

AGENDA



Thursday, November 5, 2009

**Austin Water Utility
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 5**

Subject: Approve ratification of a rebate to FST INTERNATIONAL INC. for the installation of 469 water efficient toilets at the Falls on Bull Creek, in the amount of \$93,800.

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

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is not required.

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

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by the Water and Wastewater Commission, and the Resource Management Commission, and the Citizens Water Conservation Implementation Task Force.

Austin Water Utility requests ratification of a rebate in the amount of \$93,800 to FST International Inc. for the purchase and installation of 469 1.28 gallon, high efficiency tank-type toilets at the Falls on Bull Creek located at 8527 N Capital of Texas Hwy., Austin, TX 78759 in accordance with the City of Austin's Toilet Rebate Program guidelines.

This program is designed to replace old large-capacity toilets with water efficient models. The replacement of these toilets is expected to save 8,020 gallons of water per day, reducing demands on the Utility's treatment capacity and decreasing greenhouse gas equivalents by an estimated 7.23 metric tons per year.

The rebate is for the cost of toilets and installation. The toilets were installed by Jefferson Buttram, a licensed plumber in the state of Texas. The rebate amounts are as follows:

Toilet model:	Tangshan Ayers Dofiny
Cost:	\$135.00 per unit
Installation cost:	\$65.00 per unit
Units installed:	469
Total cost:	\$93,800.00

For most of the program's history, the total dollar amount of these rebates has been within the City Manager's spending authority. The approval process followed all purchasing rules and procedures. The Toilet Rebate Program has recently started to receive applications for larger-scale projects where the total dollar amount of the rebate exceeds the City Manager's spending authority. A procedure had not been established for obtaining Council approval prior to granting an applicant permission to proceed with a large toilet replacement project. Program procedures have been updated to obtain Council's approval for all rebates over the administrative authority prior to giving applicants the authorization to begin installing.