

AGENDA



Thursday, March 20, 2008

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

Item No. 34

Subject: Authorize negotiation and execution of an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Austin and the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) for the coordination of preconstruction engineering and design (PED) activities for the Onion Creek Watershed between the City and the US Army CORPS of Engineers (CORPS). The PED activities will be performed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (CORPS) and the City of Austin will convey through the LCRA to the CORPS, in an amount not to exceed \$239,250, its 25% share of the preconstruction engineering and design costs.

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: Mapi Vigil, P.E., 974-3384; Roxanne Cook, P.E., 974-3382

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.

Prior Council Action: 06/22/2000 – Interlocal approved; 03/21/2002 – Amendment #1 approved; 04/24/2003 – Accepted Texas Water Development Planning Grant in the amount of \$399,375 for a portion of study cost share; 10/09/2003 – Amendment #2 approved; 11/29/2007 – Approved an amendment for final payment to the CORPS through the LCRA and close out of the Feasibility Study. 1/17/08 - Approved Interlocal for the reformulation of a Flood Control Study for Williamson Creek.

Over 700 houses in the Onion Creek Forest and Yarrabee Bend neighborhoods (southwest of the intersection of Pleasant Valley Road and William Cannon Drive) are in the floodplain. There was extensive flooding of several hundred properties in both 1998 and 2001, and both neighborhoods were evacuated. Fortunately, no lives were lost, but the flooding puts residents and emergency workers' lives and property at risk. The CORPS recommended evacuation (buyout) of all houses in the 25-year floodplain in this area. The total number of houses proposed for buyout is 410, some of which have already been purchased by the City using City only dollars and some have been purchased using FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding. The project also includes ecosystem restoration and recreational facilities that will be located in the buyout area. Preliminary park design includes picnic areas, sports courts and extensive hiking trails. The COA Parks Department will play an integral part on the final design of the Park amenities.

The purpose of the Interlocal Agreement is to allow the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) to act as the local project sponsor responsible for coordination of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Preconstruction Engineering and Design (PED) activities for the Onion Creek Watershed and to specify the responsibilities of each party. PED activities include the design of the proposed ecosystem restoration and park facilities that will be located in the buyout area. The PED activities will be performed by the CORPS and the City of Austin will convey through the LCRA to the CORPS its cost share of the preconstruction engineering and design costs. The total estimated cost of the work under this Agreement

is \$965,000. The City shall be responsible for 25 percent of the total cost with the CORPS being responsible for 75% of the cost. The City shall provide funding in an amount not to exceed \$239,250. The LCRA will provide in-kind services valued at \$2,000.