

AGENDA



Thursday, July 24, 2008

**Purchasing Office
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 64**

Subject: Authorize award and execution of a 36-month Interlocal Agreement with the TEXAS FOREST SERVICE to provide services for the propagation, cultivation, and delivery of trees and shrubs to be used for endangered species habitat restoration and enhancement of the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve in an estimated amount not to exceed \$99,000.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$5,500 is available in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Operating Budget of the Austin Water Utility. Funding for the remaining 32 months of the original contract period 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: Stephen Aden, Supervising Senior Buyer, 974-2021.

Purchasing Language: Interlocal Agreement.

MBE/WBE: This contract will be awarded in compliance with Chapter 2-9D of the City Code (Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program). This contract is a Cooperative Purchase; therefore it is exempted under Chapter 791 of the Texas Government Code and no goals were established for this solicitation.

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

This interlocal agreement will allow the Texas Forest Service (TFS) to assist the city with needed habitat restoration services for endangered species on lands protected by the Austin Water Utility's Wildland Conservation Division. These services will be provided on an as needed basis. No individual project will exceed \$33,000.

Habitat restoration or enhancement is an ongoing activity on the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP). It is a required practice included in the Balcones Canyonlands Regional Habitat Conservation Plan and federal permit that the city shares with Travis County. Finding suitable nursery stock and woody plant materials, such as trees or shrubs, is often difficult or cost prohibitive in Austin's local market. In the past, preserve staff have grown materials for small projects. However, staffing constraints and limited greenhouse space cannot provide for larger projects.

TFS manages tree nurseries in two locations in Texas where they propagate and market tree seedlings for landscape restoration projects across the state. They have the ability to grow large numbers of tree and shrub seedlings and deliver them in a viable condition. TFS also provides services where they propagate these products on a custom basis where specific, less common, species can be grown for projects from seed collected locally by their customers.

BCP often has special species requirements for their projects. The program also prefers to use plant materials produced from local source stock because these materials are more adapted to local conditions and higher survival rates are achieved with lower maintenance inputs. Texas Forest Service has the ability to meet these requirements in a cost effective and timely manner