

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Austin Water Utility RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Item No. 6

Subject: Approve a resolution appointing two new individuals to the stakeholders' group of the Executive Management Committee of the Austin-LCRA Water Partnership in accordance with the Supplemental Water Supply Agreement between City of Austin and LCRA.

Amount and Source of Funding: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: Daryl Slusher, 972-0218; Denise Avery, 972-0104

Prior Council Action: June 18, 2008 - Approved a resolution appointing a stakeholders' group to the Executive Management Committee of the Austin-LCRA Water Partnership; November 08, 2007 - Executed a long-term Water Supply Agreement between City of Austin (COA) and Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA); June 07, 2007 - Approved an Ordinance authorizing negotiation and execution of a settlement agreement between the COA and the LCRA.

The Supplemental Water Supply Agreement (SWSA) that became effective on November 14, 2007 established a formal Water Partnership between the City of Austin and the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA). The Partnership set out a collaborative process for the two entities to evaluate water supply alternatives to meet future needs and discuss other water-related issues that affect both parties. The SWSA includes a provision to create a Water Partnership Stakeholder Committee to provide input to the Water Partnership's Executive Management Committee (EMC), which is comprised of two officers or employees each of the City of Austin and LCRA. The EMC has been charged with recommending stakeholders to Council, and Stakeholder Committee members are appointed by the City Council and the LCRA Board.

The Water Partnership Stakeholder Committee was established on June 18, 2008 and consists of fifteen (15) positions that represent diverse interests and backgrounds including high growth areas, environmental, business, ratepayers, industrial, recreation, agricultural, conservation, and at-large. At the time the group was established, one position, at-large, remained unfilled. Recently, one of the environmental positions was vacated.

Listed below are the names of the citizens recommended by the EMC for appointment to the Stakeholder Committee. Both persons have agreed to serve on the committee for a two-year term, and both were approved by LCRA's Board of Directors on September 23rd, 2009.

Environmental position: Andrew Sansom, Executive Director, Texas State University, River Systems Institute

At-large position: Mary Ann Hefner, Kingsland Municipal Utility District President

Should Council wish to not appoint one or both members to the Stakeholder Committee, staff will return to the EMC to discuss possible alternative recommendations to present to Council and the LCRA Board for their approval.