



Recommendation for Action

File #: 23-1020, **Agenda Item #:** 4.

1/26/2023

Posting Language

Approve a resolution repealing Resolution No. 20121213-003 and approving a new land management plan for the Water Quality Protection Lands located primarily southwest Travis and northeast Hays Counties.

Lead Department

Austin Water.

Prior Council Action:

December 13, 2012 - Resolution No. 2012213-003 was adopted, repealing Resolution No. 011213-80 and approving the most recent land management plan for Austin's Water Quality Protection Lands.

December 13, 2001 - Resolution No. 011213-80 was adopted approving the initial land management plan for Austin's Water Quality Protection Lands.

For More Information:

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Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

January 18, 2023 - to be reviewed by the Water and Wastewater Commission.

Additional Backup Information:

The Water Quality Protection Lands (WQPL) program began in 1998 with a bond referendum to protect 15,000 acres over the recharge and contributing zone of the Edwards Aquifer to help protect the quantity and quality of water flowing to Barton Springs. Since then, these protected lands have grown to over 34,000 acres, with over 12,000 acres directly managed by the City of Austin. This land management plan (LMP) provides the framework and technical guidance to implement ecological restoration of the WQPL using such tools as prescribed fire; collection and seeding of native grasses/wildflowers; as well as adaptive strategies to protect and increase biodiversity and manage wildfire risk. This version has been updated to add an executive summary and conclusions, and to make it clearer and more concise. Notably, a key section was rewritten to incorporate cutting-edge, peer-reviewed science on managing land for water quality and quantity. This third, once-per-decade LMP was prepared by some of the leading minds in the field of land conservation and management at Texas A&M University, in collaboration with City technical staff.

Strategic Outcome(s):

Health and Environment.