Thursday, October 23, 2008

Public Hearings and Possible Actions RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. 95

Subject: Conduct a public hearing and consider a resolution authorizing the use of approximately 52,146 square feet (1.197 acres) for Permanent Wastewater use and approximately 126,435 square feet (2.902 acres) for Temporary Working Space and Temporary Staging and Material Site use for the construction of the Southeast Wastewater Improvements, SER #2282 (CIP ID 5028.007) through dedicated parkland known as Morris Williams Golf Course, in accordance with Sec. 26.001 et seq. of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code. (Suggested date and time: October 23, 2008, 6:00 p.m. at Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second Street, Austin, TX).

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, Yvonne Gil 703-6637, Lisa Whitworth 974-5615, April Thedford 974-7141

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by Parks and Recreation 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.

This Southeast Wastewater Improvements project is one of eight projects contained in the Master Development Agreement (Agreement) between the City of Austin and Catellus for the redevelopment of the former Robert Mueller Municipal Airport site. This project is tied to the redevelopment schedule of Catellus and the City of Austin is obligated to meet its contractual time frames contained in the Agreement.

The Austin Water Utility (AWU) is proposing to install 3,404 linear feet of 15-inch wastewater line of which 1,957 linear feet are to be tunnel/bore-case in the Morris Williams Golf Course. To date the design has five bore pits needed to construct the wastewater line all avoiding tee boxes and greens. This project will provide service to the Mueller Redevelopment southeast portion and end with a connection to an existing 24-inch wastewater line near the shaft which connects to the 96-inch cross town tunnel located inside the Morris Williams Golf Course.

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". AWU and Parks and Recreation Department have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to address payment of all costs associated with the restoration and mitigation.

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 were September 28, October 5 and 12, 2008.