

AGENDA



Thursday, June 24, 2010

**Watershed Protection Department
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 74**

Subject: Authorize negotiation and execution of a one year Interlocal Agreement beginning on September 1, 2010 between the City of Austin and THE LOWER COLORADO RIVER AUTHORITY, Austin, Texas, for water pollutant analyses services with five 12-month extensions for \$270,000 for the first year and \$270,000 per extension for a total amount not to exceed \$1,620,000.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$22,500 is available in the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Operating Budget of the Watershed Protection Department. Funding for the remaining 9 months of the original contract period and extension options is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

Fiscal Note: A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: Chris Herrington, 974-2840, Edward Peacock, 974-2224

This contract is to provide water testing services on an as needed basis for pollutants and toxic substances in environmental samples taken by the City including natural surface water and groundwater, drinking water, wastewater, and wastewater sludges.

The City has water quality monitoring requirements under state law, under Council directives, under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Plan for Barton Springs Pool, and under a Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) permit, to determine actions protective of the environment and the citizens of the City of Austin. The three (3) primary water quality sampling programs include:

- a) baseflow monitoring program of surface waters (creeks and lakes),
- b) groundwater monitoring program (springs)
- c) stormwater runoff monitoring during rainfall events for data used to develop and support City code, evaluate Best Management Practices (BMP) performance, and to meet state and federal permit requirements.

In addition, sampling is required by future unanticipated spills, releases or other events that may impact the environment, to obtain data that may be used for determination of enforcement actions.

Ongoing sampling programs have quality assurance/quality control requirements which may vary depending on whether the data is submitted to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for use in statewide water quality assessments or to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for support of endangered species conservation programs.

Regulatory guidance and method improvements have increased the requirements for laboratory performance measures, and the scope of capabilities required by the City has expanded. Contract laboratory services are thus required to meet quality assurance objectives and to obtain timely analysis results.