

CITY OF LAKE CHARLES FILL MITIGATION GUIDANCE

The Lake Charles drainage ordinance can be found in Sec. 6-481 of the Code of Ordinances. The ordinance provides definitions and requirements for a Stormwater Runoff Management Plan (RMP), Fill Mitigation, and Freeboard Elevation. The ordinance should be reviewed as development plans are being created.

Fill Mitigation is required for sites located within flood ways or flood hazard areas A, AE, and VE.

1. What is Fill?
 - Fill is the increase in volume that is placed above the natural ground on a development site.
 - Example: Soil brought onto a site for a building pad, or concrete for a parking lot.
2. Ensure that the site development does not qualify for an exemption or waiver.
 - Exemptions and waivers can be found in Sec. 846 (c) and (d) of the Code of Ordinances.
3. What is Fill Mitigation?
 - Fill Mitigation results in a zero net impact on flood plain stormwater storage volume. It is required for properties within floodways or flood hazard areas A, AE, and VE.
 - Purpose: To offset the amount of fill brought onto a site, and preserve the floodplain storage volume.
 - Example: If 100 cubic yards of fill is brought onto the site, then 100 cubic yards shall be removed.
4. What is a Credit?
 - A Credit represents 1 cubic yard of fill removed from a site.
 - Example: If a site deposits 100 cubic yards of fill, then the site requires 100 credits of offset.
 - General practices to generate credit:
 - a. Swales
 - b. Terraces on slopes, or other landscaping methods
 - c. Widen the lateral bank
 - d. Expanding a required detention/retention pond
 - e. Lowering the elevations for parking lots/driveways below natural ground
5. Where can credits be acquired?
 - Credits can be demonstrated through the use of on-site techniques (see # 4.) or can be obtained from off-site locations within the same watershed.

Fill Mitigation Submittal Requirements can be found in Sec. 6-486 (e) in the Code of Ordinances.