



Public Works Commission

April 6, 2006

To: Planning Commission

From: Public Works Commission

Subject: Comments on the Creeks Task Force Recommendations for Revisions to the Creeks Ordinance and other Recommendations Related to Watershed Management

The Public Works Commission commends the Creeks Task Force (CTF) for its recognition that creeks are one element in the overall watershed management of the City. Public Works Departments everywhere are changing their emphasis away from flood management towards a watershed perspective to follow the direction of new clean water regulations.

There are three specific areas of the CTF recommendations where we strongly urge the following:

- We agree with the Creeks Task Force recommendation that a Watershed Coordinator position is needed. We further recommend it reside in the Public Works Department so that all watershed management functions can be performed together and are well coordinated. This position should be separately funded and not charged to any funding that may be used for maintenance, repairs, or improvements to the City's storm drainage system.
- We agree with the Creeks Task Force recommendation to develop a watershed management and action plan. This effort should also be separately funded from the scarce funding allocated to maintain the City's storm drainage system.
- We support the Minority Report's position that culverts be removed from the Creek Ordinance, and that the impacts of building on or near culverts should be left solely to the Public Works Department.

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Sara Shumer, Chair