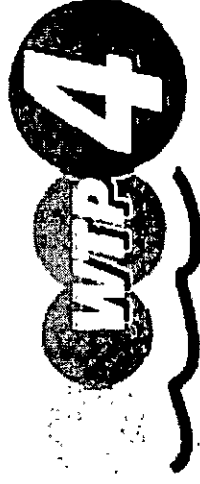


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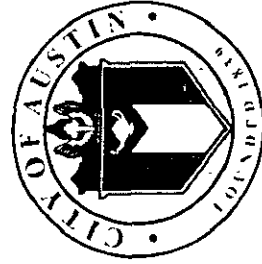
WTP #4 SITING CONSIDERATIONS

**Water Treatment
Plant 4**



City Council Meeting

August 24, 2006



Why are we here?

Austin Needs Additional Capacity by 2013

- Water demand projections reviewed and confirmed
- Additional capacity needed by 2011
- Council adopted conservation goal to delay need to 2013
- Council directed staff to build WTP #4 as next capacity
 - Lake Travis intake diversifies City's water sources
 - Lake Travis is highest and most consistent quality
 - WTP #4 in a favorable location for meeting system needs

ORIGINAL WTP #4 SITE

City has an existing plant site

- Original site purchased in 1984 (\$20 million)
- Located in Bull Creek headwaters
- Site, with easements, fully mitigated (1992), permitted, and planned
- Community concerns have been raised:
 - In-holding in BCP Bull Creek Macrosite
 - Jollyville Plateau Salamander habitat
 - Golden-Cheeked Warbler habitat

ALTERNATIVE SITE STUDY

Alternate Site Search Approach

- **AWU retained APAL to conduct alternative WTP #4 site evaluation**
- **Work conducted during summer of 2005**
- **Input from representatives of Environmental Board and Water and Wastewater Commission**
- **Criteria and weighting established prior to sites being identified**
- **Utilized a two-step screening process to identify/score alternatives**

ALTERNATIVE SITE STUDY

Minimum Criteria

GIS Evaluation Criteria

- Must be within 5 miles of intake
- Must be above 750 ft. in elevation
- Must have 50 developable acres (slopes less than 10 percent)
- Must be undeveloped land

ALTERNATIVE SITE STUDY

Summary of Evaluation Matrix Criteria

- **Site Characteristics: 39%**
- **Environmental: 43%**
- **Overall Site Development Cost: 18%**

ALTERNATIVE SITE STUDY

Sites Originally Identified

Two identified and eliminated

- **Eliminated adjoining site with all the same environmental constraints**
- **Other site inaccessible**

Five identified and evaluated

- **Three sites in Bull Creek macrosite**
- **Three sites in BCP**
- **All sites in habitat and desired BCP**

Cortaña and existing site received similar total scores

ALTERNATIVE SITE STUDY

Follow-Up Searches

**Re-evaluated with undeveloped parcels
down to 2 acres**

- **Adding 2 – 20 acre tracts represents
7% of overall search area**
- **Identified one additional
unacceptable site adjacent to the
Schlumberger site in the Bull Creek
macro-site**

ALTERNATIVE SITE STUDY

Follow-Up Searches

Specifically reviewed:

➤ Lucas Tract

- Developable land limited to two separate 25-30 acre sites
- Design engineer determined neither site is large enough and splitting not practical
- Historic Black-Capped Vireo habitat, cultural resources site, karst features, Golden-Cheeked Warbler habitat

ALTERNATIVE SITE STUDY

Follow-Up Searches

Specifically reviewed:

- **“Rabbit Ears” area of Cortaña Tract**
 - **No sites were found that meet the minimum developable size criteria**
 - **Site access, shape, and neighborhood issues make area not feasible**

ALTERNATIVE SITE STUDY

Search Area Characteristics

Approximately 52 square miles

- **51% already in BCP**
 - **27% already developed**
 - **65% has unacceptable slopes**
 - **24% in sensitive Bull Creek macrosite**
- Area with acceptable slopes, undeveloped, outside BCP, and outside Bull Creek macrosite is only 4% of search area**

ALTERNATIVE SITE STUDY

Conclusion

After a thorough evaluation effort, no better alternative site than Cortaña was found

Building a Water Treatment Plant in an Environmentally Sensitive Area

- Original Site, Bull Creek



- Cortaño, Lake Austin



Avoiding, Minimizing and Mitigating Habitat Impacts

Rare and Endangered Species Habitat

Black-Capped Vireo



Photo taken by: John Ingram



Nesting range extends from Oklahoma through Texas and into Mexico; habitat in Travis County is limited and in small patches



Breeding habitat can be recreated and potentially occupied within a few years; must be managed (e.g., fire, brush manipulation) to remain suitable and occupied by BCVs



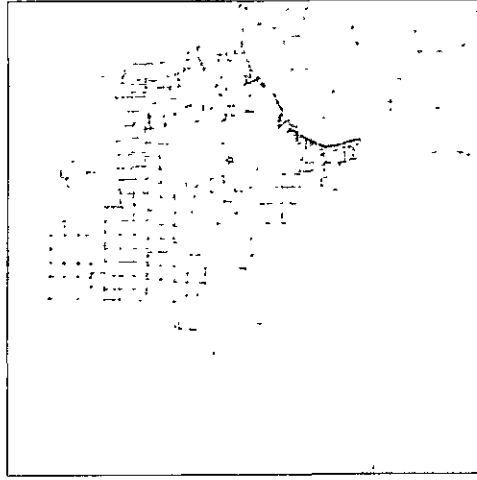
Following habitat manipulation on the Cortaña tract, currently about 70 acres of occupied vireo habitat



Construction of WTP #4 would be phased, with 25 acres of BCV habitat remaining



Loss of a portion of the new habitat on Cortaña will not threaten the survival or recovery of the entire species



Rare and Endangered Species Habitat

Jollyville Plateau Salamander



Photo taken by: Dee Ann Chamberlain

- Petitioned for listing by Save Our Springs Alliance in June 2005.
- Largest, most stable populations in Bull Creek downstream of former WTP4 site
- Recreating habitat once destroyed may not be possible
- No populations have been found yet in Lake Austin watershed

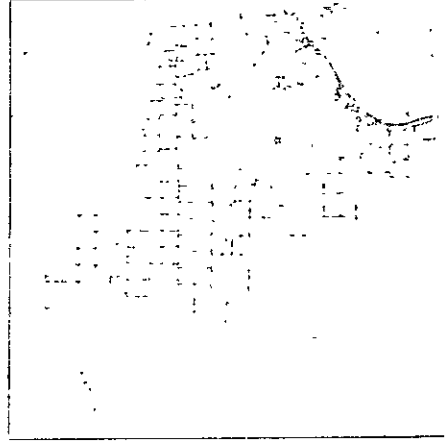
Rare and Endangered Species Habitat

Golden-Cheeked Warbler



Photo taken by: John Ingram

- Nests only in Central Texas
- Travis County supports the largest contiguous blocks of habitat near the center of the range
- Conservation of Travis County warblers is critical to the entire species
- Within Travis County, Bull Creek supports one of the largest blocks of warbler habitat
- Former WTP4 site is near the center of Bull Creek habitat
- Habitat may take 50+ years to regenerate



Rare and Endangered Species Habitat

BCP Priorities



Photo taken by: John Ingram

“The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recognizes that there is not enough vireo habitat in Travis County to provide for a minimum viable population of this species.... The continued survival of the black-capped vireo will require conservation activities in significant portions of its range outside Travis County.”

– BCP Habitat Conservation
Plan/Environmental Impact Statement

Rare and Endangered Species Habitat

BCP Priorities



Photo taken by John Ingram

“The golden-cheeked warbler has been referred to as the ‘driving force’ of the BCCP, with concerns for the warbler’s viability arguably occupying center stage in the preserve design process.”

- BCP Habitat Conservation Plan/Environmental Impact Statement

RECOMMENDATIONS RECEIVED

Approved with conditions

- Water and Wastewater Commission 8/2
- BCP Citizen Advisory Committee 8/8
- BCP Scientific Advisory Committee 8/15
- BCP Coordinating Committee 8/21

Conditions only

- Environmental Board 8/16

Summary of Conditions for Approval By Various Groups

- Recommit to completion of BCP
- Lead development of a plan by March 2007 to preserve 2,000 acres of Black Capped Vireo habitat
- BCP must have 1,000 acres of BCP habitat under management in 3 years
- Manage 5 acres of BCP habitat for each acre taken with goal of 2 acres suitable for occupation
- Dedicate the existing site to BCP
- Dedicate the Little Barton tract to BCP under dual management and maintain ability for public access

NEXT STEPS

- Travis County Commissioners' Court consider BCP Coordinating Committee recommendations
- Complete karst investigations on Cortaña site
- Define needed changes to infrastructure corridors
- Submit permit amendment to US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Continue Preliminary Engineering
- Chapter 26

QUESTIONS