



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and Council Members
From: Greg Meszaros, Director, Austin Water Utility
Date: April 28, 2011
Subject: Ratification of a Contract for the Purchase of Pipe and Appurtenances for a By-Pass Line at the Reclaimed Ground Storage Tank at the Walnut Creek Wastewater Treatment

The Utility has an on-going project to investigate the cause of leaking at a reclaimed water ground storage tank at the Walnut Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. The project includes making an assessment of the tank, recommendations for leak repair, designing the repair, improving water mixing in the tank, and adding a pump to increase high service pump station capacity.

The tank is critical to the operation of the reclaimed water in central Austin. Water moves through it before being pumped to customers. Realizing the criticality of the tank and the consequences of its failure, the Utility arranged for the designed of a by-pass line and began efforts to purchase materials for by-pass line construction.

On April 12, a new leak was noted at the tank. It was fundamentally different in nature than previous leaks and continued to grow in volume as the days passed. On April 14, an emergency affidavit to purchase materials to construct the by-pass line was executed. Since this was an emergency action, MBE/WBE goals were not set.

AWU staff has since lowered a camera into the ground storage tank to ascertain the location and extent of the hole causing the leak. The ground storage tank was drained and a temporary patch put in place to minimize the leakage while the by-pass line can be constructed.

A Recommendation for Council Action for ratification of the action is being submitted to the Water and Wastewater Commission on May 11, 2011, and to City Council Consideration May 26, 2011.

Should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate contact me.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Meszaros'.

Greg Meszaros, Director
Austin Water Utility

cc: Marc A. Ott, City Manager
Rudy Garza, Assistant City Manager