

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Q: Why did I receive a notice in the mail?**

**A:** You received a notice because you own property in a drainage district where changes to the boundaries of the drainage district are under consideration.

**Q: What is a drainage district?**

**A:** A drainage district is a land area benefitting from an established county drain. Under Michigan law, a drainage district is a public corporation authorized to build and maintain a drain, and to own land and hold property rights necessary for that purpose. It is also authorized to assess lands within its boundaries.

**Q: Why is my property in a drainage district?**

**A:** Generally, a property is determined to be in a drainage district if runoff from that property drains to, or has the potential to drain to, an established county drain.

**Q: Why are changes to the drainage district boundaries being considered?**

**A:** In many cases, drainage district boundaries were established decades or even a century ago. Since that time, changes in land use, surface composition, and topography may have occurred that alter historic drainage patterns. These alterations can change whether, and to what extent, properties are now benefitted by a county drain.

**Q: Is my property affected by the proposed boundary change?**

**A:** Only a portion of properties are affected by the proposed boundary change. See the map online at <http://dr.ingham.org/> or call (517) 676-8395 to find out whether your property is one of those proposed to be added to, or deleted from, the drainage district.

**Q: What if I don't see a drain near my property?**

**A:** Not all county drains are visible. Although county drains can be watercourses and/or manmade ditches that appear to be creeks or streams, many drains are underground tiles beneath fields or storm drain pipes below streets or under backyards.

**Q: How does my property benefit from the drain?**

**A:** County drains are an important part of public infrastructure in much the same way as roads, water mains, and sanitary sewers. Although drains may not be visible, they provide an outlet for storm water runoff and reduce the risk of property damage caused by flooding.

**Q: What happens on the Day of Review of Drainage District Boundaries?**

**A:** On the Day of Review, historical drainage district boundaries will be updated so that all properties currently benefitting from the drain are included, and the properties not benefitting from the drain are excluded. The Day of Review of Drainage District Boundaries provides property owners with an opportunity to talk to Drain Office staff to ensure that their property is correctly included or excluded from the drainage district.

**Q: Do I have to attend the hearing?**

**A:** You have the right to attend the hearing, but you are not required to attend.

**Q: How can I get more information?**

**A:** Visit our website at <http://dr.ingham.org/> or call (517) 676-8395 and a member of our Drain Office staff will be happy to assist you.