

**REAGAN COUNTY  
STATE OF TEXAS**

**TAX ABATEMENT GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA**

The following Guidelines and Criteria have been adopted by the Reagan County Commissioners' Court to establish a uniform policy of tax abatement for owners or lessees of eligible facilities willing to execute tax abatement contracts designed to provide long-term significant positive economic impact to the community by utilizing the area contractors and work force to the maximum extent feasible, and by developing, redeveloping, and improving property, except as otherwise provided.

In order to be eligible for designation as a Reinvestment Zone and receive tax abatement, the planned improvement:

1. Must be reasonably expected to have an increase in positive net economic benefit to Reagan County of at least \$1,000,000.00 over the life of the abatement, computed to include (but not limited to) new sustaining payroll and/or capital improvement. The creation of (number and type) of new jobs will also factor into the decision to grant an abatement; and,
2. Must not be expected to solely or primarily have the effect of transferring employment from one part of Reagan County to another.

In addition to the criteria set forth above, the Reagan County Commissioners' Court reserves the right to negotiate a Tax Abatement Agreement in order to compete favorably with other communities.

Only that increase in the fair market of the property directly resultant from the development, redevelopment, and improvement specified in the contract will be eligible for abatement and then only to the extent that such increase exceeds any reduction in the fair market value of the other property of the applicant located within the jurisdiction creating the Reinvestment Zone.

All abatement contracts will be no longer than allowed by law.

It is the goal of Reagan County to grant tax abatements on the same terms and conditions as the other taxing units having jurisdiction of the property. However, nothing herein shall limit the discretion of the Reagan County Commissioners' Court to consider, adopt, modify or decline any tax abatement request.

This policy is effective as of the date adopted by the Reagan County Commissioners' Court and shall at all times be kept current with regard to the needs, of Reagan County and reflective of the official views of the County Commissioners' Court. These Guidelines and Criteria shall be reviewed every two (2) years.

The adoption of these guidelines and criteria by the Reagan County Commissioner' Court does not:

1. Limit the discretion of the governing body to decide whether to enter into a specific Tax Abatement Agreement;
2. Limit the discretion of the governing body to delegate to its employees the authority to determine whether or not the governing body should consider a particular application or request for tax abatement; or,
3. Create any property, contract, or other legal right in any person to have the governing body consider or grant a specific application or request for tax abatement

#### DEFINITIONS - SECTION I

- A. "Abatement" means the full or partial exemption from ad valorem taxes of certain property in a reinvestment zone designated by Reagan County or the City of Big Lake for economic development purposes.
- B. "Agreement" means a contractual agreement between a property owner and/or lessee and Reagan County.
- C. "Apartment Complex" means a multi-unit dwelling made up of more than four living units which may be contained in a single or in multiple structures.
- D. "Base Year Value" means the assessed value on the eligible property as of January 1 preceding the execution of the agreement.
- E. "Deferred Maintenance" means improvements necessary for continued operation which do not improve productivity or alter the process technology.
- F. "Eligible Facilities" means new, expanded, or modernized buildings, and structures, including fixed machinery and equipment, which is reasonably likely as a result of granting the abatement to contribute to the retention or expansion of primary employment or to attract major investment in the reinvestment zone that would be a benefit to the property and that would contribute to the economic development of Reagan County, but does not include facilities which are intended to be primarily to provide goods or services to residents for existing businesses located in Reagan County such as, but not limited to, restaurants and retail sales establishments. Eligible facilities may include, but shall not be limited to, hotels, apartment complexes, and office buildings.
- G. "Expansion" means the addition of building structures, machinery, equipment or payroll for purposes of increasing production capacity.
- H. "Facility" means property improvement(s) completed or in the process of construction which together comprise an interregional whole,
- I. "Modernization" means a complete or partial demolition of facilities and the complete or partial

reconstruction or installation of a facility of similar or expanded production capacity. Modernization may result from the construction, alteration, Or installation of buildings, structures, machinery, or equipment, or both.

- J. "New Facility" means a property previously undeveloped which is placed into service by means other than or in conjunction with expansion or modernization.
- K. "Productive Life" means the number of years property improvement(s) is/are expected to be in service in a facility.

#### ABATEMENT AUTHORIZED - SECTION II

- A. Eligible Facilities. Upon application, eligible facilities shall be considered for tax abatement as hereinafter provided.
- B. Creation of New Values. Abatement may only be granted for the additional value of eligible property improvement(s) made subsequent to and specified in an abatement agreement between Reagan County and the property owner or lessee, subject to such limitations as Reagan County may require.
- C. New and Existing Facilities. Abatement may be granted for the additional value of eligible property improvement(s) made subsequent to and specified in an abatement agreement between Reagan County and the property owner or lessee, subject to such limitations as Reagan County may require.
- D. Eligible Property. Abatement may be extended to the value of buildings, structures, fixed machinery and equipment, site improvements, and related fixed improvements necessary to the operation and administration of the facility;
- E. Ineligible Property. The following types of property shall be fully taxable and ineligible for tax abatement: Land; supplies; tools; furnishings, and other forms of movable personal property; single family housing; deferred maintenance; property to be rented (with the exception of an apartment complex) or leased, except as provided in Section 11(F); property which has a productive life of less than 10 years.
- F. Owned/Leased Facilities. If a leased facility is granted abatement, the agreement shall be executed with the lessor and the lessee, except in the case of an apartment complex where the agreement shall be executed solely with the owner/lessor.
- G. Economic Qualifications. In order to be eligible for designation as a reinvestment zone and receive tax abatement, the planned improvement:
  - 1. Must be reasonably expected to have an increase in positive net economic benefit to Reagan County of at least \$1,000,000.00 over the life of the abatement agreement, computed to include (but not limited to) new sustaining payroll and/or capital improvement The creation of (number and type) of new jobs will also factor into the decision to grant an abatement; and
  - 2. Must not be expected to solely or primarily have the effect of transferring employment

from one part of Reagan County to another,

H. Standards for Tax Abatement. The following factors, among others, shall be considered in determining whether to grant tax abatement:

1. Value of existing improvements, if any;
2. Type and value of proposed improvements;
3. Productive life of proposed improvements;
4. Number of existing jobs to be retained by proposed improvements;
5. Number and type of new jobs to be created by proposed improvements;
6. Amount of local payroll to be created;
7. Whether the new jobs to be created will be filled by persons residing or projected to reside within affected taxing jurisdiction;
8. Amount which property tax base valuation will be increased during the term of abatement and after abatement, which shall include a definitive commitment that such valuation shall not, in any case, be less than \$1,000,000.00;
9. The costs to be incurred by Reagan County to provide facilities directly resulting from the new improvements;
10. The amount of ad valorem taxes to be paid to Reagan County during the abatement period considering (a) the existing values, (b) the percentage of new value abated, (c) the abatement period, and (d) the value after expiration of the abatement period;
11. The population growth of Reagan County that occurs directly as a result of new improvements;
12. The Hypes and values of public improvements, if any, to be made by applicant seeking abatement;
13. Whether the proposed improvements compete with existing businesses to the detriment of the local economy;
14. The impact on the business opportunities of existing business;
15. The attraction of other new businesses to the area;
16. The overall compatibility with the zoning ordinances and comprehensive plan for the area;
17. Whether the project obtains all necessary permits from the applicable environmental agencies.

Each eligible facility shall be reviewed on its merits utilizing the factors provided above. After such review, abatement may be denied entirely or may be granted to the extent deemed appropriate after full evaluation.

- I. Denial of Abatement. Neither a reinvestment zone nor abatement agreement shall be authorized if it is determined that:
  1. There would be substantial adverse effect on the provision of government services or tax base;
  2. The applicant has insufficient financial capacity;
  3. Planned or potential use of the property would constitute a hazard to public safety, health, or morals;
  4. Violation of other codes or laws; or
  5. Any other reason deemed appropriate by Reagan County.
  
- J. Taxability. From the execution of the abatement to the end of the agreement period, taxes shall be payable as follows:
  1. The value of ineligible property as provided in Section II (B) shall be fully taxable;

and

2. The base year value of existing eligible property as determined each year shall be fully taxable.

The additional value of new eligible property shall be fully taxable at the end of the abatement period.

#### APPLICATION - SECTION III

- A. Any present or potential owner of taxable property in Reagan County may request the creation of a reinvestment zone and tax abatement by filing a written application with the County Judge of Reagan County.
  
- B. The application shall consist of a general description of the new improvements to be undertaken; a descriptive list of the improvements for which an abatement is requested; a list of the kind, number and location of all proposed improvements of the property; a map and property description; a time schedule for undertaking and completing the proposed improvements. In the case of modernization, a statement of the assessed value of the facility separately stated for real and personal property, shall be given for the tax year immediately preceding the application. The County may require such financial and other information as deemed appropriate for evaluating the financial capacity and other factors pertaining to the applicant, to be attached to this application. The completed application must be accompanied by the payment of a non-refundable application fee for administrative costs associated with the processing of the tax abatement request. All checks in payment of the administrative fee shall be made payable to Reagan County. For abatement requests for improvements with a planned value equal to or in excess of \$1,000,000.00 the fee shall be ONE THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (\$1,000.00).
  
- C. Reagan County shall give notice as provided by the Property Tax Code, including written notice to

the presiding officer of the governing body of each taxing unit in which the property to be subject to the agreement is located, not later than seven (7) days before the public hearing, and publication in a newspaper of general circulation within such taxing jurisdiction not later than the seventh day before the public hearing before acting upon application, Reagan County shall, through public hearing, afford the applicant and the designated representative of any governing body referenced herein above, and the public the opportunity to show cause why the abatement should or should not be granted.

- D. If a city within Reagan County designates a reinvestment zone within its corporate limits and enters into or proposes to enter into an abatement agreement with a present or potential owner of a taxable property, such present or potential owner of taxable property may request tax abatement by Reagan County by following the same application process described in Section III (A) hereof. No other notice of hearing shall be required except compliance with the open meetings act unless the Commissioners' Court deems them necessary in a particular cause.

#### AGREEMENT - SECTION IV

- A. After approval, the Commissioners' Court of Reagan County shall formally pass a resolution and execute an agreement with the owner of the facility and lessee as required which shall:

1. Include a list of the kind, number and location of all proposed improvements to the property;
2. Provide access to and authorize inspection of the property by the taxing unit to insure compliance with the agreement;
3. Limit the use of the property consistent with the taxing units development goals;
4. Provide for recapturing property tax revenues that are lost if the owner fails to make improvements as provided by the agreement;
5. Include each term that was agreed upon with the property owner and require the owner to annually certify compliance with the terms of the agreement to each taxing unit; and
6. Allow the taxing unit to cancel or modify the agreement at any time if the property owner fails to comply with the terms of the agreement.

- B. The owner of the facility and Lessee shall also agree to the following:

1. A specified number of permanent full time jobs at facility shall be created, and the owner and Lessee shall make reasonable efforts to employ persons who are residents of Reagan County in such jobs, provided, however, that there shall be no obligation to employ residents who are not:
  - A. Equally or more qualified than nonresidents applicants;

- B. Available for employment on terms and/or salaries comparable to those required by nonresident applicants; or
  - C. Able to become qualified with 72 hours training provided by Owner
2. Each person employed in such job shall perform a portion, if not all, of their work in Reagan County
  3. Owner shall agree that it and its contractors, if any, will use reasonably commercial efforts to maximize its use of goods and services available through Reagan County businesses in the construction, operation and maintenance of the improvements and the project; provided, however, that there shall be no requirement to use goods and services provided by Reagan County residents that are not:
    - a. Of similar quality to those provided by nonresidents; or
    - b. Made available on terms and conditions (including pricing) comparable to those offered by nonresidents. Comparable price shall be defined as less than or equal to 105% of the nonresident price for equivalent quality, conditions and terms.
  4. Owner or its construction contractor, if any, shall designate a coordinator of local services who will act as liaison between any individuals who are interested in obtaining information about providing goods or services related to the construction of the project. Additionally, Owner or its construction contractor, if any, shall advertise in local newspapers in Reagan County for local contractors to perform work on the construction project
  5. On May 1<sup>st</sup> of each year that the agreement shall be in effect, Owner shall certify to the County Judge of Reagan County, and to the governing body of each taxing unit, that Owner is in compliance with each applicable term set fourth above.

Such agreement shall normally be executed within sixty (60) days after the applicant has forwarded all necessary information and documentation to the Commissioner's Court.

#### RECAPTURE - SECTION V

- A. In the event that the applicant or its assignee (1) allows its ad valorem taxes owed to Reagan County to become delinquent and fails to timely and properly follow the legal procedures for their protest and/or contest; or (2) violates any of the terms and conditions of the abatement agreement and fails to cure during the cure period, the agreement then may be terminated and all taxes previously abated by virtue of the agreement will be recaptured and paid within thirty (30) days of the termination.
- B. Should Reagan County determine that the applicant or its assignee is in default according to the terms and conditions of its agreement, Reagan County shall notify the company or individual in writing at the address stated in the agreement, and, if such is not cured within the time set forth in such notice ("Cure Period"), then the agreement may be terminated.

ADMINISTRATION - SECTION VI

- A. The Chief Appraiser of the Reagan County Appraisal District will annually determine an assessment of the real and personal property comprising the reinvestment zone. Each year, the company or individual receiving abatement shall furnish the appraiser with such information as may be necessary for the abatement once value has been established, the Chief Appraiser will notify the Commissioners' Court of Reagan County of the amount of the assessment.
- B. Reagan County may execute a contract with any other jurisdiction(s) to inspect the facility to determine if the terms and conditions of the abatement agreement are being met. The abatement agreement shall stipulate that employees and/or designated representatives of Reagan County will have access to the reinvestment zone during the term of the abatement to inspect the facility to determine if the terms and conditions of the agreement are being met. All inspections will be made only after the giving of twenty-four (24) hours prior notice and will only be conducted in such a manner as to not unreasonably interfere with the construction and/or operation of the facility. All inspections will be made with one or more representatives of the company or individual and in accordance with its safety standards.
- C. Upon completion of construction, the designated representative of Reagan County shall annually evaluate each facility receiving abatement to insure compliance with the agreement. A formal report shall be made to the Commissioners' Court.

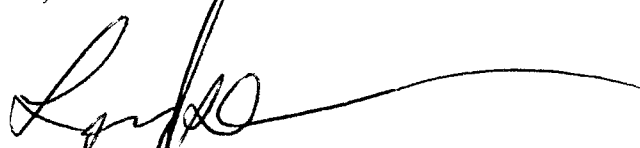
ASSIGNMENT – SECTION VII

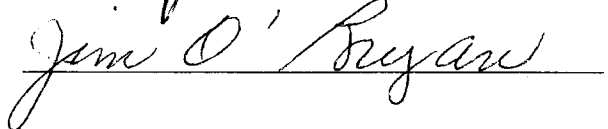
The abatement agreement may be transferred and assigned by the holder to a new owner or lessee of the same facility upon the approval by resolution of the Commissioners' Court of Reagan County, subject to the financial capacity of the assignee and provided that all conditions and obligations in the abatement agreement are guaranteed by the execution of a new contractual agreement and/or assumption agreement with Reagan County. No assignment or transfer shall be approved if the parties to the existing agreement, the new owner or new lessee are liable to any jurisdiction for outstanding taxes or other obligations. Approval shall not be unreasonably delayed or withheld.

SUNSET PROVISION – SECTION VIII

These Guidelines and Criteria are effective upon the date of their adoption and will remain in force for two (3) years, unless amended by three-quarters vote of the Commissioners' Court of Reagan County, at which time all reinvestment zones and tax abatement agreements created pursuant to these provisions will be reviewed to determine whether the goals have been achieved. Based on the review, the Guidelines and Criteria will be modified, renewed or eliminated.


ADOPTED on the September 14, 2015

  
LARRY ISOM, County Judge





JIM O'BRYAN, Commissioner

  
TIM SELLMAN, Commissioner

  
TOMMY HOLT, Commissioner

Not Present  
THOMAS STRUBE, Commissioner

**APPLICATION (supplemental) FOR TAX ABATEMENT AND DESIGNATION OF  
REINVESTMENT ZONE REAGAN COUNTY**

Persons who wish to apply for tax abatement must complete this application and return a copy with supporting documents to each member of the Reagan County Commissioners' Court. At any time before the expiration of 60 days from the date of receipt, Reagan County will determine under the procedures described in Reagan County's Guidelines and Criteria for Granting Tax Abatements whether it will approve or deny the application and what additional action if any, is warranted.

Applicant name:

Applicant address & phone:

Applicant organization:

Type of business association:

Corporation/Partnership  Proprietorship  Other

Organization address & phone:

Organization contact person's name:

Contact person's address & phone:

Proposed project or facility address:

1. Brief description of project or facility for which tax abatement is sought
2. Does the project or facility fall under the definition of "eligible facilities" provided in Section I (F) of the Reagan County Guidelines and Criteria?
3. This application is for (choose one):  
 New plant  Expansion  Modernization
4. Please list all of the taxing jurisdictions in which the proposed project or facility is located:
5. What is the total estimated taxable value or total range of taxable values of the project or facility for which abatement is sought?
6. What will be the total estimated taxable value or total range of taxable values of the project or facility in the first year after the expiration of the abatement?
7. Please attach information describing how the proposed project or facility meets the minimum requirement for tax abatement outlined in the Guidelines & Criteria:

8. Please attach information on the following aspects of the proposed project or facility:
- A. Current value of land and existing improvements, if any:
  - B. Type and value of proposed improvements:
  - C. Productive life of proposed improvements:
  - D. Impact of proposed improvements on existing jobs:
  - E. Number and type of new jobs, if any, to be created by proposed improvements:
  - F. Cost to be incurred by Reagan County, if any, to provide facilities or services directly resulting from the new improvements:
  - G. Types and values of public improvements, if any, to be made by any applicant seeking abatement:
  - H. Estimation of the amount of ad valorem property taxes to be paid to Reagan County after expiration of the abatement agreement:
  - I. The impact on the business opportunities of existing businesses and the attraction of new businesses to the area, if any:
  - J. The overall compatibility with the zoning ordinances and comprehensive plan, if any, for the area: and
  - K. Whether the applicant's proposed facility or improvement or modernization is an industry which is new to Reagan County.
9. Please attach the following information to this application:
- a) A map and description of the property for which abatement is sought:
  - b) A time schedule for completing the planned improvements: and
  - c) Basic financial information about yourself and your organization sufficient to enable evaluation of the applicant's financial capacity.

I attest that the information provided in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Applicant Organization