



Water & Wastewater Commission Review and Recommendation

Commission Meeting Date:	December 5, 2018
Council Meeting Date:	December 13, 2018
Department:	Austin Water
Client:	Randi Jenkins and Kevin Critendon
Agenda Item	
Authorize negotiation and execution of a restated interlocal agreement with the cities of Round Rock, Cedar Park, and Leander for the reimbursement of costs related to the expansion of the Brushy Creek Regional Wastewater System.	
Amount and Source of Funding	
N/A	
Purchasing Language:	N/A
Prior Council Action:	<p>July 23, 2009- Council approved an interlocal agreement 20090723-007, to purchase the City's share of the Brushy Creek Regional Wastewater System from the Lower Colorado River Authority.</p> <p>September 22, 2011- Council approved an agreement 20110922-004, with the Brazos River Authority for the operation and maintenance of the Brushy Creek Regional Wastewater System.</p> <p>March 6, 2014- Council approved an interlocal agreement 20140306-003, with the Cities of Round Rock, Leander, and Cedar Park concerning the capacity, operation, maintenance, and improvements to the Southwest Interceptor of the Brushy Creek Regional Wastewater System.</p> <p>May 18, 2017 – Council approved an interlocal agreement 20180518-002, with the cities of Round Rock, Cedar Park, and Leander for the reimbursement of costs related to the expansion of the Brushy Creek Regional Wastewater System.</p> <p>August 9, 2018 – Council approved an interlocal agreement 20180809-004, with the City of Round Rock for the operation and maintenance of the Brushy Creek Regional Wastewater System.</p>
Boards and Commission Action:	December 5, 2018 – To be reviewed by the Water and Wastewater Commission.
MBE/WBE:	N/A

The Brushy Creek Regional Wastewater System (“Brushy Creek System”) is a wastewater system located in southern Williamson County. The cities of Austin, Round Rock, and Cedar Park jointly purchased the Brushy Creek System from the Lower Colorado River Authority in 2009, and each City is a partial owner of the Brushy Creek System. The city of Leander joined the other cities in 2011 in ownership in the collection system.

Two wastewater treatment plants (“WWTPs”) of the Brushy Creek System are located in the City of Round Rock’s jurisdiction, treat wastewater within the Brushy Creek, Onion Creek, Chandler Creek, and McNutt Creek watersheds, and are known as the “East WWTP” and the “West WWTP” (see the attached map). Austin has approximately 4,800 retail wastewater connections, all located within the Desired Development Zone, which discharge into the Brushy Creek System (most connections are currently located within the Avery Ranch subdivision). Austin expects the number of retail wastewater connections to increase to 24,800 in 2030.

Due to the cities’ number of customers contributing wastewater flows to the East WWTP have and will continue to increase as more customers are served within each cities’ own service areas, and the East WWTP requires an increase in capacity. Texas Commission of Environmental Quality (“TCEQ”) rules require design engineering to have begun when a wastewater treatment plant reaches at least 75% of its capacity. The East WWTP’s current flows are 81% of the East WWTP’s capacity on an average annual basis. The last expansion of the East WWTP occurred in 2004.

The original interlocal agreement with the cities of Round Rock, Cedar Park, and Leander for the reimbursement of costs related to the expansion of the Brushy Creek Regional Wastewater System was executed in May of 2017 and identified intended capacity and ownership levels for each city. Based on further engineering evaluation, those levels have since changed and require an update to the agreement. The changes are related to reductions in permitted plant capacity and a desire to reduce the size of planned expansion to better manage costs of expansion. As such, these updates to ownership levels will be incorporated into the restated interlocal agreement.

The table below indicates how capacities of the cities will change:

Partner ("City")	Initial City Ownership	Current (MGD)	Re-Rate (only) (MGD)	Capacity After Rerate (MGD)	Expansion (MGD)	Total Capacity (MGD)	Ownership in Expansion	Final City Ownership
East Plant Capacity		20.00	0.00	20.00	10.00	30.00	100%	100%
Round Rock	81.96%	16.39	0.00	16.39	1.20	17.59	12.00%	58.64%
Leander	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.23	4.23	42.30%	14.10%
Cedar Park	14.61%	2.92	0.00	2.92	2.10	5.02	21.00%	16.74%
Austin	3.43%	0.69	0.00	0.69	2.47	3.16	24.70%	10.52%

It is anticipated that the expansion will be completed by 2024. The city of Round Rock will bid, manage, and oversee the design and construction of the East WWTP. Each of the cities will pay their proportionate share of costs to Round Rock as milestones are achieved.

Austin's funding for the expansion is included in its capital improvement project budget.