

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action (Purchasing)

Austin City Council

Item ID:

9151

Agenda Number

46.

Meeting Date:

August 25, 2011

Department:

Purchasing

Subject

Authorize award and execution of a 36-month service agreement with OZARK UNDERGROUND LABORATORY, INC., Protem, Missouri, to provide spill plan dye study of the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer in an amount not to exceed \$289,195 with three 12-month extension options in an amount not to exceed \$96,398.33 per extension for a total contract amount not to exceed \$578,389.98. Ozark Underground Laboratory, Inc. is the sole source provider for these services.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding in the amount of \$289,195 is available in the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Capital Budget of the Watershed Protection Department. Funding for the remaining extension options is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is attached.

Purchasing
Language:

Sole Source.

Prior Council
Action:

The initial dye studies were conducted through an EPA grant in cooperation with the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District with \$45,000 contributed by COA and in-kind staff time contributed by COA FY 1999-2001. On July 27, 2006, Council approved the Study's initial contract.

For More
Information:

Steve Cocke, Buyer II, 974-2003

Boards and
Commission
Action:



MBE / WBE:

This contract will be awarded in compliance with Chapter 2-9C of the City Code (Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program). No subcontracting opportunities were identified; therefore, no goals were established for this solicitation.

Related Items:**Additional Backup Information**

Tracing was initiated in 1996 in the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer by the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District and City of Austin, and continued through 2010. This study was recommended to act as a recovery action by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in the 2005 Barton Springs Salamander Recovery Plan. Most recently, the need for additional tracing data was identified during the development of a spill response contingency plan for Barton Springs.

The traces continued under this contract will simulate accidental pollutant spills in the Barton Springs Zone and will assist City staff in preparation for such events. The results will provide the City with information on the potential impact on public health and drinking water supplies and on the endangered Barton Springs salamander. Roughly 50,000 persons rely directly on the Barton Springs segment for their drinking water supply.

The Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer has a recharge zone south of the Colorado River that covers about 90 square miles in area. Most of the Barton Springs segment discharges to Barton Springs Pool, a major recreational facility owned by the City of Austin. Barton Springs is the only known location for two Barton Springs aquatic salamander species, one of which has been listed as endangered by the USFWS. Within the study area, the City of Austin has permit obligations from USFWS both to protect aquatic salamanders at Barton Springs. The interpretation of the data must remain consistent to ensure accurate conclusions.

Ozark Underground Laboratory, Inc. is the only known provider of QA/QC quality charcoal receptors that give us quantitative concentrations of the dye. They are the most precise known, and a critical component of the Study's design.