

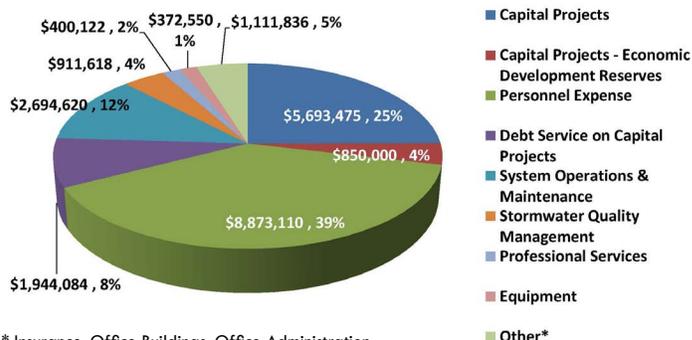
Fiscal year 2014/2015 budget adopted

On June 25, the District's Board of Directors adopted the agency's fiscal year 2014/2015 operating budget of \$22,851,415. This budget is similar to last year's, which was significantly smaller than budgets adopted in the years before the Great Recession began.

The size of the District's capital program has been scaled back out of financial necessity, however, due to successful application for State of California infrastructure grants, this year the capital program is 25% grant funded.

Also of note, approximately 15% of the 2014/2015 budget is allocated to maintaining infrastructure. As the inventory of urban storm drainage and flood control facilities and equipment grows over time, the maintenance budget grows with it.

Fiscal Year 2014/2015 Budget - \$22,851,415



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General Manager & District Engineer retire

Seventy-seven years of Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District knowledge and experience have left the building, all within six weeks. District Engineer Jerry Lakeman retired after 37 years, and General Manager Bob Van Wyk retired after 40 years. Their retirements have been well-earned and are most deserved. However, it is with mixed emotions that the District Board and staff see Bob and Jerry off into their lives after Flood Control.

Much to be proud of

It is impossible to list all of Bob's and Jerry's professional accomplishments here. However, here is a snapshot of the types of projects they have completed, and community benefits they have brought about.



Jerry Lakeman, retired District Engineer (l); Bob Van Wyk, retired General Manager (r)



Bob served as Assistant General Manager for 23 years, after being promoted from Administration Assistant in 1979. He served as General Manager, first on an interim basis and then permanently, since August, 2002. In that time, he saw

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Message from the General Manager



Alan Hofmann

Saying goodbye and looking ahead

It is bittersweet that I write this message as the new General Manager of the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (District). I am so honored to have been chosen by the Board of Directors to assume leadership of this fine agency, but in doing so I also

have to send my best wishes to two retired colleagues with whom I've worked my entire career. Please see their story, accomplishments and impact on the District in this *Flood Line*.

The FMFCD has enjoyed the benefits of a long term and stable workforce and, as such, the average years of service amongst its staff members is about fifteen years. In fact, the agency has been led, since 1972, by only two General Managers (Doug Harrison, 1972-2002 and Bob Van Wyk, 2002-2014). It is within this context that I assume charge of day to day operations of the District and have much to get focused on, especially in this year of drought. I follow in the footsteps of two great District leaders and have much admiration for the legacy they have left.

With this first message, it seemed appropriate to provide a little information about my background and experience for this new role. I was raised in the Central Valley, the son of a rice farmer, so I grew up understanding hard work and the importance of water. I was born in Oakdale, California, but grew up in the small German farming community of Valley Home, just north of Oakdale. I received my B.S. Degree in Civil Engineering from Fresno State in 1979 and became a full time employee of the District upon graduation. I am one of the stable workforce and long term employees referred to earlier and have committed my professional career to the District for 35 years. While my career has been focused on the engineering aspects of this District, I have actively participated in preparation of the budget, the design and funding of infrastructure, and the operations and maintenance functions. These, along with many more day to day

activities during my tenure, have prepared me for this new role.

2014-2015 Budget

The District adopted its fiscal spending plan for 2014-2015 at the end of June. The budget is a solid fiscal plan to advance the vision of the District and provide for its specific role for the community. The focus of this year's capital spending plan is on grant projects that the District was successful in obtaining. The improvements and addition of infrastructure to the Fancher Creek and Big Dry Creek Flood Control systems will be invaluable as rains come back to the Central Valley. While California remains in a severe drought, the District continues to build projects that will serve the community and its water resource needs when the rains return (which we know will happen eventually). The District's continued expansion of its flood storage capacity and capabilities is an important aspect of water resource management.

Community Partners

The District has built strong relationships with the Cities of Fresno and Clovis, the County of Fresno, other agencies, the development community, and our community partners and friends. I am proud of the relationships I have built with folks over the past 35 years and look forward to strengthening and continuing them, and building new ones. The District has benefitted greatly from the support the community has given our program. We will continue to give our maximum effort to provide the highest quality of service to the community. The standard of public service established for our agency long ago, was for performance excellence from our staff. I believe strongly in this standard as it is foundational to the agency's attitude and approach for meeting its objectives. Our short and long term goal and mission will always be to focus our attention on addressing the community's needs and priorities. I feel privileged to serve the District and this community, and look forward to the challenges ahead.



Legislative hot topics

Each State of California legislative session is filled with bills that are considered hot topics by a broad range of interests. For the District, there are several on its radar that have made it through the legislative process so far. The Board of Directors has taken positions on a handful that have the greatest potential for impact on District programs.



District's hot topics

While the Board sent several letters of support and of opposition to bills' authors in the Assembly and the Senate, three issues in particular necessitated action: the passage of House Resolution 29 against outsourcing of public services, the possible re-creation of redevelopment agencies, and potential replacements for the proposed 2012 \$11.14 billion Water Bond.

House Resolution (HR) 29

The Board opposed HR 29, a resolution passed by the State Assembly that expresses a position against outsourcing of services by local governments. The principles embodied in HR 29, if transformed into laws, would severely restrict the District's ability to function, destroying a nearly 60-year foundation of efficient use of public funds through outsourcing to local businesses. The Board has communicated its strong opposition to the Assembly members who represent the District's service area, Rep. Jim Patterson (District 23) and Rep. Henry T. Perea (District 31), as well as hundreds of local businesses that have provided services to the District, the chambers of commerce in Fresno and Clovis, and other local government agencies.

Resurrection of redevelopment agencies

The Board took a position of opposition to Initiative 13-0065, which would repeal elimination of redevelopment agencies, allowing local governments to reestablish redevelopment agencies and resume redirection of local property taxes to redevelopment projects, away from other local services. It removes prior redevelopment law's requirements for redevelopment plans to have certain dollar and time limits and caps on redevelopment agency debt. The Initiative expands prior definition of blight to allow whole cities and counties as redevelopment areas if a county's unemployment rate exceeds statewide or national average. It reduces and makes optional, the prior law's minimum

affordable housing component and extends prior RDA law's time limit for using eminent domain.

Among the collection of attempts in the 2013-14 legislative session designed to create organizations with redevelopment-like powers (e.g. enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts), Initiative 13-0065 stands out because, beyond re-starting Redevelopment Agencies, it proposes to expand their power and reach.

For the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District, the tax increment diversion has typically meant an annual loss of over \$800,000 in program funding. New development created by the RDA still required storm drainage service, which the District was obligated to provide from its diminished general fund, though no development fees were paid to fund the development's cost share of infrastructure construction. Petition for initiative 13-0065 was approved for circulation in California as a contender for the November 4, 2014 ballot, but did not qualify and will not appear before voters.

Water Bond

An \$11.14 billion water bond was certified to be on the 2010 ballot, but was removed and placed on the 2012 ballot, removed again and then placed on the 2014 ballot. Several potential replacements were proposed by the Assembly and the Senate. A \$7.5 billion compromise bill passed both houses on August 13, and was also supported by the Governor. Proposition 1 will appear on the November 4 ballot, and it is up to California voters to decide whether it becomes law. The bill addresses funding priorities identified by the District Board: flood control, urban drainage, groundwater recharge, and stormwater quality.

Coming next

August 31st was the last day for each house to pass bills. From there, those bills go to Governor Brown's desk, where he has until September 30 to sign or veto them. Next, is the statewide General Election on November 4th.

Resource for research



A good resource for tracking the progress of Assembly and Senate bills is <http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>. From this site, you can see bills' status, read full text and amendments, see voting history in committees and on the floor, read analyses, and send comments to bills' authors.



District adopts new development review fee

At its May 28 meeting, the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District Board of Directors adopted a development review fee policy, which provides for the recovery of costs associated with the review of development entitlements and plans. The fee became effective on July 27th. Approval followed completion of a six-month process, which documented the Development Review staff's time and motion required for permit application processing and plan reviews. The fee rates were determined through an independent investigative report that reviewed the background and data that would support a method for calculating the fee. The report analyzed the total recoverable cost, determined the applicable overhead cost and the appropriate variable on which to base the fee.

Fee calculation

The District felt it was important that a fee to recover costs be specific to the work task that is attributed to the review function. Hence, a thorough examination of the functions and tasks of the Development Review Department was undertaken and identified 11 specific functions that they perform during their work day. Of those 11 functions,

only one was found to be directly related to the review and processing of private development applications, and, therefore, eligible for inclusion as a recoverable cost. However, that one function accounts for 57% of the staff's time, which is spent in review of applications and plans.

The conclusion was that a per acre fee most closely matched the cost to perform the review of entitlements and grading plans. However, the review of storm drain plans was not consistent with the per acre charge, so the fee was structured as a "Lesser of" fee. This option provides for the variability of the acreage of projects and magnitude of the storm drainage facilities required to be constructed. The storm drain plan review fee was adopted as "fee equals the lesser of \$300 per acre or \$375 plus 3% of the estimated construction costs of storm drainage facilities, using current drainage fee program unit prices." The District has created a form to assist in the calculation of the review fee prior to the submittal of plan documents.

More information on the new fee is available at www.fresnofloodcontrol.org, or by calling Debbie Campbell, Design Engineer, at (559) 456-3292.

Making every drop count

"Water is the driving force of all nature." - Leonardo daVinci. Water is also crucial to the daily functioning of people, institutions, and businesses in urban and rural communities. Fresno and Clovis have a mix of both, and a combined population of more than 600,000. Our community's semi-arid climate makes it necessary for public agencies with water management responsibilities to work together. Private water suppliers also work with public agencies to reach common goals. All continually search for methods to boost the volume of water returned to our community's aquifer, and to conserve available supplies.

The District is an active participant in a decades-long, multi-agency groundwater recharge program. Described simply, the Fresno/Clovis groundwater recharge program takes a portion of City of Fresno and City of Clovis surface water entitlements, transports the water through Fresno Irrigation District canals, to selected Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District stormwater basins. Once the water arrives in a basin, it slowly percolates through the soil to the groundwater aquifer, far below the soil's surface.

The District performs regular stormwater basin maintenance to keep soil as permeable by water as possible, works closely with the partner organizations listed, and collects and analyzes system data. The continuing drought has allowed the District to accelerate its basin maintenance schedule. More basins will be in top recharge shape when rains return, resulting in faster percolation of stormwater to the groundwater aquifer. Faster percolation is also important for flooding prevention, as it frees up basin capacity more quickly.

The District recently completed a California Department of Water Resources (DWR) grant-funded project to study soil profiles in low-performing recharge basins and test for potential increases in percolation speed from drilling gravity drains. Data has been collected and is being analyzed, and the District has offered to share study results with other local water management agencies, as encouraged by DWR.

Inter-agency collaboration, effective operations practices, and engineering innovation are all tools the District uses to make the most of our community's precious water resources. The District is one of many public agencies working hard to protect and preserve water, for today and for the future.

District launches updated website & new social media presence

Quite a bit is happening with the District's presence in the digital world. A new, updated website has been launched to replace the 10 year-old site, and the District has established a social media presence through the use of Facebook and YouTube. The employee intranet will also be updated to make it more useful for internal projects and staff communication.

What is cooking in the digital kitchen

The website, www.fresnofloodcontrol.org, is now a new, more user friendly site. The content moved from the old site has been reorganized and streamlined, with further text reduction to come. Next, we will explore new features to further enhance the site's usability and user-friendliness.

With regard to Facebook, the purpose of a District page is to add social media engagement as a tool for public outreach and education. Posts include information on current District



projects, important messages, news on events and activities, and topics of general interest. Please 'like' us at Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District.

The District's new YouTube channel houses educational videos, past and present public service announcements/commercials. It will eventually have training videos for construction site and industrial/commercial stormwater pollution prevention, in one easily-accessible location. Visit <https://www.youtube.com/user/FresnoMetroFlood> to check it out. Links to the District's Facebook page and YouTube channel are found on the District's website.



Radio & TV commercials win award

In May, the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA), Central California Chapter, presented the District with an Award of Excellence for its new radio and television public service announcements (PSAs). The new spots were written and produced following completion of a public awareness survey to gauge public knowledge of the urban storm drain system, and the connection between it, human behavior, stormwater quality, and groundwater recharge.

The phone survey of 400 residents of Fresno and Clovis, and subsequent focus groups conducted, revealed a fundamental lack of understanding and a need to revamp our PSA messages. For the most part, people did not know that stormwater is collected by a system of pipelines under city streets, and carried to a series of stormwater basins all over Fresno and Clovis, where it soaks through the soil to replenish our community's groundwater aquifer.

The approach taken with the new PSAs is to teach the basics of the system to explain how it works, and create the connection in people's minds between their habits and the quality of our community's stormwater, and ultimately the groundwater aquifer.

This fact-based approach to addressing a knowledge gap was cited as the basis for PRSA's award recognizing the District's new PSAs for excellence. Jeffrey Scott Agency (JSA) is the local strategic marketing and public information services firm that provided the creative and production work to make the new radio and TV spots. JSA also structured and conducted the public awareness survey and focus groups that were critical in finding out what the citizens of Fresno and Clovis know about the District's urban storm drainage system and service responsibilities.

PRSA collected entries for a wide range of public relations efforts from public agencies and private companies and exchanged them with a sister chapter in Little Rock, Arkansas, for objective evaluation. For more information on all of the public relations project categories considered, visit www.prsacentralcal.org.

The District is proud to receive recognition from a professional association such as PRSA, and appreciates the creative talent of JSA and their close collaboration with District staff in creating the new radio and TV spots. Visit the District's new YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/user/FresnoMetroFlood>, to view and listen.

Common ground for public benefit



Guest writer:
Mike Prandini
President/CEO,
Building Industry Association of
Fresno and Madera Counties

Since joining the Building Industry Association of Fresno/Madera Counties (BIA) in 2004 as President and Chief Executive Officer, one of my responsibilities has been to work as a liaison between the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (District) and the members of the BIA. In addition, I am responsible to review proposals by the District to determine if the proposal may have an effect on residential building and to coordinate and participate in discussions to resolve issues that arise.

Flood control basins in the Fresno/Clovis metropolitan area are an integral part of our community and provide much needed protection against flooding. Beginning with the formation of the District in 1956, the BIA and its members have partnered with the District and the cities of Fresno and Clovis to build a significant part of the flood control system in place today. The BIA and its members work cooperatively with the District to ensure that development is in compliance with the District's Storm Drainage and Flood Control Master Plan.



Developer building District Master-Planned pipeline to serve a new residential development.

This has been accomplished through a system of fees and charges. All developments within the District's boundaries are responsible to contribute their fair share of building the system. The fee system is based on the amount of rain water runoff from the proposed development. The higher the amount of runoff, the greater the fee assessed. When a new development is proposed, the District and the developer's engineers work cooperatively to design their project to comply with the District's Master Plan. When it is determined that a development needs Master Plan improvements in order to be built, the developer must install the pipes and other facilities in accordance with the Master

Plan. Although the cost of installing the infrastructure is borne by the developer of the project, if the cost of the Master Plan improvements is greater than the fair share fee obligation, the District will reimburse the developer when other projects in the drainage zone pay fees for their development. Any additional drainage pipes and structures within the development are the responsibility of the builder.

The BIA members meet regularly with District officials to discuss issues that arise, such as new federal water drainage regulations. The BIA and the District annually review the fee structure to ensure that the fees being assessed are sufficient to cover the cost of the improvements, whether installed by the builders or by the District. The builders continually provide the District with cost data on the system as it is being installed. This process keeps the fee structure equitable and guarantees that the system will be built as planned.

As a side benefit of the construction of the basins to hold flood waters, they provide, where practical, recreational opportunities. Both the City of Fresno and the City of Clovis have cooperative agreements with the District to allow residents of the area to utilize the basins, mostly for sporting activities, such as baseball and soccer. Because of this partnership, Fresno and Clovis citizens are not only protected from major storm runoff but also enjoy the opportunity to experience and appreciate the quality recreational amenities that have been developed.

The working relationship between BIA and the District that has developed over the years has proven to be invaluable to the builders, and has assisted the District in building the required infrastructure in a cost effective manner. Although there has been a change in leadership at the District with the appointment of Alan Hofmann as General Manager, the BIA members know Alan and we look forward to working with him and his staff to cooperatively build the Master Plan flood control system to protect the residents of Fresno and Clovis.

Michael Prandini
President and CEO,
Building Industry Association of
Fresno/Madera Counties

Budget adopted Continued from cover

Staffing remains steady, at 77 authorized full-time positions. The business model used by the District since its creation by voters in 1956, provides for a relatively small staff to provide core program management and ensure adherence to established standards. It relies on outsourcing to private contractors for professional services, such as legal, specialized engineering, water quality and soil sampling, construction, and operations and maintenance.

Controlling costs and safeguarding revenues continue to be the District's guiding principles, and the Board encourages staff to continue to look for new, innovative ways to maximize the efficiencies of its programs.

Collaborative planning

The budget includes input from partner agencies, including the City of Fresno, City of Clovis, and the County of Fresno. There is much interconnection between a variety of services that we all provide, and coordination is essential

Retirements Continued from cover

staff grow from five to 77 full time employees. Bob was instrumental in the purchase of land needed for many of the 153 basin sites that make up the urban drainage system, and significant portions of the rural flood control system. Other very visible results of his work are Sloan Johnson Oso de Oro Lake Park and Trolley Creek Park, for which Bob's work in fund raising and community involvement was critical. He also directed implementation of five-year budgeting of District programs.

Jerry was hired as Assistant District Engineer in 1977, and was promoted to District Engineer in 1980. He managed the growth in operations and engineering staff from eight to 47 employees, and performed deftly in his leadership role during one of the most productive periods in the District's history. He guided design, construction, and maintenance of a world-class urban drainage and flood control system that not only protects lives and property from flooding, but provides ongoing and significant groundwater recharge, as well as recreation. Today, facilities inventory includes more than 650 miles of storm drain pipeline, 153 stormwater basins, 80 pump stations, and nine major flood control structures that protect the urban area from flooding due to foothill runoff.

Thankful appreciation of Board and staff

The Board of Directors and District staff have been

in providing public services without duplication of costs or unnecessary inconvenience to the public.

Big project in the works

Work is underway on the Dry Creek Flood Control Improvement Project, which was awarded \$6.89 million in State of California Proposition 1E funds in 2013. This figure equals a 50% cost match.

This large-scale flood control project will improve the structural integrity of Big Dry Creek Dam, and make channel improvements to allow more effective and flexible routing of flood waters at three points downstream of the dam, along the Dry Creek system. Other important benefits of the project are increased floodwater storage capacity, a resulting increase in groundwater recharge capability and improved groundwater quality.

While it is hard to imagine the necessity of flood control during a drought, rains will eventually return. When they do, the District will be more prepared than ever to control the flow of water and retain it for beneficial use for the longer term.

beneficiaries of the long-term, stable leadership provided by Bob and Jerry, and by previous General Manager Doug Harrison, just as much as the community at large has been. Now, following their retirements, we have the good fortune to continue working for an efficient, smartly constructed agency with high standards that we work daily to uphold.

They have infused the importance of quality public service into every process, procedure, and expectation within the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District. They leave behind a strong and productive organizational culture that is self-perpetuating. So, while an adjustment period is normal for such major changes, the continuity of service provided to the people of Clovis and Fresno will not be interrupted.

We are pleased to announce...

The District Board is pleased to announce its appointment of Alan Hofmann as General Manager. Alan brings 35 years of engineering experience with the District to his new position. He is a licensed Professional Engineer, served for the past 13 years as Assistant District Engineer/Design Engineer, and for 18 years before that as Operations Engineer.

Selected to fill the District Engineer position is Peter Sanchez, a 24-year employee who also served as Design Engineer for three years, and most recently for 13 years as Operations Engineer. Peter is also a licensed Professional Engineer.



Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District

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Mailing info - If you have a change to your mailing info, or prefer to receive *Flood Line* by regular post, e-mail, or both - contact Brandy Swisher at brandys@fresnofloodcontrol.org or (559) 456-3292.

Close Up: Michael Maxwell

Michael Maxwell has marked his 10th year with the District. He is an Engineering Technician in the Development Review section, and has also served as a Design Technician in the Engineering Services section. Michael is originally from Atwater, and lives in Fresno with his wife and two children.



During his college career he studied forestry and wild land fire suppression, and worked three summers for the U.S. Department of Forestry fighting wildfires. He was nearly qualified as a certified Smoke Jumper, when he decided that was not his long-term career choice. Instead, he returned to college and became certified in AutoCAD drafting, where his natural knack for design was a perfect fit with the new course of study, which has proven to be a great choice.

Michael came to the District from Bellingham Marine, in Dixon, California, where he specialized in AutoCAD design of floating concrete docks for marinas. During the years of the dotcom boom, there was a big demand for concrete docks in marina upgrades. He worked on designs that are now installed in locations such as Los Angeles, Newport Bay, and Cabo San Lucas.

Of his District responsibilities, Michael says, "As an Engineering Tech in the Development Review Department, I review grading plans for future housing tracts and commercial developments. I also check if the development will have higher impacts on the current and future storm drain facilities (with the help of the Master Planning Department). I have also assisted in reviewing various Capital Projects."

Regarding Michael's flexibility in meeting a wide range of program needs, Design Engineer Debbie Campbell explains, "I am very proud of the Capital Improvement projects the Development Services Department has worked on, specifically the wildlife viewing station and gazebo Mike designed. They were not the typical type of project the Development Department works on and Mike did a great job on this project."

Michael and his wife, Linda, married in 2001. They have two children, daughter Kodi, who is a 12 year-old seventh grader, and son Michael Alan, who is nine years old and in fourth grade. Linda owns her own business in Fresno as a cosmetologist, and provides manicures and pedicures.

The Maxwell family loves sports and outdoor activities. Michael Alan takes Tae Kwon Do classes and Kodi is learning to ride horses. Michael loves mountain biking and snow boarding. Together, they hike, fish, and camp. Their favorite place to visit each year is Kings Beach in North Lake Tahoe. Michael explains that it has everything to offer his adventurous family - beach, mountains, and amazing scenery.

