



**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CONSIDERATION REQUEST**

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2015 JAN - 6 PM 12:58

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Councilman Ron Nirenberg, District 8 & Councilman Ray Lopez, District 6

COPIES TO: Sheryl Sculley, City Manager; Leticia Vacek, City Clerk; Edward Benavides, Chief of Staff; Chris Callanen, Assistant to the City Council; Martha G. Sepeda, Acting City Attorney; John Peterek, Senior Management Analyst

SUBJECT: Reauthorization of Edwards Aquifer Protection Program and Linear Creekway Parks Development Program

DATE: January 5, 2015

Issue Proposed for Consideration

We respectfully ask for your support in submitting for voter approval reauthorization of the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program and the Linear Creekway Parks Development Program on May 9, 2015. By law, this consideration requires and includes the following actions:

A resolution designating the Edwards Aquifer Protection Venue Project and the Parks Development and Expansion Venue Project under Local Government Code Chapter 334 and reauthorizing the current 1/8th cent Sales and Use Tax to fund these Venue Projects to be considered on the San Antonio City Council ‘A’ Session Agenda on or before January 22, 2015;

The submission by City staff of a State Fiscal Impact Analysis letter to the State Comptroller of Public Accounts on or before January 22, 2015; and,

An ordinance calling a Special Election to be held on May 9, 2015 which would extend the current 1/8th cent Sales Tax for the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program and Linear Creekway Parks Development Program to be considered on the San Antonio City Council ‘A’ Session Agenda on or before February 26, 2015.

Brief Background

The Edwards Aquifer Protection Program, which provides sales tax revenue for the purchase of conservation easements on private property located over environmentally-sensitive Recharge and Contributing Zones of the Edwards Aquifer, was approved by voters in 2000, 2005 and 2010. The sales tax revenues fund the due diligence activities associated with the evaluations – appraisals, surveys, and environmental baseline documentation – as well as payments to the landowners to purchase their development rights and support for the

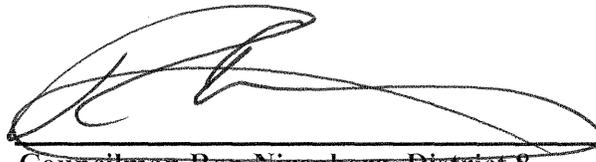
program's administrative costs, including monitoring to ensure easement compliance over time. To date, the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program has protected more than 130,000 environmentally-sensitive acres.

The Linear Creekway Parks Development Program, which provides sales tax funding for the land purchases and trails development, was approved by voters in 2000, 2005 and 2010. There are currently 46 miles of developed greenway trails now open to the public, with an additional 40 miles of trail under development. Trails are now either built or planned for many of San Antonio's creeks, including the Salado, Leon, Huebner, Olmos, Huesta, Culebra, Alazan, Apache, Martinez, San Pedro and the Medina River. These linear parks consist of approximately 1,200 acres of creek-side open space, which are critical to the City's quality of life and fitness goals.

The residents of the City of San Antonio last approved continuation of the sales tax utilized to fund these programs on November 2, 2010. The ballot propositions authorized the collection of \$90 million to be used on the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program and \$45 million to be used on the Linear Creekway Parks Development Program. The authorized funds are expected to be collected and allocated entirely by early 2016. On November 5, 2014, City staff presented the progress of each program to the City Council during "B" Session, recommending renewal of the programs in 2015. Voter renewal is required prior to funds expiring in order for the programs to continue uninterrupted.

Submitted for Council consideration

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Councilman Ron Nirenberg, District 8



Councilman Ray Lopez, District 6

Supporting Councilmember's Signatures (3 only)

District No.

1. 
2. 
3. 

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