



## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MOTION 20170517 007d

**Date:** May 17, 2017

**Subject:** Green stormwater infrastructure

**Motion by:** Marisa Perales

**Seconded by:** Hank Smith

### **RATIONALE:**

**WHEREAS**, green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) is an essential component of the City's policies for water resource management, environmental protection, and land development; and

**WHEREAS**, increases in stormwater runoff contribute to increases in flooding severity, erosion problems, and water pollution; and

**WHEREAS**, green stormwater infrastructure can capture rain on-site where it falls and decrease the amount of runoff that flows off-site; and

**WHEREAS**, green stormwater infrastructure refers to a set of design features in buildings and landscapes that can retain and re-use rainwater; and

**WHEREAS**, the City has taken steps to implement green stormwater infrastructure requirements into its land development code, including via CodeNEXT, and in various other ordinances, programs, policies, and design criteria.

**THEREFORE**, the Environmental Commission recommends that the various City departments with responsibility for GSI, including Watershed Protection Department (WPD), conduct an inventory and prepare a report of all efforts at implementing GSI, including Austin Water Utility's (AWU) WaterWise program for homeowners and businesses, Watershed Protection Department's Stormwater Management Discount, existing Land Development Code and Environmental Criteria Manual rules regarding GSI installations. The Commission recommends that the City departments continue to coordinate with CodeNEXT to establish a program that encourages an increase in the use of GSI and continue to collaborate with AWU's WaterWise program and WPD's storm water management, particularly in small-scale beneficial use programs. The Commission encourages and supports the completion of the Watershed Protection Department Strategic Business Plan for Water Quality.

The Environmental Commission recommends the City take advantage of opportunities to implement GSI on public, City-owned properties and use those projects to provide educational opportunities about GSI.

The Environmental Commission further recommends that Watershed Protection Department analyze the amount of stormwater currently handled by existing GSI installations and encourages efforts to increase those amounts.

The Environmental Commission further recommends that Watershed Protection Department report annually to the Environmental Commission on the status of such efforts.

**VOTE 10-0**

For: B. Smith, Thompson, Neely, H. Smith, Perales, Maceo, Kitchin, Creel, Guerrero, Gordon

Against: None

Abstain: None

Recuse: None

Absent: None

Approved By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marisa Perales", is centered on the page. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marisa Perales, Environmental Commission Chair