

A G E N D A



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	48584	Agenda Number	18.
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Meeting Date:	8/20/2015	Department:	Legal
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Subject

Approve a settlement agreement in Public Utility Commission of Texas Docket No. 44010, Petition by the Ratepayers of the former River Place water and wastewater systems appealing the retail water and wastewater rates of the City of Austin. Related to Item # 4.

Amount and Source of Funding

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Austin Water Operating Budget.

Fiscal Note

Purchasing Language:	
Prior Council Action:	
For More Information:	Maria Sanchez, Assistant City Attorney; 512-974-1354
Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:	
MBE / WBE:	
Related Items:	

Additional Backup Information

On December 22, 2014, River Place ratepayers filed an appeal with the Public Utility Commission claiming: (1) that the City's water and wastewater rates were unjust and unreasonable, and (2) that the City's rates place an unreasonable economic hardship on the River Place ratepayers because no new facilities were providing water and wastewater service to them and the water and wastewater infrastructure is not connected to the City's system. The City's position concerning the appeal is that (1) the water and wastewater rates charged are just and reasonable as evidenced by City's cost of service study, (2) the water and wastewater infrastructure serving the River Place ratepayers, although not physically interconnected, is part of the City's regional utility system, and (3) River Place ratepayers provided an insufficient number of signatures for a valid appeal.

After a series of offers and counteroffers, the parties have reached a tentative settlement agreement, subject to the approval of council. This settlement will resolve the pending appeal.