

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	32501	Agenda Number	59.
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Meeting Date:	5/15/2014	Department:	Watershed Protection
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Subject

Conduct a public hearing and consider an ordinance amending sections of City Code Chapters 25-1, 25-2, 25-5, 25-7 and 25-8 relating to Lake Austin (LA) District zoning regulations and general regulations for boat dock and shoreline development. Related to Item # 60

Amount and Source of Funding

Fiscal Note

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

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	August 29, 2013 - Council passed Resolution No. 20130829-078 directing the City Manager to process code amendments necessary to improve processes related to shoreline and dock development, redevelopment and restoration to be more efficient, effective and environmentally accountable.
For More Information:	Chuck Lesniak, Watershed Protection Department, (512) 974-2699; Chris Herrington, Watershed Protection Department, (512) 974-2840
Boards and Commission Action:	March 19, 2014 - Recommended by the Environmental Board on a 6 - 1 vote with Board Member Walker absent (Recommendation No. 2014319 005a). April 8, 2014 - Approve by the Planning Commission with amendments on a vote of 8-0 with Commissioner Hernandez absent.
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

The proposed ordinance amends Chapters 25-1, 25-2, 25-5, 25-7 and 25-8 relating to Lake Austin (LA) District zoning regulations, boat dock regulations, and development along the shoreline of Lake Austin, Lady Bird Lake and Lake Long. The ordinance was developed in response to Council Resolution 20130829-078 directing staff to implement in part recommendations from the Lake Austin Task Force (<http://www.austintexas.gov/latf>) final report published in August 2013.

The complexity and intensity of development and recreational use has changed substantially, particularly on Lake Austin, since the current shoreline and dock regulations were previously updated. The proposed revisions provide greater clarity for applicants and City of Austin review staff that will protect the quality of Austin's public water supply, preserve safe navigation in the lake, and enhance compatibility of development along this critical regional recreation resource.

Ordinance highlights include: better alignment of variance approval processes with other development activities and state law requirements, clarification of the size and length of docks, clarification on the accessories allowed for docks, re-organization of existing code provisions into more logically related subsections, clarification on allowed enclosures of docks to reduce unauthorized uses and reduce flood hazards, defined processes for fill and dredging in the lakes, and improved riparian vegetation protections.

The proposed ordinance was approved by the Planning Commission with one amendment relating to allowing structural modifications on legal, non-complying docks without requiring the horizontal or vertical footprint to be reduced to comply with current code. The Planning Commission recommendation has been incorporated in the draft ordinance.

Additional information can be found on the project website at: <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/lake-austindevelopment-code-revisions>.