

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	27228	Agenda Number	99.
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Meeting Date:	10/3/2013	Department:	Watershed Protection
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Subject

Conduct a public hearing and consider an ordinance to (a): repeal and replace City Code Chapters 25-7 and 30-4 relating to drainage; (b) amend sections of City Code Chapters 25-8, Subchapter A and 30-5 relating to water quality; (c) amend sections of City Code Titles 25 and 30 relating to environmental protection; and (d) establish water supply and riparian zone mitigation funds. This ordinance will amend Chapter 25-8, Subchapter A, Article 12 (Save Our Springs Initiative).

Amount and Source of Funding

Fiscal Note

There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	January 13, 2011 - Council approved Resolution 20110113-038 directing the City Manager to initiate necessary code amendments to improve stream buffer requirements, protect headwaters and streambanks, preserve floodplains, and improve stormwater controls. December 13, 2012 - Council approved Resolution 20121213-066 directing the City Manager to work with stakeholders to develop recommendations for improving both redevelopment opportunities and environmental protection.
For More Information:	Matt Hollon, 974-2212
Boards and Commission Action:	July 17, 2013 - Recommended by the Environmental Board on a 7-0 vote. August 27, 2013 - Recommended by the Planning Commission on a 7-0 vote with conditions with Commissioner Smith off the dais and Commissioner Chimenti absent.
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

The proposed ordinance amends Chapters 25-7, 25-8, 30-4, and 30-5 relating to drainage and water quality; amending various sections of Titles 25 and 30 relating to environmental protection, and establishing a water supply mitigation fund and riparian zone fund. Ordinance highlights include: extending headwaters stream buffers citywide; requiring Erosion Hazard Zone protections; guiding floodplain modifications to ensure restoration and offer mitigation; improving water quality control requirements; and updating and improving Planned Unit Development environmental options.

In 1986, the City of Austin passed the Comprehensive Watershed Ordinance. Since this time, much has been learned about best approaches to the protection of waterways, riparian areas, and floodplains. Central lessons have been the need to prevent problems before they are created: that development activity not increase impacts to public and private property from flooding and stream erosion or create additional public expense and environmental degradation.

The many provisions of the proposed Watershed Protection Ordinance (WPO) are intended to balance environmental protection with development opportunity. Please see the WPO website for more information at: <http://www.austintexas.gov/page/watershed-protection-ordinance-0>