

AGENDA



Thursday, January 17, 2008

**Watershed Protection and Development Review
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

Item No. 20

Subject: Approve a resolution authorizing negotiation and execution of an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Austin and the Lower Colorado River Authority for additional flood hazard reduction study activities for the Williamson Creek watershed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in an amount not to exceed \$488,500.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Capital Budget of the Watershed Protection and Development Review Department.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: George E. Oswald, P.E., 974-3369; Roxanne Cook, P.E., 974-3382

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by the Environmental Board.

The Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA), Travis County, the City of Austin and the City of Sunset Valley completed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Onion Creek and Williamson Creek Watersheds, Flood Hazard Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study in December 2006. The LCRA serves as administrator of the master agreement with the Corps of Engineers for study services for the Lower Colorado River watershed.

The Corps of Engineers' Feasibility Study recommended plan for the Williamson Creek study areas included channel modifications and ecosystem restoration. The cost of the ecosystem restoration lands exceeded Federal cost criteria. Therefore, the Corps elected to withdraw the Williamson Creek proposal from consideration for Congressional authorization along with the Lower Onion Creek project implementation proposal which was approved on November 8, 2007.

The Corps of Engineers in partnership with the City is proposing to re-evaluate options for Williamson Creek. This evaluation will build on the information developed by the Corps during the Interim Feasibility Study completed in 2006. Based on public input during the feasibility study, these options will not include any structural flood hazard reduction alternatives for the Broken Bow area.

The new study will include the addition of the following activities:

- Use of the City of Austin environmental criteria and additional analysis to gauge the impact of any structural channel modifications on Williamson Creek.
- Use of the newest Williamson Creek floodplain model completed in 2006 as the basis for structural alternatives evaluation.
- The project limits will be expanded to include Cherry Creek up to the William Cannon Drive crossing. This area was subject to significant house flooding in October 1998 and November 2001.
- Flood reduction evaluation will be performed on flow capacity increase improvements at existing roadway bridges to assess the potential for reducing both roadway traffic hazard conditions and upstream floodplain hazard conditions.

The total study cost is \$987,000, of which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for 50 percent. The remaining 50 percent will be shared between the City of Austin and the LCRA. The LCRA

will provide in-kind services of \$5,000 to administer the agreement. The City will provide up to \$488,500, of which \$100,000 is in-kind services and \$388,500 in funding.