Thursday, March 10, 2011

Watershed Protection Department   **Item No. 21**
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Subject: Authorize negotiation and execution of an Interlocal Agreement with the University of Texas at Austin (UT) for the time and expertise of UT engineers and staff to conduct data analysis, testing, and particle size analyses of stormwater in a cooperative project with City staff for an initial term of 12-months in the amount of $15,000, with two 12-month extension options at no additional cost, for a total contract amount not to exceed $15,000.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Operating Budget of the Watershed Protection Department.

For More Information: Roger Glick, 974-2096

Prior Council Action: March 20, 2008- Council authorized negotiation and execution of an interlocal with the University of Texas at Austin for the time and expertise of UT engineers and staff to conduct research, data analysis, testing, and model development for stormwater filtration systems.

In May 2008, the City entered into an interlocal agreement with UT to explore the performance of stormwater filtration systems, the technical basis of their performance, and techniques to model Best Management Performance (BMP). One of the factors influencing BMP performance is particle size distribution. While particle size distributions may be assumed from tests in other parts of the country, there is very little particle size distribution data for the Austin area.

This follow-up interlocal agreement allows City staff to collect stormwater runoff samples from various land uses and BMP effluents, and have the particle size distributions measured by UT. The City has attempted to collect particle size information in the past with little success due to the specialized equipment required. UT has the correct equipment and trained staff to perform these analyses.

These data will help develop better BMP designs for sedimentation, filtration, wet ponds and retention-irrigation systems. It will also assist in making informed decisions on water quality modeling and other BMPs.