



# San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District

1331 Highway 123 | San Marcos, Texas 78666 | OFFICE 512.393.6700

February 24, 2025

The Honorable Jane Hughson  
Mayor, City of San Marcos  
630 E. Hopkins  
San Marcos, Texas 78666

Dear Mayor Hughson and Members of the San Marcos City Council,

I am writing this letter to seek your assistance in addressing the City's current stormwater (drainage) fees that are being assessed against the San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District ("SMCISD"). The district is currently paying \$31,000 per month or approximately \$372,000.00 annually. Specifically, SMCISD is seeking an exemption from the City's existing stormwater fee schedule which is enclosed with this letter.

As you know, the city is authorized to charge fees for drainage services pursuant to Municipal Drainage Utility Systems Act ("Act"). In setting the drainage fee schedule, the Act permits municipalities to *exempt designated governmental entities* from ordinances adopted pursuant to the Act and permits municipalities to consider *the land use in setting the drainage fee schedule*. The City of San Marcos' existing stormwater rates neither exempt a governmental entity such as SMCISD nor does the existing fee schedule consider the many benefits the district's facilities provide to the San Marcos community.

The city's stormwater (drainage) rates are posted online and reflect that SMCISD pays the same stormwater rates as a commercial retail property such as the San Marcos Premium Outlets; or a large apartment complex such as the Grove at San Marcos; or an industrial complex such as the San Marcos Business Park. We respectfully request the city to consider the district's vital role in providing important public services to the city in assessing stormwater fees against the district.

The district's request comes at a critical time, as SMCISD is working to address a multi-million-dollar budget deficit. Every dollar matters in our efforts to sustain and strengthen our district's ability to serve our students and the broader community. A full waiver of these fees would allow us to redirect these funds toward addressing staffing needs and to continue providing essential services to our students, families, and neighbors.

Below is a list of some of the various contributions the district has made to the San Marcos community which include:

- Disaster Response & Emergency Relief – Our campuses have served as PPE distribution sites and vaccine clinics during the COVID-19 pandemic. During Winter Storm Uri, our transportation department deployed buses as warming centers for residents in need.
- Direct Family & Community Support – Through our Communities in Schools staff and Parent Liaisons, we provide critical assistance to students and families, ensuring access to housing, food, mental health services, and other basic needs.



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- **Public Facilities & Infrastructure Support** – Our school buildings and facilities are frequently made available for public use, serving as meeting spaces, emergency shelters, and venues for community events. Our campuses have served as polling sites in local elections.
- **Workforce Development & Economic Mobility** – We work closely with local businesses and organizations to provide students with career training and internship opportunities that contribute to long-term economic stability in San Marcos.

Given the district's extensive contributions and investments to the city, we respectfully urge the City of San Marcos to exempt SMCISD from the city's stormwater/drainage fees. Such an action would recognize the district's ongoing commitment to the city while allowing us to reinvest these funds into the educational and support services that benefit our students and residents alike.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to working together in continued partnership for the betterment of San Marcos. Please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael Cardona  
Superintendent of Schools  
San Marcos Consolidated ISD

Enclosure  
City of San Marcos Stormwater (Drainage) Rates

cc: Matthew Mendoza  
City Council, Place 1

Saul Gonzalez  
City Council, Place 2

Alyssa Garza  
City Council, Place 3

Shane Scott  
City Council, Place 4



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Lorenzo Gonzalez  
City Council, Place 5

Amanda Rodriguez  
City Council, Place 6

Stephanie Reyes  
City Manager

Anne Halsey  
President, Board of Trustees



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## CITY OF SAN MARCOS STORMWATER (DRAINAGE) RATES\*

### Stormwater (Drainage) Rates

#### Stormwater (Drainage) Rates

Description	October 1, 2023 Rate	October 1, 2024 Rate
Small Residential (0 - 1,980 sq. Ft. of impervious cover)	9.14	9.14
Typical Residential (1,980 - 3,363 Sq. Ft. of impervious cover)	14.90	14.90
Large Residential (Greater than 3,363 Sq. Ft. of impervious cover)	21.77	21.77
Non-residential properties such as commercial, industrial, retail, government, multi-family with more than 4 units	14.90 per ERU	14.90 per ERU

A non-residential property is billed based on the total amount of impervious cover associated with the non-residential use divided by the ERU value of 2,575 square feet

\* <https://www.sanmarcostx.gov/1440/Drainage-Rates>