

AGENDA



Thursday, January 31, 2008

**Purchasing Office
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 72**

Subject: Authorize negotiation and execution of Amendment No. 3 to an Interlocal Agreement with the University of North Texas (UNT) for a native vegetation restoration project to be conducted in Lake Austin and Lady Bird Lake for prevention of nuisance hydrilla growth in an estimated amount not to exceed \$110,000, for a revised total estimated contract amount not to exceed \$315,000.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$110,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Capital Budget of the Watershed Protection Development Review Department.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Roy Rivers, Buyer II / 974-6434

Purchasing Language: Contract Amendment.

MBE/WBE: This contract was awarded in compliance with Chapter 2-9C of the City Code (Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program). No subcontracting opportunities were identified; therefore, no goals were established for this contract.

Prior Council Action: 06/09/04 - Approval to negotiate and execute an Interlocal Agreement.

On March 2, 2005, the City entered into the Interlocal Agreement with the University of North Texas for the establishment of native aquatic plant founder colonies in order to provide habitat for fish and other aquatic wildlife, maintain benefits of improved water quality associated with aquatic vegetation, reduce re-infestation of hydrilla in Lake Austin, and reduce the likelihood of infestation of hydrilla in Lady Bird Lake. On May 22, 2006, Amendment No. 1 was incorporated into this agreement, adding \$10,000 for the establishment of native aquatic plants in Barton Springs Pool. On July 5, 2006, Amendment No. 2 was incorporated into this agreement, adding \$20,000 to monitor existing founder colony sites in Lady Bird Lake and Lake Austin.

This Proposed Amendment No. 3 will provide maintenance of existing sites and will add 20 new founder colonies of beneficial native aquatic plants to coincide with hydrilla declines in Lady Bird Lake and Lake Austin.

Both lakes now support viable founder colonies that have spread well outside protected areas. However, more time is needed for plants to spread farther from initial colonies. Most plants are growing in relatively shallow water (three feet deep and less.) Additional deeper plantings at these colonies and installation of new colonies in selected areas around both lakes will provide the immediate benefit of additional habitat and increase the quantity of new plants produced, shortening the time required for significant spread to other areas. Also, deeper plantings will put native plants at depths more likely to be infested with hydrilla, providing more competition for this non-native invader.