

Anita Martinez, WCCHD Interim Executive Director

Paulo Pinto, Director of Environmental Services



Date: April 16, 2009

From: Paulo Pinto, WCCHD Environmental Director

To: Commissioner's Court

Re: Adjustment of Fees for Floodplain Development Permits

Honorable members of Williamson County Commissioner's Court:

Since the inception of the FEMA sponsored National Flood Plain Insurance Program on February 18, 1980, the Commissioner's Court has designated the "Health Department" as the licensing office of floodplain permits for Williamson County. Along with this designation the District was given the authority to charge permit fees to cover the cost of administering this program on behalf of the County. These fees were last adjusted over fifteen years ago on July 23, 1993.

In order to continue to cover these costs we respectfully request that the Commissioner's Court moderately adjust the fee for the "Certificate of Compliance Development Permit" from \$25.00 to \$40.00 and the "Flood Plain Development Permit" from \$75.00 to \$125.00. We also ask approval to adjust the fee for reviewing subdivision developments from \$10.00 to \$20.00 per lot.

The floodplain program can require substantial staff time to be properly administered. Clerical staff must review every building application with the appropriate floodplain map to determine its relationship to the floodplain. Field inspectors must perform site visits, while other office personnel must coordinate these and other activities including legal enforcement of the floodplain regulations. Some non-compliance issues can take many months and hours of staff time to resolve.

Although it is difficult to compare our fees with other counties, since other county's health offices often operate out of general funds or by other development fees, below is a list of a few other county rates.

County	Certificate of Compliance or Local Equivalent	Floodplain Development Permit Application
Colin	\$200.00-\$500.00 Depending on value of construction	
Harris	\$100.00-\$250.00 residential permit	\$.06-\$.12 per square foot commercial permit.
Hays	\$35.00	\$150.00
Bastrop	construction permit, \$200	or.004 of construction cost if > \$250,000.00
Travis	\$37.00	\$78.00

I would be happy to address any questions/concerns you may have. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request to adjust fees for floodplain permits.