

## A G E N D A



## Recommendation for Council Action (Purchasing)

Austin City Council

Item ID:

47809

Agenda Number

33.

Meeting Date:

August 20, 2015

Department:

Purchasing

## Subject

Authorize execution of a 12-month contract with COLORADO RIVER WATCH FOUNDATION, INC. DBA AUSTIN YOUTH RIVER WATCH to provide water quality monitoring and training for at-risk students, in an amount not to exceed \$169,500, with three 12-month extension options in an amount not to exceed \$169,500 per extension option, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$678,000.

## Amount and Source of Funding

Funding in the amount of \$14,125 is available in the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Operating Budget of the Watershed Protection Department. Funding for the remaining 11-months of the original contract period and extension options is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

## Fiscal Note

There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

Purchasing  
Language:

Sole source

Prior Council  
Action:For More  
Information:

Georgia Billela, Buyer II, 512-974-2939; Chris Herrington, Supervising Engineer, 512-974-2840

Boards and  
Commission  
Action:

Related Items:

MBE / WBE:

This contract will be awarded as a sole source and is exempt from City Code Chapter 2-9C Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program.

## Additional Backup Information

The contract is to provide water quality monitoring, which will be conducted by at-risk students. Colorado River Watch Foundation dba Austin Youth River Watch (AYRW) is a non-profit service organization that works with the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) and their Colorado River Watch Network program to train at-risk students in water quality monitoring methods.

The AYRW program combines environmental education with drop-out prevention for at-risk high school students. It is a multi-year, after-school and summer program that combines peer mentoring and intensive environmental education.

CRWN provides the equipment and chemicals required for students to collect, analyze and publish water-quality data from Austin area streams and rivers. They report their data to local and state-wide agencies, which has been used by scientists, policymakers, and environmentalists to improve the management and protection of our local waterways. It also creates an early warning system that alerts the City and LCRA to potential water quality threats. AYRW proposes to assist the Watershed Protection Department (WPD) by expanding the program to include the investigation of the source of fecal bacteria contamination for creek reaches designed by WPD staff, as well as by the adoption of specific areas for riparian restoration consistent with the goals of WPD.

AYRW was established with initial funding provided by the City and LCRA and continual funding will include the City, governmental support, grants from private foundations, contributions from partnering corporations, and many donations from individuals. The value of this program was recognized specifically by City Council Resolution 20140807-099.

The current contract expired July 12, 2015 and without a contract, water-quality in the Austin area streams and rivers could be threatened and early warning system that alert the City and LCRA to potential water quality threats would be delayed.