

# East Ascension Consolidated Gravity Drainage District 1

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General Manager

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## The East Ascension Drainage Works (EADW) Policy & Procedure Memo No. 2

### Relocation of Open Ditches

#### Reasons for PPM 2

1. PPM 2 contains requirements to ensure that the drainage capacity and continuity of existing drainage laterals are maintained in order to satisfy state and parish ordinances intended to protect neighboring estates and existing improvements.
2. The PPM contains requirements for preventing past problems involving the relocation of existing ditches such as complaints from neighbors, erosion of the side slopes, inadequate channel sections etc.
3. In some cases, proper relocation of existing ditches benefits the Parish in terms of r/w acquisition and drainage capacity.

#### Relocation of Open Ditches Policy

The East Ascension Drainage Works (EADW) policy regarding ditch relocations is based partially on the following existing State Law regarding drainage:

"No person diverting or impeding the course of water from a natural drain shall fail to return the water to its natural course before it leaves his estate without any undue retardation of the flow of water outside of his enclosure thereby injuring an adjacent estate."(R.S. 38:218)

As such, open ditches that are currently part of the East Ascension Drainage System can be moved from their present location to a new location provided that all of the following conditions are met:

The relocated ditch must have a drainage capacity at least equal to the existing ditch but in no case less than that required to adequately convey the runoff from a 10 year design storm. The EADW may require a higher level of protection if existing homes, buildings or other critical structures are directly impacted by the ditch relocation.

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The ditch design must be performed by a licensed engineer subject to review and approval by the EADW. The EADW may provide the necessary engineering services if the EADW General Manager decides that this action will result in sufficient new benefits for the Parish: Some of the EADW considerations may be acquisition of new permanent servitude, improved drainage for multiple landowners and/or reduced EADW maintenance requirements.

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The relocated ditch side slopes cannot be steeper than 2:1 (2 feet horizontal for every 1 foot vertical)

The landowner must sign an agreement giving the EADW a perpetual maintenance servitude of at least 15 feet in width along the relocated ditch top-of-bank line.

The relocated ditch top-of-bank line should be no closer than 5 feet to the adjacent property line.

The relocated ditch side slopes should be seeded and mulched after construction to prevent soil erosion.

Any side drains that are tributary to the existing ditch must receive at least an equal outlet drainage capacity in the relocated ditch. Furthermore, it will be the responsibility of the person relocating the ditch to install culvert(s) or other erosion control devices that may be necessary at the side drain entry points to stabilize the side drain bottom grades.

The landowner must present written evidence that he has contacted the adjacent landowner(s) notifying them of his intended actions.

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Requested variances may be considered provided the request is submitted in writing and the EADW is given a reasonable time to review the request and issue a response. A variance will not be considered granted unless and until a signed letter issuing the variance is received from the EADW General Manager.

After a new drainage plan has been developed and a decision has been made as to who will perform the work, the project will be presented to the Board of Commissioners for their approval.

Actual construction work will be performed by the landowner unless the EADW General Manager decides that significant new benefits will be gained by performing the work with EADW forces and equipment.

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Mr. Bill Roux  
EADW General Manager

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Mr. C.J. Gaudin  
Chief Drainage District Engineer

	Yeas	Nays
Vote of Commissioners	_____	_____

Date of Approval of EACGDD \_\_\_\_\_