

# On the WATER Front

A Message from Ed Archuleta, P.E., President/CEO



June 2009

## We're Moving Forward with Stormwater

We knew it would be a challenge to manage the Stormwater Utility when City Council gave us that responsibility in 2007. But we charged full steam ahead, and despite some bumps in the road, we never looked back. Now, El Pasoans have given us the green light to stay on that road towards a new and improved stormwater system.

With an overwhelming vote of support last month, El Pasoans have reaffirmed their confidence in the Public Service Board and El Paso Water Utilities to manage the Stormwater Utility in a way that corrects past deficiencies and increases their safety. After just 15 months under the leadership of the PSB, the City already has a greater level of flood protection. The work our crews have done on the maintenance of drains, channels, and ponds across the city is helping the stormwater system work more efficiently, and it has also made El Paso a cleaner place. For the first time, El Paso has a Stormwater Master Plan to guide the construction of future infrastructure to further protect the community - and a citizens' committee had a hand in creating that plan.

### Illegal dumping.



### Report Illegal Dumping

A lot has been accomplished in this first year, but there is still much more to be done. You can be a big part of those efforts as we approach the monsoon season by following one simple rule: don't litter.

Illegal dumping is occurring in all parts of town, and the most popular items are tires, mattresses, sofas and shopping carts. But it also includes small items like plastic bottles, soda cans, and cardboard. When these items are dumped in stormwater channels and drains, they clog up the system, leading to flooding in surrounding neighborhoods.

Our stormwater crews spend at least 25 percent of their time cleaning up trash dumped into the drainage system. That's valuable time they could be using somewhere else. Let's not give them more work to do when there is so much to be done. If you witness illegal dumping, call 1-877-ID-FLOWS. We will assure that those responsible for illegal dumping are prosecuted.

We remain committed to improving the efficiency of our stormwater system, and with your help, we can accomplish that. Thank you for having the confidence in the PSB and El Paso Water Utilities to continue managing the Stormwater Utility. You have our promise that we will do the best job possible with the resources we have to keep our community safe from flood damage.

On the Water Front is a publication of El Paso Water Utilities. If you have any comments or questions contact Editor Christina Montoya at 915.594.5596 or by email at [cmontoya@epwu.org](mailto:cmontoya@epwu.org)

