Thursday, December 11, 2008

Austin Energy RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. 7

Subject: Authorize negotiation and execution of an agreement with the Travis County Water Control and Improvement District (WCID) #17 to obtain utility easements in an amount not to exceed \$116,551.80.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Capital Budget of Austin Energy.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Judy Fowler, Public Involvement and Real Estate, 322-6107.

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

The Travis County Water Control and Improvement District (WCID) #17 acquired necessary water and electric easements for the construction of a waterline from Murfin Road under Lake Austin to serve the Steiner Ranch development. Austin Energy (AE) requests authorization to reimburse WCID #17 for half the costs incurred to acquire such easements in exchange for the right to use the easements for the placement of an electric distribution circuit. This electrical infrastructure will establish a tie between the Lakeway Substation on Kollmeyer Drive off FM 620 and the Hidden Valley Substation on the Steiner Ranch development and increase reliability in that part of AE's service territory.

Austin Energy's proposed share of the cost for the easements is 50 percent of the total cost to WCID and is considerably less than the cost of acquiring the easements had AE pursued the acquisition independently.