

# Highland Lakes Watershed Ordinance

## Mining and Quarries

As a steward of the Colorado River, the Lower Colorado River Authority protects and conserves the natural resources of the region. The Highland Lakes Watershed Ordinance (HLWO) protects water quality by helping manage stormwater runoff around the Highland Lakes. The ordinance applies to certain activities within the Lake Travis watershed in Travis County, the Colorado River watershed in Burnet County and a portion of Llano County.

A permit from LCRA under the Highland Lakes Watershed Ordinance is required for the following types of activity:

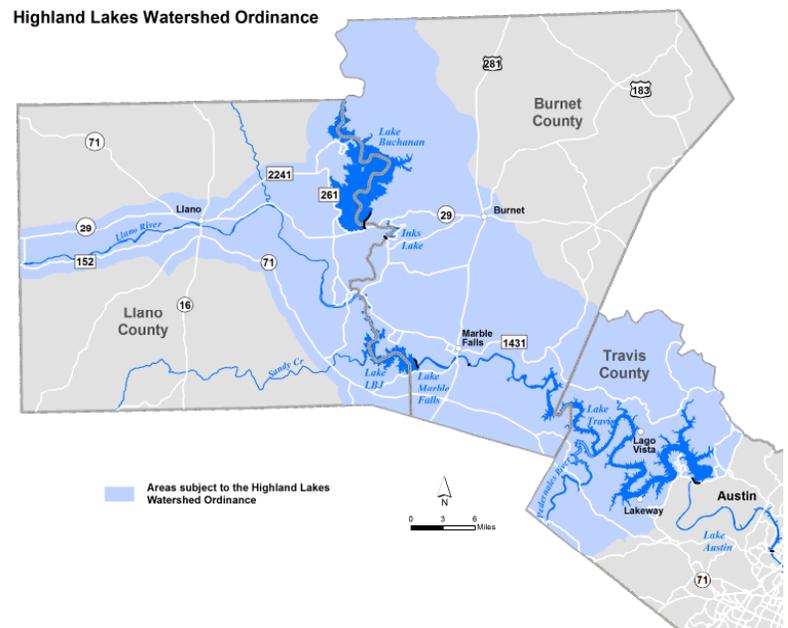
- New quarry and mining activity that creates more than 10,000 square feet of impervious cover or disturbs more than 5 acres of land.
- Development that creates more than 10,000 square feet of impervious cover or disturbs more than 1 acre of land.
- General utility construction, maintenance and repair work.

A permit from LCRA is **not** required for:

- Agricultural activities.
- Mines or quarries active before March 1, 2007.
- Development in a jurisdiction that has adopted and administers LCRA's ordinance or developed an ordinance that is as at least as protective of LCRA's HLWO.

In evaluating the application, LCRA may only consider specific water quality topics included in the ordinance. LCRA may **not** consider issues such as:

- Traffic.
- Air quality.
- Noise and light pollution.
- Suitability of a project for a particular area.



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### Quarries and Mining

The HLWO protects water quality and reduces creek erosion by requiring new quarries and mines to meet the following standards:

- Controlling stormwater runoff from the quarry and mine site using water quality ponds and vegetative filter strips.
- Including buffer zones free of development around creeks with a drainage area of 320 acres or larger.
- Maintaining erosion controls through site preparation and duration of the operation.



### Permitting Process

To secure an HLWO permit to develop a new quarry or mine or modify an existing facility:

- The applicant meets with LCRA to discuss the permit requirements.
- The applicant submits a permit application, which must include documents such as hydrologic and hydrogeologic reports, a surface water monitoring plan and a general reclamation guidance plan. LCRA reviews the documents to determine if the application is administratively complete, i.e., if all the required documents are included.
- Once the application is administratively complete, LCRA conducts a technical review of the application within 30 days to determine whether it meets the requirements of the HLWO. If it does not meet the requirements, LCRA notifies the applicant of the deficiencies, and the applicant has 30 days to respond to the deficiencies in the application to comply with the rules.
- At the beginning of the technical review process, the applicant must post a sign at the project site and mail notices to property owners within 500 feet of the site or 1,000 feet of the project limits, and to officials of nearby municipalities, the county and, if applicable, the local groundwater conservation district.
- LCRA accepts comments from members of the public for 30 days after the notice is mailed. The public comment period may be extended beyond the 30-day period at LCRA's discretion.

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- LCRA may hold a public meeting on a quarry/mine permit application after the public comment period upon a request from the applicant or any affected person (as defined by the ordinance), or if LCRA determines there is a substantial public interest. A request for a public meeting must be submitted within 10 days of the end of the public comment period.
- At the close of the comment period, LCRA staff will consider the application and all public comments. If the project meets the requirements of the ordinance, LCRA will issue the requested permit. LCRA will notify everyone who filed a comment about its decision on the application.

For more information on the Highland Lakes Watershed Ordinance, visit [www.lcra.org/hlwo](http://www.lcra.org/hlwo).

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