a preventative maintenance program that will target stormwater assets twice per year.

Pumping is another large responsibility. Maintenance crews use six vactor trucks that can extract up to 1,500 gallons of runoff from roads. Pumping comprised 20 percent of the overall maintenance workload. Six additional vactor trucks from another City department are also available when needed. The vactor trucks are immediately dispatched to recurring problem areas every rain event to quickly remove runoff. EPWU is also developing an action plan for proper stormwater system operation during major storm events, in collaboration with auxiliary resources from other City departments.

Mr. Sierra also explained that 40 percent of the workload is removing blockages caused by debris like couches, tires, trash, vegetation and silt that constantly enter stormwater system. Proper trash disposal is critical to public safety. More than 100 miles of conduits connect 4,100 drop inlets, so preventative maintenance is a continuous process from March through October. This year, his crews removed 3,100 tons of silt and debris. Vactor crews flushed silt and debris from conduits after identifying problem areas with video inspections. Another major system problem is inspecting earthen assets like channels, dams and ponds for washout after every rain event. Repairs require using heavy machinery.

The stormwater utility tracks work request orders: 32 percent were debris removal, 20 percent were vegetation removal, 20 percent were flood control, including pumping, etc. Since March 1, the utility received nearly 900 service requests, 750 of which were completed. The maintenance group is cataloguing all stormwater assets into a GIS database, which is 90 percent complete. This action will enhance preventative maintenance schedules and the ability to respond to service requests. The utility is now accountable for benchmarks and goals.

The Emergency Response Plan includes additional labor, equipment, communications systems and protocol, as well as other City of El Paso resources. The utility performed an emergency test run in August, which identified areas of success and needed improvements.

Mr. Sierra said that in addition to the maintenance, repairs, flood response, and service requests, his crews delivered more than 70,000 sandbags to 33 fire stations throughout the city. Improvements to sandbag operations will compensate for the lack of adequate storage at some fire stations, which can only hold a maximum of 100 sandbags.

**Questions and Comments**

Dan Schulte, Northeast Neighborhood Association Representative, asked if the stars on the map that had been distributed represented retention/detention ponds. Jose Luis Sierra, EPWU, confirmed that they did. Andy Ramirez, Lower Valley Neighborhood Association Representative, asked if Mr. Sierra had a future proactive plan to maintain the culverts and conduits. Mr. Sierra said maintaining the culverts and conduits is the stormwater utility’s
mandate and it is accountable for their proper function through periodic, computerized maintenance schedules.

Jerry Carlson, El Paso Apartment Association, asked if vegetation had compounded Mr. Sierra’s problems this summer. Mr. Sierra responded that it had, and added that the vegetation was also responsible for allergic reactions among the maintenance crew. He said the stormwater utility would begin using trucks to apply herbicide.

Rick Bonart, Borderland Mountain Bike Association, commented that sending vactor trucks to the same areas to remove runoff negatively affects the public’s perception of stormwater management. Mr. Sierra acknowledged this problem, but said there are some areas, primarily in the Lower Valley, where it is cost prohibitive to install stormwater infrastructure and pumping is more cost effective. John Balliew, EPWU, agreed that repetitive pumping is a problem and said some of the areas would be addressed in the master plan. However, areas where it was not cost-effective to install drainage systems would continue to require vactor trucks. Jesus Reyes, El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1, said he had seen happy responses when vactor trucks helped low-lying areas. He added that an engineering committee, including City Engineer Alan Shubert, was identifying repeatedly affected locations.

4. Stormwater Master Plan Overview

Rick French, URS Stormwater Master Plan Project Manager, started with a “pop quiz” question: what is the definition of a 100-year storm? The answer is a storm that has a 1 percent chance of occurring in any given year. Mr. French said the Stormwater Master Plan would address six major drainage regions: Northwest, West, Northeast, Central, East and Mission Valley. He then described the five tasks required for a master plan:

- Task 1: Data Collection
- Task 2: Regional Analysis/Prioritization
- Task 3: Quantification of Needs
- Task 4: Qualitative Rankings Within Systems
- Task 5: Alternatives Development, which pulls all data and analyses together and incorporates community values into technical criteria to determine the “most favorable” outcome based on all considered factors.

Mr. French said the committee’s community values recommendations would be used to develop alternatives that address problems in the stormwater system. The technical team would meet with the committee three times in January to review, revise or confirm the priority order of projects and open space acquisition. The goal was to have a draft master plan ready for technical evaluation in late January and the final master plan for PSB and City Council adoption in March.

Summary of Initial Stormwater Master Plan Results

Rick French, URS Stormwater Master Plan Project Manager, mentioned earlier that URS had divided El Paso into six unique watersheds and had finished analyzing four of them. The East and Mission Valley watershed analyses were presently underway.
To illustrate the initial results, Mr. French focused on problems that were identified in the Northeast Watershed. He explained that most channels in the Northeast have the capacity to handle a 100-year storm, but a couple did not. In addition, culverts under roads that serve as channel crossings reduce the capacity of the channels because of their inadequate design. He said when a channel with a large capacity meets a crossing with a small capacity, stormwater will backup and cause significant damage to the channel and road infrastructure.

Mr. French explained that erosion and debris flow also cause severe maintenance problems by significantly damaging and reducing the capacity of stormwater infrastructure in high-risk areas, particularly along the base of mountains. URS had identified more than 100 undersized road crossings, 6 undersized concrete-lined channels, 2 undersized major conduits, 4 undersized natural channels, 15 undersized earthen channels, 2 undersized reservoirs, the need for up to 18 new sediment and debris basins and the need for more channel erosion protection.

Mr. French then explained the next steps of the master planning process.

- Prioritizing reaches that will require alternatives analysis.
- Developing and evaluating alternatives using both technical criteria and community values input.
- Developing a draft prioritized list of projects for the Capital Improvement Program.
- Reviewing and discussing the draft CIP with the Stormwater Advisory Committee.

Questions and Comments

Jesus Reyes, El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1, said he was glad Mr. French, URS Stormwater Master Plan Project Manager, had pointed out undersized culverts because his organization was facing the same type of problems. Mr. French said URS had identified more than 100 undersized crossings in four of El Paso’s six watersheds, and was now analyzing the East and Mission Valley areas.

John Walton, UTEP, said a big problem with the 2006 floods was huge rocks clogging the system and causing significant physical damage. He asked if URS had thought about combining sedimentation basins with detention ponds and installing them in front of lined channels. Mr. French said URS was examining the potential of combining facilities.

Mr. Schulte asked about guidelines for designing culverts at road crossings. Mr. French said the culverts should be designed to have the same capacity as the channel, because otherwise they become a restriction. Karen Stearns, URS Stormwater Master Plan Program Manager, pointed out that the Federal Highway Administration had guidelines on analyzing and designing culverts. The guidelines were in the Drainage Design Manual available on the City of El Paso website.

Dan Olivas, Greater El Paso Association of Realtors, asked what criteria are used to enlarge a channel or build an additional upstream ponding area. Mr. French said that occurred during the alternatives analysis and incorporated the cost of enlarging the channel or increasing upstream detention, as well as community values.

5. Community Values Identification - Brainstorming

Patricia Tennyson, meeting facilitator, gave examples of stormwater community values and asked each member to write three ideas. After this brainstorming session, she asked members to provide their best idea and, together with Ms. Stearns, posted and categorized them. The
remaining ideas were collected and a chart of all ideas will be distributed for additional discussion and refinement at the October 29 meeting.

6. Administrative

Patricia Tennyson, meeting facilitator, reminded members that the stormwater system tour would be October 11 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. She said the next meeting agenda would include refining the community values process and reviewing and suggesting revisions to the criteria URS would use to choose alternative solutions to El Paso’s stormwater system problems.

7. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Committee members had the opportunity to make additional comments or ask questions. Andy Ramirez, Lower Valley Neighborhood Association Representative, said every rain event left stagnated water in many areas of the Lower Valley for weeks. He suggested that this should be addressed. Mary Frances Keisling, Save the Valley Neighborhood/Civic Association, said the Upper Valley has a high water table and clay-based soil; therefore, water remained for weeks, especially along Artcraft Road. She asked for this issue to be addressed as well.

Adjournment

At 8:25 p.m., Patricia Tennyson, meeting facilitator, thanked members for their participation, and the meeting was adjourned.
Stormwater Master Plan
Community Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary

Wednesday, October 29, 2008
Carlos M. Ramirez TecH2O Water Resources Learning Center
10751 Montana Avenue, El Paso, Texas

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mark Benitez, Neighborhood Association Representative – East
Cesar Boisselier, International Boundary and Water Commission
Rick Bonart, Borderland Mountain Bike Association – District 1 Representative
Mike Brown, Associated General Contractors of Texas
Walt Byers, El Paso Independent School District
Joe Cardenas, Texas Board of Professional Engineers
Matt Carroll, Neighborhood Association Representative – Central
Doug Echlin, Neighborhood Association Representative – West
Mary Frances Keisling, Save the Valley Neighborhood/Civic Association
Belinda Luna, City of El Paso Plan Commission
Jesus Luna, El Paso Interreligious Sponsoring Organization
Will Martinez, Associated General Contractors of America

Cassie McKenzie, Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce
Gerald Miller, El Paso New Car Dealers Association – Mayor’s Representative
Dan Olivas, Greater El Paso Association of Realtors – District 7 Representative
Mike Pink, El Paso Council of Engineering Companies
Andy Ramirez, Neighborhood Association Representative – Lower Valley
Jorge Ramos, Paso del Norte Group
Jane Ratcliff, District 4 Representative
Jesus Reyes, El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 – District 6 Representative
J. Antonio Rico, El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, District 3 Representative
Anna Routledge, El Paso Apartment Association
Dan Schulte, Neighborhood Association Representative – Northeast
Charlie Wakeem, City Open Space Subcommittee – District 2 Representative
John Walton, University of Texas at El Paso

STAFF AND CONSULTANTS

John Balliew, El Paso Water Utilities
Antonio Borrego, El Paso Water Utilities
Dave Brosman, El Paso Water Utilities
Gretchen Byram, El Paso Water Utilities
Gonzalo Cedillos, El Paso Water Utilities
Rick French, URS
Shane Griffith, El Paso Water Utilities
Bill Hutchison, El Paso Water Utilities

Martin Jacquez, City Street Dept.
George McNenney, El Paso Water Utilities
Christina Montoya, El Paso Water Utilities
Karol Parker, El Paso Water Utilities
Jim Shelton, El Paso Water Utilities
Jose Luis Sierra, El Paso Water Utilities
Nanette Smejkal, City Parks and Recreation Dept.
1. Welcome and Introduction

At 6:10 p.m., Patricia Tennyson, meeting facilitator, welcomed the committee members to the advisory committee’s third meeting. After introductions, Ms. Tennyson asked the members to provide comments or revisions to the September 11 and October 1 meeting summaries. A correction was requested to the third bullet on page 8 of the September 11 minutes. The sentence should read: “The CIP and its budget are set for the first three years because the rates are set.” On page 2 of the October 1 minutes “springboard” should be changed to “freeboard” in Rick Bonart’s question.

2. Review Stormwater System Tour Highlights

Patricia Tennyson, meeting facilitator, thanked the members who participated in the stormwater system tour and asked if there were follow up questions or comments. Jane Ratcliff, District 4 Representative, said it was very interesting and she had not realized how much work is required by the stormwater crews to keep vegetation off the face of McKelligon Canyon Dam. Ms. Tennyson provided answers to questions raised during the tour.

- McKelligon Canyon Dam is 105 feet high, 1,200 feet long, and has a 950 acre-foot capacity. An acre foot is 325,000 gallons.
- It would take less than a week to drain water from the McKelligon Canyon Dam after a 100-year storm event.
- EPWU will implement rules and regulations, including emergency procedures, for its dual use facilities so people would be evacuated before a dangerous event.
- It costs approximately $50,000 to replace a pump at a typical pump station.

Questions and Comments

Matt Carroll, Central Neighborhood Association Representative, said ponding areas that do not have dual human use should be allowed to grow natural vegetation to support wildlife. Dan Olivas, Greater El Paso Association of Realtors, asked how often silt was removed from dams. Gonzalo Cedillos, EPWU, said it depends on the terrain and geology of each dam. One of the worst-case scenarios is a dam near the Texas A&M Extension Center where more than 50 feet of silt has accumulated over 10 years and maintenance costs are estimated at $100,000 per year. There is not as much sediment deposited at other dams, and maintenance is not as intensive.
3. Review/Refine Community Values List

At the October 1 meeting, committee members submitted their best community values idea. Subsequently, all the community values ideas were listed and organized under the following categories: safety, aesthetics, ponds/dual use, natural systems, design considerations and other. Patricia Tennyson, meeting facilitator, summarized the values list, reviewed it with the committee, and captured all suggested additions. The committee added additional values statements to the larger list.

John Balliew, EPWU, said the stormwater utility has a certain scope of authority and would accommodate the committee’s recommendations to the extent possible. However, recommendations outside that scope could not be implemented by EPWU alone. He identified areas where the scope was limited.

- The stormwater utility can construct the stormwater portion of a dual use facility, but it cannot alter existing facilities because that falls under the jurisdiction of the Parks Department. As an example of this point, Jesus Reyes, El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1, noted that the dual use bike path along the Mesa Drain in the Lower Valley was constructed by the City of El Paso, not the Irrigation District that owns and maintains the drain.

- Developers submit plans that include drainage designs to the City’s Developer Services Department, which approves those plans, including the drainage portion. The stormwater utility would take over maintenance and operation of those facilities after they are installed. Rick Bonart, Borderland Mountain Bike Association, asked Mr. Balliew if the committee had to suggest changes in the Drainage Design Manual to see these types of changes. Mr. Balliew said that was correct. However, the committee’s recommendations would apply when master planned facilities or facilities not associated with development were added to a system. Ms. Tennyson added that the City would receive recommendations from the committee in its final report.

- Mr. Balliew said someone had commented that centralized ponding areas were preferable to each development to have its own pond. He agreed with the concept, which he said is permitted under the existing Drainage Design Manual.

- Dredging the Rio Grande and building levees is under the jurisdiction of the International Boundary and Water Commission. Cesar Boisselier, International Boundary and Water Commission, said the IBWC recently dredged a five-mile stretch of the river from the International Dam to Chamizal Park and had also dredged a seven-mile stretch from New Mexico to the International Dam. Mary Frances Keisling, Save the Valley Neighborhood/Civic Association, asked if the committee should incorporate the IBWC’s schedule for dredging the river into the master plan process. If master plan projects added more water to the river and the river could not take it, river flooding might occur. Mr. Boisselier said the river can handle any additional water because of ongoing dredging and sediment removal efforts.

- Two suggestions – designing streets to channel stormwater and enacting laws to prevent land being cleared for development unless development was scheduled to begin within 8 to 12 months – were under the jurisdiction of the Developer Services Department and not the stormwater utility.

- Mr. Balliew described the new construction process. The first step is a master plan, which is followed by an engineering plan and ends with design. Some projects also require an environ-
mental impact statement or assessment. This is not part of the master planning effort. Dan Schulte, Northeast Neighborhood Association Representative, asked if environmental review is included in the Drainage Design Manual. Mr. Balliew said it is in the Drainage Design Manual, which is required for individual developments but is not part of the master plan process.

Questions and Comments

Dan Schulte, Northeast Neighborhood Association Representative, suggested including maintenance schedules and construction processes in the community values summary. Patricia Tennyson, meeting facilitator, reminded the committee that the stormwater utility uses a computerized maintenance database to determine maintenance schedules.

Charlie Wakeem, City Open Space Subcommittee, said a major concern is the erosion and sedimentation along steep slopes, especially along arroyos, which is exacerbated when the slopes are scraped away. He suggested keeping the steep slopes natural.

Matt Carroll, Central Neighborhood Association Representative, asked if EPWU had considered having a contractor take the silt from ponds to save money. Mr. Balliew said there is an active operation to remove sand and gravel in the Northeast greenbelt. In other cases, it depends on where the pond is located and whether the material is suitable for building. Cassie McKenzie, Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce, asked how much it cost to move extra sediment and if the sediment could be offered to contractors. Mr. Balliew said any such arrangement would be done in a very open sense. Companies would bid on the sediment after it was advertised.

Dan Olivas, Greater El Paso Association of Realtors, asked if it had been determined that more ponds or dams were needed after the floods in 2006. Mr. Balliew said the URS study recommended additional infrastructure, which was being installed under City Engineer Alan Shubert’s Priority I and II projects. Priority III and any additional projects that were not identified at that time would move forward as part of the master planning effort. Mr. Olivas asked if it made sense from an engineering standpoint to retain as much water as possible in ponding areas. Mr. Balliew said it did. A committee member asked about the minimum water capacity for detention and retention facilities. Gonzalo Cedillos, EPWU, said all facilities must be able to accommodate 100-year storms, plus provide for silt accumulation.

Jesus Luna, El Paso Interreligious Sponsoring Organization, asked how El Paso’s city and county government were working together to prevent flooding in Westway and Vinton. Rick French, URS Stormwater Master Plan Project Manager, said URS was studying that area and trying to develop alternatives.

Jerry Thiedt, community member, asked Cesar Boisselier, International Boundary and Water Commission, to confirm that the IBWC had dredged five miles of the Rio Grande and asked where the sand was taken. Mr. Boisselier said Mexico took the sand and put it in the mountains.

Andy Ramirez, Lower Valley Neighborhood Association Representative, said the community values list contained a lot of suggestions that dealt with runoff from open areas, and those suggestions would not benefit his area. Everything is already developed and these areas experience flooding during every rain event. Ms. Tennyson said she would include this under design considerations. Mary Frances Keisling, Save the Valley Neighborhood/Civic Association, asked if the committee should be concerned with the clay soil in the Upper Valley that leads to months of standing water. Mr. Balliew said a lot of the problems in the Valley have to do with the type of soil. Those areas need to be addressed as a combination streets and drainage issue.
Jesus Reyes, El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1, asked if the committee would address issues in areas outside the city limits such as the Lower Valley. Mr. Balliew said certain areas outside the city limits but within the extraterritorial jurisdiction would be addressed, and Canutillo, Vinton and Westway would be incorporated into the master plan. With funding from outside sources like FEMA, the master plan would eventually encompass the entire county.

Rick Bonart, Borderland Mountain Bike Association suggested adding a community standard to the design considerations. New infrastructure should have requirements like landscaping to make El Paso look nicer.

Ms. McKenzie asked if there were a way to not use roads to channel stormwater. Mr. Balliew said the City identifies how much drainage must be through an underground conduit and how much can be carried in the streets as outlined in the Drainage Design Manual. The master plan would look at how to take excess stormwater off the problem streets. URS and EPWU have already identified a number of intersections and streets with stormwater problems.

Mike Pink, El Paso Council of Engineering Companies, asked what size project the master plan would cover. Mr. Balliew said the master plan would address everything down to street-level problems. In some cases, the practical solution was to send a vactor truck to remove water from the street. If there is a practical solution and a problem that is severe enough, EPWU would need to address it. Mr. French said the stormwater master plan process would concentrate on major structures, but URS would get input on localized flooding issues so they could be incorporated into the CIP. Mr. Thiedt said the ponding areas near George Dieter received very little water, while other areas were heavily affected. He asked the committee to consider requiring new ponding areas to be usable, unlike the ones on George Dieter.

4. Technical Criteria for Ranking Alternatives to Address Stormwater System Problems

Rick French, URS Stormwater Master Plan Project Manager, presented technical criteria that would be used to rank alternatives. He reminded members that El Paso has six watersheds: Northeast, Northwest, West, Central, East and Lower Valley. He also reminded them of information he provided at the previous meeting, including undersized channel crossings and their effect on decreasing the rate water flows in channels.

Mr. French described four alternatives that would improve Electric Ditch. John Walton, University of Texas at El Paso, asked why those who created underperforming infrastructure weren’t required to improve it at their own cost. Mr. French said determining how improvements are funded is outside the URS technical scope.

He reviewed the technical evaluation process. 1) List the minimum project features common to all alternatives. 2) Perform a concept design and cost analysis for each alternative and, if appropriate, identify different levels of protection. 3) Qualitatively evaluate alternatives in terms of other technical criteria such as maintenance and reliability. 4) Qualitatively evaluate alternatives in terms of community values criteria.

Questions and Comments

Dan Olivas, Greater El Paso Association of Realtors, asked when the committee would have the cost analyses. Rick French, URS Stormwater Master Plan Project Manager, said in January.
Rick Bonart, Borderland Mountain Bike Association, asked if there would be room to build a basin. Mr. French responded that there was room and the debris basin was included in the alternatives he described. Values for the criteria were placed in a matrix, along with relative costs. Matt Carroll, Central Neighborhood Association Representative, asked how many acres were needed for the basin. Mr. French said planning was still in the conceptual stage and those details were not yet available.

John White, University of Texas at El Paso, asked for the width of the channel and whether it should be concrete lined or expanded. Mr. French said there was real estate available to widen the channel.

Jane Ratcliff, District 4 Representative, asked if the community would be involved in reviewing the alternatives in Castner Range. John Balliew, EPWU, said it was premature to focus on the Castner Range example. There were no plans to start digging there because of the issues associated with such an alternative. Dr. Bonart said Castner Range was a great example because it illustrated the constraints that would be experienced when resolving drainage issues.

Cesar Boisselier, International Boundary and Water Commission, asked about the issues Electric Ditch experienced during the 2006 flood and why Mr. French picked it as his example. Mr. French said Electric Ditch had some readily identifiable alternatives and a problem with debris that needed to be resolved. Mr. Olivas observed that the meetings provided a great opportunity to identify solutions. Mr. Carroll stated that in his opinion, Castner Range should be kept in its natural state.

Patricia Tennyson, meeting facilitator, called the committee’s attention to other criteria URS would use when evaluating alternatives: cost, maintenance, reliability and safety. Mr. French said the list of community values could be given to designers for the projects ultimately included in the Capital Improvement Program. Community values were equally, if not more, important than the other criteria in the design phase.

Cassie McKenzie, Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce, asked if there would be two lists of projects – one for the first three years and another for the next seven years. Ms. Tennyson said the committee was asked to focus on the first three years in terms of priority. Mr. French reminded members that their other task was to look for opportunities to acquire open space that would benefit the stormwater system.

Ms. McKenzie said she understood that the PSB budget would be approved in mid-January and expressed concern that the committee would only meet twice before that time. Ms. Tennyson said there would be three January meetings. The committee would make recommendations for the first three years of the CIP at those meetings, and the PSB would review the recommendations during their budget process. Mr. Balliew said a dollar amount for projects to be constructed during the first year would be included in the budget for fiscal year 2009-10, but the committee would have time to formulate recommendations regarding the priority of projects.

Mr. Olivas asked if each project would follow the format Mr. French showed in terms of ranking alternatives. Mr. French said the alternatives analysis would be included in the master plan, but a list of recommended alternatives would be presented January 13.
Charlie Wakeem, City Open Space Subcommittee, asked if sediment had been a problem up to this point and if that were the reason for the concepts being presented. Mr. French said sediment was a problem, which was why URS was examining alternative solutions.

Jesus Reyes, El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1, asked if allowing stormwater to infiltrate into the aquifers had been studied. Mr. French said URS was just beginning to develop alternative solutions to the stormwater problems and would consider infiltration.

5. Suggest Additional Criteria or Refinements to Proposed Technical Criteria

There were no suggestions for additional technical criteria.

6. City Trees: A Green Infrastructure That Makes a Difference

Oscar Mestas, Texas Forest Service, presented information about green infrastructure which involved reviewing the number of developable acres, the amount of stormwater produced per hour of a rain event and requirements for landscaping. This information is used to identify the maximum impervious area allowed in a watershed. Using porous concrete or pervious surfaces helps reduce the amount of stormwater runoff. Water harvesting techniques are known, there are good examples of rain gardens and we have knowledge of El Paso’s unique structural soils system, so we can implement rather than “reinvent” designs. Trees help intercept stormwater runoff and are an important part of a stormwater system. The question is do we want green or grey infrastructure.


Shamori Whitt, City Parks and Recreation Department, described the green infrastructure plan for El Paso. She said the current environmental crisis is the reason for providing a green, sustainable economy and environment, and the negative effects of urban sprawl included: the need for more infrastructure, using more resources, social stratification, homogeneous landscapes and health concerns. Green infrastructure can save money through managing stormwater and supporting sustainability for the community.

There are four acres of open space (outside of the state park area) per 1,000 El Paso residents. Ms. Whitt said the City Council adopted an Open Space Master Plan in March 2007, which included the following principles: preserving the natural environment of El Paso, emphasizing linkage and connectivity, focusing on the effective size of acquisitions, accessibility to open space in every part of the city, preserving the city’s heritage, and preserving areas that provide multiple benefits.

One example of the latter principle is the Mountain to River Trail Corridor that includes Arroyos 41 and 42 and is the only remaining direct corridor from the mountains to the river. Another proposal is the Scenic Arroyo Park Extension that would connect Scenic Drive, Palisades Canyon and Arroyo Park with the Franklin Mountains State Park and add more recreational amenities on Scenic Drive. Open space also adds green infill and outdoor recreational opportunities for community members.

8. Administrative

Patricia Tennyson, meeting facilitator, announced that the next meeting would be November 19, which would be followed by a break until January 13 while URS worked on the CIP list.
Matt Carroll, Central Neighborhood Association Representative, asked the committee to vote on relocating meetings to a more central location. Six members voted in favor of relocating the meetings. Ms. Tennyson said she would work with EPWU staff on finding a different location that met the logistical needs for the committee.

9. Public Comment
   There were no comments from the public.

Adjournment
   At 8:25 p.m., Patricia Tennyson, meeting facilitator, thanked the members for their participation and the meeting was adjourned.
Stormwater Master Plan
Community Advisory Committee

Wednesday, November 19, 2008
Carlos M. Ramirez TecH2O Water Resources Learning Center
10751 Montana Avenue, El Paso, Texas

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Cesar Boisselier, International Boundary and Water Commission
Rick Bonart, Borderland Mountain Bike Association, District 1 Representative
Mike Brown – Associated General Contractors of Texas
Jerry Carlson, El Paso Apartment Association
Matt Carroll, Neighborhood Association Representative – Central
Doug Echlin, Neighborhood Association Representative – West
Thomas Eyeington, Socorro Independent School District
Mary Frances Keisling, Save the Valley Neighborhood/Civic Association
Jimmy Loredo, Ysleta Independent School District
Cassie McKenzie, Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce

Dan Olivas, Greater El Paso Association of Realtors – District 7 Representative
Kenneth Parker, El Paso Independent School District
Andy Ramirez, Neighborhood Association Representative – Lower Valley
Jane Ratcliff, District 4 Representative
J. Antonio Rico, El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce – District 3 Representative
Mark O. Sanchez – El Paso Council of Engineering Companies
Dan Schulte, Neighborhood Association Representative – Northeast
Jerry Thiedt, El Paso New Car Dealers Association – Mayor’s Representative
Charlie Wakeem, City Open Space Subcommittee – District 2 Representative
John Walton, University of Texas at El Paso

STAFF AND CONSULTANTS

John Balliew, El Paso Water Utilities
Dave Brosman, El Paso Water Utilities
Gretchen Byram, El Paso Water Utilities
Gonzalo Cedillos, El Paso Water Utilities
Rick French, URS
Christina Montoya, El Paso Water Utilities

Karol Parker, El Paso Water Utilities
Alan Shubert, City Engineer
Karen Stearns, URS
Patricia Tennyson, Katz & Associates
Shamori Witt, City Parks and Recreation Dept.

OBSERVERS

Sherry Bonart, Community Member
Dave Hall, Far West Texas Water Planning Group
Astrid Lozano, El Paso Community College

Oscar Mestas, Texas Forest Service
Kathleen Schulte, Community Member
John White, University of Texas at El Paso
1. Welcome and Introduction

Patricia Tennyson, meeting, welcomed committee members to the meeting. The members approved the October 1 meeting summary without any changes. Ms. Tennyson announced that staff was looking into alternate locations for future meetings. Most members present indicated previously that they could attend meetings at the current location. At this meeting, those present said they could attend if the meetings were held at a different location.

Ms. Tennyson also announced that John Balliew, EPWU, would present information about park ponds in place of the scheduled agenda item on El Paso’s Regional Parks Plan because Nanette Smejkal, City Parks and Recreation Director, was unable to attend the meeting.

2. Review Revised Community Values List and Summary

The members did not have any additional comments on the revised Community Values List and Summary.

3. Questions on City Trees and “Towards a Bright Future” Presentations from October 29

A member asked about the map posted on the wall. Shamori Witt, City Parks and Recreation Department, said the map was a larger version of the one included in her October 29 presentation; however, it was unofficial and not to scale. It included a red drape of how parks, arroyos, Open Space Master Plan and waterways (canals and ditches) could potentially connect to create an open space linkage system in the city. She offered to convert the map to a JPEG file and send it to Karol Parker, EPWU, for distribution to the members. The map is also on the City’s web site.

4. Green Design Considerations for the Stormwater Master Plan

Karen Stearns, Stormwater Master Plan Project Manager–URS, presented information about how URS expects to incorporate green design concepts into the stormwater master plan. She said it was important to consider the potential benefits of green design elements, which include: aesthetics, reducing pollutants and runoff and increasing habitat for wildlife. Some green concepts include: water harvesting, check dams, green buffers and pervious linings (earthen channels, plantings, rock lining, and composite channels), tree plantings and landscaping. Ms. Stearns said that although developing the stormwater master plan does not include designing projects, the plan would recommend the application of green design solutions.

Questions and Comments

Jerry Thiedt, New Car Dealers Association, stated that although green design concepts increase wildlife habitat, he was concerned because algae in standing ponds attracts mosquitoes. Karen Stearns, URS Stormwater Master Plan Project Manager, said one way to reduce mosquitoes is to make sure the soil has a good filtration rate so water does not stand in the ponds. She added that natural settings encourage wildlife to thrive, even when there is no water.

Rick Bonart, Borderland Mountain Bike Association, stated that although the committee’s charge is to prioritize CIP projects, there is a larger issue to be addressed. The current drainage
problems are caused by the lack of a comprehensive city-wide plan for managing stormwater, and flooding will continue to be an issue if such a plan is not developed. Ms. Stearns said this policy issue will be addressed in the Drainage Design Manual. The stormwater master plan will deal with areas identified as flooding risks, but the plan will be continually updated as development occurs. John Balliew, EPWU, added that the committee’s input regarding open space projects would be included in the master plan. Dr. Bonart said the City Council and the general public expect the stormwater master plan to make recommendations for the entire city so we don’t continue to deal with issues resulting from piecemeal development.

Cassie McKenzie, Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce, asked for clarification on the purpose of the master plan and whether it would be completed after the CIP. Ms. Stearns said the master plan would evaluate existing flood areas and it would be developed along with the CIP.

Mr. Thiedt asked if PSB engineers collect data during storms. It was explained that data is available from El Paso Water Utilities, TxDOT, the County and the City. Also, URS Corporation collected data after the storm in 2006. Mr. Thiedt said data collection must occur during a storm and he did not believe EPWU currently does this. Mr. Balliew explained that after each tropical storm in 2008, Gonzalo Cedillos, EPWU, wrote a report that included observations from field personnel, a list of damaged areas and recommendations for correcting the problems.

Dr. Bonart said a city-wide drainage master plan is needed and suggested it should include consistent design information. John Walton, University of Texas at El Paso, stated the organization that maintains the facilities should ensure they are built to standard. Currently, the City approves new development but EPWU manages the stormwater facilities. EPWU should also be involved in approving the facility design. Alan Shubert, City Engineer, said the City and EPWU worked together on the Drainage Design Manual.

Antonio Rico, El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, asked if the green design concepts that were presented were applicable in the El Paso area. Ms. Stearns explained that all of the concepts could be used in El Paso, especially check dams, which have been used throughout the Southwest.

Dr. Walton also asked if URS could incorporate some conceptual designs that are appropriate to El Paso into the Drainage Design Manual. Ms. Stearns said the study can include generic applications that would be effective in El Paso.

Sherry Bonart, community member, showed photographs of multi-use stormwater areas (walking paths and soccer fields) in Las Vegas as an example of what can be done in El Paso. Mary Frances Keisling, Save the Valley Neighborhood/Civic Association, said this idea is a great start and the next step would be to figure out how to move forward with it.

5. “Non-dig” Alternative for Castner Range

Rick French, URS Stormwater Master Plan Program Manager, presented information on the “non-dig” alternative for Castner Range. He said URS is currently working with EPWU to evaluate all available alternatives. Each alternative is ranked based on conceptual design, cost estimate, qualitative results from technical criteria and the community values summary criteria developed by the committee. The team will present the ranked alternatives to members in January 2009, but at this point, the URS team had defined seven alternatives for Castner Range. The main difference between them was how debris would be handled. Mr. French explained the
difference in the alternatives and described those that would include construction of a debris basin and one that would not.

Questions and Comments

John Walton, University of Texas at El Paso, said the alternative that removed residences should not be immediately discarded because only a few houses would need to be taken out to construct a debris basin outside the Castner Range area. With a debris basin in this area, rocks, sand and sediment could flow through the stormwater system. He encouraged URS not to over-design the alternatives. Mr. French explained that more than a few houses would need to be removed in this alternative, which is why it was not being recommended.

Matt Carroll, Central Neighborhood Association Representative, said it seemed that the evaluation process favored destroying Castner Range because there is no land acquisition cost. If no cash value is placed on leaving land in its natural state, there is a strong incentive to choose alternatives that damage natural areas. Mr. French said there is no interest in destroying Castner Range. It is important to place value on keeping the land in its natural state; however, each alternative has pros and some cons. No alternative would be the best option for all the criteria.

Rick Bonart, Borderland Mountain Bike Association, asked why Alternative 1 was considered safer than other alternatives. Mr. French explained that Alternative 1 reduced the peak flow because debris would be caught before reaching Highway 54. He explained that each alternative would be safe, but the alternatives were ranked relative to each other. For example, an alternative that provided a large debris basin would be considered safer than an alternative that did not since the material would be kept in the basin and out of roads, culverts and ponds.

Neither EPWU nor the project team would consider an alternative that wasn’t safe. However, there are a lot of tradeoffs and compromises that must be made as alternatives are evaluated. It is important to view the project as a whole and determine the best solution.

Charlie Wakeem, City Open Space Sub-Committee, said public safety is the most important criteria for the stormwater master plan, but he would hate to see a debris basin at Castner Range.

Dr. Bonart asked what happened in this area as a result of the storm in 2006. Gonzalo Cedillos, EPWU, explained that Fairbanks was covered from curb to curb with dirty water and houses were damaged with four to five feet of water. Alan Shubert, City Engineer, added that the Butterfield Trail Apartments flooded and there was extensive damage behind the apartments as well. Mr. Wakeem said there was heavy rainfall one month after Storm 2006 and the arroyo at the Archeological Museum changed its flow path. Debris and boulders tumbled down the mountain. He reiterated that it is good to keep things in their natural state, but first and foremost is the protection of life and property.

Dr. Bonart said there are natural concepts that incorporate safety as well as aesthetics. Dr. Walton said there is a difference between detention and retention basins and properly designed detention basins don’t have to be huge.

Mr. Carroll asked about the acreage of the detention basin concepts in the Castner Range area. Mr. French said the Alternative 5 debris basin is approximately five acres. The debris and detention basin is approximately 10 acres. Several conceptual configurations were being evaluated. A basin could be small and deep or it could be wide and shallow. Karen Stearns, URS Stormwater Master Plan Project Manager, stated it is also important to consider maintenance of the basins.
Antonio Rico, El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, asked if the final document would have a recommendation and show how the criteria were used. He agreed that safety should be a top consideration. Mr. French explained that all alternatives would be in the appendix of the document, but the master plan would only include the recommended projects.

Mr. Wakeem asked who owned the property in the Castner Range area. Mr. French said the Department of Defense owned the property. Mary Keisling, Save the Valley Neighborhood/Civic Association, asked how green design concepts could be incorporated. Ms. Stearns said there are strict requirements for dams and levees because failure can be catastrophic, so it is difficult to incorporate green design concepts. However, it is possible to choose materials that blend in with natural surroundings when designing detention ponds and sediment traps.

Jerry Thiedt, El Paso New Car Dealers Association, asked if the team had considered assisting water in reaching the lowest point without using brute force to block it. Letting water follow a natural course seemed more logical and less expensive since water goes where it wants to go. Ms. Stearns explained that check dams and weirs will help water gently get to where it wants to go, but it’s extremely difficult to do this at Castner Range. There is an alluvial fan in this area, and the water flow changes direction as it moves. The area is also fully developed.

Cesar Boisselier, International Boundary and Water Commission, said this is a perfect example of an area where development should be restricted. The City should allow space for arroyos to meander, so we don’t have to restrict, concrete line and channelize them. He said some arroyos narrow from 300 feet wide to 50 feet wide as they come down the mountain, which leads to flooding. Mr. French said the committee might consider recommending that some of the open space money be used to buy undeveloped arroyos to prevent them from being developed.

### 6. Use of Open Space Funds

John Balliew, EPWU, presented information on how the open space funds can be used. He reviewed information from the ordinance that created the stormwater utility, which states that open space funds can be used to preserve land in its natural state.

**Questions and Comments**

Rick Bonart, Borderland Mountain Bike Association, asked if there would be a list of suggested projects presented with the capital program. Mr. Balliew explained that some projects might involve aspects that meet the intent of the ordinance. When the stormwater master plan is presented to the City Council, a list of the open space projects that were developed by the committee would also be submitted.

Jane Ratcliff, District 4 Representative, said it was important to get input from the community on these projects before final decisions are made.

### 7. Park Ponds

John Balliew, EPWU, presented examples of stormwater facilities that could be economically developed into parks. He explained that the funds set aside for open space projects could be used for projects of this type. For example, Capistrano Park in the Lower Valley is adjacent to a big stormwater basin. The basin is approximately four feet deeper than the parkland. Limited landscaping and trees could be planted that would essentially double the size of the park while retaining its stormwater purpose. Another example is Riverside Middle School, which is adjacent
to a large, shallow stormwater detention pond that could be developed into a nice park. He also pointed out a stormwater pond on Jamestown Street, which now has native grass and could be developed into a small park as well. Mr. Balliew added that there is a shallow pond on Edgemere near Yarbrough that is surrounded by residential property on four sides, but there might be some opportunity for more of a park look.

**Questions and Comments**

Rick Bonart, Borderland Mountain Bike Association, asked if the Parks Department would fund the amenities. Mr. Balliew stated El Paso Water Utilities would do the grading and initial vegetation, but not amenities like jogging paths, benches, etc. Matt Carroll, Central Neighborhood Association Representative, observed that it would be best to coordinate with the Parks Department from the beginning of the project. Mr. Balliew explained that projects must be in accordance with the Parks Plan.

Charlie Wakeem, City Open Space Subcommittee, commented that the water table is higher in the Lower Valley, so ponding areas are shallow and have gradual slopes. They can easily be converted into park ponds, but areas with low water tables tend to have steep, deep ponding areas that are not suitable. Mr. Balliew explained that ponds on the East Side are typically steep-sided because very little land is set aside for ponding. The pond has to be very deep to retain a sufficient volume of water. However, in the future dual use concepts can be brought forward from a project’s inception, which might result in a different configuration. Some of the funds set aside for open space can be used to purchase additional property so the ponds are shallower. Mr. Wakeem noted that developers would get park credits if such a project were developed.

Andy Ramirez, Lower Valley Neighborhood Association Representative, asked about the new stormwater technology he saw on a Discovery Channel program. Plastic honeycomb box structures are installed in deep ponding areas. Soccer and baseball fields are built over the structures and water soaks into the ponding areas, which are still maintained under the fields. Mr. Balliew said he saw the same show and has already contacted the company for information.

Dr. Bonart noted that the Northwest Master Plan contains several arroyo structures that will be preserved in their natural state, but a number of projects are waiting for the master drainage plan to be completed. He asked if the stormwater master plan would address the arroyos in the Northwest Master Plan area. Mr. Balliew explained that URS is looking at the Northwest Master Plan area within the scope of the overall master plan.

Jerry Thiedt, El Paso New Car Dealers Association, asked how many non-functioning ponds were in existence. Mr. Balliew said these anomalies are noted in reports that were prepared after each storm. The information is fed into the master plan process and a specific solution will be designed to capture the stormwater and channel it into the ponds.

8. **Clarification Regarding CIP Budget Schedule**

John Balliew, EPWU, presented information about the CIP budget and the PSB schedule. Although the fiscal year begins March 1, EPWU already knows, based on projections, how much money will be available for the stormwater capital program. The committee will establish the first year’s CIP based on available funding and the order of the projects, which they will prioritize in January. This will allow sufficient time for the projects to be incorporated into the budget.
Questions and Comments

Cassie McKenzie, Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce, asked if the committee’s open space recommendations would be incorporated into the budget. Mr. Balliew said they would.

Jane Ratcliff, District 4 Representative, asked if the City would have to abide by the committee’s recommendations if the City Council takes the management of the stormwater utility away from EPWU. Mr. Balliew explained that under those circumstances everything would be transferred, including the data, master plan and recommendations, but the City Council would decide what would happen from that point.

Ms. McKenzie asked if the City Council could take back the stormwater function before five years had passed. Mr. Balliew said the utility cannot be dissolved, but the management can be transferred to another City department. Dan Olivas, Greater El Paso Association of Realtors, asked if the stormwater fees could be changed. Mr. Balliew explained that the issue behind the stormwater petition was the fee and not the management of the utility. Transferring the utility would provide an opportunity for fees to be reduced, but additional time would be needed to fund the projects.

9. Administrative

Patricia Tennyson, moderator, said there are three scheduled meetings in January, but it might not be necessary to hold all of the meetings. URS will present a draft list of capital projects in January for review by the committee. Open space recommendations will also need to be completed during January. Staff will draft a report that documents the committee’s deliberations and recommendations for review at the February 4, 2009, meeting.

Questions and Comments

Dan Olivas, Greater El Paso Association of Realtors, asked if the PSB would approve the CIP budget without knowing which projects were being funded. John Balliew, EPWU, repeated that while there is a set amount of funding available for projects, the committee will have the opportunity to review the draft list developed by URS and make a final recommendation for adoption by the PSB. The budget approved by the Board will include a list of projects to be funded during the fiscal year along with the estimated cost of each project.

Dan Schulte, Northeast Neighborhood Association Representative, asked if the members had homework assignments to complete before the January 13 meeting. He also asked if the Castner Range project would be on the list to be considered in January, as well as which additional projects would be on the list. Rick French, URS Stormwater Master Plan Program Manager, said the Castner Range project would be considered in January. Mr. Balliew added that all projects would be on the list for consideration. Mr. French explained that the alternatives and evaluation process would need explanation and would not be submitted to the group as homework.

Jane Ratcliff, District 4 Representative, wished everyone a happy holiday and gave a special thanks to EPWU’s Gretchen Byram and Karol Parker for taking such good care of the meeting logistics and assisting with her wheelchair at each meeting. Rick Bonart, Borderland Mountain Bike Association, offered to send the group a short list of projects developed by individuals who had been involved in open space issues.
Matt Carroll, Central Neighborhood Association Representative, said safety was very important, but he encouraged the members to consider the positive and negative aspects of each alternative to ensure that safety is really an issue.

10. Public Comment

Patricia Tennyson, meeting facilitator, opened the floor for public comment, but there was none.

11. Adjournment

Patricia Tennyson, meeting facilitator, thanked the members for their participation, and the meeting was adjourned.
Stormwater Master Plan
Community Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary

Tuesday, January 13, 2009
Carlos M. Ramirez TecH2O Water Resources Learning Center
10751 Montana Avenue, El Paso, Texas

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Rick Bonart, Borderland Mountain Bike Association – District 1 Representative
Joe Cardenas, Texas Board of Professional Engineers
Jerry Carlson, El Paso Apartment Association
Matt Carroll, Neighborhood Association Representative – Central
Bob Cook, El Paso Regional Economic Development Corp.
Doug Echlin, Neighborhood Association Representative – West
Horacio Fernandez, Texas Department of Transportation
Mary Frances Keisling, Save the Valley Neighborhood/Civic Association
Jimmy Loredo, Ysleta Independent School District
Belinda Luna, City Plan Commission
Will Martinez, Associated General Contractors of America
Cassie McKenzie, Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce
Gerald Miller, El Paso New Car Dealers Association, Mayor’s Representative
Dan Olivas, Greater El Paso Association of Realtors – District 7 Representative
Rafael Padilla, Socorro Independent School District
Mike Pink, El Paso Council of Engineering Companies
Jane Ratchiff, District 4 Representative
Andy Ramirez, Neighborhood Association Representative – Lower Valley
Jorge Ramos, Paso Del Norte Group
Dan Schulte, Neighborhood Association Representative – Northeast
Teodora Trujillo, El Paso Interreligious Sponsoring Organization
John Walton, University of Texas at El Paso

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John Balliew, El Paso Water Utilities
David Brosman, El Paso Water Utilities
Gretchen Byram, El Paso Water Utilities
Gonzalo Cedillos, El Paso Water Utilities
Nick Costanzo, El Paso Water Utilities
Rick French, URS
Hector Gonzalez, El Paso Water Utilities
Ashley Hernandez, El Paso Water Utilities
Bill Hutchison, El Paso Water Utilities
Martin Jacquez, City Street Dept.
Christina Montoya, El Paso Water Utilities
David Ornelas, El Paso Water Utilities
Karol Parker, El Paso Water Utilities
Craig Pedersen, URS
Alan Shubert, City Engineer
Jose Luis Sierra, El Paso Water Utilities
Nanette Smejkal, City Parks and Recreation Dept.
Karen Stearns, URS
1. Welcome and Introduction

At 6:05 p.m., Patricia Tennyson, meeting facilitator, welcomed the committee members to the advisory committee’s sixth meeting. After introductions, Ms. Tennyson asked the members to provide comments or revisions to the October 29 and November 19 minutes through e-mail and reminded them of the upcoming meetings on January 21, 28 and February 4.

2. Stormwater Capital Improvements Program and Open Space Project Update

John Balliew, EPWU, made brief remarks about the e-mail message he sent to members regarding issues related to the CIP. The cost estimate for the CIP is larger than had been anticipated. In order to ensure that some important flood protection projects can go forward during years one through three, EPWU will use debt financing. Mr. Balliew said there is at least one project that will need to fit into the first year of the CIP: TxDOT is funding a project to address the flooding situation in Northeast El Paso in the Dyer/Alcan area. TxDOT would normally design a project just to address the flooding directly caused by its roadway. However, the project can be enlarged to address the entire flooding issue at that location. EPWU will fund the enlargement of the project and TxDOT will do the design. This will result in one single project designed by TxDOT with review by EPWU and constructed with funding from TxDOT and EPWU.

3. City of El Paso Parks and Recreation Master Plan: Dual Use “Parks Ponds”

Nanette Smejkal, City Parks and Recreation Director, said the Parks and Recreation Master Plan sets out a goal to have ten acres of parks and open space for every 1,000 population. The City is a long way away from that ratio, so it is important to take advantage of every opportunity to make El Paso a little greener.

As referenced in the master plan, acquiring and preserving arroyos is the key to open space. But there may also be an opportunity to convert existing detention facilities or ponds into amenities and coordinate the acquisition with the Public Service Board. The master plan also
identifies the need to increase the inventory of active usage fields and ensure dual use of facilities wherever feasible.

Ms. Smejkal presented examples that have a nexus between recreational park value and stormwater improvements. The Parks and Recreation Department and EPWU have identified many potential basins. The proposal is for the stormwater utility to pay the cost of improvements to park ponds so they function better as detention basins. The City would pay the cost of landscaping and other improvements, including irrigation. This proposal would increase the size of parks adjacent to schools and provide parks with walking paths in some neighborhoods.

Questions and Comments

Rick Bonart, Borderland Mountain Bike Association, said the Open Space Subcommittee members have discussed how they would like the ten percent open space funding to be spent. The group prefers to concentrate on natural open space rather than park ponds. One issue is that the $2 million in open space bond funding approved for arroyo acquisition was put back into the general fund and used to purchase Saipan/Ledo and Mowad as a result of damage from Storm 2006. Saipan/Ledo will be a park and Mowad, a BMX track. The Open Space Subcommittee feels it has already donated funds to park projects and wants the open space funding from the stormwater fees to be used for natural systems.

Matt Carroll, Central Neighborhood Association Representative, said many existing ponding areas in the central part of the city are steep-sided, fenced in and not suitable for recreation. For nearly 30 years he has been fighting to change the policy to leave vegetation around these ponds undisturbed, provided the stormwater function is not threatened, to provide a habitat for birds and wildlife. Mr. Balliew said that the stormwater utility maintains the pond areas and asked Mr. Carroll to discuss these issues with Jose Luis Sierra, EPWU, who is in charge of stormwater facility maintenance.

Doug Echlin, West Neighborhood Association Representative, read from the Stormwater Ordinance: 10 percent of the annual drainage utility fee will be spent for open spaces, greenways, arroyos and wilderness areas in their natural state. Mr. Echlin said the committee should not use these funds for areas such as Saipan/Ledo as that would conflict with the ordinance.

Andy Ramirez, Lower Valley Neighborhood Association Representative, said the funds should be spread throughout the city and he was pleased to see that each part of town would benefit. He added that he would like to see how rehabilitated park pond space would be used since there is a need for more recreational areas like soccer fields.

Cassie McKenzie, Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce, said she was interested in whether the City has funding for soil, sod, shrubs and irrigation. She asked if the improvements would be washed away in a future flood and, if so, if it was practical to spend $600,000 on park ponds. Mr. Balliew responded that in the event of a flood, water would overflow into designated areas. The important point is that the velocity would be slowed down and there would actually be less damage as a result. In addition, the deeper portions of ponds would take most of the flooding, and improvements would not be completely destroyed. Alan Shubert, City Engineer, added that the intent would be for one of these areas to function like Album Park; it is a park for 10 years and a pond for one day. In the case of the Saipan/Ledo area, it will take the overflow from the Spaghetti Bowl and there will also be a pump station that will drain the Saipan/Ledo basin.
Dan Olivas, Greater El Paso Association of Realtors, said the Saipan/Ledo area can be considered a good use of funds because it was one of the city’s most devastated areas during Storm 2006. Improvements in this area would show people where their money is going. While he agreed with Dr. Bonart and Mr. Echlin, he supported devoting a portion of the funding to an area that is seen everyday by thousands of people and was in the forefront when the flood hit.

Nick Costanzo, EPWU, said that EPWU has worked closely with Nanette Smejkal, Parks and Recreation Director, on open space concerns. Park ponds were being presented to the committee and members would see a recommended list of open space projects at the next meeting. Debt financing could be used to add a larger number of open space projects.

Ms. Smejkal added that Saipan/Ledo is a good example and it is further along than any other proposal as far as concept and design. The area will be tiered so there is a deeper section that is a basin only and will not have any recreational amenity. A higher tier can accommodate flat fields and the perimeters can be graded to accommodate a playground. The idea of the park pond/dual use concept is that each site can be designed to provide recreational value and also withstand most flood events since turf will help control the water velocity and the flat area can be inundated temporarily without much damage.

4. Draft Open Space Matrix

John Balliew, EPWU, described draft criteria that can be used to evaluate open space projects:

- Any piece of property to be purchased with the 10 percent set aside from the stormwater fees must have a flood control purpose. This is a “pass/fail” criterion – if there is no flood control purpose, the property cannot be bought. If it has a flood control purpose, the other criteria would be used.
- Conservation, or leaving the property in its natural state
- Beautification of existing stormwater infrastructure
- Preservation of some sort of historical or archeological area
- Open access for such things as hiking and climbing, outdoor sports, and contemplative or meditative time
- Active or passive recreation
- ADA requirements, meaning the area is accessible to people with disabilities
- Water quality, meaning the area can remove pollutants and prevent pollution
- Water resources, meaning it can be an aquifer recharge zone

Mr. Balliew used a piece of property as an example to demonstrate how the criteria might be applied. He asked the members to review the list and make recommendations on what should be added or removed. Staff will use the criteria and provide a draft ranked list of open space projects for the next meeting.

Questions and Comments

Dave Hall, community member, asked if the criteria would be equally weighted or if there should be a system of scoring to reflect criteria that are more important. Mr. Balliew said he would provide this at the next meeting.
Matt Carroll, Central Neighborhood Association Representative, said none of the ponds mentioned were in the area he was concerned about. He asked if there were a way that the areas in Central El Paso could be included.

Rick Bonart, Borderland Mountain Bike Association, agreed that there should be a flood control pass/fail test, but said he would like to have pass/fail criteria requiring property purchased with the stormwater revenue open space set-aside to remain in its natural state. At a minimum, natural open space systems should be very heavily weighted, especially since there has never been any funding for purchasing arroyos or open space. Mr. Balliew said that natural open space weighting would be added as part of the definitions in the criteria list.

John Walton, University of Texas at El Paso, said it is important to know who will weight the criteria since that process can be subjective. He suggested that members review and discuss any scoring.

David Wilson, community member, asked if other cities have established similar criteria and weighting factors. Karen Stearns, URS Stormwater Master Plan Program Manager, said she didn’t know of any. Mr. Carroll said Albuquerque and Tucson could be used for comparison.

Dr. Bonart said that economic criteria would also be a factor.

5. Capital Improvement Program Project Recommendations and Priority List

Rick French, URS Stormwater Master Plan Project Manager, updated members on the master planning progress since the last meeting and discussed projects that comprise the draft capital improvements program for the first three years. The technical team first identified problem areas throughout the stormwater system, including undersized channels, undersized storm drains, undersized crossings, areas of debris risk and sediment problems. Then alternatives were developed and evaluated using technical and community values criteria and cost estimates were developed. The technical team met with the stormwater utility staff to arrive at a draft list of more than 100 projects. The total estimated cost for these projects is over $570 million with individual project costs ranging from $100,000 to $27 million. Some projects were split into phases to meet funding limitations.

The stormwater master plan focused on major drainage systems and their capacity to handle the 100-year flood. In addition, EPWU focused on localized flooding issues and identified over 200 such areas at an estimated cost over $80 million to resolve the problems.

The challenge is how to prioritize projects and use the money effectively. System and localized flooding improvements total $650 million and the available CIP funding is $40 million for year one, $20 million for year two, and $15 million for year three or a total of $75 million. Other projects have been identified for years four through ten.

A process was developed to prioritize the projects. The priorities identified were: flooding real property, flooding I-10, debris risk, flooding major roadways, maintenance, and localized flooding issues. A weighting factor was established for each of these:

- flooding of real property or I-10 weighting factor = 4
- debris risk weighting factor = 3
- arterial risk weighting factor = 3
- maintenance weighting factor = 2
- localized flooding weighting factor = 1
Each alternative was scored from one to five and the score multiplied by the weighting factor. This produced a relative ranking of alternatives in relationship to each other. Projects were reviewed again and grouped according to priority with A being the highest and D being the lowest. Considerations in developing the final list were: relative ranking, available annual budget, complexities such as environment issues, and cost/project phasing.

Mr. French discussed the draft list of CIP projects and explained how to read the table. Projects were grouped by watershed and the specific system within the watershed that would be addressed by a project. The project description and issue to be addressed were also listed, as was the estimated total cost for each project. The first two pages were Priority A projects as identified by the technical team. The members would review the proposed list and make recommendations, which could include moving projects within years one through three, moving a project from years four through ten into the first group, or approving the list as presented. However, it would require the consensus of the committee to change the order as there are budget and other impacts from making a recommendation to shift the priority order. Also, the budget would not change, so recommended changes must be within the identified budget of $64 million for the first three years.

6. Discussion Regarding Priority List

Rick Bonart, Borderland Mountain Bike Association asked if EPWU would leverage revenue bonds to fund necessary projects since there was $64 million of available revenue to construct approximately $600 million in projects. Nick Costanzo, EPWU, said the proposed list of projects included the use of revenue bonds to construct critical projects as quickly as possible.

John Walton, University of Texas at El Paso, said EPWU should educate El Paso residents about helping to protect their property against flooding. For example, people should know how to landscape their lawns so they drain properly. Rick French, URS Stormwater Master Plan Project Manager, said the stormwater master plan has a section on design considerations and an education program can be included as a recommendation from the committee. Patricia Tennyson, meeting facilitator, said Christina Montoya, EPWU, had begun a public outreach program to let residents know how they can address stormwater problems.

Matt Carroll, Central Neighborhood Association Representative, asked if there was an exact location for building the ponding area in the Cebada Reservoir area. Mr. French said there was not a specific location; rather it was a general area that would benefit by additional storage. John Balliew, EPWU, said there was a large undeveloped area behind the Memorial Park Senior Center and the railroad tracks where a pond could be located without damaging or removing any public areas or homes.

Ms. Tennyson reminded the group that the list was in draft form; both the list and cost estimates were subject to change, so this version should not be distributed.

Cassie McKenzie, Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce, asked if there were changes in the projected revenue for years one to three from $42.9 million to $75 million. Mr. Balliew said this reflected a reallocation of funding and the use of debt financing. Ms. McKenzie asked where safety was considered on the priority list. Mr. Balliew said safety is a component of each proposed project.

Dr. Walton asked whether it would be more cost-effective to make many smaller improvements rather than constructing larger, phased projects as proposed. Rick French, URS Storm-
water Master Plan Project Manager, said the prioritization process was partly about getting the most bang for the buck. Karen Stearns, URS Stormwater Master Plan Program Manager, added that URS examined the option Dr. Walton presented, but concluded that there was not one solution that worked for the entire city and one of the highest priorities was to keep emergency and evacuation routes clear for safety concerns. Mr. Carroll observed that the committee’s job would now be to fine tune the work that had been presented rather than go back to the drawing board and start over.

Mary Frances Keisling, Save the Valley Neighborhood/Civic Association, asked what it would cost to fix the city’s undersized crossings. Mr. Balliew explained that a high priority was the flooding of real property, and fixing crossings would improve the safety of the crossing but would not improve anything else around the area.

Dr. Bonart asked if a risk assessment would be done after the committee made its suggestions to ensure they had done the best job possible. Mr. French said a risk assessment was part of the technical evaluation process.

Ed Archuleta, EPWU, suggested it might be helpful for members if the project team outlined the areas prone to flooding and then provided information about the number of acres that would be mitigated. This would help quantify the improvements. The proposal was for years one through three to be heavily debt-financed, since the revenue was estimated at $16 million the first year and $15 million the next. Since half of the revenue received is allocated to maintenance, only $7 to $8 million dollars per year would be available for capital projects. Ms. Keisling thanked Mr. Archuleta for the suggestion.

Ms. Stearns added that if the committee recommended moving a project from year seven to years one through three, for example, the technical team could provide an opinion on the impact of such a recommended action.

Efrain Esparza, community member, asked if the cost estimates were in today’s dollars or if inflation had been included. Mr. French said all estimates are in 2008 dollars.

Mr. Carroll asked if EPWU had provided a list of shovel ready projects to the new administration and, if so, whether it included stormwater projects. Mr. Archuleta said projects had been identified and submitted to El Paso’s congressional delegation, engineers and agencies. However, most of the shovel ready projects were not the large ones being discussed by the committee because those have not been designed. He added that the bonds being discussed were revenue bonds that would not require a vote because they reflect EPWU’s credit worthiness. The design process would begin when the committee recommendations were completed. Mr. Costanzo clarified that the stimulus funding request submitted to Washington for stormwater projects was $55 million.

Dave Hall, community member, asked if the same type of list that was done for the recommended priorities would be done for open space projects. Mr. Balliew said the EPWU and Parks and Recreation Department staffs would provide that list on January 21.

Mr. Archuleta asked the committee to think about the $1 million being considered for localized flooding and whether more money should be added for that effort. Mr. French reminded members that their recommendations needed to be finalized before the end of January and asked if additional information would be needed beyond the ideas presented.

Jane Ratcliff, District 4 Representative, asked if the committee would wait for the final approval to tell the public what was being accomplished and how the public would hear the...
information. Ms. Tennyson responded that the recommendations would be presented to the PSB and City Council. EPWU had also begun to make presentations to community groups that requested them.

7. **Administrative**

The next meeting is January 21, 2009. Patricia Tennyson, meeting facilitator, asked members to review the priority list for CIP projects and said there would be a draft list of open space projects and a more detailed description of the open space criteria at the next meeting.

8. **Public Comment**

There were no further public comments.

9. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.
Stormwater Master Plan
Community Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary

Wednesday, January 21, 2009
Carlos M. Ramirez TecH2O Water Resources Learning Center
10751 Montana Avenue, El Paso, Texas

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mark Benitez, Neighborhood Association Representative – East
Cesar Boisselier, International Boundary and Water Commission
Rick Bonart, Borderland Mountain Bike Association – District 1 Representative
Joe Cardenas, Texas Board of Professional Engineers
Jerry Carlson, El Paso Apartment Association
Matt Carroll, Neighborhood Association Representative – Central
Bob Cook, El Paso Regional Economic Development Corp.
Doug Echlin, Neighborhood Association Representative – West
Horacio Fernandez, Texas Department of Transportation
Mary Frances Keisling, Save the Valley Neighborhood/Civic Association
Steve Hoy, El Paso New Car Dealer Association
Will Martinez, Associated General Contractors of America
Cassie McKenzie, Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce
Dan Olivas, Greater El Paso Association of Realtors – District 7 Representative
Kenneth Parker, El Paso Independent School District
Rafael Padilla, Socorro Independent School District
Mike Pink, El Paso Council of Engineering Companies
Andy Ramirez, Neighborhood Association Representative – Lower Valley
Jane Ratcliff, District 4 Representative
J. Antonio Rico, El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, District 3 Representative
Dan Schulte, Neighborhood Association Representative – Northeast
Teodora Trujillo, El Paso Interreligious Sponsoring Organization
Carl Pataky, City Open Space Subcommittee – District 2 Representative
John Walton, University of Texas at El Paso

STAFF AND CONSULTANTS

Paula Apodaca, El Paso Water Utilities
Ed Archuleta, El Paso Water Utilities
Daniel Avila, El Paso Water Utilities
John Balliew, El Paso Water Utilities
David Brosman, El Paso Water Utilities
Gretchen Byram, El Paso Water Utilities
Gonzalo Cedillos, El Paso Water Utilities
Michael Cortez, El Paso Water Utilities
Nick Costanzo, El Paso Water Utilities
Rick French, URS
Ashley Hernandez, El Paso Water Utilities
Christina Montoya, El Paso Water Utilities
Marcela Navarrete, El Paso Water Utilities
David Ornelas, El Paso Water Utilities
Karol Parker, El Paso Water Utilities
Craig Pedersen, URS
1. Welcome and Introduction
At 6:05 p.m., Patricia Tennyson, meeting facilitator, welcomed members to the advisory committee’s seventh meeting.

2. Open Space Criteria Descriptions
Nick Costanzo, EPWU, updated the committee on funding available for park pond and open space projects. He said $1.7 million was available in the fiscal year ending February 28, 2009, and $4 million in bonds would be issued later in 2009. Bonds and cash funding could then be used for park pond and open space projects, which would accommodate most (if not all) of the draft open space projects and the park ponds projects identified at the previous meeting.

John Balliew, EPWU, then discussed a handout that provided more expansive descriptions of the following draft open space criteria.

- Flood Control
- Conservation
- Preservation
- Beautification of existing stormwater ponds

Mr. Balliew reminded members that the committee recommended adding weighting factors to the criteria list. The proposed weights were:

- core value = 4
- favorable = 3
- suitable/useful = 2
- advantage = 1
- conservation = 4
- preservation = 2
- recreation = 2
- beautification = 3
- ADA = 3
- water quality = 1
Mr. Balliew asked for input on the weighting factors and criteria. He then reviewed the draft list of open space projects that the EPWU staff had evaluated based on several criteria, including the estimated cost of land. The criteria were also integrated with the Open Space Master Plan recommendations. He explained that land in some areas had been estimated at no cost because it was owned by the City of El Paso, EPWU or another public entity. The recommended stormwater open space areas recommended were:

- Enchanted Hills Basin
- Cloudview Arroyo
- Mesa Drain
- NE Channel 2
- Silver Springs Dam
- Mesa Hills Channel
- Doniphan Ditch
- Featherlake II
- Johnson Basin
- Franklin Mountain

Mr. Balliew used slides to point out the location of each area and described the stormwater connection or benefit of each. He stressed that, as mentioned in Mr. Costanzo’s presentation, there were adequate funds to purchase all of the areas.

3. Open Space/Park Ponds Draft Recommendations and Priority List

Matt Carroll, Central Neighborhood Association Representative, asked if the area shown in blue on the Enchanted Hills Basin slide was a potential area for a basin. Mr. Balliew responded that the area in blue needed to be purchased. He added that the exact position of the basin was not known, but a basin would need to be built somewhere in that area.

John Walton, University of Texas at El Paso, asked if the City already owns part of the areas that need to be purchased. Mr. Balliew said the City owns portions of the areas, but if the PSB purchased those areas it would preserve the land so it could not be sold or developed. Nick Costanzo, EPWU, clarified that the property costs shown had been estimated; some properties would cost more and some would cost less.

Rick Bonart, Borderland Mountain Bike Association, suggested creating a presentation to show the entire Mountain to River Trail so people could see the open space areas proposed for purchase and those that were privately owned. He said the Parks and Recreation Department presentation requested $2.9 million for park pond projects. Since the open space projects total about $3.9 million, $6.8 million would be needed to do everything. Mr. Costanzo had stated that approximately $9.2 million would be available to fund open space projects, which would leave $2.8 million in the open space fund.

Dr. Bonart recommended that owners be required to provide drainage for flows from the mountain when arroyos pass through private property. He suggested telling property owners that although it is not possible to buy the entire flow path from them, EPWU could subsidize their willingness to preserve those areas as natural open space in order to continue the trail as far as possible. Mr. Balliew said he appreciated the comments and would look into the concept.

Mr. Carroll said he had seen a subcontractor removing vegetation from the 2400 Grant site and the work order had been issued by EPWU. Mr. Carroll had also examined the water reservoir next to the sports complex in east El Paso. He asked if the natural vegetation could be left undisturbed on the slopes of Central area ponds not suitable for recreational uses, to the extent that it could be done without compromising their primary purpose. He also made the point that
all projects, in-house or performed by contractors, should be accomplished with minimal environmental impact and, where appropriate, revegetation should be integral part of projects.

Mr. Balliew said 12 to 14 feet of sediment had accumulated at the bottom of the pond on Grant, and it had to be removed so the pond could hold the water it was intended to hold. In many cases, vegetation had slumped from the side of the pond to the bottom and had to be completely removed. Mr. Balliew said EPWU was committed to maintaining vegetation whenever possible, but the area around the sports complex was tamped down because the contractor stored heavy equipment while building the reservoir and graded the area when the job was completed. No landscaping had been done, but field crews would spray some material there to help with dust control. EPWU could also identify this area for potential landscaping.

Dr. Walton asked why several items on the list did not have cost estimates. Mr. Balliew said the list included the cost of acquiring land, but not construction costs. He added that if EPWU or the City owned the land, the owner would allow the land to be used for flood control purposes, and it would not have to be purchased.

There was a question about why the scores from the Open Space Plan did not match EPWU’s scores. Nanette Smejkal, City Parks and Recreation Director, said the scoring scales were different. The Open Space Subcommittee developed its own criteria for scoring and scored all of the Open Space Master Plan projects, not just those with a stormwater connection. Dr. Bonart commented that the Northwest Master Plan provided a tremendous amount of flood control benefit, and he suggested that these undeveloped areas be included in the list of open space areas being considered.

Ed Archuleta, EPWU, explained that some properties might involve negotiations that extend over several years and others might be more easily obtained. The intent was to identify enough funding to acquire the properties needed for CIP projects before beginning construction.

Brent Sanders, community member, said he wanted to see as much land as possible remain as natural open space and asked the team to consider the reduced maintenance that would be needed if EPWU left land natural rather than creating park ponds. Ms. Smejkal said basins selected for park ponds are surrounded by residential areas and would be used for recreational purposes to complement the park programs.

Dr. Walton asked how the Featherlake project would be done, and also asked if this information could be provided for all projects. Mr. Balliew said Featherlake II would be an extension of Featherlake I and would be the same kind of wetlands habitat.

Dan Olivas, Greater El Paso Association of Realtors, asked if it was necessary to discuss open space projects if there would be enough funds to complete all of the projects. Mr. Balliew responded that members were reviewing the draft list of projects to determine if they agreed with staff recommendations. It was also important to ensure that the open space projects would contribute to flood control.

Mr. Archuleta asked if members were in favor of using bonds to finance open space projects. EPWU could purchase property with cash flow each year, but that would be a slower approach. Dr. Bonart said property should be purchased now in light of the economy and lower property values. He asked if there would be additional projects after all of the property shown to members had been purchased. Mr. Costanzo said revenues would continue to accrue and 10 percent must be spent on open space. Approximately $1.2 million annually, after debt service, would be available for this purpose. The committee was charged with recommending projects to be
implemented during the first three years, but there would be more public participation related to park ponds and open space as time went on and projects were implemented. Alan Shubert, City Engineer, said when it is determined that property needs to be purchased for a project, it is best to follow through quickly because property values do not remain static. Ms. Smejkal added that the top nine projects she presented had the most direct linkage to park ponds, but other basins could be considered. She suggested keeping a prioritized list in case funds became available later. Mr. Carroll said he was in favor of using bonds to maximize the funds available for projects, and he did not recommend changing the priority list.

Bob Cook, El Paso Regional Economic Development Corporation, asked if the CIP budget included funds for completing the Mesa Drain, Doniphan Ditch and Johnson Basin projects, which were connected to CIP years 1 through 3. Mr. Balliew said the projects would be funded.

Cassie McKenzie, Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce, asked if there were a choice as to whether CIP projects were debt financed or not. Mr. Costanzo responded that debt financing was needed to accomplish the first-year projects proposed for the CIP. If not, only a limited number of projects could be implemented. Ninety percent of the projects would be constructed through debt financing and $4 million had been included for open space acquisitions.

Cesar Boisselier, International Boundary and Water Commission, asked why the proposed base funding for open space projects decreased from $1.7 million in fiscal year 2008-09 to $1.2 million in fiscal years 2010-11 and 2011-12. Mr. Costanzo said this reflected $300,000 in debt service and the reductions in rates for school districts and non-profit organizations.

David Wilson, community member, said he attended two seminars in Park City, Utah, where property values and the relationship between open space and trails had been discussed. Developers found that property values increased when houses were near trails. Park City also had an ordinance requiring property owners who wanted to develop their property to either pay to reroute a trail that crossed their property or allow it to remain there. He agreed that purchasing open space when property values were low was a good idea.

Mr. Carroll asked if revenue bonds could be structured so they could be redeemed early if EPWU received stimulus funds. Mr. Costanzo reminded the committee that more than $500 million in stormwater water projects had been identified, and EPWU had applied for $55 million in stimulus funding for stormwater projects. The intent was to obtain $150 million in grants and low-interest loans over ten years.

Jane Ratcliff, District 4 Representative, asked if there would be an effort to inform the public of the work being done in their neighborhoods because the community must be involved for the plan to succeed. Mr. Balliew said public involvement at the master plan stage would be through committee meetings; however, once a project was in the design phase, EPWU would work with affected the communities.

Mr. Archuleta clarified the response to Mr. Cook’s earlier question. EPWU would fund the purchase of property and the capital improvements needed for hydraulics – the city would fund the recreational components. Ms. Smejkal said the costs she presented for the park pond projects included $2.9 million from EPWU and $2.4 million from Parks and Recreation, but the City would have to find a source for its share.

Dan Schulte, Northeast Neighborhood Association Representative, asked for the timeline for open space projects. Mr. Costanzo said projects would be implemented over three to four years, and that bonds would be issued later this year. Ms. McKenzie asked for the cost associated with
the debt financing. Mr. Costanzo said the cost depends on the final interest rate, but it is anticipated that the debt service for the open space portion would be $300,000 a year.

Ms. McKenzie asked if it would be to EPWU’s advantage to determine if the City could finance the recreational portion of a park pond before proceeding with the project. The $300,000 allocated for debt service could be used to fund other projects. Mr. Costanzo said if the City could not fund its portion of the park ponds projects, funds could be reprogrammed for other initiatives. Mr. Shubert said the City staff would compile a list of candidate projects that potentially would go to voters in 2010, and park ponds would probably be part of the list.

Dr. Bonart recommended putting signs in areas where open space projects are being done to raise public awareness about how stormwater fee funds have made a difference in preserving open space. Mr. Balliew said this would be done.

4. Additional Information – Capital Improvement Program Project Priority List

Craig Pedersen, URS Principal in Charge, reminded members that recommendations on moving projects out of CIP years 1 through 3 and/or changing the order of projects should be by consensus from the whole committee. Mr. Pedersen said the maps in the presentation would answer some of the questions from the previous meeting regarding more specific project locations and benefits to be realized from the projects.

Rick French, URS Stormwater Master Plan Project Manager, showed detailed slides beginning with the Doniphan Ditch project known as NW1 and NW2. It would expand the capacity from a two-year to 100-year flood. Next, the CE1 and CE2 projects would increase the size of inlets and crossings to reduce flooding and provide capacity for a 100-year flood event. Bob Cook, El Paso Regional Economic Development Corporation, asked for the approximate acreage in the projects. Mr. Pederson said roughly 250 parcels would be affected.

Mr. French said the Cebada System in Central El Paso (CE4) is a multi-phase project to reduce flooding on I-10. The first phase involves cleaning out sediment to increase capacity. A new pump station and a new force main to take the water directly to the river would be installed in the second phase. The third phase, not funded at the time, would increase the size of the pump station. However, the flooding on I-10 should be alleviated with the first two phases. Cassie McKenzie, Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce, asked how much the flood capacity would increase when the projects were completed. Mr. Pederson said this portion of the stormwater system would go from a 10-year to a 100-year flood capacity.

Mr. French said the City is currently funding the first phase of the NE7 project. The second phase would increase the size of channels and crossings; the NE2 channel would go from its five-year flood capacity to a 100-year flood capacity, and 4,200 parcels would be affected. The Lee Trevino project has three phases, and $5 million is allocated to alleviating major flooding in this area in the first phase. Finally, the Mesa Drain project has an open space component and would increase the capacity from a 10-year flood to a 100-year flood, with over 1,100 parcels affected.

Mr. French said the CIP project in years 1 through 3 will begin addressing 50 to 60 percent of the flood risk. The priority issues the technical team had addressed with the recommended projects included flooding on I-10 and major arterial roadways, flooding real property, maintenance and localized flooding.
5. Recommendation Regarding Capital Improvement Program

Dan Olivas, Greater El Paso Association of Realtors, asked if presentations would be given to show the public where the money is going and demonstrate transparency. John Balliew, EPWU, said the information would be in the master plan, which would be available to anyone. Nick Costanzo, EPWU, added that it would be presented to the PSB and then to City Council. In addition, Ed Archuleta and Christina Montoya, both of EPWU, are working on a presentation describing the projects included in the plan, which will be available to any community group.

Cesar Boisselier, International Boundary and Water Commission, asked if drainage from the Doniphan Ditch project to the Rio Grande would be by gravity or pressurized pumping. Rick French, URS Stormwater Master Plan Project Manager, said it would be by gravity.

Teodora Trujillo, El Paso Interreligious Sponsoring Organization, said the members belonged to community organizations and should discuss the committee’s activities and the master plan projects with their organizations. Cassie McKenzie, Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce, said at the previous meeting members were asked not to share the project list with anyone because it was in draft form. She asked why the content had been sealed. Patricia Tennyson, meeting facilitator, responded that costs were still being checked and the committee’s input had not been included. These things needed to happen before sharing the list with others, and staff would not publish the list without the committee’s input. However, URS was comfortable with the CIP projects recommended for years 1 through 3 from the engineering perspective. John Balliew, EPWU, said members would be free to circulate the list after the committee approved it.

Bob Cook, El Paso Regional Economic Development Corporation asked about the benefits of the Doniphan Ditch project in terms of increasing capacity and parcels affected. Craig Pederson, URS Principal in Charge, explained that the project would increase flood capacity from a 2-year flood to a 100-year flood and that 55 parcels would be affected. Mr. Cook asked how much the flood risk would be reduced by CIP projects in years 4 through 10. Mr. Pederson agreed to provide the information at the next meeting.

Jane Ratcliff, District 4 Representative, said she would be attending a community meeting soon and asked what she could say. Mr. Archuleta said that if Ms. Ratcliff planned to distribute the list, she should mark it “draft” and tell the group the committee had not made recommendations on it.

Mr. Archuleta asked members to suggest organizations Ms. Montoya could approach to discuss scheduling a presentation. Ms. Tennyson said committee members could e-mail any recommended groups to Ms. Montoya or Karol Parker, EPWU. Mr. Balliew added that EPWU could produce maps that clearly show project boundaries.

Kenneth Parker, El Paso Independent School District, asked why no Northwest El Paso projects were included on the CIP project list. He had seen projects underway in the Franklin Hills/Bear Ridge and Shadow Mountain/Mesa areas and asked if that work would be sufficient to correct the flooding problems. Alan Shubert, City Engineer, responded that most of the issues had been addressed. There was still work to be done in the Silver Springs area, which would require the acquisition of property for flood water retention; however, the Silver Springs/Mesa area had been increased to a 25-year flood capacity, which is all that could be done within the existing right of way. All Bear Ridge/High Ridge issues have been addressed.

Dan Schulte, Northeast Neighborhood Association Representative, referred to a November 11 El Paso Times article regarding maintenance improvements. He asked if the media would be
working in our favor by providing this type of information to the community. Mr. Costanzo said
Mr. Archuleta meets regularly with the Times Editorial Board, and Ms. Montoya works with
media representatives.

Matt Carroll, Central Neighborhood Association Representative, said working with the media
could help alleviate concern about stormwater fees by showing the community how the money is
used to make improvements. Rick Bonart, Borderland Mountain Bike Association, added that
“before and after” photographs might also help increase community understanding.

Mary Frances Keisling, Save the Valley Neighborhood/Civic Association, said some people
could not read maps, so other visuals should be available. Also, it was important to include an
easy-to-understand legend with maps. She added it would be helpful to include a definition of
“parcel” and provide the number of people who live in an affected area.

Mike Pink, El Paso Council of Engineering Companies, asked if the projects with the highest
flood risk were given the highest priority. Mr. French said weighting factors were not an abso-
lute, because there is a degree of subjectivity involved in the relative ranking projects. Mr.
Shubert cautioned that although the subject of flood insurance would come up – and the intent
was to take the parcels out of the flood plain so flood insurance would not be required – only
FEMA could change flood plain designations.

Sherry Bonart, community member, asked for the definition of a parcel. Mr. French said a
parcel is a piece of land owned by an individual or business. Mr. Pederson added that a high
number of parcels usually indicates a residential area since individual lots tend to be smaller, and
a low number of parcels would usually indicate a commercial or business area. Mr. Archuleta
asked staff to estimate the number of people and the commercial value of business properties that
would be affected by each project.

Ms. Keisling asked if FEMA should be brought in because the master plan deals with flood
plains. Mr. Shubert said FEMA was the approval agency and could change flood plain designa-
tions, but that did not diminish the work the committee had done. He reminded members that
neither the City nor EPWU had the final say in the matter because other agencies were involved.
The city would work with FEMA.

Mr. Schulte asked about the area north of Transmountain and why it was not included on the
priority list. Mr. French said the Fairbanks project is still planned, but it was not one of the pro-
jects that would be implemented during the first three years.

6. Administrative

Patricia Tennyson, meeting facilitator, said several decisions would be made at the next
meeting.

• Should debt financing be used for open space projects?
• Should any changes be made to the open space list?
• Are there changes needed in the draft CIP list as presented?

Ms. Tennyson reminded members to send the names of organizations that wanted to hear
about stormwater plans and projects to Christina Montoya, EPWU, at cmontoya@epwu.org.

7. Public Comment

There was no public comment.
8. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.
Stormwater Master Plan
Community Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary

Wednesday, January 28, 2009
Carlos M. Ramirez TecH2O Water Resources Learning Center
10751 Montana Avenue, El Paso, Texas

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mark Benitez, Neighborhood Association Representative - East
Cesar Boisselier, International Boundary and Water Commission
Rick Bonart, Borderland Mountain Bike Association
Mike Brown, Associated General Contractors of Texas
Joe Cardenas, Texas Board of Professional Engineers
Jerry Carlson, El Paso Apartment Association
Matt Carroll, Neighborhood Association Representative – Central
Doug Echlin, Neighborhood Association Representative – West
Horacio Fernandez, Texas Department of Transportation
Mary Frances Keisling, Save the Valley Neighborhood/Civic Association
Will Martinez, Associated General Contractors of America
Cassie McKenzie, Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce
Gerald Miller, El Paso New Car Dealers Association – Mayor’s Representative
Dan Olivas, Greater El Paso Association of Realtors – District 7 Representative
Kenneth Parker, El Paso Independent School District
Rafael Padilla, Socorro Independent School District
Carl Patak, City Open Space Subcommittee – District 2 Representative
Mike Pink, El Paso Council of Engineering Companies
Jane Ratcliff, District 4 Representative
Jesus Reyes, El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 – District 6 Representative
J. Antonio Rico, El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, District 3 Representative
Dan Schulte, Neighborhood Association Representative – Northeast
Teodora Trujillo, El Paso Interreligious Sponsoring Organization
John Sproul, University of Texas at El Paso

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Gretchen Byram, El Paso Water Utilities
Gonzalo Cedillos, El Paso Water Utilities
Michael Cortez, El Paso Water Utilities
Nick Costanzo, El Paso Water Utilities
Rick French, URS
Ashley Hernandez, El Paso Water Utilities
Hector Gonzalez, El Paso Water Utilities
Christina Montoya, El Paso Water Utilities
Marcela Navarrete, El Paso Water Utilities
David Ornelas, El Paso Water Utilities
Karol Parker, El Paso Water Utilities
1. Welcome and Introductions

At 6:13 p.m., Patricia Tennyson, meeting facilitator, welcomed the committee members to the advisory committee’s eighth meeting. After introductions, Ms. Tennyson asked members to review the minutes from the January 13 meeting and to send changes by e-mail.

2. Open Space recommendations

- Open Space Project List as presented? Revisions?
- Dual Use Park Ponds List as presented? Revisions?
- Debt financing for open space purchases?
- Approval of final recommendations

John Balliew, EPWU, described the differences between the open space project spread sheet distributed on January 21 and the one distributed at this meeting. The City of El Paso ranking for projects and their Open Space Committee’s score were now the second and third to last columns. Next Mr. Balliew showed the potential park pond projects slide. He reminded members that EPWU would only pay a portion of the cost of each project.

Questions, Comments and Motions

Rick Bonart, Borderland Mountain Bike Association, said he distributed several comments by e-mail regarding issues related to funding. He pointed out that bond funding would be needed to complete the recommended list of park pond projects and the City would also have to provide funds to complete the projects. The estimated timeline for the City to have the required funds would be 2010 if a bond measure passed. He said he would hate to see money allocated for the park pond projects when there are no available City funds or clear cut stormwater function. Dr. Bonart said he did not believe the Utility should borrow money to complete the projects. He then distributed a list that compared the order the open space committee ranked the projects and the
project number. Dr. Bonart said he did not have a problem with the criteria on the open space list, but he did have a problem with funding open space park ponds.

Nick Costanzo, EPWU, said $1.7 million for open space is available this fiscal year (which ends in February 2009); the $5.2 million noted on the slide includes $4 million in bonds. Strictly cash funding projects would mean $1.7 million is available now, and then $1.5 million would be available each of the next two fiscal years. He also commented that we do not know the actual price for land acquisition, so the land cost could vary from the estimates. Bond funding would accelerate open space purchases and park pond development.

Ed Archuleta, EPWU, said many people had spoken to him about the 10 percent that is set aside for open space purchases. Some believed the 10 percent should be used for stormwater projects and the City should acquire open space. He said he discussed the issue with the City Manager and the Parks and Recreation Director who said there are ugly park ponds that could be more useful. EPWU does not have a position on park ponds, but it is trying to help the community by taking ugly ponds, putting a little money into them and getting recreational use from them. EPWU was trying to follow the direction set by City Council and the City Manager when the stormwater ordinance was developed. One alternative the committee was to wait to see if the City Council had funds for the projects in the future. He agreed that the Utility did not want to tie up funding now if the City’s funding did not materialize.

Dr. Bonart asked if the park ponds proposal included all of the project costs. Mr. Costanzo said the Utility would pay for the turf, and the City would pay for the meter and irrigation. Mr. Balliew addressed Dr. Bonart’s question about trees, shrubs and grass. He said the final master plan would include a section on integrating plants into stormwater management and the benefits of having trees. Specifically, trees hold and maintain water, which is more beneficial than having the water run off. Dr. Bonart asked if the park ponds would be a layered system, where the lowest elevations would hold the water and recreation would be on a higher level. Mr. Balliew said it would be a multi-layered system.

Matt Carroll, Central Neighborhood Association Representative, agreed with Dr. Bonart’s comments and suggested waiting to build park ponds. Since the last meeting, he had surveyed the parks he mentioned previously to determine if they could be left in their natural state in order to serve a dual purpose. Mr. Carroll said a dollar value should be established in order to evaluate ponds that were not suitable for dual use versus ones that were.

Jerry Thiedt, community member, asked about the role TxDOT would play in projects involving Transmountain and other roads so El Paso residents would not be required to pay for these improvements. Mr. Balliew asked Horacio Fernandez, Texas Department of Transportation, if TxDOT had a staff member who dealt with stormwater issues. Mr. Horacio said they did and were addressing stormwater issues associated with roadways under their jurisdiction.

Sherry Bonart, community member, said years ago women’s club members threw out poppy seeds and now the Northeast is known for the poppies. She asked if consideration had been given to planting wild flowers and native plants in park pond areas. Mr. Balliew said that could probably be incorporated with Mr. Carroll’s suggestion.

Mary Frances Keisling, Save the Valley Neighborhood/Civic Association, asked how far El Paso lagged behind other cities in purchasing arroyos. Karen Stearns, URS Stormwater Master Plan Program Manager, said typically municipalities try to purchase land along arroyos or do a prudent line analysis without imposing on private property. Shamori Whitt, City Parks and
Recreation Department, said Albuquerque has problems with its open space areas due to erosion, so every few years they redraw the line, which requires additional funding. Ms. Whitt said other municipalities have had bond initiatives to purchase open space, so El Paso is paving new territory; other cities have not thought of combining drainage systems and open space.

Mr. Archuleta suggested there could be some middle ground: acquiring open space through cash financing during the first two years; then building park ponds one at a time and cash financing the work if the bond issue passes and there is funding. Dr. Bonart said he preferred cash financing for the open space projects on the list and waiting to see if the City had its portion of the funding. He asked for the number of years the bonds would be financed. Mr. Costanzo replied a bond issue would be for 20 years.

Mr. Archuleta noted the first project on the park pond list is Saipan, which went to the City Council about a month ago. The City Council representative wanted a demonstration project there and the City has funded Saipan, which would be constructed this year. He asked members to consider including Saipan in their recommendation since it was ready-to-go.

Mr. Thiedt asked if the stimulus package could help fund the program. Mr. Archuleta said $55 million has been requested, but this is not yet a reality.

Doug Echlin, West Neighborhood Representative, said a few weeks ago he had raised concern about using the 10 percent set aside for open space to fund park pond projects. He asked if there were any real numbers associated with the Saipan project. Mr. Archuleta said the total cost for the project was $9 million, with only $364,000 coming from the stormwater utility funding. Mr. Costanzo said the City recently received bids on this project and this was a current cost.

Mark Benitez, East Neighborhood Association Representative, asked why the committee couldn’t take an aggressive approach with open space and park ponds and what this would mean for El Paso. Ms. Whitt said park ponds could have an impact on neighborhoods by eliminating eyesores. Dan Olivas, Greater El Paso Association of Realtors, said although the committee wants all projects to be done, it did not make sense to incur debt if the City could not fund its portion of projects. He suggested that EPWU wait to do its part for park ponds until the City comes up with funds.

Dr. Bonart restated his previous motion:

- Implement a cash-funding-only plan that can be used in the initial phase to purchase the proposed open space projects, including one park pond project, Saipan. Then as the City has funding available to complete park ponds, those projects should come on line with cash funding also.

Dr. Bonart reminded members that there were other open space projects that could be done at the same time. Twenty-one committee members voted to approve the motion; two members abstained.

3. Capital Improvement Program Project List Recommendations for Years 1 - 3

- Should any projects move in or out of years 1 to 3?
- Should the priority order of projects in years 1 to 3 be changed?
- Approval of final recommendations

John Balliew, EPWU, reviewed the stormwater master plan recommended projects with the additional information the members requested: a map showing more specific project locations.
with a legend explaining the floodplain level of protection, total project cost, number of properties improved, residential and/or commercial/industrial value improved and significant benefits for each project.

Projects in the stormwater master plan are:

- Doniphan – Mesa to Sunland (NW1)
- Doniphan – Sunland to Paisano (NW2)
- Van Buren Dam
- Copia/Hwy 54 (CE1&2)
- Central/IH10 (CE4)
- NE – Sun Valley to Ft. Bliss Golf Course (NE7)
- Mission Valley/Americas (MV5)
- Mission Valley/Lomaland (MV10)
- Lee Trevino (EA7)

Mr. Balliew explained the flood risk addressed in CIP years 1 through 3. At the previous meeting, members asked how much flood risk would be improved for the money being spent. In CIP years 1 through 3, more than 50 percent of the flood risk would be addressed for 13 percent of the estimated total cost of all the projects needed.

Questions, Comments and Motions

Doug Echlin, West Neighborhood Association Representative, asked about a project in the Northeast (Sun Valley to Fort Bliss Golf Course) and if the structure shown west of the highway was a sediment basin. John Balliew, EPWU, said it was a sediment basin, but it would not be built until Phase 3, which is more than 10 years from now. Mr. Balliew reminded members that when the approved projects were in the design phase, there would be additional opportunities for public input and involvement. Mr. Echlin asked which year CIP year one would fall into. Mr. Balliew said CIP year 1 begins at the start of the fiscal year on March 1, 2009.

Dan Olivas, Greater El Paso Association of Realtors, thanked Mr. Balliew for the presentation and the additional information that was provided. He asked if this would be part of the presentations to community groups. Mr. Balliew said it would be.

Dan Schulte, Northeast Neighborhood Association Representative, asked if Project CE4 would be funded by the City. Mr. Balliew said the team had proposed that the stormwater utility fund the project.

Matt Carroll, Central Neighborhood Association Representative, said EPWU and URS made a great impression with the speed and professionalism of the work that was done. He accepted the order of projects as presented. Patricia Tennyson, meeting facilitator, noted that the committee’s recommendation was for the first three years of the CIP, and later the Utility would seek the committee’s feedback on years 4 through 10.

Rick Bonart, Borderland Mountain Bike Association, said he hoped the Utility planned to use debt financing for the CIP projects. Mr. Balliew said debt financing is the only option in order to make headway on the CIP. Ed Archuleta, EPWU, said an additional $4 million would be available in the first three years of the CIP because members agreed to use cash financing for open space projects. Nick Costanzo, EPWU, added that stormwater rates were set for the first three years, so they could reduce the amount borrowed or issue an additional $4 million in debt in order to complete an additional stormwater project. Rick French, URS Stormwater Master Plan Project Manager, said the Mission Valley/Lomaland (MV10) project, which was split between CIP years 3 and 4, was a potential additional project.
Jane Ratcliff, District 4 Representative, asked if there would be projects done in the North-east during the first CIP year. Mr. Balliew said the Alcan/Dyer project is part of the first year because it is a part of the TxDOT project he mentioned to the committee on January 13. The project cost was less $1 million and it was committed for next year. Mr. Costanzo suggested that because the Utility is cost sharing the project with TxDOT, it should be part of the projects in CIP years 1 through 3.

Mike Pink, Texas Council of Engineering Companies, asked about the $4 million dollars that was still available. Mr. Costanzo said the team suggested moving the second phase of the MV10 project up to CIP years 1 through 3.

The members voted to approve the project list as presented for years 1 through 3 with the additional project, Mission Valley/Lomaland – Phase 2, included since an additional $4 million would be included in the bond issuance. Twenty-one committee members voted in favor of this motion; two abstained.

4. Other Recommendations

- **Is the proposed $1 million per year for localized flooding problems adequate?**

  John Balliew, EPWU, said $1 million was proposed to be set aside annually to address localized flooding problems that were not addressed by any of the master plan projects. The Utility would work on stormwater system improvements in conjunction with City street projects such as putting in curbs and gutters. Mr. Balliew asked committee members if reserving $1 million annually was adequate.

  Charlie Wakeem, community member, asked if EPWU had done its due diligence and felt that $1 million would be sufficient. Mr. Balliew said EPWU thought it was adequate, but wanted to know if committee members, who are in the daily commute, had a different opinion.

  Matt Carroll, Central Neighborhood Association Representative, asked how EPWU arrived at the $1 million figure. Mr. Balliew responded that a list of localized flooding areas was created from reports developed by the City, the stormwater utility’s Maintenance Division and individual neighborhood groups. In many cases the level of flooding was more of a nuisance issue than a case of major flooding, but improvements were needed. This funding would allow EPWU to take advantage of projects already underway and put in the stormwater improvements. Mr. Balliew said this would also eliminate the need for sending crews out every time it rains.

  Mary Frances Keisling, Save the Valley Neighborhood/Civic Association, asked if the area around Strahan Road by the elementary school would be addressed and, if not, how to get that project on the list. Mr. Balliew said areas would be funded according to the work the City would be doing. If the Street Department was not tearing up the road, EPWU would not tear it up to put stormwater system improvements in areas where flooding falls more into the nuisance category. However, if EPWU knows the Street Department will resurface a street that has a nuisance flooding problem, localized flooding funds will be used to fix the problem. Ms. Keisling asked if the projects were weighted with safety first. Mr. Balliew said he did not believe any of the projects were safety concerns – they were more of a nuisance.

  Patricia Tennyson, meeting facilitator, asked if EPWU was in close contact with Alan Shubert, City Engineer, in order to know when street projects would be done. Mr. Balliew said EPWU was in regular contact with City staff.
Sherry Bonart, community member, asked if any of the projects would be funded from the 10 percent set aside for open space. Mr. Balliew said they would not. Dan Schulte, Northeast Neighborhood Association Representative, asked who was in charge of the vactor trucks. Nick Costanzo, EPWU, said the Stormwater Operations Department handles vactor trucks and Jose Luis Sierra, EPWU, could address any questions.

Jane Ratcliff, District 4 Representative, said it was important for people to know how to contact the division that provides this service and asked if EPWU would make presentations to organizations about this issue as well as stormwater master plan projects. Christina Montoya, EPWU, said five meetings had been set up for February and others were scheduled for March, April and May.

Jesus Reyes, El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1, moved to approve the $1 million annual allocation to address localized flooding problems. Twenty-one committee members voted in favor of the motion; there were two abstentions.

Ms. Keisling thanked Mr. Sierra for his hard work and responsiveness. She said he was fixing an area at 9:30 p.m. after a sub-contractor broke a pipe and he gave his cell number to the community in case of future problems.

Ms. Tennyson asked members if there were any other recommendations they would like to include in the final report. Rick Bonart, Borderland Mountain Bike Association, said he had hoped for a master plan that covered the entire city including undeveloped areas. Mr. Schulte said the mission statement said the committee was supposed to approve a plan and the committee was looking forward to seeing that. Mr. Balliew responded that the complete plan would be available, but the list of projects presented by URS, which the committee approved, was the key element in the plan.

Mr. Wakeem said URS and EPWU had done an outstanding job. He asked if the plan was regional or just covered areas within the city limits. Mr. Balliew said the plan extended into the extraterritorial jurisdiction. In addition, the Utility made an application to the Texas Water Development Board on behalf of El Paso County to provide a cash match to extend the stormwater master plan throughout the county, which would be an approximately $300,000 project.

Kim Keisling, community member, asked if there were a mechanism for EPWU to have a say in zoning. Mr. Balliew said the Drainage Design Manual is supposed to ensure that there are no ongoing flooding problems. This document was recently updated by URS, and EPWU participated in meetings and drafting the document.

Dr. Rick Bonart said Gonzalo Cedillos, EPWU, attended the last Open Space meeting and showed part of a flood path that had been subdivided by a property owner. Dr. Bonart asked if the property owner that he or she would have to accept the water in the flood path. He said his concern is how the stormwater master plan would blend with what is actually being done on various properties. Mr. Balliew said the plan would include specific recommendations regarding those concerns.

Ed Archuleta, EPWU, asked URS to develop a set of best management practices related to stormwater management. He also noted there would need to be oversight to make sure the stormwater master plan was followed throughout the city.

Ms. Keisling asked if the committee’s community values list would be included in the Drainage Design Manual. Karen Stearns, URS Stormwater Master Plan Program Manager, said the committee could recommend that the list be included.
Dr. Sherry Bonart thanked the committee for allowing her to have a voice even though she was not part of the committee. She said the committee has made a lot of important decisions and should meet at least once a year to see the progress that had been made. Mr. Archuleta said he hoped the committee would act in a stormwater oversight capacity and meet periodically to review progress with open space acquisitions and project construction.

Mr. Carroll said if further meetings were held at TecH₂O, he suggested a van pool from City Hall in order to be a part of being “green.”

5. Administrative
Patricia Tennyson, meeting facilitator, said a draft of the final report documenting the committee’s discussions and recommendations would be available for review and comment at the February 4 meeting.

6. Public Comment
There were no further public comments.

7. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.
Stormwater Master Plan
Community Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary

Wednesday, February 4, 2009
Carlos M. Ramirez TecH2O Water Resources Learning Center
10751 Montana Avenue, El Paso, Texas

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mark Benitez, Neighborhood Association Representative – East
Cesar Boisselier, International Boundary and Water Commission
Rick Bonart, Borderland Mountain Bike Association – District 1 Representative
Mike Brown, Associated General Contractors of Texas
Jerry Carlson, El Paso Apartment Association
Matt Carroll, Neighborhood Association Representative – Central
Doug Echlin, Neighborhood Association Representative – West
Mary Frances Keisling, Save the Valley Neighborhood/Civic Association
Will Martinez, Associated General Contractors of America
Cassie McKenzie, Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce
Dan Olivas, Greater El Paso Association of Realtors – District 7 Representative
Rafael Padilla, Socorro Independent School District
Kenneth Parker, El Paso Independent School District
Mike Pink, El Paso Council of Engineering Companies
Andy Ramirez, Neighborhood Association Representative – Lower Valley
Jane Ratcliff, District 4 Representative
J. Antonio Rico, El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, District 3 Representative
Antonio Santana, Texas Department of Transportation
Dan Schulte, Neighborhood Association Representative – Northeast
Teodora Trujillo, El Paso Interreligious Sponsoring Organization
Carl Pataky, City Open Space Sub-Committee – District 2 Representative
John Walton, University of Texas at El Paso

STAFF AND CONSULTANTS

Paula Apodaca, EPWU
Ed Archuleta, EPWU
Daniel Avila, EPWU
John Balliew, EPWU
Gretchen Byram, EPWU
Gonzalo Cedillos, EPWU
Nick Costanzo, EPWU
Rick French, URS
Ashley Hernandez, EPWU
Christina Montoya, EPWU
David Ornelas, EPWU
Karol Parker, EPWU
Jose Luis Sierra, EPWU
Patricia Tennyson, Katz and Associates
Shamori Whitt, City Parks and Recreation Dept.
Nanette Smejkal, City Parks and Recreation Dept.
Karen Stearns, URS
1. Welcome and Introduction
   At 6:00 p.m., Patricia Tennyson, meeting facilitator, welcomed the committee members to the advisory committee’s ninth meeting. After introductions, Ms. Tennyson asked committee members to review the January 21 and 28 meeting summaries and send any changes by email. Matt Carroll provided one correction to the January 21 summary.

2. Adopt Final Committee Report
   Ms. Tennyson reviewed the contents of the draft final report. Committee members reviewed and suggested revisions. All changes were made in the report, and were visible to the group on the screen. The committee requested that three tables be developed to clarify the annual open space funding available, capital project cash and debt funding proposed for CIP years 1–3, and the total open space and park pond funds available through FY 2012 and proposed project costs.

   Committee members voted to accept the draft report as revised pending the review and approval of three finance tables by Dr. Rick Bonart, Borderland Mountain Biking Association; Kenneth Parker, EPISD; and Mary Frances Keisling, Save the Valley Neighborhood/Civic Association. Sixteen committee members voted in favor of this motion; Socorro Independent School District and Texas Department of Transportation abstained.

   Ed Archuleta, EPWU, invited the committee to attend the PSB meetings on February 5 and March 11 and the City Council meeting on March 31 when the Stormwater Master Plan will be presented.

   John Balliew, EPWU, said the Master Plan will be sent to committee members in CD format.

   Ms. Tennyson asked the committee if EPWU can show the media the report without the financial table. The committee asked to wait until the report is complete before distributing it.

   Mr. Archuleta thanked the committee members for all of their work. He reminded the committee that EPWU staff will be presenting information about the stormwater system to community and civic groups that are interested in learning more about the progress being made.

   Mrs. Keisling thanked URS for their hard work. She also thanked the committee members for their participation and observed much had been accomplished over the past five months.

3. Public Comment
   There was no public comment.

4. Adjournment
   The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.
## Watershed System Project Description Issue to be addressed Description of Improvements Estimated Total Cost CIP Year

**Central Government Hills CE1**
- Multiple street intersections along Government Hills Channel do not have sufficiently sized drainage inlets.
- Undersized inlets restrict water from entering the channel and contribute to localized flooding at the crossings.
- Expand the street inlets at Altura, Hastings, Cambridge and Cumberland to allow street flow to enter the channel without flooding surrounding properties. Also, add Austin High Pond upstream from the channel to decrease the flow entering the street inlets.
- $850,000 1

**Central Government Hills CE2**
- Multiple culverts along Government Hills Channel are undersized and contribute to channel flooding in localized areas.
- Enlarge culverts at Cambridge, Cumberland, Chester and Trowbridge to increase the overall capacity of the Government Hills Channel to convey the 100-year storm.
- $2,000,000 1

**Central Cebada CE4 Phase 1**
- Conveyance problems through Cebada Reservoir and Magnolia systems cause major flooding on IH-10 and on Cebada Road.
- Cleaning and relocating of existing utilities in Cebada Outfall conduit (In Progress). Expansion of Magnolia Reservoir (In Progress).
- $4,740,000 1

**Central Cebada CE4 Phase 2a**
- Conveyance problems through Cebada Reservoir and Magnolia systems cause major flooding on IH-10 and on Cebada Road.
- Storm drains from Magnolia, Pump Station and Force Main to Rio Grande and pond.
- $10,250,000 1

**Central Government Hills Van Buren Dam**
- Van Buren Dam - Upgrade
- Improve Van Buren Dam per Work Order 3, Task 4 Report.
- $2,510,000 1

**East Lomaland Basin EA7 Phase 1a**
- Runoff flooding streets because it does not enter Jesuit Basin effectively.
- Addition of 36-inch RCP, 48-inch RCP, 60-inch RCP and 10-foot by 4-foot CBC storm drain system to capture flows from residential and commercial areas before flooding at Lee Trevino and James Watt.
- $5,000,000 1

**Mission Valley Basin G MV5 Phase 1a**
- The current configuration and capacity of Basin G is causing tailwater to significantly restrict the capacity of the major drains and Interceptor System in Mission Valley. There is a need for additional storage in Basin G.
- Excavate existing Basin G area to a depth of 20 feet, replace the undersized crossings at Carl Longuemare and Southside, and re-grade the Franklin Drain Interceptor so that water will flow to the basin from both the Paye Drain and the Interceptor System.
- $6,000,000 1

**Mission Valley Mesa Drain Upstream and Downstream MV10a**
- Mesa Drain is significantly undersized.
- Expand Mesa Drain 20 feet in width on the south side of Channel where feasible. Also, line portions of channel with concrete that cannot be expanded and line 20 feet upstream of all crossings with concrete.
- $3,000,000 1

**Northeast Range Dam Alcan**
- Castner Range runup thru Fairbanks causes Alcan, Woodrow Bean, and Dyer flooding.
- Construct 3 concrete box culverts with inlets to capture and divert flooding runoff to Electric Ditch, and concrete line the electric ditch. (Partnering with TxDOT for design of project).
- $1,000,000 1

**Northeast Doniphan Ditch NW1**
- This section of Doniphan Ditch is severely undersized with undersized crossings.
- Increase the capacity of three culvert crossings. Increase the capacity of the channel to detain some volume. Grade the section north of Sunset Drive to drain to White Spur Drain and pond.
- $2,150,000 1

**Central Cebada System CE4 Phase 2b**
- Conveyance problems through Cebada Reservoir and Magnolia systems cause major flooding on IH-10 and on Cebada Road.
-Storm drains from Magnolia, Pump Station and Force Main to Rio Grande and pond.
- $6,000,000 2

**Northeast Northeast Ponding NE1 Phase 2**
- Northeast Channel No. 2 is significantly undersized (<10-year) with undersized crossings and serious erosion problems.
- Expansion and lining of remaining channel.
- $9,500,000 2

**Central Cebada CE4 Phase 2c**
- Conveyance problems through Cebada Reservoir and Magnolia systems cause major flooding on IH-10 and on Cebada Road.
- Storm drains from Magnolia, Pump Station and Force Main to Rio Grande and pond.
- $6,000,000 3

**Mission Valley Mesa Drain Upstream and Downstream MV10b**
- Mesa Drain is significantly undersized.
- Expand Mesa Drain 20 feet in width on the south side of the channel where feasible. Also, line portions of channel with concrete that cannot be expanded and line 20 feet upstream of all crossings with concrete.
- $1,500,000 3

**Northeast Doniphan Ditch NW2**
- This section of Doniphan Ditch has five undersized crossings and the channel is undersized. There is a need to increase the capacity of three culvert crossings and two bridges. Increase the capacity of the channel to detain some.
- $5,000,000 3
## Capital Project Funding

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<th>Debt Funding</th>
<th>Cash Funding</th>
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<td>Localized Flooding</td>
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Allocated Funding

Prioritization Process
Capital Program vs. Flood Risk Improvement
Total $650 million

*Does not include Open Space & Park Ponds
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<td>PRJ_NW6</td>
<td>Construct debris/sediment basin w/ detention to reduce flow-path volume</td>
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<td>●</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>422.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>NE Channel 2</td>
<td>Irrigation Canal Greenbelts and Linkages</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>PRJ_NE2</td>
<td>Expansion and lining of NE Channel 2</td>
<td>El Paso Electric Company</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>422.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Silver Springs Dam</td>
<td>Mountain Canyons</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>PRJ_NW19</td>
<td>Detention basin to protect downstream properties</td>
<td>Heydarian, Behrouz; Estancias Coronado Homeowners</td>
<td>34.06</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>572.36</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mesa Hills Channel</td>
<td>Dispersed Arroyos</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>PRJ_NW18</td>
<td>Enhance existing debris/sediment basin</td>
<td>PSB; Cactus Pointe Homeowners</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>65.15</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Doniphan Ditch</td>
<td>Irrigation Canal Greenbelts and Linkages</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>PRJ_NW1</td>
<td>Increase hydraulic capacity with double use for recreational purposes</td>
<td>BNSF RR; Alternative on PSB</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Featherlake II</td>
<td>Lower Valley &quot;Bosque&quot;</td>
<td>2B</td>
<td>PRJ_MV3a</td>
<td>Expand basin and increase detention capacity</td>
<td>C of EP</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>311.19</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Johnson Basin</td>
<td>Citywide Detention Pond/Corridors</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>PRJ_NE2</td>
<td>Construct new retention basin</td>
<td>Dunn, Joseph &amp; Irene</td>
<td>3.73</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>78.15</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Franklin Mountain</td>
<td>Near Lower Mountain Terrace</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>PRJ_WC6</td>
<td>Construct sediment and debris containment</td>
<td>Paliades J.V.; Coles, Helen; Salom, George</td>
<td>226.57</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>198.26</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Westside Master Plan</td>
<td>Upper Northwest Arroyos</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>PRJ_NW4</td>
<td>Construction detention and sediment basins to reduce volume of flow-paths 38, 39, and 40</td>
<td>PSB</td>
<td>619</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>235.26</td>
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</table>

**TOTAL ESTIMATED COST:** $3,947,000

**Legend:**

- 
  - Meets no criteria: ZERO
- ●
  - Partially meets criteria: HALF
- ○
  - Meets all criteria: ONE
## POTENTIAL PROJECTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Sq. Ft.</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Stormwater Utility Costs (Soil, Sod, and Shrubs @ $1/SF)</th>
<th>City of El Paso Costs (Irrigation @ $35K/Acre)</th>
<th>Total Estimated Cost</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saipan</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>364,000</td>
<td>8.36</td>
<td>$364,000</td>
<td>$292,470</td>
<td>$656,470</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shawver</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>700,000</td>
<td>16.07</td>
<td>$700,000</td>
<td>$562,443</td>
<td>$1,262,443</td>
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<tr>
<td>Skyline</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>595,000</td>
<td>13.70</td>
<td>$595,000</td>
<td>$478,076</td>
<td>$1,073,076</td>
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<tr>
<td>Galatzan/Oxidation Pond</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>233,000</td>
<td>5.35</td>
<td>$233,000</td>
<td>$187,213</td>
<td>$420,213</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tiger Eye @ Northeast Ph I</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>160,000</td>
<td>3.67</td>
<td>$160,000</td>
<td>$128,558</td>
<td>$288,558</td>
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<td>Capistrano Ph I</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>141,300</td>
<td>3.24</td>
<td>$141,300</td>
<td>$113,533</td>
<td>$254,833</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edgemere and Guthrie</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>62,000</td>
<td>1.42</td>
<td>$62,000</td>
<td>$49,816</td>
<td>$111,816</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vocational @ Riverside Jr. High</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>575,000</td>
<td>13.20</td>
<td>$575,000</td>
<td>$462,006</td>
<td>$1,037,006</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jamestown</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>124,700</td>
<td>2.86</td>
<td>$124,700</td>
<td>$100,195</td>
<td>$224,895</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotals</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>2,955,000</td>
<td>67.87</td>
<td>$2,955,000</td>
<td>$2,374,311</td>
<td>$5,329,311</td>
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</table>
# Open Space and Park Ponds

## Proposed Funding for Land Acquisition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY 2008-09</td>
<td>$1,700,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2009-10</td>
<td>$1,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2010-11</td>
<td>$1,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY 2011-12</td>
<td>$1,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6,200,000</strong></td>
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## Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open Space Land Acquisition</td>
<td>$3,900,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saipan Park/Pond</td>
<td>$364,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Identified P/P projects and contingencies for acquisition</td>
<td>$1,936,000*</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6,200,000</strong></td>
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</table>

*Subject to City funding for their portion of park/pond development*
## Open Space and Park Ponds

### Proposed Expenditures by Stormwater Committee Member Rick Bonart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY</th>
<th>Cash on Hand</th>
<th>3.9M Open Space Projects</th>
<th>OS Project Balance</th>
<th>2.99M Park/ Ponds Projects</th>
<th>P/P Project Balance</th>
<th>2.37M City Contributions</th>
<th>Cash Balance</th>
<th>Acres Park/ Ponds Improved</th>
<th>O&amp;M*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>08-09</td>
<td>1.7M</td>
<td>1.34M</td>
<td>2.56M</td>
<td>.36M</td>
<td>2.63M</td>
<td>.29M</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>09-10</td>
<td>1.5M</td>
<td>1.5M</td>
<td>1.06M</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>2.63M</td>
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<td>10-11</td>
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<td>11-12</td>
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<td>1.4M</td>
<td>.79M</td>
<td>1.5M</td>
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<td>56.58</td>
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<td>12-13</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>.26M</td>
<td>+.81M</td>
<td>67.87</td>
<td>475,090</td>
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</table>

*O&M figured at $7000.00/acre annually for park/ponds to be paid for by the City.