



COLLIN COUNTY

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MEMO

Date: October 6, 2014

To: Commissioners Court

From: Tracy R. Homfeld, P.E., CFM; Assistant Director of Engineering

Subject: Collin County's position letter and resolution in response to the US Environmental Protection Agency and US Army Corps of Engineers proposed new rule to expand the definition of "waters of the United States"

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) jointly released a proposed new rule on April 21, 2014 that would amend the definition of "waters of the United States" and expand the range of waters that would fall under federal jurisdiction. The proposed rule, if not more clearly outlined could result in increased jurisdiction over routine county road and bridge activities as well as storm water program regulations. The proposed rule could require counties to obtain federal permits to do routine maintenance work on a roadside ditch or storm water drain; and could potentially increase our storm water program monitoring and reporting.

The deadline for public comment is October 20, 2014. Many of our neighboring counties as well as the Conference of Urban Counties have come out in opposition of this new rule and have sent their own letters and resolutions requesting a more clearly defined rule.

We request Commissioners' Court consider adopting the attached resolution and authorize Judge Self to sign the attached Collin County position letter.