

## 7.0 STORMWATER MASTER PLAN COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

EPWU wanted to involve the community in the stormwater master planning process. In order to do this, a SMP CAC was formed with representatives from over 30 different groups that included neighborhood associations, school districts, UTEP, City Open Space Committee, religious organizations, and various business and community interest groups representing all aspects of the community.

The Mission Statement for the committee stated:

*“The mission of the SMP CAC is to assist EPWU’s staff in developing a master plan for repairing, constructing and maintaining a system of facilities that safely, efficiently and cost-effectively conveys stormwater while minimizing the impacts to water quality, and preserves and enhances the environment.”*

The SMP CAC was very active and met nine times throughout the SMP process. All meetings were open to the public. The initial meetings included an overview of the existing stormwater system in El Paso and the SMP process. After gaining this knowledge, the committee had three major functions.

The first was to develop a list of community values that would be used by the technical team to evaluate and rank potential stormwater project alternatives. The community values identified by the committee are shown below:

### Safety

- Ensure personal and public safety in flood events; and
- Prevent property damage to the extent possible.

### Aesthetics

- A natural, aesthetic look is preferred wherever possible, including a preference for the use of natural materials.

### Dual Use

- Ensure multi-functionality of structures, ponds, and channels to the extent possible for drainage, recreation, habitat, and aesthetics.

### Natural Systems

- Maximize the use of existing natural drainage paths and arroyos wherever possible;
- Use natural vegetation for erosion control where possible;
- Use greenbelts or materials such as porous concrete for stormwater absorption where possible; and

- Maintain natural plants and trees as part of the stormwater system when possible.

#### Design Considerations

- Ease of maintenance is important throughout the system;
- Provide cost effective solutions;
- Ensure long-term reliability of the system;
- Solve the drainage problems in low-lying areas; and
- Design/appearance of terminus of each facility is important.

The second major function of the committee was to review the projects in the Draft CIP and to provide EPWU with a recommendation for the projects to be included in the first three years (2009, 2010, and 2011) of the ten-year CIP program.

The last major function of the committee was to develop a list of proposed open space projects and to recommend to EPWU which projects should be funded for the first three years (2009, 2010, and 2011) with the funds dedicated for open space acquisition.

The CAC reviewed the SMP Report and provided a summary report of the committee's activity to EPWU and the City Council. Below is a list of organizations that had representatives on the CAC.

1. Associated General Contractors of America
2. Associated General Contractors of Texas
3. Borderland Mountain Bike Association
4. Canutillo Independent School District
5. City of El Paso Open Space Sub-Committee
6. City of El Paso Plan Commission
7. El Paso Apartment Association
8. El Paso Association of Builders
9. El Paso Council of Engineering Companies
10. EPWID No. 1
11. El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
12. El Paso Independent School district
13. El Paso Interreligious Sponsoring Organization
14. El Paso New Car Dealers Association
15. El Paso Regional Economic Development Corporation
16. Greater El Paso Association of REALTORS®
17. Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce
18. International Boundary and Water Commission
19. Neighborhood Association Representatives (Central, East, Lower Valley, Northeast, and West)
20. Paso del Norte Group
21. Save the Valley

22. Socorro Independent School District
23. Texas Board of Professional Engineers
24. TxDOT
25. UTEP
26. U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE)
27. Village of Vinton
28. Ysleta Independent School District