

STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF WILLIAMSON §

**ORDER OF COMMISSIONERS COURT
REGULATING
SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL
PURSUANT TO
TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE §§ 363.112 & 364.012
EFFECTIVE JULY 21, 2015, AS AMMENDED**

AN ORDER PROVIDING FOR REGULATION OF SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL IN UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS AND DESIGNATING AREAS IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS WHERE MUNICIPAL OR SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL IS NOT PROHIBITED.

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court of Williamson County, Texas, ("Commissioners Court") has the authority to act to protect the Health, Safety, and Welfare of its Citizens and the public at large;

WHEREAS, a majority of the Commissioners Court has determined that the resources of the County are best served by, and the Health, Safety, and Welfare of the citizens of Williamson County and the public at large will be best protected by, designating the areas set forth below as areas in which municipal or solid waste disposal will not be permitted;

WHEREAS, public notice of this Order was published for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper(s) of general circulation, and a public hearing was held where all interested citizens of Williamson County were permitted to speak; and

WHEREAS, this Order complies with Texas Health and Safety Code Sections 363.112 and 364.012;

NOW, IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED AND ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS:

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Disposal" means the discharging, depositing, injecting, dumping, spilling, leaking, or placing of solid waste or hazardous waste, whether containerized or

uncontainerized, into or on land or water so that the solid waste or hazardous waste or any constituent thereof may be emitted into the air, discharged into surface water or groundwater, or introduced into the environment in any other manner.

- B. “Solid waste” means garbage, rubbish, refuse, sludge from a waste treatment plant, water supply treatment plant, or air pollution control facility, and other discarded material, including solid, liquid, semisolid, or contained gaseous material resulting from industrial, municipal, commercial, and mining operations and from community and institutional activities.

SECTION 2. AUTHORITY

A county may prohibit the disposal of municipal or industrial solid waste in the county if the disposal of the municipal or industrial solid waste is a threat to the public health, safety, and welfare. **Tex. Health & Safety Code §§ 363.112 & 364.012.**

SECTION 3. APPLICABILITY

This Order does not apply to:

- A. Areas inside the corporate limits of any municipality;
- B. Areas for which a pending application for a solid waste permit or other solid waste authorization under Chapter 361, Texas Health & Safety Code, has been filed with and declared administratively complete by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality or its predecessor agency;
- C. Areas for which a solid waste permit or other solid waste authorization under Chapter 361, Texas Health & Safety Code, has been issued by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality or any of its predecessor or successor agencies provided that the permit or other authorization is effective and valid on the effective date of this Order;
- D. Areas that do not require a permit for the collection, handling, storage, processing, and disposal of industrial solid waste that is disposed of within the boundaries of a tract of land that is: (1) owned or otherwise effectively controlled by the owners or operators of the particular industrial plant, manufacturing plant, or mining operation from which the waste

results of is produced; and (2) located within 50 miles from the plant or operation that is the source of the industrial solid waste. **Texas Health & Safety Code § 361.090**; or

- E. Any municipal or solid waste disposal facility owned and/or operated by any unit of local government (*i.e.*, County, City, Town, or Municipality) within Williamson County. Any such municipal or solid waste facilities are not included in the designations of areas where disposal of municipal or solid waste is not prohibited.

SECTION 4. GENERAL PROVISION AND FINDINGS

WHEREAS, the Williamson County Commissioners Court has both the responsibility and the authority to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Williamson County, Texas and their property interest;

WHEREAS, the disposal of solid waste is an activity that has high potential to negatively impact the health, safety and welfare of any community; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court believes and hereby finds that disposal of solid waste in the unincorporated areas of the county that do not already have a landfill would constitute an unacceptable risk and threat to the public health, safety and welfare for the reasons and findings stated below, among many others, to wit:

The Court finds that the disposal of solid waste in general may negatively influence property values;

The Court finds the use of all present technology and science with regard to the location, installation, operation and maintenance of municipal, industrial and hazardous solid waste disposal sites, cannot guarantee or ensure that such sites will not contaminate, spoil and pollute areas surrounding and distant to said disposal sites;

The Court finds that if the substances contained within disposed solid waste escape into the air or waterways, including subsurface waterways, significant threats to the public health, safety, and welfare will exist;

The Court finds that the nature of the soils of Williamson County is such that it would allow migration of waste and hazardous material to the contamination of groundwater, which many citizens rely on for drinking water;

The Court finds that wildlife may present a likelihood of contamination of surrounding lands and groundwater;

The Court finds that the traffic associated with the disposal of solid waste, which involves receiving and dispatching a large number of heavy trucks hauling waste, constitutes a hazard to the public health and a threat to the public roads;

The Court finds that waste streams that can be received in municipal and non-hazardous industrial waste facilities include chemicals that are toxic, corrosive, flammable and explosive, and that such substances present a threat to the public health, safety and welfare;

The Court finds that the prohibition of solid waste disposal as provided in this order is necessary to prevent a grave and immediate threat to life and property; and

The Court finds that such a prohibition is a necessary response to a real and substantial threat to public health and safety, that such a prohibition will significantly advance the health and safety of the public and that the prohibition does not impose a greater burden than necessary to protect the public health and safety under the circumstances;

SECTION 5. DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE PROHIBITED

IT IS ORDAINED AND ORDERED that the disposal of municipal solid waste and industrial solid waste is **PROHIBITED** within all unincorporated areas of Williamson County, Texas, unless an area is specifically designated as an area where municipal or solid waste disposal is not prohibited as set forth in Section 3 (“Applicability”).

SECTION 6. CIVIL REMEDIES AND PENALTIES

- A. Any violation of this Order is subject to a civil penalty of \$500.00 for each violation. Such penalty to be forfeited to Williamson County, Texas. Each day that a violation continues constitutes a separate ground for recovery.
- B. The Commissioners Court of Williamson County, Texas may bring a legal action to enjoin violations of this Order and seek judgment for any civil penalties.

SECTION 7. CRIMINAL PENALTIES

- A. Disposal of solid waste in violation of this Order constitutes a class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine not to exceed \$500.00.
- B. Each day that a violation continues constitutes a separate offense under this Order.

SECTION 8. SEVERABILITY

If any portion of this Order is deemed to be in violation of the statutes or the constitution of this state or the United States by a court of competent jurisdiction, said portion shall be severed, and the remaining portions of the Order shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE

This order takes effect at 12:00 p.m. on the day it is adopted by a majority vote of the Williamson County Commissioners Court during a properly held meeting.

ORDERED ON THIS 21st Day of July, 2015.

Hon. Dan Gattis
Williamson County Judge

Hon. Lisa Birkman
Commissioner, Precinct 1

Hon. Valerie Covey
Commissioner, Precinct 3

Hon. Cynthia Long
Commissioner, Precinct 2

Hon. Ron Morrison
Commissioner, Precinct 4