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EDITORIALS**Flood district's good work**

■ The Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District has played a crucial role in the development of this community.

There was a time in Fresno when merely modest rainfall would cause chaos in the community. Many major intersections weren't passable until the waters receded and that sometimes took days; some businesses had to close, and raw sewage even was pushed into the streets by flood waters.

This newspaper would regularly run photographs of intersections — the corner of Fresno Street and Gettysburg Avenue comes to mind immediately — that were being navigated by boat after a good rain. Finally, the community had enough flooding and the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District was created.

It's been 40 years now and flood waters have been tamed in most of the Fresno/Clovis metropolitan area. Even the recent floods, which had devastating consequences in outlying areas, had little noticeable impact in most of the city. The Flood Control District managed those raging waters nicely.

The district's current theme is "Celebrating

40 Years of Service" and we couldn't agree more. It has been a big part of this community's growth over the past 40 years. This would be a much different — and not better — community had the Flood Control District not been created.

The district has designed and built a system that addresses storm drainage, foothill stream flows, groundwater replenishment and provided recreational open space in ponding basins. Now that's getting your money's worth out of government.

The district has 135 storm water ponding basins, 350 miles of storm drain pipelines, 44 pumping plants, three flood control dams and three flood detention basins. There are 19 basin parks located throughout the metropolitan area. Those basins have not only reduced flooding, but have been fields of dreams for thousands of Fresno/Clovis youngsters and adults who have played baseball, softball, soccer and other sports in them.

The Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District has been a community asset for four decades. Flooding has been minimized and we've received water conversation and recreation as side benefits. What a combination.