

HEBER PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

WHO IS HPUD?

The Heber Public Utility District (HPUD) is a service district providing a plethora of services to the Heber community including wastewater, water, parks & recreation, solid waste, and some drainage and lighting facilities. The Townsite of Heber is a small, economically disadvantaged community within an unincorporated area of Imperial County. Heber has a population of 6,235 persons based on the number of residential utility connections. Heber is considered severely disadvantaged community with the median household income being less than 60% of the statewide median household income. The Heber Public Utility District strives to make Heber a better place to live, work and play.

OUR TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

State Highway 86 and State Highway 111 are the major transport routes that serve the community. Highway 86 runs through the middle of Heber and although the speed limit is reduced to 35 MPH, traffic flies through town as there are NO STOP SIGNS or CROSSWALKS on the Highway. Children must cross the highway to get to/from school and they do not have sidewalks to walk on. There are many health and safety benefits associated with having a safe paved walkway separate from moving vehicles. This information has been presented to our County Board of Supervisors, Cal Trans Authorities, and Local Transportation Authority staff and elected officials. They recognize the health benefits and have been shown the need in our community, yet they have not committed funds toward these much needed sidewalks, curbs and gutters, ADA required improvements, stop signs and crosswalks.

Air quality concerns, safety of children as they cross the highway to get to/from school, residents and visitors and our most vulnerable population who must cross the highway are exposed to the dangers of sharing the road with fast moving vehicles on the State Highway.

Over 490 local SENIOR CITIZENS and residents signed a petition in support of installing stop signs and sidewalks on Highway 86 in Heber. There is tremendous community concern for the health and safety of our community.



Board Members

Tony Sandoval, President
Diahna Garcia-Ruiz, Vice-President
Sergio Escobedo
Martin Nolasco, Jr.
Pompeyo Tabarez, Jr.



Lack of Asphalt, Sidewalk, Curb & Gutter, and ADA ramps on Highway 86 in Heber. Our Citizens are Unable to Safely Traverse State Highway 86

HOW YOU CAN ASSIST OUR COMMUNITY:

- Prioritize Funding for Sidewalks, Curb and Gutter and ADA Ramps Adjacent to Cal Trans Highways to Improve Health and Safety of Disadvantaged Communities
- Increase State Resources for SENIOR CITIZEN Healthy Activities and Programs
- Improve Parks and Recreation Funding Opportunities for Severely Disadvantaged Communities at the State Level
- Ensure Special Districts Get Their Fair Share of Property Taxes to Support Non-Enterprise Services to the Community Such as Parks, Recreation, Lighting, and Storm Water Basin Maintenance
- Federal and State mandates should set aside resources for projects with special district partnerships

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OUR PARKS & RECREATION SERVICES

The Heber community has a park deficiency of 8.47 acres based on the State Standard of 5 acres for 1,000 in population. We are applying for Parks and Recreation Funds to construct additional parks on land that HPUD owns. We have been unsuccessful in our grant applications to date.

We encourage the State to make additional funds available for low income communities to develop Parks and Recreation Facilities.

PROPERTY TAX SHARE AGREEMENT WITH COUNTY

HPUD receives less than 17% of the real property taxes assessed on only a portion of properties located within the Service Area of the District. The property taxes received is insufficient to make needed improvements to our parks including restrooms and security lighting. The District provides community services to our entire Service Area, yet we do not receive property taxes for the entire area. With the <17% Property Taxes that we receive we provide the following services: * Street Lighting, * Mosquito Abatement, * Fire Hydrant Maintenance and/or Replacement, * Maintenance of Storm Water Basins including Pipelines, Inlet/Outlet Structures, Pumps and Drains, * Parks Maintenance and * Community Recreation Services.

We encourage the State to mandate that Counties must share property taxes to Special Districts that provide non-enterprise services to the county areas.

OUR LOW INCOME SENIOR COMMUNITY

The County of Imperial recently completed the construction of a Community Center in Heber, and our senior citizens now have a place to meet and socialize. The Heber Community has a large population of senior citizens and we are need of funding for programs to help keep our senior citizens healthy and active.

State resource agencies should set aside resources for recreational projects for senior citizens that partner with special service districts.

PROVEN LEADERSHIP

HPUD has successfully implemented a number of capital improvement projects. The most recent capital improvement project completed was the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Expansion Project. The WWTP was expanded in 2013 from a 0.81MGD to a 1.2 MGD capacity, constituting a capital investment of over \$12 Million.

HPUD just recently started construction on the Water Treatment Plant Improvement Project, which will double our treatment capacity and ensure that HPUD is in compliance with the State Department of Drinking Water and the Clean Water Drinking Act Regulations. With these two major capital improvements to our enterprise services, HPUD is prepared to address the growth demand for the region.



This senior citizen is walking with his walker in Highway 86 vehicle traffic lane. There are no sidewalks, ADA ramps, or curbs & gutters forcing vulnerable pedestrians into traffic. In many areas there is no asphalt in the Cal Trans Right of Way.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tony Sandoval
Diahna Garcia-Ruiz
Sergio Escobedo
Martin Nolasco, Jr.
Pompeyo Tabarez Jr.

Laura Fischer, General Manager

Phone: (760) 482-2440

Fax: (760) 353-9951

1078 Dogwood Rd. Suite, 103 · P.O. Box H
Heber, CA 92249

<http://www.heber.ca.gov>