

January 26, 2016

Mr. Emmanuel "Mani" Flatten
Email: info@sundancecsc.com
Comfort Floodplain Coalition
P. O. Box 915
Comfort, Texas 78013

Re: Response to CFC's Proposals Concerning Flooding in Comfort

Dear Mr. Flatten:

Let me first thank you for soliciting my response to the CFC's three proposals dealing with flood mitigation efforts in Comfort. I pledge to the Pct. 4 community to make the flood issues a high priority. I have my business in the floodplain and I pledge to make the flood issues a HIGH priority.

The first proposal concerns structural flood mitigation facilities in the watersheds above Comfort. The most severe flooding in Comfort has traditionally occurred when the watersheds of the Guadalupe River and Cypress Creek both flood at the same time. The flood waters of the Guadalupe prevent the flood waters of Cypress Creek from entering the river and the flood waters then "back-up" into all the lower areas of Comfort. A solution for this flooding is to construct storage reservoir(s) upstream from Comfort; on the Guadalupe or on Cypress Creek. Either of the reservoirs would probably have to be constructed in Kerr County. As the CFC points out the water could then be released at a time when flooding was not an issue. The Coalition further points out the secondary benefits of recreational use and recharging local water sources. Another very important and viable secondary benefit would be to use the water for purposes of irrigation. Literally hundreds of acres of prime farm land in the vicinity of the reservoir, as well as land downstream, could be irrigated; thereby increasing the harvests on those properties.

As everyone knows, this process is an extremely lengthy and costly one. It will require the joint efforts of many entities, including Kerr County, Kendall County, UGRA, and GBRA. If I am elected, I pledge that I will actively and aggressively work with these entities, which have already started meetings, to accomplish this goal.

The second proposal of the CFC relates to improving the drainage of water on Cypress Creek, North Creek, and Dry Creek. As I have previously proposed, another of my primary goals as Commissioner is to set up a community volunteer program to involve as many citizens as possible to work on special community projects. The cleanup of these floodways would be an excellent community project for my volunteer program to undertake. Being a strong advocate of land

owner's rights, these cleanup efforts would have to be done with the approval of the land owners.

There are many other measures which can be pursued to help alleviate the flooding in Comfort proper. One would be to maximize the capacity of the floodwaters to naturally flow out of the lower areas of Comfort by increasing the discharge capacity along 8th and Broadway Streets. Additionally, Kendall County has an excellent County Engineer in Rick Tobolka. Flooding is not just a Comfort problem, it is a Kendall County problem. If elected, I plan to meet with Mr. Tobolka and immediately start working on a plan to identify all areas in Comfort which need to have improved drainage in order to efficiently handle floodwaters. I will then implement a plan to schedule getting that work done as funds permit.

Your final proposal deals with having state-of-the-art flood warning equipment on Cypress Creek. I believe that the installation and implementation of this flood warning equipment on Cypress Creek is a goal which can be accomplished in my term. I would pledge to start working on this project immediately, by contacting all involved entities; locating and securing funding sources [both state and federal grants]; and then aggressively pushing for the final implementation of the project.

Thank you for this opportunity to respond to the CFC's proposals; and thank you for taking the initiative to start up the CFC and to spearhead such an essential group in the growth of this community. I've been involved in agriculture all my life and water is the root of my livelihood --- without it, I'm out of business. We are experiencing unprecedented growth in Kendall County. YOU CAN HAVE WATER WITHOUT GROWTH, BUT YOU CANNOT HAVE GROWTH WITHOUT WATER. The creation of reservoir(s) together with flood control measures should be considered together in order to insure that our community continues to thrive and flourish.

I would respectfully ask for your vote to be your next Commissioner for Precinct 4.

Together we can make a difference,

Wesley Atkison