

# Harris County Flood Control Dist. v. Kerr

Panel:  
Truman Edminster, PE  
Charlie McNabb  
Reid Wilson

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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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