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Thursday, September 28, 2006

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Austin Water Utility
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

ITEM No. 7

Subject: Approve negotiation and execution of Interlocal Agreement for Pretreatment Services with Northtown Municipal Utility District to assist in performing pretreatment inspections, sampling, lab analyses, permitting, and enforcement support.

Amount and Source of Funding: The Northtown Municipal Utility District will pay the City for services rendered for time and materials plus overhead.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is not required.

Additional Backup Material

(click to open)

□ Northtown MUD

For More Information: John W. McCulloch, 972-1060; Antonio Canales, 972-1060; Denise Avery, 972-0104

Boards and Commission Action:Recommended by the Water and Wastewater Commission.

The City of Austin is required by federal law to control discharges of industrial waste entering into its wastewater collection system and publicly owned treatment works. The City's program for pretreatment and monitoring of industrial waste is approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the implementation of this approved program is a condition of Austin's Texas Pollution Discharge Elimination System permits for its wastewater treatment plants. Part of this pretreatment program includes the establishment of appropriate controls in interjurisdictional contexts, where there are discharges of industrial waste to Austin's wastewater treatment works. In interjurisdictional contexts where Austin's ordinances do not apply to retail customers of another entity such as the Northtown Municipal Utility District, EPA and TCEQ allow this authority to be established by contract rather than by direct assertion of ordinance authority.

Northtown Municipal Utility District has been a wholesale water and wastewater customer of the City since the 1980's but their customer base has only been residential until recently. Development of the customer base within the District will be expanding into non-residential areas in the near future. Some of these customers are dischargers of industrial waste (e.g., restaurants, schools, etc.) and because the Northtown Municipal Utility District lacks the trained personnel necessary to implement a viable pretreatment and monitoring program, they have requested the City of Austin to conduct this for them through this interlocal agreement.

Under the proposed Interlocal Agreement, the Northtown Municipal Utility District agrees to adopt and implement industrial waste regulations no less stringent than those of the City of Austin. Austin Water Utility personnel would assist the Northtown Municipal Utility District in performing industrial waste services such as issuance of notices of violations, compliance notices, compliance orders, etc. for the Northtown Municipal Utility District. City personnel would not prosecute or take legal action on behalf of the Northtown Municipal Utility District but could appear as witnesses if needed in enforcement actions brought by the Northtown Municipal Utility District to enforce its pretreatment regulations.

The City would be paid for its services on a time and materials basis plus a factor for overhead as determined annually by the City.

