

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL

Regular Meeting: October 5, 2017

Item Number: 003

Austin Water

Authorize negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with Travis County to procure a consulting contract for assistance with plans for an amendment or renewal of the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan, in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.

Fiscal Note	Funding in the amount of \$25,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Wildland Conservation BCP Fund.
<u>For More Information</u>	Sherri Kuhl, 512-972-1664; Kimberlee Harvey, 512-972-1686; Denise Avery, 512-972-0104
<u>Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action</u>	September 13, 2017- Recommended by the Water and Wastewater Commission on a 9-0 vote with Commissioner Blanding absent and Commissioner Lee off the dais.

Additional Backup Information:

Austin Water's Wildland Conservation Division requests authorization of the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement between the City of Austin (City) and Travis County (County) for the procurement of a consulting contract for assistance with plans for an amendment or renewal of the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (BCCP) which expires in 2026. The consultant will assist with the evaluation of renewal options for continued mitigation of endangered species habitat loss through the BCCP. The BCCP is a streamlined local solution for mitigating habitat loss due to development, in compliance with the Federal Endangered Species Act. The City and the County shall share equally the amounts payable under the Consulting Contract. The consulting contract will not exceed \$50,000.

The BCCP was the first regional, multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan to receive approval in the country; the 30-year permit was issued May 2, 1996. The BCCP was developed in response to public pressure to protect 8 endangered species and 27 species of concern in the face of rapid development and urbanization. The BCCP provides a streamlined path for mitigating habitat loss due to development, in compliance with the federal Endangered Species Act. Both the City and County staff have determined that hiring a consultant experienced in the development of regional habitat conservation plans is necessary to identify the options available to the City and County when the permit expires in 2026. The County and the City have the authority to enter into this Agreement pursuant to Chapter 791 of the Texas Government Code, the Interlocal Cooperation Act.

The City of Austin and Travis County shall jointly select a consultant that will enter into a Consulting Contract and shall recommend the selected consultant to the Coordinating Committee, City Council, and Commissioners Court for approval. Both the City and the County will designate the BCCP Secretary and the Travis County Natural Resources Program Manager as being jointly responsible for supervision of the Consultant and administration of the Consulting Contract.

The City and the County shall cooperatively oversee the consultant and participate in the workshops prepared by the consultant. A joint management team comprised of BCCP managers from Austin Water and the Travis County Transportation and Natural Resources Department, shall oversee the work performed by the Consultant. The City and the County shall each review the consultant's final report to the Coordinating Committee.

The Consultant will lead two workshops and attend two meetings with the BCCP Management Committee, provide a draft report that will include the Consultant's analysis and options to the BCCP, and then provide the final report. The Consultant's anticipated completion date for this work is February 16, 2018.