

## ORDINANCE NO. 2015-05

**AN ORDINANCE REPEALING LINCOLN COUNTY  
ORDINANCE 2009-03 AND ENACTING AN ORDINANCE  
WHICH REGULATES SOLID WASTE AND LITTER IN  
LINCOLN COUNTY, REPEALING ORDINANCES IN  
CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR THE SEVERABILITY OF  
PARTS HEREOF; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE  
DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County finds it necessary to repeal Ordinance 2009-03, and enact a new Ordinance to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Lincoln County; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County finds that this Ordinance is necessary and proper to provide for safe and sanitary collection and disposal of solid waste, and control litter; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County finds that this Ordinance is necessary to provide a coordinated county-wide program of control of solid waste in cooperation with the Federal and State agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County has determined that is necessary and proper to protect the waters, both underground and flowing in rivers, creeks, and streams, through the enactment of regulations concerning the proximity of disposal of solid waste to underground and surface water; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County has determined that it is necessary to adopt the powers enumerated in NMSA 1978, §4-56-1, *et seq.*, for the storage, collection, and disposal of solid waste; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County finds that this Ordinance is necessary to protect the environment and promote the preservation of the natural beauty of Lincoln County lands.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County as follows:

**Section 1. Definitions.**

For the purpose of this Ordinance, the following terms, phrases, words and their derivatives shall have the meanings stated herein:

“Arroyo” shall include any canyon, draw or wash or any other earthen channel with visible evidence of the occasional flow of water.

“Ashes” means fire residue of any kind including, but not limited to, fireplace ashes, barbecue grill briquettes, wood chips, wood stove ashes, campfire ashes, hot waste or other material susceptible of spontaneous combustion.

“Construction Debris” or “Demolition Debris” or “Debris” means materials generally considered water insoluble and non-hazardous in nature, including, but not limited to, steel, glass, brick, concrete, asphalt, roofing materials, shingles, pipe, gypsum wallboard, and lumber from the construction or destruction of a structure, commercial construction waste and includes rocks, soil, tree remains, trees, and other vegetative matter that normally results from land clearing. If such debris is mixed with any other type of solid waste, it loses its classification as Construction and Demolition Debris.

“County” is the County of Lincoln, New Mexico.

“County Manager” is the chief administrative assistant to the Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County.

“Dismantled” or “Partially Dismantled Vehicle” means any motor vehicle from which some parts or parts which are ordinarily a component thereof have been removed or are missing.

“Flood Plain” is the relatively flat area or low land adjoining the channel of a watercourse or a body of standing water which has been or may be covered by flood waters, and which has a one (1%) percent chance of occurring in a given number of years, the limits of which are shown on a National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM).

“Garbage” includes all waste food, swill, carrion, slops, and all waste from the preparation, cooking and consumption of food and from the handling, storage and sale of food products and the carcasses of animals.

“Ground Water” means interstitial water which occurs in saturated earth material, and which is capable of entering a well in sufficient amounts to be utilized as a water supply.

“Hauler” is any person who collects refuse or debris from any property not owned by that person.

“Inoperative” or “Inoperable Motor Vehicle” means any motor vehicle which, by reason of dismantling, disrepair, or other cause or reason, is incapable of being propelled under its own power.

“Landfill” is a facility designed for the disposal of refuse and solid waste permitted in accordance with EID Regulation EID/SWMR-2 and this Ordinance.

“Litter” is any quantity of improperly discarded solid waste, decaying or non-decaying solid or semi-solid waste, including but not limited to discarded furniture and appliances, overflowing residential and commercial trash cans, construction debris, uncontainerized paper such as fast-food packages, candy wrappers, cigarette butts, and/or plastic, glass, trash, debris, rubbish, garbage, or junk parts and scrap materials found in public areas or generated while traveling in a motor vehicle.

“Motor Vehicle” means any wheeled vehicle which is self-propelled or intended to be self-propelled.

“Person” is any individual, partnership, company, corporation, firm, association, trust, estate, state and federal agency, government instrumentality or agency, institution, county, city, town, village, or municipality or other legal entity, however organized.

“Public area” is any land owned by the community or open to common use such as streets, roads, sidewalks, alleys, arroyos, or other public ways and any and all public parks, spaces, grounds, and buildings.

“Rubbish” includes, but is not limited to, all dismantled or partially dismantled motor vehicles, inoperable motor vehicles, waste paper, paper cartons, cardboard, tree branches, yard waste, wood, glass, plastic, discarded furniture and appliances or parts thereof, tin cans, dirt, ashes, bottles, liquid petroleum waste such as motor oil and similar items, and all other unwholesome material of every kind, not including garbage.

“Solid Waste” means, but is not limited to any garbage, litter, debris, rubbish, yard waste, appliances, inoperable vehicles, construction and demolition debris, or other discarded material originating from residential, industrial, or commercial sources.

“Water Table” is the surface in unconfined ground water at which the pressure is atmospheric and is defined by the levels at which water stands in wells that penetrate the water just far enough to hold standing water.

“Well” is a bored, drilled or driven shaft or a dug hole whose depth is greater than the largest surface dimension of the hole.

“Yard Waste” is vegetative matter resulting from landscaping, land maintenance and land clearing operations.

**Section 2. Accumulation of Solid Waste and Litter; Removal; Penalty.**

A. No person shall permit to accumulate upon premises owned, leased, or occupied by him any solid waste, or litter, except in covered water-tight containers made of metal or plastic.

B. No person shall throw, dump, or dispose of any solid waste, or litter on any road, street, gutter, sidewalk, or alley; nor shall any person set fire or cause or procure a fire to be set to any rubbish, garbage, or solid waste unless in an incinerator which has been approved by the fire chief or health authority of the County. No cans, cartons, wrappings containing food or organic waste, hair, wool, rubber, plastic, or any other substance which would create offensive, obnoxious or dangerous fumes or odors shall be burned.

C. No person in control of that property or that causes such action shall cause or permit to remain upon any property, private or public, any solid waste, or any composition of residue thereof which is in an unsanitary condition or hazardous to public health.

D. Any unauthorized accumulation of solid waste, or litter is hereby declared to be a nuisance and is unlawful.

E. No person shall cast, sweep, or deposit anywhere within the County, solid waste, or litter elements upon the road, street, sidewalk, alley, sewer, parkway, or other public place within the County.

F. Subject to any limitations or otherwise provided by law, the Sheriff is authorized to inspect and enter upon any private property where he/she has probable cause to suspect that unlawful accumulations of solid waste, or litter may exist.

1. If, upon the basis of such inspections, the Sheriff finds that any of Subsections A-E of this Section have not been complied with or that a violation exists, the Lincoln County Ordinance Administrator shall notify the person in charge of the premises (whether owner, tenant, lessee, manager, or other person), where the unlawful solid waste, or litter accumulations exist, to properly correct such conditions within a designated period of time from ten (10) days up to thirty (30) days.
2. Upon the failure, neglect, or refusal of any person, owner tenant, lessee, manager, or occupant to properly correct any such conditions as set forth herein, within the time prescribed (or within five [5] days of the return of such prescribed notice undeliverable if the notice is served by mail), the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners may contract for the correction of

unlawful accumulation or order its correction by the County, at the expense of the person, owner, tenant, lessee, manager, or occupant in charge of the property.

3. The cost for correction shall be a lien upon the property and shall remain in full force and effect for the amount due plus interest at the legal rate from the date of filing of the lien until paid, and all other costs, including attorney's fees. The lien shall be enforced and foreclosed according to applicable State law.

G Where the Sheriff finds that a clear and present danger exists to the public health, welfare, and safety due to certain unlawful accumulations of solid waste, or litter and immediate measures are required to alleviate this clear and present danger, the ten (10) day notification period may be waived.

H. Costs for correction of unlawful accumulation of solid waste, or litter shall be determined on the basis of man-worked hours, equipment at a customary rental rate per day, plus any direct cost paid by the County to correct the accumulation.

I. Nothing in Paragraph F of this Section shall be construed to require any notice before the filing of a Magistrate Court action for a civil or criminal violation of this Section.

J. Penalty. Violation of this Section, in addition to any other cost assessed for the cleanup of illegal stored or deposited solid waste, or litter, shall be punished under the Provisions of Section 11 of this Ordinance.

**Section 3. Solid Waste; Pre-collection Practices.**

A. Solid waste, if not properly stored on the premises where it is generated, shall be placed and maintained in County containers, the Landfill, or other solid waste disposal facility(ies) licensed and permitted in conformance with applicable State law, State regulations and this Ordinance.

B. It shall be the responsibility of all persons to dismantle and/or flatten all boxes or packing crates, regardless of construction, and to place the same in County containers.

C. Solid waste disposed of in containers provided by the County shall be first deposited in bagged and closed containers.

D. Toxic and hazardous waste, liquid petroleum, distillates, and similar liquid materials shall not be disposed of in County containers, but in accordance with Section 6 of this Ordinance.

E. Disposal of ashes. It is unlawful to dispose of hot ashes in any manner. To dispose of ash:

1. Cool in place for a minimum of forty-eight (48) hours and inspect to determine that no live embers capable of spontaneous combustion are present; or
2. Extinguish with water or sand and stir to the point where inspection reveals that no embers capable of spontaneous combustion are present.
3. Cold ashes shall be placed in a bag or other enclosed container before placing in a refuse container.

**Section 4. Solid Waste Containers.**

A. Commercial haulers are expressly prohibited from the use of County containers for the disposal of solid waste collected on a fee basis. Violations are subject to the penalties provided in Section 11 in this Ordinance.

B. All users of the County containers shall comply with the rules and regulations established by the County for the use, care, and location of such containers and shall keep the lids and covers furnished for such containers closed at all times, except when they are being filled or emptied.

C. All solid waste shall be placed in a container provided by the County or lawfully approved Sanitation Districts and shall be reduced in waste size to no more than four (4') feet in length. No items in excess of these dimensions or weighing more than fifty (50) pounds shall be placed in the containers provided by the County.

F. In the event that a Solid Waste container provided by the County is full, solid waste shall not be placed on the ground or in proximity to the container so as to constitute a litter or health hazard or the possibility that the solid waste may become blown and scattered.

G. It is unlawful to impede access to a County container other than necessary for the time to remove and deposit solid waste in the receptacle.

**Section 5. Damage to Solid Waste Containers.**

A. It is prohibited for any person, including children, to be on or in solid waste containers for any purpose.

B. It is unlawful to intentionally damage any solid waste container owned or leased by the County.

C. Any individual who damages any such container provided for County residents shall be liable to the County for the cost, repair, or replacement of such container, in addition to the penalties provided in Section 11 of this Ordinance.

**Section 6. Toxic, Hazardous, Ignitable, Flammable, or Explosive Solid Waste.**

A. Poison, acids, caustics, chemicals, waste contaminated by infectious diseases, radioactive waste, dead animals, live pests, rocks, sand, dirt, concrete, construction or demolition debris, toxic, highly flammable or explosive materials shall not be placed in containers for regular collection, but shall be disposed of in accordance with any applicable State and Federal laws or regulations at the expense of the person accumulating the waste.

B. Yard waste, including grass and tree clippings, pine needles, leaves, and cut weeds shall not be placed in the containers provided by the County, but shall be disposed of in an approved landfill or in accordance with any applicable State and Federal laws or regulations at the expense of the person accumulating the same.

**Section 7. Construction Sites and Transportation of Materials.**

A. All persons who have secured a building permit shall, before the start of any construction activity in the County, furnish or place on those premises a container or fenced area of suitable size and design to contain all solid waste or litter which may be disturbed or removed from the premises by the wind or elements. Within thirty (30) days of completion, all solid waste containers shall be removed from the premises.

B. No person generating solid waste shall allow solid waste or litter of any kind to be blown or carried by the elements from the premises for which the building permit was secured.

C. Persons engaged in demolition, who have obtained a building permit, shall remove the solid waste, and litter, including structural parts, from the construction site and contain their elements from scattering in the same manner as set out above. Demolition solid waste shall be removed and disposed of within five (5) days of completion to an approved solid waste transfer station or landfill.

**Section 8. Scavenging Prohibited.**

It is unlawful for any person not authorized by the County to remove, collect, or disturb the solid waste stored in a designated landfill or container. No person shall remove any solid waste from a container and scatter the same upon any public or private property.

**Section 9. Regulations Adopted.**

A. The laws of the State of New Mexico dealing with solid waste management and all regulations promulgated and published pursuant to those laws for the New Mexico Health and Environmental Department or and division thereof, including, but not limited to the Environmental Improvement Division (or any successor department, agency or division), along with any subsequent revision or amendments to such laws or regulations, are hereby adopted and incorporated herein by this reference and made a part of this Ordinance; provided, however, that the penalty provisions provided herein shall apply to violations prosecuted under this Ordinance.

**Section 10. Solid Waste Landfill Regulations.**

A. No solid waste disposal site or facility shall be established or operated, nor shall any person dump, store or otherwise dispose of any solid waste within a flood plain, subject to a one hundred year flood, as designated by the appropriate state or federal agency.

B. No solid waste disposal site or facility shall be established or operated, nor shall any person dump, store or otherwise dispose of any solid waste in any location where the ground water or the water table is less than one hundred feet (100') below the surface of the land or the bottom surface of any proposed solid waste pit, whichever is more restrictive.

C. No solid waste disposal site or facility shall be established or operated, nor shall any person dump, store or otherwise dispose of any solid waste within any arroyo as defined in this Ordinance.

D. Notwithstanding anything contained elsewhere in this Ordinance to the contrary, the regulations set forth in this Section 10 shall not apply to the following:

1. a person who is a homeowner, residential lessee or tenant or agricultural enterprise who disposes of solid waste on the property he owns, rents or leases if the solid waste was generated on that property;
2. a person occupying property who disposes of solid waste generated on the property if the property is located in a place that makes it not feasible to dispose of the solid waste in a permitted solid waste facility and the disposal of the solid waste does not harm the environment or endanger the public health or safety and does not violate any provision of the Solid Waste Act or any regulation adopted under that act; or
3. a person in possession of property who disposes on that property construction and demolition debris or yard waste generated on the property if the disposition of the solid waste does not violate any provision of the Solid Waste Act or any regulation adopted under that act.

E. It is mandatory that any operating landfill pit be dug crossways to the prevailing winds.

F. An eight foot (8') chain link fence is required around each landfill pit.

**Section 11. Penalties.**

A. Persons convicted of violating of this Ordinance shall be punishable by a fine of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300) or imprisonment for ninety (90) days or both the fine and imprisonment, except as set forth in paragraphs B, C, and D below.

- B. Persons violating this Ordinance by discarding or disposing of solid waste or debris on public or private property in any manner other than disposing it in an authorized landfill, shall, upon conviction, be subject to a fine not to exceed One Thousand and No/100 Dollars (\$1,000.00).
- C. Persons violating this Ordinance by the improper or illegal disposal of hazardous materials or waste in any manner other than as provided for in the Hazardous Waste Act, shall, upon conviction, be subject to a fine not to exceed Five Thousand and No/100 Dollars (\$5,000.00).
- D. Each violation shall constitute a separate offense. Each day an offense continues shall also constitute a separate offense.

**Section 12. Severability.**

It is hereby declared to be the intention of the Board of County Commissioners that the sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses and phrases of this Ordinance shall be deemed severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section of this Ordinance is declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid by the valid judgment of a court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality or invalidity shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs or sections hereof.

**Section 13. Recording.**

This Ordinance shall be recorded in a book kept for that purpose and shall be authenticated by the signature of the County Clerk.

**Section 14. Repeal of Ordinance No. 2009-03.**

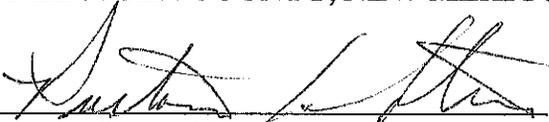
Upon the effective date of this Ordinance, Ordinance No. 2009-03 shall be considered repealed.

**Section 15. Effective Date.**

This Ordinance shall take effect thirty days after recording in the Public Records of Lincoln County.

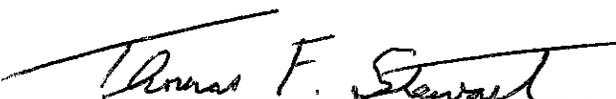
PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this the 17 day of November, 2015.

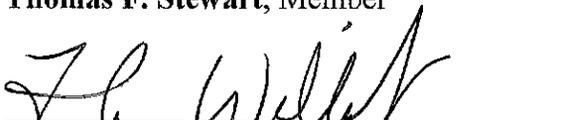
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