



Trolley Creek Park Officially Open

Some of the more than 500 Grand Opening guests enjoy the brand new Trolley Creek Park in southeast Fresno. State and local leaders, law enforcement officers, fire

fighters, park neighbors, community groups, park donors, and local media joined the District for this fun event.



July 9th marked the opening of a special new park in Fresno. Trolley Creek Park offers safe open green space, lots of play equipment, places to picnic and barbeque, an amphitheater, and a taste of Fresno's history. More than 500 kids and adults came from all around the Fresno-Clovis area to enjoy live music, fun and educational activities, and made history as the first guests inside the new park.

Trolley Creek Park is unique because all of its play equipment, pathways, picnic tables, and restrooms are more than just "accessible" to visitors. These features are all fully usable by people of varying abilities.

Trolley Creek Park's three acres of playground, picnic pavilions, and open space are an inviting place to come and relax with your family. Next door you will find a nine-acre landscaped ponding basin, which is a perfect place to play on a large open grass area and observe wildlife from the dock overlooking the water.

A highlight of the grand opening event was the crew of volunteers from the Meux Home Museum and District employees who strolled the park in turn-of-the 20th century costumes. This was in keeping with Trolley Creek Park's historic Fresno theme, which features replicas of the famous Fresno Water Tower, the Meux Home, and a full-

size replica of a 1920 Birney trolley car.

Trolley Creek is located in southeast Fresno, an area building its inventory of recreation space to meet the City of Fresno standard of .75 acres per 1,000 people. The park is north of Kings Canyon Road, and east of Willow Avenue, behind the Wal-Mart store.

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Message from the General Manager



Bob Van Wyk

On October 27th I represented the District at a signing ceremony establishing a strategic alliance between more than 50 community partners who have mutual interest in coordinating economic development activities throughout Fresno County. The strategic alliance reflects a long-standing commitment the Board and

District staff have made to help ensure the success of the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) in expanding the economic interests of our community.

As a partner in economic development, the District will participate in advanced regional planning of urban infrastructure, protect property from flooding, augment public open space through multiple use of District property, and support groundwater recharge efforts. Continuing these commitments to our community will help to ensure long-term success (see story on page 6).

While planning for the future is vitally important,

the District has responded to strong economic growth for the past 18 months. During that period we have seen a steady and significant increase in the number of new development plans submitted to our office for review. Each project requires detailed review to ensure adequate drainage is planned. District staff have responded to this need and in many cases worked long hours to complete projects on time. We will assign additional resources to the development review program to meet the needs of a growing community, while providing timely and accurate reviews of new projects.

More than 50 local agencies and organizations signed the Strategic Alliance Agreement with EDC



Surface Water Irrigation System Reduces Demand on Drinking Water Supplies



The basin at Chestnut and Shepherd will soon be landscaped as shown here at Herndon and Maroa.

As part of its water conservation program, the District will build an irrigation system for the basin located at Chestnut and Shepherd that will allow the use of surface water. The top one-third of the basin will be landscaped with turf and trees.

Typically, the water departments of the cities of Fresno and Clovis provide water used for landscape irrigation at basin sites. The District, City of Fresno and the Fresno Irrigation District (FID) have been working to find alternate sources of water for irrigation to reduce our dependence on groundwater. The City of Fresno and FID have agreed to provide surface water from the nearby Enterprise Canal, and the District will construct a pumping system that eliminates the need to connect to the City water system.

Costs for the equipment and construction will be offset by savings on connection and monthly water fees. Upon completion this project will save an estimated 13 acre-feet of drinking water annually, which equals more than 4.2 million gallons.

The District Board will consider future sites for conversion to surface water, and this prototype design could ultimately be used at all basin sites, significantly reducing the District's use of drinking water for landscape irrigation purposes.

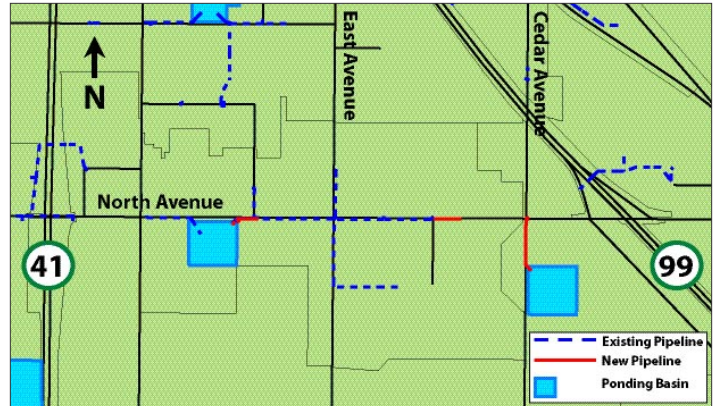
District and City of Fresno Team Up on North Avenue Projects

The City of Fresno and the District are coordinating two projects on North Avenue between Highway 99 and Freeway 41. This area is an established industrial corridor, which includes businesses like Pepsi Co. and Kraft Foods.

The City and the District are requiring their contractors to coordinate work to minimize traffic impacts, which means less time for lane closure, detours, etc. This approach saves taxpayer dollars because work is timed for optimum efficiency to eliminate duplicative work that might otherwise occur.

The City project, currently underway, will improve the paved surface of North Avenue between 99 and 41, and will widen the road from two lanes to four.

The District project, completed in early November, increased the number of storm drain inlets, allowing faster removal of storm water and urban runoff from the street. New pipelines were also installed, and a second basin was excavated to increase storm water storage capacity for the area. Haydon Construction was awarded the \$341,424



District contract.

The improvements to North Avenue will make it easier to travel, and it is expected that the improvements will help to stimulate growth and jobs creation in this important southeast Fresno industrial corridor.

Facilitating economic development in our community and maximizing taxpayer dollars are District priorities, and are put into practice through interagency coordination.

Task Force 3 Simplifies Permit Process

The entitlement process for development or subdivision of property can be complicated. The City of Fresno has joined with Caltrans and the District to streamline the permit process and provide a more direct level of service to the community. Private citizens and professionals alike can take advantage of a resource called Task Force 3, located on the third floor of Fresno City Hall.

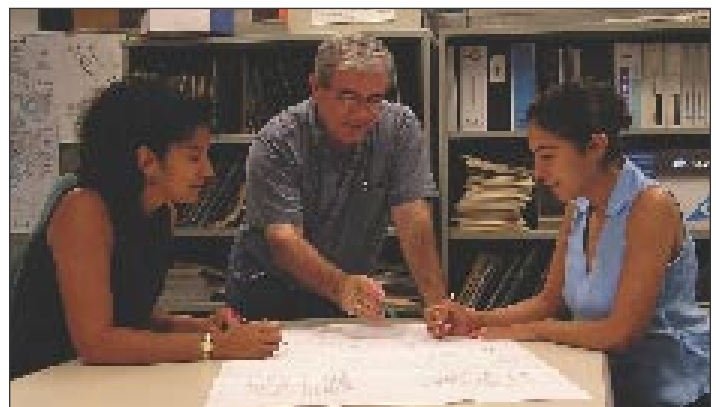
This service is free of charge and provides direct access to people with the answers to permit questions. Getting all of the answers at once ensures that permittees know the requirements they must meet in order to expedite their project. Representatives from the three agencies are available from 8:00-9:00 a.m. each morning to answer questions. No appointment is necessary.

Neda Shakeri, Engineer II, is one of three District employees who participate in Task Force 3. She feels that apart from the one-stop convenience Task Force 3 offers the public, it also allows participating agencies to build better working relationships with each other. This is valuable in streamlining work on other projects because it

increases understanding of how other agencies operate.

If you would like more information about Task Force 3 call Neda Shakeri or Mark Will at the District, 456-3292.

City of Fresno staff Donna Leslie (l)/Solid Waste Division of the Department of Public Utilities, Greg Jenness (c)/Transportation Planning in the Public Works Department, and District Engineer II Neda Shakeri (r) review project plans. Other City areas represented are Police, Fire, Sewer, and Water.






Sponsorships Available at Oso de Oro Lake Park

A limited number of honor wall sponsorships are available at Sloan Johnson Oso de Oro Lake Park at the \$500 level. Sponsors will have their name or memorial message printed on a tile, which is then permanently affixed to the honor wall located near the entrance to this well-used park. Please call Frances Lopez, 456-3292, at the District offices for details. Donor recognition is also planned for the new Trolley Creek Park.

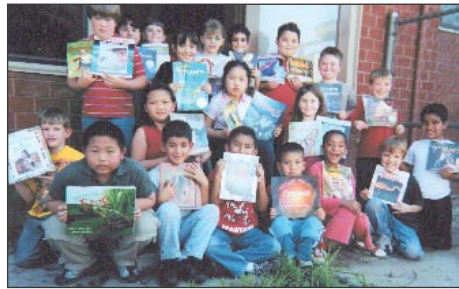
Water Awareness Committee Launches New Web Site

As the Valley's population grows, it becomes increasingly important for us all to learn how to use water wisely and keep it clean.

The Central Valley Water Awareness Committee, of which the District is a member, has a new web resource for you to use. Visit www.centralvalleywater.org to learn where your water comes from, how it is used, where it goes, how to protect it, and much, much more!

Resources available to view and to download include a directory of all Central Valley water agencies, informational materials from member agencies, and pollution prevention and water conservation tips for residents and businesses. 

Clean Stormwater Grants Fund School Projects



Tarpey Elementary Second Graders show off the books their Clean Stormwater Grant bought.

Each March the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District awards Clean Stormwater Grants to area groups conducting clean stormwater activities. The purpose of the grants is to help fund environmental education and improvement projects, and each grant award can be up to \$2,000.

Many of the grant recipients have been area schools, which use the grant funds to pay for field trips, water test kits, books, and more.

Two schools funded in the last two years are Tarpey Elementary in Clovis, and Susan B. Anthony Elementary in Fresno. Susan B. Anthony's project was done in partnership with Leadership Fresno's Class XX.

Tarpey's second grade teachers organized field trips to the San Joaquin River, the Sierra foothills, and Monterey Bay Aquarium. The field trips, together with books and classroom supplies purchased, served to give students hands-on activities related to our local watershed, wildlife habitat, pollution, and other issues.

The trip to the river tied in with the "Salmonids in the Classroom" program, offered by the California Department of Fish and Game. The students raised trout from eggs in their classrooms and then released the baby trout into the San Joaquin River.


Susan B. Anthony Elementary's fourth, fifth, and sixth graders took field trips to the San Joaquin River and participated in nature walks, canoe trips, and a conservation project. For many of the students this was their first time in a canoe and the thank you letters they wrote tell us it was a memorable experience for them. Their project also provided an opportunity for the students to get involved in cleaning up and restoring the San Joaquin River.

As a result of the work Susan B. Anthony did with the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust, 30 River Camp scholarships were offered to students and greatly increased the impact of the Clean Stormwater Grant.

Representatives from Tarpey and Susan B. Anthony Elementary, and Leadership Fresno's Class XX expressed their appreciation for the Clean Stormwater Grants at the July 14 District Board meeting. They presented the Board with a plaque and letters of thanks from their students.

As it did with these two successful environmental education projects, the District offers free informational materials and can even send presenters to talk to your group or classroom.

Information on the Clean Stormwater Grant program is available at www.fresnofloodcontrol.org. Click on 'Clean Stormwater Program', and then 'Clean Stormwater Community Services'.

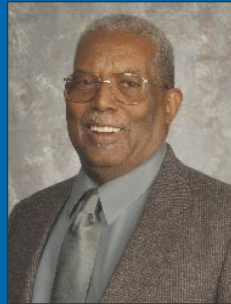
The 2005-2006 Clean Stormwater Grant application will be available in December, with the submission deadline on March 4, 2005. Look for more details in the next issue of Flood Line. 

Three Directors Reappointed

Three of the District's Directors have been reappointed to the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District Board. George Marcus, Kendall Groom, and Jennette Williams all began their new four-year terms in August of 2004. In other Board action, Frank Franco was appointed to another two-year term as Chairman, and Richard Welton was appointed Vice Chairman.

George Marcus

George Marcus was first appointed to the Board by the County of Fresno in 1992. He is a local businessman with strong community ties. He owns Marcus Pharmacy and the West Fresno Shopping Center where it is located, as well as insurance and bail bonds businesses. Since coming to Fresno in 1959, Mr. Marcus has been very involved in the community through the Second Baptist Church, the Fresno County Civil Service Board, and the Valley Medical Center Advisory Board among many other groups.



Kendall Groom

Kendall Groom was appointed by the City of Fresno and has been on the District Board since 1996. He is a founding partner in the Fresno CPA firm of Dritsas, Groom, McCormick & Swanton, established in 1981. Mr. Groom has served on numerous local boards, including the Better Business Bureau, North Fresno Rotary, Fresno Area Crime Stoppers, and the Fresno Food Bank.



Jennette Williams

Jennette Williams was appointed to the District Board by the City of Fresno. She replaced retiring Director Robert Booher in August of 2003. She now begins her first four-year term. Mrs. Williams is a Vice President of Central Valley Community Bank, and her banking career spans more than 20 years. She is active in the community through the Fresno Chamber of Commerce, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and most recently on the board of Spirit of Woman.



The District citizen Board of Directors is made up of seven people who live within the District's boundary, which is generally described as the Fresno-Clovis metropolitan area. The Directors are appointed by the City of Clovis, the City of Fresno, and the County of Fresno. They are the principal program advocates for the District constituency and ensure the provision of essential storm water and water conservation services.



Board Supports Water Institute's Grant Application

The International Center for Water Technology (ICWT) at California State University, Fresno has submitted an application for a \$4.68 million U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant. ICWT will combine the expertise of industry with the vast experience in water and flow technology at California State University, Fresno to create a \$50 million, 70,000 square-foot center of excellence. The center will be dedicated to maximizing the effectiveness of water and fluid science technology through research and development; testing and certification; education; and cooperative marketing.

As stewards of local water resources, the District's Board of Directors recognizes the value to our community of becoming an internationally recognized center for water technology and has submitted letters of support for the ICWT's grant application.

As described on its website, www.icwt.net, ICWT is a public-private partnership dedicated to the development and promotion of new technologies that maximize the effectiveness of water use for agricultural, commercial, environmental, and municipal applications. ICWT's members represent the gamut of water-related agencies and industries in the Central Valley.

Economic Development - A District Priority

Economic development is a critical component of our community's planning efforts. However, most people might not be aware of the role the District plays in supporting these efforts. The District Board has been a strong proponent of economic development for many years. In October of 1999, the Board of Directors expanded its role in economic development by establishing an annual Economic Development Reserve for the purpose of accelerating funding of storm drainage infrastructure to support job-creating developments in our community. This policy allows up to 50% of the District's annual budget reserve to be allocated as an economic development reserve. For fiscal year 2004-2005, this amount is \$813,044.

These funds may be used at the direction of the Board to support construction of Master Plan storm drainage facilities to service high priority economic development projects. Projects are considered on a first come, first served basis and each project must:

- Create additional leverage toward construction of Master Plan facilities by drawing additional public or private monies;
- Effect construction of critical elements of the drainage system, and;
- Serve an economically targeted industry or area

The District has recently allocated Economic Development Reserve funds to a variety of projects. They include:

- Clovis Research and Technology Business Park, Alluvial between Armstrong and Temperance
- Future site of the Institute of Technology - Clovis, Herndon and Peach Avenues
- City of Fresno North Avenue project, between Freeway 41 and Highway 99 (see story on page 3)

In addition to capital project funding, for the past five years the District has been an active partner with the Fresno Economic Development Corporation (EDC) in its efforts to attract business and industry to the Fresno area. In October of 2004, the District was one of more than 50 local agencies and organizations to sign the Fresno EDC's Strategic Alliance Agreement.

The Strategic Alliance Agreement outlines the commitment of each signing agency and organization to ensure that economic development programs, services,

and associated activities throughout Fresno County are effectively coordinated and executed. Within the agreement are descriptions of the programs and services offered by each participating member. This inventory provides the general framework for sustained cooperation needed for long-term economic vitality.

The District, its Strategic Alliance Agreement partners, and many others use their resources to effect positive change in our community's economic climate. By doing its part to make our area more attractive to business and industry, the District is helping to build a solid economic future for Fresno and Clovis.

Economic Development Services Provided by the District

- ▶ Advanced planning of urban infrastructure
- ▶ Construction of storm drainage facilities
- ▶ Protection of agricultural resources from flooding
- ▶ Timely provision of needed services through equitable financing of public projects
- ▶ Augmentation of public open space and recreational resources through joint use of District facilities
- ▶ Conservation of groundwater and environmental resources
- ▶ Coordination with local businesses and resource agencies to implement a comprehensive clean stormwater program
- ▶ Providing information to industrial and commercial representatives for the purpose of recruiting new business
- ▶ Allocating an annual budget reserve to be used for high priority economic development projects
- ▶ Participation as a partner and providing financial support of the Economic Development Corporation

Municipal Stormwater Permit to be Reviewed

Over the next several months, the District will work with the City of Fresno, City of Clovis, CSU Fresno, and the County of Fresno to prepare an updated stormwater permit for submission to the Regional Water Quality Control Board in September 2005.

This National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit, mandated by the Federal Clean Water Act, must be renewed every five years and requires a coordinated plan to minimize water quality impacts from common stormwater pollutants.

As part of the renewal process, agency staff will solicit input from local business groups, volunteer groups, school programs, water resource agencies, and the general public. The objective of this process is to develop a complete plan

that will guide community stormwater pollution prevention efforts over the next five years.

The mandatory elements of the program include these key areas: Public Involvement and Education (PIE), Illicit Discharges, Structural Controls, Operations and Maintenance, Construction and Development, and Commercial and Industrial.

If you are interested in participating in the review and updating of this permit, please contact David Pomaville at 456-3292.

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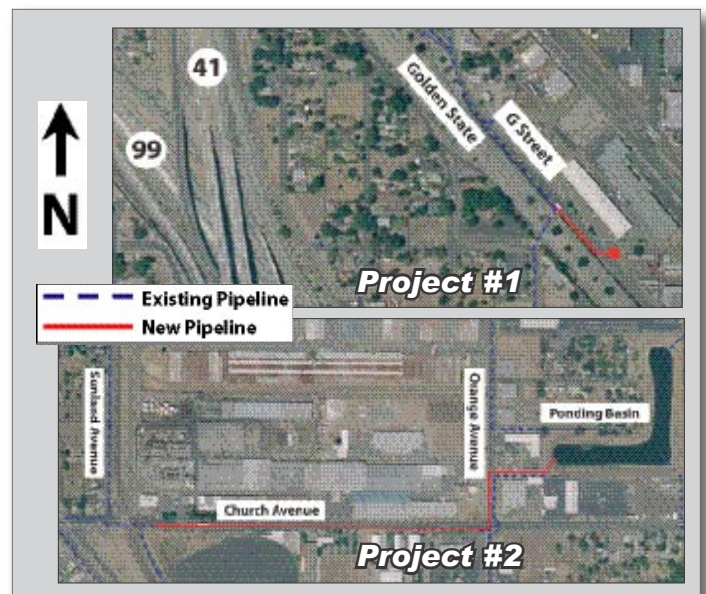
Storm Drain Construction Continues in Southwest Fresno

The District continues work on its largest infrastructure project, the State Infrastructure Bank Loan Project. Construction of more infrastructure needed to complete the storm drainage systems in areas of our community without service will begin in spring and summer of 2005. The project area encompasses two drainage zones identified as "II₁" and "RR". The two projects described below are in "II₁", roughly bound by Ventura, Jensen, Fig and Rowell.

Project #1 (shown top right) consists of the installation of pipeline at G Street and Florence in downtown Fresno. The District is coordinating with the City of Fresno's Street Maintenance Division to alleviate the persistent flooding that has plagued that intersection for many years.

Project #2 (shown bottom right) will install storm drain pipeline in Church Avenue from Orange Avenue to an existing pipeline at Sunland Avenue. This will provide storm drainage service to the surrounding area and restore full storage capacity to the nearby stormwater retention basin. Another benefit is installation of a relief pipeline connection to a neighboring basin, which will allow movement of stormwater between basins to maximize basin capacity and avoid flooding during the rain season.

The \$20 million State Infrastructure Bank Loan Project was a targeted effort to equip some of Fresno's oldest areas with the proper storm drainage they lacked because most were developed before the District existed. Approximately



16 miles of pipe was laid in Central Fresno during the first 20 months of the project. The funds required to complete the remaining projects will be provided by an additional property tax assessment approved in 2001.

Construction of the remaining infrastructure is scheduled to keep Drainage Areas "II₁" and "RR" at roughly the same percentage of completion. The next project is in Drainage Area "RR" and is planned for fiscal year 2005/2006. This area is roughly bound by Fresno City College, Whitesbridge Road, Hughes, and Fresno Street.

Close Up: Esther Schwandt

Esther Schwandt, Clerk to the Board of Directors, has been with the District since 1992. She began as the receptionist and was soon promoted to the position of Assistant to the General Manager and Clerk to the Board of Directors.

During her career, Esther has worked for a wide range of businesses, including attorneys, psychologists, ministers, bankers, colleges and unions.

Both Esther and her husband Dan are Valley natives, she grew up in Sanger and he was raised in Reedley. They will be celebrating their 27th wedding anniversary in February and have three children; Danny, 25 years; Darren, 23 years; and Kristina “Krissy”, 15 years old, who has



grown up around District employees and thinks of them as an extended family.

The whole family is extremely active in various organizations, particularly at People’s Church. They also host a Tuesday night Bible study at their home.

About working at the District Esther said, “The best part of my job is getting to know the Board members on an individual basis. They come from varied backgrounds, but they all have the same goal of serving the public.”

She has a special affection for her coworkers, “They are one of the most caring and hard working groups you could find. Whenever a call goes out for assistance, whether it’s help with work at the District or personal help for employees, the District’s employees are extremely generous with their time and money.”

The feeling is mutual, as expressed by General Manager Bob Van Wyk, “As Manager, I have developed a strong appreciation for Esther’s standard of work quality and professionalism in both her day-to-day responsibilities and as Clerk to the Board of Directors.”



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