

Legislation Text

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Consider recommendation from the Research & Technology Committee to approve a joint funding agreement with the United States Geological Survey for data collection services, in an amount not to exceed \$483,105.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Move the board adopt Resolution and Order No. 09-16-852 of the Edwards Aquifer Authority Board of Directors approving Joint Funding Agreement No. 16-813-AM between the EAA and the United States Geological Survey for data collection services in the total amount of \$483,105, of which the EAA contribution will not exceed \$333,990, for the period October 1, 2016, through September 30, 2017.

SUMMARY:

The purpose of this agenda item is for the board to consider a Research & Technology Committee recommendation to approve the annual hydrologic data collection agreement between the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the EAA. The EAA and its predecessor agency (the EUWD) have cooperated with the USGS to jointly fund hydrologic data collection projects for over 40 years.

Since the proposed Joint Funding Agreement (JFA) formalizes a cooperative working arrangement between two public agencies, the EAA and the USGS, the project was not required to go through a competitive procurement process. Because the total expenditure is greater than \$100,000, a board resolution and order is required. Attached to this summary is a draft resolution and order and the proposed JFA, both of which have been reviewed by legal counsel. A description of each JFA task is presented below.

Task 1. Surface Water Gauging.

Surface water flow data are collected for nine major basins that cross the recharge zone of the Southern (San Antonio) segment of the Balcones Fault Zone of the Edwards Aquifer. The data are used for estimating annual recharge to, and spring discharge from the aquifer. Under this JFA, the USGS will operate and maintain:

- Fourteen full-range stream gauges (routine equipment)
- Six discharge below base stations
- Two springflow separation stations:
- Two periodic measurement stations; and
- Six National Stream Information Program (NSIP) stream gauges.

A listing of specific gauges is included in the JFA. Deliverables for Task 1 are: daily spring discharge

data on the internet; quarterly reports; data tables for 2016 to be delivered by January 31, 2017; and data published in the USGS National Water Information System (NWIS Web) in near real-time.

Task 2. Conduct Edwards Aquifer Recharge Calculations and Springflow Discharge Calculations.

The annual estimates of groundwater recharge and springflow discharge from the Edwards Aquifer will be calculated using the Puente method (USGS WRI-7810). Annual recharge estimates are based on data collected from a network of stream flow and rainfall gauging stations for the nine drainage basins that comprise the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone. The deliverable for Task 2 is a table of estimated groundwater recharge and springflow from the Edwards Aquifer to be provided by April 1, 2017.

The total value of the JFA is \$483,105, of which the EAA contribution will not exceed \$333,990. The overall total cost of this JFA has decreased by \$14,725, from 2015-16. This decrease is related to the fact that the 2015-16 JFA included one-time costs associated with the installation of new gauges.

At the August 23 meeting, the Research & Technology Committee voted to recommend the board adopt a resolution and order of the Edwards Aquifer Authority Board of Directors approving Joint Funding Agreement No. 16-813-AM between the EAA and the United States Geological Survey for data collection services in the total amount of \$483,105, of which the EAA contribution will not exceed \$333,990, for the period October 1, 2016, through September 30, 2017.

M/WBE PARTICIPATION:

The United States Geological Survey is a federal agency, and as such, is not an M/WBE business.

STRATEGIC PLAN REFERENCE:

This agenda item does not relate to a specific goal within the Strategic Plan, but supports the general EAA mission.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The total EAA cost associated with this JFA is \$333,990. Because this JFA spans two EAA fiscal years, funding for the first three months of the JFA (\$83,497.50) is available in the 2016 operating budget. Funding for the remaining nine months of the JFA (\$250,492.50) will be included in the 2017 operating budget.