



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
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Agenda Item Number: 1

Agenda Date: April 23, 2025

In Control: Conservation Advisory Board Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Parks & Recreation Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Homer Garcia III

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

A discussion and update regarding the Casa Laguna Ranch, Ferguson Ranch, Trevino Property and Fush Creek Ranch projects by The Nature Conservancy.

SUMMARY:

The Nature Conservancy will provide a discussion and update regarding the Casa Laguna Ranch, Ferguson Ranch, Trevino Property and Fush Creek Ranch projects which may be considered for fee simple and conservation easement acquisitions by the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Nature Conservancy will provide a discussion and update regarding the Casa Laguna Ranch, Ferguson Ranch, Trevino Property and Fush Creek Ranch projects which may be considered for fee simple and conservation easement acquisitions by the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program.

The Casa Laguna Ranch is approximately 479.7 acres located in the Edwards Aquifer Recharge

Zone in Uvalde County. This property ranks in the 40th percentile of the SET GIS spatial model and is located adjacent to the Long Hollow and Friday Ranch conservation easements. The Nature Conservancy is seeking consideration of Stage 1 due diligence in order to determine the fair market value of a conservation easement and to request a geological assessment to determine the recharge quality and quantity benefits if this property is protected.

The Ferguson Ranch is approximately 112 acres located in the Edwards Aquifer Recharge and Contributing Zones in Uvalde County. This property ranks in the 30th percentile of the SET GIS spatial model and is located north of the Frio Briscoe conservation easement. The Nature Conservancy is seeking consideration of Stage 1 due diligence in order to determine the fair market value of a conservation easement and to request a geological assessment to determine the recharge quality and quantity benefits if this property is protected.

The Trevino Property is 39.35 acres located in the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone in Bexar County. This property ranks in the 30th percentile of the SET GIS spatial model. This property ranked high for recharge water quality and moderate for water quantity benefits to the City. All due diligence for this project has been completed and The Nature Conservancy will be requesting final approval to purchase this property in fee simple.

The Fush Creek Ranch is approximately 3,656 acres located in the Edwards Aquifer Recharge and Contributing Zones in Uvalde County. This property ranks in the 50th percentile of the SET GIS spatial model and was previously evaluated by the EAPP in 2021 under prior ownership. The property ranked high for recharge water quantity and very high for water quality benefits to the City if protected. The Nature Conservancy will be requested consideration of Stage 1A due diligence in order to request an updated appraisal to determine the current fair market value of a conservation easement on this property.

ISSUE:

The Nature Conservancy will provide a discussion and update regarding the Casa Laguna Ranch, Ferguson Ranch, Trevino Property and Fush Creek Ranch projects which may be considered for fee simple and conservation easement acquisitions by the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program. The Conservation Advisory Board may elect to recommend final approval of the Trevino Property acquisition, may approve Stage 1 due diligence for the Casa Laguna Ranch and the Ferguson Ranch, and may approve Stage 1A due diligence for the Fush Creek Ranch project.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

ALTERNATIVES:

None.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of Stage 1 due diligence for the Casa Laguna Ranch and Ferguson Ranch, approval of Stage 1A due diligence for the Fush Creek Ranch project, and final approval for acquisition of the Trevino Property.