

Fort Bend County Adopts new On Site Sewage Fee Schedule

On December 8, 2009, the Fort Bend County Commissioner's Court adopted a revised **On Site Sewage Facility (OSSF)** fee schedule effective January 1, 2010 that provides the regulatory framework to manage the OSSF program. In addition, a new **Annual Maintenance Contract Renewal Fee** was adopted to increase the level of oversight and enforcement of OSSF's requiring routine maintenance.

Troy Scalco, the Director of Environmental Health Services stated, "Our mission is to protect the public, consumer, and environmental health of the people in Fort Bend County. Inappropriately maintained septic systems can spread disease and have potential adverse effects on human health, water quality and ecosystems. Our goal is to increase the number of Spot or Site inspections of these systems and ensure that both the property owner is maintaining compliance and that the Licensed Contractor is doing their part."

Ongoing service contracts are required for systems that use secondary treatment, drip irrigation, and surface application disposal. After expiration of the initial two (2) year maintenance contract, property owners are required to pay an Annual Maintenance Contract Renewal Fee in the amount of \$20.00 annually. This fee must be collected and processed when renewal maintenance contracts are submitted. Any renewing contract received after the effective date without the fee will be denied and returned. Any renewal contracts submitted for two or more years must pay the annual fee for the length of the contract. It is the responsibility of the property owner to maintain an annual service contract held by a Certified or State Licensed Maintenance Provider for the life of the system. Failure to maintain a maintenance contract can result in legal action.

Additional information can be found at www.fortbendcountygov.com or at <http://www.co.fort-bend.tx.us/getsitepage.asp?sitepage=5781>.

