

## AGENDA



Thursday, December 16, 2010

**Purchasing Office  
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 61**

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**Subject:** Authorize award, negotiation, and execution of a 36-month professional services contract with WINSBOROUGH CONSULTANTS, Leander, Texas, for diatom identification and analysis services for the Watershed Protection Department in an estimated amount not to exceed \$75,000, with two 12-month extension options in an estimated amount not to exceed \$25,000 per extension option, for a total estimated contract amount not to exceed \$125,000.

**Amount and Source of Funding:** Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Operating Budget of the Watershed Protection Department. Funding for the remaining 24 months of the original contract period and extension options is contingent upon available funding in future budgets.

**Fiscal Note:** There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

**For More Information:** Steve Cocke, Buyer II, 974-2003.

**MBE/WBE:** This Professional Services contract is exempt from the MBE/WBE Ordinance. This exemption is in compliance with Chapter 2-9C of the City Code (Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program). No subcontracting opportunities were identified; therefore, no goals were established for this contract.

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This professional services contract will provide information about the health of Austin area streams, using the identification and analysis of diatoms, a primary component of attached algae in flowing streams. Diatoms' short life cycles and quick response to environmental changes and range of tolerances are useful in characterizing stream health. Diatom samples are collected from Austin area streams, and processed, identified and analyzed by a qualified taxonomist. The resulting data is used in the aquatic life sub-index of the City's Environmental Integrity Index.

Dr. Barbara Winsborough is the only known diatomist in the area that has the expertise and knowledge of local species to perform these specialized services.