

## AGENDA



Thursday, November 19, 2009

**Watershed Protection Department  
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

**Item No. 58**

**Subject:** Authorize negotiation and execution of Amendment No. 6 to an Interlocal Agreement with the University of North Texas (UNT) for a three-year continuation of the native vegetation restoration project conducted in Lake Austin and Lady Bird Lake for prevention of nuisance hydrilla growth in an estimated amount not to exceed \$105,000 for a revised estimated contract amount not to exceed \$495,000.

**Amount and Source of Funding:** Funding in the amount of \$105,000 is available in the CIP Budget of the Watershed Protection Department.

**For More Information:** Nancy McClintock, 974-2652; Edward Peacock, 974-2224; Mary Gilroy, 974-2717

**Prior Council Action:** June 9, 2004 - Council authorized negotiation and execution of an Interlocal Agreement.

January 31, 2008 - Council authorized negotiation and execution of an amendment (#3) to the Interlocal Agreement in the amount of \$110,000.

November 20, 2008 - Council authorized negotiation and execution of an amendment (#4) to the Interlocal Agreement in the amount of \$60,000.

August 27, 2009 - Council authorized negotiation and execution of an amendment (#5) to the Interlocal Agreement in the amount of \$15,000.

On March 2, 2005, the City entered into an Interlocal Agreement with the University of North Texas for the establishment of native aquatic plant founder colonies in order to provide habitat for fish and other aquatic wildlife; maintain benefits of improved water quality associated with aquatic vegetation; reduce re-infestation of hydrilla in Lake Austin; and reduce the likelihood of infestation of hydrilla in Lady Bird Lake. On May 22, 2006, Amendment No. 1 was incorporated into this agreement, adding \$10,000 for the establishment of native aquatic plants in Barton Springs Pool. On July 5, 2006, Amendment No. 2 was incorporated into this agreement, adding \$20,000 to monitor existing founder colony sites in Lady Bird Lake and Lake Austin.

On January 31, 2008, Amendment No. 3 was incorporated into this agreement, adding \$110,000 to provide for maintenance of existing founder colony sites and added 20 new founder colonies in Lady Bird Lake and Lake Austin. Amendment No. 4 provided continued maintenance and replanting of beneficial native aquatic plants at the existing 20 sites, and for construction of additional protective pens to limit herbivory and vandalism. Amendment No. 5 added improvement structures to reduce shoreline erosion. The proposal of Amendment No. 6 will add continued maintenance and improvements on founder colonies through February 1, 2013, and introduce native bio-control agents as another measure to control hydrilla in Lake Austin and Lady Bird Lake.

Both lakes now support viable founder colonies that have spread well outside protected areas. Ongoing monitoring and maintenance are required for long-term establishment of founder colonies and should be continued past the installation/expansion phases. Increasing damage from herbivores has been addressed by constructing pens around the smaller ring cages; the success of this effort at a few sites in 2008 will be extended to all appropriate sites on each lake. These pens would allow better desirable native vegetation recovery and further expansion of older sites as well as permit faster spread outside of

ring cages at newer sites. As plant coverage and seed/fragment production increases, colonies will be more likely to overcome herbivore limitations in both lakes.