

**AGENDA**



**Recommendation for Council Action (Real Estate)**

Austin City Council	Item ID:	24567	Agenda Number	23.
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Meeting Date:	June 6, 2013
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Department:	Office of Real Estate Services
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Subject

Authorize the negotiation and execution of a cooperative agreement with the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION and HILL COUNTRY CONSERVANCY allowing the City to participate in the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program to continue the City's role in preserving land and protecting water quality in conjunction with the November 6, 2012 Bond Election, Proposition 13.

Amount and Source of Funding

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Fiscal Note

There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

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

This Cooperative Agreement is entered into by the United States under the authorities of the Commodity Credit Charter Act, 15, U.S.C. 714 et seq.; Title II, Subtitle E, Section 2401 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008, Public Law 110-234, 16 U.S.C. 3838h and i. In addition to these authorities, this cooperative agreement will be administered in accordance with the policies and procedures set forth in the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) regulation, 7 CFR part 1491. The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) administers the FRPP under the general supervision of the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), who is a Vice President of the CCC.

Section 2401 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to facilitate and provide funding for the purchase of conservation easements that are subject to pending offers from eligible State, Tribal or units of local government or nongovernmental organizations for the purpose of protecting agricultural uses and related conservation values of eligible land by limiting non-agricultural uses of the land. To be eligible, the farm and ranch land must contain prime, unique, or other productive soil; contain historical or archaeological resources or further a State or local policy consistent with the purposes of FRPP.

This agreement allows the City to continue its role in preserving land and protecting water quality, including providing for matching funds with the NRCS. The goal is to further private sector participation in conserving land, and allow both public and private dollars to stretch further. The Cooperative Agreement is the authorizing document that obligates CCC Funds to acquire conservation easements.

Upon completion of a third party appraisal, staff will bring back an action item for authorization and execution of a conservation easement in the amount not to exceed \$2,000,000.