

## AGENDA



Thursday, January 31, 2008

**Austin Water Utility  
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 6**

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**Subject:** Authorize negotiation and execution of an Interlocal Agreement between the TEXAS FOREST SERVICE, a member of the Texas A & M University System and an agency of the State of Texas, and the City of Austin, Texas to engage in prescribed fire planning and implementation, for the maintenance, enhancement and protection of wildlife habitat.

**Amount and Source of Funding:** This action does not require budget allocation or funding.

**Fiscal Note:** A fiscal note is not required.

**For More Information:** Glen Gillman, 263-6442; Willie Conrad, 263-6430; Denise Avery, 972-0104

**Boards and Commission Action:** Recommended by the Water and Wastewater Commission.

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The Parties involved in this interlocal agreement engage in prescribed fire planning and implementation, for the maintenance or enhancement of watersheds and wildlife habitat, or the reduction of hazardous fuels for the protection of life, property, and resources related to City managed wildlands. In addition, the Parties have a mutual interest in protecting life, property and natural resources from wildfires and other "all hazard" incidents. In order to meet these responsibilities safely and efficiently the Parties involved understand the need for mutual aid assistance during prescribed fire, wildfire and other "all hazard" incidents. It is to the mutual advantage of the Texas Forest Service and the City of Austin to coordinate efforts for prevention, training for, detection, and suppression of wildfires; and management and training for prescribed fires and other incidents to improve efficiency and effectiveness.

The purpose of this agreement is to establish a framework of cooperation for each of the Parties to provide mutual support, cooperation and assistance for prescribed fire management, fire prevention, fire preparedness; and for emergency management and assistance on "all hazard" incidents such as wildfire and floods.

Management of prescribed fire, wildland fire, or other emergency incidents, on one or another of the parties' land, could require greater resources and expertise than that party can handle. It is in the best interest of each Party to have available service from the other Party to aid and assist them in management of, preparation for, and response to, these incidents. It will also provide for technical support and training; and will allow each Party to request equipment, personnel, and appropriate personal safety items as necessary to ensure the safety of employees participating in interagency incident management efforts. Parties understand that the resources available from the City of Austin under this Agreement are limited to the resources of the Austin Water Utility, Wildlands Conservation Division.