



Bexar County Infrastructure Services

Protecting Bexar County's Most Precious Resource

The Federal Storm Water Fee

In October 2008, Bexar County will begin collection of the Federal Storm Water Fee, which is mandated by the federal government as part of the Clean Water Act to help cities and counties improve water quality and to protect rivers and streams from polluted storm water runoff. A federal storm water fee is already being assessed by the City of San Antonio for residents and businesses within the city limits.

What is storm water?

Storm water is the runoff or drainage from rain that is transported through streets, drainage or sewer systems and into rivers and streams. The water becomes polluted as it runs across impervious cover, like rooftops, streets and parking lots. This is important to Bexar County since pollutants in our storm water can enter the Edwards Aquifer which is our primary source of drinking water

What will the Storm Water Management Program involve?

The federal government requires local governments to establish control measures that protect our rivers and streams from storm water run off. The Federal Storm Water Fee will be used to fund control measures, which include the following:

- Comprehensive program to detect illegal discharges into the storm sewer system
- Water runoff control programs to reduce pollutants around construction sites
- Management program to address storm water runoff issues around new development projects
- Public education on the impact of storm water and steps everyone can take to reduce pollutants in storm water runoff
- Maintenance activities that reduce pollution and improve storm water quality

What is the Federal Storm Water Fee and how is it calculated?

The federally mandated storm water fee is a dedicated fund with the sole purpose of paying for the storm water management program for Bexar County. The fee only applies to property owners with improved land that is located in the unincorporated area of Bexar County. The average homeowner will see \$10- \$13 included on their annual property tax bill. The rate will vary by lot size and property use.

Who has to pay the Federal Storm Water Fee?

Only citizens or businesses who own land that is improved and located in the unincorporated area of Bexar County will pay this fee. Residents who live in the City of San Antonio or other municipalities will not pay this County fee.

For additional information, please call (210) 335-6700 or www.bexar.org

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