

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council		Item ID	39012	Agenda Number	44.
Meeting Date:	2/12/2015		Department:	Watershed Protection	
Subject					
Approve negotiation and execution of a one year interlocal agreement with Austin Independent School District in an amount not to exceed \$15,000 for cave excavation and improvements on the Bowie High School grounds.					
Amount and Source of Funding					
Funding in the amount of \$15,000 is available in Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Capital Budget of the Watershed Protection Department.					
Fiscal Note					
A fiscal note is attached.					
Purchasing Language:					
Prior Council Action:	April 11, 2103 - Council approved negotiation and execution of the previous agreement.				
For More Information:	Sara Heilman, 512-974-3540; Nico Hauwert, 512-974-2148; Jessica Wilson, 512-974-2446				
Boards and Commission Action:					
MBE / WBE:					
Related Items:					

Additional Backup Information

The interlocal agreement will authorize the City of Austin to work with Austin Independent School District (AISD) to provide safe access to the Bowie High School Cave located on AISD grounds for educational purposes. A previous interlocal agreement was executed but the work was not completed due to conditions discovered during excavation that required additional work, so a new agreement is needed to complete the project. The City of Austin uses caves as an educational resource to teach topics such as geology, groundwater, cave formation and environmental stewardship. To accomplish this goal they must first make the caves accessible and safe for taking students on guided tours.

Fourteen potential caves were evaluated and ranked by the Watershed Protection Department's geologist and education staff and the Bowie High School Cave was determined to be the top priority for educational cave restoration for high school students. Once restored this cave will be used as part of the City of Austin Hydrofiles program to educate high school aquatic science and environmental science classes.

To maintain compliance with the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) stormwater permit issued by TCEQ, Texas municipalities must implement a comprehensive Storm Water Management Program (SWMP) that includes pollution prevention measures. The Hydrofiles program is one component of the public education requirements contained in the City's SWMP. Watershed Protection's Youth Education program provides school outreach, field trips, curriculum and service learning opportunities to encourage informed decision-making about choices that impact the water quality of Austin's creeks, lakes and aquifers.