




CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
TRANSPORTATION & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

TO: Sheryl Sculley, City Manager
THROUGH: Peter Zaroni, Deputy City Manager
FROM: Mike Frisbie, P.E., Director/City Engineer 
COPIES TO: Executive Leadership Team
SUBJECT: Capital Project Soil Relocation Policy and Communication Plan
DATE: March 18, 2015

The Transportation & Capital Improvements (TCI) Department routinely manages the excavation of soil as part of the many street, drainage, park and building projects undertaken each year. In this infrastructure work, TCI is sensitive to local, state, and federal environmental requirements with respect to soil excavation.

Soil has been and will continue to be tested by private, licensed professionals and is compared to Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) standards for residential/commercial use. When soil exceeds TCEQ standards for residential/commercial use, TCI adheres to TCEQ guidelines for the appropriate handling and disposal of soil in a certified landfill. When soil is within TCEQ standards for residential/commercial use, TCI may reuse the soil on another suitable site as allowed by the TCEQ.

The process TCI has followed and will continue to follow to test, handle and move soil is appropriate and in accordance with industry standards. However, to better communicate this process, TCI will implement the attached Capital Project Soil Relocation Policy and Communication Plan, effective immediately.

Attachment



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Capital Project Soil Relocation Policy and Communication Plan

Transportation & Capital Improvements (TCI) routinely moves soil as part of the many street, drainage, park and building projects it manages annually. Prior to any excavation, the soil is tested by private, licensed professionals and is compared to Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) standards for appropriate reuse or disposition.

Residential/Commercial Grade Soil

When soil excavated from a City of San Antonio capital improvements project is tested and confirmed to be within TCEQ standards for residential/commercial use and is greater than 15,000 cubic yards, regardless of its originating source, the soil may be reused on another suitable site after the following communication steps are taken.

TCI will notify the City Manager, Mayor and City Council about the soil through email. TCI will initiate meetings with the respective City Council Member(s) in whose district the soil originated and will be reused. These meetings will include the TCI Director or designee.

Property owners within a 200 foot radius of the reuse site will receive a letter from TCI outlining where the soil originated from, where it will be reused, and the testing measures taken before deciding to move the soil.

Additional key stakeholders also will be notified by letter from TCI outlining where the soil was excavated from, where it will be reused, and the testing measures taken before deciding to move the soil.

Members of the public at large will be notified using the City's website and other public communication tools, as the situation requires.

When soil excavated from a City of San Antonio capital improvements project is tested and confirmed to be within TCEQ standards for residential/commercial use and is less than 15,000 cubic yards volume, the soil may be reused on another suitable site. Since the soil is of high quality and low volume, information about this soil will be provided as requested.

When a low volume of residential/commercial grade soil (less than 15,000 cubic yards) is from the Central Business District or from a location that may be perceived of having soil issues, the soil may be reused on another suitable site after the following appropriate communication steps are taken. TCI will notify the City Manager and respective City Council Member(s) in whose district the soil originated and in whose district the soil will be reused. The communication will be through email and will include information about the originating and destination sites.

Non-Residential/Commercial Grade Soil

When soil excavated from a City of San Antonio capital improvements project is tested and confirmed to exceed TCEQ standards for residential/commercial use, regardless of the volume, the soil will be taken to a certified landfill.

If the amount of non-residential/commercial soil excavated exceeds 15,000 cubic yards, TCI will provide the City Manager, Mayor and City Council details of the project through email and with personal conversations as necessary. In addition TCI will provide property owners within a 200 foot radius of the originating site written notification of the soil. The notification letter will include details to include where the soil originated, the certified landfill where the soil will be taken, and the volume of soil to be moved.

When excavated soil is less than 15,000 cubic yards, TCI will provide the City Manager, Mayor and City Council details of the project through email and with personal conversations as necessary. The details will include where the soil originated, the certified landfill where the soil will be taken, and the volume of soil to be moved. Additional details regarding the excavated soil will be available as requested.

Soil Relocation and Communication Plan Policy Review and Revision

This policy will go into effect immediately as of March 16, 2015.

In its first year, this policy will be reviewed biannually to make any necessary adjustments as feedback is received. TCI will engage with the City Manager, Mayor, City Council, and stakeholders to determine if the policy is being appropriately applied and if it can be improved.