

Thursday, October 05, 2006

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Austin Water Utility RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

ITEM No. 3

Subject: Authorize the negotiation and execution of agreement between the City of Austin ("City") and the University of Texas at Austin ("UT") concerning the conveyance of City water mains and appurtenances in the UT eastern campus area generally bordered by IH-35, Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, Dean Keeton Street, and San Jacinto Boulevard.

Amount and Source of Funding: UT is responsible for the cost of constructing any necessary infrastructure to effectuate the agreement.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is not required.

Additional Backup Material

(click to open)

D UT E. CAMP

For More Information: Bart Jennings, 972-0118; Denise Avery, 972-0104

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

UT is one of the largest retail customers of water usage in the City. As the UT campus has grown over the years, the City's water mains have become increasingly entwined with UT's water mains in certain areas of the UT campus. The City measures water service to the UT campus through approximately 150 water meters. City water lines are also located within streets previously vacated by the City to UT. This complexity has resulted in increased operating and maintenance costs for the City and difficulties in coordination of repairs with UT.

The City wishes to reduce its inventory of water meters serving UT and to transfer to UT certain existing water mains within the eastern side of the UT campus generally bordered by IH 35, Martin Luther King Blvd., Dean Keeton St., and San Jacinto Blvd. UT wishes to increase its control over the construction and relocation of water infrastructure within its campus.

The City and UT have identified a portion of UT's eastern campus where existing water mains allow for an isolated looped system for the City's and UT's benefit. This loop can be served by four master meters, and will allow the elimination of eighteen City water meters. Under the terms of this agreement, the City will convey certain water mains to UT. UT will pay the City \$82,212.00 for the value of the City's assets, and will assume the ownership, operation, and maintenance of the infrastructure. UT will design and construct four master meters and vaults to measure the City's water service. UT will convey those master meters and vaults to the City, and the City will convey the existing water meters inside the looped system to UT. The City will provide a 3 year limited warranty for the older conveyed water main running the length of Robert Dedman. Under the limited warranty period, the City will provide repair services for the Robert Dedman water main at the City's cost.

The City benefits from this agreement through decreased cost for meter and pipeline operations and maintenance, reduced costs for meter reading, and the simplification of the City's water system. The City's financial analysis indicates the agreement would result in a positive net present value for the City.

