





MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and Council Members

FROM: Katie Coyne, AICP, Certified Ecologist – ESA
Environmental Officer / Assistant Director
Watershed Protection Department

THROUGH: Jorge Morales, P.E., CFM, Director, Watershed Protection Department 
Rey Arellano, Assistant City Manager 

DATE: November 9, 2022

SUBJECT: **Staff Update: Resolution No. 20220609-061 – First Phase Environmental Regulations**

On October 27, 2022, City Council passed Ordinance No. 20221027-045, which included the first phase of amendments to environmental regulations that were previously initiated with Resolution No. [20220609-061](#). The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update on the expected timeline for completion of the first phase. Those code changes include the following:

- Functional Green landscape requirements for highly urbanized sites
- Expanded protections for the Colorado River downstream of Longhorn Dam
- Greenfield Detention requirements
- Urban slope protections
- Missing Middle

In order to conduct the necessary stakeholder engagement related to these initiatives and to allow staff in partnering departments to work together to identify incentives and process improvements to ensure regulatory balance to reduce potential negative effects of new regulations on housing or affordability, staff anticipate that this effort will be completed within an 18-month timeframe. These considerations extend the timeline for completion to May 30, 2024.

Sincerely,



Katie Coyne, AICP, Certified Ecologist – ESA
City of Austin Environmental Officer / Assistant Director, Watershed Protection Department

cc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager
Rosie Truelove, Director, Housing and Planning Department
Denise Lucas, Director, Development Services Department