



Item 7
23-1020

Water & Wastewater Commission: January 18, 2023
Council: January 26, 2023

Posting Language:

Recommend approval of a resolution repealing Resolution No. 20121213-003 and approving a new land management plan for the Water Quality Protection Lands managed by Austin Water and located primarily in southwest Travis and northeast Hays Counties.

Lead Department:

Austin Water

Client Department:

Austin Water Assistant Director Kevin Critendon

Fiscal Note:

This item has no fiscal impact

Prior Council Action:

December 13, 2012 – Resolution No. 2012213-003 was adopted 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.

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 lands have grown to over 34,000 acres protected, 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 will be the third, once-per-decade LMP, and 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 the Environment.