

Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 61

February 11, 2010

Re: Proper Disposal of Yard Debris and Clippings

Dear Residents:

It has been noted that significant amounts of yard debris (such as leaves, small trimmings, grass clippings, mulch, and construction debris) are infiltrating the District's storm sewer drainage system on a regular basis. While the deposit of such debris into the storm sewer system may be unintentional or may be done by your yard contractor without your knowledge, the accumulation of such debris in the system causes clogging and creates an overall inefficient and ineffective drainage system which ultimately contributes to flooding in the neighborhood and drives up the costs of maintenance and operation of the system. The following steps can be taken by homeowners to reduce the amount of debris that enters the system:

- After performing yard work sweep up all yard debris and place in bags for garbage pick-up, rather than hosing down or blowing the debris into the street.
- After the cessation of storm or wind events, promptly sweep all yard debris into bags.
- Cover piles of dirt and mulch being used in landscaping projects to prevent those pollutants from blowing into the street.
- Do not over water your lawn. Overwatering causes water to drain into the street carrying loose yard debris along with the water.
- Instruct all employees or persons performing yard services on your behalf on the proper disposal of yard debris, and particularly, instruct them to not blow yard debris into the street storm sewer drains. Residents are responsible for the actions of those workers.

Section 5.04 of the District's Rate Order prohibits introduction of unauthorized material into the storm sewer system, and authorizes the assessment of penalties of not less than \$200 to a maximum of \$5,000 for each violation (a copy of the District's Rate Order can be found at the District's web site at www.hcmud61.org). While the District has the authority to fine persons violating the District's ordinances prohibiting the disposal of debris into the storm sewer, it is the desire of the Board to get voluntary cooperation from all residents of our community. Together, we can keep our storm sewer system operating at maximum efficiency and keep District costs down.

We appreciate your efforts to work towards an efficient and effective system.

Sincerely,

Dennis Gorden, President

Joe Ornowski, Vice President

Dan Sherrill, Secretary

Richard Erbert, Director

Randy Lusby, Director