



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

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 63
AGENDA DATE: Thu 09/30/2004
PAGE: 1 of 3

SUBJECT: Approve negotiation and execution of an Amendment with the Federal Emergency Management Agency Cooperating Technical Community Memorandum of Agreement for the production of floodplain data and maps for several watersheds located in the City of Austin for an amount not to exceed \$702,500.

AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING: Funding in the amount of \$702,500 is included in the Fiscal Year 2003-2004 Amended Capital Budget of the Watershed Protection and Development Review Department.

FISCAL NOTE: A fiscal note is attached.

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Gary Kosut, 974-3374; Martha Vincent, 974-3371

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION: September 28, 2000 - Acceptance of a FEMA grant under the Memorandum of Agreement.

BOARD AND COMMISSION ACTION: N/A

PURCHASING: N/A

MBE / WBE: N/A

The City of Austin participates in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program. The program's purposes are to indemnify individuals from flood losses by providing access to flood insurance, to reduce future flood damages through community floodplain management regulations and to reduce costs for disaster assistance and flood control. Accurate and current floodplain maps are a crucial element of floodplain management. This request, if approved, will provide for the development of updated hydrologic and hydraulic models and the development of current digital floodplain maps for several watersheds in the City of Austin.

Background: FEMA has found that nearly two-thirds of its flood insurance rate maps are more than ten years old. The City of Austin is faced with a similar, if not direr, situation of aging floodplain maps. Because of this, FEMA launched a five-year national Map Modernization Plan in an effort to redraw the maps that predict where floods are likely to occur. The updated maps of flood prone areas will support sound floodplain management and prudent flood insurance decisions, such as determining who needs flood insurance, calculating flood insurance rates, and ensuring that new development will be safe from flooding. Most of the county restudies will be digital conversions. The overall FEMA plan includes an update to the nation's approximately 100,000-panel flood map inventory and an enhancement of products, services, and processes.

Map Modernization: FEMA's Travis County Map Modernization project was initiated in October 2003.



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

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 63
AGENDA DATE: Thu 09/30/2004
PAGE: 2 of 3

This project is currently underway and entails GIS-based hydrologic and hydraulic modeling updates and re-mapping of the rivers and streams in a portion of Travis County. This project is one of the first studies under the FEMA Map Modernization Program that will produce completely digital flood insurance study projects for the nation. Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) will replace the current (paper) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and will include database information related to the underlying base maps and technical data.

Map Products: Under the existing Cooperating Technical Community Memorandum with FEMA, the City of Austin has the opportunity to leverage FEMA's resources by (1) funding the inclusion of information on DFIRMS that is of significance to the City of Austin's floodplain management missions but is not included in FEMA's usual DFIRM mapping efforts (i.e., the mapping of future-conditions 25-year and 100-year floodplains) and (2) the development of detailed hydrologic and/or hydraulic studies for certain watersheds that would not otherwise receive such a level of study .

Under the proposed **Mapping Activity No. 2**, the City of Austin will participate in FEMA's Travis County Map Modernization project by funding the following enhancements to on-going mapping efforts:

Additional New Detail Studies (20.28 miles of stream):

- Slaughter Tributaries (8.07 miles with 11 bridges)
- Boggy Creek main stem and Tributary 1 (8.92 miles with 38 bridges)
- Blunn Creek (3.29 miles with 15 bridges/wiers)

Additional Limited Detail Study (6.09 miles of stream):

- Remaining Slaughter Tributaries (6.09 miles with 5 bridges)

Fully Urbanized 25-yr delineations (19.53 miles of stream):

- East Bouldin, West Bouldin, and North Fork of West Bouldin (7.32 miles)
- Boggy Creek Watershed (8.92 miles)
- Blunn Creek Watershed (3.29 miles)

Fully Urbanized 25-yr and 100-yr delineations (133.55 miles of stream):

- Walnut Creek Watershed (56 miles including: Walnut Tributaries, Little Walnut, and Buttermilk)
- Onion Creek Watershed (44.7 miles including: Onion, Cottonmouth, Marble, and South Boggy)
- Slaughter Creek Watershed (32.85 miles including: Slaughter and Slaughter Tributary)

Under the proposed **Mapping Activity No. 3**, the City of Austin will participate in FEMA's Travis County Map Modernization project by funding the following enhancements to on-going



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

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 63
AGENDA DATE: Thu 09/30/2004
PAGE: 3 of 3

mapping efforts:

Additional New Detail Studies (24.56 miles of stream):

- Johnson Creek with Possum Trot Branch (3.52 miles with 42 bridges)
- Dry Creek North with four Tributaries (4 miles with 15 bridges)
- Harris Branch with four Tributaries (17.04 miles with 21 bridges)

Fully Urbanized 25-yr delineations (7.52 miles of stream):

- Johnson Creek Watershed (3.52 miles)
- Dry Creek North Watershed (4 miles)

Fully Urbanized 25-yr and 100-yr delineations (17.04 miles of stream):

- Harris Branch Watershed (17.04 miles)

Approval of the proposed amendment for Mapping Activity Nos. 2 and 3 will support the City of Austin's goal of protecting lives and property from flood hazard risk by having the underlying technical studies and maps to avoid construction in flood-hazard areas and to plan development appropriately. The development of DFIRMs will allow citizens, developers, city administrators and other government agencies quick access to floodplain information. All proposed work under the two Mapping Activity is scheduled to be completed by October 2005.

CIP BUDGET FISCAL NOTE

DATE OF COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:

30-Sep-04

WHERE ON AGENDA:

DEPARTMENT:

Watershed Protection & Development Review

Description: Approve execution of Mapping Activity Statement Nos. 2 and 3 to the Federal Emergency Management Agency Cooperating Technical Community Memorandum of Agreement of May 23, 2000 with the FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY EMCON, INC., for the production of floodplain data and digital floodplain maps for several watersheds located in the City of Austin for an amount not-to-exceed \$385,500 for Mapping Activity Statement No. 2 and for an amount not-to-exceed \$317,000 for Mapping Activity Statement No. 3 for a total Agreement amount not to exceed \$702,500.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

	FLOODPLAIN STUDIES/DIGITAL MAP
Project Name:	
Project Authorization:	2003-2004 Amended Capital Budget
Funding Source:	Drainage Utility Fund
Fund/Agency/Orgn:	4850-617-2009

Total Current Appropriation	\$710,000.00
Unencumbered Balance	\$710,000.00
Amount of this Action	<u>(\$702,500.00)</u>
Remaining Balance	<u><u>\$7,500.00</u></u>

Financial Approval: _____ Date: _____