

AGENDA



Thursday, September 25, 2008

Austin Energy
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. 5

Subject: Authorize negotiation and execution of an Interlocal Agreement with the State of Texas Energy Conservation Office (SECO) for grant funding in the amount of \$30,000 to extend the City's involvement in the Clean Cities program with funding for twelve months.

Amount and Source of Funding: Grant funding is available from the State of Texas Energy Conservation Office. No match is required.

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

For More Information: Fred Blood, Air Quality Manager, 482-5340; Stacy Neef, Central Texas Clean Cities Coordinator, 482-5343.

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by the Electric Utility Commission.

Prior Council Action: April 14, 1994 – Approved resolution establishing COA as a member of a regional Clean Cities Program; September 30, 1998 – Accepted \$30,000 grant from SECO; approved contract with Clean Air Force to conduct the Program; February 15, 2001 – Accepted \$50,000 grant from SECO and approved interlocal agreement allowing COA to act as fiduciary agent for CTCC; July 11, 2002 – Accepted \$25,000 grant from SECO to continue program; January 30, 2003 – Approved interlocal agreement with SECO to continue program; July 31, 2003 – Approved \$40,000 grant from SECO to continue program; November 4, 2004 – Approved interlocal agreement with SECO to continue program; April 28, 2005 – Approved \$20,000 grant from DOE; approved interlocal agreement with SECO to administer the Clean Cities Coordinator Program; January 12, 2006 – Approved \$23,500 grant from DOE; approved interlocal agreement with SECO to continue program; February 1, 2007 – Approved \$10,000 grant from DOE; approved interlocal agreement with SECO to continue program; May 3, 2007 – Approved \$15,000 grant from DOE; approved interlocal agreement with SECO to continue program; March 6, 2008 – Approved \$12,500 grant from DOE through Energy Research and Development Solutions to continue program.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) created the Clean Cities program in an effort to create local public/private partnerships to promote the use and purchase of alternative fuels by increasing public awareness. At the request of the DOE and the State of Texas Energy Conservation Office (SECO), the City of Austin is the administrator and fiduciary agent for the Central Texas Clean Cities (CTCC) Program.

In addition to increasing public awareness, the CTCC is responsible for recruiting stakeholders for the Clean Cities Coalitions in Texas from the federal government, local governments and the private sector. The U.S. has 90 Clean Cities Coalitions, seven of which are in Texas (Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston-Galveston, Beaumont-Port Arthur, Tyler-Longview, Victoria, the Alamo Area (San Antonio), and the CTCC. CTCC includes Travis, Caldwell, Bastrop, Hays and Williamson Counties and Fort Hood.

If approved, the agreement would continue funding for one full-time Conservation Program Specialist at AE to coordinate the program. The grant period will be twelve months from the date of execution. The Conservation Program Specialist will coordinate the CTCC coalition's regularly held informational

meetings, events and gatherings. In addition, the specialist/coordinator will facilitate the mission of the CTCC, which includes:

- Creating new jobs and commercial opportunities
- Facilitating alternative fuel vehicle production and conversion
- Expanding local alternative fuel infrastructure
- Increasing the use of alternative fuels
- Developing a clean corridor (I35 for central Texas)
- Increasing public awareness
- Advancing clean air objectives
- Supporting regulated fleets

Approval of this agreement does not obligate or prohibit the City from funding the program in future years.