

## A G E N D A



## Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council		Item ID	51372	Agenda Number	5.
Meeting Date:	11/19/2015		Department:	Austin Water Utility	
Subject					
Authorize negotiation and execution of an interlocal cooperation agreement with Travis County and the acceptance of \$25,000 from Travis County for habitat research and monitoring of the endangered golden-cheeked warbler.					
Amount and Source of Funding					
The Travis County Commissioners Court previously approved a contribution of \$25,000 in the County's 2015 fiscal year to ensure full funding and completion of the study.					
Fiscal Note					
There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.					
Purchasing Language:					
Prior Council Action:	February 17, 2011- Council approved the Collection Agreement with the United States Forest Service. January 17, 2013- Council amendment the Collection Agreement with the United States Forest Service.				
For More Information:	Sherri Kuhl, 512-972-1664; Daryl Slusher; 512-972-0218				
Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:	October 14, 2015- Approved by the Water and Waste Water Commission on a 9-0 vote with Commissioner Blanding absent.				
MBE / WBE:					
Related Items:					

## Additional Backup Information

Austin Water's Wildland Conservation Division requests authorization to enter into an interlocal cooperation agreement with Travis County in which Travis County will provide the City of Austin with \$25,000 to help fund research, monitoring, data analysis, and population and habitat suitability modeling for the endangered golden-cheeked warbler and Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP).

This project is a landmark study and focuses on addressing four key questions: 1) What is the absolute abundance of the Golden-cheeked Warbler (warbler) on the BCP and on individual macrosites? 2) How do demographics (e.g. density, productivity, survival) vary with landscape and habitat factors? 3) How viable are these populations? and 4) How do various management scenarios influence population viability? Addressing these questions is critical to assure the long-term viability of the warbler, which is a fundamental goal of the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan and will help assure permit compliance for the City and County. To answer these questions, estimates of fecundity, recruitment, dispersal, abundance, survival, and habitat characteristics are needed across space and time within the BCP. In order to fill knowledge gaps, understand species' response to management, and provide reasonable demographic measures based on real data for modeling population growth and persistence, this project requires intense monitoring to obtain this information. This includes: color banding and tracking individual warblers; searching for and monitoring nests; conducting point counts; and collecting vegetation data for nests and point count

locations across the BCP. This type of data collection is very labor and time intensive and generates large amounts of data to be analyzed. The data is essential to understanding and successfully managing habitat for the long term viability of the golden-cheeked warbler population.

The Wildland Conservation Division is made up of the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve program and the Water Quality Protection Lands program protecting over 40,000 acres of land from roughly Cedar Park to Kyle. The Balcones Canyonlands Preserve was established as a result of a Federal Permit issued to the City of Austin and Travis County to authorize impacts to eight endangered species. This permit requires active management, monitoring, and research for these endangered species.