



Recommendation for Action

File #: 19-2097, **Agenda Item #:** 5.

6/20/2019

Posting Language

Authorize the negotiation and execution of an agreement with the Colorado River Alliance to support the Texas Colorado River Mobile Learning Experience in an amount not to exceed \$20,000 in cash and \$20,000 in in-kind contributions.

Lead Department

Austin Water

Fiscal Note

Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 Operating Budget of Austin Water.

For More Information:

Inquiries should be directed to the City Manager's Agenda Office, at 512-974-2991 or AgendaOffice@austintexas.gov.

Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:

June 12, 2019 - to be reviewed by the Water and Wastewater Commission.

Additional Backup Information:

The Colorado River Alliance ("Alliance") has been administering the Texas Colorado River Mobile Learning Experience ("Mobile Learning Experience") program since the 2014-2015 school year. This program operates out of a mobile trailer that functions as a traveling, interactive science classroom, utilizing hands-on activities and interactive exhibits to teach students vital environmental science concepts such as water conservation and natural resource protection. AISD middle school students are taught the importance of water conservation to lay the foundation for a life of water conservation awareness and behaviors. The educational materials and exhibits were developed through Texas Essential Knowledge Skills ("TEKS") aligned curriculum.

In January 2015, Austin Water entered into a five-year agreement with the Alliance to provide a storage site for the trailer and to transport it to schools, utilizing Austin Water crews and an Austin Water truck.

Through the proposed agreement, Austin Water will continue to provide trailer storage and transport through December 31, 2019. In addition, Austin Water intends to assist the Alliance in meeting its goals for the Mobile Learning Experience by providing a total of \$20,000 in cash financial support. This cash support will be used to offset costs for trailer repairs and exhibit upgrades.

Total Middle School Students Reached by the Mobile River Program

- School Year 2014-2015: 906 (pilot year)
- School Year 2015-2016: 4,977 Austin + 224 outside of Austin
- School Year 2016-2017: 4,029 Austin + 955 outside of Austin
- School Year 2017-2018: 3,990 Austin + 849 outside of Austin
- School Year 2018-2019: 4,000 (estimated)

An additional 3,000 to 5,000 people of all ages also engage in the mobile river program each year, through various community events held in Austin and communities up and down the Colorado River basin.