



COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT PUBLIC UTILITY COMMITTEE

Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2015

Agenda Item #: 5

Agenda Item: *Discussion and possible action on Travis Vista water supply septic system near Lake Travis, in cooperation with WCID #17.*

Vote : *Unanimous 4-0 vote to forward item #5 to the full Council for consideration.*

Sponsors/Department: *Item requested from Council Member Zimmerman*

Summary of Discussion

Council Member Chair Garza begins by noting that this item was not brought forward by staff, but would request that staff in attendance come forward to speak to the item and answer questions. She also asks if Council Member Zimmerman would like speak to and give some introduction of the item.

Council Member Zimmerman explains that he would like to have staff lay out the item, but gives a brief summary that is a grandfathered wastewater system that has a permit to discharge effluent into Lake Travis based on a prior agreement.

Bart Jennings, Division Manager at Austin Water addresses the Committee and confirms that this is the history, but that the 17 lots in this area will be contributing wastewater to Water Control Improvement District # 17 (WCID #17) wastewater treatment plant. Austin Water does have a wholesale contract with WCID #17.

Council Member Zimmerman inquires as to whether Austin Water has a position on this item; is it in favor, neutral, or otherwise. Mr. Jennings notes that given Austin Water supports the removal of direct discharges into Lake Travis, it therefore would support City Council's recommendation to waive the Capital Recovery fees for the 17 connections into WCID #17's wastewater system.

Council Member Zimmerman then makes a motion to approve this item for full Council consideration. Council Member Kitchen seconds the motion.

Council Member Chair Garza raises a question for discussion as to whether this item sets precedence since the development is already established, and it is her understanding that fees are generally waived before. Mr. Jennings responds that Austin Water does not believe there will be a precedence set, because of the unique circumstances of the situation in question. Council Member Zimmerman then asks if Mr. Jennings is aware of any other situations still remaining similar to this on Lake Travis, as a follow up. Mr. Jennings confirms that there are not any similar situations on Lake Travis, and notes however that there are two on Lake LBJ and three on Lake Buchanan. He goes on to state that there is current prohibition in the Texas Administrative Code that requires a ban on direct discharges.

Council Member Chair Garza confirms that the motion is to forward to the full Council with the recommendation to waive the associated fees for the 17 lot connections into WCID #17's wastewater system. The motion passes unanimously on a 4-0 vote.

Public Comments: *No public comment heard on item #5*

Recommendation: *Committee forwards to the full Council with the recommendation to waive associated fees for these 17 lot connections into WCID #17's wastewater system.*