



**Customer Driven.
Community Focused.SM**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Austin Energy Utility Oversight Committee Members

FROM: Bob Kahn, Austin Energy General Manager *BK*

DATE: **October 12, 2023**

SUBJECT: Staff Response to Resolution 20221208-066 regarding Greater Austin Regional Science and Engineering Fair

This memo serves as a response to [Resolution No. 20221208-066](#), which:

- 1) Declared the Greater Austin Regional Science and Engineering Fair (GARSEF) to be a City co-sponsored event, starting in FY 24;
- 2) Included the GARSEF in the list of City co-sponsored events for which fees are waived annually beginning with the FY 24 budget; and
- 3) Directed Austin Energy (AE) to provide updates to the Austin Energy Utility Oversight Committee in a review of all AE sponsorships to consider the merits of continuing to sponsor the festival beyond 2023 as part of its mission to be “Customer Driven. Community Focused.”

At the May 16, 2023, Austin Energy Utility Oversight Committee meeting, Stuart Reilly, then acting General Manager for Austin Energy, presented an overview of the 2023 Austin Energy Regional Science Festival. Reilly announced the transition of the owner and manager role of the science festival from Austin Energy to the Austin Science Fest Education Foundation (ASEF). Austin Energy will continue to support the event as a financial sponsor but will no longer be the title sponsor. Going forward, the festival will be known as the Greater Austin Regional Science and Engineering Fair (GARSEF). For FY 2024, Austin Energy budgeted \$120,000 in sponsorship funding to support the transition of the owner and manager role from Austin Energy to ASEF.

Additionally, the Festival was listed as a City co-sponsored event in this year’s budget, and Financial Services Department staff will continue to include it in future budgets.

Each year, Austin Energy allocates sponsorship funding to STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) focused programs and organizations, organizations that encourage civic engagement, and professional organizations associated with the energy industry. By sponsoring these programs and organizations in this area, Austin Energy is making an essential investment in our future workforce, making a positive difference in our community, and embodying our commitment to equity and inclusion. While sponsorship opportunities vary by year, examples of Austin Energy’s past sponsorships include outreach events for the Greater Austin, Hispanic, and Asian Chambers of Commerce, Juneteenth Parade and Festival, Trail of Lights, Family Eldercare Summer Fan Drive, Seedling

Foundation, University of Texas Energy Week, and Capital Area Boy Scouts STEM Program. Austin Energy's approved budget for FY 2024 sponsorships is \$414,000.

Please contact Tammy Cooper, Deputy General Manager of Regulatory, Communications, Compliance & Legal Services, at Tammy.Cooper@AustinEnergy.com or 512.505.3901, if you have any questions.

xc: Jesús Garza, Interim City Manager
Robert Goode, Interim Assistant City Manager
Ed Van Eenoo, Chief Financial Officer