



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

**AGENDA ITEM NO.: 10
AGENDA DATE: Thu 06/17/2004
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SUBJECT: Authorize the negotiation and execution of a Cooperative Agreement between the United States of America Commodity Credit Corporation and the City of Austin for the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program to continue the City's role in preserving land and protecting water quality in conjunction with the Open Space November 7, 2000 Bond Proposition 2.

AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A

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

REQUESTING Public Works
DEPARTMENT:

**DIRECTOR'S
AUTHORIZATION:** Leon Barba

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Junie Plummer, 974-7085; Laura Bohl, 974-7064

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION: N/A

BOARD AND COMMISSION ACTION: N/A

PURCHASING: N/A

MBE / WBE: N/A

This Cooperative Agreement is entered into by the United States under the authorities of the Commodity Credit Charter Act, 15 U.S.C. 714 et seq.; Title II, Subtitle F, Section 2503 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-171) and Title VII, Section 714 of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and related Agencies Appropriation Act of 2001 (Public Law 106-387). In addition to these authorities, this cooperative agreement will be administered in accordance with the policies and procedures set forth in the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) regulation, 7 CFR part 1491 (see Federal Register, Volume 68, Number 95, Notice Pages 26462-26478). The Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) administers the FRPP under the general supervision of the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) who is a Vice President of the CCC.

Enacted on May 13, 2002, Section 2503 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to purchase conservation easements that are subject to pending offers for the purpose of protecting topsoil by limited non-agricultural uses of the land. To be eligible, the farm and ranch land must contain prime, unique, or other productive soil or historical or archaeological resources.

This agreement allows the City to continue its role in preserving land and protecting water quality, including providing for matching funds. In addition, NRCS is furthering the private sector participation in conserving land, and allow both public and private dollars to stretch further. The Cooperative Agreement is the authorizing document that obligates CCC funds to acquire conservation easements.

Upon formal award of grant funds, staff will bring back an action item for acceptance of such grant funds along with appropriate budget amendments.