

**ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY  
November 3, 2010**



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**The Environmental Board convened in a public hearing meeting on Wednesday November 3, 2010, City Council Chambers. At 301 W. Second Street, Austin, Texas 78701**

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Bob Anderson, Jon Beall, Eva Hernandez, Mary Gay Maxwell, Mary Ann Neely & James Schissler

**Staff in Attendance:**

Brad Jackson, Jean Drew, Mitzi Cotton, Erin Wood, Matt Hollon, Jane Burazer, Paul Shropshire, Ingrid McDonald, Scott Hiers, and Pat Murphy

**Others in attendance:** Tom Weber, Travis County TNR.

**CALL TO ORDER**

**The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m.**

**1. SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

**Recognition of Distinguished Service on Environmental Board to  
Phil Moncada**

Victoria Li, Director of the Watershed Protection Department:

**Victoria Li presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. Moncada**

The Environmental Board members:

**The Environmental Board members presented a special card to  
Phil Moncada.**

Watershed Protection Department staff:

**Pat Murphy, Environmental Officer spoke about**

**Phil Moncada's many contributions to Citizens of Austin and City of Austin staff.**

## **2. CITIZENS COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

Speaker should sign up to speak prior to the meeting called to order; you will receive a three-minute allotment to address your concerns regarding items not posted on the agenda.

- **Roy Waley representative of the Austin Sierra Club signed up to speak on behalf of Phil Moncada's service to the citizens of Austin.**
- **Jeremy R. Walker signed up to speak in favor of item 4a Formula One United States.**
- **Joe Raymond signed up to speak in favor of item 4a Formula One United States.**
- **Ben Schotz signed up to speak in favor of item 4a Formula One United States.**
- **Sondra Sondregger signed up to speak in favor of item 4a Formula One United States.**
- **Matt Sager signed up to speak in favor of item 4a Formula One United States.**
- **Vance Facundo signed up to speak in favor of item 4a Formula One United States.**
- **Jack McCauky signed up to speak in favor of item 4a Formula One United States.**
- **Manijeh Huerreca signed up to speak in opposition to item 4a Formula One United States.**
- **Paul Robbins signed up in opposition to item 4a Formula One United States and donated his time to Chris Lehmann.**
- **Roy Waley signed up and donated his time to Chris Lehmann**
- **Chris Lehmann signed up to speak in opposition to item 4a Formula One United States.**
- **Stefan Wray signed up to speak in opposition of item 4a Formula One United States.**
- **Pam Thompson signed up to speak in opposition to item 4a Formula One United States.**
- **Todd Wroblenski signed up to speak in opposition to item 4a Formula One United States.**
- **Richard Franklin signed up to speak in opposition to item 4a Formula One United States.**

## **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND ACTION ITEMS**

- a. Approve the minutes of the Environmental Board meeting on October 20, 2010  
**The minutes for the Environmental Board regular meeting on October 20, 2010 approved on Board member James Schissler's motion and Board member Bob Anderson's second. [Vote 6-0] Board member Robin Gary was absent.**

- b. Presentation and action on Eastern Suburban Watershed regulations in the Desired Development Zone – Matt Hollon, Watershed Protection Department.

**The Environmental Board recommends a resolution to Planning Commission and City Council on the Eastern Watershed regulations in the Desired Development Zone.**

**Recommendation Approved: [VOTE 6-0]**

**Motioned by Board member Mary Gay Maxwell, and seconded by Board member Mary Ann Neely. Board member Robin Gary was absent. See attached motion.**

#### **4. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- a. **Name:** Formula One United States – SP-2010-0245.01D

**Applicant:** Armbrust & Brown, LLP (Agent- Richard Suttle)

**Location:** 12700-1/2 FM 812 Road

**Staff Person:** Brad Jackson, Planning and Development Review Department

**Request:**

1. Land Development Code 25-8-341 to allow cut up to a maximum of 36 feet for racetrack construction.
2. Land Development Code 25-8-342 to allow fill up to a maximum of 26 feet for racetrack construction.
3. Land Development Code 25-8-302 to allow construction on slopes for racetrack construction.

**Watershed:** Dry Creek East and Maha Creek (Desired Development Zone)

**Recommendation:** Recommended with conditions.

**Recommendation Approved: [VOTE 6-0]**

**Motioned by Board member James Schissler, and seconded by Board member Bob Anderson. Board member Robin Gary was absent. See attached motion.**

#### **5. STAFF BRIEFINGS AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

- a. Briefing on;
  - 1) The location and number of wells within the Spicewood Springs area, and;
  - 2) The public notification protocol for wastewater spills.  
Raj Bhattarai, and Paul Shropshire, Austin Water Utility.

**This item was conducted as posted. The Environmental Board requested a staff briefing at a future Board meeting about the Master plan, moving forward and timeframes and using reclaimed water for irrigation systems.**

## **6. OLD BUSINESS AND REPORTS**

- 1) Update on the Joint Environmental/Parks Board Subcommittee –Mary Gay Maxwell, Jon Beall & Mary Ann Neely.  
**Board member Mary Gay Maxwell report that a meeting is scheduled in November 2010.**
- 2) Urban Growth Policy subcommittee Mary Gay Maxwell, & James Schissler, P. E.  
**This item was posted and present on tonight's agenda.**
- 3) Water Treatment Plant #4 subcommittee – Mary Gay Maxwell, Chair, Jon Beall & Mary Ann Neely.  
**Mary Gay Maxwell reported that a subcommittee meeting will be scheduled within the next two weeks. Board member Bob Anderson will be added to this subcommittee.**
- 4) Development Subcommittee – Bob Anderson, Chair, Mary Gay Maxwell & James Schissler.  
**No report this week.**
- 5) Water Quality Regulations subcommittee – Mary Ann Neely, Chair, and Robin Gary.  
**Board member Eva Hernandez will be added to this subcommittee.**
- 6) Reports from Board representative to other committees.  
**No report this week.**

## **7. NEW BUSINESS - Future agenda items:**

The Environment Board requested a presentation from the Austin Water Utility regarding Master plan, moving forward and timeframes and using reclaimed water for irrigation systems.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

**Meeting adjourned at 9:15 P. M.**



## **ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MOTION EB1103104a**

Date: November 3, 2010

Subject: Formula One United States SP-2010-0245.01D

Motioned By: James Schissler

Seconded By: Bob Anderson

### **Recommendation**

The Environmental Board recommends approval with conditions to a variance request to Land Development Codes:

1. Land Development Code 25-8-341 to allow cut up to a maximum of 36 feet for racetrack construction.
2. Land Development Code 25-8-342 to allow fill up to a maximum of 26 feet for racetrack construction.
3. Land Development Code 25-8-302 to allow construction on slopes for racetrack construction.

### **Staff Conditions:**

1. Areas of cut and fill will be revegetated with no greater than a 3:1 slope or be structurally contained.
2. The development will utilize 19 sediment traps strategically dispersed throughout the areas of cut and fill to catch runoff and allow sediment to settle out, and construct a roadway embankment across the site specifically designed to act as a sediment dike, protecting dry creek from any sediment that might bypass the sediment traps.
3. The development will construct structurally reinforced grass parking areas that will be vegetated with a native grass mix of Buffalo Grass and Blue Gama.
4. The development will provide 1.17 acres of enhancement to an existing wetland Critical Environmental Feature (Pond B).
5. The development will plant 250 inches of class I, native trees.

### **Board Conditions:**

1. The applicant will work with City of Austin staff to analyze how this project can comply with the new Commercial land Landscape standards investigate compliance with the new Landscape Ordinance parking lots and irrigation.
2. Will work with City of Austin to comply with the parking lot shading areas.

3. The applicant will work with staff to investigate the restoration of riparian of Dry Creek.
4. The applicant choose selected areas to demonstrate a black land prairie land restoration
5. The applicant will work with City of Austin staff to establish a monitoring program the previous pavement they will be using.

**Rationale**

Project of this size and complexity requires variances from the above regulations to ensure the safety of the drivers and spectators, to meet the requirements of the International Automobile Federation for racetrack safety, and to meet the Austin Water Quality requirements.

**Vote 6-0-0-1**

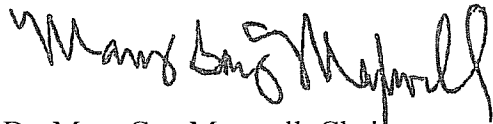
For: Anderson, Beall, Hernandez, Maxwell, Neely and Schissler

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Robin Gary

Approved By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Gay Maxwell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mary" and last name "Maxwell" being the most legible parts.

Dr. Mary Gay Maxwell, Chair



## ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD MOTION

Date: November 3, 2010

Subject: Urban Growth Policy Subcommittee/Water Quality Regulations Subcommittee

Motioned By: Mary Gay Maxwell

Seconded By: Mary Ann Neely

### Recommendation

The Environmental Board strongly recommends that the attached resolution be adopted and implemented in a timely manner in anticipation of future growth and development patterns in the City of Austin's Desired Development Zone (DDZ) and eastern Travis County.

### Staff Conditions:

Not Applicable.

### Rationale

Our goal is to help provide direction for City staff to ensure that our Land Development Code and associated criteria manuals promote high quality, sustainable development in a way that best accommodates future growth while protecting the prairie streams, floodplains, and rolling hills in these unique eastern watersheds. Improved environmental protection and development standards will enhance and protect these fragile watersheds, prevent unnecessary future public expense, and increase the quality of life in an area that has been degraded due to past development activity and historic uses.

**Vote:** 6-0-0-1

For: Anderson, Beall, Hernandez, Maxwell, Neely and Schissler

Against:

Abstain:

Absent: Robin Gary

Approved By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Gay Maxwell".

Dr. Mary Gay Maxwell, Chair

## **RESOLUTION NO. EB1103105b**

**WHEREAS**, the Environmental Board works in an advisory capacity to provide recommendations to the City Council and Planning Commission as it relates to environmental regulations; and

**WHEREAS**, the “Suburban” watersheds in the Desired Development Zone (DDZ) are unique watersheds with erosive clay soils, expansive floodplains, and historic agricultural land uses; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Austin has the responsibility to ensure that future development activity will not increase impacts to public and private property from flooding and stream erosion or create additional public expense and environmental degradation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Suburban watersheds comprise over one-half of the City of Austin’s jurisdiction and fully three-quarters of its remaining undeveloped land and are likely to experience a significant share of the projected 750,000 new residents and associated growth anticipated over the next 30 years; and

**WHEREAS**, the construction of State Highway 130 has increased the potential for accelerated growth in the Suburban watersheds; and

**WHEREAS**, existing regulations for Suburban watersheds do not provide sufficient protection of headwater streams, resulting in: reduced creek health, increased infrastructure maintenance costs, and loss of opportunity for greenway and trail connectivity; and

**WHEREAS**, the broad, alluvial floodplains comprise approximately one-sixth of all land in the Suburban watersheds and thus are more likely to be modified or channelized due to their unique topography and soil types than the narrower floodplains in the Drinking Water Protection Zone to the west; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2001 Watershed Protection Master Plan, approved by Council, called for improvements to stream setback regulations and drainage design criteria; and

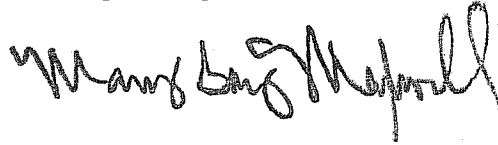
**WHEREAS**, Gilleland Creek and its associated tributaries, which comprise approximately 75 square miles and one-fifth of Austin’s Suburban watershed land area, have been designated to be in non-attainment by Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for high levels of bacteria, creating the need for additional measures to address development impacts in these watersheds; **NOW THEREFORE**,

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF AUSTIN ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD**, that the Board recommends that the City Council and/or Planning Commission authorize the City Manager to initiate Land Development Code (LDC) and associated criteria manual changes to accomplish the following goals:

1. Improve stream buffer requirements, including critical headwater areas, to protect water quality and reduce erosion, flooding, and long-range costs for infrastructure maintenance.
2. Promote, encourage and/or require the preservation and restoration of floodplains and stream buffers as well as the beneficial re-purposing of mining quarries.



3. Explore opportunities to encourage a development pattern that better protects public and private property, preserves floodplains, creeks, and open spaces, and provides access and connectivity with greenways and trails.
4. Improve permanent stormwater controls to better moderate runoff and help reduce streambank erosion.
5. Explore better ways to regulate the modification of floodplains, including options for off-site mitigation for developments in areas that are planned for higher density developments.
6. Simplify development rules where possible.
7. Work in coordination with Travis County and neighboring communities to develop the above changes.



**ADOPTED:** November 3, 2010

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

Dr. Mary Gay Maxwell

Environmental Board Chair

