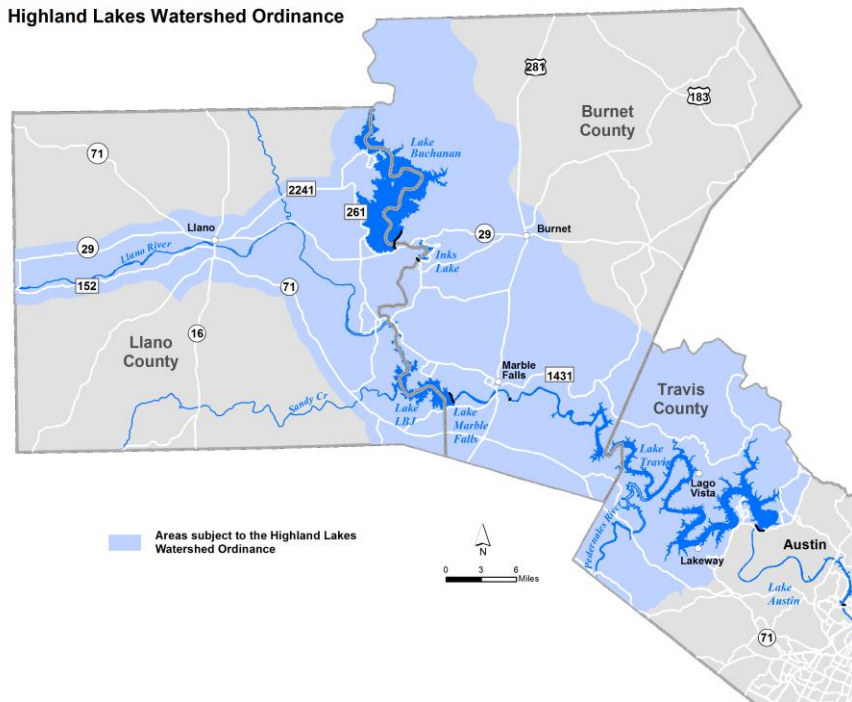


# Highland Lakes Watershed Ordinance - Mining and Quarries

As a steward of the Colorado River, the Lower Colorado River Authority helps protect and conserve the region's water resources. The Highland Lakes Watershed Ordinance protects water quality by helping manage stormwater runoff around the Highland Lakes.



A permit from LCRA under the Highland Lakes Watershed Ordinance is required for:

- Development or redevelopment that creates more than 10,000 square feet of impervious cover or disturbs more than one acre of land.
- Development or redevelopment of a subdivision that will result in more than 10,000 square feet of impervious cover.
- General utility construction.
- New quarry and mining activity that creates more than 10,000 square feet of impervious cover or disturbs more than 5 acres of land.
- Dredge and fill projects that dredge more than 500 cubic yards or disturb more than 500 feet of shoreline.

Quarry or mine activity that falls below these thresholds must submit written notification to LCRA.

Neither a permit nor written notification is required for:

- Agricultural activities.
- Mines or quarries active before March 1, 2007.
- Development in a jurisdiction that administers LCRA's ordinance or its own water quality program.

In evaluating a permit application, LCRA may only consider specific 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.

# Highland Lakes Watershed Ordinance - Mining and Quarries

## Quarries and Mining

The Highland Lakes Watershed Ordinance protects water quality and reduces creek erosion by requiring new quarries and mines to meet stringent standards, including:

- Controlling stormwater runoff from the quarry and mine site through the use of 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

When an applicant wants to construct a new quarry or mine:

- The applicant meets with LCRA to discuss the permit requirements.
- The applicant submits a permit application to LCRA, and LCRA determines if the application is administratively complete, i.e., if all the required documents are included. Applications must include documents such as best management practices to be employed for erosion/sediment control and water quality protection, hydrologic and hydrogeologic reports, a surface water monitoring plan, and a general reclamation guidance plan.
- If the application is complete, LCRA conducts a technical review of the application within 30 days. If it does not meet the ordinance requirements LCRA notifies the applicant and the applicant has an opportunity to revise the application to comply with the rules within 30 days. The applicant may request an extension.
- During the technical review, the applicant is required to notify the public of the application with a sign at the project site. Applicants also must 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. Anyone who submits comments will receive a copy of the application, updates and the permit decision.
- After the public comment period, a member of the public may request that LCRA hold a formal public meeting on the application. The request must identify specific performance standards at issue in the HLWO.
- 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.

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