

CIP EXPENSE DETAIL

DATE OF COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:
CONTACT DEPARTMENT(S):

6/6/13
WPD / ORES

SUBJECT:

Authorize the negotiation and execution of an agreement with HILL COUNTRY CONSERVANCY regarding cooperation on the acquisition of conservation easements, including cost sharing that may include reimbursement of Hill Country Conservancy's costs in connection with acquisition in the amount not to exceed \$50,000.

CURRENT YEAR IMPACT:

Department:	Watershed
Project Name:	2012 Open Space Land Acquisition
Fund/Department/Unit:	8113 6307 NEW
Funding Source:	2012 Prop 13
Current Appropriation:	15,000,000.00
Unencumbered Balance:	13,350,000.00
Amount of This Action:	<u>(50,000.00)</u>
Remaining Balance:	<u>13,300,000.00</u>

ANALYSIS / ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The proposed agreement between the Hill Country Conservancy (HCC) and the City will formalize and delineate our cooperative efforts to provide for the conservation of water quality and open space in the Barton Springs Zone, pursuant to the November 6, 2012, Bond Election, Proposition 13.

Strategies used by the City and HCC include the fee title acquisition of land and purchase of conservation easements which limit development rights and require land management practices that are protective of water quantity and quality. The agreement will provide for HCC to negotiate and sign contracts with landowners for the acquisition of property rights for assignment to the City. The City will reimburse HCC for costs incurred by HCC in connection with the transaction, including but not limited to due diligence services, legal fees, survey fees, appraisal fees, and closing costs.

This agreement with HCC will not limit the City's ability to independently negotiate agreements concerning the acquisition of conservation easements, or its ability to work with any other person or entity for acquiring those interests. The City entered into a similar agreement with the HCC in September 2001 and November 2008. The proposed agreement anticipates additional opportunities for the City and HCC to partner for achieving regional open space, water quality, and conservation goals.