




MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Robert Goode P.E., Interim Director, Austin Water 

DATE: October 31, 2022

SUBJECT: **Annexation of Austin Water managed lands in Travis and Hays Counties, Council Items 89, 90, 91, and 92**

Please see the additional information below related to the proposed annexation of Austin Water managed Water Quality Protection Lands (WQPL) and Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP) described in the November 3, 2022, City Council Agenda Items 89, 90, 91, and 92.

Austin Water requested that Housing and Planning move forward to annex Balcones Canyonlands Preserve Lands and Water Quality Protection Lands as a housekeeping measure. Some of the lands we manage were already in the City of Austin's full purpose jurisdiction and these proposed annexations are in areas of the City's Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) adjacent to full purpose areas. Having all of the WQPL and BCP lands in full purpose will provide for consistent regulations and management of our Austin Water conservation lands.

Centralized water and wastewater services - Austin Water does not provide centralized water and wastewater services to any of these lands and no service is planned. As with all Austin Water managed conservation lands, the lands subject to this annexation are managed as endangered species habitat and for water quality protection, and no residential development is allowed or planned under the Council approved Land Management Plans.

Fire services - The Land Management Plans address wildfire risk and mitigation best practices and are reviewed by the Austin Fire Department (AFD). Because the proposed annexation described in City Council Agenda Item 89 includes undeveloped areas that extend into Hays County, AFD has clarified service for this area per the attached memorandum.

Background - Austin Water's Wildland Conservation Division protects over 48,000 acres of land that are part of the Water Quality Protection Lands or the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve. These conservation lands benefit our community's quality of life by safeguarding groundwater and conserving habitat for endangered species by providing large, connected natural areas where native plants and animals thrive. The BCP also serves as mitigation to facilitate a streamlined process for economic development and growth outside of the preserves. The Wildland Conservation Division provides opportunities for guided public access and volunteer

programs focused primarily on education and restoration. There are also recreation opportunities on City of Austin parklands that are also a part of the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve, such as St. Edwards Park. The uses of these tracts will not change with the proposed annexation.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 512-972-0108.

cc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager
Gina Fiandaca, Assistant City Manager
Rey Arellano, Assistant City Manager
Joel Baker, Austin Fire Chief

Attachment: AFD/AW Memorandum Annexation of Water Quality Protection Lands in Travis and Hays Counties



MEMORANDUM

October 26, 2022

Austin City Council
Case number: C7a-2022-0010

Re: Annexation of Water Quality Protection Lands in Travis and Hays Counties

Because the proposed annexation of approximately 3067 acres of Austin Water-managed Water Quality Protection Lands (WQPL) (Case number C7a-2022-0010) includes undeveloped areas that extend into Hays County, Austin Water and Austin Fire Departments agree to the following clarifications:

1. Austin Fire Department will provide fire protection services at a level that meets or exceeds current services provided in the area and that is at least equivalent to services provided to other City of Austin areas with similar topography, land use, and population density.
2. Austin Water Staff working in the annexed lands who call 9-1-1 will be advised that their calls may be answered by Hays County Dispatch due to cellular tower locations. The Capital Area Council of Governments and COA/Travis County Dispatch will work with Hays County Dispatch to assure that emergency responses are routed correctly.
3. Austin Water manages these conservation lands. Austin Water does not provide centralized water and wastewater services to any of these lands and no service is planned. As with all Austin Water-managed conservation lands, the lands subject to this annexation are managed as endangered species habitat and for water quality protection and no residential development is allowed or planned under the Council approved Land Management Plans. The Land Management Plans also address wildfire risk and mitigation best practices and are reviewed by the Austin Fire Department.

Joel G Baker
Austin Fire Chief



Robert Goode P.E.
Austin Water Interim Director

