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Unrelated Comment Submitted by Citizens Committee for Flood Relief

Posted by the **Federal Emergency Management Agency** on Mar 8, 2022

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The biggest problem is that when the money becomes available from a disaster our Republican government is not using it for the place it was designated. We have flash flooding and deaths and have not had anything done. Despite the USACE calling for buy outs and elevations when we helped 22 of our citizens apply and they received nothing. Yet when our governor had some small trees down on a low water bridge he called FEMA in. Sadly, I went to DC to talk to our Congressman and showed him pictures; he said "why have you not helped yourselves?" We are a small poor rural town and even our state senator lives here. There is not compassion for the people. I don't flood and have fought for 6 years for these people. They have given up hope of help.

I have attended many meetings and belong to several Flood Defender Groups and understand that our people of color have it much worse than us because they have petrochemical plants running through them. We have Union Pacific running through ours. UP finally put on a ruse of trying to save our creek. They dug a small detention and have a filtration system but they have not helped. Every time our town gets 3 plus inches of rain someone washes away. Even our Rural Fire Department is in the flood and cannot help others. You see, we have little warning. We don't have days of a gradual rise. We don't have Nor- Easter warnings. It happens fast.

We have not had major flooding since 2016 because we are in a drought but we have gotten to evacuation stage several times since then. Our tiny creek usually is 2 feet high. At 10 feet it becomes a killer.

How is that not important to our legislators? People say just tell the people to move. These are older folks or unsuspecting renters. Lives should come first but it seems that is not how it is.

The creek has undermined a major road and is just now being fixed 6 years later.

That story leads me to the fact that per the USACE there are 15 dams in the 5 miles of the Upper Joachim Water Shed. One is a Class 2 Hazard. One has had the pumps from the lake removed because there were electrocution problems. One child died and 2 others were harmed. These lakes are due to lead mining. You can't drive through town without seeing a home with their yard being dug up. To me it is a huge waste when FEMA leaves the foundation and homes that are contaminated. It is a gimmick and FEMA needs to stop wasting the money. DO IT RIGHT. REMOVE THE home when you remove the lead and arsenic.

If I have not just described a disaster then at least you will have to agree it is a disaster waiting to happen.

But wait there is more, our city cut a hill off and deforested an area leading to a branch of the Joachim Creek. This led to what the USACE says is a potential 5th flood neighborhood.

Repetative loss homes are sold over and over because when they go into foreclosure it erases their history. The homes are abandoned a lot of the time. Then young families and senior citizens deal with people living in the homes with no water and no electric.

The USACE also says that 2 blocks of the historical old town of De Soto, Missouri needs to be bought out or elevated. That just makes me sick. Our history is being washed down the creek. Our buildings are falling down due to train travel and water.

We have 1 flood gauge system. It let's the people know where the water is. The USACE suggested we have a flood alarm system. It has not been done.

How would you feel living in a town where you know the exact spot that the USACE has a spot designated as the place where the potential loss of life is? Yet as loud as you yell no one seems to listen? Splash pads and soccer fields are more important than people. No one holds the city's nose to the ground so now there are people filling and building and doubling their manufacturing plants. The next flood will devastate many and I have yelled loud and hard but without help; how can we help ourselves?

Attachments 1



Screenshot_20220217-124135_Drive



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