Resource Management Commission Resolution to Repurpose GreenChoice Revenues and Increase Dispatchable Renewable Energy

DRAFT

WHEREAS, the City of Austin aspires to run its municipal electric utility, Austin Energy, completely with carbon-free electricity by 2035; and

WHEREAS, a grid based largely on carbon-free energy cannot be realistically accomplished in Texas without energy storage or dispatchable renewable energy sources; and

WHEREAS, Austin Energy has done very little to date to adopt energy storage or dispatchable energy into its future plans; and

WHEREAS, GreenChoice, a program originally designed to enhance adoption of renewable energy by charging customers a different rate, is no longer necessary to increase Austin's use of renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, GreenChoice, when properly operating, collects about \$7 million in increased revenues that can be repurposed to help transition Austin Energy to a completely carbon-free utility; and

WHEREAS, GreenChoice funds can be leveraged with other funding in the public and private sector to magnify its spending power;

THEN BE IT RESOLVED that the Resource Management Commission advise the Austin City Council to repurpose revenues from Austin Energy's GreenChoice program, leveraging the program's revenue with grants and investments from other governments and non-profits, public and private electric utilities, and the private sector to fund energy storage and dispatchable renewables; and

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Commission recommend that Council direct Austin Energy to explore other strategies and funding sources as well as GreenChoice revenues in furtherance of the goal of adding more renewable dispatchability to its system.