

Late Backup

#75

I would like to suggest an improvement to the proposed ordinance changes concerning docks, bulkheads and shoreline access. Trams, staircases and any other structures built on the cliff formations should be required to be painted green or an earth tone color so the structures blend into the natural surroundings. Although the new ordinance requires vegetative screening, it is not practical to plant a tree on the side of a 300-foot vertical rock cliff. The 'Scenic Vistas' of Lake Austin and the Colorado River valley are explicitly named to be protected in the 'Hill Country Roadway Ordinance' and this requirement would help preserve the natural characteristics of the critical environmental features (ord. 25-8-281). Does the City of Austin really want 300-foot tall metal structures spoiling the scenic views of our cliffs along the Colorado River? Because this ordinance covers Lady Bird Lake, Lake Austin & Lake Long I believe the stricter 'aesthetic' requirements of various Lady Bird Lake ordinances should be used as the standard for this ordinance. Would a 300-foot tall galvanized metal structure be allowed to be constructed along the Lady Bird Lake shoreline? All three bodies of water should be protected with the same rules and standards to insure that our natural environment and scenic views are safeguarded for future generations. Westlake Hills has very strict rules concerning the colors of signs, fences and other structures in their city so I don't think painting these structures would be a hardship on any property owner. Thank you for your help with this issue.

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ARTICLE 11. HILL COUNTRY ROADWAY REQUIREMENTS.

Division 1. General Provisions.

§ 25-2-1101 DEFINITIONS.

In this article:

SCENIC VISTA means a generally recognizable, noteworthy view of:

- (1) Barton Creek;
- (2) Bull Creek;
- (3) West Bull Creek;
- (4) Lake Austin;
- (5) Lake Travis;
- (6) a valley of the Colorado River; or
- (7) the downtown area of Austin.

Source: Section 13-2-783(b)(1); Ord. 990225-70; Ord. 031211-11.

Division 2. Protection for Special Features.

§ 25-8-281 CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES.

(D) The director may grant an administrative variance to a requirement. An applicant for a variance must demonstrate that the proposed measures preserve all characteristics of the critical environmental feature.