

DEFINITIONS

MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

A political entity in charge of providing utility-related services such as water, sewage, and drainage services. A MUD is typically enacted by state law and is funded by special assessment bonds. Individuals living in a municipal utility district will be assessed a tax based on the value of their property and the current tax.

ASSOCIATION OF WATER BOARD DIRECTORS (AWBD)

The objective of the Association of Water Board Directors – Texas is to promote the enhancement of Texas water district operations and management. The Association plans to further such progress and growth and to advance the strength of Texas water district operation and management through education and unification by:

Publishing the Journal, newsletters and press releases to educate water district directors and their staffs in methods to improve the quality of construction and maintenance of the public utility works;

Lessening the burdens of government experienced by taxpayers in water districts by maximizing the efficiency of water district operations through the promotion of better management and a higher quality utility service;

Combating community deterioration from substandard utility service, which frequently results in water shortages, malfunctioning of sewer facilities, or the decline of public common areas;

Monitoring proposed regulation by state agencies and proposed legislation which might affect water districts and communicating that information to water district directors

Providing a forum for the members to exchange experience and information related to their responsibilities by conducting workshops, seminars, and annual meetings.

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (TCEQ)

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality strives to protect our state's public health and natural resources consistent with sustainable economic development. Our goal is clean air, clean water, and the safe management of waste.

To accomplish our mission, we will:

- base decisions on the law, common sense, sound science, and fiscal responsibility;
- ensure that regulations are necessary, effective, and current;
- apply regulations clearly and consistently;
- ensure consistent, just, and timely enforcement when environmental laws are violated;
- ensure meaningful public participation in the decision-making process;
- promote and foster voluntary compliance with environmental laws and provide flexibility in achieving environmental goals; and
- hire, develop, and retain a high-quality, diverse workforce.

FORT BEND SUBSIDENCE DISTRICT

The Fort Bend Subsidence District was created by the Texas Legislature in 1989 as a conservation and reclamation district (Act of May 26, 1989, 71st Leg., R.S., ch. 1045, 1989 Tex. Gen. Laws 4251). The District's purpose is to

prevent subsidence, which contributes to or precipitates flooding or overflow in the district, including rising water resulting from a storm or hurricane. The District's boundaries are defined as all the territory within Fort Bend County.

NORTH FORT BEND WATER AUTHORITY (NFBWA)

Established by the Texas Legislature in May 2005, the North Fort Bend Water Authority was created to assist in converting the region within its boundaries from using groundwater to predominantly surface water in order to combat subsidence. The NFBWA acquires, develops and delivers a long-term supply of potable surface water to users in our fast-growing area.

Subsidence is the gradual sinking in of an area, and occurs when water is drawn from the ground faster than it can be replenished. Entire communities have been destroyed by flooding due to subsidence. The solution is to find alternative water, such as surface water. The surface water that the Authority currently uses or plans to use in the future mostly comes from the Trinity River.

TEXAS WATER CODE

WATER CODE, TITLE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS, CHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS, SUBCHAPTER A. PURPOSE AND POLICY

Sec. 1.001. PURPOSE OF CODE. (a) This code is enacted as a part of the state's continuing statutory revision program, begun by the Texas Legislative Council in 1963 as directed by the legislature in Chapter 448, Acts of the 58th Legislature, Regular Session, 1963 (Article 5429b-1, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes). The program contemplates a topic-by-topic revision of the state's general and permanent statute law without substantive change.

(b) Consistent with the objectives of the statutory revision program, the purpose of this code is to make the general and permanent water law more accessible and understandable, by:

- (1) rearranging the statutes into a more logical order;
- (2) employing a format and numbering system designed to facilitate citation of the law and to accommodate future expansion of the law;
- (3) eliminating repealed, duplicative, unconstitutional, expired, executed, and other ineffective provisions; and
- (4) restating the law in modern American English to the greatest extent possible.

(c) This restatement shall not in any way make any changes in the substantive laws of the State of Texas.

(d) Laws of a local or special nature, such as statutes creating various kinds of conservation and reclamation districts, are not included in, or affected by, this code. The legislature believes that persons interested in these local and special laws may rely on the session laws and on compilations of these laws.

Acts 1971, 62nd Leg., p. 110, ch. 58, Sec. 1, eff. Aug. 30, 1971.

(To view document in its entirety, log onto <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/?link=WA>).

TEXAS PROPERTY CODE

PROPERTY CODE, TITLE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

CHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec.A1.001.AA PURPOSE OF CODE. (a) This code is enacted as a part of the state's continuing statutory revision program begun by the Texas Legislative Council in 1963 as directed by the legislature in Chapter 448, Acts of the 58th Legislature, Regular Session, 1963 (Article 5429b-1, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes). The program contemplates a topic-by-topic revision of the state's general and permanent statute law without substantive change.

(b) Consistent with the objectives of the statutory revision program, the purpose of this code is to make the law encompassed by this code more accessible and understandable by:

- (1) rearranging the statutes into a more logical order;
- (2) employing a format and numbering system designed to facilitate citation of the law and to accommodate future expansion of the law;
- (3) eliminating repealed, duplicative, unconstitutional, expired, executed, and other ineffective provisions; and
- (4) restating the law in modern American English to the greatest extent possible.

Acts 1983, 68th Leg., p. 3478, ch. 576, Sec. 1, eff. Jan. 1, 1984. Sec. A1.002.AA CONSTRUCTION OF CODE. The Code Construction Act (Chapter 311, Government Code) applies to the construction of each provision in this code, except as otherwise expressly provided by this code.

Acts 1983, 68th Leg., p. 3478, ch. 576, Sec. 1, eff. Jan. 1, 1984. Amended by Acts 1985, 69th Leg., ch. 479, Sec. 70, eff. Sept. 1, 1985.

(To view document in its entirety, log onto <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/Index.aspx>).

HOUSTON EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION (EJT)

Houston's extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) is essentially a five-mile band around the City's general-purpose boundaries, with the exception of instances when that band intersects another municipality or its ETJ. Within its ETJ, Houston has limited regulatory authority.

The Extra-Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) is a designated buffer area located just outside of the city limits. Each municipality is afforded an ETJ by the Texas Local Government Code as a method of defining potential growth and future service boundaries.

(www.forneytx.gov) +

FORT BEND COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT

County Appraisal District Functions

Appraisal District Boundaries

County appraisal district boundaries are the same as the county's boundaries. Prior to 2008 some Texas county appraisal district boundaries extended into adjacent counties.

Who does what?

A **county appraisal district** appraises the value of your property. The property tax is based on the assessed value derived from the appraised value. Go to our Appraised Value section for a description of how the county appraisal district values almost all real estate in the county.

The **Appraisal Review Board (ARB)** settles disagreements between the property owner and the county appraisal district about the value and exemptions that affect the taxability of a property. Each board is made up of local citizens. Go to our Appraisal Review Board section for a description of Appraisal Review Board functions.

The **local taxing units** set budgets and property tax rates. The property taxes are used to pay for local services. Go to our Tax Rate Protest section for a description of how the taxing units set their tax rates.

The county tax assessor-collector collects the property taxes that are due in the county. The assessor-collector transfers the appropriate money to each government taxing unit.

GOVERNMENT ENTITY

Government entity means (a) any federal, state, provincial or similar government, and any body, board, department, commission, court, tribunal, authority, agency or other instrumentality of any such government or otherwise exercising any executive, legislative, judicial, administrative or regulatory functions of such government or (b) any other government entity having jurisdiction over any matter contemplated by the Operative Agreements or relating to the observance or performance of the obligations of any of the parties to the Operative Agreements.

ELECTED OFFICIAL

Elected official means any person holding an office in a governmental entity which is filled by the vote of the appropriate electorate. It shall also include any person appointed to fill a vacancy in such offices.

CUSTOMER LINE LEAK

A **water leak** or **water leakage** is defined as any water loss on **the customer's side of the District water meter** resulting from a condition where repair and/or replacement of customer infrastructure (service line or interior plumbing, etc.) is required to terminate the water leak.

DISTRICT LINE LEAK

A **water main** is simply a large pipe that connects to your service pipe, which carries water from the main to your home. When a leak occurs, the district usually is responsible for any leakage that occurs between **your water meter and the water main**.