

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	25740	Agenda Number	81.
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Meeting Date:	8/29/2013	Department:	Watershed Protection
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Subject

Set a public hearing to consider an ordinance regarding: (a) repealing and replacing City Code Chapters 25-7 and 30-4 relating to drainage; (b) amending sections of City Code Chapters 25-8, Subchapter A and 30-5 relating to water quality; (c) amending sections of City Code Titles 25 and 30 relating to environmental protection; and (d) establishing water supply and riparian zone mitigation funds. This ordinance will amend Chapter 25-8, Subchapter A, Article 12 (Save Our Springs Initiative). (Suggested date and time: October 3, 2013, 4:00 p.m. at Austin City Hall, 301 West Second Street, Austin, TX.)

Amount and Source of Funding

Fiscal Note

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

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	January 13, 2011 - Council approved Resolution No. 20110113-038 directing the City Manager staff to initiate necessary code amendments to improve stream buffer requirements, protect headwaters and streambanks, preserve floodplains, and improve stormwater controls. December 13, 2012 - Council approved Resolution No. 20121213-066 directing the City Manager to bring forward for Council consideration amendments to City Code Section 25-8-27 (Redevelopment Exception in the Barton Springs Zone) and other sections of the Code that will improve water quality and redevelopment opportunities in the Barton Springs Zone and other areas of the City.
For More Information:	Matt Hollon, 974-2212
Boards and Commission Action:	July 17, 2013 - Unanimously approved by the Environmental Board on a 7 - 0 vote. Recommendation No. 20130717-006A. August 27, 2013 - To be reviewed by the Planning Commission.
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

The proposed ordinance amends Chapters 25-7, 25-8, 30-4, and 30-5 relating to drainage and water quality; amending various sections of Titles 25 and 30 relating to environmental protection, and establishing water supply and riparian zone mitigation funds. Ordinance highlights include: extending headwaters stream buffers citywide; requiring Erosion Hazard Zone protections; guiding floodplain modifications to ensure restoration and offer mitigation; improving water quality control requirements; and updating and improving Planned Unit Development environmental options.

In 1986, the City of Austin passed the Comprehensive Watershed Ordinance. Since this time, much has been learned about best approaches to the protection of waterways, riparian areas, and floodplains. Central lessons have been the need to prevent problems before they are created; and that development activity not increase impacts to public and private property from flooding and stream erosion or create additional public expense and environmental degradation.

The many provisions of the proposed Watershed Protection Ordinance (WPO) are intended to balance environmental protection with development opportunity. Please see the WPO website for more information at: <http://www.austintexas.gov/page/watershed-protection-ordinance-0>