



ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD RECOMMENDATION 20140716 003b

Date: July 16, 2014

Subject: Austin Youth River Watch Program

Motion By: Mary Gay Maxwell

Second by: Mary Ann Neely

Rationale:

Whereas the Austin Youth River Watch (AYRW) program was founded by the City of Austin in partnership with LCRA 22 years ago to work with high school students in a holistic manner, emphasizing environmental stewardship and academic success through drop out prevention; and

Whereas the program has achieved an outstanding record, including monitoring water quality at 25 sites along streams in the Austin area, providing data to both LCRA and the City of Austin as well as achieving a 100% graduation rate among their high school seniors in the current year of 2014; and

Whereas the Austin Youth River Watch program has received a \$100,000 grant from Impact Austin to launch a new program in partnership with the scientists in the Watershed Protection Department to work through hands on projects at specific sites to bring about long term stream improvements; and

Whereas the funding from the City of Austin has been reduced by \$200,000 due to the cancellation of the annual contribution of the Austin Water Utility, thereby cutting the funds by 50% for the AYRW budget; and

Whereas the Watershed Protection Department has committed to continue its portion of the annual contribution to the AYRW budget; Now, Therefore

Be it requested by the Environmental Board that the City Council make every effort to allocate the funds necessary to make up the shortfall of the annual budget of \$400,000 for the AYRW.

VOTE 6-0-0-1

For: Deegan, Maxwell, Neely, Redmond, Schissler and Smith

Against: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Perales

Approved By:



Schissler, P. E., Secretary