



**Interlocal Agreement
CITY OF AUSTIN
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION**

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 28
AGENDA DATE: Thu 06/17/2004
PAGE: 1 of 2

SUBJECT: Approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute two multi-year agreements one an interlocal agreement with the University of North Texas (UNT) and one a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, Environmental Laboratory (ERDC-EL) for a native vegetation restoration project to be conducted in Lake Austin and Town Lake for prevention of nuisance hydrilla growth in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$360,000.

AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING: Funding in the amount of \$160,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2001-2002 CIP Budget of the Watershed Protection and Development Review Department. In addition, \$200,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2002-2003 CIP Budget of Watershed Protection and Development Review Department.

FISCAL NOTE: A fiscal note is attached.

REQUESTING Watershed Protection and **DIRECTOR'S**
DEPARTMENT:Development Review **AUTHORIZATION:** Joe Pantalione

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Nancy McClintock, 974-2652; Edward Peacock, 974-2224; Mary Gilroy, 974-2717

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION: N/A

BOARD AND COMMISSION ACTION: N/A

PURCHASING: N/A

MBE / WBE: N/A

For maximum, sustainable, long-term control of hydrilla in Lake Austin and Town Lake, as well as enhanced fishery and aquatic habitat, the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, Environmental Laboratory (ERDC-EL) in cooperation with research scientists from the University of North Texas will work with the City to introduce and establish beneficial native aquatic plants to coincide with hydrilla declines. This project includes a planting program in Town Lake as a protective measure and an ecosystem enhancement.

Current hydrilla management in Lake Austin utilizes an integrated plan coordinated between the City of Austin, Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA), Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), and the Friends of Lake Austin (FOLA) citizens group. The current approach includes winter drawdowns, stocking of sterile grass carp, and introduction of *Hydrellia* flies (a hydrilla biocontrol agent). This approach is anticipated to eventually bring the rapid spread of hydrilla under control. If the niche currently occupied by hydrilla remains empty, either a post-grass carp recurrence of hydrilla or an infestation of other non-indigenous, weedy species is likely. In order to prevent this occurrence and to replace critical fish habitat, it is important that these empty niches be filled with beneficial native plants. Native aquatic plant restoration has been a continuing recommendation from participants in the current integrated hydrilla control plan.



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Tests were conducted in Lake Austin during 2003, with several aquatic species successfully established within protective enclosures at two sites. This project will initiate a full-scale restoration in 2004 with the addition of six founder colony sites, as well as supplemental planting at the two existing sites. New sites will be selected and shallow water (up to 4 feet deep) plantings will be undertaken during summer 2004. Deeper water plantings will be made during the 2005 winter drawdown. Installation of additional sites and/or supplemental planting of existing sites will be conducted during 2006. In Town Lake, test plantings will be conducted during the summer of 2004. Three sites will be selected and ten aquatic species tested for suitability and the need for protective enclosures. Following evaluation (early summer 2005), an additional five sites will be selected and planted with species deemed appropriate for the lake. Larger-scale planting and/or installation of additional sites will be conducted during 2006.

The project will be conducted by ERDC-EL and UNT staff, with assistance from the Watershed Protection and Development Review Department. The project will be phased over three years with initial plantings in Fiscal Year 2004 at a \$60,000 funding level followed by two years of funding at \$150,000 per year for an aggregate amount for both contracts not to exceed a total cost of \$360,000.

RESOLUTION NO.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The City Manager is authorized to negotiate and execute two multi-year agreements, one an interlocal agreement with the University of North Texas and one a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, Environmental Laboratory, for a native vegetation restoration project to be conducted in Lake Austin and Town Lake for prevention of nuisance hydrilla growth in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$360,000.

ADOPTED: _____, 2004

ATTEST: _____
Shirley A. Brown
City Clerk



MEMORANDUM

TO: Joseph G. Pantalion, Director
Watershed Protection and Development Review Department

FROM: Nancy McClintock, Manager
Environmental Resource Management Division

DATE: June 8, 2004

SUBJECT: Lake Austin Hydrilla Update

On May 19, 2004, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) conducted a vegetation survey of Lake Austin indicating 182 acres of hydrilla, a 25% increase from the 145 acres documented in March 2004. Although hydrilla is still increasing in coverage in the lake, there is some evidence that the 4825 sterile grass carp stocked by the City since February 2004 are having an impact on the infestation. In particular, hydrilla at Loop 360 boat ramp is currently not present, relieving this high traffic area of a major public safety concern. The infestation along the shoreline of Emma Long Metropolitan (City) Park has shown a considerable decrease in density as well.

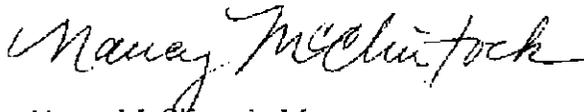
However, hydrilla in the upper areas of the lake, primarily in and around Commons Ford Preserve, continues to grow in spite of the grass carp stockings. This phenomenon is most likely due to the colder water temperatures in this part of the lake, as the feeding efficiency of the carp decreases with lower temperatures.

In accordance with the Lake Austin Hydrilla Management Plan 2004 agreed upon by all partners (City of Austin, TPWD, Lower Colorado River Authority, and Friends of Lake Austin), an additional 910 sterile grass carp (5 fish/acre, 182 acres) will be stocked by the City on June 16, 2004. After this stocking, the City's current grass carp permit will only have about 660 fish, so the City submitted a new TPWD permit application for an additional 6400 fish. TPWD surveys will be conducted periodically through 2004 and more fish will be stocked only if indicated by increases in hydrilla growth.

Lake Austin Hydrilla Update
June 8, 2004
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The City is also working with the US Army Corps of Engineers to establish and maintain populations of native vegetation in both Lake Austin and Town Lake, to prevent re-infestation by hydrilla. These native plants will provide the water quality and habitat benefits of aquatic vegetation without the aggressive growth shown by hydrilla.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy McIntock". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "N".

Nancy McIntock, Manager
Environmental Resource Management Division
Watershed Protection and Development Review Department

NM/MG/mg

**CIP BUDGET
FISCAL NOTE**

DATE OF COUNCIL CONSIDERATION: 17-Jun-04
WHERE ON AGENDA:
DEPARTMENT: Watershed Protection & Development Review

Description: Authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute a multi-year cooperative agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Lewisville Aquatic Ecosystem Research Facility (LAERF) and the University of North Texas (UNT) for a native vegetation restoration project to be conducted in Lake Austin and Town Lake for prevention of nuisance hydrilla growth at an estimated total cost of \$360,000.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Project Name: **LAKE AUSTIN RESTORATION**
Project Authorization: 2001-2002 Amended Capital Budget
Funding Source: Drainage Utility Funding
Fund/Agency/Orgn: 4850-617-5018

Total Current Appropriation	\$200,000.00
Unencumbered Balance	\$169,005.00
Amount of this Action	<u>(\$160,000.00)</u>
Remaining Balance	<u><u>\$9,005.00</u></u>

Financial Approval: Scott Freeman Date: 5/19/04

**CIP BUDGET
FISCAL NOTE**

DATE OF COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

17-Jun-04

WHERE ON AGENDA:

DEPARTMENT:

Watershed Protection & Development Review

Description: Authorize the City Manager to negotiate and execute a multi-year cooperative agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Lewisville Aquatic Ecosystem Research Facility (LAERF) and the University of North Texas (UNT) for a native vegetation restoration project to be conducted in Lake Austin and Town Lake for prevention of nuisance hydrilla growth at an estimated total cost of \$360,000.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Project Name: **AUSTIN LAKES - PLANT CNTRL**
Project Authorization: 2002-2003 Amended Capital Budget
Funding Source: Drainage Utility Funding
Fund/Agency/Orgn: 4850-617-5019

Total Current Appropriation	\$200,000.00
Unencumbered Balance	\$200,000.00
Amount of this Action	<u>(\$200,000.00)</u>
Remaining Balance	<u><u>\$0.00</u></u>

Financial Approval: Scott Leadaway Date: 5/19/04.