



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MOTION 20180103 007c

Date: January 3, 2018

Subject: Watershed Protection Department 2018 Bond Proposal

Motion by: Hank Smith

Seconded by: Mary Ann Neely

RATIONALE:

WHEREAS, bond sales are the only funding vehicle available to the City of Austin to make green infrastructure investments and the watershed benefits include protection of drinking water, reduction of flood impacts and preservation of recreational resources; and

WHEREAS, there is a 10-year Watershed Protection Department (WPD) near term unfunded need for \$150M to acquire 3,000 acres fee simple and 6,000 acres in conservation easement; the WPD Proposal and Preliminary Working Group recommended \$50M for immediate acquisition of 1,000 acres fee simple and 2,000 acres in conservation easements; and there was a \$20M “starting point” for 2018 bonds to acquire 800 acres fee simple for permanent protection; and

WHEREAS, WPD staff has identified and estimated \$1.94B total unfunded needs for capital improvements to the existing drainage system of which traditionally about 31% of those costs come from bonds; and

WHEREAS, there is a \$230+M WPD 2018 Bond Needs Assessment for 28 projects covering 10 council districts; the WPD Proposal and Preliminary Working Group recommended \$100+M for 15 projects in 10 Austin City Council districts with confirmed feasibility and implementation timing; and a \$75+M “Starting Point” for 2018 bonds for 10 projects in 7 council districts.

THEREFORE, the Environmental Commission recommends support of the request from the WPD Proposal and Preliminary Working Group Recommendation of at least \$50M for acquisition of approximately 1,000 acres fee simple and 2,000 acres in conservation easements, as well as their recommendation for at least \$100+M for 15 projects in 10 Council districts.

VOTE 8-0

For: Perales, Thompson, Neely, Maceo, H. Smith, Coyne, Guerrero, Gordon

Against: None

Abstain: None

Recuse: None

Absent: B. Smith, Istvan, and Creel

Approved By:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Marisa Perales". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "M".

Marisa Perales, Environmental Commission Chair