# Champion Tract 3

Briefing to the Environmental Commission January 3, 2018 Chuck Lesniak, Environmental Officer Watershed Protection Department

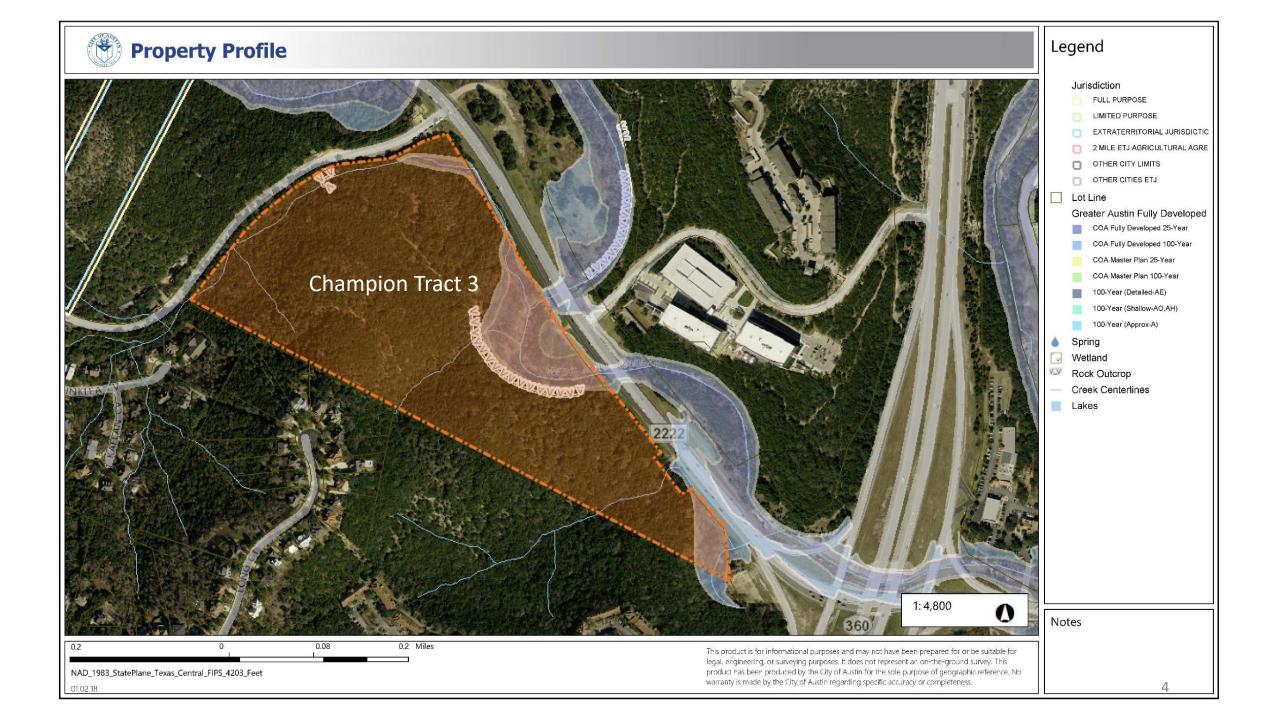
#### City Council Request

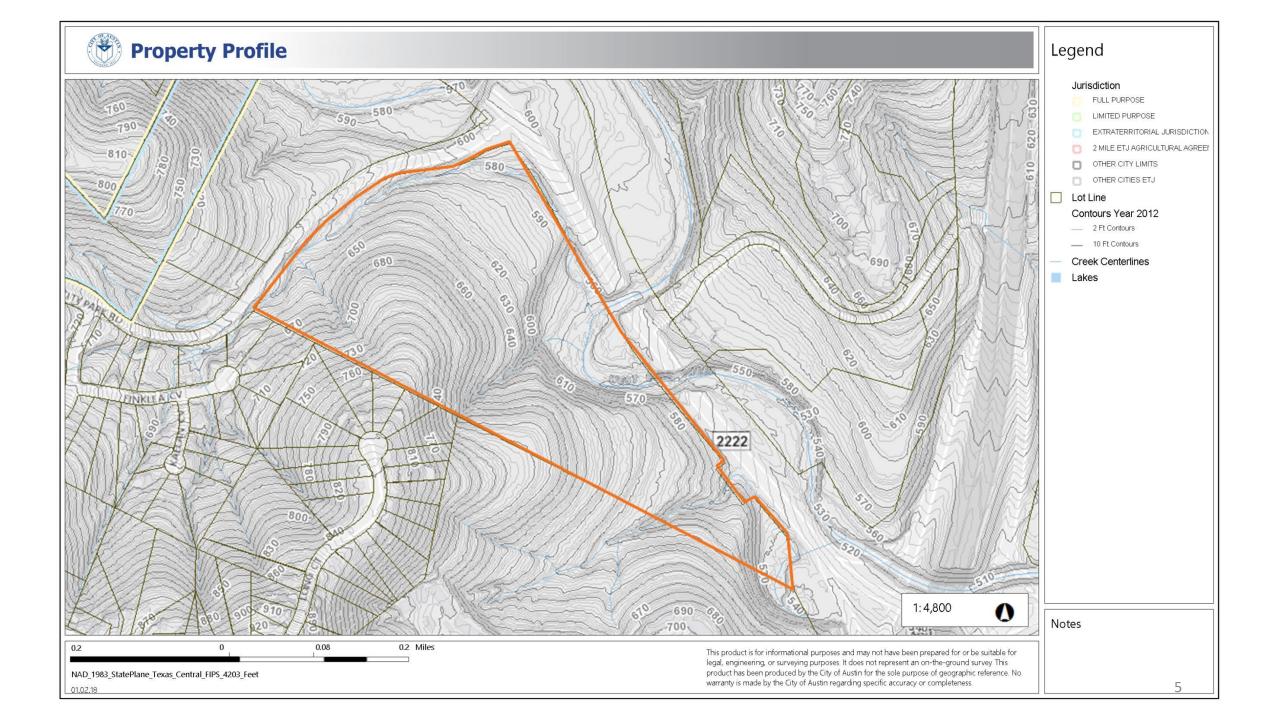
At its December 14, 2017 meeting, City Council passed the ordinance authorizing amendment of the 1996 settlement agreement on 2<sup>nd</sup> reading and requested that the Environmental Commission review and provide a recommendation to Council regarding the amendment before 3<sup>rd</sup> reading, which is set for February 1, 2018.

The amendment applies only to Tract 3 at the SE corner of City Park Road and RR2222.

### Site Location and Description

- Tract 3 is an approximately 45 acre tract
- Is generally tree covered
- Is Zone 1 (occupied) Golden-cheeked Warbler habitat and would require mitigation through the BCCP prior to development
- Is characterized by steep slopes (>15%) with several flatter areas on the eastern and western parts of the property
- Has a bend of W. Bull Creek at midpoint of the 2222 frontage and 3 small tributaries crossing the property





## Background

The Champion tracts, including Tract 3, are subject to a 1996 settlement agreement resolving a dispute between the City of Austin and the property owner regarding vested rights (grandfathering).

- Tract 3 was zoned General Office (GO) with a limitation of 30,000 sq. ft. for office use.
- Other GO uses (school, nursing home, etc.) are not subject to that limit.

## Background

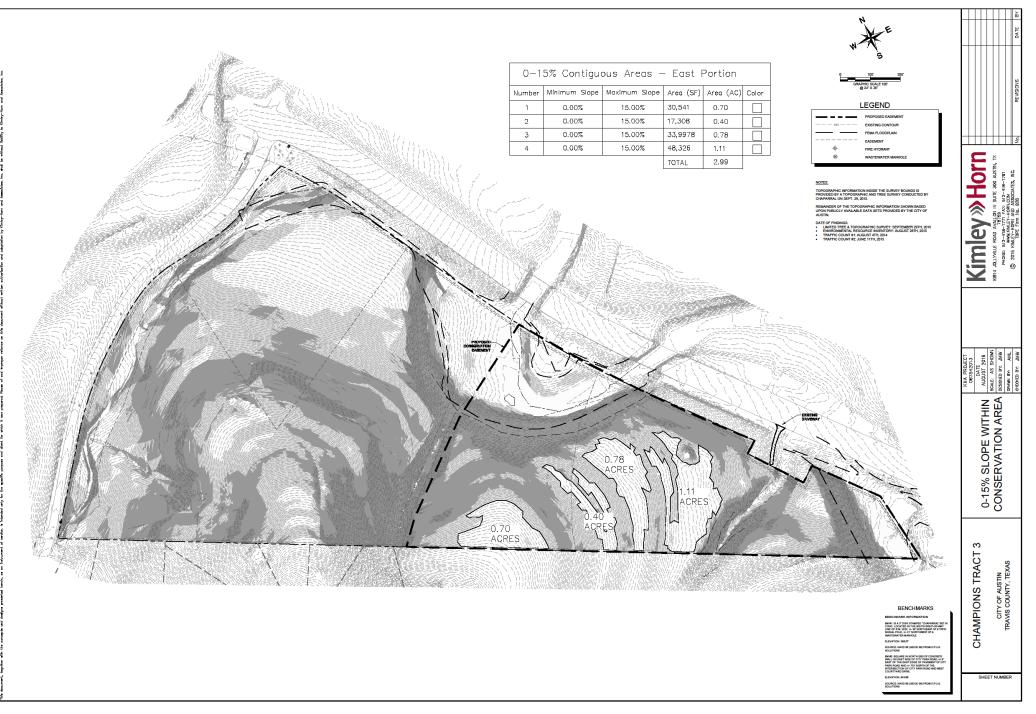
**Environmental Regulations** 

The 1996 agreement allows:

- Development under the 1983 Lake Austin Watershed ordinance
  - 65% IC (commercial) and 40% IC (multi-family) on a gross site basis
  - Development on slopes up to 35% with limits on slopes >15%
    - Max IC: Commercial = 11.1 ac., Multi-family = 7.1 ac.
  - No CEF or creek protections
  - Tree protection similar to current code except no heritage tree
- A Hill Country Roadway (HCRO) setback of 25' rather than 100'
  - All other HCRO limits apply, e.g. cut/fill, terracing height, etc.

#### 2016 Amendment

- In late summer/early fall 2016, as part of 1st reading approval of a rezoning application, staff was directed by Council to include at 2<sup>nd</sup> reading a mechanism to restrict a portion of the land from development.
- Staff and Council office representatives met with neighborhood representatives and the applicant. An agreement to <u>conserve 30 of the 45</u> <u>acres</u> in exchange for increased entitlements on the remaining 15 acres was reached. Nature trails are allowed within the easement.
- The mechanism necessary to accomplish the agreement was an amendment to the 1996 settlement with Council approval.
- Council approved the rezoning and amendment. The District Court subsequently voided Council approval of the amended settlement agreement based on inadequate posting language. The decision regarding sufficiency of the posting language is on appeal.



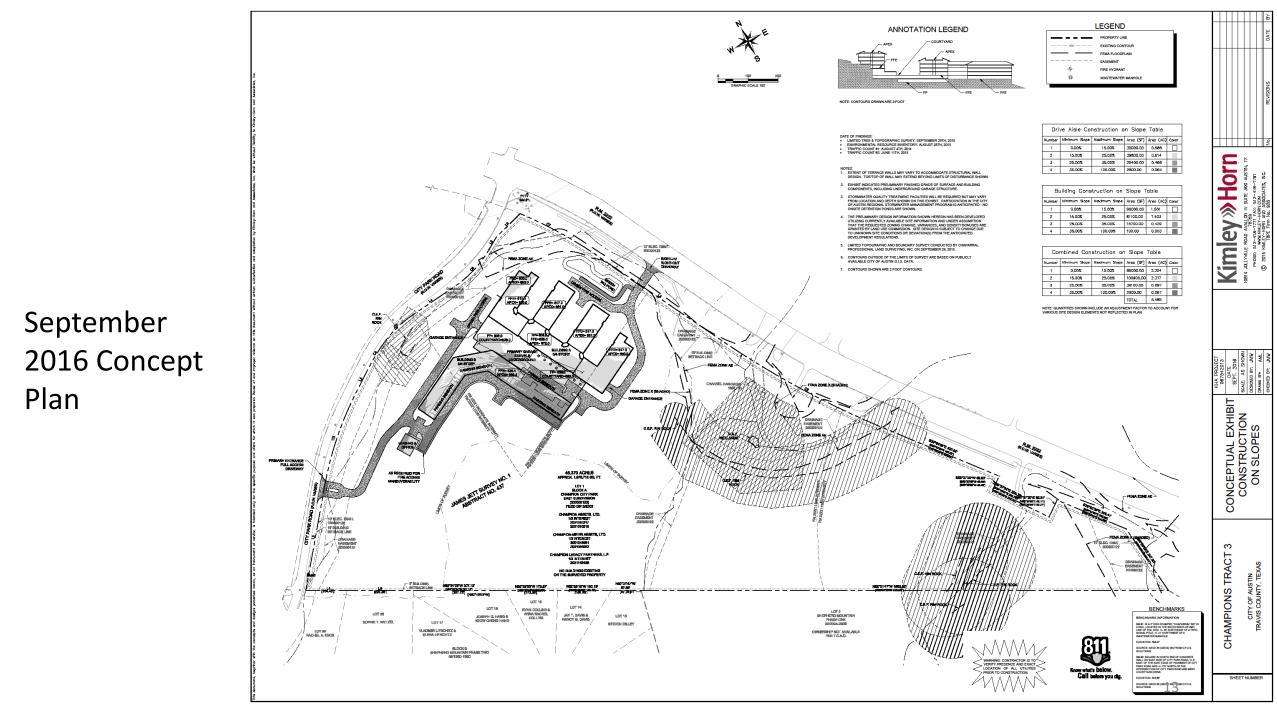
	'96 Agreement	'16 Amendment
Land Conserved	0 of 45 acres	30 of 45 acres
Impervious cover	<ul> <li>0-15% slope: C=65% 8.6 ac. MF=40% 5.3 ac.</li> <li>15-25% slope: C=15% 2.01 ac. MF=10% 1.4 ac.</li> <li>25-35% slope: C &amp; MF=5% 0.5 ac.</li> <li>&gt;35% slope: 0%</li> <li>Total IC C=11.1 ac. MF=7.1 ac.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>0-15% slope: 16.7% 2.2 ac.</li> <li>15-25% slope: 17.3% 2.3 ac.</li> <li>25-35% slope: 8.65% 0.9 ac.</li> <li>&gt;35% slope: 0.8% 0.07 ac.</li> <li>Total IC: = 5.5 ac.</li> </ul>
Construction on	LAWO	<u>LAWO</u>
Slopes	<ul> <li>Based on IC limits</li> <li><u>HCRO</u></li> <li>Pier/beam foundation if upslope of &gt;15% slope</li> <li>Terraced wall max height 4'</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>As limited by agreed to impervious cover limits.</li> <li>Waives pier/beam requirement.</li> <li>Allow structural excavation up to 34' downslope of 15% slopes</li> <li>Allow 8' terraced walls</li> </ul>
Cut/fill	<ul> <li>LAWO</li> <li>Unltd. below foundations</li> <li>4' max otherwise</li> <li><u>HCRO</u></li> <li>8' max below foundations if downhill of &gt;15% slope</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>LAWO Cut</li> <li>4-12': 34,848 sq. ft.</li> <li>12-20': 17424 sq. ft.</li> <li>20-24': 2,613 sq. ft.</li> <li>24-28': 217 sq. ft.</li> <li>LAWO Fill</li> <li>4-12': 79,932 sq. ft.</li> </ul>
		• 12-20': 20,037 sq. Ft.

	'96 Agreement	'16 Amendment
CEF protection	None	Current code with modified buffers as shown in Exh. 2
Water quality	<u>LAWO</u> Sand filter for first ½" of runoff	Same
Construction phase erosion controls	<u>LAWO</u> Sediment must be controlled	Comply with current code plus 10 specific requirements that far exceed current code.
Erosion hazard zone	None	Comply with current code
Flood management	Current code	Current code
City Park Rd. Tributary Protection	None	Any crossing must span tributary

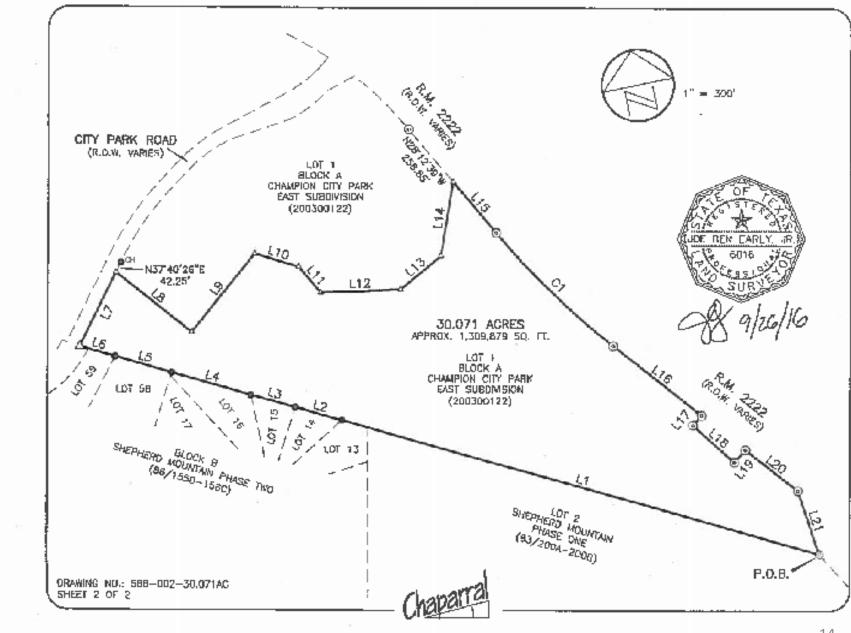
#### 2016 Amendment

**Construction Phase Controls** 

- Use ponds as settling basins with discharge to a "dirt bag" or similar filtration prior to discharge to creek.
- Divert upgradient stormwater around construction.
- E/S controls must accommodate 10-year storm instead of 2-year
- Mulch or similar cover to stabilize disturbed areas within 7 days
- Stabilize all disturbance on slopes >15% with fiber reinforced matrix within 7 days
- Permanent seeding must use hydromulch with fiber reinforced matrix within 7 days of final grading.
- Inspect all controls every 7 days or w/in 24 hours of rainfall with written report available to City. Inspector must be employed by owner, not construction contractor.
- Phase grading to limit size of disturbance with grading at higher areas first.



#### Conservation Easement



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### Summary

- Staff stands by its 2016 determination that the amendment is more environmentally protective than what could be built under the 1996 agreement (commercial or multi-family).
- The new multi-family zoning is not currently being considered by Council.
- Council request is for the Commission to provide input on whether the Commission agrees with the staff determination and provide a recommendation to Council regarding the environmental superiority of the amendment before 3<sup>rd</sup> reading, which is set for February 1, 2018.

# Questions?