

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting : February 1, 2018

Item Number: **004**

Austin Water

Authorize negotiation and execution of a two-year collection agreement with the United States Forest Service to provide research and data analysis related to golden-cheeked warbler population viability within the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve for a total contract amount not to exceed \$98,788.

Lead Department	Austin Water
Fiscal Note	Funding in the amount of \$49,743 is available in the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Balcones Canyonlands Preserve Operating Budget and Participation Certificate Account. Funding for the remaining one year contract term is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.
Prior Council Action	February 17, 2011- Council approved a Collection Agreement with the United States Forest Service to provide research, monitoring, data analysis, and population habitat suitability modeling for the endangered golden-cheeked warbler and Balcones Canyonlands Preserve.
For More Information	Lisa O'Donnell, 512-972-1674; Nico Hauwert, 512-972-1661; Sherri Kuhl, 512-972-1664; Denise Avery, 512-972-0104
Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action	January 10, 2018- Recommended by the Water and Wastewater Commission on a 7-0 vote with Commissioners Parton, Moriarty, Kellough, and Bell absent.

Additional Backup Information:

Austin Water's Wildland Conservation Division requests authorization to enter into a collection agreement with the United States Forest Service to provide the City of Austin with a comparison of Golden-cheeked warbler (warbler) abundance estimated from 2017 intensive monitoring data and point count models, an estimate of juvenile survival and habitat use based on radio-tracking juvenile warblers, updated population viability models for warblers within the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve, and training for City of Austin staff to perform the viability analyses. This two-year project will address questions remaining from a previously funded five-year (2011-2015) study with the U.S. Forest Service and to conduct future data analyses.

The Wildland Conservation Division is made up of the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve program and the Water Quality Protection Lands program protecting over 40,000 acres of land from roughly Cedar Park to Kyle. The Balcones Canyonlands Preserve was established as a result of a federal permit issued to the City of Austin and Travis County to authorize impacts to eight endangered species. The warbler is one of the endangered species covered under the federal permit. This permit requires active management, monitoring, and research to ensure species protections.