

AGENDA



Thursday, March 11, 2010

**Austin Energy
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 3**

Subject: Approve an ordinance authorizing acceptance of \$17,500 in grant funds from the U.S. Department of Energy through the Railroad Commission of Texas and amending the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Austin Energy Operating Budget Special Revenue Fund of Ordinance No. 20090914-002 to appropriate such grant funds, and authorize negotiation and execution of a four-year agreement between the Central Texas Clean Cities Program and the Railroad Commission of Texas to promote the use of propane vehicles and improve related infrastructure, in an amount not to exceed \$17,500 a year, for a total amount not to exceed \$70,000.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$17,500 is available from the U.S. Department of Energy through the Railroad Commission of Texas. Matching funds are not required.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is attached.

For More Information: Ester Matthews, Austin Climate Protection Program Director, 322-6041.

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by the Electric Utility Commission and Resource Management Commission.

Prior Council Action: Sept. 25, 2008 – Approved \$12,500 grant from Dept. of Energy through Research and Development Solutions to continue program; Oct. 18, 2008 – Approved \$127,000 grant from Propane Education and Research Council for Propane Mower Rebate Program; July 23, 2009 – Approved \$7,500 grant from the Dept. of Energy through Research & Development Solutions and \$17,500 grant from United Soybean Board to continue program.

The proposed four-year grant award from the U.S. Department of Energy through the Railroad Commission of Texas will provide \$17,500 a year, for a total of \$70,000, to the Central Texas Clean Cities Program to promote the use of propane vehicles and assist in improving related infrastructure. Objectives of the grant project include: identification of contacts for propane school bus and light-duty propane vehicle funding sources; working with Clean Cities coordinators and others to identify contacts for fleet manager groups; providing presentations on the advantages of propane motor fuel; recruiting Clean Cities stakeholders' technicians; drivers and emergency responders to attend Railroad Commission training classes on propane fuel systems for installers and automotive technicians; seminars for emergency responders in partner fleets' areas; and classes on propane refueling for partner fleets' drivers.

In addition, the Central Texas Clean Cities will work with project managers and Railroad Commission staff to develop and implement a Clean Cities strategic plan and evaluation methodology that includes: serving as the primary project liaison for Texas Clean Cities coalitions; informing all Texas Clean Cities coalitions about project activities through regular emails and conference calls; and using a propane vehicle for all grant-related travel.

The U.S. has 90 Clean Cities coalitions, six of which are in Texas. The Central Texas Clean Cities coalition includes Travis, Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, and Williamson Counties, as well as Fort Hood in Killeen.

The Central Texas Clean Cities Program is a government-industry partnership designed to reduce petroleum consumption in the transportation sector by advancing the use of alternative fuels and vehicles, idle reduction technologies, hybrid electric vehicles, fuel blends, and fuel economy measures. It is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy's Vehicle Technologies Program and contributes to the energy, environmental, and economic security of the U.S. by supporting local decisions to reduce our dependence on imported petroleum. The City of Austin through Austin Energy is the administrator and fiduciary agent for the Central Texas Clean Cities Program.