

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action (Real Estate)

Austin City Council

Item ID:

24524

Agenda Number

22.

Meeting Date:

June 6, 2013

Department:

Office of Real Estate Services

Subject

Authorize the negotiation and execution of an agreement with HILL COUNTRY CONSERVANCY regarding cooperation on the acquisition of conservation easements, including cost sharing that may include reimbursement of Hill Country Conservancy's costs in connection with acquisition in the amount not to exceed \$50,000.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Capital Budget of the Watershed Protection Department.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is attached.

Purchasing
Language:

Prior Council
Action:

For More
Information: Junie Plummer 974-7085; David Johns 974-2781; Lauraine Rizer 974-7078; Amanda Glasscock, 974-7173.

Boards and
Commission
Action:

MBE / WBE:

Related Items:

Additional Backup Information

The proposed agreement between the Hill Country Conservancy (HCC) and the City will formalize and delineate our cooperative efforts to provide for the conservation of water quality and open space in the Barton Springs Zone, pursuant to the November 6, 2012, Bond Election, Proposition 13.

Strategies used by the City and HCC include the fee title acquisition of land and purchase of conservation easements which limit development rights and require land management practices that are protective of water quantity and quality. The agreement will provide for HCC to negotiate and sign contracts with landowners for the acquisition of property rights for assignment to the City. The City will reimburse HCC for costs incurred by HCC in connection with the transaction, including but not limited to due diligence services, legal fees, survey fees, appraisal fees, and closing costs.

This agreement with HCC will not limit the City's ability to independently negotiate agreements concerning the acquisition of conservation easements, or its ability to work with any other person or entity for acquiring those interests. The City entered into a similar agreement with the HCC in September 2001 and November 2008. The proposed agreement anticipates additional opportunities for the City and HCC to partner for achieving regional open space, water quality, and conservation goals.