

AGENDA



Thursday, January 15, 2009

**Austin Water Utility
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 7**

Subject: Authorize negotiation and execution of an Interlocal Agreement with The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, a division of the University of Texas at Austin to provide environmental monitoring, analysis and research services related to trail corridor planning for Walk for a Day for twelve months with authority to extend for an additional twelve months, in an amount not to exceed \$95,579.

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

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: William Conrad, 263-6430; Denise Avery, 972-0104.

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by the Water and Wastewater Commission.

Austin Water Utility (AWU) has led an interdepartmental team which is working with Hill Country Conservancy to prepare a plan to move Walk for A day from a concept for a regional trail to a reality. A significant portion of the proposed trail will cross very environmentally sensitive areas of Water Quality Protection Lands (WQPL). The proposed interlocal agreement will engage the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center (LBJWC) to collaborate with trail planners to identify a trail corridor that presents the fewest environmental challenges. This project will also commission LBJWC to consider potential trail uses in light of environmental challenges in order to propose best management practices and mitigation practices to use to avoid, minimize, or mitigate effects to sensitive resources.

In 1999, AWU contracted with a consortium of consultants called the Land Management Planning Group to develop initial natural resource inventories and land management plans for WQPL. The group was led by the LBJWC, which also documented the plans for selected practices and systems that best addressed management objectives. In 2008, AWU again contracted with LBJWC to review and revise the original plans as well as develop new plans for additionally acquired lands. Due to their past work, LBJWC has extensive natural resource data available and research on features specific to WQPL, which will save both cost and time.