

**THIS IS A PROPOSED DRAFT AND WILL BE REPLACED BY THE FINAL, SIGNED
ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL.**

AN ORDINANCE

**AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF A CONSERVATION
EASEMENT OVER THE EDWARDS AQUIFER RECHARGE ZONE ON
A 1,891.71 ACRE TRACT OF LAND KNOWN AS THE DRIPSTONE
RANCH LOCATED IN UVALDE COUNTY, FROM DEEP SPRING
RANCH, LTD., AT A COST OF \$7,961,503.10.**

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WHEREAS, the purpose of the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program is to obtain property rights by fee simple purchase or conservation easements over the sensitive zones of the Edwards Aquifer; and

WHEREAS, this program was initiated in May 2000 when voters approved Proposition 3, a 1/8-cent sales tax venue up to \$45 million for the acquisition of lands over the Edwards Aquifer for parks and watershed protection; and

WHEREAS, Proposition 3 ran from 2000 through 2005 and was limited to Bexar County; and

WHEREAS, the 2005 Proposition 1 program was an extension of the initial voter-approved Edwards Aquifer protection endeavor and was extended by voters in 2010 and renewed again in 2015; and

WHEREAS, changes in state legislation allowed watershed protection activities to expand outside of Bexar County; and

WHEREAS, the proposed purchase of a conservation easement on the Dripstone Ranch tract is located over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone in Uvalde County; and

WHEREAS, the property was initially identified through use of the Scientific Evaluation Team's GIS Spatial Model and subsequent site visits identified favorable recharge features on the properties which are located within prioritized watersheds; and

WHEREAS, the Dripstone Ranch is located within the Frio River drainage basin which, combined with numerous caves, faults, and fractures, contribute to significant recharge of the Edwards Aquifer; and

WHEREAS, the Edwards Aquifer Authority issued a geological assessment of the properties confirming that preservation of the Dripstone Ranch would provide very high water quantity and high water quality benefits for the City of San Antonio; and

WHEREAS, additionally, this particular property is the 23rd highest ranking property within the Scientific Evaluation Team's GIS Spatial Model out of 1,292 ranked properties; and,

WHEREAS, if approved, inclusion of this property will increase the total protected lands under the City's aquifer protection program by approximately 1,891.71 acres for a total of 151,017 acres; **NOW THEREFORE:**

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO:

SECTION 1. The City Manager or her designee, or the Director of the Parks and Recreation Department or his designee, is authorized to execute a Conservation Easement with Deep Spring Ranch, LTD. on a 1,891.71-acre tract of land known as the Dripstone Ranch located in Uvalde County, Texas. A copy of the Conservation Easement, in substantially final form, is attached hereto and incorporated herein for all purposes as **Attachment I.**

SECTION 2. Payment not to exceed \$7,961,503.10, in SAP Fund 40099000, Other Capital Projects, SAP Project Definition 26-00638, Edwards Aquifer Protection Program, is authorized to be encumbered and made payable to Alamo Title Company, as escrow agent for title on a conservation easement, due diligence and closing costs on a 1,891.71 acre tract of land known as the Dripstone Ranch located in Uvalde County, Texas.

SECTION 3. The financial allocations in this Ordinance are subject to approval by the Director of Finance, City of San Antonio. The Director of Finance may, subject to concurrence by the City Manager or the City Manager's designee, correct allocations to specific SAP Fund Numbers, SAP Project Definitions, SAP WBS Elements, SAP Internal Orders, SAP Fund Centers, SAP Cost Centers, SAP Functional Areas, SAP Funds Reservation Document Numbers, and SAP GL Accounts as necessary to carry out the purpose of this Ordinance.

SECTION 4. This Ordinance is effective immediately upon the receipt of eight affirmative votes; otherwise, it is effective ten days after passage.

PASSED AND APPROVED this ___ day of February, 2018.

M A Y O R
Ron Nirenberg

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Leticia M. Vacek, City Clerk

Andrew Segovia, City Attorney