

TxDOT Houston District

Permits with Diverted Drainage Area Guidelines



Definition

For the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Houston District (HOU) Hydraulics Section (HYD) permit review, a diversion is defined as redirecting runoff into a TxDOT drainage system from land that does not drain into the TxDOT drainage system in its existing condition, either directly or indirectly via other channels or storm drains.

General Policy

Development projects should not divert runoff into the TxDOT drainage systems from land that does not drain into the TxDOT system in its existing condition. The engineer of record for the proposed development must demonstrate to TxDOT HOU HYD there is no feasible or prudent alternative for Items 2, 3, or 4 listed under Exceptions of this document.

Exceptions

1. Areas within the TxDOT drainage area boundary on the TxDOT As-Built plans may drain to the TxDOT facility, and such areas are not considered to be diversions regardless of existing topography (e.g., 150 development strip).
2. Developments that are 2 acres or smaller and located adjacent to a TxDOT roadway may drain to the TxDOT facility using the standard allowable discharge and detention storage requirements, even if the tract does not drain into the TxDOT facility in existing conditions.
3. If the diverted area within the project boundary is less than 1 acre, then such area is not considered to be a diversion for developments that are greater than 2 acres or less than or equal to 10 acres. The development may drain to the TxDOT facility using the standard allowable discharge and detention storage requirements.
4. If 90% of the proposed development tract drains to TxDOT right-of-way (ROW) in existing conditions, TxDOT may accept the remaining 10% of the proposed development site. If the remaining 10% of the tract is accepted to drain to TxDOT ROW, a minimum detention rate for this area of 1.5 ac-ft/ac must be considered. Any deviation must receive prior approval from the TxDOT Houston District Hydraulics Section Director.