#### TCEQ DOCKET NO. 2024-0490-IWD

APPLICATION BY	§	BEFORE THE
REMY JADE GENERATING LLC FOR	§	TEXAS COMMISSION ON
TPDES PERMIT NO. WQ0005333000	§	ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

#### PERSONAL VESTED INTEREST RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION.

#### To the Members of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Homeowners, David T Howell and Kathleen D Howell of 10118 Braemar St, Highlands, Texas 77562 file this Response for Hearing and Request for Reconsideration in the abovecaptioned matter and respectfully submit the following:

#### I. INTRODUCTION

#### A. Summary of Position

Before the Commission is an application by Remy Jade Generating, LLC for a major amendment without renewal of Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0005333000 which would change the discharge route. The Commission received timely comments and a request for contested case hearing from David and Kathleen Howell, Linda and Steven Van Heeckeren, and attorney Clay Steely on behalf of Marjorie Dunn and John Kinzer. In addition, the Commission received a Request for Reconsideration from Clay Steely on behalf of Ms. Dunn and Mr. Kinzer. For the reasons stated herein, David and Kathleen Howell respectfully request that the Commission find that all requestors are affected persons in this matter and grant their pending hearing requests. In addition, David and Kathleen Howell respectfully request denial of the pending Request for Reconsideration by Remy Jade Generating, LLC.

#### B. Background of Facility

Remy Jade Generating, LLC (Remy Jade or Applicant) which proposes to operate Remy Jade Power Station, a natural gas-fired electric generating station, has applied to the TCEQ for a major amendment without renewal of TPDES Permit No. WQ0005333000. If issued, the draft

permit would change the discharge route and authorize the discharge of water treatment wastes at a daily average flow not to exceed 162,000 gallons per 24-hour period via Outfall 001.

The newly constructed facility is located at 3511 Danek Road, in the City of Crosby, Harris County. The draft permit would authorize water treatment wastes to be discharged to an unnamed ditch, then to Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) ditch 0119-00-00, then to HCFCD ditch 0200-00-00, then to HCFCD ditch G103-03-00 (Bluff Gully), then to San Jacinto River Tidal in Segment No. 1001 of the San Jacinto River Basin. The HCFCD G103-03-00 runs through a residential area. The unclassified receiving water uses are minimal aquatic life use for the unnamed ditch and limited aquatic life use for the HCFCD ditches. The designated uses for Segment No. 1001 are primary contact recreation and high aquatic life use.

Let it be noted that the properties bordering on the south side of HCFCD 0200-00-00 ditch are known as the Highlands Reservoir and are governed by the San Jacinto River Authority. The San Jacinto River Authority provides water to industrial, municipal and agricultural customers. The reservoir is also the home to a variety of wildlife, the destination of migratory birds and offers a breeding stop for monarch butterflies, an important pollinator that contributes to the health of this planet. The migratory monarch butterfly that frequents this acreage was declared endangered in 2023 by the Union for Conservation of Nature. Texas breeding spots are critical to the survival of the monarch butterflies, as it's the offspring that will continue the migration. Cattle graze this acreage, bee colonies that support food production are located adjacent to the Reservoir. Bees, the world's most important group of pollinators, are a crucial part of agriculture production and natural ecosystem function. As such this property is of significant benefit to the local economy, food production and lives of the wildlife and livestock that live on it. Local people fish, picnic and walk/run the reservoir.

#### C. Procedural Background

The TCEQ received the application on September 6, 2023, and declared it administratively complete on September 12, 2023. The Notice of Receipt of Application and Intent to Obtain a Water Quality Permit (NORI) was published in English and Spanish on September 21, 2023, in the Baytown Sun and El Perico, respectively. The technical review was complete on October 24, 2023, and the Notice of Application and Preliminary Decision (NAPD) for a Water Quality Permit was issued on November 21, 2023. The NAPD was published in English on December 3, 2023, in the Baytown Sun and in Spanish on November 30, 2023 in El Erico. The public comment period ended on January 2, 2024. The Chief Clerk mailed the Executive Director's Decision on Response to Comments (RTC) on February 13, 2024, and the deadline for filing requests for a contested case hearing and requests for reconsideration was March 14, 2024.

#### II. DISCUSSION AND RESPONSES

A. In response to Remy Jade Generating, LLC's (hereinafter referred to as "Remy Jade") dismissal of our concerns and their declaration that Remy Jade's activity will have minimal effect on our health, safety, use of property and use of natural resources, let it be noted that the EPA very specifically states: "Burning fossil fuels at power plants creates emissions of sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), particulate matter (PM), carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), mercury (Hg), and other pollutants. NO<sub>x</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub> emissions contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone and fine PM, which can lead to respiratory and cardiovascular problems, and exposure to mercury can increase the possibility of health issues ranging from cancer to immune system damage."

Also shown in their application on file is reference to the demographics of our area. It is very obvious that our area was chosen due to demographics that has made our area susceptible to this environmental exposure. It is also stated on the EPA website: "Minority, low-income, and indigenous populations frequently bear a disproportionate burden of environmental harms and adverse health outcomes, including the development of heart or lung diseases, such as asthma and bronchitis, increased susceptibility to respiratory and cardiac symptoms, greater numbers of emergency room visits and hospital admissions, and premature deaths." We have a very profound concern of how this power plant will affect our health, via air and water. Then of course there will be noise pollution and how it affects our mental health and finally, our finances.

Further, Remy Jade's intent to add their wastewater to the inadequate residential ditches serving Highland Ridge will contribute to the ditches inability to drain and add to the potential of flooding for many in the neighborhood, including us. This most certainly will have an effect on our health, safety and use of property. If it is determined that the wastewater is contaminated or the concentration of minerals is too high, then that will also have an effect on the natural resources on our property and the surrounding area, including the reservoir. We have gardened for several years, we have had chickens for almost ten years that eat from the ground. Loss of our ability to garden, to keep our chickens, to allow our pets to live on this ground would most certainly affect our use of property and use of natural resources. We would also suffer financial loss due to the loss of our past investment, future loss of food supply and potentially future remediation of our soil, not to mention the affect this could have on any resale of our property.. Our property and home have flooded three times in the almost 11 years we have been here (see pages 8-9 of our Attachments). Any flooding would have a lasting effect on our health, safety use of property and resources, not to mention finances. Compounding those losses would be the addition of contamination or long-term damage to our soil, plants and animals. While some of these losses would also be experienced by neighbors in our property, they are very personal to us and should be reviewed as such.

Remy Jade acknowledged in their application papers that the waste water will likely include sodium, magnesium, calcium, chloride and sulfate. While these minerals sound harmless enough, sodium in high enough quantities can kill plants and wildlife. If it gets into our drinking water it can affect people with high blood pressure. High chloride levels are toxic to some fish, bugs and amphibians. Too much calcium in the soil can result in the pH being too high, which can limit plant growth. Sulfates contribute to the acidification of surface water and soil, and contributes to acid rain and fog that damages ecosystems, forests and plants. Aquatic flora and fauna can be severely impacted. All of these can have a detrimental effect on our land, water, ecosystems. The next time our properties flood this waste water will settle into the ground of our property, our neighborhood, the surrounding area including the reservoir, all the way to the San Jacinto River. It will enter our homes.

While it is stated that Remy Jade will be responsible to remedy any excess of chemicals in their waste water, it is our position that Remy Jade should make every effort to prevent any possible contaminant entering the environment and ultimately our homes. This includes not adding any volume of water to the already inadequate ditches that service the Highland Ridge neighborhood. Addressing potential issues after they happen is the equivalent of closing the stable door after the horse has bolted. Our family and the people in this neighborhood should not have to bear the consequences of Remy Jade's actions. Remy Jade is putting their profit before the lives and welfare of people. Acton needs to be taken to stop this from happening, before there is an opportunity for it to happen.

Not only are we concerned about the amount of waste water, but what about all the ground water that will be used to create up to 162,000 gallons of waste in a 24-hour period after it has already evaporated during use? What happens to our community water well, our drinking water, in the event of a drought? Will there be enough water for our neighborhood? Will it be potable? If this were to occur, the affect would be life altering for us and the people in this neighborhood.

To dismiss our concerns about our community well possibly becoming unpotable due to contamination seeping into the ground water from the waste water is callous at best. The property the community well is on adjoins the "unnamed" ditch. The well is less than 100 feet from the centerline of the "unnamed" ditch, and less than 600' south from the discharge point via the unnamed ditch, as identified on Attachment A, attached to Remy Jade's Response to Request for Contested Hearing (*see pages 2-4 of our Attachments* for further clarification of the location of the site and proposed discharge path of the wastewater). The image on page 4 of the Attachments, dated 1.19.2023 even shows standing water in the "unnamed" ditch near the community well for Highland Ridge, approximately 1,950' from the southern end of the ditch where the water exits. The ditch is ±20' wide, using these very general figures there is the potential for 10's of thousands of gallons of water sitting in this ditch even when Remy Jade is not discharging into it. We are concerned about contamination of our community well, Remy Jade only mentions surface water.

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Water sits in the "unnamed" ditch and ditches serving Highland Ridge which eventually seeps into the ground or evaporates. Water, including the waste water from Remy Jade if this permit is granted, will infiltrate the ground. Depending on the makeup of the soil, depth of an aquifer, and how well spaces are connected, groundwater can creep along or move several feet in a day. Ground water can travel from a few feet to sometimes hundreds of miles. It cannot be presumed the waste water from Remy Jade will not reach our community well, or the ground water used in multiple communities in the surrounding areas.

Remy Jade made reference that their property is above the 100-year flood zone, so is Highland Ridge. If it had been in a flood zone we would not have purchased our home here. We did our due diligence to the best of our ability, unfortunately we were not provided all the information needed to make a fully informed decision. That cannot be said of Remy Jade, even after being notified that this neighborhood floods Remy Jade obviously still intends to continue with this application, even though they have other options to improve the situation (evaporate the wastewater or remove it via truck). When purchasing our home we also researched the surrounding property owners, none of which were industrial. Again, we would not have purchased this property if there was the potential for industrial or even retail development. We moved here to be in the country, away from the impact of those industries.

Our property is only about 2,000 feet southwest of the Remy Jade facility, their recently acquired "unnamed" ditch runs along the entire eastern boundary of our property and neighborhood (*see pages 1-3 of our Attachments*). That ditch holds water, increasing the potential of further exposure to the properties adjoining it. It is a breeding ground for mosquitos. There is an abundance of wildlife that lives in/on the land this ditch occupies, we have heard the coyotes running along the ditch at night. We have seen the hawks, songbirds, possum and rabbits. At one point there was even a pair of very large armadillos living in the berm. There is life along that ditch that will be destroyed if Remy Jade continues with this application. Over the years we have seen that ditch hold as "little" as 19" of water at the southern end, which is still considerable considering how wide it is. During times of consistent or heavy rainfall the ditch is so full it looks like a lazy river. Once that water is discharged into the residential ditches Remy

Jade will have no control of where it goes or how much seeps into our properties and possible groundwater.

Our neighborhood is very much like a shallow bowl with a southernly grade, it holds water. In fact, after the initial run-off after a storm we have to wait for the remaining water to evaporate or infiltrate the soil. We have attached images to give each of you an idea of how much water sits in our ditches with low/normal rainfall, during times of heavy rain and flooding. You will see that water sits in the ditches for so long that it actually grows algae Discharging up to 162,000 gallons of wastewater in a day to the inadequate ditches serving our neighborhood has a very strong potential of increasing the risk of flooding by causing waste water with its pollutants and rainwater with all its roadside contaminates to overflow the ditches, onto our properties, into our homes. Obviously, this is a major concern for us in terms of health, use, safety and finances.

As stated previously, the ditches serving Highland Ridge are inadequate, there is standing water in them most of the time. In fact, there will be standing water in the ditches along the northern side of Barbers Hill Rd, Braemar St, Sralla Road and both sides of Loch Lomond but little to no water in the southern side of Barbers Hill Road near the reservoir. (see pages 18-76 of our Attachments for a visual tour of this section of our neighborhood). Remy Jade proposes that their discharge will run west along the northern side of Barbers Hill Road, then turn south at Braemar Street and enter the southern ditches, see Attachment A, attached to their Response to Request for Contested Hearing. Obviously, that does not happen or we would not have standing water in our ditches just from average rainfall, nor does water just turn on its own. Remy Jade's waste water will enter all the ditches that face Highland Ridge and enter our neighborhood (see pages 10-13 of our Attachments). The ground along the southern side of Barbers Hill Road near the reservoir is higher than the ground on the northern side of the road which doesn't allow water to flow away from Highland Ridge. Water does not flow uphill. There are multiple underground pipelines along the southern side of Barbers Hill Rd which we have been told has prevented the lack of drainage to be addressed (see pages 5 -7 of our Attachments). When the soil in the ditches becomes saturated from the rain water, the

additional waste water will have no where to go except up and out of the ditches ultimately soaking into our property from both the ditches and the ground surface water during rain events. Then there is the issue of the water that doesn't drain out of the "unnamed" ditch that borders the back of our property.

We have a huge mosquito problem in this area, it will only get worse with more water sitting in the ditches surrounding our neighborhood. In fact, there was a family that lived in the house at the corner of Braemar and Barbers Hill Rd (2517 Barbers Hill Rd) that filed complaints with the Harris County Flood Control and Precinct Commissioner due to the water always being in their ditches and the mosquitos that bred there. The surface of the ditch water would be alive with mosquitos and larvae, carriers of the West Nile virus, encephalitis and other mosquito-borne diseases. When that home flooded, the couple were forced to sell, unfortunately all their notes were lost in the flood or they would have given them to me to continue the fight.

It was commented that the Harris County Flood Control will be correcting the flooding problem. Not only has it been over six years since Harvey and several years since the issuance of funds to make these corrections, the flood district was well aware of prior flooding in this area and did not address it. It was a shock to us to find that there were 18 reported separate occurrences of flooded structures in this neighborhood, as provided by Mr. and Mrs. van Heeckeron, who are also requestors in this matter. Of course, there could have been even more floods that were not reported, as we found when we purchased our home. Regarding the proposed future remediation, we were advised as of last week by the HCFC that it is still in the designing phase. There is no time frame in place as to when the issue will be corrected. When we were first told about the remediation plans by HCFC we were also told that given the right rain event, even after the remediation, there is the possibility that we will flood again that the proposed remediation from an outside party as a band aid for Remy Jade's failure to do their due diligence and accept responsibility for a more acceptable solution for their wastewater, is the definition of whitewashing.

In speaking with Mr. van Heeckeren since learning about this application, he shared with us the information he learned during his conversations and correspondence with local government entities; the San Jac River Authority, the Harris County Flood Control, FEMA and personnel affiliated with Remy Jade and Wattbridge, and anyone else that he has garnered information from. We wish to incorporate his comments herein by reference as if they were our <u>own</u>. Remy Jade has other options to manage their waste water and it should not lie on our backs or the backs of the community. We (as a whole) should not have to bear the burden of Remy Jade's decision to continue with this application. It is unconscionable that this huge corporation with its partners and affiliates would build and operate this facility without considering the impact it would have on the adjoining neighborhoods and surrounding area, or that it would continue to pursue avenues that are detrimental to the public so that they could save their money, while potentially damaging or even ruining the lives of the people in our community.

Furthermore, it is still our position that notification of this application was not properly executed. There are neighbors on both side of us that did not receive the Notice of Application and Preliminary Decision issued on November 21, 2023. In fact, one of the neighbors has lived in their house over 35 years. When Mr. and Mrs. Van Heeckeren circulated their petition there were more people unaware that this application was pending. In fact, I know of at least two families that were also unaware that a gas-fired power plant was being built so close to our homes, including us. Publication in the Baytown Sun is ineffective at best, as that is not a newspaper that is readily available to the Crosby community, the notice should have also appeared in the Star-Courier, the newspaper that serves the Crosby area. The applicant may not have received any objections to the published notice but that is certainly not a surprise as the majority of readers live several miles away and are unconcerned about what is being built in an area outside of their own.

B. **In response to the TCEQ Executive Director's** determination that we and the other requestors are not affected persons, we respectfully submit that the Executive Director review the information provided herein. It is our position that we are personally affected by

Remy Jade's application. We respectfully request that the Executive Director reverse their determination and recommend that our request for a hearing be honored.

We would also like to respectfully clarify that our property is located southwest of the applicant's property and due south of the proposed point of discharge. If the applicant is granted this permit, the discharge would flow south through the "unnamed" ditch, which is directly adjacent to our property. As such, we are also affected by the path of the proposed waste water flow.

#### **III. CLOSING COMMENTS & CONCLUSION**

The applicant, Remy Jade had received a permit to discharge their wastewater north of their property, and yet this application is to change the direction of discharge to the south of their location. What changed? Why is the applicant desirous of changing the route of discharge now? John Kinzer and Marjorie Dunn own the property to the north of the Remy Jade property and are also requestors in this application. Is there an impact to the Kinzer/Dunn property or property north of Highland Ridge/Highland Estates that would also affect the people in our community?

Was application made to, and permission received from, the Harris County Flood Control allowing the applicant's discharge wastewater be allowed to flow along the ditch they maintain? The same question applies to the San Jacinto River Authority, Commissioner Precinct 3, and Commissioner Precinct 2 as they also maintain sections of the ditch affected by this application. What about the people that live along the proposed discharge route and the ranchers that graze their cattle on this ground? Have they been notified?

Was Undine, LLC, the water company that services Highland Ridge, consulted about the proximity of this proposed discharge to the community well they own? Are there reports available for the public's review?

Are there environmental impact reports available to review by the people along the route of this discharge?

Allow us to remind you that the properties bordering on the south side of HCFCD 0200-00-00 ditch are known as the Highlands Reservoir and are governed by the San Jacinto River Authority. The San Jacinto River Authority provides water to industrial, municipal and agricultural customers. The reservoir is also the home to a variety of wildlife, the destination of migratory birds and <u>offers a breeding stop for monarch butterflies</u>, an important pollinator that <u>contributes to the health of this planet</u>. The migratory monarch butterfly that frequents this <u>acreage was declared endangered in 2023 by the Union for Conservation of Nature</u>. Texas breeding spots are critical to the survival of the monarch butterflies, as it's the offspring that will continue the migration. Cattle graze this acreage, bee colonies that support food production are located adjacent to the Reservoir. Bees, the world's most important group of pollinators, are a crucial part of agriculture production and natural ecosystem function. As such this property is of significant benefit to the local economy, food production and lives of the wildlife and livestock that live on it. Local people fish, picnic and walk/run the reservoir. Every effort should be made to preserve ecosystems on the dwindling available land that houses and feeds pollinators, without pollinators our planet and all its occupants are at risk of becoming extinct. Any potential contamination from the contents of the applicant's wastewater can be detrimental to the lives of the plants and animals that live at or visit the reservoir and as such should not be allowed.

Remy Jade acknowledged in their application papers that the waste water will likely include sodium, magnesium, calcium, chloride and sulfate. While these minerals sound harmless enough, sodium in high enough quantities can kill plants and wildlife. If it gets into our drinking water it can affect people with high blood pressure. High chloride levels are toxic to some fish, bugs and amphibians. Too much calcium in the soil can result in the pH being too high, which can limit plant growth. Sulfates contribute to the acidification of surface water and soil, and contributes to acid rain and fog that damages ecosystems, forests and plants. Aquatic flora and fauna can be severely impacted. All of these can have a detrimental effect on our land, water, ecosystems. The next time our properties flood this waste water will settle into the ground of our property, our neighborhood, the surrounding area including the reservoir, all the way to the San Jacinto River. It will enter our homes.

There is standing water in the ditches serving Highland Ridge even during times of average rainfall, it will be there so long that algae will grow and the surface of the ditch water is

alive with mosquitos and larvae. Mosquitos are the carriers of West Nile virus, encephalitis and other diseases. It is common knowledge, and also specified on public health websites, that the best way to reduce mosquito breeding sites is by emptying, removing or covering any water-holding containers. The addition of Remy Jade's waste water will only contribute to standing water in the "unnamed" ditch and ditches serving Highland Ridge. If up to 162,000 gallons of waste water within a day is added we will have moats surrounding the community.

As noted above, it is still our position that notification of this application was not properly executed to all residents that will be affected by this application. There are neighbors on both sides of us that did not receive the Notice of Application and Preliminary Decision issued on November 21, 2023. In fact, one of the neighbors has lived in their house over 35 years. When Mr. and Mrs. Van Heeckeren circulated their petition there were more people unaware that this application was pending. In fact, I know of at least three families that were also unaware that a gas-fired power plant was being built so close to our homes, including us. Publication in the Baytown Sun is ineffective at best, as that is not a newspaper that is readily available to the Crosby community, the notice should have also appeared in the Star-Courier, the newspaper that serves the Crosby area. The applicant may not have received any objections to the published notice but that is certainly not a surprise as the majority of readers live several miles away and are unconcerned about what is being built in an area outside of their own.

It is a fact that there is standing water in the "unnamed" ditch and ditches serving Highland Ridge and that our neighborhood floods, as shown on our Attachments. Most of these images are available on Google Maps, where available we provided time stamps on personal images. We purchased our home in 2013, the images in our Attachment span from 2015 to 2024. These ditches retaining water is a long-standing reoccurring issue, the addition of Remy Jade's waste water will only make the situation worse. If necessary, we can produce proof of flooding in our home.

It is a fact that during times of heavy rain and flooding the water will leave the ditches and soak into our properties and the surrounding areas. It will also infiltrate the reservoir and possibly the aquifers, potentially reaching our community well and of the communities around us.

It is our understanding that Remy Jade will not know until after they are online and processing their waste water what the contaminates will be. The levels of minerals discharged could be higher than anticipated. We, and this community, should not be forced to wait it out and see if any possible pollutants result in contamination of our properties, or illness or loss of our homes/finances in the future. We should not have to sit here and watch their wastewater enter our homes. We should not have to fight this fight because Remy Jade did not do their full due diligence. Let Remy Jade determine a way to remove their potentially contaminated waste water from their power plant that does not affect the surrounding community.

Remy Jade Generating, LLC has requested a major amendment without renewal to the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System ("TPDES") permit No. WQ0005333000 for wastewater discharge from the facility. If issued, the draft permit would change the discharge route and authorize the discharge of water treatment wastes at a daily average flow not to exceed 162,000 gallons per day via Outfall 001. We, David T Howell and Kathleen D Howell, respectfully request that the permit be denied. In the event the permit is granted, we respectfully request that "without renewal" be stricken and denied.

Further, we, David T Howell and Kathleen D Howell, respectfully request that the TCEQ grant the case hearing.

Respectfully submitted,

Respondents:

s/David T Howell David T Howell Tel: 979-665-2179 dhowell44@icloud.com s/Kathleen D Howell Kathleen D Howell Tel: 832-514-1303 starr7825@aol.com

Property Owners: 10118 Braemar St Highlands, TX 77562

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on April 15, 2024 the original of Requestors, David T. Howell and Kathleen D Howell, Response to Hearing Requests and Request for Reconsideration was filed with the Chief Clerk of the TCEQ and a copy was served to all persons listed on the attached mailing list via hand delivery, facsimile transmission, Inter-Agency Mail, electronic mail, or by deposit in the U.S. Mail.

s/David T Howell

David T Howell

s/Kathleen D Howell

Kathleen D Howell

#### MAILING LIST

#### **REMY JADE GENERATING, LLC TCEQ DOCKET NO. 2024-0490-IWD**

#### FOR THE APPLICANT

via electronic mail:

Stephanie Bergeron Perdue Partner, Baker Botts LLP 401 South First Street, Suite 1300Austin, Texas 78704 <u>stephanie.bergeron.perdue@bakerbott</u> <u>s.com</u>

Jennifer Coleman Director of Regulatory Compliance Remy Jade Generating, LLC 2001 Proenergy Boulevard Sedalia, Missouri 65301 compliance@wattbridge.info

John Christiansen, P.E. Program Manager – Industrial Water and Wastewater Tetra Tech 1500 CityWest Boulevard, Suite 1000 Houston, Texas 77042 john.christiansen@tetratech.com

FOR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR via electronic mail:

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Ryan Vise, Director Texas Commission on Environmental Quality External Relations Division Public Education Program MC-108 P.O. Box 13087 Austin, Texas 78711-3087 Tel: 512/239-4000 Fax: 512/239-5678 pep@tceq.texas.gov

#### FOR ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE

RESOLUTION via electronic mail: Kyle Lucas, Attorney Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Alternative Dispute Resolution MC-222 P.O. Box 13087 Austin, Texas 78711-3087 Tel: 512/239-0687 Fax: 512/239-4015 kyle.lucas@tceq.texas.gov

#### FOR THE CHIEF CLERK

via eFiling: Docket Clerk Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Office of Chief Clerk MC-105 P.O. Box 13087 Austin, Texas 78711-3087 Tel: 512/239-3300 Fax: 512/239-3311 https://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eFilin g/

### FOR PUBLIC INTEREST COUNSEL

via electronic mail: Garrett T Arthur, Public Interest Counsel Jennifer Jamison, Assistant Public Interest Counsel Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Public Interest Counsel P.O. Box 13087, MC-103 Austin, Texas 78711-3087 Tel: 512/239-4104 garrett.arthur@tceq.texas.gov

REQUESTER(S): On behalf of John Kinzer & Marjorie Dunn: Clay M. Steely, Esq. Partner Porter Hedges 1000 Main Street, Suite 3600 Houston, Texas 77002 Tel: 713-226-6269 csteely@porterhedges.com

Ms. Linda Marie & Mr. Steven Van Heeckeren 2407 Barbers Hill Road Highlands, Texas 77562 svanheecheren@yahoo.com

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## PERSONAL VESTED INTEREST RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION. David T Howell and Kathleen D Howell

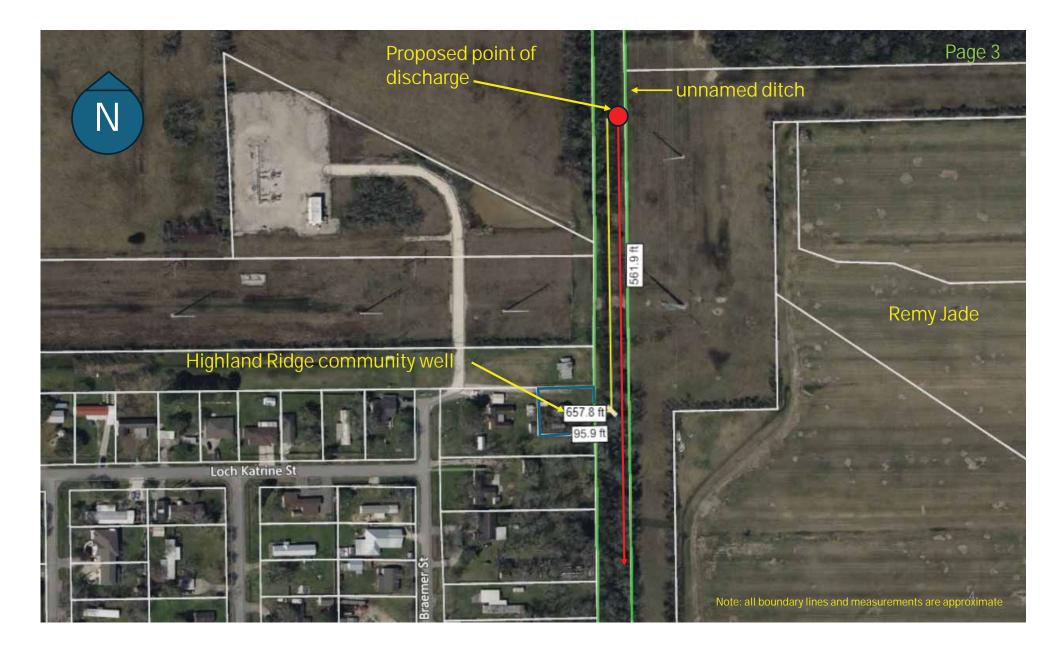
**Attachments** 

1



FEMA acknowledges 18 events of reported flooded structures in Highland Ridge, Highland Ridge is not in a flood zone





Highlands Ridge community well adjacent to "unnamed" ditch 10424 Braemar St Crosby, TX 77532 Owner: Undine, LLC

commun

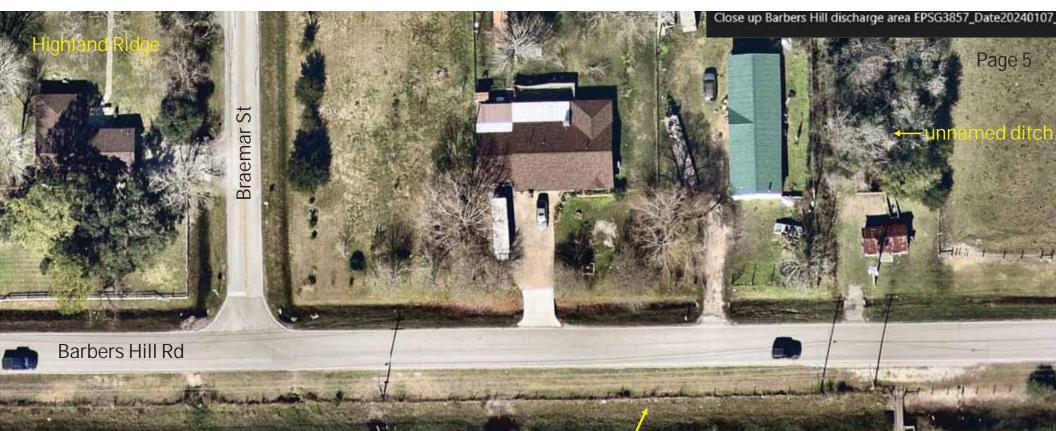
Highland Ridge

Remy Jade proposes to discharge their wastewater into this ditch approx. 550' north of our community well. The wastewater will travel south  $\pm 2,500'$  from the point of discharge along the entire eastern border of Highland Ridge before exiting into the ditches on Barbers Hill Road

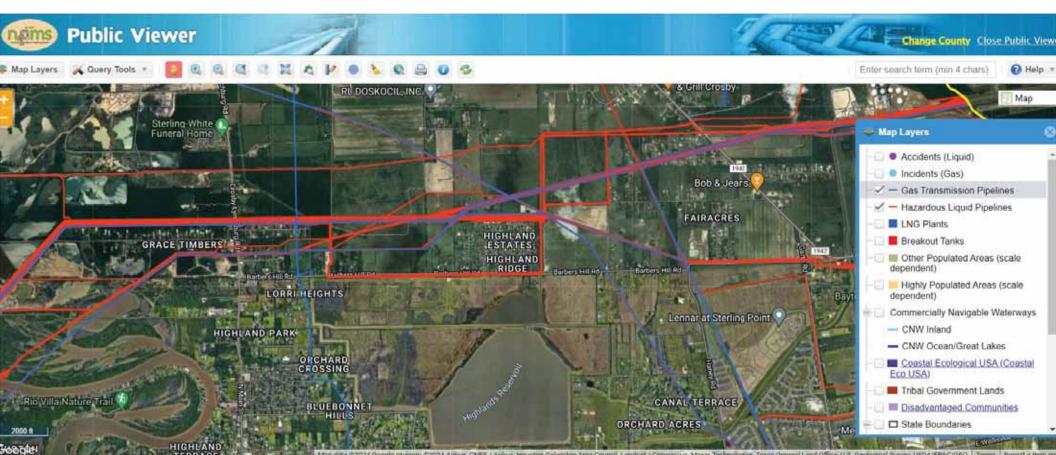
unnamed ditch, will standing water. Fro point it is ±1,950' to the southern end of the ditch Page 4

Close up of community well-water in unnamed ditch EPSG3857\_Date20230119\_

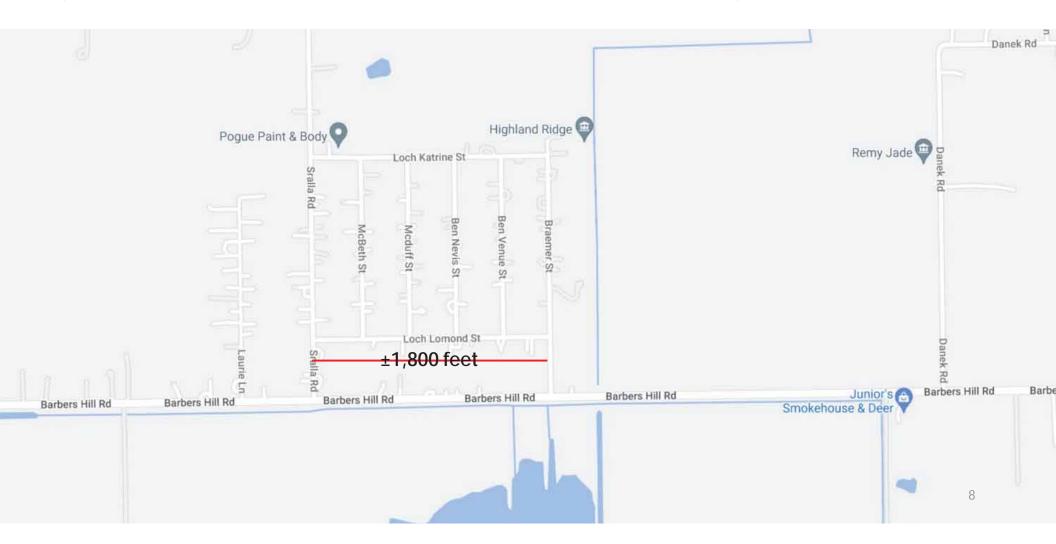
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Ground is higher on south side of Barbers Hill Road which doesn't allow water to flow away from Highland Ridge There are pipelines along the south side of Barbers Hill Rd – see next page.



From Sralla Rd to Braemar St is  $\pm 1,800$  feet. During a normal year there is standing water in the ditches along Barbers Hill Rd, Braemar St & Loch Lomond (both sides), then approximately another 300' along Barbers Hill Rd from Braemar St to the "un-named ditch" that Remy Jade proposes to discharge their wastewater – that's well over one mile of ditches that could hold potentially contaminated standing water that the residents of Highland Ridge would be exposed to regularly, not just during flood events. In addition, the "unnamed" ditch runs behind the houses on Braemar St for  $\pm 1,900$  feet, further exposing those properties.



Google image of 10118 Braemar St captured 12/2022 for reference



10118 Braemar St – Harvey 2017 (house and as water started entering our home)



NOTE the street by our house is not flooded







When the reservoir breached and brought that water back to our neighborhood.



Add a Caption

Wednesday • Aug 30, 2017 • 6:00 PM Adjust



# Add a Caption

Wednesday • Aug 30, 2017 • 6:00 PM	Adjust
☑ IMG_0490	
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House at the west corner of Braemar & Barbers Hill Road – 2517 Barbers Hill Rd

10118 Braemar St – Halloween 2015



Along west side of Braemar, approaching Barbers Hill Road – 2517 Barbers Hill Rd



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West corner of Braemar & Barbers Hill Road – 2517 Barbers Hill Rd



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Along north side of Barbers Hill Rd at corner of Braemar & Barbers Hill Road – 2517 Barbers Hill Rd



#### Add a Caption

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## Page 10

Ditches holding water two days after approximately 1.6" of rain fell on 4/10/24. The last significant rain was on or about 3/22/24 when approximately .60" of rain fell.

West corner of Braemar & Barbers Hill Road – 2517 Barbers Hill Rd



Add a Caption

Friday • Apr 12, 2024 • 1:37PM	Adjust
Apple iPhone 12 Pro Max	HEIF
Wide Camera — 26 mm £1.6	

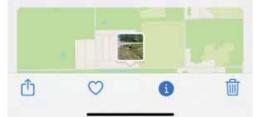
East corner of Braemar and Barbers Hill Rd – holding water



Add a Caption

Friday • Apr 12, 2024 • 1:37 PM	Adjust
Apple iPhone 12 Pro Max	HEIF
Wide Camera — 26 mm £1.6 12 MP · 3024 × 4032 · 5.1 MB	

ISO32 25mm Dev £1.6 1/2660s



South side of Barbers Hill Rd, east side of Braemar where Remy Jade proposes the wastewater will flow when water heads south under Braemar. It will be necessary to look close at the mouth of the culvert to find the water.

Adjust

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Look Up Oak

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Friday · Apr 12, 2024 · 1:38 PM

Apple iPhone 12 Pro Max

Wide Camera - 26 mm f1.6

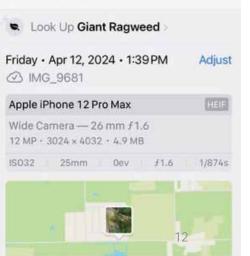
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South side of Barbers Hill Rd, west side of Braemar. There was a slightly larger puddle at the mouth of this double culvert.



Add a Caption



Standing water at corners of Barbers Hill Rd & Braemar St (north of Barbers Hill Rd) – undated but these images were taken after July 2020 as that was when the fence was installed, right before the current owners purchased the property. This water was not the result of a major rain event, the last major rain event was Emelda in 2019.

There is no obvious water in the reservoir side (south side of Barbers Hill Rd) in any image.

West corner of Barbers Hill Rd & Braemar, facing south (Reservoir across the street)



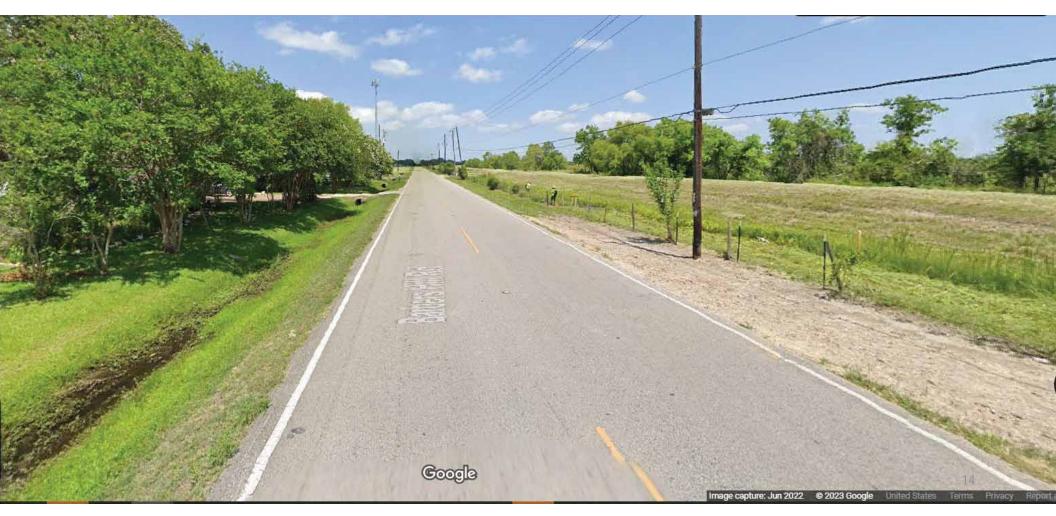
West corner of Barbers Hill Rd & Braemar, facing west (Reservoir across the street)



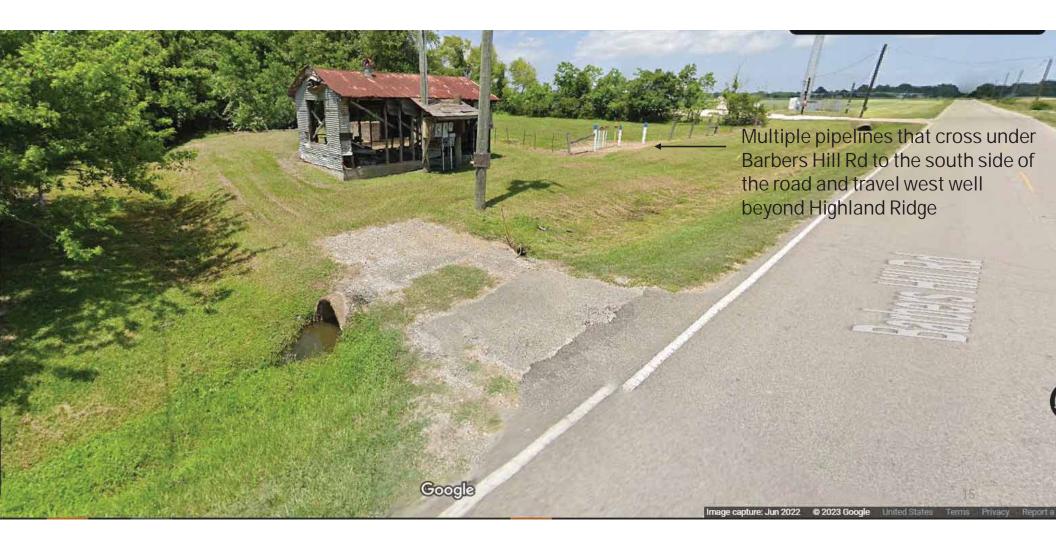
East corner of Barbers Hill Rd & Braemar, facing east, where Remy Jade proposes the wastewater will discharge south to the reservoir (reservoir across the street)



June 2022 - Barbers Hill Rd – heading east from Braemar St towards "unnamed ditch", grass farm and Danek Rd where the Remy Jade power plant is located. The "unnamed" ditch is approx. 300' from Braemar St. Note the standing water on the north side near Highland Ridge and the south side near the Reservoir does not have standing water.



June 2022- Barbers Hill Rd Standing water at the culvert where the "unnamed ditch" meets Barbers Hill Rd



### March 2021 - Barbers Hill Rd & east side of Braemar St – Standing water



March 2021 - Barbers Hill Rd & Braemar St – Standing water



March 2021 - Barbers Hill Rd & west side of Braemar St - Standing water

The prior owners of this property located at 2517 Barbers Hill Road (2018-2020) filed multiple complaints with the Commissioners office and Harris County Flood Control due to the constant standing water in the ditch at this corner which becomes a breeding ground for mosquitos. During normal years it has standing water for months at a time.





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Traveling west on the north side of Barbers Hill Road towards Sralla Rd.



Again, note the algae



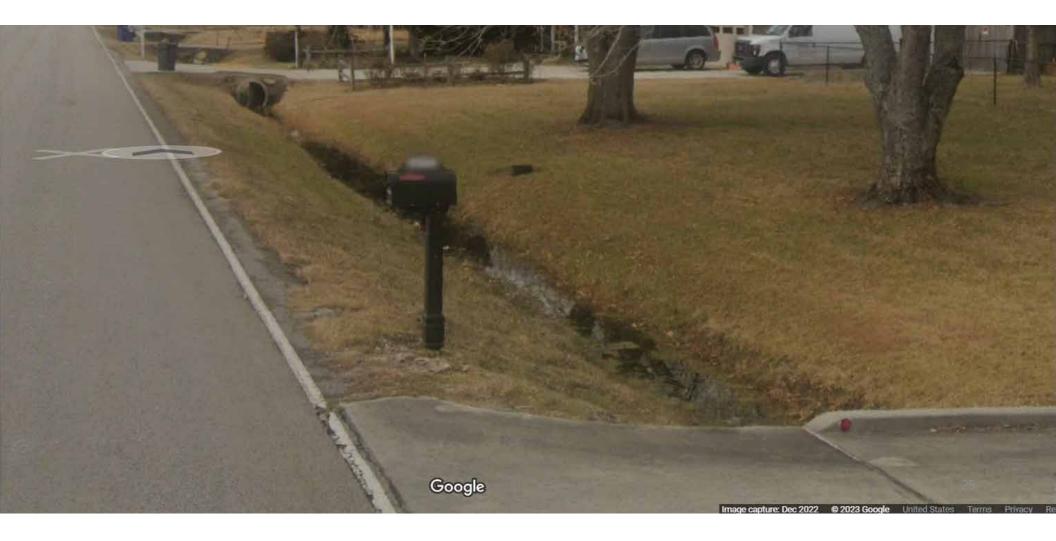


















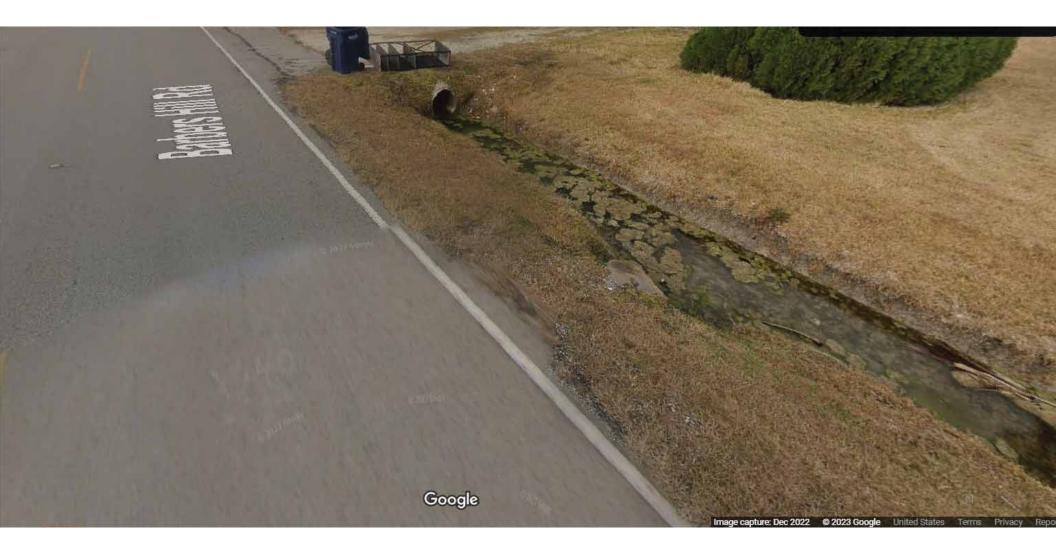












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Note that there is no standing water here, the water between Braemar St & Sralla is basically trapped until it evaporates.









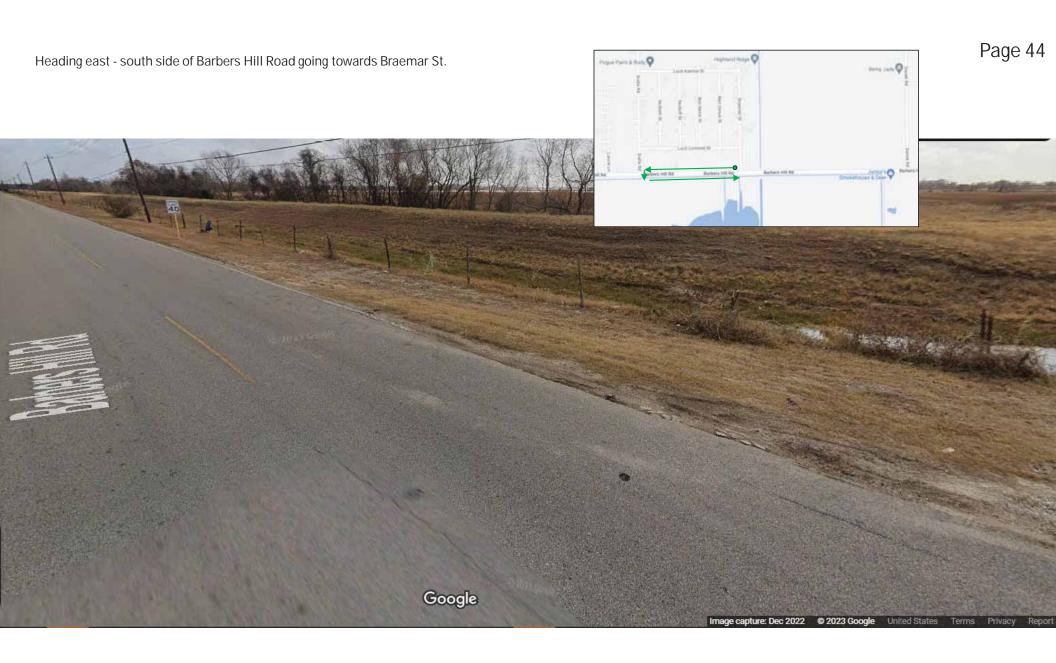
Barbers Hill Rd & Sralla Rd – note there is no culvert under Sralla Rd. Any water has to make a hard left to flow south before moving west along the southern side of Barbers Hill Rd/Highlands Reservoir.



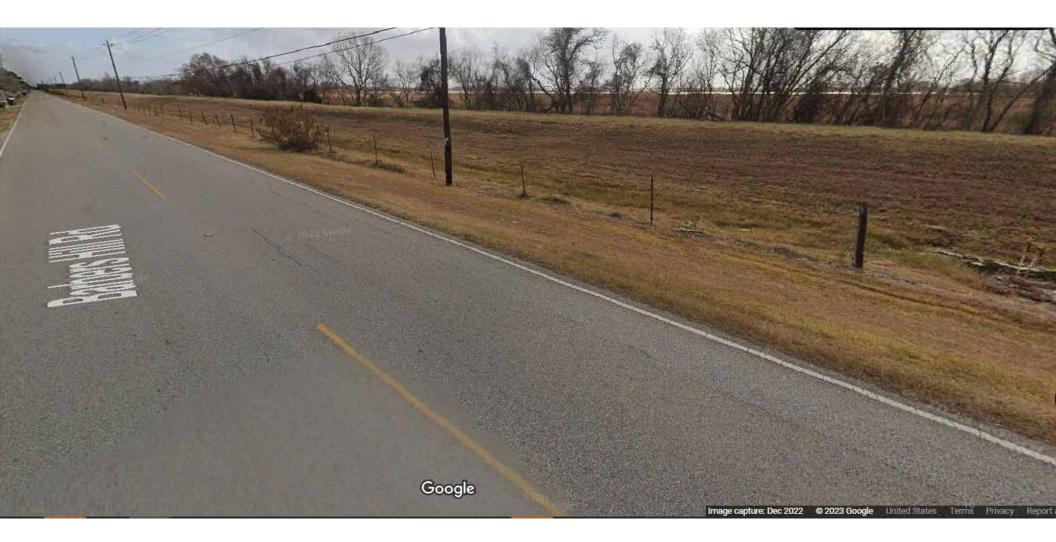
Barbers Hill Road facing west ... Sralla Rd to the right – Highlands Reservoir to the left. Note there is no water on the southern side of Barbers Hill Rd/Highlands Reservoir heading west.





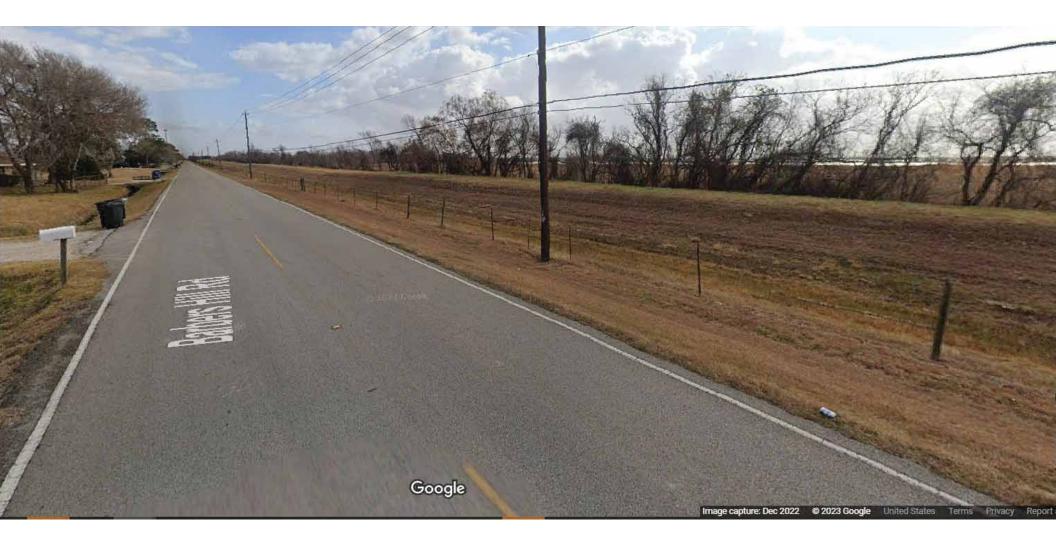


Traveling east on the south side of Barbers Hill Road towards Braemar St – note there is minimal standing water.



Traveling east on the south side of Barbers Hill Road towards Braemar St. There are occasional patches of water on the south side of Barbers Hill Rd near the reservoir, while there is almost continuous water on the north side of Barbers Hill along the Highland Ridge neighborhood.







Traveling east on the south side of Barbers Hill Road towards Braemar  $\operatorname{St}$ 



Traveling east on the south side of Barbers Hill Road towards Braemar St – further showing that the water just sits in the ditches along Highland Ridge.









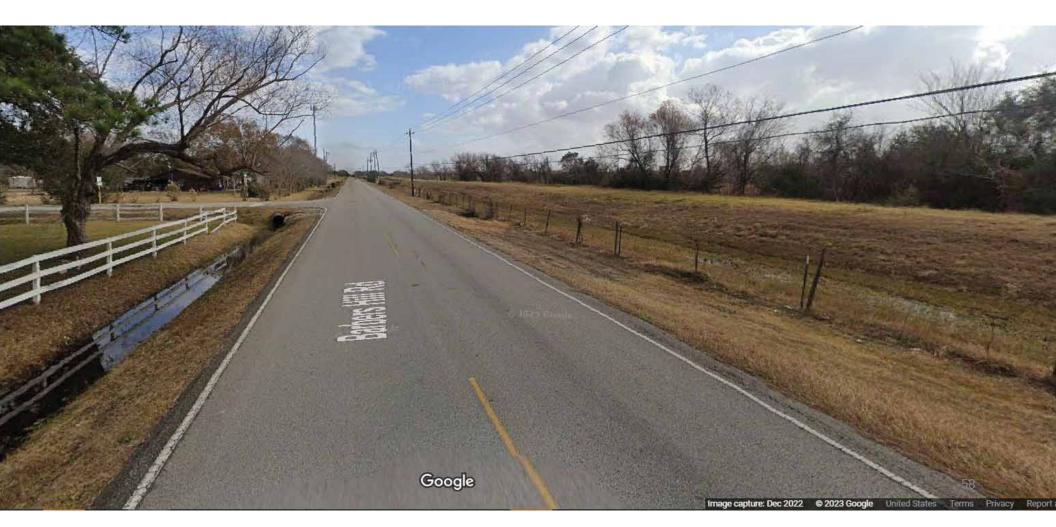




Traveling east on the south side of Barbers Hill Road towards Braemar St.



Traveling east on the south side of Barbers Hill Road approaching Braemar St.





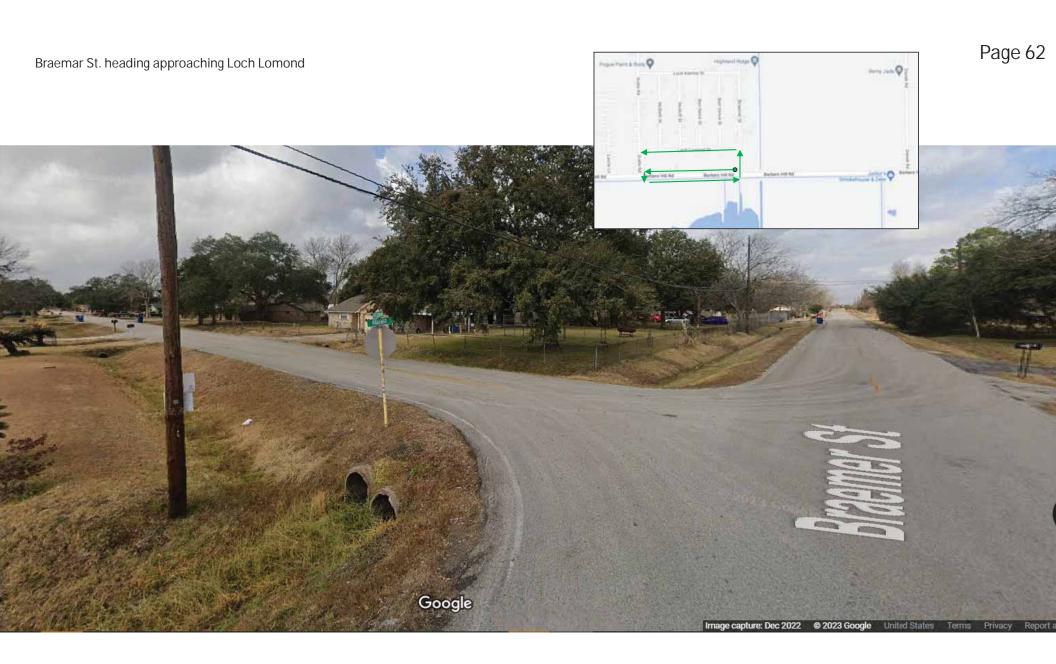
Braemar St (heading north), note the standing water on the west side.



Braemar St, heading north.







Standing water Braemar St. & north side of Loch Lomond



Heading west on Loch Lomond – Note standing water (with algae), this happens on both sides of the street



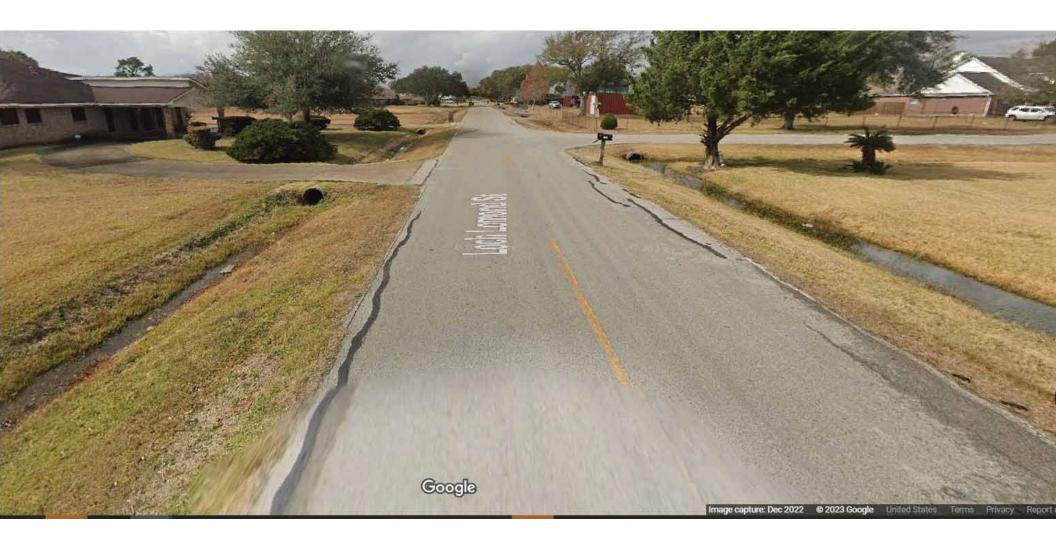
Heading west on Loch Lomond



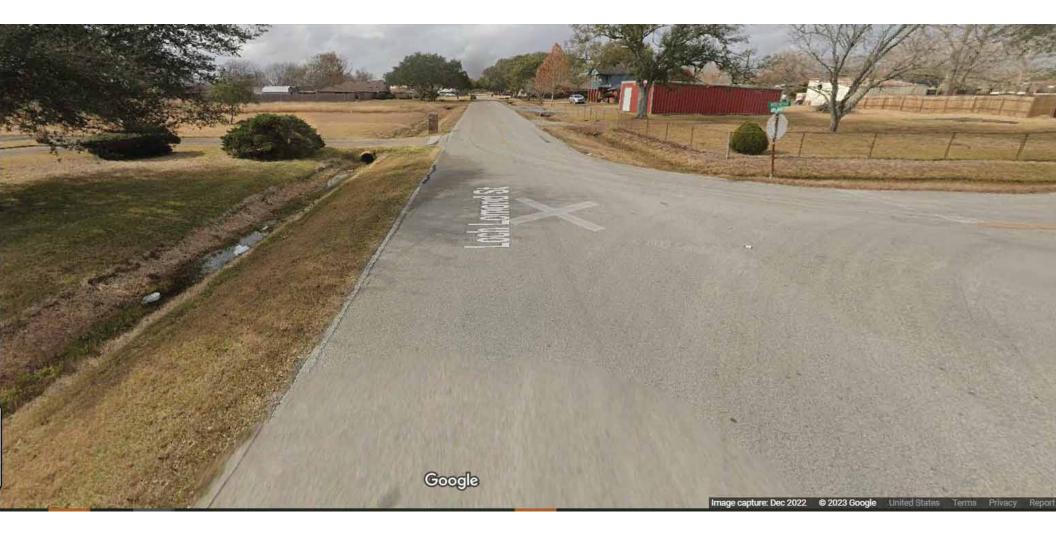
Heading west on Loch Lomond – Note standing water on both sides of the street, basically trapped until it evaporates.



Heading west on Loch Lomond – Note standing water on both sides of the street



Heading west on Loch Lomond



Heading west on Loch Lomond



Ditch that connects Barbers Hill Rd & Loch Lomond – Located approximately center of the neighborhood. There is standing water in this ditch also.



Continuing west on Loch Lomond



Heading west on Loch Lomond towards Sralla





Sralla heading south towards Barbers Hill Rd, note the standing water



Sralla heading south towards Barbers Hill Rd



