

AGENDA



Thursday, June 5, 2008

**Public Hearings and Possible Actions
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 75**

Subject: Conduct a public hearing and consider an ordinance granting a site-specific amendment to City Code Section 25-8-514 (Save our Springs Initiative) to allow construction of a pollution prevention device upstream of Dry Fork Sink in the Critical Water Quality Zone of Williamson Creek.

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

For More Information: Patrick Murphy 974-2821; Michael Kelly, P.E. 974-6591

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by the Environmental Board, the Code and Ordinance Subcommittee of the Planning Commission and the Planning Commission.

The City of Austin Watershed Protection and Development Review Department is proposing a water quality retrofit project within the Williamson Creek Watershed to remove pollutants from storm runoff that drains into the Dry Fork Sink, a significant Barton Springs Zone recharge feature. This sink has been observed to recharge the entire flow of Dry Fork during some storm events and is directly linked to Barton Springs.

The City acquired two undeveloped tracts of land near William Cannon Boulevard and Brodie Lane through development settlements- the McDaniel tract (9.32 acres) and the Lundelius tract (18.98 acres). Together, the total area is 28.30 acres. The proposed water quality retrofit structure would be sited on portions of both tracts. An unnamed tributary to the Kincheon, or Dry Branch, of Williamson Creek, crosses the project site. The total drainage area to the water quality retrofit site is 166.6 acres, consisting primarily of single-family residential development.

The location of the pond in the Critical Water Quality Zone (CWQZ) is required in order to capture and treat the runoff from this tributary. Section 25-8-514 of the Save Our Springs Initiative prohibits pollution control structures within the CWQZ of watersheds contributing to the Barton Springs; therefore, a site specific amendment to the Save Our Springs Initiative is required for this project.

The proposed pond will be located in a relatively remote area with no public access. Visual impact will be minimized with landscaping. The approximately 1.0 acre pond and 6.0 acre vegetative filter strip area will be fenced as a safety measure and to reduce existing unauthorized dumping issues. It is estimated that the construction will take 196 days and will occur during the summer months, beginning in July 2008.