AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA

Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	**Item ID**	10225	**Agenda Number**	33.
Meeting Date:	11/03/2011	**Department:**	Watershed Protection	

Subject

Authorize negotiation and execution of a 12-month Interlocal Agreement with Texas AgriLife (TAL), of the Texas A&M University System for the time and expertise of TAL engineers and staff to develop additional water quality modeling capabilities in a cooperative project with City of Austin staff, with three 12-month extension options, for a total contract amount not to exceed $100,000.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding in the amount of $100,000 is available in the Capital Improvement Plan budget for Watershed Information Management and Modeling Systems (WIMMS).

Fiscal Note

A Fiscal Note is required.

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	August 30, 2007: Council authorized negotiation and execution of an Interlocal Agreement.
For More Information:	Roger Glick, 974-2096
Boards and Commission Action:	
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

The interlocal agreement with TAL builds on past work between the City and TAL (previously known as Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, or TAES) by developing additional water quality modeling tools focusing on Low Impact Development (LID) / Green Infrastructure and by providing enhancements to existing tools. The result provides the capability to simulate urban watershed characteristics and the benefits from implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs). The implementation of the existing Soil and Water Assessment Tool with the additional capabilities provided by the scope of this agreement provides integration of extensive data in both planning and assessment phases. The model will incorporate the department's geo-spatial information as maintained with the latest GIS technology.

The Master Plan process and individual assessment of watershed impacts from projects such as change in land use are dependent on accurate predictions of water quality changes. The improved tools will provide better comparisons of benefits between different BMPs or combinations of BMPs; provide for evaluation of the impacts of different development scenarios, such as Imagine Austin, on area waterways; and will evaluate the effects of different projects on individual watersheds.