

**AGENDA**



**Recommendation for Council Action**

Austin City Council	<b>Item ID</b>	55919	<b>Agenda Number</b>	2.
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<b>Meeting Date:</b>	3/31/2016	<b>Department:</b>	Austin Water Utility
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**Subject**

Authorize negotiation and execution of an interlocal cooperation agreement with Travis County to share funding of the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan Coordinating Committee secretary position.

**Amount and Source of Funding**

Funding will be shared by the City of Austin and Travis County.

**Fiscal Note**

There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

<b>Purchasing Language:</b>	
<b>Prior Council Action:</b>	September 8, 2015- Council approved a portion of the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (BCCP) Coordinating Committee Secretary position in the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 budget.
<b>For More Information:</b>	Daryl Slusher, 512-972-0218; Denise Avery, 512-972-0104
<b>Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:</b>	March 9, 2016- Recommended unanimously by the Water and Wastewater Commission on a 11-0 vote.
<b>MBE / WBE:</b>	
<b>Related Items:</b>	

**Additional Backup Information**

This interlocal cooperation agreement incorporates an agreement between the City of Austin and Travis County, partners in the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (BCCP) and Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP) to share funding of the BCCP Coordinating Committee Secretary position. The BCCP Coordinating Committee Secretary position is called for in the 1995 interlocal cooperation agreement between the City and Travis County which established the BCCP, the terms of the partnership, and how the two entities will cooperate to fulfill their responsibilities under the federal U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service permit. This regional habitat conservation plan and permit ensures the protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act while providing a streamlined mechanism for permitting economic development in the region.

The BCCP Coordinating Committee Secretary/s responsibilities include:

- Overseeing the sale of participation certificates, which are a certification that entities engaging in BCCP area development have complied with the permit

- Assuring that participation certificate sales proceed in accordance with established policies and comply with the BCCP permit;
- oversight of the BCCP mitigation credit bank;
- review and oversight of the public infrastructure permitting and mitigation process, the principal objective being to provide community services and facilities in a manner which minimizes habitat disturbance;
- recommending policy and plan amendments;
- recommending actions pertaining to land management compliance;
- act as the chief administrative officer for the Coordinating Committee which consists of one representative from the Austin City Council and one from the Travis County Commissioners Court;
- developing administrative guidelines and reporting to the Coordinating Committee; and
- submitting the BCCP Annual Report to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

The position will be located in the Wildlands Division of Austin Water which manages the City's BCP lands and the City's Water Quality Protection lands. The salary range will be \$63,752 to \$82,659 annually. The total cost with salary and benefits would range from \$95,085 to \$118,841.

In previous years the Wildlands Division Manager also served as the BCP Secretary. This, however, proved to be a very heavy load and when the long-time Wildlands Division Manager retired. Austin Water and Travis County staff agreed that it would be in the best interest of the BCP and the BCCP permit to break the responsibilities into two positions. Travis County agreed to fund half of the BCCP Secretary position, and both Travis County and Austin Water staff agreed that the position should remain a City position/employee. The Division Manager will remain a fully funded City of Austin position.

The ILA incorporates that agreement and lays out an understanding between the two partners as to how Travis County staff will be involved in setting goals and engaging in joint oversight. The .5 Position Control Number (PCN) was approved in the Fiscal Year 2016 budget and funds for the position are also available in the Travis County budget.