

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	11742	Agenda Number	60.
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Meeting Date:	1/12/2012	Department:	Watershed Protection
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Subject

Authorize negotiation and execution of a 12-month Interlocal Agreement between the City of Austin and TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY AT SAN MARCOS for a study on the effects of wastewater treatment effluent on freshwater mussels in a central Texas stream, with three 12-month extension options, for \$20,000 for the first year and \$20,000 per extension, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$80,000.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding in the amount of \$13,334 is available in the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Operating Budget of the Watershed Protection Department. Funding for the remaining four 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.

Purchasing Language:	
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Prior Council Action:	
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For More Information:	Mike Personett, 974-2652, Ed Peacock, 974-2224, Mateo Scoggins, 974-1917
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Boards and Commission Action:	
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MBE / WBE:	
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Related Items:	
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Additional Backup Information

There are a minimum of six resident and potentially endangered freshwater mussels in the Blackland Prairie streams of Eastern Travis County and downstream from these tributaries in the Colorado River below Austin. This area is strongly influenced by the water quality of urban runoff and wastewater treatment plant discharges into the Colorado River and its tributaries. The tributaries of Eastern Travis County are the only known regional area that currently provides a relatively stable habitat for the freshwater mussels; however, the habitat is located in the "desired development zone" under the City of Austin Land Development Code. As a consequence of increasing development pressure in this area, it is critical that we understand the dominant threats to water quality in this area, the best indicators of stream health, and the best ways to mitigate urban runoff and wastewater discharges to protect our water resources as Austin grows. Texas State University will provide the City with information on wastewater stressors affecting our resident mussel population that will further our understanding of how to protect the area's streams through regulatory policies and best management practices.