

Harris County Flood Control Dist. v. Kerr

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EDITORIAL

Flood city

Whether **development** on the Katy Prairie, the unintended consequences of new flood infrastructure or the planet's changing climate, there has to be some explanation as to **why a 500-year flood now feels like an annual occurrence.**



As developers continue to build and increase density, flooding issues will exacerbate, said Ted C. Jones, chief economist at Stewart Title Guaranty Co.

“We’re going to decrease the absorption and increase the runoff,” Jones said.



Soaked and tired

What's not working well is long-term planning to cope with inevitable heavy rain.

As developers pave over more and more land without controlling excess runoff, elected officials and bureaucrats quail at developers' political clout. They approve loopholes and "grandfathered" exemptions...

Reservoirs part of 'complex drainage system'

...Engineer Wayne Klotz... a former president of the American Society of Civil Engineers, said improvements could be very expensive.

“Do we know where it's going to flood? **Yes**

Do we know how to not make it flood there? **Yes**

Do we have billions to fix it? **No** - and those are the kinds of answers people don't want to hear”

Don't blame Mother Nature for flooding.

[N]ew development is responsible for unnecessary flooding of neighborhoods that previously weren't flood plains, weren't prone to flooding. ...Is it ethical to allow a new office building to flood an entire neighborhood even if a loophole makes it legal?



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