



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and Council Members

From: Greg Meszaros, Director, Austin Water

Date: February 23, 2015

Subject: Austin Integrated Water Resource Planning Community Task Force (AIWRPCTF)

I am writing this memo to provide you with background information on Austin Water's Integrated Water Resource Planning (IWRP) process and associated Council resolutions and recommendations.

Last year Mayor and Council created the Austin Water Resources Planning Task Force (AWRPTF) to evaluate the City's water needs, to examine and make recommendations regarding future water planning, and to evaluate potential water resource management scenarios for Council consideration. The AWRPTF was created in April 2014 and dissolved upon delivery of its recommendations to Council, in July 2014.

One of the AWRPTF's key recommendations was to develop an Integrated Water Resource Plan (IWRP) including an Independent Conservation Potential Assessment. In their report to Council, the Task Force outlined recommendations, areas of focus and goals for the IWRP including the following:

- Conduct an independent conservation potential assessment
- Develop disaggregated demand model
- Evaluate the impact of various water supply and climate scenarios to ensure sustainability of water supply
- Include demand-side options (i.e., water conservation) and place them on par with supply augmentation options
- Include decentralization and diversification of supply sources
- Meaningful public participation in water supply strategies is paramount
- Multi-departmental and community input is essential

The partial list above represents samples from the full set of IWRP goals outlined in the Task Force report (web-link to report: [July 2014 AWRPTF Report](#) – see pages 8 - 11).

In December 2014, Mayor and Council passed a subsequent resolution (web-link to resolution: [Resolution No. 20141211-119](#)) to create a new task force, being referred to as the Austin Integrated Water Resource Planning Community Task Force (AIWRPCTF), to provide support to the IWRP. In accordance with this Council Resolution, the new task force is to consist of eleven members in total with diverse and balanced representation from a broad range of customers such as:

- Low-income renters and homeowners,
- High-volume commercial and/or multifamily customers,
- Educational and institutional customers,
- Small businesses,
- Austin's environmental/conservation community,
- Residential builders, and
- Recreational water users.

This Resolution also specifies that participants should have significant expertise in water efficiency and innovation. In addition to the Task Force's eleven members, the Resolution also directs that representatives from a number of City Departments, including Austin Water, Austin Energy, Watershed Protection, Office of Innovation, Office of Sustainability, Parks and Recreation, and others, are to be appointed to serve as ex officio non-voting members of the Task Force to support the IWRP process.

In alignment with the AWRPTF's July 2014 recommendations on the IWRP and Council's December resolution, Austin Water is in the process of conducting project planning and leading an effort to develop a draft scope of work for review and input by the new Task Force as a planned early step in the IWRP development process.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at 512-972-0108.

cc: Marc A. Ott, City Manager
Robert Goode, P.E., Assistant City Manager