



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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**September 1 Public Meeting Planned to Discuss Proposed Stormwater Program Fee**

On Wednesday, September 1 at 6 p.m., Metro District staff will conduct a public workshop to explain the financial implications and the alternatives relative to a proposed stormwater program fee. Please consider attending this workshop to learn more about this important program.

The Highlands Ranch Metro District is responsible for the maintenance of the open space channels that are an important part of the infrastructure of Highlands Ranch and contribute significantly to the lifestyle our residents enjoy. Open space management and stormwater management are very closely connected. Because most of the stormwater runoff travels through natural open space areas in Highlands Ranch, channel stabilization is a vital component of preserving and improving these natural open space areas.

Federal and state regulations for municipal stormwater systems have redefined the responsibilities associated with owning and maintaining facilities such as surface drainages, detention and water quality management ponds, and storms sewers and culverts. As the permit holder under the Clean Water Act, the Metro District is responsible for implementing or complying with the following six minimum control measures:

- Public education and outreach
- Public involvement and participation
- Illicit discharge detection and elimination
- Construction site stormwater run-off control
- Post construction stormwater management
- Pollution prevention and good housekeeping

Funds from Centennial Water and Sanitation District, developers and the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District (UDFCD) have for years helped fund the initial stormwater management projects in Highlands Ranch. The long range plan for stormwater infrastructure, including capital and maintenance, requires approximately \$30 million over the next 30 years. It is anticipated that UDFCD will continue to partner with the Metro District, but will continue to require matching funds for capital projects. It is important that the Metro District identify a reliable funding source to allow us to stabilize

the channels in our natural open space lands and meet our requirements as the holder of the Clean Water Act permit.

The Metro District Board of Directors has authorized staff to explore the implementation of a Stormwater Management Fee.

If you have questions, please visit [www.highlandsranch.org](http://www.highlandsranch.org) or contact Director of Public Works Jeff Case at [jcase@highlandsranch.org](mailto:jcase@highlandsranch.org) or at 303-791-0430.

*Founded in 1981 as the local government in Highlands Ranch, Colo., the Metro District provides a variety of municipal services to this planned community of 93,000 people. Learn more about the Metro District at [www.highlandsranch.org](http://www.highlandsranch.org).*

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