Thursday, September 24, 2009

Austin Water Utility RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. 7

Subject: Approve a resolution to repeal Resolution No. 20050428-011, and adopt the City of Austin Utility Profile & Water Conservation Plan. This plan is a requirement of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

Amount and Source of Funding: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: Drema Gross, 974-2787; Daryl Slusher, 972-0218; Denise Avery, 972-0104

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by Citizen's Water Conservation Implementation Task Force, Resource Management Commission, and Water & Wastewater Commission.

Prior Council Action: April 28, 2005 - Council adopted 2005 Water Conversation Plan (Resolution No. 20050428-11); August 26, 1999 - Council adopted 1999 Water Conservation Plan (Resolution No. 990826-65).

The Utility Profile & Water Conservation Plan provides an overview of current water conservation initiatives and proposes new or expanded conservation measures for the future. This updates the previously adopted 2005 Water Conservation Plan and fulfills TCEQ requirements under 30 TAC § 288.20.

Although this is an official update to the Water Conservation Plan submitted to TCEQ, it is the same conservation plan and program presented to Council at the July 23, 2009 staff briefing on Water Conservation Strategies and in the June 2009 staff report on Water Conservation in Austin. In meeting the administrative requirement, additional information on water loss goals were included, which have also been previously reported to Council.

The Water Conservation Plan includes two goals to reduce peak day demand and promote the use of conservation and reuse measures to extend the City's water supply. Five and ten year targets were established to meet the City of Austin's water conservation goals. The five-year target looks at currently planned programs and any proposals for new or expanded conservation measures. The ten-year target measures the City's commitment to reduce the necessary water demand to extend the City's water supply.

The City is requesting the following changes to the 2005 Water Conservation Plan to assist with the targeted goals:

- Incorporate TCEQ's recommended reporting form
- Include a comprehensive profile of the Austin Water Utility
- Update 5 and 10 year targets for water conservation savings

- Place emphasis on the use of large water savers such as reclaimed water, leak detection and identification of water theft
- Include programs recommended by the Water Conservation Task Force
- Update data on treatment capacity, service population and municipal water demand projections to reflect current conditions.