

CITY OF CHINO HILLS

PRESS RELEASE



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Contact: Denise Cattern
(909) 364-2615

Valerie McClung
(909) 364-2618

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PERMIT APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE FOR NEW EQUESTRIAN AND LARGE ANIMAL OVERLAY DISTRICT

Applications are now available for the City of Chino Hills Equestrian and Large Animal Permits. Property owners who have horses, cattle, mules, llamas, or other large animals can now obtain permits for their animal-keeping operations. Previously, City codes and zoning did not support the equestrian and large animal keeping operations that have historically occurred on properties along English Road and in other areas of the City. The process to develop an overlay district to preserve the City's equestrian heritage and establish standards took years to achieve. The goal was to ensure that the number of animals on a property, and associated uses and operations, did not negatively affect the surrounding community. In addition, growing Federal regulations related to Clean Water standards that apply to animal-keeping uses were also part of the discussion.

"I would like to thank the equestrian community for their participation as we worked to develop the Equestrian and Large Animal Overlay District," said Joann Lombardo, Community Development Director. "Their input helped us develop a good program that respects historic equestrian and rural uses."

Residents who have horses and large animals on their property, for their own personal use, are required to apply, without any fee, for a "Keeping" permit. There are several other types of permits which take into consideration whether a property owner has a commercial operation, or has a grazing operation with more than 49 cattle or 100 horses/other animals.

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A “Use” permit would be necessary if the applicant seeks to have more animals than allowed by the regulations, or proposes a type of animal not included in the regulations. That process would require a public hearing. The one-time application fee for the Equestrian and Large Animal Business Permit, the Equestrian and Large Animal Use Permit, and the Grazing Permit is \$74.

Part of the permit process requires that property owners with animal-keeping facilities practice Best Management Practices (BMP's) to ensure compliance with the Federal Clean Water Act, which was passed over 40 years ago. The City's Clean Water Equestrian Stewardship Program was developed to assist the equestrian community with information on appropriate BMP's to prevent contaminated water from leaving the property or entering the storm drain system.

As a courtesy, the Community Development Department will be reaching out to the equestrian community and is sending the permit application to all property owners and individuals who participated in the Equestrian and Large Animal Keeping Overlay process. The permit application is available at www.chinohills.org/EquestrianPermit. Assistant Planner, Mike Hofflinger, will assist property owners through the permit process. His phone number is (909) 364-2777.

Permit applications are processed at the Building & Safety / Planning counter on the first floor at City Hall, 14000 City Center Drive. Business hours are from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Friday.