Thursday, August 21, 2008

Public Hearings and Possible Actions RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. 76

Subject: Conduct a public hearing and consider a resolution authorizing the use of approximately 46,000 square feet for Temporary Working Space use for the Green Water Treatment Plant Decommissioning and Deconstruction Project through dedicated parkland known as Sand Beach Reserve Park and Shoal Beach Park on Lady Bird Lake and portions of Shoal Creek Greenbelt, in accordance with Sec. 26.001 et seq. of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code.

Amount and Source of Funding: All costs associated with construction, as well as any parkland restoration will be paid by requester.

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

For More Information: Junie Plummer 974-7085, Cynthia Jordan 974-7183, April Thedford 974-7141

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by Parks Board.

Chapter 26 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code provides that the use of parkland for non-park purposes may be approved upon a finding that there is no feasible and prudent alternative to the use of this land. The Public Works Department and Austin Water Utility are in the design phase to decommission and deconstruct the Green Water Treatment Plant. The context of the project is: a) to decommission and deconstruct the Plant to leave the site clear of existing improvements and b) to repair and restore the east bank of Shoal Creek.

There are several components of the project that impact parkland. The primary impact of the parkland is temporary use. Impacts of the project affecting the park land are (1) repair of existing 42-inch pipe outfall and storm drain, (2) removal of chlorine inject vault, (3) Shoal Creek bank repair and restoration, (4) removal of utility bridge and piping and (5) install new 24-inch water transmission main.

Approval of the use of parkland is made on the condition that all restoration is completed in accordance with the Standard Specifications and Construction Standards of the City of Austin and the Parks and Recreation Department's "Construction in Parks Specifications".

There is no feasible and prudent alternative to the use of the dedicated parkland which includes all reasonable planning to minimize harm to such lands. The dates of public notification in the Austin American-Statesman are July 27, August 3 and 10, 2008.