

AGENDA



Thursday, March 20, 2008

**Watershed Protection and Development Review
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 33**

Subject: Authorize negotiation and execution of an Interlocal Agreement with the University of Texas at Austin (UT) for the time and expertise of UT engineers and staff to conduct research, data analysis, testing, and model development for stormwater filtration systems in a cooperative project with City of Austin staff for an amount not to exceed \$249,770. The Interlocal Agreement will have a 12 month term, with annual renewals for up to 36 months.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Capital budget of the Watershed Protection and Development Review Department, Water Quality Protection projects.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Nancy McClintock, 974-2652; Patrick Hartigan, 974-1863

MBE/WBE: This contract will be awarded in compliance with Chapter 2-9C of the City Code (Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program). This contract is an interlocal agreement; therefore, it is exempted under Chapter 252.022 of the Texas Local Government Code and no goals were established for this solicitation.

This interlocal agreement with UT will develop the technical basis and modeling tools for improving the hydrologic and pollution removal performance of stormwater filtration systems in urban, suburban and water supply watersheds. Many of these systems were constructed prior to the adoption of formal engineering design criteria, and have known deficiencies. There are well over 100 older systems in the Barton Springs Zone (BSZ), with significant potential for improvements that could reduce the amount of pollution discharged to Barton Springs, the Edwards Aquifer, and creeks in the BSZ. Review of monitoring and modeling data indicate that the performance of filtration systems can be highly variable, with the factors that affect performance poorly understood. This research project would identify and quantify design and operation variables that affect pollution removal capabilities. Increased understanding of these factors may allow engineers to design pollutant removal systems that optimize performance while minimizing cost. The research proposal is consistent with recent recommendations from the US EPA and the American Society of Civil Engineers to improve the "state of the science" of stormwater modeling and simulation.