



City of San Angelo Storm Water Utility Fee

Beginning soon, San Angelo property owners and residents will see a new storm water fee on water bills. This new fee is the result of a Federal Storm Water Quality Mandate that requires cities like San Angelo to provide additional services and perform additional duties that ensure that our stormwater runoff is clean and safe. This informational handout is intended to provide general information about the Storm Water Quality Mandate and describes fees that will be charged for each home and business. For more information please contact the City of San Angelo Stormwater Division at the following:

Storm Water Hotline: 325-486-3780
Storm Water Email: stormwater@cosatx.us
Storm Water Website: www.cosatx.us (search "storm water")

What is storm water?

- Water that flows over the land or in a storm sewer system during and immediately following a storm.
- Urban storm water commonly contains soil sediment, nutrients such as fertilizer, toxic metal particles, oil, industrial waste and other pollutants.

Why is cleaning storm water important?

- The urban portion of the North Concho River through San Angelo has been identified by the Texas Clean Rivers Program as one of the streams most heavily affected by pollution in Texas.
- Implementation of the Upper Colorado River Authority master plan has helped improve Concho River quality by preventing street-level pollution from reaching the river. This can be seen in the drastic lowering in the number of fish kills San Angelo has seen lately.
- Nevertheless, the Concho River from San Angelo to Paint Rock has been placed on the Environmental Protection Agency watch list for impaired water bodies, and is now one step away from being placed on a so-called 303(d) list, which would bring about stricter mandates for cleaning the river and fines of \$37,000 for every day the City is not in compliance.
- Erosion and pollution along Red Arroyo and East Angelo Draw dump sediment into the river, which transports it downstream to Lake O.H. Ivie, the source of most of our drinking water.
- 75 percent of storm water runoff that reaches Lake Ivie comes from storm water runoff in San Angelo, affecting water quality not only of San Angeloans but of residents throughout West Texas.

What is the federal government requiring?

- Congress passed the Clean Water Act in 1972 and approved an amendment requiring cities to manage storm water runoff in 1987.
- The amendment has been enforced in two phases, with Phase 1 cities (greater than 100,000 population) coming under the regulations in the 1990s. San Angelo is a Phase 2 City, and must meet the federal requirements by the end of 2012.
- The City was required to submit a Storm Water Management Plan, which it did in February 2008.
- The City must also perform additional services to comply with the new regulations. If it fails to do so by the deadline, it faces fines of \$25,000 per day until the requirements are met.

What services must the City provide?

- The City is required to adopt Best Management Practices to meet each of six Minimum Control Measures. Those measures are:
 - Public education
 - Public involvement/participation
 - Illicit discharge detection/elimination
 - Construction site regulations
 - Post-construction regulations
 - Pollution prevention/good housekeeping for municipal operations
- Benefits to the community from following these practices would include:
 - Increased storm water quality
 - Decreased maintenance needs
 - A modest level of decreased flooding
 - Increased aesthetic value

How much will this cost?

- The activities the City is mandated by federal law to undergo are estimated to cost approximately \$1.9 million annually. The City has estimated another \$1 million per year in storm water quality improvements projects – such as channel stabilization, the creation of detention ponds and other improvements. While they are not directly required, these improvements carry an indirect mandate by helping keep San Angelo streams and rivers off of the EPA's 303(d) list and helps the City avoid additional fines.
- As a result, City staff will create a new Storm Water Division, with its maintenance functions under the Operations Department and its engineering functions under the Engineering Services Division of the Development Services Department. In all, 13 new employees will be hired.

How will the City pay for it?

- During their regular meeting on December 15, 2009, the City Council approved a storm water utility fee based on the following tiered rate structure:

Residential Properties

- Tier 1: 1,000 square feet and smaller - \$2 per month
- Tier 2: 1,001 to 2,000 square feet - \$3 per month
- Tier 3: 2,001 to 3,000 square feet - \$4 per month
- Tier 4: Larger than 3,000 square feet - \$5 per month

Non-Residential (commercial, churches, SAISD, COSA)

* Non-Residential fee based on square footage of impervious surface on each non-residential lot.

- Tier 1: 5,000 square feet and smaller - \$7.50 per month
- Tier 2: 5,001 – 15,000 square feet - \$15 per month
- Tier 3: 15,001 – 50,000 square feet - \$30 per month
- Tier 4: 50,001 – 150,000 square feet - \$100 per month
- Tier 5: 150,001 – 500,000 square feet - \$300 per month
- Tier 6: More than 500,000 square feet - \$500 per month