

ZAPATA COUNTY  
Mary Jayne Villarreal-Bonoan  
ZAPATA COUNTY CLERK  
Zapata, Tx 78076

00176918



70 2017 00176918

Instrument Number: 2017-00176918

As

Recorded On: July 13, 2017

No Fee Recording

Parties: COUNTY OF ZAPATA

To PUBLIC THE

Number of Pages: 17

Comment: UNIFORM RIGHT OF WAY

( Parties listed above are for Clerks reference only )

**\*\* THIS IS NOT A BILL \*\***

Fee Recording 0.00  
Total Recording: 0.00

\*\*\*\*\* DO NOT REMOVE. THIS PAGE IS PART OF THE INSTRUMENT \*\*\*\*\*

Any provision herein which restricts the Sale, Rental or use of the described REAL PROPERTY because of color or race is invalid and unenforceable under federal law.

**File Information:**

Document Number: 2017-00176918  
Receipt Number: 24960  
Recorded Date/Time: July 13, 2017 01:41:02P  
Book-Vol/Pg: BK-OR VL-999 PG-739  
User / Station: M Gutierrez - Cash Station 2

**Record and Return To:**

ZAPATA COUNTY  
HOLD FOR CELICA  
ZAPATA TX 78076



State of Texas |  
County of Zapata

I hereby certify that this instrument was filed for record in my office on the date and time stamped hereon and was recorded on the volume and page of the named records of Zapata County, Texas.

*Mary Jayne Villarreal Bonoan*  
Mary Jayne Villarreal-Bonoan, County Clerk

**ORDINANCE NO.**

**UNIFORM RIGHT-OF-WAY MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE**

**TO DELIBERATE AND CONSIDER ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING:**

**ADOPTION OF AN ORDINANCE AS FOLLOWS:**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF ZAPATA, TEXAS, A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, EXERCISING ITS "TYPE A" MUNICIPAL POWERS GRANTED TO IT PURSUANT TO SECTION 81.033 OF THE TEXAS LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, GOVERNING THE UNIFORM USE, OCCUPANCY, AND CONSTRUCTION BY TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES CERTIFICATED BY THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF TEXAS, CABLE PROVIDERS, ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS, GAS DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS EXPRESSLY AUTHORIZED BY LOCAL OR STATE LAW TO MAINTAIN FACILITIES WITHIN THE PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND; PROVIDING FOR THE FOLLOWING: DEFINITIONS; FRANCHISE REQUIREMENTS; REGISTRATION OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES CERTIFICATED BY THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF TEXAS RIGHTS-OF-WAY OCCUPANTS; CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS; CONDITIONS OF THE GRANT OF A FRANCHISE; ENFORCEMENT; INCLUDING FINE NOT TO EXCEED \$2,000.00 OR CIVIL PENALTY NOT TO EXCEED \$2,000.00; REPEAL; SEVERABILITY; AND EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, Section 51.012 of the Texas Local Government Code authorizes the adoption by a "Type A" general law municipality of any ordinance or regulation not inconsistent with state law, that is necessary for the government, interest, welfare, or good order of the municipality; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Zapata is authorized to exercise "Type A" general law ordinance making powers pursuant to Section 81.033 of the Texas Local Government Code and by virtue of the approval at an election for that purpose; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of Zapata is a municipal corporation as described in Article 11 of the Texas Constitution; and

**WHEREAS**, Article 11, Section 3, prohibits any county or "other municipal corporation" from making an "appropriation or donation to the same," and

**WHEREAS**, Section 81.034 provides that a county without any incorporated communities may participate in municipal assistance programs "as if the places were municipalities for the purpose of participating in any ...state program ... that provides assistance to municipalities," and

**WHEREAS**, Sections, 231.251, et seq. of Section 2, Chapter 231, Local Government Code, authorizes the Commissioners Court of the County of Zapata to adopt zoning regulations in the subject area known as after receiving a report of a study conducted by the Falcon Lake Commission created specifically to study the needs of zoning regulations, and

**WHEREAS**, the Commissioners court of the County of Zapata adopted zoning regulations as recommended by the commission;

**WHEREAS**, the laws of the State of Texas have consistently and expressly preserved the Historic authority of Texas legal subdivisions to manage the public rights-of-way and regulate the use, occupancy and construction in those public rights-of-way; and

**WHEREAS**, in Chapter 283 of the Texas Local Government Code, the State of Texas has granted telecommunications companies holding a certificate from the Public Utilities Commission of Texas the authority to place their poles, conduit, cable, switches and related appurtenances and facilities within public rights-of-way; and

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner's Court may at its discretion grant authority in the form of franchise ordinances to persons other than telecommunications companies seeking to occupy the public rights-of-way, such as but not limited to, those transmitting or distributing gas, water, wastewater, electricity, or cable services; and

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner's Court may require persons to register and obtain construction permits in order to place facilities within the public rights-of-way and repair or maintain those facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, Commissioner's Court may, in the course of protecting the public health, safety and welfare, its police powers to regulate the use of the public rights-of-way in a reasonable, competitively neutral and non discriminatory manner; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the laws of the State of Texas and its police powers, legal subdivisions may establish reasonable regulations governing construction activities within and upon the public rights-of-way so to preserve those valuable public resources, maintain the physical integrity of the streets, conserve the limited physical capacity of the public rights-of-way, prevent pedestrian and vehicular traffic hazards, minimize congestion, avoid damage to private property, limit visual blight and noise, and protect the public health, safety and welfare; and

**WHEREAS**, corporate, municipal police power-based regulations applied to management of the public rights-way-way typically include

**COMMISSIONER'S COURT OF THE COUNTY OF ZAPATA, TEXAS, THAT:**

**SECTION I.**  
**GENERAL**

**A. Purpose**

The purpose of this Ordinance is to:

1. Assist in the management of public rights-of-way in a non-discriminatory and competitively neutral manner;
2. Govern the use and occupancy of the rights-of-way by Certificated Telecommunications Providers, cable service providers, electric distribution systems, gas distributions systems and all other persons expressly authorized by legal or State law in construct and maintain facilities in the public rights-of-way.
3. Assure that Zapata can continue to fairly and responsibly protect the public health, safety and welfare and effectively manage its rights-of-way as a vital public resource.

**B. Definitions**

Whenever used in this Ordinance, the following terms as well as their singular, plural, and possessive form, shall have the following definitions and meanings, unless the context of the sentence in which they are used indicates otherwise:

1. “*Cable Service*” means Cable Service as defined in the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984, as amended, 47 U.S.C.A. ‘ 522 et seq.
2. “*Certificated Telecommunications Provider*” or “CTP means a person who has been issued a certificate of convenience and necessity, certificate of operating authority, or service provider certificate of operating authority by the Public Utility Commission of Texas to offer local exchange telephone service.
3. “*District*” means any district or authority created by authority of either Texas Constitution, art. III, § 2(b)(1)-(2), or art. XVI, § 59.
4. “*Facilities*” means any and all of the duct spaces, manholes, lines wires, fibers, poles, conduits, underground and overhead passageways, and other equipment, structures, plant and appurtenances, and all associated transmission media placed in, on, over or under the public rights-of-way, including wires, cables and pipelines.
5. “*Grantee*” means a person that the Zapata has expressly granted the authority to use, occupy and construct facilities with Zapata’s public rights-of-way pursuant to a duly enacted franchise ordinance. The term also includes certificated telecommunications providers, districts and water supply corporations.

6. *“Person”* means a natural person (an individual), corporation, company, association, partnership, firm, limited liability company, joint venture, joint stock company or associations, cooperative, utility, public utility, retail public utility, district, water supply corporation, political subdivision and other such entity.
7. *“Public Rights-of-Way”* or *“Rights-of-Way”* mean the area on, below, above or adjacent to public roadway, highway, street, public sidewalk, alley waterway, or utility easement, in which Zapata has an interest. The term does not include the airwaves above a right-of-way with regard to wireless telecommunications.
8. *“Public Utility”* means a public utility as that term is used in the Public Utility Regulatory Act of 1995, Texas Utilities Code, §11.004, including municipally owned and/or operated utilities.
9. *“Telecommunications Service”* means the rent, sale or lease, of plant, equipment, facilities, or other property for transmission of voice, data, image, graphics and other communications between or among points by wire, fiber optics or other similar facilities, but does not include the provision to the public of any “wireless service,” as defined by law, and does not include long-distance transmissions (inter-LATA and intra-LATA toll transmissions).
10. *“Telecommunications Utility”* means “Telecommunications Utility” as used in the Public Utility Regulatory Act of 1995, Texas Utilities Code, Section 51.002(11).
11. *“Use and Occupancy”* means installations, construction, re-construction, maintenance, or repair, of any facilities in, over, under, along, through or across the Public rights-of-way for any purpose whatsoever.
12. *“Zapata”* means The County of Zapata, a municipal corporation pursuant to Article II, Section 1 of the Texas Constitution and exercising “Type A” municipal powers pursuant to Section 81.033 of the Texas Local Government Code and article 231251 et reg. of Section 2, Chapter 231 of the Texas Local Governmental Code.
13. *“Commissioner Court”* means the governing body of Zapata, Texas.
14. *“Water Supply Corporation”* means a nonprofit water supply or sewer service corporation created or operating under Texas Water Code Chapter 67.

**C. Non-discrimination and Competitive Neutrality**

Zapata hereby recognizes that it has the legal duty to ensure that it will not create physical or economic barriers to any Grantee attempting to enter the market, and to ensure that all Zapata regulations are imposed in a competitively neutral manner.

**D. Governing Law**

This Ordinance shall be construed in accordance with the other Zapata ordinances in effect on the date of passage of this Ordinance and as may be amended from time to time to the extent that such Ordinance is not in conflict with or in violation of the Constitution and laws of the United States or the State of Texas.

**SECTION II  
FRANCHISE REQUIRED**

**A. General**

No person shall use, occupy or construct Facilities in, upon, over or under Zapata’s public rights-of-way, without first having applied for and received a franchise or other authorization unless otherwise provided by law.

**B. Certificated Telecommunications Providers**

Pursuant to Texas Local Government Code Chapter 283, a CTP is not required to obtain a franchise. A CTP is subject to all other provisions of this Ordinance.

**SECTION III  
REGISTRATION OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY OCCUPANTS**

**A. Registration Required**

1. No person shall use, maintain, operate, occupy or construct Facilities in, upon, over, or under Zapata’s public rights-of-way without having registered with Zapata in accordance with the following provisions. In order to protect the public health, safety and welfare, all persons using or occupying the rights-of-way will register with Zapata. Registration will be issued in the name of the person or legal entity who will own the facilities. Registration must be renewed every five (5) years. If a registration is not renewed, subject to 60-day notification to the owner, the facilities of the user will be deemed to have been abandoned.
2. Persons possessing a current franchise issued by Zapata do not need to register under this section.

**B. Required Information**

Registration shall be on a form prescribed by Zapata and shall include:

1. The name of the user of the rights-of-way;

2. The name, address and telephone number of the people who will be the contact person(s) for the user;
3. The name, address and telephone number of any and all contractors or subcontractors who will be working in the rights-of-way on behalf of the user,
4. The name(s) and telephone number of an emergency contact who shall be available twenty-four (24) hours a day;
5. Proof of insurance, as specified in Section V, subsection B.
6. When any information provided in the registration changes, the user shall inform Zapata of the change no more than thirty (30) days after the date the change is made.

**SECTION IV.**  
**CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS**

**A. Rights-of-Way Construction Permits**

1. No person shall excavate, contract, install, repair or maintain facilities in, upon, over, or under Zapata's public rights-of-way or affect traffic flow without first having applied for and received a non-exclusive rights-of-way construction permit from Zapata in accordance with the following provisions. Persons, including Grantees are required to obtain a rights-of-way construction permit prior to conducting land disturbing activities for any reason in the public rights-of-way.
2. A permit shall not be required for the installation of facilities necessary to initiate service to a customer's property, or repair or maintenance of existing facilities unless such repair or maintenance requires the breaking of pavement; the closure of a nonresidential traffic lane; excavation or boring.
3. No permit shall be issued unless the Grantee has registered with Zapata, as provided by Section III, above.
4. The rights-of-way construction permits shall be available without charge and shall not be unreasonable delayed or withheld by Zapata.
5. On a form prescribed by Zapata, the Grantee shall provide the following information in order to apply for a rights-of-way construction permit.
  - (a) The name of the Grantee;

- (b) The name, address and telephone number of the contact person(s) for the Grantee;
  - (c) The name, address and telephone number of any and all contractors or subcontractors performing the work;
  - (d) A detailed description of the project, duration of the project, location of the desired work, erosion control plan, and proposal for land closures, if any; and
  - (e) Proof of insurance and a surety bond, as specified in Section V, subsections B & C.
6. A copy of the permit and engineering plans shall be maintained at the construction site and made available for inspection by Zapata at all times when construction or installation work is occurring.
  7. If any of the provisions of this Ordinance are not followed, a permit may be revoked by the County Judge or Judge's designee. If a person has not followed the terms and conditions of this Ordinance and the work done pursuant to a prior permit, new permits may be denied or additional terms required.
  8. Appeal from denial or revocation of permit or from the decision of the County Judge or the Judge's designee shall be to Commissioner's Court. Appeal shall be filed with the County Clerk within fifteen (15) calendars days from the date of the decision being appealed.

**B. Construction and Maintenance of Facilities**

1. Underground facilities installed by Grantee in areas of new development in Zapata shall be under construction within sixty (60) days of a Developer's request and assurance that the site is ready for utility installation. Grantee shall maintain good faith efforts toward completion of the installation of facilities. Surface equipment may be installed at any time provided no excessive damage in infrastructure occurs.
2. Final or record plats of approved subdivisions may be obtained from Zapata. When any final or record plat has been signed by the property owner and approved by Zapata, a Grantee may begin Construction and installation of facilities in the utility easements as depicted in the final or record plat.
3. Pursuant to the laws of the State of Texas and this Ordinance, Grantee has the non-exclusive right and privilege to use and occupy the public rights-of-way in Zapata for the purpose of maintaining and operating its facilities subject to the terms, conditions, and stipulations set forth in this Ordinance, the Constitution and



laws of the United States and the State of Texas and Zapata's ordinances to the extent such Ordinances are not in conflict herewith.

4. Grantee's facilities and transmission media used in or incident to the provision of services and to the maintenance of a business by Grantee in Zapata shall remain as now constructed, subject to such changes under the conditions prescribed in this Ordinance as may be considered necessary to protect the public health and safety, and such changes and extensions as may be considered necessary by Grantee in the pursuit of its business. Grantee shall at all times during the term of this Ordinance be subject to all lawful exercise of the police power by Zapata in the operation and maintenance of the public rights-of-way. The terms of the Ordinance shall apply throughout Zapata and shall apply to all of Grantee's facilities.
5. The permitted working hours in the rights-of-way are 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Work that needs to be performed after 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday must be approved by Zapata in advance. Any work performed on Saturday must be approved twenty-four (24) hours in advance by Zapata. Directional boring is permitted only Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., unless approved in advance. Now work will be done, except for emergencies, on Sundays or legal holidays, unless approved in advance.

**C. Location of Facilities**

All facilities shall be constructed, installed and located in accordance with the following terms and condition:

1. All telephone lines, cables, wires and pipelines in Zapata's public rights-of-way are required by this Ordinance to be placed underground. Any and all of the Grantee's lines, cables, wires and pipes installed after the effective date of this Ordinance shall be buried. Grantee shall install its facilities within its existing underground duct or conduit whenever excess capacity exists within such facility. In areas of new construction and development within Zapata, Grantee shall install and occupy underground conduit or ducts.
2. Grantee shall use best efforts install its facilities within its existing underground duct or conduit whenever excess capacity exists within such facility.
3. Grantees are hereby charged with the knowledge that Zapata has reconstructed roads and streets with Zapata for the past nine (9) years. Certain Grantees have installed road crossing sleeves prior to reconstruction in an effort to reduce future road crossing cuts. Zapata will continue the program of reconstruction for the remaining approximately 9,000 linear feet of roadway yet to be improved in Zapata. Designated Grantees intending to occupy the rights-of-way along these improved roadways shall be required to place road crossing sleeves in designated

locations in order to lessen the likelihood of road cuts on the newly constructed roads.

**D. Damage to Property**

Grantee, or any person acting on Grantee's behalf, shall not take any action or permit any action to be done which may impair or damage any Zapata property or other property located in, on or adjacent to the public rights-of-way. Nothing in this Ordinance relieves a Grantee, or any other person or entity from its obligations to locate underground facilities before excavation as required by the Underground Facility Damage Prevention and Safety Act, Texas Utilities code, section 251.001, et seq. (Vernon. Supp. 1999).

**E. Notice of Repair and Emergency Work**

Grantee, or any person acting on Grantee's behalf, shall not commence any work in or about Zapata property or public rights-of-way without providing seven (7) days advance notice to Zapata. If an emergency exists which makes advance notification impossible, the Grantee may begin that response or repair work, or take any action required under the circumstances, provided that notice to Zapata is given as promptly as possible after beginning the work, and Grantee acquires any approval required by Zapata ordinances applicable to emergency response work.

**F. Maintenance of Facilities**

Grantee shall maintain its facilities in good and safe conditions and in a manner that complies with all applicable law.

**G. Relocation or Removal of Facilities**

1. Grantee may not locate or maintain its Facilities so as to unreasonably interfere with the use of Zapata property or public rights-of-way by Zapata or by other persons authorized to use or be present in or upon Zapata property or public rights-of-way. In the event of unreasonable interference to County property or public rights-of-way, such Facilities shall be moved by Grantee, temporarily or permanently, as determined by the Zapata County Judge or the Judge's designee upon reasonable notice. If the temporary removal of Grantee's aerial facilities is necessary to permit the moving of houses or other bulky structures, Grantee shall be required to temporarily remove the same upon not less than twenty (20) days advance notice by a party permitted to move a building, house or other bulky structure. Upon a showing that twenty (20) days does not afford a Grantee adequate time to arrange removal of facilities, the parties shall agree upon a schedule which shall not unreasonably delay the moving of houses or other bulky structures. The expenses of such temporary relocation or removal of aerial facilities shall be paid in advance by the party or parties requesting and benefitting from such temporary relocation or removal.

2. Within ninety (90) days following written notice from Zapata, or a mutually agreed upon time frame, Grantee shall, without claim for reimbursement or damages against Zapata, temporarily or permanently remove, relocate, change or alter the position of any facilities on Zapata property or within the public rights-of-way whenever Zapata officials determine that such removal, relocation or alteration is reasonably required for the widening or straightening of streets.
3. In any instance in which the operation of Subsection 1 of this Section is deemed by Grantee to impose a significant financial hardship, Grantee shall have the right to present alternative proposals to Zapata, and Zapata shall give due consideration to any such alternative proposals.
4. If after proper notice, Grantee fails or refuses to remove or abate the facilities in question, Zapata retains the rights and privilege to remove or abate any such utility facilities, at the sole cost and expense of Grantee. In performing or permitting such work to be done, Zapata shall not be liable to any carrier or any Grantee for any damages to any utility facilities.

**H. Emergency Removal or Relocation of Facilities**

Zapata retains the right and privilege to cut or move any facilities located on Zapata property or within the public rights-of-way that Zapata may determine to be necessary, appropriate or useful in response to any public health or safety emergency. Zapata shall cooperate to the extent possible with Grantee in such instances to assure continuity of service, and to afford Grantee the opportunity to make such relocation and/or removal itself where deemed reasonable, at Zapata's sole discretion. Zapata shall use all reasonable means to minimize the disruption of service.

**I. Restoration of Public Rights-of-Way and Zapata County Property**

1. When Grantee, or any person acting on its behalf, does any work in or affecting any public rights-of-way or Zapata property, it shall at its own expense, promptly remove any obstructions and restore such public rights-of-way or Zapata property to as good a condition as existed before the work was undertaken, including the compaction of all trench fill material in accordance with applicable regional standards. Soil testing shall be undertaken at all street crossings and as requested by Zapata inspectors, and as is required of all other users of the public rights-of-way.
2. Grantee shall replace and properly relay and repair the surface, base, irrigation system and landscape treatment of any public rights-of-way that may be excavated or damaged by reason of the erection, construction, maintenance, or repair of the Grantee's facilities within thirty (30) calendar days after completion of the work in accordance with existing standards of Zapata in effect at the time of the work.

3. If weather or other conditions do not permit the complete restoration required by this Section, Grantee shall temporarily restore the affected rights-of-way or property. Such temporary restoration shall be at Grantee's sole expense and Grantee shall promptly undertake and complete the required permanent restoration when the weather or other conditions no longer prevent such permanent restoration.
4. Grantee shall contain all sediment within the work area using erosion control measures and erosion-limiting construction techniques. Grantee shall submit a construction erosion control plan with all permit applications. All construction materials shall be cleared from rights-of-way by the end of every business day. A waiver may be granted for this requirement.
5. Grantee or other person acting on its behalf shall use suitable barricades, flags, flagmen, lights, flares and other measures as required for the safety of all members of the general public and to prevent injury or damage to any person, vehicle or property by reason of such work in or affecting such rights-of-way or property.

**J. Plans of Record**

1. Within sixty (60) days of completion of each new permitted section of Grantee facilities, the Grantee shall supply Zapata with a complete set of built plans of record for the new permitted section in a format used in the ordinary course of business of the Grantee's business, to the extent they are prepared in the ordinary course of business, but excluding customer specific, proprietary confidential information and as reasonable prescribed by Zapata, and as allowed by law. The County may, at its discretion, accept any reasonable alternative to as built plans of record which provides adequate information as to the location of Facilities in the public rights-of-way.
2. Grantee shall maintain maps of all Grantee's facilities located on Zapata property or within the public rights-of-way and shall promptly locate its Facilities at Zapata's request.

**K. Duty to Provide Information**

Within twenty (20) days of a written request from the Zapata County Judge or the Judge's representatives, Grantee shall furnish Zapata with information directly related to the Grantee's use, occupancy or construction within or upon a public rights-of-way and as otherwise required by state law to be furnished to Zapata.

**SECTION V**  
**CONDITIONS OF GRANT**

**A. Indemnity**

1. The Grantee shall, at its sole cost and expense, indemnify, defend and hold harmless Zapata, its officers, boards, commissions, agents and employees, against and from any and all claims, demands, causes of actions, suits, proceedings, damages liabilities and judgments of every kind arising out of or due to the Grantee's construction, maintenance, or operation of a system in the County, including but not limited to damages for injury or death or damages to property, real or personal, and against all liabilities to others and against all loss, cost and expense, resulting or arising out of any of the same.
2. The indemnity provided by this Subsection does **not** apply to any liability resulting from the negligence of the Zapata, its officers, employees, contractors, or subcontractors. If a Grantee and Zapata are found jointly liable by a court of competent jurisdiction, liability shall be apportioned comparatively in accordance with the laws of this state without, however, waiving any governmental immunity available to Zapata under state or federal law and without waiving any defenses of the parties under state or federal law. This Section is solely for the benefit of Zapata and Grantee and does not create or grant any rights, contractual or otherwise, to any other person or entity.
3. Grantee or Zapata shall promptly advise the other in writing of any known claim or demand against the Grantee or Zapata related to or arising out of the Grantee's activities in a public rights-of-way.

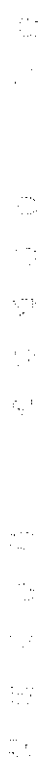
**B. Grantee Insurance**

1. Each Grantee shall secure and maintain the following liability insurance policies.
  - a. General liability insurance with limits not less than:
    - (2) One Million and No/100 Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) primary; and
    - (3) One Million and No/100 Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) umbrella or other securities as acceptable to the County Judge or his designee.
  - b. Worker's compensation for Grantee's employees within statutory limits.
  - c. The liability insurance policies required by this Section shall be maintained by Grantee throughout the term during which Grantee is otherwise operating within public rights-of-way, or is engaged in the removal of its facilities.

2. Such liability insurance shall be kept in full force and effect by the Grantee during the existence of this franchise and thereafter for a period of not less than twelve (12) months.
3. Unless otherwise precluded by law, Grantee may satisfy one or more of the insurance requirements specified in this Section through self-insurance. In no event shall a self-insurance proposal be approved absent Zapata's satisfaction that Grantee is in a sound financial condition, which shall be evidenced by a letter of self-insurance to be provided to the Zapata.

**C. Bonds**

1. The Zapata County Judge or the Judge's designee may waive the requirement of a bond, if Grantee is able to demonstrate financial responsibility by having assets in excess of amount determined appropriate by the Judge. In the event the Judge determines a bond is required, due to insufficient assets or a demonstration that the Grantee is not adequately or promptly fulfilling its responsibilities in the public rights-of-way, it shall meet the requirements of this section.
2. To the extent not maintained by an affiliate, Grantee shall annually obtain, maintain and file with Zapata, a corporate surety bond with a surety company authorized to do business in the State of Texas, and found acceptable by the Zapata County Attorney, in the amount of seventy-Five Thousand and No/100 Dollars (\$75,000.00), or of the estimated amount of the value of work anticipated to be done in that year, whichever is greater, to guarantee the restoration of the rights-of-way in the event the Grantee leaves a job site in the rights-of-way unfinished, incomplete, unsafe or unreasonable delays the completion of the construction. Grantee shall provide this corporate surety bond within thirty (30) days of the issuance of a permit under this Ordinance but prior to commencement of construction. Should a Grantee without a bond in place leave a job site in the rights-of-way unfinished, incomplete, unsafe or unreasonably delays the completion of construction, Grantee will pay the actual cost of restoring the rights-of-way, plus an administrative fee to reimburse the County the cost of overseeing any such restoration.
3. The rights reserved to Zapata with respect to the Bond are in addition to all other rights of the County, whether reserved by this Ordinance or authorized by law; and no action, proceeding or exercise of a right with respect to such bond shall affect any other right the County may have.
4. The bond shall contain the following endorsement:  
  
"It is hereby understood and agreed that this bond may not be canceled by the surety nor any intention not to renew be exercised by the surety until sixty (60) days after the receipt by Zapata by registered mail, of written notice of such intent."



**D. Assignments of Transfers of Business**

Zapata requires Grantee to maintain a current point of contact information and provide notice of a transfer or assignment of business ownership or control.

**E. Notice**

- 1. All notices to Zapata shall be in writing via certified mail, return receipt requested:  
  
 County Judge  
 County of Zapata  
 200 East 7<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
 Zapata, Texas 78076
- 2. All notices to Grantee shall be in writing via certified mail, return receipt requested, to the contact person and address provided by Grantee to Zapata upon execution of this Ordinance. Notice shall be deemed effective when mailed to the most recent address provided by Grantee to Zapata.
- 3. Any change in address, telephone number, fax number or e-mail of Grantee or Zapata shall be furnished to the other within a reasonable time.

**SECTION VI  
ADMINISTRATION OF ORDINANCE**

- A. Zapata may, at reasonable times but not more than once annually, unless there is good cause, make inquiries pertaining to compliance with this Ordinance and Grantee shall respond to such inquiries on a timely basis.
- B. Zapata may establish, after reasonable notice, such rules and regulations as may be appropriate for the administration of this Ordinance in the construction of Grantee's facilities on Zapata property to the extent permitted by law.
- C. Zapata shall have the right to lay, and permit to be laid, cable, electric, gas, water, wastewater, and other pipelines, cables conduits or facilities and to do and permit to be done, underground and overhead installation in, across, along, over or under any street, alley, highway, public right-of-way or public property occupied by the Grantee and to change any curb or sidewalk or grade of any street.

**SECTION VII  
ENFORCEMENT**

**A. Civil and Criminal Penalties**

Zapata shall have the power to administer and enforce the provisions of this Ordinance as may be required by governing law. Any person violating any provision of this Ordinance is subject to suit for injunctive relief as well as prosecution for criminal violations. Any violation of this Ordinance is hereby declared to be a nuisance.

**C. Criminal Prosecution**

Any person violating any provision of this Ordinance shall, upon conviction, be fined a sum not exceeding \$2,000.00. Each day that a provision of this Ordinance is violated shall constitute a separate offense. An offense under this Ordinance is a misdemeanor.

**D. Civil Remedies**

Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed as a waiver of Zapata's rights to bring a civil action to enforce the provisions of this Ordinance and to seek remedies as allowed by law, including, but not limited to the following:

1. Injunctive relief to prevent specific conduct that violates the Ordinance or to require specific conduct that is necessary for compliance with the Ordinance; and
2. A civil penalty up to \$2,000.00 a day when it is shown that defendant was actually notified of the provisions of the Ordinance and after receiving notice committed acts in violation of the Ordinance or failed to take action necessary for compliance with the Ordinance; and
3. Other available relief.

**SECTION VIII  
REPEALER**

**A. General**

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in force when the provisions of this Ordinance become effective which are inconsistent or in conflict with the terms and provisions contained in this Ordinance are hereby repealed only to the extent of any such conflict.

**B. Franchises**

Should all or part of this Ordinance be inconsistent or conflict with a specific franchise ordinance adopted by Zapata, the two shall be read together to the extent possible,



otherwise specific provisions contained within the franchise ordinance shall govern as to that particular Grantee.

**C. Amendments**

Grantees shall, at all times, be subject to the lawful exercise of Zapata County's police power and regulatory authority and such reasonable and authorized regulations as the County shall hereafter by resolution or Ordinance provide.

**SECTION IX  
SEVERABILITY**

It is hereby declared to be the intention of Commissioner's Court that the phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs and sections of this Ordinance be severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph or section of this Ordinance is declared unconstitutional by the judgment or decree of any court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs or sections of this Ordinance, and the remainder of this Ordinance shall be enforced as written.

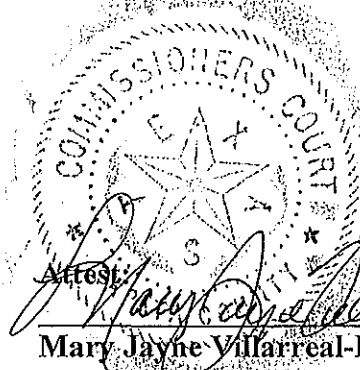
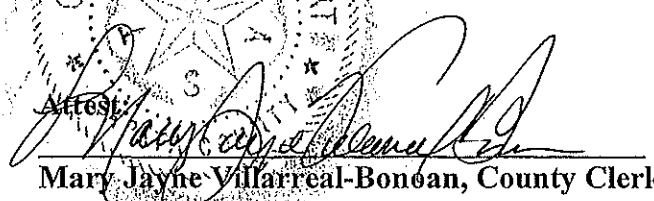
**SECTION X  
EFFECTIVE DATE**

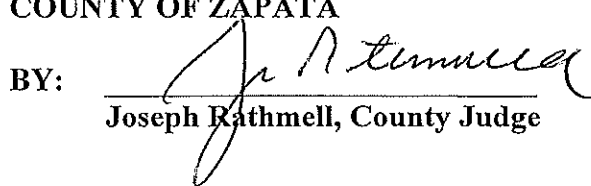
This Ordinance shall take effect immediately from and after the date of passage.

**SECTION XI  
PROPER NOTICE AND MEETING**

It is hereby officially found and determined that the meeting at which this Ordinance was passed was open to the public as required and that public notice of the time, place and purpose of said meeting was given as required by the Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code. Notice was also provided as required by Chapter 52 of the Texas Local Government Code.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 9<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2013, by  
a 5 to 0 vote of the Commissioner's Court of Zapata County, Texas.

  
Attest:   
Mary Jayne Villarreal-Bonean, County Clerk

COUNTY OF ZAPATA  
BY:   
Joseph Rathmell, County Judge