Thursday, November 8, 2007

Austin Energy RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. 3

Subject: Approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to proceed with the planned redevelopment of City property at 2500 Montopolis Drive as a new location for Austin Energy's Energy Control Center.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available in the approved Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Capital Improvement Budget of Austin Energy.

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

For More Information: Cheryl Mele, Senior Vice President for Electric Service Delivery, 322-6062

Boards and Commission Action: The prior Council resolutions on this subject were recommended by the Electric Utility Council.

Prior Council Action: Resolution No. 20070201-004, adopted February 1, 2007; Resolution No. 20051027-019, adopted October 27, 2005.

On October 27, 2005, Council adopted Resolution No. 20051027-019, directing Austin Energy to relocate its Energy Control Center ("ECC") from its current location at 301 West Avenue to a less central location, in order to free up the West Avenue property for private, taxable development.

On February 1 of this year, Council adopted Resolution No. 20070201-004, authorizing Austin Energy to purchase approximately 12 acres of land at 2500 Montopolis Drive from Tokyo Electron US Holding, Inc., obstensibly for the purpose of using the property as a future location for the relocated ECC. After Austin Energy's purchase of the Montopolis property, however, it received a tenative offer from an outside company seeking to purchase the property from Austin Energy for private use. That offer failed to come to fruition, but Austin Energy is aware that other outside entities may also be interested in purchasing the property.

Austin Energy recommends proceeding with the redevelopment of the Montopolis site for electric utility-relocated purposes, including the housing of a new ECC. Proceeding along this path will allow Austin Energy to move in the most expeditious manner possible in relocating from the West Avenue property and freeing that land for private redevelopment. Austin Energy seeks direction from Council as to how to proceed regarding the Montoplois site and recommends adoption of the proposed resolution.