



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

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 29
AGENDA DATE: Thu 06/17/2004
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SUBJECT: Approve a resolution authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute an interlocal agreement with the Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer Conservation District (BS/EACD) for federal habitat conservation planning assistance grant matching funds for a total amount not to exceed \$40,000.

AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING: Funding totaling \$30,000 over a three-year period is available in the Fiscal Year 2003-2004 Approved Operating Budget and will be requested in the Fiscal Year 2004-2005 and Fiscal Year 2005-2006 Proposed Operating Budgets of the Austin Water Utility; Funding for in-kind services totaling \$10,000 over a three-year period is available in the Fiscal Year 2003-2004 Approved Operating Budget and will be requested in the Fiscal Year 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 Proposed Operating Budgets of the Watershed Protection and Development Review Department.

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

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Joe Pantalion, 974-3413; Perwez Moheet, 972-0125; Ed Peacock, 974-2224

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION: N/A

BOARD AND COMMISSION ACTION: N/A

PURCHASING: N/A

MBE / WBE: N/A

In February 2003, the Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer Conservation District submitted an application for a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grant in the amount of \$516,000 to support the creation of a habitat conservation plan for the Barton Springs Salamander and the Austin Blind Salamander. On February 11, 2003, BS/EACD requested from the City a commitment of financial assistance (including the provision of in-kind services) to augment the federal grant and increase local participation – thus increasing the likelihood of gaining grant application approval. City staff responded with a letter of interest and now requests City Council authorization for the requested financial commitment.

If the grant application is approved, the three-year planning process (Fiscal Year 2004-2005 and - Fiscal Year 2005-2006) will result in a draft Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) that will identify the effects of groundwater pumping on the species and will set forth comprehensive measures to minimize and mitigate for those impacts. The plan will address the interconnected issues of groundwater quality, availability, sustainability and biological needs. Other entities anticipated to provide financial and in-kind services support include the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Texas Water Development Board, University of Texas at Austin, Lower Colorado River Authority, City of Buda, and the Save Barton Creek Association.

RESOLUTION NO.

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

The City Manager is authorized to negotiate and execute an interlocal agreement with the Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer Conservation District (BS/EACD) for federal habitat conservation planning assistance grant matching funds for a total amount not to exceed \$40,000.

ADOPTED: _____, 2004

ATTEST: _____

Shirley A. Brown
City Clerk