

RCRS Secondary:	GOV-02	Effective Date:	2010-MAY-17 COUNCIL
Policy Number:	COU-184	Amendment Date/s:	
Title:	Ditch/Swale Policy	Repeal Date:	
Department:	Engineering and Public Works	Approval Date:	2010-MAY-17 SP COUNCIL

PURPOSE:

The City promotes open ditch / swale drainage as part of its efforts to implement a more environmentally sustainable approach to protect the natural environment while striving to meet the needs of our residents in a fiscally responsible manner. The Official Community Plan also offers direction to:

- protect and enhance the natural environment.
- achieve a balance between protecting property from flood hazards and protecting water quality and quantity for natural habitat.
- revise the City’s approach to storm water management for public and private drainage systems in order to meet the City’s environmental objectives, while remaining cost effective.

Ditches and swales manage rain water for road and property drainage by: helping filter runoff, reducing downstream peak flow rates, providing storage and increasing groundwater recharge. When a ditch is filled and replaced with a pipe, most of the storm water management benefits are compromised. The cumulative impact of many ditch filling projects within the same drainage area is likely to increase downstream peak flows and degrade the quality of run-off reaching surface water bodies. If implemented without appropriate technical analysis or design guidelines, ditch alteration can result in upstream flooding or local infrastructure maintenance problems. A disruption in the flow of water from a single property can impact the integrity of a drainage system for many others.

DEFINITIONS:

N/A

SCOPE:

Authority to Act - Delegated to Staff.

POLICY:

The City will only authorize ditches / swales to be piped and infilled on an exception basis because of the merits of open drainage.

All approved ditch / swale infill work is to be done to City standard and at the property owner’s expense. If the ditch infill request impacts multiple property owners a Local Improvement Process will be used. The work will be inspected by the City.

PROCESS:

An exception will be considered by utilizing the Ditch / Swale checklist which is attached. Based on the response to these questions, the request is either declined or it proceeds to engineering assessment.

RELATED DOCUMENTS:

N/A

REPEAL/AMENDS:

Repeals COU-040 – Ditch Piping Program Policy

DITCH/SWALE INFILL REQUEST CHECKLIST

- See Page 27 of the Special Open Council Meeting Agenda for 2010-MAY-11 Agenda for a copy of the Checklist
- Also noted as g:\utilities\storm sewer\ditch infill\infill-request-checklist