

DRAFT

**FORT BEND COUNTY
DRAINAGE DISTRICT**

**FORT BEND COUNTY, TEXAS
Financial Report**

September 30, 2015

FORT BEND COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT
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COUNTY AUDITOR

Fort Bend County, Texas

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County Auditor

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March 31, 2016

To the Board of Directors of the Fort Bend County Drainage District, Members of the Commissioners Court, and Citizens of Fort Bend County, Texas:

The Fort Bend County Auditor's Office is pleased to present the basic financial statements of the Fort Bend County Drainage District (the "District"), a component unit of Fort Bend County, Texas (the "County"), for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2015. This report is submitted in accordance with Section 114.025 of the Texas Local Government Code and was prepared by the staff of the County Auditor's Office.

Management assumes full responsibility for the completeness and reliability of the information contained in this report, based upon a comprehensive framework of internal control that it has established for this purpose. Because the cost of internal control should not exceed anticipated benefits, the objective is to provide reasonable, rather than absolute, assurance that the financial statements are free of any material misstatements.

Whitley Penn has issued an unmodified ("clean") opinion on the District's financial statements for the year ended September 30, 2015. The independent auditors' report is located at the front of the financial section of this report.

Management's discussion and analysis ("MD&A") immediately follows the independent auditors' report and provides a narrative introduction, overview, and analysis of the basic financial statements. MD&A complements this letter of transmittal and should be read in conjunction with it.

Profile of the District

The District was established under Section 59 of Article XVI of the Constitution of Texas, and includes all of the property within Fort Bend County. It was created for the purpose of reclamation and drainage of its lands. The Fort Bend County Commissioners Court acts as the governing body of the District.

Local Economy

Fort Bend County experienced a slight upturn in the local economy for fiscal year 2015. This is evident by a modest increase in new home sales, labor force, and employment rate. The demand for services regarding the governmental functions performed by the County continues to increase at a greater rate. The Commissioners Court and the District continue to use a conservative approach to the allocation of

resources to serve the County's needs to ensure that Fort Bend County is prepared as the local economy improves. This ongoing conservative approach will allow the County and the District to meet the service demands of the residents in Fort Bend County.

Long-Term Financial Planning and Relevant Financial Policies

Budget

The District adopts a one-year budget through its fully coordinated financial planning process. The budget implements strategies, both financial and operational, identified through the strategic and long-range planning process to meet existing challenges and to effectively plan for future needs. The budget is a financial plan for a fiscal year of operations that matches all planned revenues and expenditures with the services provided the citizens of Fort Bend County based on the established budget policy. Decisions are not based solely on current conditions but on the long-term welfare of the community. The budget is developed and resources allocated based on the vision, mission, and goals of the District and County.

Long-Term Comprehensive Plan

The District works with local governments and land developments to address drainage and flood control challenges within Fort Bend County in order to protect people, property and the environment.

Capital Improvement Program

Capital Improvement Projects are larger projects that focus on restoring or improving drainage as well as mitigating flooding. These projects represent a substantial investment of public funds and must pass a rigorous review before construction begins. Projects are first evaluated to ensure they meet technical criteria. Projects are then reviewed using criteria developed specifically for the District. The District's criteria support projects that:

- Promote safety and health of the public
- Reduce or mitigate impacts related to flooding
- Promote/improve habitat to support healthy watersheds
- Promote/improve water quality
- Promote economic health of the County
- Implement all, or a part of, a watershed plan
- Assist the County in meeting federal or state requirements

Debt Policy

The purpose of the County's Debt Policy (which includes the District) is to establish guidelines for the utilization of debt instruments issued by the County and the District whether payable from County taxes or payable from certain revenues of the County or District.

Major Initiatives

The District is focused on allowing development to continue within the County, while maintaining, or reducing, flood risks. The District's development guidelines require individual developments to mitigate impacts to existing floodplains as well as maintain/improve drainage in their vicinity. The District also upgrades existing drainage systems to reduce flood risks. These initiatives include:

- Development of regional detention facilities
- Provide drainage capacity within channels with reimbursements requirements for developments
- Improve major drainage channels for flood risk reduction

Acknowledgements

The preparation of this report could not be achieved without the efficient and dedicated services of the staff of the County Auditor's Office and Whitley Penn, our independent auditor.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert E. Sturdivant". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Robert E. Sturdivant, CPA
County Auditor
Fort Bend County, Texas