

AGENDA



Thursday, December 16, 2010

**Public Hearings and Possible Actions
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 98**

Subject: Conduct a public hearing and approve a resolution authorizing the use of approximately 6,420 square feet of land for a permanent retrieval shaft, approximately 162,348 square feet of land for a permanent subterranean tunnel, and approximately 14,985 square feet of land for a temporary staging area and material storage site in connection with the construction, use, maintenance, repair, and replacement of a portion of the WTP4 Jollyville Water Transmission Main Project through multiple tracts of dedicated parkland known as the Upper Bull Creek Greenbelt, in accordance with Sec. 26.001 et seq. of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code.

Amount and Source of Funding: All costs associated with construction, as well as any parkland restoration will be paid by requester. (Suggested date and time, December 16, 2010, 4:00 p.m. at Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second Street, Austin, TX).

Fiscal Note: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: Junie Plummer, 974-7085; Stacie Long, 974-7172; Amanda Glasscock, 974-7173; Sarah Terry, 974-7141

Boards and Commission Action: Reviewed by Parks and Recreation Board.

The Jollyville Transmission Main project is designed to deliver finished (treated) water from Water Treatment Plant 4 (WTP4) to the Jollyville reservoir at Hwy 183 and McNeil Drive, a distance of approximately 6.5 miles. Phase 1 of the WTP4 will provide the community with an additional capacity of 50 million gallons of water per day. The overall benefits of the construction of WTP4 include added water treatment and transmission capacity to meet projected increases in demand on a schedule that accounts for increased water conservation, utilization of water supplies secured through agreements with the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA), capacity for plant expansion to meet future needs for decades to come, and increased system redundancy and reliability.

The particular benefits of a Lake Travis plant include the following:

- Higher water source elevation results in reduced pumping to deliver water and thus reduces greenhouse gas emissions and energy costs;
- Deepest surface water source in the area;
- More consistent water quality due to intake upstream of urban development;
- Highest volume water supply lake;
- Increased supply diversity and reliability from additional water source;
- Water contracts with LCRA provide for withdrawal from Lake Travis;
- Increased system operation flexibility.

Over the last 2 years, Austin Water Utility has evaluated multiple alignments for the Jollyville Transmission Main. The evaluation matrix for the Jollyville Transmission Main included four main criteria: Community Impact, Constructability, Cost, and Environmental Impact. From this evaluation, the recommended alignment was selected. The original alignment proposed to use the Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) site at the corner of Old Lampasas Trail and Spicewood Springs as a working shaft. As the design has progressed, the utility repurposed the original proposal for this site from a working shaft

to a retrieval shaft, which reduces the total amount of truck traffic from 11,500 trucks to less than 800 trucks – a decrease of more than 90 percent. This change also decreased the construction-related activity at this site from roughly 36 months to roughly 13 months. This change will also reduce the potential environmental impacts to Bull Creek. At this site, construction truck traffic will be limited to the hours of 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. as to not interfere with school traffic.

Chapter 26 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code provides that the use of parkland for non-park purposes may be approved upon a finding that there is no feasible and prudent alternative to the use of the parkland and that the contemplated use includes all reasonable planning to minimize harm to the parkland. Approval of the use of parkland is made on the condition that all restoration is completed in accordance with the Standard Specifications and Construction Standards of the City of Austin and the Parks and Recreation Department's "Construction in Parks Specifications." The Austin Water Utility Department has agreed to pay all costs associated with the restoration and tree mitigation, if any, as part of the site restoration process.

There is no feasible and prudent alternative to the use of the dedicated parkland, and the contemplated use includes all reasonable planning to minimize harm to such lands. The dates of public notification in the Austin American-Statesman are November 21, 28 and December 5, 2010.