

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the waters of the United States provide an extraordinary value for the protection of public health, recreational resources, economic livelihood related to clean water, and are a treasured resource; and

WHEREAS, the Clean Water Act is the fundamental federal law protecting the waters of the United States from pollution, degradation and destruction; and

WHEREAS, critical streams and wetlands which supply drinking water protect against floods and filter pollution previously were protected under the Clean Water Act but federal policy changes over the last decade have left these streams and wetlands vulnerable to degradation or destruction; and

WHEREAS, these vulnerable waters of the United States impact sources of drinking water for over 117 million Americans; and

WHEREAS, strong federal standards are needed because water does not respect political boundaries and flows from one state to another; and

WHEREAS, the overwhelming weight of scientific evidence has confirmed that headwater streams and wetlands significantly affect the quantity and quality of water in larger bodies of water downstream and provide a wide variety of beneficial ecosystem services; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Army Corps of Engineers have proposed a clarifying rulemaking to restore protection for streams and wetlands previously protected under the Clean Water Act, safeguarding water quality in the nation's waters, protecting jobs in businesses

that depend on clean water and safeguarding drinking water for one in three Americans; and

WHEREAS, the proposal leaves in place all agricultural exemptions and creates new exemptions for agricultural practices related to conservation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Austin Water Utility and Watershed Protection have a vested interest in protecting the quality and quantity of our headwater streams in the Austin area; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

The City of Austin supports the proposed *Definition of “Waters of the U.S.” Under the Clean Water Act* and urges the Environmental Protection Agency and Army Corps of Engineers to finalize these important protections for our nation’s water resources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

The City Manager is directed to provide written comments on the proposed rule to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

ADOPTED: _____, 2014

ATTEST: _____

Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk