



City of Austin

City Manager's Office

P.O. Box 1088, Austin, TX 78767
(512) 974-2200, Fax (512) 974-2833

Sue Edwards, Assistant City Manager
sue.edwards@austintexas.gov

The Hudson Bend Incorporation Committee
C/O Alton Moore
5407 Phillips Circle
Hudson Bend, TX 78734-1451

July 16, 2015

Re: Hudson Bend Incorporation Committee request release from the Austin extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ)

Dear Mr. Moore,

Thank you for your recent request concerning release of City of Austin extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) for the purpose of incorporation as a municipality. I appreciate your efforts to meet with City staff to discuss issues of concern to you and your neighbors. Staff has reviewed your request and determined that releasing this area is not consistent with stated goals and objectives in the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan or adopted policy intended to protect the integrity of the City's ETJ.

The ETJ is important to Austin for several reasons. First, the ETJ represents the City's potential growth boundary, both with respect to future tax base and municipal service area. Many of the services that the City provides really benefit the whole region and releasing the City's ETJ would eliminate the City's ability to fully benefit from development in the ETJ by future annexation. However, the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan promotes the use of "limited purpose annexation in cooperation with landowners to expand environmental, land use, and development regulations on land currently in the extraterritorial jurisdiction." I encourage you to consider the advantages of limited purpose annexation in your ongoing discussions related to your efforts. For instance, the City's ordinances and regulations pertaining to land development, such as zoning, apply in the City's limited purpose jurisdiction. Residents may vote in City Council and charter amendment elections; however, the City does not assess property taxes in limited purpose areas.

Second, the ETJ also enables the City to extend regulations to adjacent land where development can affect quality of life within the City. Releasing the City's ETJ would terminate the existing protections afforded by Austin's environmental regulations, which are designed to manage growth and development in areas surrounding the City that can have a significant negative impact on properties within the City limits.

The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request.

Although the LCRA's Highland Lakes Watershed Ordinance does provide some water quality protections, it is not as strong as Austin's regulations.

In conclusion, City staff cannot support releasing this area as requested. If you have any questions, please contact Virginia Collier, Planning and Zoning Department, at Virginia.Collier@austintexas.gov or 512-974-2022.

Sincerely,



Sue Edwards, Assistant City Manager
City of Austin

Cc: Marc A. Ott, City Manager
Greg Guernsey, Director, Planning and Zoning Department
Virginia Collier, Planning and Zoning Department

