

**STAFF REPORT**  
**City of Lancaster**

CC 7
02/13/07
RSL

Date: February 13, 2007

To: Mayor Hearn and City Council Members

From: James R. Williams, Public Works Director

Subject: **Revised Policy on Utilization of Dirt from Drainage Facilities**

---

**Recommendation:**

Approve revised policy on Utilization of Dirt from Drainage Facilities and authorize the Public Works Director, or his designee, to implement policy.

**Fiscal Impact:**

The actual revenue to the City will vary depending on development. It is estimated that there will be no additional cost to operating budgets due to implementation of the revised policy. There are an estimated 5.3 million cubic yards of dirt in planned channels and another 3.8 million cubic yards of dirt in planned basins. Much of this dirt would be used by developers of property that are adjacent to the planned drainage facilities. The balance of the material could be available to developments that are not adjacent to the facilities. The City currently own approximately 96 acres west of Fox Field for use as a basin and other areas dedicated for channels. It is proposed that the funds collected would be used to pay for City support of the excavation efforts then to purchase additional master planned channel/basin right-of-way.

**Background:**

The current policy on Utilization of Dirt from Drainage Facilities was approved in May 2004 by the City Council. The current policy allows developers to excavate and use dirt from City owned drainage facilities at no cost. Based on recent discussions with developers and contractors regarding costs they pay for dirt, the attached revised policy was prepared. The revised policy proposed to charge from \$0.75 to \$1.75 per cubic yard of dirt removed based on the following situations:

For situations where City support is provided at the loading site and an urgent need to remove the dirt does not exist, charge \$1.75 per cubic yard.

For situations where City support is not provided at the loading site and an urgent need to remove the dirt does not exist, charge \$1.50 per cubic yard.

For situations where City support is provided at the loading site and an urgent need to remove the dirt does exist, charge \$1.00 per cubic yard.

For situations where City support is not provided at the loading site and an urgent need to remove the dirt does exist, charge \$0.75 per cubic yard.

For situations where the City has a great need to have the dirt removed, such as health and safety issues, the Public Works Director, or his designee, is authorized to reduce the cost per cubic yard to no charge to encourage prompt removal.

City support includes providing equipment operations within the channel or basin to move dirt to a loading area for developer/contractor loading of trucks.

Other requirements that anyone purchasing or otherwise acquiring the dirt will need to follow include soils testing; haul route and stockpiling requirements, environmental issues related to the stockpiling of the dirt, and fencing when required at certain locations. All costs associated with removing the dirt will be the responsibility of the contractor and, when required, the developer/contractor will pay the cost for mobilizing City crews/equipment for supporting excavation efforts.