

AGENDA



Thursday, March 27, 2008

**Purchasing Office
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 29**

Subject: Authorize negotiation and execution of a 6-month interlocal agreement with TRAVIS COUNTY, Austin, TX for free weatherization services for the economically disadvantaged in an estimated amount not to exceed \$220,000, with three 12-month extension options in an estimated amount not to exceed \$220,000 for each extension option, for a total estimated contract amount not to exceed \$880,000.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Operating Budget of Austin Energy. Funding for the remaining extension options is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

Fiscal Note: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: Sandy Calles, Buyer Sr./322-6487

Purchasing Language: Interlocal Agreement.

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 791 of the Texas Government Code and no goals were established for this solicitation.

This contract will provide services to weatherize approximately 147 single-family homes, manufactured homes, and duplexes each year. The average cost of \$1,500 per home includes labor, weatherization, and repairs and remains unchanged from the last contract. Travis County also provides administrative and technical staff resources with this agreement.

The program is to complement other energy conservation incentive programs of Austin Energy in providing equitable conservation services to all residential customers. The goals of the program are to increase resident comfort levels, reduce energy consumption and lower utility bills, through housing efficiency improvements.

City and County staff jointly develop a scope of work for each home to be served. The City provides client eligibility verification and inspection of work performed by Travis County crews.

Austin Energy has contracted with the Travis County, Department of Human Services for more than 10 years to provide weatherization services to low-income customers of the City's Electric Utility. Elderly and handicapped clients are eligible at 80% of median family income, and other low-income families at 50% of median family income, according to current Housing and Urban Development guidelines for Austin.

Travis County provides consistently high quality job performance and customer relations, thus minimizing the City's administrative time for inspections and complaints. The agreement complements the City's weatherization contracts with private firms.

This project is expected to save 140 kilowatts (kW) of peak demand savings and 160,965 kilowatt hours (kWh) of energy savings per year. This translates into emission reductions of 104 tons of carbon dioxide, which equates to 23 vehicles being eliminated from the Austin roadways.

This contract satisfies the competitive bidding requirements, as outlined in the Interlocal Cooperation Act, Texas Government Code Section 791.