

City Council Questions and Answers

City Council Questions and Answers for
Thursday, February 27, 2014

These questions and answers are related to the
Austin City Council meeting that will convene at 10:00 AM on
Thursday, February 27, 2014 at Austin City Hall
301 W. Second Street, Austin, TX



Mayor Lee Leffingwell
Mayor Pro Tem Sheryl Cole
Council Member Chris Riley, Place 1
Council Member Mike Martinez, Place 2
Council Member Kathie Tovo, Place 3
Council Member Laura Morrison, Place 4
Council Member William Spelman, Place 5

The City Council Questions and Answers Report was derived from a need to provide City Council Members an opportunity to solicit clarifying information from City Departments as it relates to requests for council action. After a City Council Regular Meeting agenda has been published, Council Members will have the opportunity to ask questions of departments via the City Manager's Agenda Office. This process continues until 5:00 p.m. the Tuesday before the Council meeting. The final report is distributed at noon to City Council the Wednesday before the council meeting.

QUESTIONS FROM COUNCIL


1. Agenda Item # 2 - Authorize execution of a power purchase agreement with Lincoln Renewable Energy LLC, Chicago, IL, for a term of up to 18 years for up to 300 megawatts of wind-generated electricity, in an estimated amount of \$31,000,000 per year, for an estimated total contract amount not to exceed \$558,000,000.
 - a. QUESTION - How does the wind profile for the panhandle (Castro County) differ from West Texas or Coastal projects? COUNCIL MEMBER SPELMAN
 - b. ANSWER: See attachment
2. Agenda Item # 10- Authorize the negotiation and execution of the Fifth Amendment to the Second Amended and Restated Lease Agreement with Greater Austin Performing Arts Center, Inc. for the cooperative scheduling of events and capital improvements funding to preserve and protect the City's long-term investment in the Long Center facility.
 - a. QUESTION: Agenda Item # 10 states "the City will fund a Long Center Capital Improvements Fund for long-term capital renewal and replacements of the Long Center with approximately \$300,000.00 in annual contributions beginning in FY 2015" but does not indicate the source of the funds. Please provide information on the funding source. COUNCIL MEMBER TOVO
 - b. ANSWER: The proposed lease amendment provides that the City will establish and fund, subject to annual appropriations by the Austin City Council, a CITY OF AUSTIN LONG CENTER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FUND for long-term capital renewal and replacements of the Long Center with approximately Three Hundred Thousand and No/100 Dollars (\$300,000.00) in annual contributions beginning in Fiscal Year 2015. A funding source for the Long Center Capital Improvements Fund has not been identified at this time, but will be determined during the City's budget development process for inclusion in the City Manager's 2014-2015 Proposed Budget.
3. Agenda Item # 43 - Approve a resolution directing the City Manager to create a tool to be easily accessible on the City's website that allows a voter to type in an address and find the council district that the address is in, no later than May 1, 2014. (Notes: SPONSOR: Mayor Pro Tem Sheryl Cole CO 1: Mayor Lee Leffingwell CO 2: Council Member Laura Morrison)


- a. QUESTION: Travis County's website allows voters to type in their name and birthdate and find their new City District (along with all their other voting districts) here: <http://www.votetravis.com/vexpress/display.do> 1) Does the city website currently point voters to this for look up? 2) Is there a benefit in the city creating a system by address, in addition? 3) Are there other ways to make the City website more easily informative for city voters? COUNCIL MEMBER SPELMAN
- b. ANSWER: 1) Yes, the City Clerk's Web page includes links to the voter registration verification for both Travis and Williamson Counties under our Frequently Ask Questions Page. <http://www.austintexas.gov/page/frequently-asked-questions-elections>. 2) The advantage of a site allowing one to search by address, is it would allow anyone to identify what district they are in regardless of being a registered voter. In combination with the voter verification systems maintained by the Counties this would allow any citizen, business owner, etc. to determine which district an address is located. It would expand on the existing idea created by the ICRC's interactive map but create a more user friendly tool. In addition, there is the possibility of using the system beyond the November Election allowing citizens not only to find out which district an address is located but specifically which Council Member represents that district and their contact information. 3) The City Clerk's Office has updated the web pages relating to elections that includes the election calendar, maps and demographics relating to the districts and a FAQ providing answers to common questions, which can be found at <http://www.austintexas.gov/elections>. Preliminary discussions have been held with the Travis County and the sponsors of this resolution on obtaining support for the tool. Staff is also planning to add the functionality for users to search for their district by address to the existing Jurisdiction Web Map (<http://austintexas.gov/gis/JurisdictionsWebMap/>) on the City's website. This is expected to be completed within the next 2 weeks and can also be linked to the pages listed above.
4. Agenda Item # 68-71- Conduct a public hearing and consider a resolution under Section 2306.67071, Texas Government Code and Section 10.204(4), Texas Administrative Code, for an application to be submitted to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs by Villages at Ben White, LP for tax-exempt bond financing for a proposed 183-unit affordable senior housing development to be called the Villages at Ben White, located at 6934 East Ben White Boulevard. 69) Conduct a public hearing and consider a resolution under Section 2306.67071, Texas Government Code and Section 10.204(4), Texas Administrative Code, for an application to be submitted to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs by Pedcor Investments-2012-CXXXI, LP for tax-exempt bond financing for a proposed 252-unit affordable multi-family development to be called William Cannon Apartments, located at 2112 East William Cannon Drive. 70) Conduct a public hearing and consider a resolution under Section 2306.67071, Texas Government Code and Section 10.204(4), Texas Administrative Code, for an application to be submitted to the Texas Department of Housing and

Community Affairs by Ben White Development, LP for tax-exempt bond financing for a proposed 250-unit affordable multi-family development to be called the Pointe at Ben White, located at 7000 East Ben White Boulevard.71) Conduct a public hearing and consider a resolution under Section 2306.67071, Texas Government Code and Section 10.204(4), Texas Administrative Code, for an application to be submitted to the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs by Pedcor Investments-2012-CXXX, LP for tax-exempt bond financing for a proposed 252-unit affordable multi-family development to be called Parmer Place, located at 1500 East Parmer Lane.

- a. QUESTION: Would any of these projects meet the City's S.M.A.R.T. housing requirements? If so, how do they specifically meet the transit standard?
COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY
- b. ANSWER: See attachment

END OF REPORT - ATTACHMENTS TO FOLLOW

 *The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request.*

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Council Question and Answer

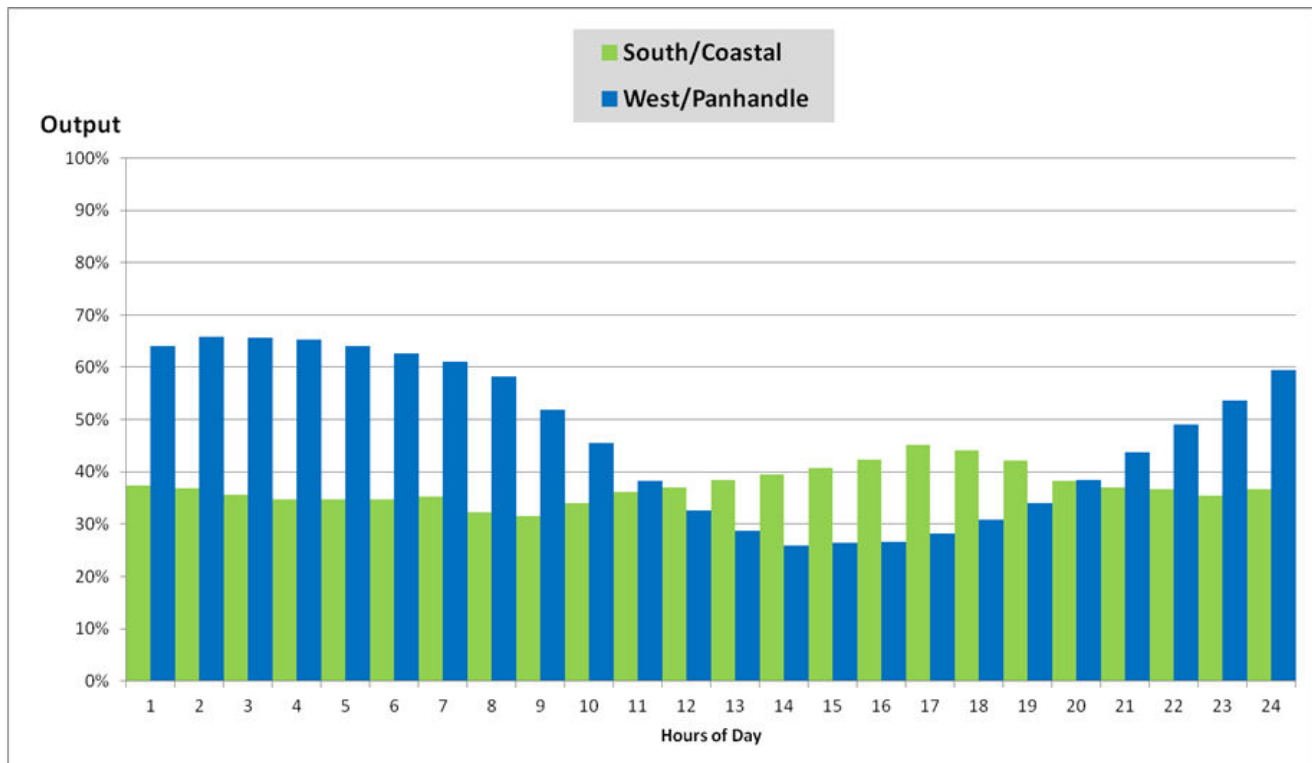
Related To	Agenda Item #2	Meeting Date	February 27, 2014
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Additional Answer Information

QUESTION: How does the wind profile for the panhandle (Castro County) differ from West Texas or Coastal projects? **COUNCIL MEMBER SPELMAN**

ANSWER:

West Texas and Panhandle wind projects are very similar in terms of seasonal and time of day production. Peak production for both tends to the spring and overnight hours. However, West/Panhandle projects generally exhibit greater overall annual production per Megawatt of Capacity. In contrast, south/coastal projects tend to produce energy more consistently over the course of the year and hours of the day but also produce less total energy compared to west/panhandle wind. The chart below illustrates this showing annualized output by time of day:





Council Question and Answer

Related To	Agenda Items # 68-71	Meeting Date	February 27, 2014
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Additional Answer Information

QUESTION: Would any of these projects meet the City's S.M.A.R.T. housing requirements? If so, how do they specifically meet the transit standard? COUNCIL MEMBER RILEY

ANSWER:

All four projects were certified for S.M.A.R.T. Housing September of 2012 as meeting the transit oriented standards. The S.M.A.R.T. Housing ordinance, §25-1-703 (B)(3) reads S.M.A.R.T. Housing must comply with the transit oriented guidelines adopted by the director. The S.M.A.R.T. Housing Guide since 2008 provides different standards for projects based on location within the urban roadway boundary or outside the urban roadway boundary. The guidelines were developed to allow flexibility, while still encouraging development near transit. The distance is measured from the closest point on the property to the nearest route. This does not require measurement along an accessible route.

Items 68 and 70 located on East Ben White Boulevard are within the urban roadway boundary. These properties are within 1,300 feet of a bus route on Montopolis Drive. After the construction these projects would be able to access Maxwell to the Riverside Route.

Item 69 located on William Cannon outside the urban roadway boundary has a bus route directly in front of the property.

Item 71 located on Parmer Lane outside the urban roadway boundary is located .41 miles from the nearest bus route with a walking route of .66 miles.

Imagine Austin identified S.M.A.R.T. Housing as a work program which has been assigned to the Household Affordability Priority Program. This program will provide guidance on future changes to the guidelines. NHCD will also be working with stakeholders to identify needed changes to the guidelines. In Section 4 of the S.M.A.R.T Housing Guide, an overview of the current transit standards can be reviewed. Click on the following link to access the guide:

http://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Housing/Application_Center/SMART_Housing/smart_guide_0708.pdf