

Report to the Environmental Review Commission

Pursuant to S.L. 2014-120, Sec. 29 REFORM AGENCY REVIEW OF ENGINEERING WORK

January 14, 2015

Name of Local Government Unit: City of Graham

Approved/delegated program subject to reporting requirements:

☐ Sedimentation/erosion control

☒ Stormwater

☒ Water/sewer

☐ Cross-connection

☐ 401 certifications

☒ Other Stream Buffers

Type name of person preparing report

Melissa Guilbeau, City Planner

Type date

January 12, 2015

*Submit this report electronically to Mariah Matheson, Commission Assistant,
Environmental Review Commission, at Mariah.Matheson@ncleg.net.*

Name of local government unit: City of Graham

Please attach any written procedures that may have been developed to implement the provisions of this law.** See **additional information section

☒ Check to indicate that this plan review program implemented procedures whereby plan reviewers distinguish between plan changes that are required by statutory or other legal authority and those that the reviewer offers as suggestions for improvement. Refer to S.L. 2014-120, Section 29.(b)(1) for further details about this requirement.

☒ Check to indicate that this plan review program identifies the statutory or regulatory authority for any revisions or requests for additional information that are required by the program in order to grant the requested plan permit, approval, or license. Refer to S.L. 2014-120, Section 29.(b)(2) for further details about this requirement.

☒ Check to indicate that this plan review program implemented procedures for local governments to follow when (1) a Professional Engineer submits a sealed design or practice that is not in the local government's guidance, manuals, or standard operating procedures, and (2) the submitting Professional Engineer requests additional internal review of that design or practice. Refer to S.L. 2014-120, Section 29.(c)(1) for further details about this requirement.

☒ Check to indicate that this plan review program established a procedure whereby the plan reviewer's supervisor OR the approving/delegating state agency can provide further review and oversight of these design details. Refer to S.L. 2014-120, Section 29.(c)(1) for further details about this requirement.

☒ Check to indicate that this plan review program either employs a Professional Engineer who can conduct further review of these innovative designs, or maintains a list of consulting Professional Engineers of the local government unit's choice that may conduct this review, if requested by and paid for by the submitting Professional Engineer. Refer to S.L. 2014-120, Section 29.(c)(1) for further details about this requirement.

☒ Check to indicate that this plan review program established an informal internal process to address disputes when a plan reviewer identifies a change to the plans as being "required" under a specific, identified legal authority. Refer to S.L. 2014-120, Section 29.(c)(2) for further details about this requirement.

☒ Check to indicate that this plan review program discontinued use of the word "engineer" in the job titles of all program employees whose responsibilities include review of plans in affected programs, *unless* those employees hold Professional Engineer licenses. Refer to S.L. 2014-120, Section 29.(h) for further details about this requirement.

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☒ Check to indicate that this plan review program reviewed the titles of all employees conducting plan reviews for this program. Refer to S.L. 2014-120, Section 29.(h)(1) for further details about this requirement.

☐ Check to indicate that this plan review program proposed revisions to those employees' job titles in order to eliminate use of the word "engineer" when publicly identifying those employees, if those employees do not hold Professional Engineer licenses. Refer to S.L. 2014-120, Section 29.(h)(2) for further details about this requirement. NOT APPLICABLE TO GRAHAM

Additional information:

The City of Graham contracts with the engineering consulting firm of Alley, Williams, Carmen & King, Inc. to provide engineering review of plans submitted for water, sewer, stormwater, watershed, and stream buffers that are under City jurisdiction. Professional engineers with that firm provide reviews on behalf of the City. The City has approved standards, details, and policies that govern City requirements for City maintained water, sewer, and storm drainage facilities. Our consultant uses these requirements and state minimum design criteria as the basis for their review. This arrangement has worked well for the city over the years and we have had consistent plan reviews with minimal complaints from the engineering community.

The City also holds a Technical Review Committee meeting that invites designers and owners to attend to facilitate discussions between the design professional and City staff.

As a result of the requirements contained in S.L. 2014-120, Section 29, we have directed our consultant to provide the required comment language as a part of their future reviews. The City has always had an open door policy with respect to project issues and any design engineer has been welcomed to discuss with city management any plan review issues in the past and going forward.

The City does not currently have any employee with the job description of engineer except the designation of the City Engineer, who is the Professional Engineer with our consulting firm that serves the City.

In summary, we are of the opinion that with the directive provided to our consulting firm, the City of Graham will be in compliance with the provisions of S.L.2014, Section 29.

Melissa Guilbeau, City Planner