Thursday, February 28, 2008

Public Hearings and Possible Actions RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. 116

Subject: Conduct a public hearing and consider an ordinance amending Sections 25-8-92 and 30-5-92 of the City Code relating to Critical Water Quality Zones along the shorelines of the Colorado River downstream of Town Lake.

Fiscal Note: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: Nancy McClintock, 974-2652; Matt Hollon, 974-2212.

Boards and Commission Action: The Environmental Board, the Planning Commission Codes & Ordinances subcommittee and the Planning Commission support the proposal.

Prior Council Action: City Council adopted Resolution No. 20071213-061 on December 13, 2007 directing the City Manager to process this amendment.

Currently, the Critical Water Quality Zone buffer for the Colorado River is measured from the "stream centerline" and extends landward 200 to 400 feet. However, this method results in a portion of the buffer remaining in open water while the portion of the buffer on land may only be a fraction of its intended width.

The proposed ordinance moves the starting point of the buffer to the bank's edge ("ordinary high water mark") and thereby ensures the full buffer width is on land, as intended.