

AGENDA



Thursday, November 5, 2009

**Contract and Land Management
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 19**

Subject: Authorize negotiation and execution of an amendment to a professional services contract with PICKETT, KELM, AND ASSOCIATES (PKA), Austin, TX, to add the tasks of evaluating and designing repairs to the Barton Springs bypass in an amount not to exceed \$98,000, for a total contract not to exceed amount of \$148,900.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Capital Budget of the Watershed Protection Department.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: David Johns 974-2781; Nancy McClintock 974-2652; Gary Gregson 974-9475; April Thedford 974-7141

Prior Council Action: October 19, 2006 - Council approved a resolution to hire a consultant to develop a master plan for Barton Springs Pool; September 10, 2007 - Council allocated \$6.2 million to fund short-term projects for Barton Springs, including minor repairs to the bypass; December 18, 2008 - Council adopted the Barton Springs Pool Master Plan: Concepts for Preservation and Improvements.

On October 3, 2008, holes developed in the floor of the bypass adjacent to Barton Springs. These leaks threatened to drain the adjacent swimming pool and expose habitat for the endangered Barton Springs Salamander. Temporary repairs made by staff stabilized the conditions in the pool and habitat areas.

The longer-term stability of the bypass structure and potential for failure were uncertain. Swimmer safety, further damage to pool infrastructure and impacts to endangered species habitat could potentially be impacted by failure.

In January 2009, Pickett, Kelm, and Associates (PKA) signed a professional services contract for \$50,900 to investigate the bypass and develop options to repair the structure. Under this contract, PKA analyzed the stability of the structure, tested the concrete, prepared preliminary repair options, and attended meetings with staff, citizens and advisory Boards. Under a separate contract, Fugro Consultants, Inc. conducted geotechnical studies in the ground adjacent to the bypass to assist with the analysis of the structure. This work has shown the structure to be potentially unstable. A summary of the consultant's findings was provided to Council July 20, 2009.

Construction in and adjacent to Barton Springs is difficult due to: 1) the overall sensitive nature of the site, 2) proximity to endangered species habitat, 3) conditions in our 10A permit with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4) desire to keep the swimming area open to the public, 5) uncertain sources and volumes of groundwater and 6) lack of good access to the bypass structure. Designing a solution balancing these concerns is challenging.

During PKA's investigation of the bypass work, staff provided numerous opportunities for public involvement in developing a solution to the bypass problems. Presentations have been made on the nature of bypass problems and potential repair options to the joint Environmental/Parks Board subcommittee, as well as the full Environmental Board and Parks and Recreation Board. Staff has also

received comments and suggestions via emails, meetings with citizens, and two informal public meetings on site with interested citizens. Additional public process may be required to remain in compliance with our Federal 10A permit with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Given the findings of the consultant and the critical nature of completing repairs as soon as possible, staff would like to move expeditiously to the design stage of the recommended alternative. Additional funding of \$98,000 for PKA through the existing Professional Services Agreement is necessary for the consultant to complete analysis of the repair options developed by the public and staff, finalize construction designs, prepare bid documents, and consult during construction. The Watershed Protection and Parks Departments recommend that the contract with PKA be amended to allow PKA to evaluate and design the needed repairs and provide support during construction. A separate RCA will be brought to Council to authorize negotiation and execution of a contract for construction of repairs once a design is selected.