

FAQ – Spanish Acres Drainage Improvements

What is taking place at La Paloma and Marchita Avenue?

The Cameron County Drainage District #5 is working in conjunction with the City of Harlingen to reduce flooding on the west side of the drainage ditch from La Paloma and Marchita Avenue.

What are the Cameron County Drainage District #5 and the City of Harlingen planning to do to reduce flooding in the east part of Spanish Acres?

The Cameron County Drainage District #5 will be installing two storm drain inlets at street level on La Paloma and Marchita Avenue to capture more storm runoff at street level. These storm drain inlets, when installed, will drain excess rain from the end of these two streets as well as alleviate the excess rain that backs up into the existing drainage inlets.

In addition, the Cameron County Drainage District #5 will regrade the open ditch from Barcelona to Buena Vista, and the City of Harlingen will improve the entrance to the drain from Barcelona to the North Main Drain. The City of Harlingen will install flap gates on all discharge pipes.

Who is responsible for the maintenance of this drainage ditch?

The Cameron County Drainage District #5 is responsible for the North Main Drain that runs between Secluded Acres and Spanish Acres. This drainage ditch meanders northeast towards Camp Perry where the storm water ends up in the Arroyo Colorado.

What is the street elevation of La Paloma and Marchita Avenue?

The elevation of the west end of La Paloma and Marchita Avenue from the east side of Business 77 is 2 feet higher when compared to the east end of these two streets that abut the drainage ditch.

What is the elevation of Spanish Acres when compared to the elevation of the North Main Drain?

The elevation of Spanish Acres is 35 feet, and the water elevation during a 100 year storm of the North Main Drain is 36 feet.

The top of the berm ranges from 39 feet to 42 feet in elevation. The high water elevation during the 2019 event was 36.9 feet. Water from the North Main Drain

came into the subdivision by back flowing through the drainage system. The installation of flap gates will minimize this in future events.

In the event of future storms, rainfall that falls within the subdivision may still have to be pumped for removal if the water in the ditch is at a level higher than that in the streets.

Why is one side of the north main drain at a higher elevation than the other?

The berms along the North Main Drain were not designed as levees. They were built simply to stockpile excavated soil when the ditch was constructed.

What are other drainage improvements are the Cameron County Drainage District #5 and the City of Harlingen currently working on?

The Cameron County Drainage District #5 is currently in the environmental stage of grant projects totaling \$17.7 million to construct additional regional detention ponds and make improvements to the North Main Drain.

Additionally, CCDD5 Staff recently submitted a grant application totaling \$2.5 million to bore five 7' steel pipes underneath Business 77 and railroad tracks.