



Recommendation for Action

File #: 23-2794, **Agenda Item #:** 7.

9/21/2023

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of an amended and restated interlocal agreement with Travis County for implementation of the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan - Shared Vision to update the parties' responsibilities and to reflect current industry standards.

Lead Department

Austin Water.

Prior Council Action:

May 4, 1995 - Council authorized negotiation and execution of the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between Travis County and the City of Austin Implementing the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan - Shared Vision.

For More Information:

Inquiries should be directed to Austin Water Program Coordinator, Blanca Madriz at blanca.madriz@austintexas.gov <<mailto:blanca.madriz@austintexas.gov>> or (512) 972-0115.

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

May 12, 2023 - Recommended by the BCCP Coordinating Committee on a vote of 2-0 with no members absent.

September 13, 2023 - to be reviewed by the Water and 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 Interlocal Cooperation Agreement -Shared Vision with Travis County was executed in 1995 as a start-up document for the joint and cooperative implementation of the BCCP Permit to maintain a mechanism by which City and County could proceed with public capital improvement projects in compliance with the Endangered Species Act, to provide a funding mechanism for the purchase and management of Balcones

Canyonlands Preserve system land, and to create a streamlined mechanism for the private sector to mitigate endangered species take. This Interlocal Cooperation Agreement is being updated to reflect current BCCP Permit administrative roles and responsibilities of the City and County, and to clarify terms used to describe BCCP Take Permits to align with modern industry standards.