

HLE - Septic Project Update

May 24, 2006

The HLE Committee met with the City / County Interagency Team on May 15th from 1 to 4 pm at City Hall. The Interagency team provided an update on several aspects of the project.

The HLE Committee is not the initiator of the project. Upon learning of the public discussion about HLE Septic systems the HLE Homeowners Board approved forming the committee as a public service. We have learned this project is complex and our homeowners are best served by having the City / County Interagency Team provide answers to your questions. HLE Committee members are not qualified to answer your questions concerning the many elements of the project. The HLE Committee's mission is to facilitate communications and education on this project. Of the seven committee members, five have septic systems and represent a cross section of views.

The **Interim Sewer Feasibility Report** was presented by Jim Ashcraft, Morgan Hill Public Works Director. This study was funded by the City, Water District and County agencies. There are more items to be reviewed by the City before the study is considered finished. One complexity is unclear records on which properties are connected to the current sewer system. Mr. Ashcraft was able to answer several questions from HLE Committee members related to the general design and cost. Mr. Ashcraft expects the data collection needed to complete the feasibility study to be finished within 2-3 months. The current document will be available on the HLE website at <http://holiday-lake-estates.com/>

The City / County Interagency Team continues to work on a **"Sewers & Annexation Information Booklet"** that will be distributed to HLE property owners by the Interagency Team. The booklet will contain answers to "Frequently Asked Questions" identified by the HLE Committee, and will also summarize key information related to annexation, zoning, and sewer financing. The HLE Committee and members of the Interagency Group identified further needs for information to be included in the Booklet. When completed, the booklet will be mailed by the City / County Interagency Team to the HLE county homeowners prior to a public meeting.

The City / County Interagency Team will continue to review the various options available for the funding of the Sewer District Formation. The original guidance on the timeline for the project was optimistic. The feasibility report has taken longer to complete than expected. The funding method options also are a key part of the planning process and timeline. While everyone is interested in information on the timeframe of this project it is clear that the timeline is not complete.

Next Step

A public meeting between the HLE homeowners and the City / County Interagency Team has been agreed upon. The goal is to provide the opportunity for discussion and education. The agenda for this meeting will include the overall process, Q&A and the completed Sewer Feasibility Report. The best estimate for the public meeting is late summer to early fall depending upon speed of the process.

A special "Thank You" to the City / County Interagency Team members for their efforts on our behalf to-date. We appreciate their work in sorting through the various options to identify the best approach to the septic issue. Also, our thanks to Congressman Richard Pombo and State Senator Abel Maldonado for their support. Members of their staff have become involved and attended the May 15th meeting.

The HLE homeowners in the county with septic systems will vote on the future path of this project. We encourage you to participate in the public meeting and to read the available documents provided by the City / County Interagency Team.

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