

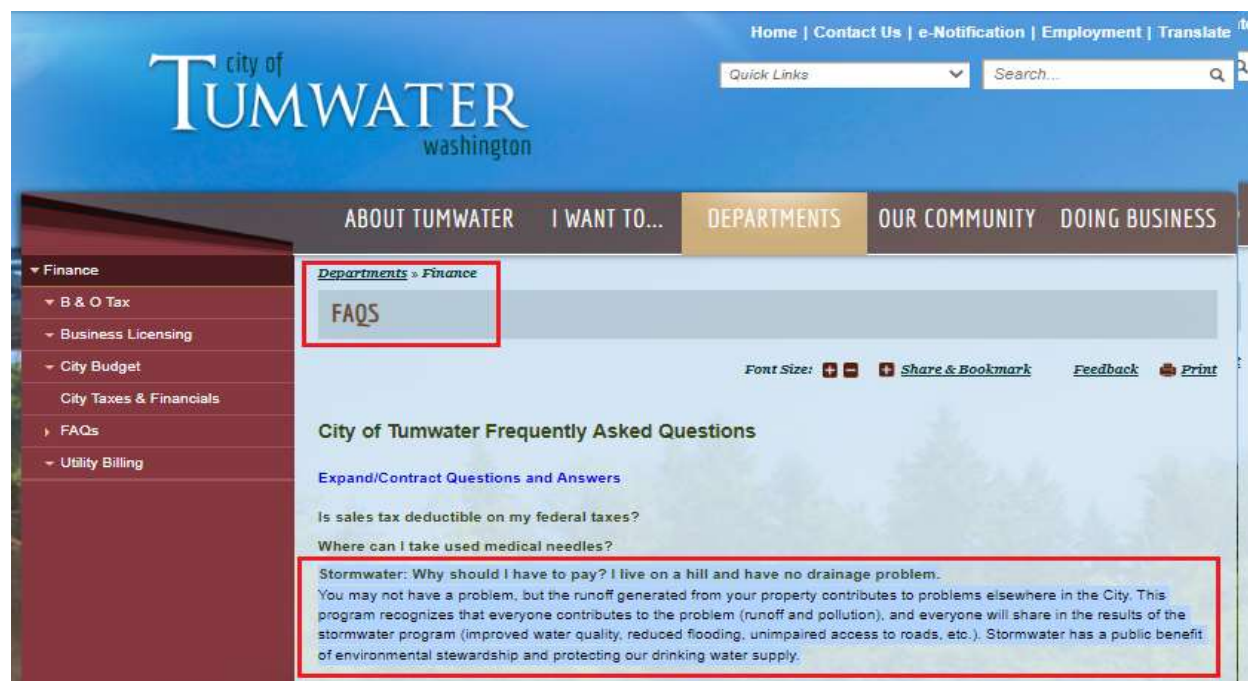
City of Tumwater & Flooding “in the Open-Space OF” and “south of” The Preserve Housing Dev.
02/01/2022

Here is my Public Comment of the position of the Hopkins Drainage Ditch District #2:

Hello Ms. Mayor and Councilpersons, my name is Mat Jackmond, I am a Commissioner with the Hopkins Drainage Ditch District #2 in Thurston County- established in 1904 under RCW 85.06. We are a small “Special Purpose District” in the area just south of Tumwater and the Olympia Airport. I commented at the last City Council Meeting, which was also a Joint Meeting with the Thurston County Commissioners. I would like to apologize to Mayor Sullivan; I’m sorry I addressed you a “Mr Mayor” last time, I get very nervous addressing Government and I was following the suggestions on the City Website under “Giving Testimony” at this meeting. At this point I would like to note that 6 members of this body mention “Protecting the Environment or Environmental Sustainability” in their Website Profiles, and one of the stated “City of Tumwater Strategic Priorities 2021-2026” is “Be a Leader in Environmental Sustainability”. This being the stated policy of the members and the City, I would hope you want to hear what I have to say tonight and will not cut me off if my comments run a few seconds longer than normally allowed.

At the last meeting I gave Public Comment concerning the increased Stormwater Flow on the areas downstream of The Preserve during the Flooding in January and the “effects and problems caused by the increased stormwater flow” to downstream areas. In that comment the Ditch District requested financial assistance to deal with this. Frankly, the response from the City through Mr. Doan, the City Administrator, was and is woefully inadequate. Mr. Doan’s response was 2 or 3 short paragraphs in length alluding to the engineering theory and did not respond at all to our request for financial assistance. Frankly we see his response as a flagrant dismissal of the problem and truly the dismissal of the Ditch District as a Governmental entity.

A review of the City Website shows under the “Finance Department – Frequently Asked Questions” the picture provided below and says:



I will read it here so everyone knows what the City’s officially position is:

This is the 3rd questions of 20 questions asked and answered by the City.

Question: **“Stormwater: Why should I have to pay? I live on a hill and have no drainage problem.**

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You may not have a problem, but the **runoff generated from your property contributes to problems elsewhere** in the City. This program recognizes that **everyone contributes to the problem (runoff and pollution), and everyone will share in the results of the stormwater program** (improved water quality, reduced flooding, unimpaired access to roads, etc.). **Stormwater has a public benefit of environmental stewardship and protecting our drinking water supply."**

I'm assuming that the city means "**Stormwater CONTROL**" has a Public Benefit, not the actual STORMWATER itself... This is a good "sound-bite", but in light of The City's response to the Ditch District, it is another example of "governmental placating"; good words but NO ACTION to back it up.

I come here again, requesting that the City start negotiating with the Ditch District in good faith to solve this problem. I've read the explanation on the City Website of the "Role of the Mayor" and the "Role of the City Council" and by these, it says that you have the power to make this happen. I would encourage the City to look at RCW 85.32 when considering whether the City has an obligation to negotiate with the Ditch District. If The City continues to ignore The Ditch District's request we will have no other recourse than to use 85.32 to "make our citizens whole from this problem".

Thank you and this concludes my Public Comment of the **Position Statement of The Hopkins Ditch District # 2 in Thurston County**, a neighboring governmental agency..