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20           **WHEREAS**, the Austin area and the rest of Texas went through a historic  
21 drought from 2008 to 2016, experiencing the lowest annual inflows since the late  
22 1930s and early 1940s when the lakes were constructed; and

23           **WHEREAS**, the 2022 Lower Colorado River Basin inflows were the lowest  
24 on record, and to date this year have not increased; and

25           **WHEREAS**, the springs of the upper South Llano River did not cease  
26 during that time and are currently the only source of flowing water to the LCRA  
27 basin; and

28           **WHEREAS**, private landowners in Texas have historically been prevented  
29 by law and custom from impounding navigable rivers for private use without a  
30 permit from the Texas Environmental Commission (TCEQ); and

31           **WHEREAS**, an application, TCEQ permit #13524 filed by Waterstone  
32 Creek, LLC seeks authorization to construct and maintain a dam and reservoir on  
33 the South Llano River, Colorado River Basin, impounding 12.02 acre-feet of water  
34 for recreational purposes in Edwards County; and

35           **WHEREAS**, another property in Mason County recently built an  
36 unpermitted dam along the James River, a tributary to the Llano River that could  
37 further constrain water flow; and  
38

39           **WHEREAS**, the proliferation of these types of impoundments construe an  
40           existential threat to the water supply of Austin, Bastrop, and many downstream  
41           communities, and, to the ecosystems supported by flows in the Texas Colorado  
42           River; and

43           **WHEREAS**, Water Forward highlights working with regional partners to  
44           protect and enhance the Colorado River and Highland Lakes system supply; and

45           **WHEREAS**, the ability to work closely with regional partners such as  
46           Travis, Mason, Llano, and Kimble Counties, and community stakeholders such as  
47           The Hill Country Alliance, The Llano River Watershed Alliance, The Greater  
48           Edwards Aquifer Alliance, and Save Barton Creek Association, in the stewardship  
49           of this shared resource is beneficial to all; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

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

51           The City Manager is directed to seek affected party status for the City of  
52           Austin with the (TCEQ) regarding TCEQ permit application #13524 filed by  
53           Waterstone Creek, LLC and to seek, at the same time or upon the grant of affected  
54           person status, a contested hearing before TCEQ.

55           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

56           The City Manager is directed to proactively engage with the Texas Parks  
57           and Wildlife Department in opposition to any permits required pertaining to the  
58           dam and reservoir.

59 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

60 The City Manager is directed to explore additional options to work with the  
61 Lower Colorado River Authority in opposition to the dam and reservoir permit.

62 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

63 The City Manager is directed to complete these actions within 60 days and  
64 report the progress by memorandum to Council.

65  
66  
67 **ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2023 **ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

68 Myrna Rios  
69 City Clerk