

## R E S O L U T I O N

## A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE THORNTON NORTHERN PROPERTIES STEWARDSHIP PLAN AND DIRECTING STAFF TO PURSUE ITS IMPLEMENTATION.

WHEREAS, Thornton purchased agricultural properties and the associated water rights in Larimer and Weld Counties in the mid-1980s (Northern Properties); and

WHEREAS, the City Council appropriated funds in 2019 to develop the Thornton Northern Properties Stewardship Plan (Stewardship Plan); and

WHEREAS, the Stewardship Plan is a complimentary process to Thornton's agriculture-to-municipal water transfer, which was decreed in District Court, Water Division No. 1, State of Colorado Consolidated Cases 86CW401, 86CW402, 86CW403, 87CW332 (Water Court Decree); and

WHEREAS, the Council directed that the purpose of the Stewardship Plan is to identify the best long-term uses of the properties by incorporating the visions, needs, and interests of Thornton and the local communities where the properties are located; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, Thornton commissioned the development of the Stewardship Plan and actively sought grant funding partners to broaden participation and perspectives as the Stewardship Plan was developed; and

WHEREAS, Thornton successfully obtained funding partners through the United States Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Grant, the Colorado Water Plan Grant, the Statewide Water Supply Reserve Fund Grant, the South Platte Basin Water Supply Reserve Fund Grant, the Metro Basin Roundtable Water Supply Reserve Fund Grant, and the Colorado Department of Local Affairs Energy Impact Administrative Grant; and

WHEREAS, while Thornton's water will be used and the Northern Properties will be managed per Thornton's Water Court Decree, the Stewardship Plan is a vision for the management and future land use of Thornton's Northern Properties; and

WHEREAS, the process to develop the Stewardship Plan included a stakeholder-driven assessment of community land use objectives; and

WHEREAS, the process to develop the Stewardship Plan included a stakeholder-informed study of opportunities to maintain irrigation on some of the Northern Properties with non-Thornton water; and

WHEREAS, the process to develop the Stewardship Plan included objectives to preserve irrigation of prime farmland, consolidate areas of productive farmland, create business opportunities for farmers, build agricultural resiliency, contribute to broader conservation outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the Stewardship Plan is now completed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF THORNTON, COLORADO, AS FOLLOWS:

The Thornton Northern Properties Stewardship Plan, attached hereto as Exhibit A, is hereby adopted to provide guidance on the management of the City's Northern Properties, and staff is directed to pursue its implementation.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Thornton, Colorado, on April 16, 2024.

CITY OF THORNTON, COLORADO

DocuSigned by:



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Jan Kulmann, Mayor

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:



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Kristen N. Rosenbaum, City Clerk