

August 25, 2020

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**To the Mayor and Members of the City Council****SUBJECT: TRWD GENERAL ORDINANCE AND COMMERCIAL FACILITIES
ORDINANCE – PROPOSED REVISIONS AFFECTING DEVELOPMENT**

The Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD) Board of Directors will consider adopting a revised General Ordinance and Commercial Facilities Ordinance at their September 15, 2020, Board Meeting. City of Fort Worth staff became aware of these proposed ordinance revisions on August 20, 2020, and quickly initiated a review to ascertain their impact on the City of Fort Worth and our stakeholders. The revised ordinances would greatly expand the authority of the District to regulate development in Fort Worth and surrounding cities and counties.

The General Ordinance regulates the water and land under District jurisdiction. It is used to protect District lands, properties, buildings, water quality, and to regulate the use of lands around TRWD reservoirs and the Fort Worth floodway and the reservoirs and floodway themselves for recreation and business purposes. The Commercial Facilities Ordinance provides minimum standards for the operation and maintenance of Commercial Facilities located on District land or waters to protect public use, access and safety and to maintain good water and environmental quality.

The most significant ordinance revisions include:

- The geographic impact of the ordinances is greatly expanded:
 - The definition for District Land is expanded to include all land that drains to District Water.
 - The definition for District Water is expanded to include all bodies or accumulations of water, natural or artificial, located within the District's Service Area.
 - The new definition of Service Area includes the area where the District provides raw water to customers. This includes all or part of 11 counties (Tarrant, Denton, Parker, etc.)
- The authority of the General Manager is greatly expanded to:
 - Create, set the amount of, and collect fees for licenses and permits.
 - Promulgate, adopt and amend residential improvement permit guidelines.
 - Adopt or amend any standards governing construction or maintenance of any improvement on or in District Land or District Water.
 - Require the District's customers (e.g. the City of Fort Worth) to adopt ordinances implementing the District's master drainage plan and other plans for water quality, and preventing waste or unauthorized use of District Water.
- Development or use of land draining into District Water shall comply with TRWD's [Water Quality Guidance Manual](#).

The full ordinance revisions can be found here:

<https://www.trwd.com/resources/board-of-directors/#public-comment>

We will share this information with our stakeholders, including our wholesale customers and development community. For any questions on this report, please contact Dana Burghdoff, Assistant City Manager, at 817-392-8018. For more information on the proposed ordinance changes, please contact PublicComments@trwd.com.

David Cooke
City Manager