



**RCA
CITY OF AUSTIN
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

**AGENDA ITEM NO.: 7
AGENDA DATE: Thu 06/23/2005
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SUBJECT: Authorize the negotiation and execution of an agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Texas State Historic Preservation Commission to conduct archeological surveys prior to the construction/expansion of segments of the City's reclaimed water system.

AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A

FISCAL NOTE: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

REQUESTING Austin Water Utility **DIRECTOR'S**
DEPARTMENT: **AUTHORIZATION:** Chris Lippe

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Dan Pedersen, 972-0074; Laura Wiley, 972-0104

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION: Feasibility Study Agreement 7-17-03

BOARD AND COMMISSION ACTION: Recommended by Water and Wastewater Commission.

PURCHASING: N/A

MBE / WBE: N/A

The Department of Interior, through the Bureau of Reclamation, manages a federal cost-share program under Title XVI of Public Law 102-575. The purpose of the program is to identify and promote opportunities for water reclamation. Authorization may be provided for a federal cost-share up to 25% of design and construction costs for municipal wastewater projects that will achieve federal water reclamation goals. Prior to receiving Congressional authorization and appropriation, a project must pass an initial appraisal, and a feasibility study. The Bureau of Reclamation completed and approved the initial appraisal study in April 2004. The feasibility study covering the entire reclaimed water system is under joint development between Reclamation and the Utility.

The feasibility study is a prerequisite for inclusion in the cost-share program and has an archeological survey component. Studies to date of the reclaimed water system have been master plans, and "preliminary" in nature, i.e., the exact locations of the pipelines are not known and won't be determined until detailed designs are started. It is difficult, if not impossible, to perform an archeological survey on a water main location that is not certain. The Archeological Survey Agreement will allow the Utility to continue to pursue federal cost-share funding for its reclaimed water system.

To meet requirements of the Texas Antiquities Code, the Utility has its pipeline designers confer with the Texas Historical Commission during preliminary engineering design. If there are archeological or historic sites near the project, an archeological survey is conducted. Typically, these surveys are included as an appendix to Preliminary Engineering Reports. Up to 80% of reclaimed water pipelines will be installed under roads in City-owned right-of-ways. Since these right-of-ways have been disturbed by previous construction, survey requirements are minimal.

No.060105-G
WATER AND WASTEWATER COMMISSION RESOLUTION
AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION AND THE TEXAS STATE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION FOR THE CONDUCT OF
ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEYS PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTING/EXPANDING
SEGMENTS OF THE CITY'S RECLAIMED WATER SYSTEM

June 1, 2005
REGULAR MEETING
VOTE: 8-0-0-1

Motion made by: Coleman
Commissioners Consenting: Raun, Friese, Warner, Chan, Lee, Scott-Ryan, Gonzalez
Commissioners Dissenting:
Commissioners Abstaining:
Commissioners Absent: Pool

The Water and Wastewater Commission recommends the Council authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute an agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Texas State Historic Preservation Commission for the conduct of archeological surveys prior to constructing/expanding segments of the City's reclaimed water system


Michael Warner Chairperson
Water and Wastewater Commission

6/1/05
Date