



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
{{item.tracking_number}}

Agenda Item Number: 2

Agenda Date: June 22, 2022

In Control: Conservation Advisory Board Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Parks & Recreation Department

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Homer Garcia III

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

The Nature Conservancy will provide status on the Fern Springs Ranches, Mikeska Ranch, Morrow Addition and Stoner Ranch conservation easement projects being considered for the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program.

SUMMARY:

The Nature Conservancy will provide an update on the Fern Springs Ranches, Mikeska Ranch, Morrow Addition and Stoner Ranch conservation easement projects. These properties are being considered for purchase of conservation easement projects through the City of San Antonio's Edwards Aquifer Protection Program.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Nature Conservancy will provide an update on the Fern Springs Ranches, Mikeska Ranch, Morrow Addition and Stoner Ranch conservation easement projects. These properties are being considered for purchase of conservation easement projects through the City of San Antonio's

Edwards Aquifer Protection Program.

The Fern Springs Ranches project consists of seven (7) contiguous but separately owned properties to be conserved through conservation easements. The seven properties are located in the Edwards Aquifer contributing zone in Bandera County and total 1,512.19 acres. These properties are located directly adjacent to the 861-acre Headwaters Ranch which was protected through the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program in 2021. The surveys and environmental reports are complete; The Nature Conservancy will be requesting final approval which is needed for City Council consideration of the proposed conservation easement acquisitions.

The Mikeska Ranch is a 160-acre property located in the Edwards Aquifer contributing zone just north of Concan in Uvalde County. This property is located north of the 433-acre Shut-In Creek Ranch which is protected by an EAPP conservation easement. The survey and environmental reports are complete; The Nature Conservancy will be requesting final approval which is needed for City Council consideration of the proposed conservation easement.

The Morrow Addition was recently acquired by the landowners of the Bradford Hixon Ranch in Uvalde County; the landowners desire to place this 403-acre addition, which is located in the Edwards Aquifer recharge zone in Uvalde County, under a conservation easement. The geological assessment and appraisal have been completed. The Nature Conservancy will be requesting consideration for Stage 2 due diligence (Survey and environmental reporting).

The Stoner Ranch is a 2,088-acre property located in the Edwards Aquifer contributing zone in Uvalde County. The geological assessment and appraisal have been completed. The Nature Conservancy will be requesting consideration for Stage 2 due diligence (Survey and environmental reporting).

ISSUE:

The Nature Conservancy will provide an update on the Fern Springs Ranches, Mikeska Ranch, Morrow Addition and Stoner Ranch conservation easement projects. These properties are being considered for purchase of conservation easement projects through the City of San Antonio's Edwards Aquifer Protection Program

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

ALTERNATIVES:

None.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of these projects.

