



## Recommendation for Action

**File #:** 21-3414, **Agenda Item #:** 46.

12/2/2021

### Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement with the Lower Colorado River Authority to provide data and web hosting services for the Watershed Protection Department for a five-year term in an amount not to exceed \$700,000, with five 12-month extension options in an amount not to exceed \$140,000 per extension option, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$1,400,000.

### Lead Department

Watershed Protection Department.

### Fiscal Note

Funding in the amount of \$150,000 is available in the Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget. Funding for the remaining 24-months of the initial contract period and extension options is contingent upon funding in future budgets.

### For More Information:

Karl McArthur, 512-974-9126.

### Additional Backup Information:

The City's 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 Austin area. This instrumentation communicates through radio transmissions.

In November 2014, Council authorized the first step in the process to transition the FEWS's radio transmission process to the Lower Colorado River Authority's (LCRA) radio system. This was followed by Council authorization in August 2015 to enter into an interlocal 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, the LCRA has the radio tower infrastructure, data network infrastructure, staff, and expertise to assist FEWS with collection, archival, retrieval, and presentation of instrumentation data for flood warning purposes.

This new level of cooperation in regional waterway and flood management has resulted in more timely and effective communication to the public regarding flood warning. In addition, it has provided instrumentation data to the public in an easy-to-use website.

The final optional extension of the initial interlocal agreement expires in November of 2021. The interlocal agreement associated with this request for Council action will simply provide for an extension of the communication and data services provided by the LCRA as part of the initial agreement.

This requested authorization includes an additional 15% in contingency funding. Contingency funds are requested in the event services identified as "optional services" in the Service Level Agreement are deemed desirable or necessary by the City. Optional services that may be needed include 1) incorporation of additional

gauges to the communication network, 2) potential Google Maps API charges related to high amounts of website traffic, and 3) LCRA staff support during non-business or extended hours.

**Strategic Outcome(s):**

Safety.