

July 12, 2018

To: Mayor and City Council Members

From: Douglas G. Faseler
City Manager



Re: SH78/Rail Road Right of Way Standing Water

For years water has accumulated and stood in the area between FM78 and the railroad tracks in the vicinity of Hildago Street. Council Member Lievens has shared his concern with me regarding this area and he has been contacted by a resident in the area of health and safety concerns from the stagnant water. After rains, water stands in this area for long periods of time creating a potential mosquito breeding area. We have met with TXDOT and Union Pacific and have determined that the water is actually on railroad property. Union Pacific has no intentions to address the situation, even though we have discussed it with them numerous times. They have indicated that it does not affect the safety and operation of their tracks. In order to investigate options in addressing this situation, staff has obtained a proposal to survey the area. Our hope is that the area can be graded such that it will drain toward Walnut Branch and eliminate the standing water. There is also buried fiber optic cables in this area so it essential that its location and depth be identified and any work in the area proceed with caution. The proposal is for \$5,100.00. I have contacted Union Pacific and requested that they share in this cost with the City. They are considering this request and will be getting back to me. Regardless, I am requesting approval to expend up to \$5,100.00 for this surveying to be done on the Union Pacific property should they decide not to share in the cost.

C.c. Michael Sharp
Joe Ramos
Tommy Schriewer