

Update on the Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA)

Chuck Lesniak
Environmental Policy Program Manager
Watershed Protection Department

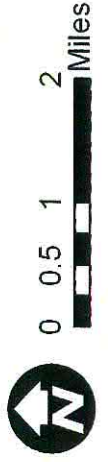
CCAA

- Voluntary, pre-listing agreement for candidate endangered species
- Commitment to implement conservation actions that, if implemented by other parties, **would avoid need to list**
- Prevents delays to covered projects in the event of endangered species listing by:
 - Providing **assurances** no additional obligations will be required at listing
- CCAA isn't required for any City projects to proceed

CCAA

Agreement will cover:

- WTP4 transmission mains
- Other City capitol projects
- City infrastructure O&M
- JPS monitoring and research



Recent Activity

- June 16th public hearing
- Work session with Fish & Wildlife, June 21-24
- Briefings to City Manager and Dept. Directors
- Follow-up meetings with department staff

CoA/FWS Work Session

Discussed:

- Scope of agreement
- NEPA review
- Covered activities
- Conservation measures
- Duration of permit
- Monitoring and reporting
- Schedule

Workshop information posted at:

www.cityofaustin.org/watershed/ccaa_workshop_materials.htm



FWS Work Session: Key Outcomes

- WTP4 measures for JPS protection to be detailed in agreement
- Agreement life = 20 years
- City CIP's to receive enhanced environmental review for JPS impact
- Water quality goals and BMP's to be described in agreement ("Attachment A")
- Annual coordination with local FWS staff

Note: Above items are preliminary and are subject to change.

CCAA NEPA Review

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

- Categorical exclusion/EA/EIS
- Review of CCAA action
- Action vs. No-Action alternatives
- FWS document

Proposed Schedule

July-November 2010

- Work on detail of covered activities and conservation measures
- Additional discussions with FWS
- Develop draft agreement & NEPA EA
- Env. Board briefing and public outreach
- Council resolution authorizing application
- Formal application to USFWS

Proposed Schedule

- Nov. '10 – Jan. '11: Review by USFWS
- Jan. – Mar. 2011: Publish in Federal Register and public comment period (60 days)
- Mar. – July 2011: FWS final review and approval
- **July 2011**: Council approval of final agreement

Note: Covered City projects to continue on schedule independent of CCAA schedule

WTP4 Environmental Commissioning

Chuck Lesniak
Watershed Protection Department



Recent Activities

- Transmission route and shaft locations
- TM groundwater assessment
- CCAA
- Design reviews
 - Raw water tunnel, intake, and transmission main
 - Phase 1A (plant roads, retaining walls, utilities)
- New EC Coordinator – Thais Perkins

Groundwater Assessment

- Conceptual model complete
- Numeric model underway
- Work suspended due to loss of B&V staff
- Daniel B. Stephens & Assoc. hired to complete work
- Work expected to be complete in 3-4 months
- Park shaft will be broken out and review accelerated

Upcoming EC Activities

- Large number of plans coming in this month - Pump station, all remaining plant facilities
- Review plant construction chemicals (paints, solvents, sealants, etc.)
- Transmission mains
 - Shaft groundwater BMP's
 - Groundwater assessment
 - Water quality monitoring protocols
 - Tunnel water discharge handling and standards
- CCAA