



**30 YEARS OF  
KEEPING  
AUSTIN'S  
WATER  
CLEAN AND  
CLEAR  
WITH THE  
COMPREHENSIVE  
WATERSHEDS  
ORDINANCE**



**Environmental Commission Briefing  
May 18, 2016  
by**

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# Environmental Review and Drainage and Water Quality Review



## LAND USE REVIEW IMPLEMENTS THE CWO

**Atha Phillips, Pamela Abee-Taulli, Mike  
McDougal, Taylor Horton,  
Jim Dymkowski**

**Leslie Daniel, Benny Ho, Joydeep Goswami,  
Danielle Guevara, John Powell, Ron  
Czajkowski, David Marquez, Michael Duval,  
Tomas Rodriguez, Jay Baker**

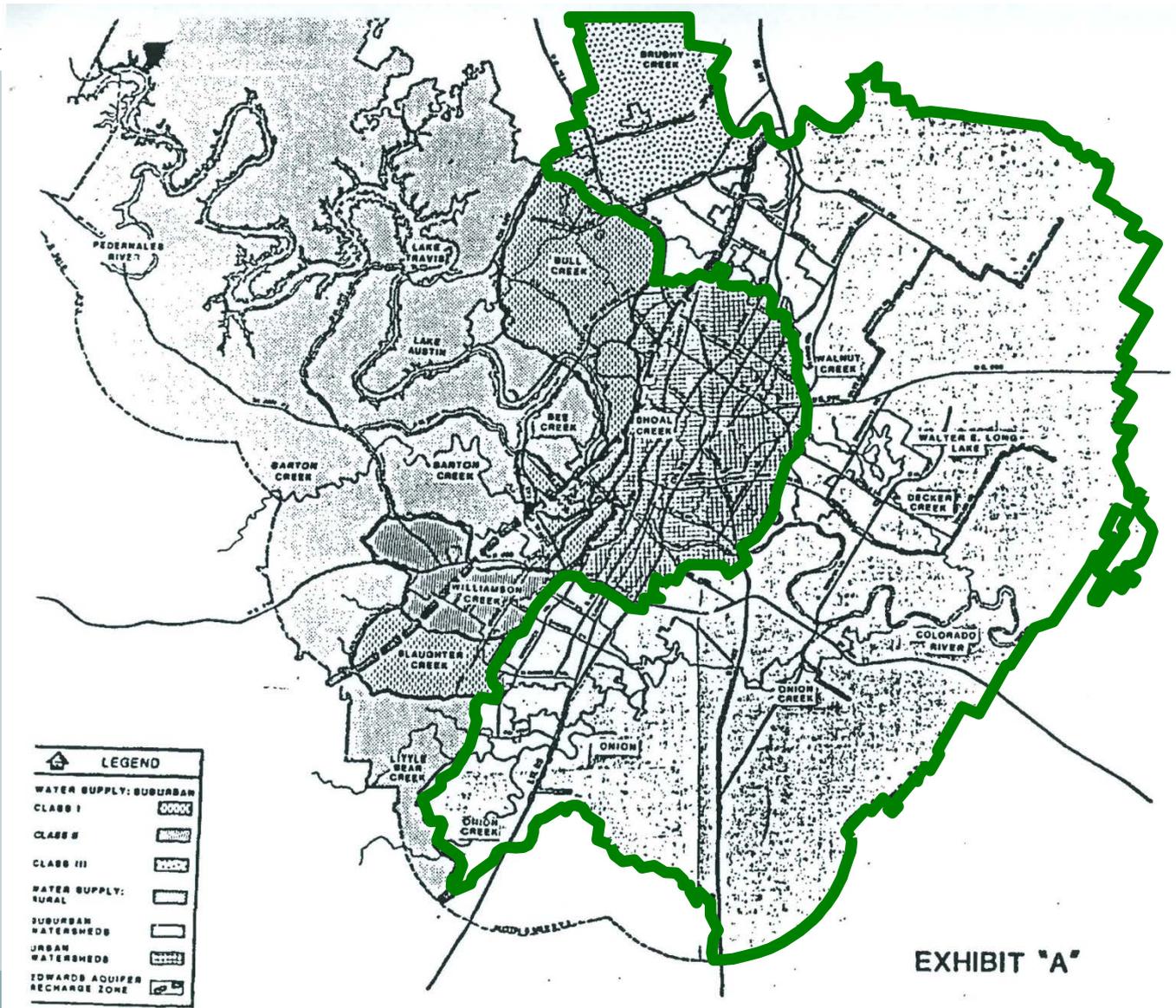
# 1986 Comprehensive Watersheds Ordinance

**Stream Buffers**

**Structural  
Water Quality  
Controls**

**Impervious  
Cover Limits**

**Critical  
Environmental  
Features**



# Impervious Cover



Development with 25-8  
Impervious Cover  
restrictions + 25-2  
Landscape requirements

Development pre- 25-8 Impervious  
Cover and Landscape requirements

# Cut/Fill and Construction on Slopes



# Erosion Control



# Stream Buffers



# Structural Water Quality Controls



**Drainage and  
Water Quality  
Review, DSD**

**Structural Controls in  
all Watersheds**



# Critical Environmental Feature Review



## **TECHNICAL REVIEW by** Environmental Resources Management, Watershed Protection Department

Joan I. Balogh, P.S.S.,  
Brent Bellinger, Ph.D.,  
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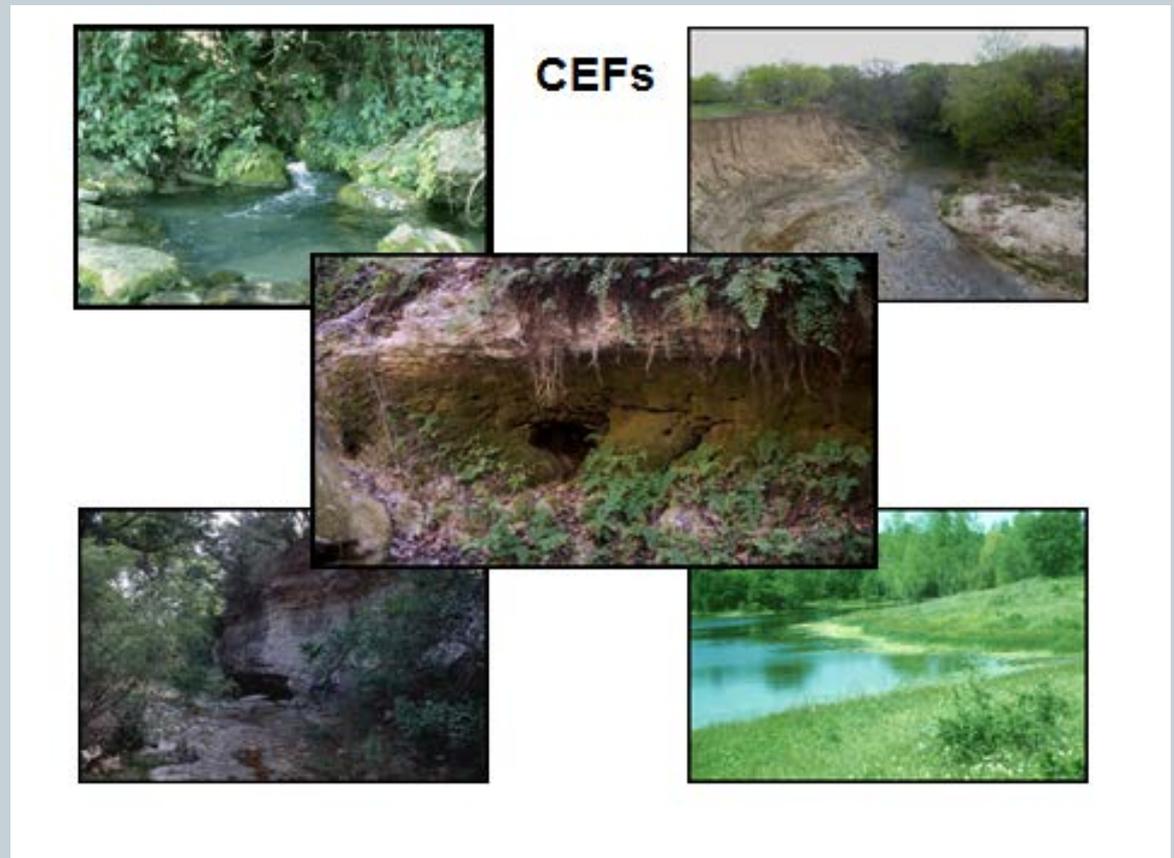
Scott E. Hiers, P.G.,  
Liz Johnston, M.L.A.,  
Sylvia R. Pope, P.G., and  
Staryn Wagner

# Critical Environmental Features (CEF)



## CEF Variance Process

- Environmental Commission recommendation
- Land Use Commission approval or denial
- Or, an administrative variance approval by WPD director when conditions warrant

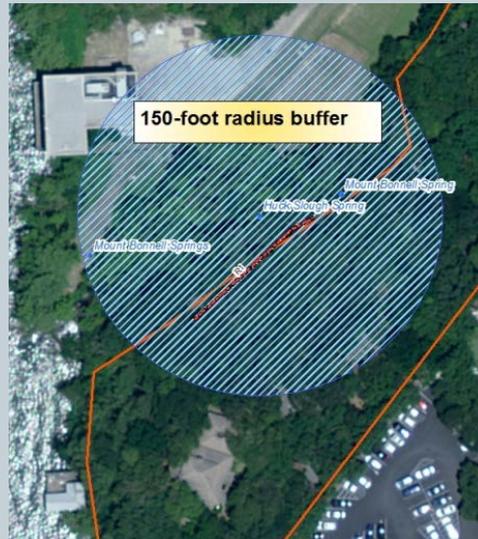


**Springs, bluffs, caves, sinkholes, canyon rimrock and wetlands**

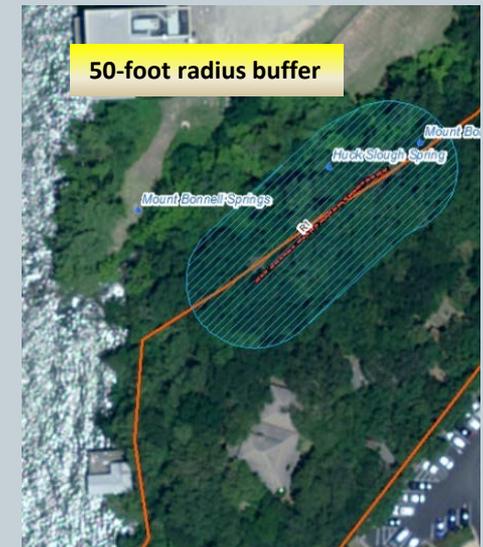
# Critical Environmental Feature (CEF) buffers

Standard CEF  
buffer  
radius/distance is  
150 feet, up to 300  
feet for recharge  
features

Variations may  
modify the buffer  
distance as long as  
the characteristics of  
the feature and water  
quantity and quality  
are maintained



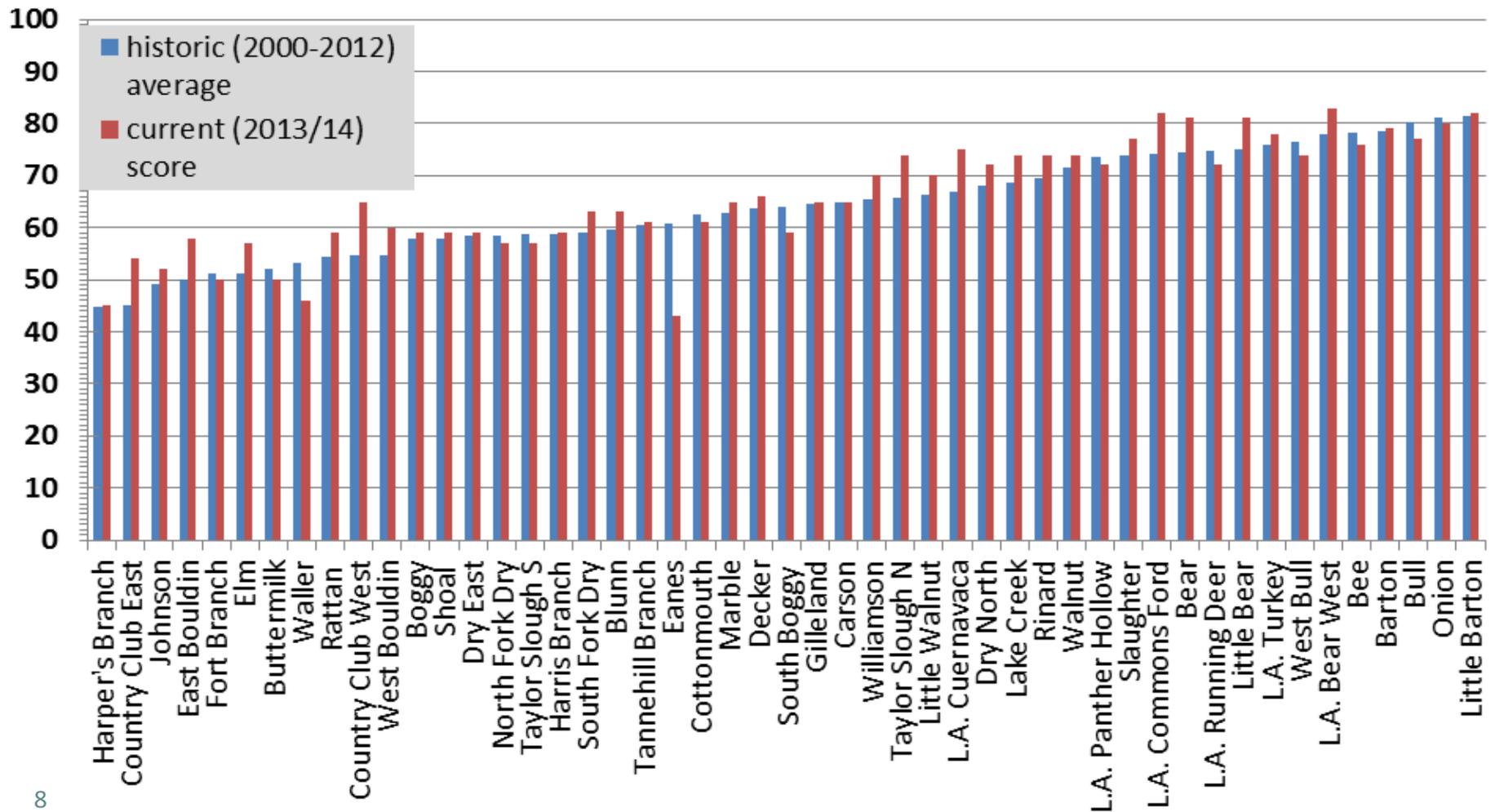
Buffer  
reduction



Buffer modification



**For the last complete EII cycle (2013/2014), 34 of 49 watersheds scored better than their previous 10 year historic average – A potential indicator that the requirements of the CWO help maintain creek integrity**



# **ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

## **30 Years of the Comprehensive Watersheds Ordinance**



- ***Drinking water supply protection***
- Establish Creek and lake buffers
- Water pollution prevention
- Protection of over 4,780 Critical Environmental Features
- Preserves the natural and traditional character of Austin waterways
- Provides recreational benefit
- Provided the foundation for ordinances that followed, such as the Save Our Springs and Watershed Protection Ordinance