

The Board of Supervisors of CDD South met March 4 and discussed two important topics.

**The first topic** was how we buy irrigation water. We have until now purchased our water from a Lennar subsidiary, Aquaterra. Each homeowner through Association fees pays about \$180 per year for that water. It was discovered that the contract covering these purchases was invalid. At the previous CDD meeting the District's Manager and District Lawyer were asked to develop a set of options on how we might purchase our water in the future.

Jim Ward, the District Manager presented four options at our March 4 meeting:

- (1) Continue with the existing Aquaterra contract but fix its obvious problems.
- (2) Buy reclaimed water from the county and meter individual homes.
- (3) Purchase the Aquaterra facilities
- (4) Build replacements for the Aquaterra facilities.

Lee Bettes, one of the five Supervisors presented a fifth option that was for the CDD to purchase water from Aquaterra and resell it to the residents. "Under this approach the CDD would be in a strong position to negotiate a reasonable water rate and it would have an added benefit that the monies would be collected through tax rates instead of assessments which makes it more likely the cost burden would be more equally shared. People are more likely to pay property taxes than association assessments"

After an orderly and reasonable discussion with several community members from both Stoneybrook and Lighthouse Cove, the Board voted unanimously to initially go forward with Option (1) and Option (5) (option presented by Lee Bettes).

Chuck Faust, Board Chair, will head the negotiating team that will also include the District Manager, and District Attorney. Their primary goal will to develop a clean contract and which would provide cheap reasonably priced irrigation water to our residents.

If the negotiations with Aquaterra (Lennar) are unsuccessful Options2, 3 and 4 will be considered at later CDD Meetings.

**The second major issue** discussed was maintenance of the CDD infrastructure. The CDD South owns about \$50 million of infrastructure within the District that included the storm water system, irrigation system, streetlights, wilderness areas and roads. The CDD has recently sigh a maintenance agreement with the Heritage Harbour Master Association to do the maintenance of these facilities.

The CDD Supervisor's agreed at this meeting to spend \$14,500 to have a detailed inspection done of all of these facilties. These inspections will help answer the questions of:

- (1) Are the facilties being properly maintained
- (2) What remediation work is required

These inspections will start early next week.