

AGENDA



Thursday, July 24, 2008

**Watershed Protection and Development Review
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 83**

Subject: Authorize negotiation and execution of a Joint Funding Agreement with the United States Department of the Interior Geological survey (USGS) for water resources investigation projects for Fiscal Year 2008-2009, in the amount of \$417,770 with six (6) twelve (12) month extension options, with each option in an amount not to exceed the amount of the previous twelve (12) months authorized limit plus up to 11% for potential increases in the cost of service and additional stations added to the scope of work, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$4,087,158.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$248,770 is included in the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Proposed Operating Budget of the Watershed Protection & Development Review Department. Funding in the amount of \$169,000 is included in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Capital Budget of the Watershed Protection & Development Review Department. Funding for future fiscal years is dependant on the approval of future budgets.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note from the 2007-2008 Capital Budget of Watershed Protection and Development Review in the amount of \$169,000 is attached.

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Since 1974, the City of Austin (COA) and the United States Department of the Interior Geological Survey have joined efforts to study and/or monitor the quantity and quality of water in local streams and lakes, and in the Edwards Aquifer. The purpose of the monitoring is to provide a more complete database for urban hydrological studies in order to protect and improve the water quality/quantity conditions of the Austin area.

In 2007 using a separate price agreement with USGS, ten additional stream flow monitoring stations were installed to the network of already existing monitoring stations. These ten additional stream flow monitoring stations are currently receiving and transmitting water level and flow rate data through a publicly accessible internet site. This new Joint Funding Agreement allows for a continuation of the maintenance and rating curve development for these stations. It also provides an agreement for the installation of a new gauge in the Gilleland Creek watershed. This new gauge will be located in a recently annexed area of Austin and will provide valuable data for floodplain model development and for flood warning.

This overall cooperative arrangement between the USGS and the City of Austin has successfully produced an ongoing compilation and analysis of data collected each year. Major projects that will benefit from the information collected this fiscal year are the Watershed Protection and Development Review Department's Master Plan, the Barton Creek and Edwards Aquifer monitoring program, and the quality and quantity impact studies of other Austin creeks, Town Lake and Lake Austin. During the year, City staff monitors the progress of the project. At the end of each fiscal year, both agencies jointly evaluate the results to determine if program goals have been completed and to set data collection plans for next year. This proposed agreement has been developed as a result of last year's joint staff evaluation.

Under the terms of this agreement, the USGS performs monitoring work, provides data to the City, and submits invoices quarterly for their services. The total cost of this cooperative project for FY 2008-2009 will be approximately \$628,990, of which the City's share will be about \$417,770. This is an increase of approximately \$15,800 compared to FY 2007-2008 (Price Agreements #S060119 in an annual amount of \$262,970 and NA070000085 in the amount of \$139,000), reflecting an increase of costs due to inflation as well as construction costs for the new monitoring gauge to be located in Gilleland Creek.