

Dear Neighbor,

A counter-petition is being circulated to stop the formation of the West Lakes Conservancy District—but it is primarily based on misinformation. Claims that property owners will lose rights, be forced into sewer hookups, or allow public access to private land are simply not true and do not reflect the Conservancy’s intent.

The Conservancy District is designed to do one thing: create a reliable, long-term funding source to continue and improve upon flood prevention efforts already being carried out through volunteer labor and donations. This includes ongoing work like dredging, tree removal and weed control. **Downstream, the only goal of the Conservancy is to continue doing what has been done for the last 10 years - to continue to work cooperatively with property owners. Nothing new or intrusive.**

Without stable funding, the aging West Lakes Association cannot sustain these efforts indefinitely. If that happens, future residents will once again face costly flood recovery—or worse, the area could revert to a flood-prone basin. After the 2017 flood, experts even proposed FEMA buyouts, which would have led to abandoned shoreline properties, worsening floods, and fewer homeowners to share rising infrastructure costs.

We have seen what unmanaged flooding looks like: evacuations, sewer failures, impassable roads, and lost use of the lakes for months at a time. The progress made since then is real—but it is not guaranteed to last.

The Conservancy offers a fair and limited solution. By law, assessments are capped at \$50 per \$100,000 of assessed property value—about \$100 per year for a \$200,000 home—and cannot increase beyond that limit. Claims suggesting otherwise are false.

Importantly, no government agency is responsible for solving West Lakes flooding. While agencies may advise and regulate, they do not fund or carry out the work. Local and state officials have consistently recommended a conservancy district as the best long-term solution.

If the current effort is stopped, it could take many years to rebuild the momentum, funding, and support needed to try again. Meanwhile, the challenges will only grow.

The choice is clear: secure a stable, affordable solution now—or risk returning to cycles of flooding, damage, and uncertainty.

Support the West Lakes Conservancy District—for your property, your community, and the future of West Lakes.

If you have signed the counter-petition based on misinformation and would now like to remove your name from obstructing the effort to establish a sustainable solution, please download a form from the West Lakes website, WestLakesAssociation.com, or contact one of the steering committee members and we will provide you with the form.

Sincerely, the West Lakes Conservancy District Steering Committee

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