



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
{{item.tracking_number}}

Agenda Item Number: {{item.number}}

Agenda Date: March 27, 2024

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 Roland Smith Ranch and Hilthon Ranch projects by The Nature Conservancy.

SUMMARY:

The Nature Conservancy will provide an update on the Roland Smith Ranch and Hilthon Ranch projects.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Nature Conservancy will provide project updates on the Roland Smith Ranch and Hilthon Ranch projects for consideration by the Conservation Advisory Board as candidates for conservation through the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program.

The Roland Smith Ranch is approximately 153 acres located over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone in Uvalde County. The property is located near the Shut-In Creek Ranch Conservation

Easement. Edwards Aquifer Authority conducted a geological assessment on this property which confirmed ___ benefits if this property is protected. An appraisal has also been completed to determine the fair market value of the conservation easement. The Nature Conservancy will be requesting Stage 2 approval from the Conservation Advisory Board in order to proceed with requesting a survey and environmental reports for this property.

The Hilthon Ranch consists of two parcels totaling approximately 407 acres located over the Edwards Aquifer Contributing Zone in Uvalde County. At the February 28, 2024 meeting, the Conservation Advisory Board authorized the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program to proceed with requesting City Council consideration for acquisition of a conservation easement on the 367-acre tract. The Nature Conservancy will be presenting a revised offer from the landowner on the 60-acre tract. An appraisal, geological assessment, surveys and environmental reports have been completed for both tracts. In the event the Conservation Advisory Board votes for final approval on the 60-acre tract, the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program will proceed with requesting City Council consideration for acquisition of conservation easements on both parcels.

ISSUE:

The Nature Conservancy will present an update on due diligence completed on the Roland Smith Ranch and Hilthon Ranch projects. The Conservation Advisory Board will be asked to consider approval of Stage 2 due diligence for the Roland Smith Ranch and will request final approval for the Hilthon Ranch (second parcel).

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

ALTERNATIVES:

None.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of Stage 2 due diligence on the Roland Smith Ranch and recommends final approval for the Hilthon Ranch (second parcel).