



CITY OF AUSTIN

Founded by Congress, Republic of Texas, 1839
Watershed Protection Department
P.O. Box 1088, Austin, Texas 78767

May 7, 2015

Dear property owner or property manager,

You are receiving this letter because you currently receive a reduced drainage charge on your utility bill for a registered, well-maintained commercial stormwater detention or water quality pond. The City of Austin's Watershed Protection Department is proposing to eliminate this 20% "commercial pond discount." The elimination of the discount is one of many proposed changes to the drainage charge to make it more reasonable and equitable for all utility customers. Please keep in mind that other changes to the drainage charge may result in increases or decreases to the drainage charge.

The proposed changes to the drainage charge must be approved by the Austin City Council. A public hearing is currently scheduled for May 21 during the Austin City Council meeting. Council meeting agendas are subject to change. They are posted at www.austintexas.gov/department/city-council/council-meetings.

A preliminary drainage charge estimator is available at www.austintexas.gov/drainagecharge. This can provide you with a rough idea of your proposed drainage charge. By mid-summer, you should be able to look up actual proposed drainage charges on this web page.

Why is the City proposing to eliminate the commercial pond discount?

The proposed, new drainage charge is calculated the same way for everyone. The Watershed Protection Department is proposing to eliminate the commercial pond discount to keep the drainage charge reasonable and fair for everyone. Below are some factors that were considered:

- Everyone else has to pay more to recover the revenue lost from the discount.
- The discount is not available to everyone. Properties that are not eligible for the discount include residential properties, multi-family properties and commercial properties that use alternate flood and water quality mitigation methods.
- The discount has been used as an incentive for businesses to properly maintain their ponds. However, these are private ponds, and maintaining these ponds is a legal requirement for receiving approval for land development. Going forward, to ensure proper alignment with State Code, the drainage charge will only be used for the public drainage system.

We realize that it is difficult to lose a discount, and it is only after much thought and consideration that we have proposed eliminating it. Since the new drainage charge will be calculated the same way for everyone, we sincerely believe that the discount would no longer be fair to others.

Drainage Charge, Commercial Pond Discounts
May 7, 2015

There is more information available on our web site at www.austintexas.gov/drainagecharge. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns. You can email us at drainagecharge@austintexas.gov or leave a message at or 512-974-1328. A staff member will call you back.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victoria Li". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Victoria" and the last name "Li" clearly distinguishable.

Victoria J. Li, P.E., Director
Watershed Protection Department