

**AGENDA**



**Recommendation for Council Action**

**AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL**

**Regular Meeting: August 23, 2018**

Item Number: **003**

**Austin Water**

Authorize negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center of the University of Texas at Austin for the Austin Water Wildland Conservation Division and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center to coordinate prescribed fire planning and implementation.

<b>Lead Department</b>	Austin Water
<b>Fiscal Note</b>	This item has no fiscal impact.
<b>For More Information</b>	Sherry Kuhl, 512-972-1664; Lucien Ball, 512-972-1683; Denise Avery, 512-972-0104
<b>Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action</b>	July 11, 2018- Recommended by the Water and Wastewater Commission on a 7-0 vote with Chair Moriarty and Commissioners Turrieta, Michel, and Schmitt absent.

**Additional Backup Information:**

The purpose of this agreement is to establish a framework of cooperation for each of the parties to provide mutual support, cooperation and assistance for prescribed fire management, fire prevention, fire preparedness, and for assistance on “all risk” incidents or land management activities where specific skills and/or equipment are required. It will also provide for technical support and training; and will allow each party to request equipment, personnel, and appropriate personal safety items as necessary to ensure the safety of employees participating

in interagency incident management efforts. Parties understand that the resources available from the City under this Agreement are limited to the resources of the Austin Water (AW) Wildland Conservation Division. The AW Wildland Conservation Division has partnered with the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center on research burns in the past, but the Center is now expanding their burn program to meet National Wildland Coordination Group standards and we look forward to partnering with them on future burns. The Wildflower Center is a neighboring property to the AW Wildlands and we share common land management goals.

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 Water Quality Protection Lands protect land over the recharge and contributing zone of the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer to protect the quality and quantity of water discharging at Barton Springs.