

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action (Real Estate)

Austin City Council	Item ID:	27933	Agenda Number	24.
Meeting Date:	October 24, 2013			
Department:	Office of Real Estate Services			
Subject				
<p>Authorize the acquisition of a conservation easement consisting of approximately 732.57 acres of land located in Hays County, Texas, and fronting Ruby Ranch Road on Hwy 967, from the Jim and Jesse Ruby Family Partnership, Ltd., a Texas limited partnership, in a total amount not to exceed \$2,000,000 from the November 6, 2012, bond package, Proposition 13 Open Space Program.</p>				
Amount and Source of Funding				
<p>Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Capital Budget of the Watershed Protection Department.</p>				
Fiscal Note				
<p>A fiscal note is attached.</p>				
Purchasing Language:				
Prior Council Action:	June 6, 2013 - Council authorized the negotiation and execution of a Cooperative Agreement with the Natural Resource Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.			
For More Information:	Junie Plummer (512) 974-7085; David Johns (512) 974-2781; Lauraine Rizer (512) 974-7078; Amanda Glasscock (512) 974-7173.			
Boards and Commission Action:				
MBE / WBE:				
Related Items:				
Additional Backup Information				

The City of Austin in partnership with Hill Country Conservancy (HCC) are leveraging funds to purchase a Conservation Easement (CE) from the Jim and Jessie Ruby Family Partnership, Ltd., a Texas limited partnership, the owners of a ranch consisting of approximately 732.57 acres known as Ruby Ranch. The Ruby Ranch is entirely in the Barton Springs Recharge Zone of the Edwards Aquifer and is located in Hays County, Texas along FM 967. The CE will protect a working ranch, preserve agricultural uses and significant natural areas, preserve open space, protect natural resources and maintain or enhance water quality. There are upland recharge features on the property and frontage along the Mustang Branch of Onion Creek and other tributaries of Onion Creek, all of which exist atop the recharge zone of the Barton Springs Segment of the Edwards Aquifer and provide a significant quality of high quantity water run-off and aquifer recharge. In addition, this CE is adjacent to the 2,254 acre Dahlstrom Ranch CE and the 133 acre Orr CE.

The purchase price is \$4,990,000 for a CE consisting of approximately 732.57 acres. Hill Country Conservancy (HCC) is using \$2,990,000 in federal grant dollars from the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), and U.S. Department of Agriculture.