



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: October 9, 2012

Prepared By: Melinda Mallia **Phone #:** 854-4460

Division Director/Manager: Jon White, TNR-NREQ

Department Head:  Steven M. Manilla, P.E., County Executive-TNR

Sponsoring Court Member: Commissioner Huber, Precinct Three

Commissioner Eckhardt, Precinct Two

AGENDA LANGUAGE: Consider and take appropriate action on a request from the City of Austin to share costs to hire a consultant for preparation of a regional Community Wildfire Protection Plan in coordination with the Joint Wildfire Task Force.

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

The City of Austin requests Travis County's participation and co/sponsorship in hiring a consultant to develop a regional Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). The Consultant will be responsible for updating parcel data, conducting a county-wide risk assessment, and identifying best management practices for mitigating wildfire in Central Texas ecosystems. The CWPP will be a multijurisdictional plan that provides data needed by local neighborhoods, cities, and emergency service districts in Travis County for preparing local CWPPs, scaled to the community or neighborhood level.

The regional CWPP is recommended by the Joint Wildfire Task Force (JWTF) as an important means of reducing risks, loss of life and loss of property from wildfire. The JWTF is a county-wide group of local, state and federal stakeholders formed after the Labor Day Fires of 2011 to address community needs for wildfire prevention, suppression, mitigation and recovery in the Austin/Travis County area.

Members of the JWTF will serve as a resource and review panel for the CWPP, including the following jurisdictions:

City of Austin (COA)

- Austin Fire Department (AFD)
- Homeland Security and Emergency Services (HSEM)
- Watershed Protection

Travis County

- Emergency Services (ES)
- Transportation and Natural Resources (TNR)

Emergency Service Districts

City of Lakeway

Texas Forest Service
US Fish and Wildlife Service

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

TNR recommends approval of a county commitment to fund 50% of the CWPP cost, with a maximum county share of \$100,000.

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:

A JWTF subcommittee developed a Request for Proposals (RFP) and distributed the draft document to members of the Prevention/Mitigation Committee for review and comment. The city is prepared to issue the final RFP soon after an affirmative vote is made by the Commissioner's Court approving a cost share. An Interlocal Agreement with the City will be drafted and brought to the Commissioners' Court for approval at a future date.

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

The total cost for the plan is estimated to be \$150,000 to \$200,000. The City of Austin has approved \$100,000 for the CWPP from the Austin Fire Department and Wildlands Conservation Division budgets.

TNR and ES propose funding the county's \$100,000 match from the following sources:

\$30,000	EMS Department	funds reservation #300000314
\$43,550	TNR Environmental Quality	funds reservation #300000326
\$26,450	TNR BCP	funds reservation #300000326

The \$43,550 from TNR Environmental Quality is FY 2012 savings from the floodplain buyout software project. This donated software from Harris County is being modified/programmed in-house rather than by a software contractor.

ATTACHMENTS/EXHIBITS:

NA

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:

Cynthia McDonald	Financial Manager	TNR	854-4239
Steve Manilla	County Executive	TNR	854-9429
Danny Hobby	Executive Manager	Emergency Svcs	854-9367
Jon White	Division Director, NREQ	TNR	854-7212

CC:

Diana Ramirez	Budget Analyst	TNR	854-9694
Thomas Weber	EQ Program Manager	TNR	854-4629
Rose Farmer	NR Program Manager	TNR	854-7214
Pete Baldwin	EM Coordinator	Emergency Svcs	974-0472

: :
0801 - NREQ - 0811