

City of West Lake Hills

Dave Claunch, Mayor

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January 11, 2012

via electronic mail and U.S. mail

Mayor Lee Leffingwell
City of Austin
301 W. 2nd Street, 3rd Floor
Austin, Texas 78701

RE: Request for Consideration of Amendment to Wholesale Wastewater Contract

Dear Mayor Leffingwell:

I am appreciative to have recently learned that the City of Austin's Wastewater Commission and the Environmental Board will each be considering a possible amendment to the Wholesale Wastewater Contract (to which both of our cities are a party) that would allow new commercial development to connect to the West Lake Hills wastewater system in very specific, strict circumstances.

As you and I have discussed previously, it is much better for the two properties that would be affected by such a change to connect to our wastewater system rather than being served by on-site septic systems, especially since the properties are located in the Contributing Zone for the Edward's Aquifer, and the City of Austin's Water Quality Protection Zone. The two properties are also located in the watershed for Eanes Creek, which empties directly into Lady Bird Lake. The septic drain field for one of the properties would be partially located in the floodplain of Eanes Creek. West Lake Hills has given both properties some level of approval for development, and if the contract is not amended, the properties will be developed with on-site septic systems. My City Council has indicated that it would prefer to have both developments connected to our wastewater system, but we are currently not able to connect them due to the terms of the Wholesale Wastewater Contract.

Please contact me with any questions you may have. I look forward to speaking on this issue during your public hearings. Thank you for your consideration and response.

Respectfully,

Dave Claunch
Mayor

cc: Austin Water and Wastewater Commission Chair Gwendolyn Webb
Austin Environmental Commission Chair Dr. Mary Gay Maxwell
Austin City Manager Marc Ott
Austin Water Utility Business Strategy Manager Bart Jennings
West Lake Hills Wastewater Commission Chair Steve Hudson
West Lake Hills City Administrator Robert J. Wood