

AGENDA



Thursday, August 30, 2007

**Watershed Protection and Development Review
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 69**

Subject: Authorize negotiation and execution of a 36-month Interlocal Agreement with Texas Agricultural Experiment Station (TAES), of the Texas A&M University for the time and expertise of TAES engineers and staff to develop additional water quality modeling capabilities in a cooperative project with City of Austin staff for an amount not to exceed \$150,000 with a 12-month extension option, for a total amount not to exceed \$150,000.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$20,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Operating Budget of the Watershed Protection and Development Review Department. The balance is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

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

For More Information: Roger Glick, 974-2096; Nancy McClintock, 974-2652

This Interlocal agreement with TAES will develop Austin area-specific water quality modeling tools that will provide the capability to simulate urban watershed characteristics and the benefits from implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs). Interface development to support these modifications will allow integration of the pond geo-database information with the modeling tools. The need for this project was identified as part of the City's Master Plan, and funds are set aside for Watershed Information Management and Modeling Systems.

The Master Plan process and individual assessment of watershed impacts such as changes in land use are dependent on the accurate prediction of water quality changes. The tools will allow comparisons of benefits between different BMPs, development impacts, and project effects on individual watersheds. The implementation of the existing soil and water assessment tool with the additional capabilities provided by the scope of this agreement will allow the integration of extensive data in both planning and assessment phases. The model will incorporate the department's geo-spatial information as maintained with the latest ArcSDE technology.