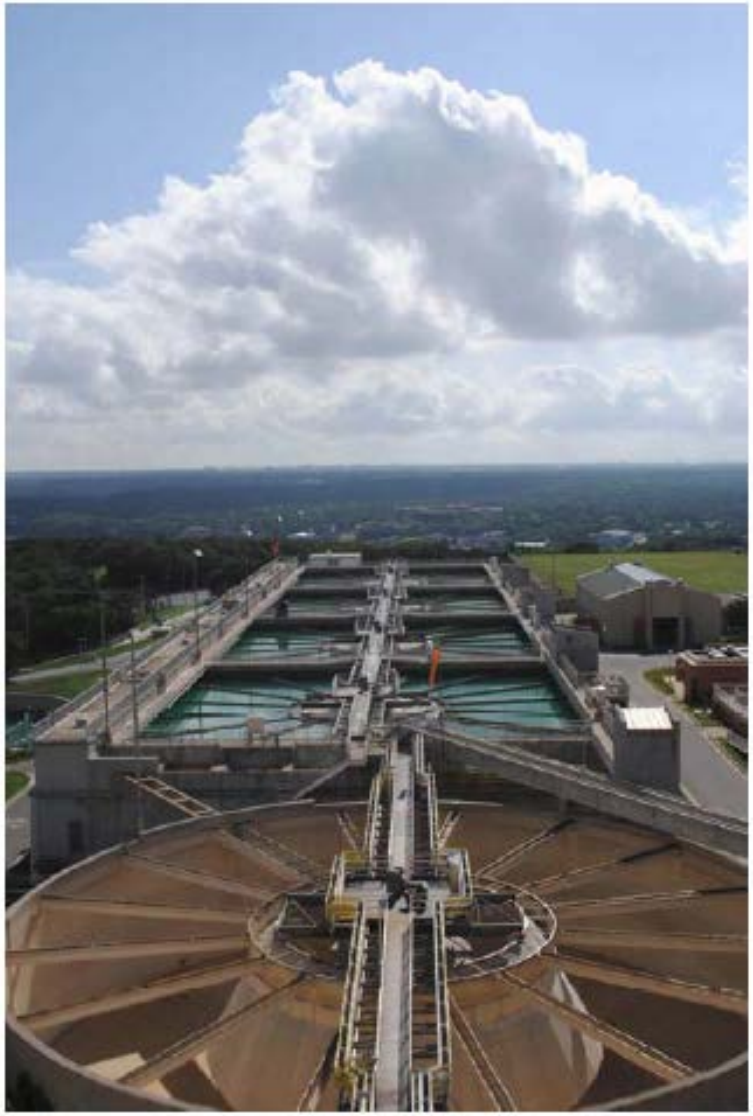

Public Utilities Committee

Decker Lake Golf Water Considerations

April 15, 2015

Walter E. Long Lake Background

- Currently operated by Austin Energy as a cooling reservoir for the Decker Power Plant.
  - Lake holds approximately 33,000 acre feet of water.
- Source of Water
  - Primarily Colorado River diversions to make up for evaporative losses and maintain lake level for steam-electric cooling.
  - Decker Creek watershed also provides inflows to the lake.
- Water Supply Augmentation
  - As part of drought response, Austin Water identified Walter E. Long Lake as a key water supply augmentation strategy.
  - In its July 2014 report, the Council appointed Water Resource Planning Task Force also recommended Walter E. Long Lake as a key water supply strategy.

Decker Golf & Water Considerations

- Decker Lake Golf (DLG) has identified a deep brackish well on a site adjacent to the proposed golf course as the preferred source of water for irrigation.
  - Use of groundwater will not impact Colorado River system
  - Watershed Protection has reviewed and indicated support for the groundwater option.
- DLG contract has extensive language protecting the City's interests in using the Lake for water supply purposes
  - No obligation to maintain lake at specific level
  - City maintains full rights to lake, groundwater beneath the lake or golf course, rights to store water in aquifers, etc

Walter E. Long Lake & Water Supply

- Enhanced Storage Options
  - Now: Modify current operations of the lake and increase lake level fluctuations up to 3 feet to enhance storage during operation of the Decker Power Plant thereby reducing demands on the City's primary water supply reservoirs (Travis & Buchanan).
  - Future: Operate the lake as an off-channel reservoir through its full 25 foot operating range. This option requires improvements such as increased pumping capacity to refill the lake and modifications to the Decker Power Plant. This option yields up to 20,000 acre feet per year with the potential to increase.
- Evaluation of additional water supply options such as Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) in underground aquifers below or in the vicinity of the lake.

Questions?