



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
{{item.tracking_number}}

Agenda Item Number: 1

Agenda Date: August 23, 2023

In Control: Conservation Advisory Board Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Parks & Recreation Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Homer Garcia III

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Briefing and Update on the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program's funding program.

SUMMARY:

Ben Gorzell, Chief Financial Officer, will provide a briefing and update on the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program's funding program through San Antonio Municipal Facilities Corporation.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Edwards Aquifer provides San Antonio with an abundant and vital source of groundwater. It stretches across thousands of acres over several counties in South Central Texas. Roughly 70 percent of San Antonio's water originates as recharge from counties located west of Bexar County. Rainfall enters the Edwards Aquifer through fractures, caves, sinkholes and other features and replenishes the Aquifer.

In May 2000, San Antonio voters approved a proposition which initiated the Edwards Aquifer

Protection Program (EAPP) with funding from a portion of a 1/8-cent venue sales tax. The EAPP protects the Edwards Aquifer through the acquisition of property rights including fee simple purchases, conservation easements, and donations of land over the sensitive zones of the Edwards Aquifer. Perpetual conservation easements benefit San Antonio residents by limiting the amount of increased impervious cover allowable on the protected properties in order to preserve the quantity and quality of water recharging in the Edwards Aquifer. This initial proposition funded the EAPP at \$45 million and funding was approved by voters for continuation of the EAPP in the following amounts: \$90 million in 2005; \$90 million in 2010; and \$100 million in 2015. To date, the EAPP has protected over 178,000 acres over the Edwards Aquifer recharge and contributing zones through purchase of property and negotiation of conservation easements.

On August 13, 2020, City Council approved an Ordinance which placed a proposition on the November 3, 2020, ballot for workforce training and higher education, effectively redirecting currently funded sales tax programs including the EAPP.

On September 17, 2020, City Council adopted an Ordinance which provided for the continuation of the land easement acquisition program in environmentally sensitive areas over the contributing and recharge zones of the Edwards Aquifer by authorizing the City's entering into a Programmatic and Financing Agreement (the "Agreement") with the City of San Antonio, Texas Municipal Facilities Corporation (the "Corporation").

Ben Gorzell, Chief Financial Officer, will provide a briefing and update to the Conservation Advisory Board on the 10-year, \$100 million funding program provided under the Agreement.

ISSUE:

Ben Gorzell, Chief Financial Officer, will provide a briefing and update on the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program's funding program through San Antonio Municipal Facilities Corporation.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

ALTERNATIVES:

None.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is a briefing item only.