



Late Backup

Post Office Box 1282
Austin, TX 78767
www.originalaustin.com
www.cltclite.com/oana/

April 4, 2012

Re: Agenda Items #10 & 11-Green Water Treatment Plant (GWTP)

Dear Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem and members of the City Council:

I'm writing on behalf of the Original Austin Neighborhood Association in support of the Green Water Treatment Plant proposal. As you know, this proposal is the culmination of many years of work to make Austin's downtown a great place for all to live, work and play. Among the many reasons to support the proposal are:

- It will result in thousands of new downtown residents;
- It will substantially complete the downtown street grid, providing additional choices to get in and out of downtown;
- It will make substantial contributions to affordable housing trust fund, provide on-site affordable housing and make contributions to public art, music and the Shoal Creek Greenway; and,
- It is a sound, net positive financial proposal.

Our support, however, is conditioned on the following changes we request you make in the draft GWTP Master Development Agreement (MDA):

- In Section 3.1(g) Trees: Instead of the developer paying a mitigation for some trees removal and mitigate with new tree for the rest, we request that the developer be required to mitigate all proposed tree removal with new trees; that the mitigation be calculated at three times the current ordinance requirement; that all new trees be at least six caliper inches; and, that they be planted in the following public places: along Lady Bird Lake/Butler Trail, Shoal Creek Greenway, Duncan Park, Wooldridge Park or Pease Park, and
- In Section 6.1 Shoal Creek Improvements: That the last sentence of this section be deleted because it inconsistent with the developer's expressed intent to provide new improvements to Shoal Creek Greenway. This sentence in the draft MDA is currently is: "Developer acknowledges that the City may, in its discretion, utilize such funds for the reimbursement of past expenses related to improvements in Shoal Creek."

Staff and the developer can outline all the community benefits of urban density. Our neighborhood supports urban density as the most immediate way to get new neighbors and to make downtown a good place to live, work and play. Whether or not an Austin taxpayer ever comes downtown, we all benefit from the increase in tax base and net public revenue that results from urban density.

We respectfully request that you support and approve this proposal with the conditions I've outlined.

Sincerely;

Ted Siff, President

Board of Directors

**Ted Siff, President, Albert Stowell, Treasurer, Blake Tollett, Secretary, Ray Canfield, Paul Isham, Rick Hardin, Perry Lorenz
John Horton, Bill Schnell**