



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

**AGENDA ITEM NO.: 2
AGENDA DATE: Thu 03/03/2005
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SUBJECT: Authorize negotiation and execution of an agreement with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Mobile Source Outreach Assistance grant funding in the amount of \$60,300 for a "Drive Clean, Park Free" project.

AMOUNT & SOURCE OF FUNDING: Funding is available from EPA Mobile Source Outreach Assistance Funding administered by TCEQ. Funding in the amount of \$40,200 in local matching funds for the grant year is available in the 2004-2005 Operating Budgets of the following Departments: \$20,200 from Austin Energy, \$20,000 from Public Works Department.

FISCAL NOTE: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

**REQUESTING Austin Energy
DEPARTMENT:**

**DIRECTOR'S
AUTHORIZATION: Juan Garza**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Ester Matthews, Local Government Issues, 322-6041

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION: N/A

BOARD AND COMMISSION ACTION: N/A

PURCHASING: N/A

MBE / WBE: N/A

Austin Energy is requesting authorization to accept a grant from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The grant will provide financial assistance in the amount of \$60,300 to establish a "Drive Clean, Park Free" program. This project encourages smart transportation choices by rewarding consumers who purchase and drive "green" vehicles. When purchasing a vehicle with a favorable EPA ranking, an individual may register to be a Drive Clean, Park Free participant and receive \$100 worth of free parking in the form of a pre-paid parking meter card. The owners of the green vehicles can then park at no cost at any of the 3,700 City-owned meters in Austin. The project is designed to help shift the balance of downtown traffic from high to low-emission vehicles, reducing air quality impacts from mobile sources.

Vehicles with a favorable ranking on the EPA's Green Vehicle Guide will be eligible for the program. Owners of qualified vehicles may submit a program application after purchasing the vehicle to the City of Austin/Austin Energy Air Quality program. The owners will then receive \$100 worth of free street parking and a bumper sticker identifying their car as a greener vehicle. At the end of the first program year, the City will produce a how-to guide for other communities interested in implementing a similar program.

The total estimated project cost is \$100,500. EPA funds administered by TCEQ will provide up to \$60,300 and the City of Austin will provide the required matching funds of up to \$40,200 in-kind support, including staff time and foregone parking meter revenue.