



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:13-750

Agenda Item Number: 19.

Agenda Date: 10/17/2013

In Control: City Council A Session

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Anthony Chukwudolue

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Interlocal Agreement with SARA for the installation of rain gauges.

SUMMARY:

This Ordinance authorizes the execution of an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) with the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) to grant SARA access to City property and/or rights-of-way for the installation of rain gauges to be used in monitoring rainfall conditions and forecasting flood events. In addition, this Ordinance also establishes terms and conditions for approving proposed rain gauge sites

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

SARA currently utilizes a hydrologic and hydrodynamic modeling application (FloodWorks) to provide real-time rainfall conditions and forecasted flood simulations designed to improve emergency response and flood warning systems. This system leverages previous modeling data derived from the Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRM) and allows users to visually identify areas or potential areas of flooding during a storm event to include inundation area, depth, and flow.

On August 2, 2012, through Ordinance 2012-08-02-0562, City Council authorized a separate ILA between the City's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and SARA which provided a mechanism for sharing the information obtained through the FloodWorks system to improve emergency response and flood warning for an annual fee of \$21,300.00. This agreement will authorize the installation of rain gauges in support of the FloodWorks application and used to collect rainfall and stream level information needed to monitor conditions

and forecast flooding. As each rain gauge site is approved, the site will be added as an exhibit to the agreement. Over the coming years, the agreement will continue to grow in order to incorporate all proposed rain gauge sites.

ISSUE:

This ordinance authorizes the execution of an ILA with SARA to allow access to City property and/or rights-of-way to facilitate the installation of flood monitoring rain gauges, as part of the FloodWorks system, and establishes a process for approving rain gauge sites. This ILA will work in conjunction with the existing agreement between SARA and OEM to improve emergency response and flood warning by improving the flood forecasting. SARA will share the data collected from the gauges and obtained through the FloodWorks system with the Public Works Department, in addition to OEM, upon request. In addition, SARA will reserve space on the rain gauge for possible installations of collocation equipment (i.e. high water detection devices) by the Public Works Department.

ALTERNATIVES:

City Council could choose not to authorize the ILA with SARA. However, this may reduce the City's ability to monitor, forecast and provide advance warning of impending flooding and high water conditions.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval the ILA with the SARA to allow access to City property and/or rights-of-way in order for SARA to install flood monitoring rain gauges to be used to monitor and forecast flood conditions, and establish terms and conditions for approving proposed rain gauge sites.