

**Posting Language**

Recommend approval of a resolution to negotiate and execute an amendment to the interlocal agreement with Travis County for Joint Funding and Management of the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan Officer.

**Lead Department**

Austin Water

**Client Department**

Austin Water Assistant Director of Environmental, Planning & Development Services, Kevin Critendon

**Fiscal Note**

This item has no fiscal impact.

**Prior Council Action**

March 31, 2016 - Council authorized negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with Travis County to share funding of the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan Coordinating Committee Secretary position.

**Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action**

September 13, 2023 - To be reviewed by the Water & Wastewater Commission

**Additional Backup Information**

The Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (BCCP) provides a fast-track solution to habitat mitigation for Endangered Species Act compliance that supports economic growth and protection of endangered species habitat. It honors multiple community priorities by enabling the construction of roads, utilities, and buildings, while upholding a commitment to natural resources, including the parks, creeks, and preserves that make up our green infrastructure. The BCCP Permit is the name given to the Federal Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit issued to the City of Austin and Travis County in 1996 by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service combined with the BCCP Habitat Conservation Plan which is the governing document that established the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP). The permitting process for infrastructure projects and the city owned BCP lands are managed by Austin Water. Some tracts within the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve system are city parks and are co-managed with the Parks and Recreation Department. In the 25+ years since the BCCP was created, more than 1,200 private landowners and developers have applied for BCCP take permits, resulting in the development of over 17,100 acres and the authorization of more than 300 public infrastructure projects.

The BCCP Coordinating Committee Secretary was established by the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between Travis County and the City of Austin Implementing the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan – Shared Vision (1995, the ILA/Shared Vision). This position serves as the chief administrative officer to the BCCP Coordinating Committee. In April 2016, the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the City of Austin and Travis County for Joint Funding and Management of the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan Coordinating Committee Secretary was executed. The 2023 update to the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the City of Austin and



**Item 14**

**# 23-2798**

**Water & Wastewater Commission: September 13, 2023**

**Council: September 21, 2023**

Travis County for Shared Vision and Implementation of the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan changes the title of the chief administrative officer to the BCCP Coordinating Committee from “BCCP Coordinating Committee Secretary” to “BCCP Officer”. The proposed update to the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the City of Austin and Travis County for the Joint Funding and Management of the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (BCCP) Officer reflects this title change.