

**AGENDA**



**Recommendation for Council Action (Purchasing)**

Austin City Council	Item ID:	48112	Agenda Number	45.
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Meeting Date:	August 20, 2015
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Department:	Purchasing
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**Subject**

Authorize negotiation and execution of a 36-month interlocal agreement with the LOWER COLORADO RIVER AUTHORITY to provide data hosting services and equipment for the Watershed Protection Department in an amount not to exceed \$705,000, with three 12-month extension options in an amount not to exceed \$141,000 per extension option, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$1,128,000.

**Amount and Source of Funding**

Funding in the amount of \$85,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Operating Budget and \$340,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Capital Improvement Project Budget of the Watershed Protection Department. Funding for the remaining 24-months of the initial contract period and extension options is contingent upon funding in future budgets.

**Fiscal Note**

A fiscal note is attached.

Purchasing Language:	Interlocal Agreement
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Prior Council Action:	
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For More Information:	Jonathan Harris, Senior Buyer Specialist, 512 974-1771
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Boards and Commission Action:	
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Related Items:	
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MBE / WBE:	This contract is exempt from City Code Chapter 2-9C Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program.
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**Additional Backup Information**

The City Flood Early Warning System (FEWS) provides flood warning services to the public and the Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. FEWS prepares flood warnings based on rainfall and stream level information gathered from instrumentation throughout the region that communicates using radio transmissions.

In November 2014, Council authorized the first step in changing the FEWS's radio transmission process to Lower Colorado River Authority's (LCRA) radio system. The next step in this process is this current request for Council authorization to enter into an agreement with the LCRA for services that include archival storage and retrieval of FEWS gauge data and implementation and support of a public-facing web portal for publication of FEWS data. Because its core business is management of regional reservoirs and waterways, LCRA has the radio tower infrastructure, data network infrastructure, staff, and expertise to assist FEWS with collection, archiving, retrieval, and presentation of instrumentation data for flood warning purposes.

This new level of cooperation in regional waterway and flood management will create more timely and effective communication to the public regarding flood warning. In addition, it will provide instrumentation data to the public in an easy to use Web site.

This requested authorization includes an additional 15% in contingency funding. Contingency funds are requested in the event services identified as 'optional' in the Statement of Work are deemed desirable or necessary by the City once the data hosting service is up and running. Additional services under consideration are 1) loading of historical City of Austin watershed data for enhanced trending/prediction capabilities, 2) functional and feature enhancements to the web site, 3) purchase of an additional data server and license for City of Austin. Contingency funds are also needed in the event additional staffing and resources are required from LCRA during a flood emergency. The need to approve this item is urgent because the Watershed Protection Department has Operating Funds available in the current fiscal year for this project.