

City of Fort Worth, Texas

Mayor and Council Communication

DATE: 09/16/25M&C FILE NUMBER: M&C 25-0894

LOG NAME: 60INDUSTRIAL PRETREATMENT ORDINANCE

SUBJECT

(ALL) Adopt Ordinance Amending Chapter 12.5, “Environmental Protection and Compliance,” Articles I and VI of the Code of the City of Fort Worth, Texas (2015), as Amended, to Revise Regulations Pertaining to Industrial Wastewater Facilities Discharging to the Trinity River Authority Denton Creek Regional Wastewater System and Clarifying Regulations for Industrial Users Discharging to the Trinity River Authority Central Regional Wastewater System

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the City Council adopt the attached ordinance amending Chapter 12.5, “Environmental Protection and Compliance,” Articles I and VI of the Code of the City of Fort Worth, Texas (2015), as amended, to revise regulations pertaining to Industrial Wastewater Facilities Discharging to the Trinity River Authority Denton Creek Regional Wastewater System and clarifying regulations for industrial users discharging to the Trinity River Authority Central Regional Wastewater System.

DISCUSSION:

The City of Fort Worth (City) and the Trinity River Authority (TRA) each own and operate wastewater treatment facilities (“Facilities”), which are regulated by individual wastewater permits issued by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) under the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES). The Facilities have unique discharge limits into state waters, specific permitting and reporting requirements, and a mandate to develop and enforce technically based local limits that control the concentrations of pollutants allowed into their respective collection and treatment systems. These local limits and permit conditions are designed to protect the treatment processes and infrastructure, ensure environmental compliance, and prevent harmful pollutants from entering natural water bodies or posing risks to public health, all while supporting opportunities for water reclamation and biosolids disposal.

The City and TRA have a contractual agreement wherein TRA treats wastewater from certain industries and areas within the City that discharge into the TRA collection and treatment system. In following with this agreement, the local limits applied to the TRA Denton Creek Regional Wastewater System are reflected in the Fort Worth ordinance and enforced accordingly. With the recent acceptance of the Pretreatment program overseeing the TRA Denton Creek Regional Wastewater System (“Denton Creek System”) by the TCEQ and the adoption of revised local limits by TRA, updates to the local limits for the Denton Creek System will need to be reflected in the Fort Worth ordinance. The proposed ordinance amendments are intended to ensure compliance with both the City’s contractual obligations with TRA and the TCEQ permits held by both Fort Worth and TRA.

The following are proposed amendments to Chapter 12.5 of the City Code:

- Adding the definition of categorical industrial user to apply to industrial users subject to categorical standards discharging into the Village Creek Water Reclamation Facility, the Trinity River Authority Central Regional Wastewater System (Central System), and the Denton Creek System.
- Amending the regulations prohibiting specific pollutants, substances, and wastewater that may be discharged to the Denton Creek System as described below:
 - Revising the specific prohibitions on wastewater to wastewater possessing a pH less than 5.5 or more than 11.0;
 - Removing the prohibition on total toxic organics in excess of 1.0 mg/l collected as a grab sample
 - Revising the local limits for certain chemicals according to the table below

| Pollutant | Instantaneous Maximum Allowable Discharge Limit (mg/L) |
|-----------------|--|
| Arsenic | 0.1 |
| Barium | 1.0 |
| Cadmium | 0.1 0.047 |
| Chromium, Total | 1.0-10.0 |
| Copper | 1.5 3.51 |
| Lead | 1.0 0.22 |
| Mercury | 0.005 |

| | |
|---|----------|
| Nickel | 1.0 2.98 |
| Selenium | 0.05 |
| Silver | 0.1 |
| Zinc | 2.0 2.99 |
| Cyanide or cyanogen compounds (expressed as total CN), Total | 1.0 |

3. Revising the deadline for failure to provide required reports from 30 days to 45 days before a user may be published as a user in significant non-compliance that discharge into the Central System and the Denton Creek System.

This project is located in ALL COUNCIL DISTRICTS.

A Form 1295 is not required because: This M&C does not request approval of a contract with a business entity.

FISCAL INFORMATION / CERTIFICATION:

The Director of Finance certifies that approval of this recommendation will have no material effect on City funds.

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