



**RCA  
CITY OF AUSTIN  
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

**AGENDA ITEM NO.: 3  
AGENDA DATE: Thu 06/23/2005  
PAGE: 1 of 2**

**SUBJECT:** Adopt the amendment to the infrastructure corridor approved by the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (BCCP) Coordinating Committee of a 70 foot expansion of an existing 100 foot infrastructure corridor located in Barton Creek Wilderness Park for a total of 170 feet.

**AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING:** N/A

**FISCAL NOTE:** There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

**REQUESTING** Austin Water Utility      **DIRECTOR'S**  
**DEPARTMENT:**      **AUTHORIZATION:** Chris Lippe

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:** William Conrad, 263-6430; Stuart Strong, 974-6766;  
Laura Wiley, 972-0104

**PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:** N/A

**BOARD AND COMMISSION ACTION:** Recommended by Water and Wastewater Commission;  
reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Board, and the BCCP Coordinating Committee.

**PURCHASING:** N/A

**MBE / WBE:** N/A

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As part of its action to maintain its major east-west transmission line through the Austin area Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) is replacing several transmission line towers in the Barton Creek Wilderness Park. This park is managed by the City as both a park and protected endangered species habitat counted towards fulfillment of BCCP. Because this is BCCP habitat, any expansion of infrastructure easements and corridors through protected habitat must go through a formal process of review and approval specified in the Infrastructure Planning Guidelines and Interlocal Agreement included in BCCP.

This process requires the BCCP Coordinating Committee to approve requests for additions to or changes in Infrastructure Corridors in the preserves as amendments to the Infrastructure Plan. Once the Coordinating Committee approves the corridor changes, the process requires adoption of the amended plan by the governing bodies of its members (Austin City Council and Travis County Commissioners Court) followed by approval and acceptance by US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Because this proposed expansion occurs in parkland, the Parks and Recreation Department and the Law Department have reviewed the LCRA proposal and found will not result in significant change in park use and therefore, will not require a public hearing under chapter 26 of Texas Parks and Wildlife Code.

Both BCP staff and Parks staff have reviewed LCRA's proposal and believe it will be beneficial to the City's interests. The actions by LCRA actually installed taller support towers along this line and completely removed one tower from the design. Because there are fewer towers, the potential for sag in the lines during high temperatures and heavy loads, coupled with the potential for increased blow out or sway during high winds, requires expansion of the corridor to assure increased public safety and reliable



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provision of public services. However, overall, these actions will result in reduced vegetation management and less environmental damage to the Park/Preserve because access routes and the construction site for the deleted tower were not cleared and disturbed. All future vegetation management proposed by LCRA in the expanded aerial corridor fully complies with standards and guidelines described in the BCCP infrastructure Planning Guidelines. Based on these actions and commitments by LCRA both Park staff and BCCP staff supports the proposal by LCRA pending final negotiation of a License agreement. Attached supporting documentation includes LCRA's letter requesting expansion of the corridor and license agreement, Surveyors Sketch map and field notes, and documents provided by LCRA describing limits of vegetation management.

No.060105-C  
WATER AND WASTEWATER COMMISSION RESOLUTION  
RATIFY APPROVAL BY THE BALCONES CANYONLANDS CONSERVATION PLAN (BCCP)  
COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR A 70 FOOT EXPANSION OF AN EXISTING 100 FOOT  
INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR LOCATED IN BARTON CREEK WILDERNESS PARK  
FOR A TOTAL OF 170 FEET

June 1, 2005  
REGULAR MEETING  
VOTE: 8-0-0-1

Motion made by: Coleman  
Commissioners Consenting: Raun, Friese, Warner, Chan, Lee, Scott-Ryan, Gonzalez  
Commissioners Dissenting:  
Commissioners Abstaining:  
Commissioners Absent: Pool

The Water and Wastewater Commission recommends the Council authorize the negotiation and execution of a ratification of an approval by the Balcones Canyonlands Conservation Plan (BCCP) Coordinating Committee for a 70 foot expansion of an existing 100 foot infrastructure corridor located in Barton Creek Wilderness Park for a total of 170 feet

  
Michael Warner Chairperson  
Water and Wastewater Commission

  
Date