



Parks and Recreation Special Called Meeting Agenda

COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 1209 FIORELLA STREET

Monday, September 22, 2025

6:00 PM

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board of the City of Castroville will meet in the Special Called Meeting beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at City Hall on the following items listed on the agenda.

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

III. Citizen Comments

The Board will hear comments from any citizen or visitor. Speakers must address their comments to the presiding officer rather than individual board members or staff; stand at the podium, speak clearly into the microphone and state your name residential address before speaking. Speakers will be allowed a maximum of 3 minutes for testimony. In accordance with the State Open Meetings Act, the Board is restricted from discussing or taking action on items not listed on the agenda. Action can only be taken at a future meeting.

IV. Approval of Minutes

a. Minutes for August 14, 2025

V. Presentations

a. Presentation on Riparian Restoration Project for Medina River in Castroville Regional Park

VI. Discussion and Action Items

a. Discuss and take appropriate action on the Riparian Restoration Project in Regional Park

b. Discuss and take appropriate action on Regional Park Swimming Pool heating options during the Autumn and Winter

c. Discuss and take appropriate action on having the Parks & Recreation Department and the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board manage the procedure and policy for adding memorial bricks in September Square

d. Discuss and take appropriate action on a thank-you response to Castroville Special Events for the Lions Park shade donation

- e. Discuss and take appropriate action on the Agreement between Bexar-Medina- Atascosa(BMA) and the City of Castroville

VII. General Updates

- a. Friends of Castroville Regional Park General Update by FCRP Representative
- b. General Update by Parks & Recreation Director including: community center construction, lions park splashpad, emergency services/sirens in the park, regional park north restroom remodel/renovations, and parks & rec agreements
- c. Next Regular Called Meeting: October 15, 2025
Council Chamber at 6:00 p.m.

VIII. Future Agenda Items

- a. Regional Park north restroom remodeling spec and budget
- b. Completed items list update for Master Plan
- c. Phase II of Pool additions including additional changing areas, showers, restrooms, accessibility, and additional programming
- d. Lions Park splashpad foundation issues

IX. Adjourn

Accessibility Statement

The City Hall is wheelchair accessible. The exit and parking ramps are located at the rear of the building.

Non-Discrimination Statement

The City of Castroville does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, or disability in the employment or the provision of services.

I hereby certify that the above notice of meeting was posted on the bulletin board of City Hall, Castroville, Texas on September 15, 2025 before 12:00 p.m. (Noon)

/s/ Debra Howe

City Secretary

Title: Riparian Demonstration Project in the Medina River Watershed

Lead Organization: Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI)

Goal: Plan, establish, and maintain a riparian demonstration and education site in the watershed to highlight potential improvements and water quality impacts of riparian restoration activity.

Key Activities:

- Identify a suitable location for the demonstration site.
- Secure agreements with partners for:
 - Allowing restoration activities.
 - Installing educational signage.
 - Maintaining the site long-term.
- Organize restoration efforts:
 - Planting native riparian vegetation.
 - Installing exclusionary fencing to demonstrate natural vegetation recovery.
- Develop educational signage to explain:
 - Riparian form, functions, and features.
 - Water quality benefits of healthy riparian areas.
- Host educational events at the site for community engagement and learning.

Medina River Watershed Protection

Medina River Below Medina Diversion Lake

What is a Watershed?

A watershed is the land area that drains to a common waterway, like the Medina River! Everything on the land surrounding the river is part of the watershed.

Our Watershed is Changing!

The Medina River below Medina Diversion Lake watershed is experiencing rapid growth and development.

- ◆ Growing Urbanization: Rural land is being replaced by homes, businesses, and industries.
- ◆ Impact on Water Quality: This growth is affecting the health of our river.

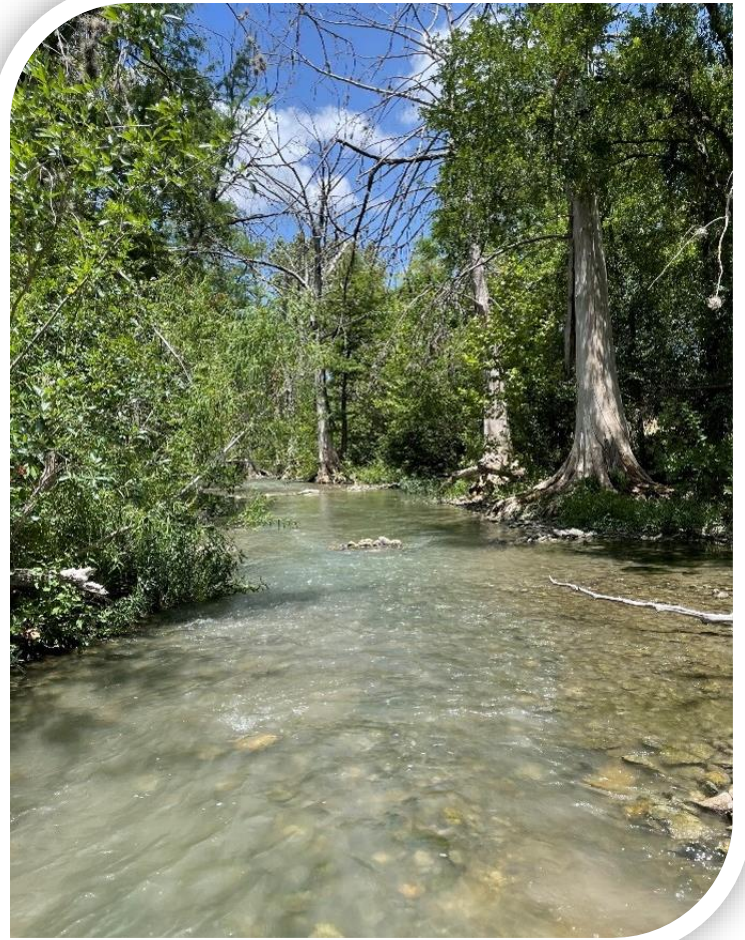
Why is the Medina River Watershed Important?

- ◆ It's a vital source of drinking water, connected to the Edwards Aquifer.
- ◆ It provides habitat for unique and endangered species.
- ◆ It's a place for recreation and enjoyment.
- ◆ Concerns for Our River:
 - ◆ High Bacteria Levels: Making it unsafe for swimming and wading.
 - ◆ Excess Nutrients: Leading to algae growth and harming the ecosystem.

Taking Action!

In 2023, local stakeholders came together to develop a Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) to address these issues.

- ◆ Identifying sources of pollution (bacteria and nutrients).
- ◆ Implementing educational and management measures.
- ◆ Reducing pollution from:
 - ✓ Livestock & Pets
 - ✓ On-site Sewage Systems (OSSF)
 - ✓ Wildlife (Deer & Feral Hogs)
 - ✓ Wastewater Treatment Facilities (WWTF)
 - ✓ Urban Stormwater runoff.



Watershed Protection Plans are voluntary, stakeholder-driven plans to improve water quality. They also make watersheds eligible for certain sources of grant funding once completed.

How You Can Be Part of The Solution!

- ◆ Be mindful of pet waste.
- ◆ Maintain your septic system.
- ◆ Reduce runoff from your property.
- ◆ Support local conservation efforts.
- ◆ Learn more about the Watershed Protection Plan.

Targeted Management Measures:

- ◆ Address both rural and urban sources: A comprehensive approach is essential.
- ◆ Manage increasing pressures from urbanization.

Key Actions:

Wastewater & Stormwater:

- ◆ Improve Wastewater Treatment Facility operations and prevent Sanitary Sewer Overflows.
- ◆ Improve stormwater quality through Low Impact Development and Green Infrastructure.
- ◆ Work to improve stormwater regulations.

Septic Systems:

- ◆ Provide homeowner education on OSSF maintenance.
- ◆ Repair or replace failing septic systems.

Pet Waste:

- ◆ Educate pet owners on proper waste disposal.
- ◆ Install waste collection stations in parks and neighborhoods.

Livestock:

- ◆ Educate landowners on best management practices.
- ◆ Implement Water Quality Management Plans and Conservation Plans.

Feral Hogs:

- ◆ Reduce feral hog populations through trapping, hunting, and habitat management.

Illicit Dumping:

- ◆ Support enforcement of dumping regulations.
- ◆ Organize stream cleanups and waste collection events.

Riparian and Stream Restoration:

- ◆ Assess and restore degraded riparian areas and streams.

Land Conservation:

- ◆ Support land conservation programs.

Abandoned Wells:

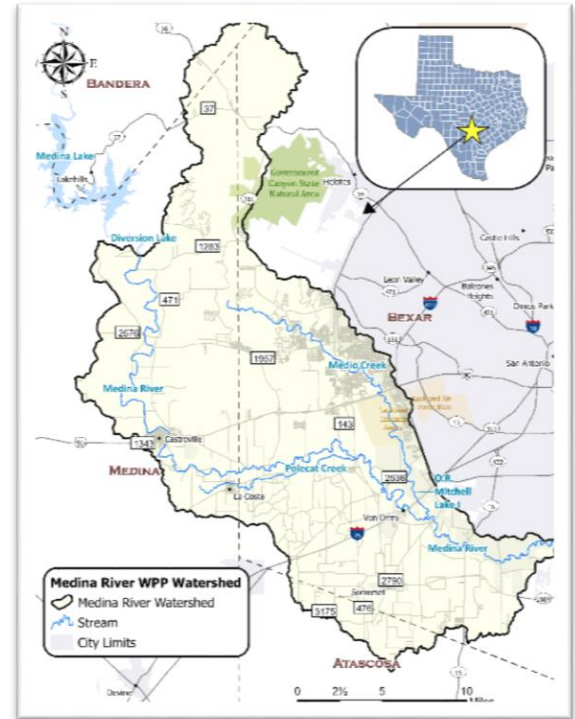
- ◆ Plug abandoned wells to prevent groundwater contamination.

Education & Outreach:

- ◆ Engage the public through events.
- ◆ Continue public stakeholder meetings.

Tracking Progress & Success:

- ◆ Monitor achievements and water quality.
- ◆ Adjust strategies as needed.
- ◆ Meet state standards for recreational uses



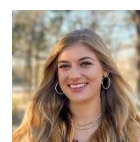
Why It Matters:

- ◆ Actions on land affect streams and rivers.
- ◆ We need to work together to protect our watershed.
- ◆ Protects recreational opportunities (swimming, fishing, kayaking).
- ◆ Safeguards agricultural uses.
- ◆ Preserves the Edwards Aquifer, a vital water source.

Learn More!



<https://medina.twri.tamu.edu/>



Mary Michael Lipford Zahed
Program Specialist
mary.lipfordzahed@ag.tamu.edu
979-314-8092

Let's keep the Medina River watershed clean and healthy!

*Funding provided by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
through a Clean Water Act Section 319(h) Grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.*

RIPARIAN SYSTEMS



Healthy riparian systems improve water quality in a stream. Undisturbed soil, soil cover, and vegetation provide shade, plant litter, woody material, and reduce erosion of soil into a stream. A Riparian System is made up of three areas: The Uplands, The Riparian Zone, and The Stream.

Vegetation is a primary component of a riparian system. By acting as buffers between upland areas and flowing water, riparian plants can help filter pollutants such as nutrients and sediment. Vegetation also provides shade, which works to lower water temperatures.

Lower water temperatures support higher dissolved oxygen levels, which are important to maintain aquatic life. The vegetation also contributes wood debris to streams which is important to maintaining stream integrity.

Riparian systems also provide a role in wildlife habitat. Healthy systems will work to increase biodiversity and provide wildlife corridors, enabling both aquatic and land organisms to move along stream systems.

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EXTENSION

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Scan the QR code (left) with your cell phone or using a barcode reader app to learn more about Riparian Systems.

UPLANDS



Upland areas consist of trees, grasses and forbs growing on higher elevations of a Riparian System, above floodplains. Upland vegetation helps to reduce nonpoint source pollution and erosion. The benefits of uplands can be compromised if there is excessive agriculture or impervious cover from development. The uplands provide cover and food for birds, mammals and wild game.

RIPARIAN ZONE



A Riparian Zone is the land next to a stream where vegetation is strongly influenced by the presence of water. Riparian zones are important for good water quality as they typically include a filter strip of grasses and sedges along with deep rooted trees and shrubs along the stream. Riparian zones help to prevent sediment, nitrogen, phosphorus, pesticides and other pollutants from entering a stream. Riparian vegetation also allows water to soak into the ground and recharge groundwater.

Riparian Restoration Project Donation Summary

This document provides a one-page summary of the collaborative Riparian Restoration Project at Castroville Regional Park, acknowledging the contributions of the Texas Water Resources Institute (TWRI), the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, and the City of Castroville.

Provided by TWRI & Funders

- Funding for the Riparian Restoration Project.
- Installation of restoration features at Castroville Regional Park.
- Implementation of recommendations from the Watershed Protection Plan for the Medina River.
- Educational opportunities: demonstration and learning site for residents, students, and visitors.

Provided by the City of Castroville

- Collaboration with project partners to integrate restoration features into existing and planned park design.
- Watering and maintenance of the restored area for two (2) years after installation to ensure successful establishment.
- Encouragement of recycled water use for irrigation and outdoor watering.

Dustin Navarro, Director

Morris Salzman, Director

Gordon Hitzfelder, Director

Brandy Perez, Director

George Weimer, President

Bob Roberts Jr., Vice President

Christopher Friesenhahn, Secretary/Treasurer



September 3, 2025

City of Castroville
1209 Fiorella Street
Castroville, Texas 78009

RE: City of Castroville Agreement

Dear City Council,

BMA and the City of Castroville signed an agreement on October 1, 2005, relating to the use of specific BMA property for a trail system. The extension of this agreement was discussed, and at this time, we will not be renewing the lease agreement. This lease will set to expire on October 1, 2025.

Please post the notice immediately for the effective date for public access. We can provide no trespassing signage as requested.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors

11-1-05
Final

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

BETWEEN THE CITY OF CASTROVILLE, TEXAS AND BEXAR-MEDINA-ATASCOSA (BMA) WCID #1 FOR THE USE OF BMA PROPERTY ALONG THE CANAL OF THE MEDINA RIVER LOCATED INSIDE OF CITY LIMITS OF THE CITY OF CASTROVILLE AS PART OF THE CITY'S NATURE/HIKING TRAIL SYSTEM; AND PROVIDING FOR INDEMNIFICATION BY THE CITY.

WHEREAS, the citizens of the City of Castroville, in a 2001 survey, expressed their desire for safe walking trails, and nature and hiking trails in the hills surrounding the City park; and

WHEREAS, the City of Castroville has requested the Regional Park Advisory Board for the City to develop nature and hiking trails in the city limits; and

WHEREAS, the Creek Trail, the Cross-Hill Trail, and the Rocky Ravine Trail are already complete except for signage; and

WHEREAS, the Pond Trail and Birding Trail are almost completed and the Scout Trail, the most challenging of all trails, is presently being engineered; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to include a portion of the BMA Medina Lake canal system adjacent to the Castroville Regional Park as a "connecting trail"; and

WHEREAS, at the presentation made to the BMA Board of Directors on July 11, 2005, the Board expressed concern regarding the liability issues of allowing the public to hike along its canal; and

WHEREAS, this interlocal agreement between the City of Castroville and the BMA WCID #1 shall be passed and approved by both Boards to address the liability concerns raised by the BMA Board.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF CASTROVILLE AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE BEXAR-MEDINA-ATASCOSA WCID #1:

The City Council of the City of Castroville and the Board of Directors of the Bexar-Medina-Atascosa WCID #1 hereby enter into the following interlocal agreement as authorized by Tex. Loc. Gov't Code Chapter 791:

**City of Castroville's Use of the Bexar-Medina-Atascosa WCID #1
Canal Berm and Service Road Located in Castroville Regional Park as
Part of the City's Hiking/ Nature Trail System**

I. Designated Area.

The Medina Lake Canal System is owned and managed by the Board of Directors of the Bexar-Medina-Atascosa WCID #1. The City of Castroville has asked

that a specific section of the canal berm and service road for that portion of the Medina Lake Canal System located within the city limits of the City of Castroville, such portion being the approximately three fourths of a mile that is adjacent to the Castroville Regional Park as of the date of this Agreement, be part of the nature/hiking trail system proposed by the City of Castroville for use by the public.

Bexar-Medina-Atascosa WCID #1 Board of Directors approves the non-exclusive use of the above-described portion of the Medina Lake Canal System as part of the nature/hiking trail system of the City of Castroville for use by the public.

II. Duration of Agreement.

This agreement shall be for a term of ten (10) years beginning December 1, 2005 and shall be renewable by both the BMA Board and City Council for two (2) additional ten (10) year terms for a total of thirty (30) years; provided, however, that during the first two years of this Agreement, either the BMA or the City may cancel this Agreement by giving the other Party ninety (90) days written notice of such intent to cancel. Should this agreement be cancelled or terminated for whatever reason, any/all improvements installed by the City during the term of the agreement, may or may not be removed, at the discretion of the City. If not removed by the City within thirty (30) days from date of termination or cancellation, BMA will have the right to remove them or retain them as property of BMA.

III. Indemnification.

a. The City of Castroville shall indemnify and defend the Bexar-Medina-Atascosa WCID #1 from any property damage or personal injury resulting in the use by the public of the canal berm and service road along the Medina Lake Canal System as described in paragraph I. above. Said indemnification shall include any property damage, personal injury, or death resulting from the public's use of the BMA property as described above. Said indemnification shall be for any negligence on the part of the agents or employees of the City of Castroville and/or the agents or employees of the Bexar-Medina-Atascosa WCID #1. However, said indemnification shall not include any property damage, personal injury or death resulting from the sole negligence of the employees or agents of Bexar-Medina-Atascosa WCID #1.

b. This indemnification shall include the defense of any claim against BMA WCID #1 resulting from the use of the canal berm and service road along the Medina Lake Canal and shall include any damages resulting from said incident up to the limitations authorized by the Texas Tort Claims Act.

c. During the original term of this Agreement and any renewal thereof, the City shall purchase and maintain in full force and effect liability insurance which provides coverage for the indemnity obligations assumed by the City under this Agreement in amounts equal to the City's limit of liability under the Texas Torts Claims Act.

d. The City's duty under this Agreement to indemnify and defend the Bexar-Medina-Atascosa WCID #1 shall expressly include, but shall not be limited to, the death or injury to persons, or the damage or destruction of property as a result of entering or

falling into the canal adjacent to the berm and service road and being drowned, nearly drowned, or swept downstream by the force of water flowing in the canal and that injury or death of persons or damage or destruction of property caused directly or indirectly by use of the canal to transport water shall not be considered to be or deemed to be the "sole negligence" of BMA or its employees. The City's duty under this Agreement to indemnify and defend the Bexar-Medina-Atascosa WCID #1, shall expressly include, but shall not be limited to its directors, officers, employees, agents, engineers, and attorneys.

e. The City has made its own inspection of that portion of the canal system, including the canal berm and service road, and find the same to be suitable for the City's intended use and that the City did not rely upon any statement or representation by the BMA regarding the suitability of the BMA's property for the intended use or for any other purpose or any agreement or representation as to the manner that the canal is operated. Without limiting the above-statement, BMA specifically warns the City that the property to be used by the City is located upstream of a siphon, which presents a greater risk of drowning than other portions of the canal.

IV. Maintenance.

For the purpose of maintenance and improvement issues only, the BMA will appoint and authorize its Field Manager to act in its behalf and the City will appoint and authorize its Public Works Director to act in its behalf.

In exchange for the use of the canal berm and service road in the City's hike and trail system:

The City will install three (3) remote controlled gates, with the size, type and specific location to be agreed upon by the BMA and the City, or their respective designees. One gate will be located near the north property line, one just south of the Creek Trail, and one to secure siphon area as addressed below.

The City will augment BMA's maintenance by keeping mowed to a height no more than five (5) inches, an eight foot (8') wide "trail" down the center of the service road from north gate to south gate, and from trail to each of three (3) trailheads: Pond Trail, Rocky Ravine Trail, and Creek Trail. This trail down the center of the service road will be for use by the walkers/joggers/hikers only. Wheeled and/or motorized vehicles, other than those necessary for maintenance and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and/or horses will not be permitted.

The City will **not** mow, trim, or otherwise maintain the entire width/area of the service road and/or berm, but the City will keep said area free from litter and debris created by walkers/hikers/joggers. BMA is not obligated to mow, trim, or otherwise maintain the service road or berm.

The City will not be responsible for erosion, leakages and/or acts of man or nature that cause damage to the service road/berm and/or siphon, however, the City will be responsible for damage, if proven to be directly related to foot traffic generated by the public's use of the trail, or by wheeled vehicles used by the City for maintenance.

The City will install and maintain a six (6) foot high chain link fence around the area containing siphon # 5 and the concrete "tunnel" preceding it, and will install and maintain a remote controlled gate in said fence to allow BMA easy access to the siphon.

The City will, if deemed necessary, install and maintain a secondary gate (with chain and lock) in said fence to allow the City and/or emergency personnel access to the siphon area.

The exact location of above fence and gates shall be agreed upon BMA and the City, or their respective designees.

The City will further protect its interests as well as those of BMA, by installing a cable with a "DANGER" sign across the canal just ahead of said concrete "tunnel", with the type of sign and exact location agreed upon by BMA and the City or their respective designees.

The City will install and maintain a "collar" around each of its two (2) pipelines that cross the canal to discourage any/all attempts to traverse them, with the type and exact location of the collars agreed upon by BMA and the City or their respective designees.

The City will install and maintain warning, instructional, and/or directional signs at locations agreed upon by BMA and the City, or their respective designees.

The City will install and maintain a minimum of one (1) pedestal mounted 18" X 24" interpretative panel that will illustrate in color the history of Medina Lake and the canal system, as well as its continuing importance to the economy of the area. Additional panels may be installed at the request of BMA provided that BMA equally shares in the cost of the additional panels. The exact location(s) of said panel(s) shall be agreed upon by BMA and the City, or their respective designees.

The City shall take any other actions that it deems appropriate to protect its interest, as well as BMA's property, from damage or harm by persons using the property in accordance with this Agreement.

The City will obtain written permission from the BMA Field Manager before making any improvements not already covered in this agreement.

BMA will abstain from depositing material dredged from the canal on the trail or on the areas designated as the marked entrances (AKA trailheads) to the three (3) trails, i.e. Rocky Ravine Trail, Creek Trail and Pond Trail. In addition, BMA will make reasonable efforts when depositing dredged material adjacent to the trails to minimize the impact to the trails including possible erosion or deposit of material from run-off.

V. Castroville Regional Park Rules of the Trails.

The City has adopted "Rules of the Trails". These rules will be distributed to users of the park trails and will be displayed in prominent locations along the trails.

The City will not allow any activities that may constitute a nuisance or would disturb, unreasonably interfere with, or endanger other persons residing within 300 feet of the area.

Persons using the park trail shall be considered guests or invitees of the City and shall not be considered to be or deemed to be guests or invitees of the BMA.

BMA rules and regulations relating to the use and protection of BMA property shall also apply within the portion of the Medina Lake Canal System subject to City use in accordance with this Agreement.

VI. Disputes.

Should a dispute arise between the parties regarding this Interlocal Agreement, the parties agree to alternative dispute resolution procedures to resolve the dispute. Each entity shall be responsible for its own attorney's fee.

VII. Subordination to the operation, maintenance, and improvement of the canal.

The use of the berm and service road by the City of Castroville and the public in accordance with this agreement shall be subordinate to the Bexar-Medina-Atascosa WCID #1's use of the canal, berm, and service road to transport water and the right and duty to operate, maintain, repair, and improve the canal, the berm, or the service road.

If BMA finds it necessary to mow the eight (8) foot nature/hiking trail, or otherwise maintain the berm and service road, as a result of the City's use, BMA may, after notifying the City, perform the necessary maintenance. The City shall then pay BMA for such work at BMA's standard rates and such payment shall be made within forty-five days of the invoice for such work. If City does not timely pay the amount due, BMA may cancel this Agreement upon sixty days notice without liability or damages to the City.

The City shall not install any property or make any modifications without the consent of the BMA and without prior written approval of the BMA Field Manager.

BMA will use its best efforts to notify the City whenever maintenance, improvements, and/or repairs involving the service road/berm/siphon are planned. Upon such notice, all trails leading to the service road will be closed to the public, and will remain closed until such time as BMA notifies the City that they may re-open.

VIII. Annexation.

If the portion of the Canal System to be used by the City is not located within the corporate limits as of the effective date this Agreement, BMA does not intend to and this Agreement shall not be construed to be a request that the property be annexed into the corporate limits and City agrees not to annex the property into the corporate limits without the consent of the BMA during the term of this Agreement.

IX. Termination.

All obligations of City hereunder not fully performed as of the expiration or earlier termination of this Agreement, such as restoration of the premises and all indemnifications and waivers of liability, will survive the expiration or earlier termination hereof.

X. Neutrality as to Existing Rights.

This Agreement is not intended and should not be construed to limit or impair the rights of any person who currently holds rights to use the Premises based upon rights reserved by deed(s) conveying the Premises to BMA, based upon recorded deeds, licenses or easements or by adverse possession, or based upon agreements or conveyances by or to the City separate and apart from this Agreement. By execution of this Agreement, BMA neither confirms nor denies the existence of such rights, but in any event, this Agreement shall have no effect on same.

XI. Access and Maintenance.

City shall at all times grant BMA immediate and unimpeded access on and across the Premises for purposes of inspection of the Premises; accessing the Canal; and if necessary, using the Premises for purposes related to the operation, maintenance, and control of the Canal. Any improvement which might interfere with BMA's access upon or across the Premises is expressly subject to removal by BMA at its discretion and at the sole expense of City. City shall maintain the Premises by keeping the Premises completely free of any and all debris, litter and/ or refuse. If City fails to so maintain the Premises after thirty (30) days written notice from BMA specifying the maintenance required, BMA may, at its sole discretion, then clear the Premises of any debris, litter and/or refuse, in which event City shall be responsible for any and all related costs and fees. If City fails to timely pay BMA, BMA may terminate this agreement.

XII. Effective Date.

This Agreement shall become effective upon the date that the last Party to approve this Agreement approves and signs the same.

**PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
CASTROVILLE ON THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2005.**

ATTEST:

Jesse F. Byars, Mayor
City of Castroville, Texas

Gloria Peche, City Secretary
City of Castroville, Texas

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Susan C. Rocha, City Attorney
City of Castroville, Texas

**PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
BEXAR-MEDINA-ATASCOSA WCID #1 ON THIS _____ DAY OF
_____, 2005.**

Tommy Fey, President
Bexar-Medina-Atascosa WCID #1

Ed Berger, Business Manager
Bexar-Medina-Atascosa WCID #1

