

## AGENDA



Thursday, May 3, 2007

**Item(s) to Set Public Hearing(s)**  
**RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 37**

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**Subject:** Set a public hearing to consider the use of approximately 7.07 acres out of an 820 acre tract to allow for construction and the relocation of the Reicher Ranch driveway through dedicated Balcones Canyonland Preserve (BCP) tract known as Reicher Ranch located at 3635 RR 620 South in accordance with Section 26.001 et seq. of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code. (Suggested date and time: June 7, 2007 at 6:00 p.m., Austin City Hall, 301 West Second Street, Austin, TX)

**For More Information:** Junie Plummer 974-7085, Willy Conrad 263-6430, Laura Bohl 974-7064.

**Boards and Commission Action:** Recommended by BCCP Citizens Advisory Committee, BCCP Scientific Advisory Committee, BCCP Coordinating Committee, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Board and the Water and Wastewater Commission.

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Chapter 26 of the Parks and Wildlife Code provides that the use of preserve for non-preserve purposes may be approved upon a finding that there is no feasible and prudent alternative to the use of this land.

Austin Water Utility (AWU) is requesting the relocation of the Reicher Ranch driveway so that ingress/egress occurs through a controlled intersection across a portion of Reicher Ranch. Ingress and egress for Reicher Ranch has become increasingly dangerous and difficult to insure public health and safety. AWU maintains Field Offices for the Wildland Conversation Division, including BCP program staff, on Reicher Ranch and has been striving for more than a year to find a solution for safe ingress/egress.

Reicher Ranch is 820 acres and was purchased in 1994. The proposed 7.07 acre tract does not contain habitat suitable for Golden Cheeked Warblers. The BCP Scientific Advisory Committee reviewed the project and found that a new ingress/egress alignment to be beneficial to BCP and Reicher Ranch. Any and all Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be adhered to before, during and post construction for the right of way improvements. In addition, the City is seeking Sealed Bid Invitations for the sale or exchange of the 7.07 acre tract. Mayor and Council will be given the opportunity to accept or reject all bids on June 21, 2007.

There is no feasible and prudent alternative to the use of the dedicated BCP tract which includes all reasonable planning to minimize harm to such lands. The dates of public notification in the Austin American-Statesman are May 13, 20, and 27, 2007.