City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:

Agenda Item Number: 1

Agenda Date: January 15, 2025

In Control: City Council B Session

DEPARTMENT: Parks & Recreation Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Homer Garcia III

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Edwards Aquifer Protection Program Briefing and Update

SUMMARY:

City Staff will provide a briefing and update on the status of the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program including funding history, accomplishments to date, property evaluation process, and partnerships.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The purpose of the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program (EAPP) is to obtain property rights by fee simple purchase, conservation easements or donations of land over the sensitive zones of the Edwards Aquifer. This program was initiated in May 2000 when voters approved Proposition 3, a 1/8-cent sales tax venue up to $45 million for the acquisition of lands over the Edwards Aquifer for parks and watershed protection. Proposition 3 ran from 2000 through 2005 and was limited to Bexar County.

The 2005 Proposition 1 program was an extension of the initial voter-approved Edwards Aquifer protection endeavor and was extended by voters in 2010 and renewed again in 2015. Changes in state legislation allowed watershed protection activities to expand outside of Bexar County. In

2020, City Council approved a 10-year, $100 million alternative funding program through the San Antonio Municipal Facilities Corporation which will issue debt for the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program to continue its mission of protecting recharge water quality and quantity over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge and Contributing Zones.

ISSUE:

City Staff will provide a briefing and update on the status of the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program including funding history, accomplishments to date, property evaluation process, and partnerships.

ALTERNATIVES:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for briefing purposes only.