Thursday, February 17, 2011

Public Hearings and Possible Actions   **Item No. 68**
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Subject: Conduct a public hearing to approve an ordinance amending the electric rate schedule included in Ordinance No. 20100913-004 to add a tariff for an electric vehicle public charging station pilot program.

Amount and Source of Funding: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: Karl Rabago, Distributed Energy Services Vice President, 322-6098.

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

Prior Council Action: September 13, 2010 – Approved electric rate schedule of Austin Energy, included in the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Budget of Austin Energy.

The Electric Vehicle Public Charging Pilot Tariff is the rate electric vehicle drivers will pay to use the charging stations in Austin Energy's network until further research is conducted and a permanent tariff is put in place. The tariff will provide electric vehicle drivers two payment options: an hourly rate and flat-rate subscription.

In December 2010, Austin Energy entered into a contract with Coulomb Technologies Inc. (CTI) to accept up to 200 CT-2100 Charging Stations as part of CTI's ChargePoint America program. This contract was explained in a memo to Council on December 30, 2010.

The ChargePoint charging stations will be installed on both City and non-City properties. Austin Energy staff is already working to install stations on City properties; the first stations will be operational by the end of February 2011. Austin Energy will issue its call for partners in its Station Host program to install ChargePoint America stations on non-City properties by the end of January 2011. Austin Energy expects the first stations to be operational by March 2011.

The installation of these stations will be an important first step in gathering electric vehicle charging station cost and usage data. Austin Energy will use this data to develop a second-generation tariff.