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23

25 **WHEREAS**, the Aquifer is a federally-designated, sole-source aquifer,
26 which serves as a primary source of drinking water for tens of thousands of people
27 and is a vital resource to the general economy and welfare of the City and the State
28 of Texas; and

29 **WHEREAS**, increasing the amount of clean water entering the Aquifer will
30 benefit the Aquifer, Barton Springs, the Colorado River, and aquatic and terrestrial
31 species dependent on this water; and

32 **WHEREAS**, the City has substantially invested in preserving water quality
33 and quantity in the Barton Springs zone; and

34 **WHEREAS**, the City, through land purchases and conservation easements,
35 now protects over 33,000 acres of land in the Barton Springs recharge and
36 contributing zones to benefit water quality and quantity, including over 47 percent
37 of the land draining to Stoneledge Quarry; and

38 **WHEREAS**, the City purchased an 86.4-acre tract (the “Wenzel Tract”) in
39 northern Hays County that includes an 18-acre quarry (the “Stoneledge Quarry”)
40 within the aquifer recharge zone using open space bond funds in 2002; and

41 **WHEREAS**, the Hill Country Conservancy assisted in both the purchase of
42 the land and ideation of a project to enhance the recharge of the Aquifer; and

43 **WHEREAS**, the City proposes to construct, operate, and maintain an
44 Aquifer recharge project at Stoneledge Quarry (the “Project”) that will divert flood
45 flows above 50 cubic feet per second from Little Bear Creek though a diversion
46 channel into Stoneledge Quarry, where the water will slowly recharge the Aquifer
47 thereby increasing Aquifer storage and enhancing flows at Barton Springs; and

WHEREAS, the City has obtained from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality a water use permit, for the off-channel impoundment of 383 acre-feet of water for storage in Stoneledge Quarry; and

WHEREAS, the Project is a cooperative effort by the City, Lower Colorado River Authority, and the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District;
NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

Council initiates site-specific variances and amendments to the Land Development Code, including site-specific amendments to City Code Chapter 25-8, Subchapter A, Article 13 (*Save Our Springs Initiative*), as are necessary to allow for the completion of the Little Bear Aquifer Recharge Enhancement Project and directs the City Manager to return to Council with the necessary variances and amendments as soon as possible.

ADOPTED: _____, 2023 **ATTEST:** _____
Myrna Rios
City Clerk