

AGENDA



Thursday, August 21, 2008

**Watershed Protection and Development Review
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 33**

Subject: Authorize negotiation and execution of a 12-month State Use Agreement with TIBH Industries, Inc. (formerly known as TEXAS INDUSTRIES FOR THE BLIND AND HANDICAPPED) for vegetation control in creeks and detention/water quality ponds; and for the hauling of excessive vegetation and debris from specified job site locations to an acceptable landfill in an amount not to exceed \$1,838,843.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$1,838,843 is included in the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Proposed Operating Budget of the Watershed Protection & Development Review Department.

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

For More Information: Roxanne Jackson, 974-1918; Jim Grube, 974-3359; Donna Lee Bliss, 974-2530

To reduce the risk of flooding to properties adjacent to waterways, this agreement provides for the clearing of excessive vegetation and debris from identified high-risk drainage channels and creeks. This agreement also provides these services for detention and water quality ponds and in newly annexed areas in accordance with approved service plans.

TIBH Industries, Inc in conjunction with Easter Seals Central Texas has performed this service for the past nineteen (19) years. Their dedication, experience, and timely performance demonstrate their qualifications to continue the creek clearing and pond maintenance services the City is obligated to provide.

State law allows political subdivisions to substitute services available from blind or disabled persons for those which could be purchased from private businesses without securing competitive bids (Texas Human Resources Code, Section 122.017). Comparison of TIBH Industries prices in past years has shown them to be at or below those of the private sector. Prior to this, rates have not changed for more than 10 years. The FY08-09 contract has been increased by \$127,843 to provide the vegetation control service for additional ponds projected to be added to the pond maintenance requirement, for additional lots located in the Onion Creek watershed that will be acquired by the City's Flood Buy-Out Plan to remove properties from the floodplain and for the 5% increase in the standard rates to accommodate cost increases associated primarily with labor and fuel prices.

TIBH Industries, Inc serves as a broker to locate and administer contracts for non-profit organizations. Easter Seals Central Texas Workforce Development Program personnel will perform the work and receive 94% of the funds. TIBH will receive the remaining 6% of the funds to cover administrative costs. This contract will provide jobs to individuals who would otherwise need public assistance if this work program were not available.