



Overview of Services,
Leadership, & Funding



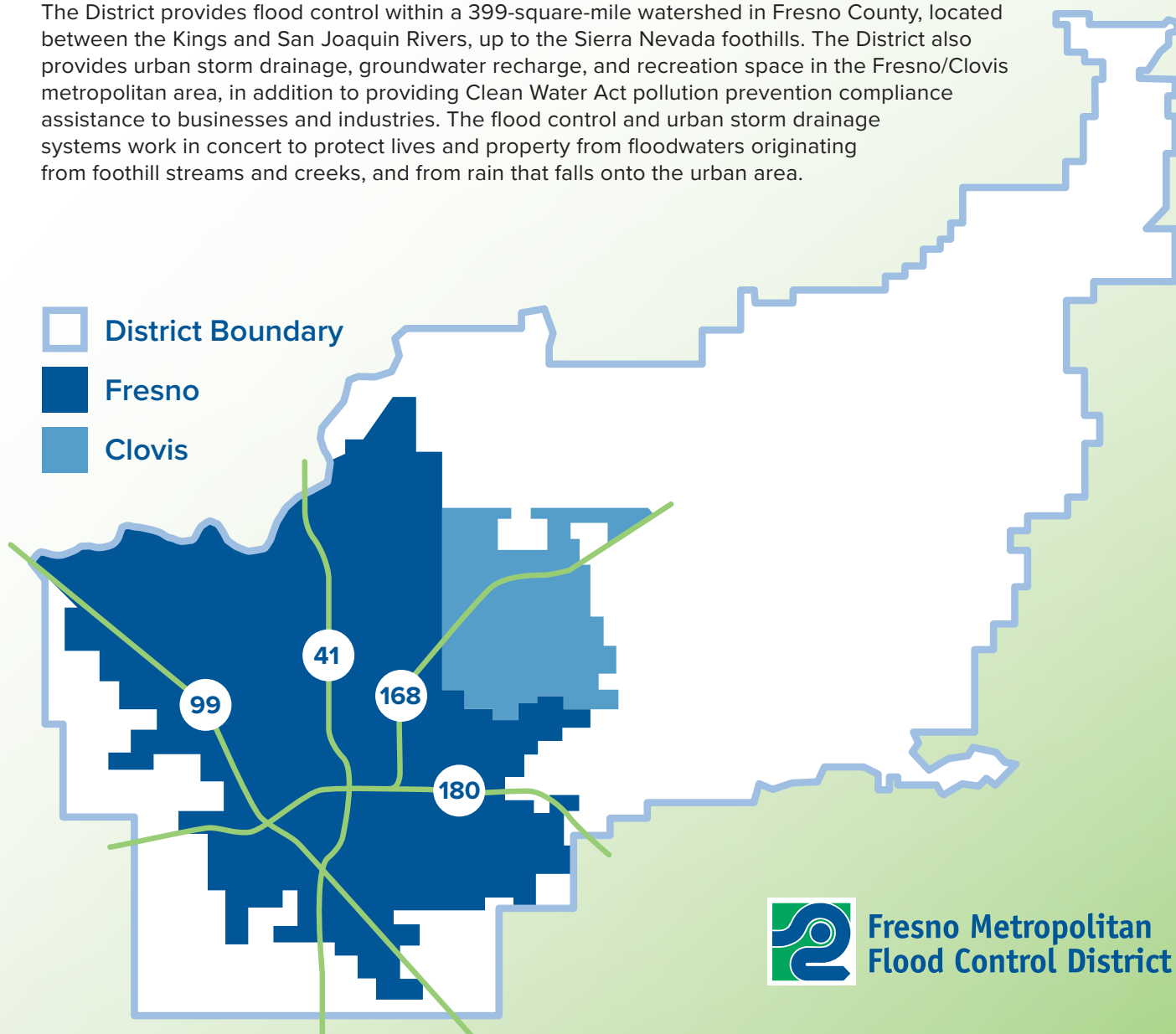
**Fresno Metropolitan
Flood Control District**



About The District

The Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District is a special-purpose district, created by local voters by a 5-1 majority in 1956, for the purpose of acquiring and constructing facilities for flood control and the drainage of flood and storm waters, and for the conservation of those waters.

The District provides flood control within a 399-square-mile watershed in Fresno County, located between the Kings and San Joaquin Rivers, up to the Sierra Nevada foothills. The District also provides urban storm drainage, groundwater recharge, and recreation space in the Fresno/Clovis metropolitan area, in addition to providing Clean Water Act pollution prevention compliance assistance to businesses and industries. The flood control and urban storm drainage systems work in concert to protect lives and property from floodwaters originating from foothill streams and creeks, and from rain that falls onto the urban area.



**Fresno Metropolitan
Flood Control District**

Primary Services

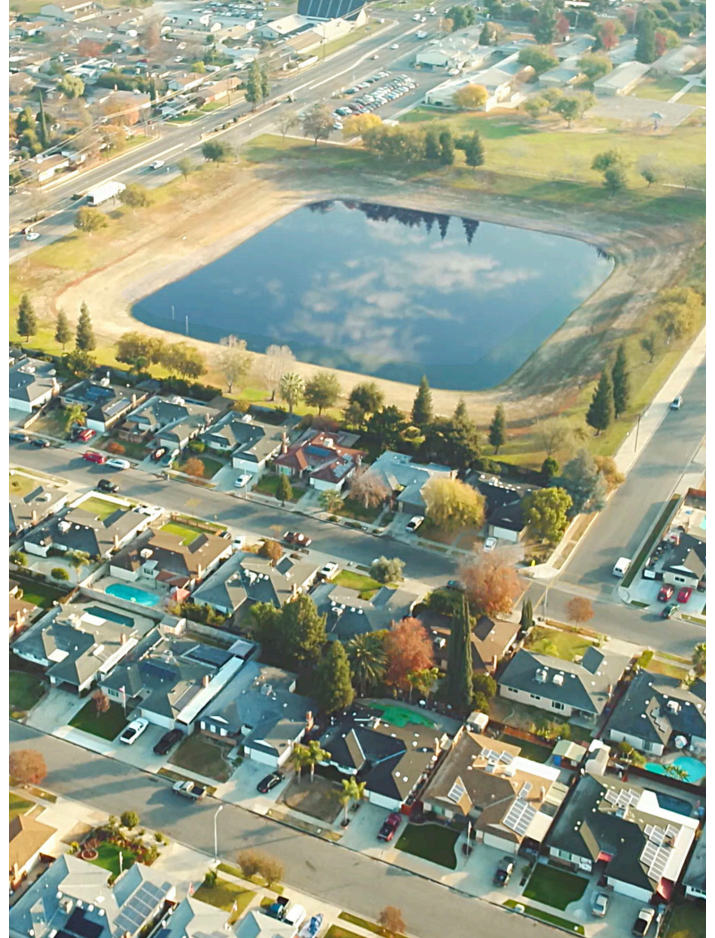
Flood Control

The flood control system is a network of dams and reservoirs designed to intercept, store, and route flood flows originating from foothill streams and creeks to the east of the urban area. The Fresno/Clovis area was naturally prone to seasonal flooding, which was recorded by the area's first settlers in the 1870s. The dams and reservoirs hold back flood waters from their natural path across what is now one of the largest metropolitan areas in California, surrounded by agricultural lands.

As major flood control infrastructure was constructed, the protection provided has removed many parcels of land from federal flood zone designation, and eliminated or reduced mandatory flood insurance requirements.

Urban Storm Drainage

Before the creation of the District by voters in 1956, there was no planned community storm drainage system. Streets and properties routinely flooded, even from modest amounts of rainfall. A new system was designed to capture and store stormwater, and standards for future development were established to ensure the construction of a comprehensive system over time. As the urban area grows, more storm runoff is generated by structures that cover once-open land—including streets, highways, buildings, and parking lots. Stormwater flows from gutters to more than 700 miles of underground pipelines. It is safely delivered to a network of more than 150 stormwater detention basins in Fresno and Clovis, which range in size from about 6-40 acres. Each basin collects and stores stormwater for an upstream area of about 1-4 square miles.



Additional Services

Groundwater Recharge

The District's stormwater basins and reservoirs serve another essential function besides urban storm drainage and flood control. They allow large amounts of water to be stored and to percolate through the soil to replenish our area's groundwater aquifer. Water from storms recharges the aquifer during the rainy season, and the City of Fresno and City of Clovis river water entitlements delivered to basins by the Fresno Irrigation District's canal system recharge the aquifer during the summer months. This valuable capability was built into the system by the engineers who designed it in the late 1950s and early 1960s. In a semi-arid climate, preservation of all water resources is critical.

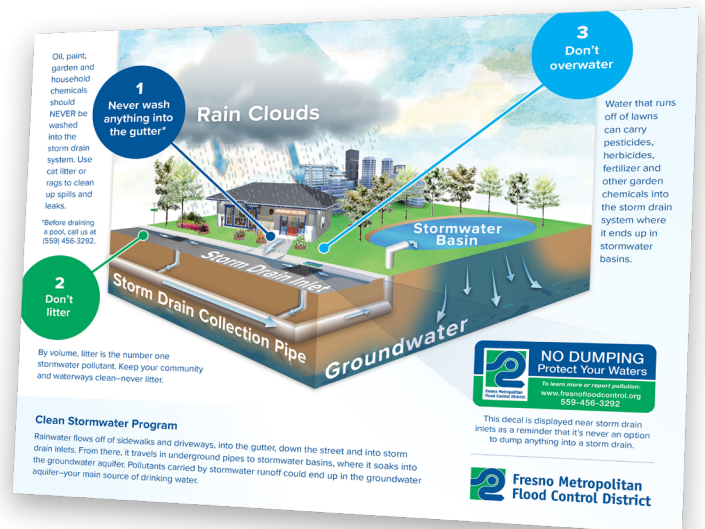
This important system feature, and the decades of interagency collaboration, became even more critical following the passage of the California Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014 (SGMA). SGMA required for the first time that groundwater must be managed and that local agencies had to be formed and made responsible for ensuring groundwater supplies would be sustainable by 2040. The District is one of many local entities working hard to meet this mandate, as part of the North Kings Groundwater Sustainability Agency, formed in 2017.



Recreation

The District is allowed to develop public lands for secondary recreational use, where practical. To date, the District has developed 23 urban stormwater basins for recreational use, primarily during the summer months, when they are not doing their main job of capturing and storing stormwater. A handful of sites offer year-round recreation on land that is at street level, including the award-winning Sloan Johnson Oso de Oro Lake Park, and its sister site, Trolley Creek Park. This innovative multiple use of public facilities adds 250 acres of recreation space to a community that is short on national standards for park space per 1,000 residents.

Existing park sites open to the public



Stormwater Pollution Prevention

As the flood control agency serving the Fresno/Clovis area, the District is the lead in the area's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit, in partnership with the County of Fresno, City of Fresno, City of Clovis, and California State University, Fresno. Together, all are responsible for reducing the amount of pollutants that reach the San Joaquin River and the stormwater basin system, via stormwater runoff. An ongoing, community-wide public education effort, free classroom materials, mini-grants for San Joaquin River field trips and environmental projects, and free business compliance assistance are tools the District uses to prevent stormwater pollution. Its partner agencies offer programs such as used motor oil recycling, plastic and paper recycling, and household hazardous waste disposal. All work together on public outreach messages and strategies.





Leadership and Funding

Governance

A seven-member Board of Directors appointed by the County of Fresno, City of Fresno, and City of Clovis governs the District. The Board is responsible for approving the annual District budgets, fees and assessments, direct matters of policy, enactment of ordinances, and performance of other responsibilities and requirements of the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control Act of 1956 (District Act). Directors serve four-year terms and may be reappointed for consecutive terms. Residence within District boundaries is required.

The District’s citizen Board of Directors believes strongly in drawing maximum value from every tax dollar provided for District services. It achieves this by forging cooperative relationships with other local agencies and creating an expectation of effective, high-quality service.

Funding

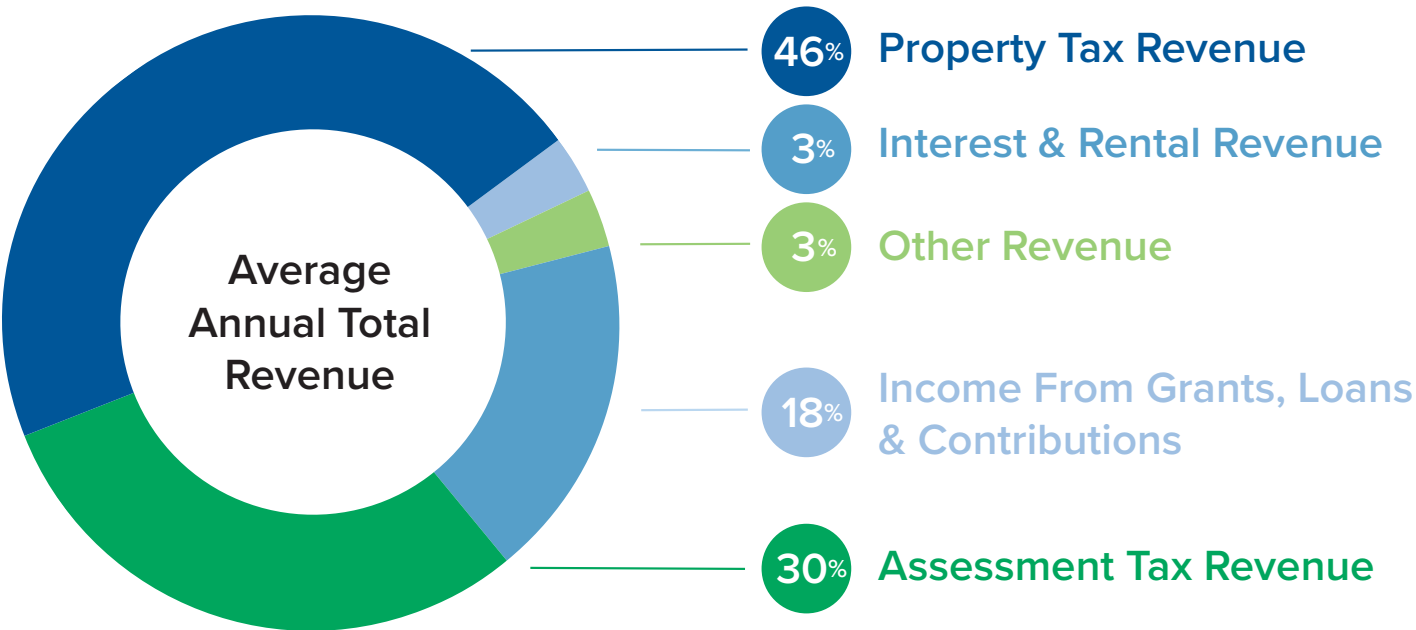
Money to pay for construction, maintenance, and administration of District work mainly comes from:

A small share of property taxes assessed on lands within the District—taxing authority allows up to 20¢ on each \$100 of valuation

A benefit assessment for flood control and urban storm drainage services

Fees charged on new land development with the District
Other sources of funding include:

- Grants
- Borrow materials (dirt)
- Permit fees





5469 E. Olive Avenue · Fresno, CA 93727
559-456-3292 · www.FresnoFloodControl.org