

AGENDA



Thursday, February 25, 2010

**Economic Growth & Redevelopment Services
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 28**

Subject: Authorize funding for the design and construction of the Austin Energy Seaholm Substation perimeter wall, not to exceed \$750,000, as part of the Seaholm East Redevelopment District as a public art project as outlined in Chapter 7-2 of the City Code (Art in Public Places).

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$750,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Capital Budget of Austin Energy.

For More Information: Megan Crigger, AIPP Administrator, EGRSO / 974-9312; Vincent Kitch, Cultural Arts Program Manager / EGRSO, 974-9310

Boards and Commission Action: The Austin Arts Commission approved unanimously on February 8, 2010. To be reviewed by the Electric Utility Commission on February 22, 2010.

On February 14, 2008, the City Council designated the 1.4 acre parcel along Cesar Chavez known as the Austin Energy South Substation as the location for the new stand-alone building to house the new central library. The footprint of the electrical substation will be reduced and a perimeter wall around the electrical substation will be designed and constructed in conjunction with Seaholm Redevelopment.

Similar to the Seaholm Power Plant rehabilitation plan, the Austin Energy electrical substation wall project provides an opportunity to revitalize a portion of central downtown and respond to a larger context of open spaces, pedestrian activities, retail districts, residential, hotels and civic centers such as the new Central Library.

Austin Energy has worked with EGRSO to develop an MOU between the departments to allow Art in Public Places (AIPP) to commission the design, engineering and construction of the wall that will enclose the revised footprint of Seaholm Substation as a work of art. The Austin Energy Seaholm Substation perimeter wall AIPP project budget will be combined with funds from the Reclamation Center AIPP project and funds from an adjacent developer for a total project budget not to exceed \$931,200, with \$181,200 already authorized for public art expenditure.

The goal of the AIPP program within the Cultural Arts Division is to commission works of art and public art projects of redeeming quality that advance public understanding of visual art and enhance the aesthetic quality of public places.