



## ANIMAL ADVISORY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION 20191209-5C

Date: 12/12/2019

Subject: Opposition to landfill expansion

Motioned By: Craig Nazor

Seconded By: Katie Jarl

### **Recommendation**

*A resolution in opposition to expansion of a landfill near the southern end of ABIA's western runway.*

### **Description of Recommendation to Council**

*Please see attachment "A," Resolution*

### **Rationale:**

*This resolution supports a similar resolution from the Zero Waste Advisory Commission with an emphasis on the negative impact to local animals and wildlife.*

### **Vote**

For: 8 (Lundstedt, Mitchell, Jarl, Nazor, Neuhaus, Schwartz, Brandes, Flores)

Against: 0

Abstain: 1 (Clinton)

Absent: (Frenden, Nemer, Mier)

Vacancy (District 4)

Attest: David Lundstedt AAC Chair

## Resolution: Austin Animal Advisory Commission

**Whereas, It is the Responsibility of the Austin Animal Advisory Commission to review, evaluate and make recommendations to the Austin City Council, City Staff, Travis County Commissioners, and County Staff regarding policies concerning potentially deadly conflicts between wildlife, City and County operations, City and County residents, and City and County visitors; and**

**Whereas, The City of Austin and Travis County have grown dramatically in population and development over the past five years and are expected to continue this rapid upward trajectory; and**

**Whereas, the City of Austin is currently expanding Austin Bergstrom International Airport to include a South Terminal and is scheduled to dramatically increase both its commercial airline and private plane Departures and Arrivals beginning in 2020; and**

**Whereas, in 2017 and 2018, Austin Bergstrom International Airport experienced record-breaking enplanements of 13,800,000 and 15,800,000, respectively; and**

**Whereas, The City of Austin is responsible for protecting the health and safety of all citizens who reside within, and are visitors to, the City of Austin; and**

**Whereas, The City of Austin and Travis County are therefore responsible for minimizing deadly and unnecessary conflict between native wildlife, City and County residents, and City and County visitors; and**

**Whereas, the two properties adjacent to the southern boundary of Austin Bergstrom International Airport are both Municipal Solid Waste Landfills of which one, the FM 812 Landfill is owned and managed by the City of Austin and the other one, a Type IV MSW Facility, is managed and owned by Texas Regional Landfill Company, LP – a privately held subsidiary of Waste Connections of Texas; and**

**Whereas, the City of Austin Owned and Managed FM 812 Facility, the Texas Regional Landfill Company Type IV Facility and Austin Bergstrom International Airport are all within City of Austin Boundaries and City Jurisdiction; and**

**Whereas, the City of Austin owned and managed FM 812 Facility is currently going through permanent closure of its Landfill site while the adjacent Facility owned and managed by Texas Regional Landfill Company, a subsidiary of Waste Connections of Texas, is seeking an expansion of its Type IV MSW Facility located at 9600 FM 812; and**

**Whereas, this proposed expansion of the 9600 FM 812 Type IV Facility by Texas Regional Landfill Company, LP, a subsidiary of Waste Connections of Texas, will significantly raise the elevation of the facility and will greatly add to the amount of Type IV Landfill material being disposed and buried at the site. The results of this proposed expansion could subsequently raise the chances of a catastrophic aviation accident at Austin Bergstrom International Airport due to increased bird activity; and**

**Whereas, Landfill usage within close proximity to Airports can prove extremely hazardous to aviation on takeoff and landing approaches given their propensity to attract small mammals and birds, which in turn attracts larger birds of prey; and**

**Whereas, The most common mitigation for bird/aviation conflict at Austin Bergstrom International Airport is to shoot the birds, regardless of any local, state or federal protections or hunting restrictions; Now Therefore,**

**Be It Resolved That the Austin Animal Advisory Commission of the City of Austin: Requests that the Austin City Council as well as the Travis County Commissioners formally and firmly oppose this, and any future, Landfill Expansion efforts of the Type IV MSW Facility located at 9600 FM 812 and owned by Texas Regional Landfill Company, LP, a subsidiary of Waste Connections of Texas; and**

**Be It Further Resolved, The Austin Animal Advisory Commission requests that the Austin City Council pursue a joint interlocal agreement with Travis County Commissioners in submitting formal written opposition to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality opposing this, and any future, proposed Landfill Expansion of the Type IV MSW Facility located at 9600 FM 812 and managed by Texas Regional Landfill Company, LP a subsidiary of Waste Connections of Texas; and**

**Be It Further Resolved, the Austin Animal Advisory Commission of the City of Austin and Travis County requests that this approved Resolution be forwarded to the appropriate decision makers at Austin Bergstrom International Airport so they can oppose this, and any future, proposed Landfill Expansion of the Type IV MSW Facility located at 9600 FM 812 and managed by Texas Regional Landfill Company, LP a subsidiary of Waste Connections of Texas, in the Airport's communications with the Federal Aviation Administration concerning safety at Austin Bergstrom International Airport.**