

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	7843	Agenda Number	32.
Meeting Date:	8/25/2011		Department:	Parks and Recreation
Subject				
<p>Authorize negotiation and execution of a one-year Interlocal Agreement between the City of Austin and the University of Texas at Austin, for performance of hydrodynamic flow modeling of Barton Springs Pool, with two 12-month extensions for \$89,460 for the first year, \$88,130 for the second year, if extended, and \$94,767 for the third year, if extended, for a total amount not to exceed \$272,357. Funding in the amount of \$89,460 is available in the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Operating Budget of the Parks and Recreation Department. Funding for extension options is contingent upon funding in future budgets.</p>				
Amount and Source of Funding				
<p>Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Capital Budget of the Parks and Recreation Department.</p>				
Fiscal Note				
<p>A fiscal note is attached.</p>				
Purchasing Language:				
Prior Council Action:	<p>October 19, 2006 – Council passed a Resolution directing a master plan be developed for Barton Springs Pool; September 10, 2007 – Council authorized \$6.2 million for short-term improvement projects and studies at Barton Springs (Hydrodynamic Flow Modeling was one of the included studies); January 15, 2009 – Council adopted the Barton Springs Pool Master Plan: Concepts for Preservation and Improvement.</p>			
For More Information:	<p>Gary Gregson 974-9475; Laurie Dries 974-6340; April Thedford 974-6716</p>			
Boards and Commission Action:				
MBE / WBE:				
Related Items:				
Additional Backup Information				

From the late 1920's through 1974, dams and a bypass culvert were built creating Barton Springs Pool (BSP) and disconnecting it from Barton Creek, except during floods which exceed the capacity of the bypass culvert. This isolation from the natural flows of Barton Creek has shifted the hydrodynamics of BSP from a naturally, free-flowing creek to a small reservoir. The shift is most apparent in the reduced efficiency of natural scouring and transport of suspended material, particularly during floods. This results in increasing requirements for human labor to remove this material and maintain the desired, clear, clean, and safe swimming hole. Although there were some changes in operations and environmental management, none can eliminate or reverse the effects of the existing infrastructure, particularly the dams.

Therefore, the City of Austin's long-term goal for improving Barton Springs Pool is to create maximum operational flexibility to respond to all creek and climatic conditions in ecologically sound ways while ensuring continued recreational use. More specifically, the long-term goal for improving the aquatic environment in Barton Springs Pool is to determine how to reconstruct a more natural creek-like flow regime and thereby shift the ecological character back toward historical conditions while maintaining the major characteristics that attract recreational users. The first step in meeting these goals requires hydrodynamic modeling of Barton Springs Pool for a variety of inflow/outflow conditions with potential physical modifications of infrastructure.

This hydrodynamic flow modeling will provide the City with information as to what infrastructure and/or other changes may be needed at Barton Springs Pool to improve the water quality, reduce accumulation of flood debris within the pool and improve the habitat for the endangered Barton Springs Salamander.