RESOLUTION NO._____

WHEREAS, it is essential that the City of Austin preserve and protect our precious water resources which are vital to the health and well-being of our citizens, our environment and our economy; and

WHEREAS, since the drought of 2008, a large number of water wells have been drilled on properties served by Austin Water Utility; and

WHEREAS, groundwater conservation districts are granted the authority by the State of Texas to regulate groundwater, including requiring permits and registration for water wells and only a portion of the City lies within the jurisdiction of any groundwater conservation district; and

WHEREAS, staff efforts are underway to locate all groundwater wells on properties served by Austin Water Utility and to assure that these have obtained all necessary city permits particularly related to cross connections, plumbing and electrical permits; and

WHEREAS, the City needs to have record of all groundwater wells that may affect the City's municipal water supply as well as to have the information needed to prevent dangerous cross connections with the City's system and to prevent other City Code or state law violations; and

WHEREAS, sufficient data does not exist to assess the health and safety impacts of water wells, the potential effects on stream flow and aquifer levels, or the effect on our citywide conservation efforts; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

That the City Manager is directed to return to City Council on or before October 11 with an ordinance requiring registration for water wells drilled on any property served by the Austin Water Utility, and to report back to City Council on or before November 1 about a possible permitting process for water wells that would ensure compliance with applicable state and local

health and safety codes and would enable staff to collect data and analyze the potential impact of water well drilling in Austin Water Utility's service area.

ADOPTED: _____, **2012 ATTEST:** _____

Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk