



# City of San Antonio

## Agenda Memorandum

**File Number:**  
**{{item.tracking\_number}}**

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**Agenda Item Number:** 2

**Agenda Date:** October 25, 2023

**In Control:** Conservation Advisory Board Meeting

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**DEPARTMENT:** Parks & Recreation Department

**DEPARTMENT HEAD:** Homer Garcia III

**COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED:** Citywide

**SUBJECT:**

A discussion and update regarding the Scenic Loop Property, TCW Ranch, and Marnoch Road projects by Edwards Aquifer Protection Program staff.

**SUMMARY:**

Edwards Aquifer Protection Program staff will present the Scenic Loop Property, TCW Ranch, and Marnoch Road projects which may be considered for protection through the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Edwards Aquifer Protection Program staff will present the Scenic Loop Property, TCW Ranch, and Marnoch Road projects as candidates for protection through the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program.

The Scenic Loop Property is a 155-acre parcel located in Bexar County over the Edwards Aquifer

Contributing Zone and located directly adjacent to Scenic Canyon Natural Area. This property ranks in the Top 10% of the SET model. The Edwards Aquifer Protection Program will leverage funding for this proposed fee simple acquisition through the Department of Defense's Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Challenge grant award to Compatible Lands Foundation. If acquired, the City of San Antonio will acquire the property and Compatible Lands Foundation will hold a perpetual conservation easement for aquifer protection and buffer protection for JBSA-Camp Bullis. Staff will be requesting consideration for final approval of this project in order to proceed with City Council consideration for fee simple acquisition and execution of a conservation in partnership with Compatible Lands Foundation.

The TCW Ranch is an approximately 1,183-acre property located in Bexar County over the Edwards Aquifer Contributing Zone and located directly adjacent to the 1,105-acre Rancho Blanco conservation easement which was acquired by the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program in 2018. This property ranks in the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile of the SET Model. Staff will be requesting consideration for Stage 1 due diligence in order to request a geological assessment and appraisal for this conservation easement project.

The Marnoch Road project consists of two contiguous parcels totalling approximately 23 acres. These parcels are located in Bexar County near the intersection of Scenic Loop Road and Marnoch Road over the Edwards Aquifer Contributing Zone. The properties rank in the Top 10% of the SET model. The parcel fronting Scenic Loop contains frontage on Helotes Creek and the small adjoining parcel contains at least one notable karst feature. Staff will be requesting consideration for Stage 1 due diligence in order to request a geological assessment and appraisal for this conservation easement project.

#### **ISSUE:**

This is a presentation to the Conservation Advisory Board on the Scenic Loop Property, TCW Ranch, and Marnoch Road projects. The Conservation Advisory Board may elect to recommend City Council consideration for fee simple acquisition of the Scenic Loop Property and conveyance of a conservation easement on the property to Compatible Lands Foundation. The Conservation Advisory Board may also approve Stage 1 due diligence for the TCW Ranch and Marnoch Road conservation easement projects.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

#### **ALTERNATIVES:**

None.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends final approval for City Council consideration of fee simple acquisition of the Scenic Loop Property and conveyance of a conservation easement to Compatible Lands Foundation. Staff also recommends approval of Stage 1 due diligence for the TCW Ranch and Marnoch Road conservation easement projects.