

September 20, 2013

Commissioners
Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission
City of Austin

I am writing to point out two small portions of southeast Austin that were left out of the proposed Hispanic opportunity district # 3 by the group Austinites for Geographic Representation (AGR). These are not large areas by size or population. Because they are on the southeast edge of the city, however, they have no other place to go except into this AGR district or whatever City Council district your Commission determines for southeast Austin.

The attached map shows the southeastern boundary of the Hispanic opportunity district as drawn by AGR. You will see that just to the east of the AGR district are two small areas that are located in Precinct 405 and Census Tract 24.32 (2010). These two areas are south of Burlleson Road and approximately between McKinney Falls Parkway/Thaxton Road and Highway 183. They are not contiguous with any other part of Austin; they are surrounded by Travis County on all but one side. It appears that they should be included in a City Council district because the upper area is within the city limits and the lower area is within the limited purpose jurisdiction of the city.

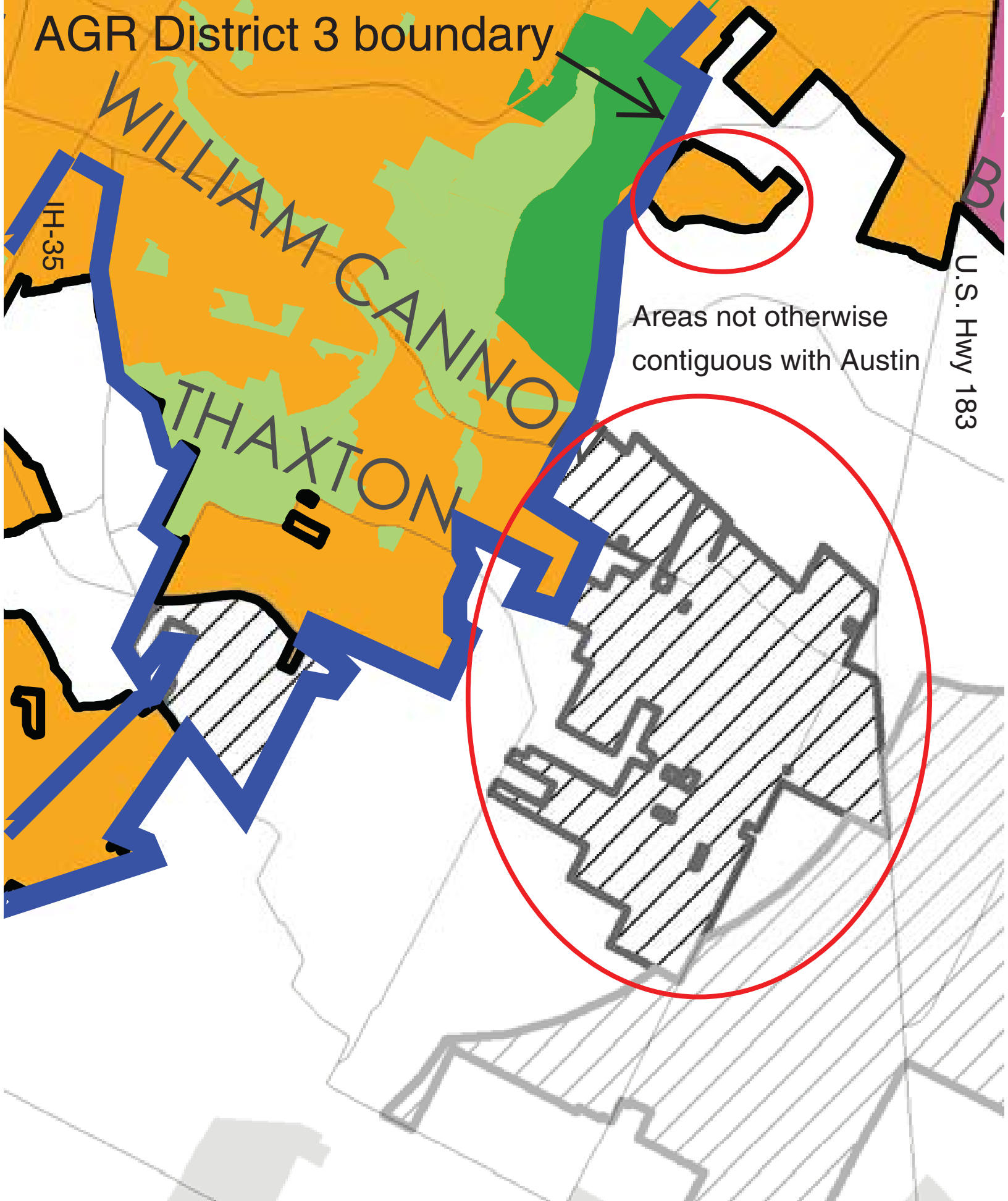
I am sure your mapping consultant can verify whether these areas should be included in a City Council district. If so, the Charter requirement that districts be geographically contiguous would seem to necessitate that these areas be connected to the southeast Austin district. I do support the concept of multiple opportunity districts for the Hispanic residents of Austin and so the placement of these areas should be considered in that context but there may not be any option. Given the significant challenges in the redistricting process this is a minor issue that should not require much time or energy to resolve. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Steven Aleman
Austin

Attachment: Southeast Austin map

AGR District 3 boundary



Areas not otherwise contiguous with Austin

U.S. Hwy 183

IH-35

WILLIAM CANNON
THAXTON