

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council

Item ID

23150

Agenda Number

30.

Meeting Date:

4/11/2013

Department:

Watershed Protection

Subject

Authorize negotiation and execution of a four-month interlocal agreement with Austin Independent School District for cave excavation and improvements on the Bowie High School grounds.

Amount and Source of Funding

Fiscal Note

A fiscal note is not required.

**Purchasing
Language:**

**Prior Council
Action:**

**For More
Information:**

Sara Heilman, 512-974-3540; Nico Hauwert, 512-974-2148; Jessica Wilson, 512-974-2446

**Boards and
Commission
Action:**

MBE / WBE:

Related Items:

Additional Backup Information

The City of Austin Watershed Protection Department has professional cave specialists working to restore several local caves. Their goal is to increase recharge to the Edwards Aquifer and protect public safety. The City of Austin uses natural (wild) caves as an educational resource to teach topics such as geology, groundwater, cave formation and environmental stewardship. To accomplish this goal they must first make the caves accessible and safe for taking students on guided tours.

WPD is currently completing a Capital Improvement Project to restore five large sinkholes on the Blowing Sink preserve, which is essentially across Slaughter Lane from Bowie High School. The Blowing Sink preserve maintenance project currently employs six cave specialists until July 2013 to excavate and restore caves. For the purposes of securing the Blowing Sink preserve site and promoting cave education and safety, it may be possible to utilize these cave specialists to further excavate Bowie High School Cave with the intention of restoring the cave, extending its length, increasing the visual appeal of the cave, and increasing the safety of the cave for possible future guided student tours.