

## AGENDA



Thursday, April 8, 2010

**Purchasing Office  
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 17**

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**Subject:** Authorize award, negotiation, and execution of nine 24-month contracts with A-PLUS ENERGY MANAGEMENT & A/C, Austin, TX; AMERICAN CONSERVATION & AIR, Austin, TX; APPLE ENERGY GROUP, LLC, Austin, TX; ATS ENGINEERING & INSPECTORS, Austin, TX; CITY CONSERVATION, Austin, TX; MCCULLOUGH HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING, INC., Austin, TX; STANDARD RENEWABLE ENERGY, Austin, TX; THE INSTITUTE FOR BUILDING TECHNOLOGY AND SAFETY, Herndon, VA; and THE NELROD COMPANY, Fort Worth, TX for weatherization test in audit services in a combined amount not to exceed \$450,000.

**Amount and Source of Funding:** Funding is available from the Department of Energy (DOE) through the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 for the grant period of October 1, 2009 to August 31, 2011. No match is required.

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

**For More Information:** Shawn Harris, Supervising Sr. Buyer/505-7351

**Purchasing Language:** Best nine qualification statements of 20 received.

**MBE/WBE:** This contract will be awarded 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 solicitation.

**Boards and Commission Action:** Recommended by the Electric Utility Commission and the Resource Management Commission.

**Prior Council Action:** November 19, 2009 – Approved acceptance of \$2,900,000 grant from DOE amending the budget and approved related Interlocal Agreement with Travis County

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This contract is for the purchase of home energy performance audits for 500 homes annually for two years. The audit determines the appropriate building tightness levels, carbon monoxide levels, comprehensive air infiltration levels and ensures that all approved weatherization measures/improvements identified by the National Energy Audit (NEAT) and the Manufactured Home Energy Audit (MHEA) systems are detailed and documented as prescribed within the solicitation.

The “Test-In” energy audit assessment performed on each home pre-determines the energy efficient measures that can be performed and are cost-effective by ensuring that the discounted savings-to-investment ratio (SIR) is greater than or equal to one. The energy audit assessment will establish the priority of weatherization measures necessary to increase the energy efficiency level of a particular home.

This federal grant is for \$5,800,000 for the 24 month grant period. On November 19, 2009, Council approved the acceptance of \$2,900,000 of grant funds for the 2009-2010 fiscal year from the Department of Energy (DOE) through the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to weatherize homes for low income, elderly,

and disabled customers within Austin Energy's service area. Austin Energy will bring to Council a request for the acceptance of the \$2,900,000 for the second year of grant funding for the 2010-2011 budget. Council also approved an Interlocal Agreement between the City of Austin/Austin Energy and Travis County allowing the sharing of expertise and resources including those provided by these contractors.

This Federal Weatherization Assistance Program complements Austin Energy's existing Free Home Energy Improvement program which is on-going. The goals of both programs are to increase the energy efficiency of the home, increase the comfort level of the homes inhabitants, reduce energy consumption, lower utility bills, and improve the health and safety of residents.

A team of Austin Energy and Travis County employees with expertise in weatherization and testing scored the qualifications based on staff experience, number of assessments performed, testing experience and training, certifications and licenses. The team unanimously chose the top nine from those submitted as the best qualified firms.

MBE/WBE solicited: 34/8            MBE/WBE bid: 0/1

#### PRICE ANALYSIS

- a. Adequate competition.
- b. Five hundred and twenty-five notices were sent, including thirty-four MBEs and eight WBEs. Twenty Qualification Statements were received, including one WBE and no response from the MBEs.

#### APPROVAL JUSTIFICATION

- a. Best evaluated qualification statements received.
- b. The Purchasing Office concurs with Austin Energy's recommended award.
- c. Advertised in the Austin American-Statesman and on the Internet.