

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE

Hundreds of acres of land are disturbed every year in the City of Plano for the construction of subdivisions, homes, shopping centers, office complexes, highways and other developments. Without erosion control measures this exposed land is vulnerable to accelerated erosion and sedimentation that can cause damage to adjacent properties, storm drain facilities, streams and other water resources of the City and State.

The City of Plano Erosion and Sediment Control Manual has been prepared by the City of Plano Engineering Division to provide technical assistance to design consultants, property owners, developers and contractors conducting land disturbing activity and involved with the development of property within the City of Plano. The information contained in this manual is intended as an aid in the preparation and implementation of erosion control plans and practices specifically for land disturbing activities within the City of Plano, Texas.

The manual focuses primarily on the design, construction and maintenance of methods that have proven to be effective in the control and prevention of soil erosion caused by rainfall and stormwater runoff. The soil erosion and sedimentation process will be briefly discussed in an overview, but a detailed discussion of these topics is beyond the scope of this manual. The list of references in the Appendix of this manual contains several recommended readings on the subjects of erosion and sedimentation.

In January 1989 the City Council of the City of Plano, Texas adopted the first local erosion control ordinance for implementation within the City's jurisdiction. The National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), also requires all activities that meet the definition of an "industrial activity" to obtain storm water permits. Currently any construction activity that disturbs 5 acres or more of land meets the EPA definition of an "industrial activity" and must comply with NPDES permit requirements.

The City of Plano's erosion control ordinance and procedures are not meant to duplicate existing State or Federal regulations, but to compliment and precede these rules to help protect property and our water resources. Erosion control plans prepared to meet City requirements will meet or exceed State and Federal requirements, thus eliminating duplicate efforts. The design and submittal procedures at the local level will be identical to those required when a project must comply with State and Federal requirements, thus preparing consultants, owners and contractors for compliance procedures. However, additional forms and documentation may be necessary to comply with State and Federal regulations.