



AGENDA MEMO

Business of the City Council

City of Sweeny, Texas

Meeting Date	07.18.2023	Agenda Item	
Approved by City Manager	No	Presenter(s)	John Richers, WBDD#11
Reviewed by City Attorney	No	Department	Drainage
Subject	Discussion and possible action on a request from John Richers of West Brazoria County Drainage District #11 for City Council to rescind a decision by Sweeny City Council and Brazoria County Commissioners' Court to enter an interlocal agreement between City of Sweeny and Brazoria County for the provision of the replacement of a drainage culvert beneath Ashley Wilson Road west of Stewarts Grocery Store.		
Attachments	1) Email thread between City of Sweeny staff and Brazoria County 2) Interlocal agreement approved by Sweeny City Council and Brazoria County 3) Drainage drawing completed by Randy Stroud, P.E., WBCDD#11 engineer 4) Sign in sheet of project member participants from meeting on October 27, 2022		
Financial Information	Expenditure Required:	N/A	
	Amount Budgeted:	N/A	
	Account Number:		
	Additional Appropriation Required:		
	Additional Account Number:		

Executive Summary

Sometime in the month of October 2022, I, Lindsay Koskiniemi, City Manager for City of Sweeny, was contacted by a resident who notified me of African American gravesites on the side of the cemetery east of Stevenson Slough being washed away. After making a site visit with the resident who initiated the complaint, I called for a meeting with the West Brazoria County Drainage District #11 representatives including president John Richers and engineer Randy Stroud, the City's engineer, Brazoria County Commissioner #4, Hilcorp representatives and other community stakeholders.

After the stakeholder meeting, the participants walked the site and determined that the culvert under Ashley Wilson Road just west of Stewart's Grocery Store was partially collapsed and needed to be replaced. The County offered a solution for replacement and needed the City Council to approve an interlocal agreement for the provision of labor to replace the culvert, as the City does not have the means to do the work.

A request for an interlocal was made and a drawing of the culvert replacement was prepared by drainage district engineer, Randy Stroud, P.E. The Sweeny City Council approved the interlocal agreement, and in the planning, the project team determined that the work would be done in during the summer months while there is no school zone traffic.

In the month of May 2023, several months after all approvals had been made by all entities, the drainage district included, Mr. Richers contacted me and stated that I needed to contact



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Commissioner Linder and ask him to stop the culvert replacement. I stated that is not within my authority, as this project was approved by two governing bodies through an executed interlocal agreement between. I told Mr. Richers if he is asking the City Council and Brazoria County Commissioners' Court to rescind their agreement, he should have compelling, scientifically engineered reasonings to back his request.

To date, I have received no documentation from Mr. Richers to support his statement that this project is no longer needed. This is being brought before City Council, as Mr. Richers has contacted Commissioner Linder on numerous occasions concerning his opinion that this project, is no longer needed and has delayed the project originally scheduled during the school year summer vacation schedule.

Recommended Action

I, Lindsay Koskiniemi, do not recommend the City Council rescind an agreement already executed to improve drainage without compelling engineered hydrology data to support the need to stop the project. This project was initiated as a complaint because minority grave sites were being washed out due to bottlenecked drainage in areas along Stevenson Slough where the collapsed culvert on AWR is the outfall.