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1 WHEREAS, the Albuquerque City Council approved Resolution R-07-278,
2 mandating the City of Albuquerque to develop a Tijeras Arroyo Bio-Zone
3 Preserve; and

4 WHEREAS, the East Gateway Sector Development Plan (adopted 2010)
5 recommends that the City Open Space Division continue acquiring public
6 lands within the Tijeras Arroyo to consolidate public ownership, provide
7 opportunities for education and low-impact recreation, and improve and
8 enhance habitat; and

9 WHEREAS, in 2012, Neighborhoods adjacent to the arroyo requested
10 implementation of the recommendations in the East Gateway Sector
11 Development Plan; and

12 WHEREAS, in 2013 the City Council and the Parks Department initiated a
13 process to adopt a resource management plan to establish City policies for the
14 purposes of allocating City and potentially State funds to improve trail
15 facilities, install interpretive signage, create storm-water wetlands and repair
16 the natural areas; and

17 WHEREAS, the primary goal of the RMP for the TABZ is to provide guidance
18 and outline measures that will aid in the conservation of natural and cultural
19 resources and identify opportunities for public recreation; and

20 WHEREAS, on May 8, 2014, the Environmental Planning Commission (EPC),
21 voted that a Recommendation of Approval be forwarded to City Council for
22 Project 1009983, 14EPC-40013, a request for an Adoption of a Rank II Facility
23 Plan for the Tijeras Arroyo Bio-Zone, as recommended in the findings within
24 the May 8, 2014 staff report (see Record).

25 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL, THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF
26 ALBUQUERQUE:

27 Section 1. The City Council adopts the Following Findings:

28 1. The Tijeras Arroyo Biological Zone includes the Tijeras Canyon and
29 the Tijeras Arroyo for approximately 3.7 miles from the Carñuel Interstate-40
30 interchange westward to the boundary of Kirtland Air Force Base, containing
31 approximately 684 acres that is made up of City, State, Albuquerque
32 Metropolitan Arroyo Flood Control Authority, and privately owned parcels.
33 The Plan provides goals and policies for City departments and other

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1 stakeholders to use in the conservation and preservation of the Tijeras
2 Arroyo.

3 2. The primary goal of the Plan is to provide guidance and outline
4 measures that will aid in the conservation of natural and cultural resources
5 and identify opportunities for public recreation. The Plan: does not change
6 zoning; calls for the City Open Space Division to acquire private lands within
7 Tijeras Arroyo to consolidate public ownership; and, provides goals and
8 policies that align with the Comprehensive Plan, and other city plans to better
9 coordinate the preservation and conservation of the Tijeras Arroyo.

10 3. The Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Comprehensive Plan, the City of
11 Albuquerque Zoning Code, the Major Open Space Facility Plan, the Facility
12 Plan for Arroyos, and the East Gateway Sector Development Plan are
13 incorporated herein by reference and made part of the record for all purposes.

14 4. The proposed plan supports the following applicable Goals and
15 Policies of the Rank I Comprehensive Plan:

16
17 a. Open Space Network Goal and Policies

18
19 The request is consistent with the Open Space Network Goal and furthers
20 Policy II.B.1.a because the RMP for the TABZ strengthens the City’s
21 commitment to acquire important open space lands and waters in the Tijeras
22 Arroyo to conserve natural resources and environmental features, provide
23 opportunities for outdoor education and recreation, conserve archaeological
24 resources, provide trail corridors and help protect the public from flooding. It
25 does this by stating the intent to acquire specific parcels in the Bio-Zone by
26 various methods, prioritizing those parcels, and by providing policy
27 objectives and best management practices that will help accomplish these
28 purposes.

29 The request furthers Policy II.B.1.f because the RMP for the TABZ calls for
30 the closing of makeshift trails along the Arroyo and creating and managing
31 formal, sustainable trails that will protect natural features, views, drainage and
32 other functions, as well as link to other areas within the Open Space network.

33 b. Rural Area Policies

34 The request is consistent with the Rural Area Goal and furthers Policy
35 II.B.3.c because implementation of RMP for the TABZ policies—particularly

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1 land acquisition for open space— will help to curb inappropriate development
2 in the floodplain and valley areas where flood danger, high water table, and
3 soils inhibit extensive urbanization.

4 **c. Developing and Established Urban Area Policies**

5 The request is consistent with the Developing and Established Urban Area
6 Goal and furthers Policy II.B.5.d because approval and implementation of the
7 RMP for the TABZ will help ensure that new development respects existing
8 natural environmental conditions and carrying capacities, scenic resources,
9 and cultural and recreational resources by listing and describing those
10 conditions and resources in detail and providing policies and best practices
11 for managing them.

12 **d. Archaeological Resource Policies**

13 The request is consistent with the Archaeological Resource Goal and
14 furthers Policies II.C.6.a, b and c because the Plan surveys and evaluates the
15 significance of several archaeological and paleontological sites and presents
16 strategies for preserving and managing them for research and education.

17 The request furthers Policy II.C.8.a because the RMP for the TABZ
18 inventories important visual and environmental resources unique to the
19 Tijeras Arroyo floodplain and notes their significance, facilitating their being
20 taken into account in development decisions.

21 **e. Water Management Policies**

22 The request is consistent with the Water Management Goal and furthers
23 Policy II.D.2.b because the RMP for the TABZ policies encourage the
24 maximum absorption of precipitation through the retention of the natural
25 arroyo (the Tijeras Arroyo) and conservation of run-off within the context of
26 overall water resource management.

27 **f. Education Policies**

28 The request is consistent with the Education Goal and furthers Policy
29 II.D.7.d because the RMP for the TABZ policies call for interpretive signs and
30 programs to integrate educational programs with the natural and cultural
31 environments.

32 **5. The proposed plan supports the following applicable goals and**
33 **policies of the following Rank II Area/Facility Plans:**

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1 **a. The Major Public Open Space (MPOS) Facility Plan**

2 **The request is consistent with the Major Public Open Space Facility Plan**
3 **Mission and furthers Policy A.2.C because the MPOS Facility Plan specifically**
4 **calls for a Resource Management Plan to be developed for the Tijeras Arroyo,**
5 **a directive fulfilled by the TABZ. These plans protect vegetation, wildlife**
6 **habitat, and archaeological resources from damage while making major public**
7 **open space accessible to people.**

8 **b. The Facility Plan for Arroyos**

9 **This request is consistent with the Facility Plan for Arroyos Goal and**
10 **furthers Policy 1 one of the main objectives of the RMP for the TABZ is to**
11 **acquire and incorporate into the City of Albuquerque Open Space Network, as**
12 **many parcels as possible that are owned privately or by various agencies to**
13 **maximize ecological protection and facilitate management of the TABZ.**

14 **6. This request is consistent with the Rank III East Gateway Sector**
15 **Development Plan, Goal 5, because the RMP for TABZ outlines strategies to**
16 **prioritize land acquisition by significance of resource value and development**
17 **pressure. The RMP for TABZ also recommends that the Open Space Division**
18 **acquire the arroyo channel in its entirety. This request furthers the Major**
19 **Public Open Space Recommendation in the East Gateway Sector**
20 **Development Plan.**

21 **7. There were no adverse comments from the reviewing agencies. The**
22 **Hydrology Development Division commented that reserving floodplains for**
23 **Open Space will help the City improve their National Flood Insurance Program**
24 **Community Rating which may result in a greater discount on flood insurance**
25 **premiums for the citizens of Albuquerque.**

26 **8. There were no adverse comments from the public. All affected**
27 **Neighborhood Associations, Homeowner Associations and Coalitions were**
28 **notified by certified mail and, all property owners within the Plan boundaries**
29 **were notified by mail. There is no known opposition to the Plan.**

30 **Section 2. The Resource Management Plan for the Tijeras Arroyo Biological**
31 **Zone, attached hereto and made a part hereof, is adopted as a Rank II Facility**
32 **Plan and regulatory guide to the implementation of the Rank I**

1 Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Comprehensive Plan and applicable Rank II
2 and Rank III Plans as cited above.

3 Section 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. This resolution shall take effect five days
4 after publication by title and general summary.

5 Section 4. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE. If any section paragraph, sentence,
6 clause, word, or phrase of this resolution is for any reason held to be invalid
7 or unenforceable by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall
8 not affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this resolution. The
9 Council hereby declares that it would have passed this resolution and each
10 section, paragraph, sentence, clause, word or phrase thereof irrespective of
11 any provisions being declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid.

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