

ITEM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA

MEETING DATE

REQUESTED: October 4. 2017

NAME & NUMBER Holdsworth Center Planned Unit Development

OF PROJECT: C814-2017-0024

OWNER: R.G. Mueller, Jr. Partnership, L.P. (Mark Randolph

Mueller)

AGENT: Armbrust & Brown, PLLC (David Armbrust)

LOCATION: 4907 RM 2222 Road

PROJECT FILING DATE: March 2, 2017

WATERSHED PROTECTION Andrea Bates, 974-2291

DEPARTMENT STAFF: andrea.bates@austintexas.gov

PLANNING AND ZONING Wendy Rhoades, 974-7719

CASE MANAGER: wendy.rhoades@austintexas.gov

WATERSHED: Lake Austin watershed (Water Supply Suburban)

Drinking Water Protection Zone

ORDINANCE: Watershed Protection Ordinance (current Code)

REQUEST: Review and consider for recommendation the

environmental aspects of the proposed Planned Unit Development (PUD), including code modifications and

environmental superiority.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Recommended with conditions.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Marisa Perales, Chair, and Members of the Environmental Commission

FROM: Chuck Lesniak, Environmental Officer

Watershed Protection Department

DATE: September 28, 2017

SUBJECT: Holdsworth Center Planned Unit Development – C814-2017-0024

This summary is being provided to the Environmental Commission as a supplement to the Planning and Zoning Department analysis for the Holdsworth Center Planned Unit Development (PUD). This memo provides an overview of the property's environmental features, the requested modifications to environmental code requirements, and the elements of the project that provide environmental superiority. Staff finds that the proposed development is environmentally superior to what could be built without the PUD under otherwise applicable regulations, as required by City code¹.

Description of Property

The Holdsworth Center PUD consists of approximately 44.2 acres of land located in northwest Austin, on RM 2222 east of Loop 360 (see Attachment A: Location Map). The property is currently zoned Lake Austin residence (LA). The site is used as agricultural land and includes an abandoned residential building and a few outbuildings.

The Holdsworth Center PUD site is located in the Lake Austin watershed, which is classified as Water Supply Suburban and is within the Drinking Water Protection Zone. The site is not within the Edwards Aquifer recharge or contributing zones. The property has approximately 1,900 feet of frontage along Lake Austin, which is protected by a 100-foot wide critical water quality zone (CWQZ) (see Attachment B: Critical Water Quality Zone and Floodplain).

Existing Topography/Soil Characteristics/Trees

The site contains a steep wooded hillside adjacent to RM 2222, which transitions to a gently sloped meadow and riparian zone along the lake. Elevations range from approximately 490 to 660 feet above mean sea level. Slopes range between zero and 15 percent on the majority of the

¹ Chapter 25-2, Subchapter B, Article 2, Division 5, Section 1.1.

property but increase to over 35 percent on the hillside. The property has unconsolidated gravel, sand, silt, and clay soils.

The property contains a large number of trees, including 111 heritage trees and 71 protected trees. Most of the heritage trees are located at the base of the hillside and along the shoreline of Lake Austin (see the applicant's Exhibit F: Heritage Trees). Predominant tree species on the site include live oak, pecan, and bald cypress.

Critical Environmental Features

An Environmental Resource Inventory (ERI) of the project site was prepared by Horizon Environmental Services in February 2017 (see Attachment D: Applicant's Environmental Resource Inventory). The ERI identified seven critical environmental features (CEFs) within the PUD site: four canyon rimrocks, one bluff, one seep, and one wetland. Current code requires a 150-foot buffer zone for each CEF. The PUD proposes to modify the buffers for all of the CEFs as illustrated on the applicant's Exhibit E: Critical Environmental Feature Buffers. The PUD designates a CEF buffer replacement area, requires revegetation of some disturbed areas, and proposes wetland mitigation to minimize the impacts of the CEF buffer reductions.

Project Description

The proposed project is a non-profit retreat center dedicated to training and leadership development for the leaders of Texas public school districts. Uses include meeting facilities, dormitories for up to 250 invitees, common area dining facilities, administrative offices, recreational facilities, one permanent residence for Holdsworth Center staff, parking facilities, three boat docks, and open space. See the applicant's Exhibit C: Land Use Plan for a conceptual site layout.

Requested Environmental Code Modifications

The following summarizes the proposed modifications to environmental requirements (please see the applicant's Exhibit B-1: Code Modification Table for additional details):

- 25-2-897, Accessory Uses for a Principal Civic Use The code is silent on whether a dock is a permitted accessory use for a civic use. The PUD modifies the code to allow construction of up to three docks on the property. Each dock shall be permitted a single means of access from the shoreline through the CWQZ.
- 25-2-1176(A), Site Development Regulations for Docks, Marinas, and Other Lakefront Uses One dock may have two slips with mechanical lifts and may extend up to 60 feet from the shoreline, instead of up to 30 feet as allowed by code. The other two docks shall not have mechanical equipment and may extend up to 45 feet from the shoreline. The maximum footprint for the three docks in aggregate shall be 3,900 square feet.
- **25-8-341, Cut Requirements** The cut requirements are modified to allow cuts up to ten feet of depth for the proposed access drive, as shown on the applicant's Exhibit C: Land Use Plan.

• **25-8-281, Critical Environmental Features** – The buffer zones for the rimrocks, bluff, seep, and wetland CEFs are modified as shown on the applicant's Exhibit F: Critical Environmental Feature Buffers.

Proposed Environmental Superiority Elements

The project is proposing to provide the following environmental superiority elements (please see the applicant's Exhibit B: Holdsworth Center Superiority Table for additional details):

- 1. The PUD will provide at least 24.29 acres of open space, or 55 percent of the tract. The Tier 1 open space requirement for the proposed land use is 20 percent of the tract. The open space is comprised of 20.21 acres of protected natural features, including the CWQZ, CEF buffers, and Hill Country Roadway (HCR) buffer, plus an additional 4.08 acres of land that would otherwise be developable.
- 2. The PUD will exceed the minimum code requirements for landscaping as follows:
 - a. All planted trees shall be native species selected from Environmental Criteria Manual (ECM) Appendix F: Descriptive Categories of Tree Species;
 - b. All tree plantings shall use Central Texas seed stock;
 - All planted landscape materials shall be selected from ECM Appendix N: City of Austin Preferred Plant List or the Grow Green Native and Adapted Landscape Plants guide; and
 - d. Stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces shall be directed to a landscaped area at least equal to the total required landscape area. (For the purposes of this requirement, the calculation of the total required landscape area shall not include the street yard or HCR buffer.)
- 3. The PUD will provide superior water quality controls by meeting the beneficial use standard currently proposed in CodeNEXT. Runoff from the 95th percentile rainfall event shall be retained and beneficially used on-site through practices that infiltrate, evapotranspire, or harvest and use rainwater.
- 4. The PUD will use only green water quality controls, as described in ECM Section 1.6.7, to treat 100 percent of the required water quality volume. Water quality treatment shall be provided by small-scale, distributed controls that utilize natural design and infiltration to the maximum extent feasible. The project will utilize a minimum of three different types of green water quality controls. However, biofiltration ponds may only be used if constructed with natural materials, including earthen berm slopes, and approved by the Watershed Protection Department.
- 5. The project will provide water quality controls for a minimum of 10 acres of the 17.5-acre untreated, developed offsite area identified in the applicant's Exhibit I: Drainage Area Map Proposed Conditions.
- 6. The PUD will limit impervious cover to 8.8 acres (20 percent of gross site area), which is two percent below the maximum that would otherwise be allowed by code (9.8 acres, or 22 percent of gross site area).

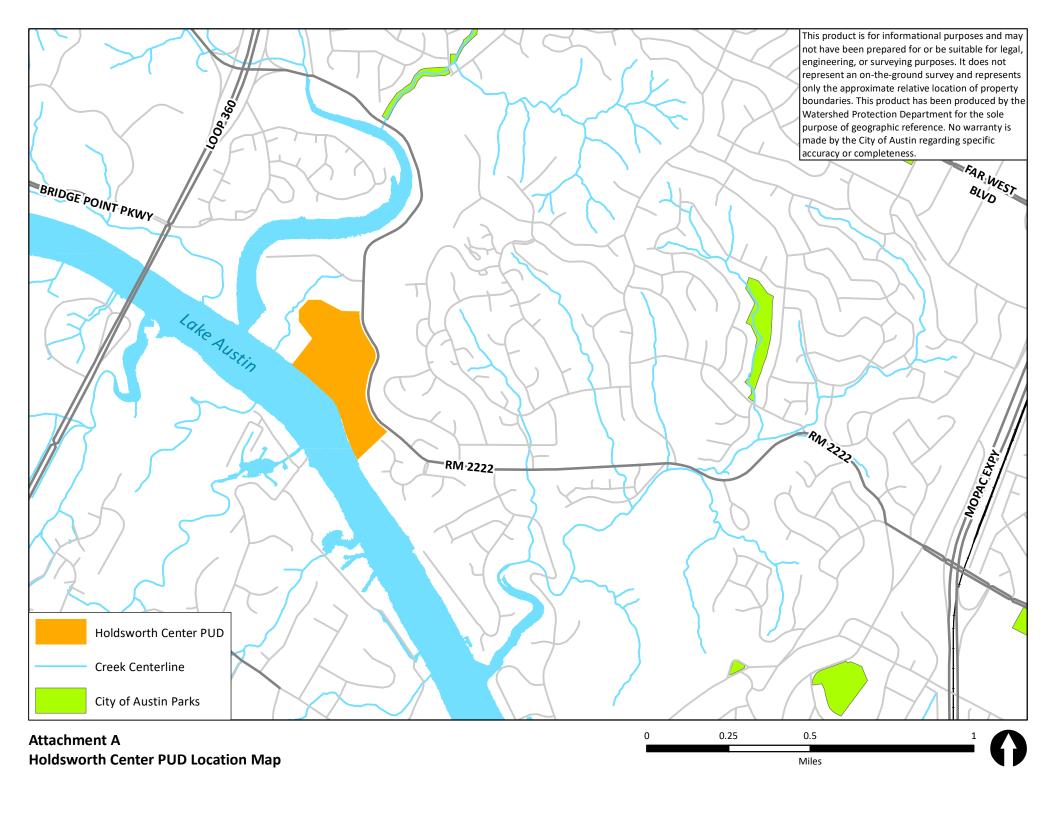
- 7. The PUD will restore riparian vegetation in the degraded CWQZ along Lake Austin. Restoration shall include removing invasive species, planting native species, and creating new wetland areas on the landward side of the existing levee. Please see the applicant's Exhibit J: Conceptual Mitigation Plan for additional information.
- 8. The PUD will preserve 100 percent of the heritage trees on site, a minimum of 75 percent of the caliper inches associated with native protected size trees, and a minimum of 75 percent of all native caliper inches (including trees six inches in diameter at breast height or larger).
- 9. The PUD will cluster impervious cover in a manner that preserves the top of the bluff on the east side of the property along RM 2222.
- 10. The PUD will use porous pavement for at least 50 percent of all paved pedestrian areas.
- 11. Outdoor lighting on the site will be designed to incorporate dark sky lighting techniques as described in the applicant's Exhibit D: PUD Notes, note 5.
- 12. The PUD will include educational signage about key environmental features of the site. The purpose of the signage is to encourage participants from across the state to take information about environmental best practices back to their school districts. The applicant has proposed to install at least three 12-inch by 12-inch signs explaining the water quality control techniques. Staff would like to see signage at all water quality controls, as well as signs explaining the riparian restoration and potentially other key features. The applicant is amenable to this request for additional signage and will coordinate with staff to refine the proposal prior to the Planning Commission hearing.
- 13. The PUD will provide an Austin Energy Green Building rating of three stars or above.

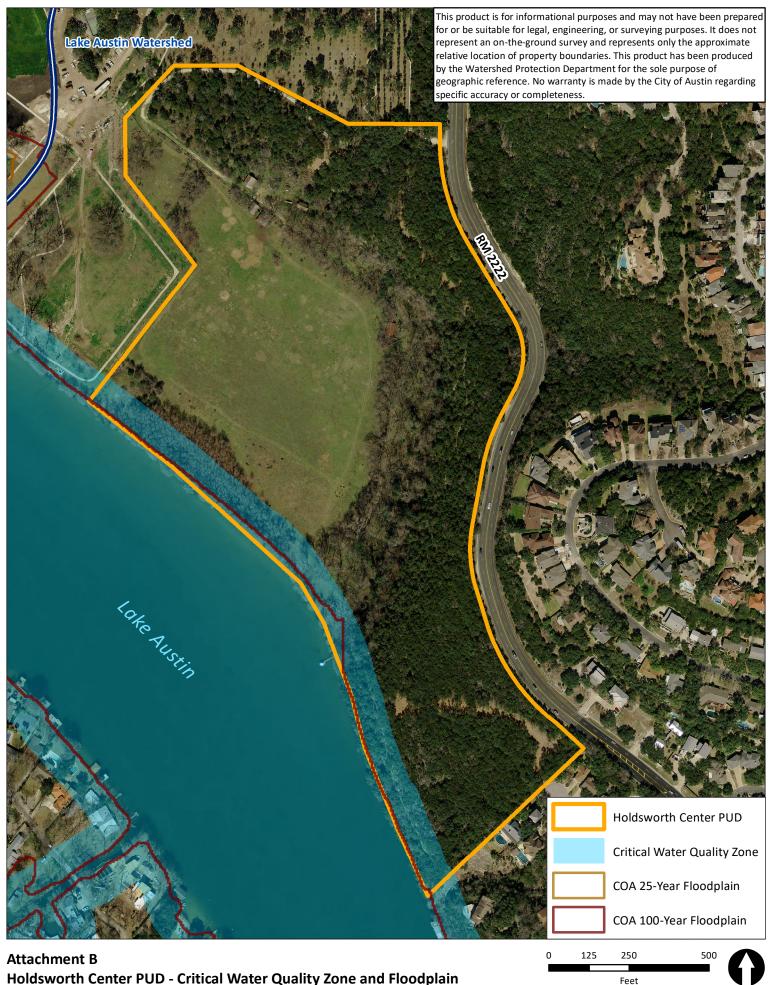
Determination

Based on the superiority elements described above, staff finds that the proposed development is environmentally superior to what could be built without the PUD. The proposed project is a low intensity, low impact type of development that is appropriate for the environmental setting. The superiority elements preserve and enhance the site's natural features and protect the water quality of Lake Austin. Finally, the proposal leverages the educational nature of the project to promote environmental best practices at school districts throughout the state.

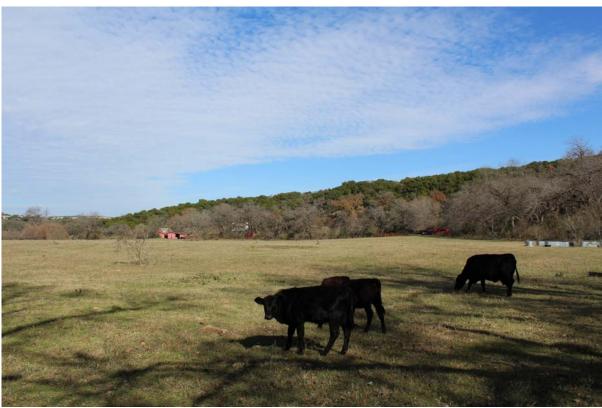
Attachments

- A Location Map
- B Critical Water Quality Zone and Floodplain
- C Site Photos
- D Applicant's Environmental Resource Inventory





Attachment C Holdsworth Center PUD Site Photos



Meadow below hillside

Photo by Justin Garrison, Lake | Flato Architects



Canyon rimrock CEF

Attachment C Holdsworth Center PUD Site Photos



Bluff CEF



Trees at base of hillside

Photo by Justin Garrison, Lake | Flato Architects

Attachment C Holdsworth Center PUD Site Photos



Trees along Lake Austin

Photo by Justin Garrison, Lake | Flato Architects



Riparian area along Lake Austin

Photo by Justin Garrison, Lake | Flato Architects

Case No.:	
(City use only)	

Environmental Resource Inventory

For the City of Austin
Related to LDC 25-8-121, City Code 30-5-121, ECM 1.3.0 & 1.10.0

The ERI is required for projects that meet one or more of the criteria listed in LDC 25-8-121(A), City Code 30-5-121(A).

1.	SITE/PROJECT NAME: Mueller 44 Acre
2.	COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT PROPERTY ID (#'s): 130429
3.	ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PROJECT: Off of RM 2222
4.	WATERSHED: Lake Austin Watershed
5.	THIS SITE IS WITHIN THE (Check all that apply) Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone* (See note below)
	surveys must be completed and signed by a Professional Geoscientist Licensed in the State of Texas.
6.	DOES THIS PROJECT PROPOSE FLOODPLAIN MODIFICATION?□YES** If yes, then check all that apply: (1) The floodplain modifications proposed are necessary to protect the public health and safety; (2) The floodplain modifications proposed would provide a significant, demonstrable environmental benefit, as determined by a functional assessment of floodplain health as prescribed by the Environmental Criteria Manual (ECM), or (3) The floodplain modifications proposed are necessary for development allowed in the critical water quality zone under LDC 25-8-261 or 25-8-262, City Code 30-5-261 or 30-5-262. (4) The floodplain modifications proposed are outside of the Critical Water Quality Zone in an area determined to be in poor or fair condition by a functional assessment of floodplain health.
	** If yes, then a functional assessment must be completed and attached to the ERI (see ECM 1.7 and Appendix X for forms and guidance) unless conditions 1 or 3 above apply.
7.	IF THE SITE IS WITHIN AN URBAN OR SUBURBAN WATERSHED, DOES THIS PROJECT PROPOSE A UTILITY LINE PARALLEL TO AND WITHIN THE CRITICAL WATER QUALITY ZONE? \Box YES*** \checkmark NO
	***If yes, then riparian restoration is required by LDC 25-8-261(E) or City Code 30-5-261(E) and a functional assessment must be completed and attached to the ERI (see ECM1.5 and Appendix X for forms and guidance).
8.	There is a total of

1	(#'s) Spring(s)/Seep(s)	(#'s) Point Recharge Feature(s)	1(#'s) Bluff(s)
4	_ (#'s) Canyon Rimrock(s)	(#'s) Wetland(s)	

Note: Standard buffers for CEFs are 150 feet, with a maximum of 300 feet for point recharge features. Except for wetlands, if the standard buffer is <u>not provided</u>, you must provide a written request for an administrative variance from LDC 25-8-281(C)(1) and provide written findings of fact to support your request. Request forms for administrative variances from requirements stated in LDC 25-8-281 are available from Watershed Protection Department.

9. The following site maps are attached at the end of this report (Check all that apply and provide):

All ERI reports must include:

- ✓ Site Specific Geologic Map with 2-ft Topography
- ☑ Historic Aerial Photo of the Site
- ✓ Site Soil Map
- ☑ Critical Environmental Features and Well Location Map on current Aerial Photo with 2-ft Topography

Only if present on site (Maps can be combined):

- Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone with the 1500-ft Verification Zone (Only if site is over or within 1500 feet the recharge zone)
 Edwards Aquifer Contributing Zone
- □ Water Quality Transition Zone (WQTZ)
- ☑ Critical Water Quality Zone (CWQZ)
- ☐ City of Austin Fully Developed Floodplains for all water courses with up to 64-acres of drainage
- 10. **HYDROGEOLOGIC REPORT** Provide a description of site soils, topography, and site specific geology below (Attach additional sheets if needed):

Surface Soils on the project site is summarized in the table below and uses the SCS Hydrologic Soil Groups*. If there is more than one soil unit on the project site, show each soil unit on the site soils map.

Soil Series Unit Names, Infiltration Characteristics & Thickness													
Soil Series Unit Name & Subgroup**	Group*	Thickness (feet)											
Bergstrom soils and Urban Land (Bh)	В	0-5											
Brackett soils and Urban land, 12 to 30% slopes (BrF)	С	0-4											
Lincoln soils and Urban land (Lu)	А	0-12											
Urban land and Brackett soils, 1 to 12% slopes (UuE)	С	0.2-4.6											
Volente soils and Urban land, 1 to 8% slopes (VuD)	С	0.2-4.6											

*Soil Hydrologic Groups Definitions (Abbreviated)

- A. Soils having a <u>high infiltration</u> rate when thoroughly wetted.
- B. Soils having a moderate infiltration rate when thoroughly wetted.
- C. Soils having a <u>slow infiltration</u> rate when thoroughly wetted.
- D. Soils having a <u>very slow</u> infiltration rate when thoroughly wetted.

**Subgroup Classification – See Classification of Soil Series Table in County Soil Survey.

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	and Drainage (Attach additional sheetately 550 feet above mean sea level	
the subject site occurs primarily by o River.	verland sheet flow in a north-to-south	direction into the Colorado
List surface geologic units bel	ow:	
	eologic Units Exposed at Surface	
Group	Formation	Member
Lower Cretaceous	Glen Rose Formation (Kgru)	Cretaceous
Recent	Quaternary Terrace Deposits (Qt)	Quaternary
Brief description of site geolog	y (Attach additional sheets if needed):	
BEG, 1995). The upper member of the lower confining unit of the Edwar Stair-step topography is characterist Glen Rose Limestone is described a Young, 1976). The upper member of dolomitic, and less fossiliferous than	ose Formation (Kgru) and Quaternary the Glen Rose Limestone is relatively in ds Aquifer. It has a maximum thicknest of the upper member of the Glen Rose yellowish-tan, thinly bedded limeston of the Glen Rose Limestone is relatively the lower member of the Glen Rose Lestone is red-stained, lumpy, irregula 1972).	mpermeable and described as ess of about 350 to 500 feet. ose Limestone. The Upper ne and marl (Garner and y more thinly bedded, more Limestone. The top of the
Quaternary high terrace deposits con Garner and Young, 1976).	nsist of unconsolidated gravel, sand, s	silt, and clay (UT-BEG, 1981 or
Wells – Identify all recorded and unplugged, capped and/or aband	unrecorded wells on site (test hole doned wells, etc.):	es, monitoring, water, oil,
There are _1_(#) wells present or	n the project site and the locations	are shown and labeled
(#'s)The wells are n	ot in use and have been properly a	abandoned.
(#'s)The wells are n	ot in use and will be properly aban	doned.
1(#'s)The wells are ir	use and comply with 16 TAC Cha	apter 76.

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There are <u>0</u> (#'s) wells that are off-site and within 150 feet of this site.

11	THE VE	EGETATION	REPORT -	Provide the	information	requested below:
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subject site is situated within the Cross listed of dense wooded vegetation.	Fimbers vegetational area of Texas (Gould, 1975
Ç	
There is an allowed a second in the second	Fly50 T NO (c)
	YES □ NO (Check one
If yes, list the dominant species below	v.
Woodlan	nd species
Common Name	Scientific Name
hackberry	Celtis laevigata
pecan	Carya illinoinensis
live oak	Quercus virginiana
Ashe juniper	Juniperus ashei
	n site
If yes, list the dominant species below	v:
Grassland/prairie	e/savanna species
Common Name	Scientific Name
Bermuda grass	Cynodon dactylon

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☐ On- ☑ City ☐ Oth Note: All site:
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The site se all State, C ✓YES □
Calculation the end of ☐YES ☐
Wastewate □YES ☑

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	the project site is over the Edward YES 🗹 NO <i>(Check one).</i>	s Aquifer?								
	yes, then describe the wastewater vel and effects on receiving watero	r disposal systems proposed for the site, its treatme								
provi	ded.	nic copy of the completed assessment have been ed:								
Date(s) E	RI Field Assessment was performe	Date(s)								
	cure certifies that to the best of minformation requested.	y knowledge, the responses on this form accurately								
Greg Sherro	od	512-328-2430								
Print Nar	ne	Telephone								
		greg_sherrod@horizon-esi.com								
Signature	9	Email Address								
Horizon Env	rironmental Services, Inc.	12-23-2016								
Name of	Company	Date								

For project sites within the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone, my signature and seal also certifies that I am a licensed Professional Geoscientist in the State of Texas as defined by ECM 1.12.3(A).

P.G. Seal

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City of Austin Environmental Resource Inventory - Critical Environmental Feature Worksheet

				Springs Est. Discharge	cfs													kimate		
			ι	ATURE NS	Trend													the approx rement.		
			-esi.co	RECHARGE FEATURE DIMENSIONS	Z													on and measu	elow	
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Lee She	512-328	Greg Sherrod	greg_sherrod@horizon-esi.com	RIMROCK/BLUFF DIMENSIONS (ft)	Avg Height	10	7	10	5	65								of coordina the points Accuracy	sub-meter meter > 1 meter I Geologist:	
Primary Contact Name:	Phone Number: 512-328-2430	Prepared By:	Email Address:	RIMROC DIMENS	Length	359	591	1104	215	999								Please state the method of coordinate data collection and the approximate precision and accuracy of the points and the unit of measurement. $\frac{Accuracy}{Accuracy}$	sub-meter meter meter heter sub-meter sub-meter sub-meter heter sub-meter sub-meter	
Primary Cor	Pho	Р	Ema	AND ONS (ft)	γ						72							Please state precision and Method	GPS Surveyed Other	
				WETLAND DIMENSIONS (ft)	×						15									
5	9	7	8)	notation															
				FEATURE LATITUDE (WGS 1984 in Meters)	coordinate	30.343843	30.345810	30.346960	30.348001	30.342897	30.344308	30.346730							For a spring or seep, locate the source of groundwater that feeds a pool or stream.	
				E 5)	notation														For a the s	
ract		1 2-2-2017		FEATURE LONGITUDE (WGS 1984 in Meters)	coordinate	-97.786061	-97.785506	-97.785985	-97.786600	-97.786185	-97.786894	-97.785681							For wetlands, locate the approximate centroid of the feature and the estimated area.	→ ≭
Project Name: Mueller 44 Ac Tract		10-16-2014 and 2-2-2017		FEATURE ID	(eg 5-1)	RR1	RR2	RR3	RR4	B1	W-1	S1							For wetlands approximate feature and t	
Project Name:	Project Address:	Site Visit Date:	Environmental Resource Inventory Date:	FEATURE TYPE {Wetland,Rimrock, Bluffs,Recharge	Feature,Spring}	Rim Rock	Rim Rock	Rim Rock	Rim Rock	Bluff	Wetland CEF	Seep						City of Austin Use Only CASE NUMBER:	For rimrock, locate the midpoint of the segment that describes the feature.	***
-	2	3	4	6																

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