

Hoover, Jeffco share stormwater data

Similar deals possible with Vestavia Hills, Pelham

By VAL WALTON
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Hoover, which has started its own stormwater management program, has entered into an agreement with Jefferson County to share stormwater water quality testing information.

The city is considering

similar agreements with other cities with which it shares drainage basins, such as Vestavia Hills and Pelham.

Hoover Mayor Tony Petelos said the agreement is the first in the area. He said Jefferson County is first because it is the biggest entity.

"We can trade and have

access to each other's information," Petelos said.

For example, Petelos said if Jefferson County is doing stormwater testing in Patton Creek, that data can be shared with Hoover.

Frank Humber, Jefferson County's director of land planning and development services, said the agreement allows Hoover and the county to share resources without duplication.

"It's a money-saver for both," Humber said.

According to the agreement, the county and the city, among other things, will provide appropriate sampling data to each other at no cost and will let each other know of any proposed construction or other projects which could reasonably impact stormwater, as well as any hazards or spills.

Hoover is now carrying out the functions previously performed by the Jefferson County Stormwater Man-

agement Authority. The city put in place a stormwater management program to stay in compliance with its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit. The program is designed to prevent non-stormwater discharges from going into the municipal storm drain system and waterways.

The authority was established in 1996 to help local governments comply with federal clean water regulations. But it began to break

apart in 2007 when the Business Alliance for Responsible Development — a coalition of developers, landowners and businesses — approached cities and the county, arguing that individual cities could do the work themselves for the same or lower cost. Birmingham, Fultondale, Bessemer, Leeds and Jefferson County also pulled out of the authority.

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