

## Chapter 305. Environmental Policy Resolution<sup>1</sup>

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### **305.001 Travis County Environmental Policy Resolution**

- (a) Whereas: It is the responsibility of the Travis County Commissioners' Court to protect the health, safety, and welfare of residents within Travis County; and
- (b) Whereas: Protection and enhancement of the natural and built environment provides for clean, safe air and water supplies and a healthy, aesthetically pleasing scenery; and
- (c) Whereas: A clean and beautiful environment preserves and stimulates the economic viability of the region; and
- (d) Whereas: Travis County is an area of considerable natural beauty containing unique vegetation, wildlife, and geologic features; and
- (e) Whereas: The Travis County Commissioners' Court is committed to establishing an integrated set of policies and programs which will preserve these natural attributes; then, therefore:

### **305.002 Be it Resolved that the Travis County Commissioners' Court Will:**

- (a) Establish the County as a governmental leader in environmental protection;
- (b) Adopt policies, programs and regulations based upon best available information and sound ecological concepts;

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<sup>1</sup> Chapter 105 adopted March 28, 1995, Item #3. Chapter 105 was renumbered as Chapter 305 on June 1, 2018 (approved May 15, 2018, Item 7).

- (c) Implement policies, programs and regulations which allocate County resources to provide the greatest benefit to the widest segment of the County;
- (d) Promote cooperative policies linking Travis County environmental protection activities with those of other governmental agencies and public interest groups;
- (e) Provide educational policies and programs to promote a consensus approach in developing and implementing the County's environmental program; and
- (f) Create an organizational structure at the County which encourages consideration of environmental issues.

**305.003 Environmental Goals, Policies and Resolution**

The Travis County Citizens' Environmental Task Force recommends that the Travis County Commissioners' Court adopt the following goals and policies to officially state the County's commitment to protect the environment. Six goals are set forth, followed by policies to carry out those goals. Current and future workplans should be consistent with the principles embodied in the stated goals and policies.

**305.004 Goal 1: Establish the County as a governmental leader in environmental protection.**

- (a) Policy: Provide exemplary environmental design of County construction projects to protect and enhance water quality, vegetation and wildlife habitat, and other environmental resources.
- (b) Policy: Establish operational procedures within the County which minimize potential harm from pesticide applications, storage of hazardous materials, or other County activities.
- (c) Policy: Initiate cooperative efforts with public and private entities to address key regional environmental concerns such as nonpoint source pollution, solid waste management, and wildlife habitat protection.

**305.005 Goal 2: Adopt policies, programs and regulations based upon best available information and sound ecological concepts.**

- (a) Policy: Participate in needed environmental studies to determine the impacts of nonpoint source pollution, pesticides, and on-site sewage disposal.
- (b) Policy: Develop and maintain an environmental information base within Travis County.
- (c) Policy: Utilize a holistic approach to environmental protection, such that actions are viewed in context of all other actions; e.g., groundwater quality is protected by limiting pollution from nonpoint sources, wastewater, hazardous waste disposal, and pesticides, and chemical and fuel storage.

**305.006 Goal 3: Implement policies, programs and regulations which allocate County resources to provide the greatest benefit to the widest segment of the County.**

- (a) Policy: Establish environmental protection policies, programs, and regulations which protect all geographic and socioeconomic segments of Travis County.
- (b) Policy: Adopt regulatory policies which effectively complement the County's environmental programs and which are equitable to all segments of the community.
- (c) Policy: Actively enforce environmental laws and standards of the State of Texas.

**305.007 Goal 4: Promote cooperative policies linking Travis County environmental protection activities with those of other governmental agencies and public interest groups.**

- (a) Policy: Initiate intergovernmental agreements supporting the joint planning, implementation, and operations of environmental programs.
- (b) Policy: Compile and share an environmental data base of information with access by other governmental agencies, e.g., Geographic Information System.
- (c) Policy: Actively participate in joint planning efforts to address regional environmental issues such as nonpoint source pollution, solid waste management, and wildlife habitat protection.

**305.008 Goal 5: Provide educational policies and programs to promote a consensus approach in developing and implementing the County's environmental program.**

- (a) Policy: Provide educational programs for Travis County residents and businesses to increase awareness of the collective responsibility of each individual to preserve a safe and healthy environment.
- (b) Policy: Provide seminars and training for engineers, architects, contractors, and other design and construction professionals to improve understanding of environmental constraints and to encourage proper development measures to enhance the environment.
- (c) Policy: Establish programs to train County personnel in the proper techniques for environmental protection, including erosion and sedimentation control, pesticide applications, and handling of toxic materials.
- (d) Policy: Utilize the Travis County Agriculture Extension Service as a vehicle to increase environmental awareness throughout the urban and rural communities.

- (e) Policy: Maintain a balanced representation on the ongoing Citizens' Environmental Task Force and encourage participation of the relevant County departments and other agency staff.

**305.009 Goal 6: Create an organizational structure at the County which encourages consideration of environmental issues.**

- (a) Policy: Establish independent environmental staff responsible for the creation, review, assessment, coordination, and monitoring of environmental policies, procedures, and programs.
- (b) Policy: Structure County departments to incorporate internal environmental review staff.
- (c) Policy: Prepare a long-range set of environmental goals (5-year Work Plan) and perform an Annual Work Plan Assessment to determine whether the goals are being achieved and are effective.
- (d) Policy: Maintain and sanction the Travis County Citizens' Environmental Task Force as a continuing citizens advisory group.