



Annual Internal Review

This report covers the time period of 1/1/2014 to 12/31/2014

(This report is due in the first quarter of each calendar year for the previous year.)

Environmental Board **(Official Name of Board or Commission)**

The Board/Commission mission statement (per the City Code) is:

(F) The board is empowered to review and analyze the policies relating to the environmental quality of the city, to act as an advisory board to the city council, the city manager, and the department in their efforts to oversee the protection and integrity of the natural environment, promote growth management and land use planning, minimize degradation of water resources, protect downstream areas, and promote recreation opportunities and environmental awareness.

(G) The board shall assist the city council, the city manager, and the department in studying, promoting and enforcing environmental protection policies to assure the health, safety, welfare and quality of life of all citizens within the City's incorporated boundaries as well as those within its extraterritorial jurisdiction where the boundaries apply.

(H) The board shall advise the city council, the city manager, and the department concerning policies, projects, and programs that affect the quality of life or have the potential to affect the environment, including those that relate to or affect:

(1) water quality:

- (a) watershed protection;
- (b) urban runoff;
- (c) innovative wastewater treatment;
- (d) regional wastewater treatment;

- (e) improvement and protection of the Colorado River and the Edwards Aquifer; and

- (f) wastewater irrigation;

- (2) growth management and land use planning:

- (a) municipal utility district review;

- (b) capital improvement project review; and

- (c) the comprehensive plan;

- (3) construction controls for erosion and sedimentation;

- (4) City environmental policies regarding monitoring and enforcement;

- (5) solid waste disposal plan alternatives;

- (6) watershed protection:

- (a) flood control;

- (b) erosion control;

- (c) water quality; and

- (d) utility management;

- (7) roadway planning;

- (8) beautification;

- (9) recreation resources;

- (10) public education on environmental matters;

- (11) hazardous waste materials management;

- (12) revegetation and landscaping;

- (13) air quality; and

- (14) noise abatement.

(I) The board shall:

- (1) review all variances to requirements for water quality related to environmentally sensitive areas;

- (2) review the monitoring of storm water runoff in developed and undeveloped areas;

- (3) review the efficiency of existing and proposed structural and nonstructural controls;

- (4) periodically review the effectiveness of Chapter 25-4 (Subdivision);

- (5) review waste treatment permits within the city's extraterritorial jurisdiction;

- (6) review programs and policies for flood control, erosion control, and water quality;

- (7) review capital improvement projects;

- (8) review municipal utility district proposals and amendments;

- (9) review roadway plan amendments;

- (10) recommend urban runoff standards; and

- (11) review the environmental aspects of planned unit developments.

(J) The board may recommend and initiate, with the advice and consent of the city council, specific project studies concerning any of the matters described in Subsections (H) and (I), or any other related environmental issue.

(K) The board shall make reports and recommendations for standards and criteria concerning any of the matters described in Subsections (H) and (I), or any other related environmental issue.

(L) The board shall promote close cooperation between the City and all private citizens, institutions, and agencies interested in or conducting natural resource and environmental activities, so that all similar activities within the city may be coordinated to secure the greatest public welfare.

(M) A project for which Environmental Board review is required:

- (1) must be submitted to the appropriate staff before the meeting at which it will be considered; and
- (2) may not be considered by the Planning Commission, the Zoning and Platting Commission, or the city council until the board has had an opportunity to review the project at a regularly scheduled meeting and to report its findings.

1. Describe the board's actions supporting their mission during the previous calendar year. Address all elements of the board's mission statement as provided in the relevant sections of the City Code.

(Reference all reports, recommendations, letters or resolutions presented to the City Council on mission-specific issues. If some of the elements of the mission statement were not acted on by the board in the past year, the report should explain why no action was taken.)

2. Determine if the board's actions throughout the year comply with the mission statement.

(If any of the board's actions were outside the scope of the mission statement, the report should explain the non-compliance issues.)

The actions taken by the Environmental Board complied with the scope of the mission statement.

3. List the board's goals and objectives for the new calendar year.

(Make sure the goals and objectives fall within the mission statement of the board/commission.)

The goals and objectives for 2015 are:

- 1) To continue to participate in the ongoing development of the Watersheds Ordinance which is expanded to include the eastern watersheds for the City of Austin and the ETJ;**
- 2) To provide the local community with information regarding the proposed national ambient air quality standards for the Ozone;**

- 3) To conclude oversight of the Jollyville Transmission Main construction project upon receipt of the final report from the Environmental Commissioning Team. The Board will request that the Water Treatment Plant #4 Committee be discontinued.**
- 4) To continue to review all environmental variance requests for construction projects in the City of Austin and the ETJ;**
- 5) To continue to support the work of the Watershed Protection Department in its continuing efforts to protect the water quality of the City of Austin;**
- 6) To effectively complete the transition process as recommended by the Board and Commission Transition Task Force in order to fully integrate the roles of the Urban Forestry Board;**
- 7) To continue to monitor the progress of the Onion Creek buyouts and provide recommendations as necessary;**
- 8) To revise, delete and/or add committees that relate to critical environmental issues impacting the region as a result of climate change, e.g., extreme drought, water conservation, vegetation and landscaping issues related to both, management of issues arising from extreme flooding in the area; and**
- 9) All other items within the mission statement of the Environmental Board that arise during 2014.**