Thursday, July 26, 2007

Watershed Protection and Development Review RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. 74

Subject: Approve negotiation and execution of Amendment #1 to an Interlocal Agreement with THE LOWER COLORADO RIVER AUTHORITY, Austin, Texas, for water pollutant analyses services for the Watershed Protection and Development Review Department, in an amount not to exceed \$140,000.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Operating Budget of the Watershed Protection and Development Review Department.

Fiscal Note: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: Roger Glick 974-2096; Julia Lee 974-3357

Prior Council Action: Council approved execution and award of the Interlocal Agreement on August 24, 2006.

The City has water quality monitoring requirements under Council directives, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Plan for Barton Springs Pool, and a Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) permit, to determine actions protective of the environment and the citizens of the City of Austin. In August of 2006, City Council approved an Interlocal Agreement with the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) to allow the use of LCRA laboratory services for existing monitoring programs.

Since that time, additional monitoring efforts have been implemented to meet new City initiatives, requiring additional outside laboratory services. These additional programs include monitoring for Water Treatment Plant #4, evaluation of green roof performance as a water quality BMP, dye tracing to determine hazardous material spills impacts on endangered species, and PAH concentrations in stormwater runoff. In addition, this spring has had more rainfall events compared to normal years requiring additional sampling for regular stormwater monitoring.