

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
SAN ANTONIO METROPOLITAN HEALTH DISTRICT
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

TO: Sheryl Sculley, City Manager

FROM: Fernando A. Guerra, MD, MPH, Director of Health

SUBJECT: Public Center for Environmental Health

DATE: March 23, 2006

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This ordinance authorizes the acceptance of changes to a cooperative agreement with the Air Force, providing funding in the amount of \$500,000 for the ongoing Public Center for Environmental Health (PCEH) in the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District for the period beginning October 1, 2005 and ending September 30, 2006. In addition, the ordinance approves the FY 2006 program budget and personnel complement, and authorizes payments for contractual services in connection with the program.

Staff recommends approval.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Through Ordinance No. 94645, passed and approved September 27, 2001, the City entered into a ten (10) year cooperative agreement with the Secretary of the Air Force for the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District to establish and operate the Public Center for Environmental Health (PCEH). The PCEH conducts scientific studies to determine the health impacts from exposures to environmental contamination that may have been experienced by residents near the former Kelly Air Force Base. In addition, PCEH monitors Air Force remediation efforts.

In FY 2006, PCEH will contract (through the RFQ process) with an independent consultant to conduct a study of liver cancer occurring in the Kelly community. This effort has been recommended by the Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) because previous studies indicated a higher liver cancer rate in the Kelly community than in comparable areas. Data for the study will be obtained from the Texas Cancer Registry.

In addition, PCEH will continue water quality monitoring of Leon Creek above and below the former base and continue to collaborate with TDSHS to monitor levels of polychlorinated biphenols (PCBs) in fish from that source. Also, four abandoned water wells that have been located through survey efforts of PCEH will be plugged this year to prevent potential contamination to the Edwards Aquifer and possible consumption by residents.

The grant will continue to support six (6) personnel positions. In addition, funding is included for a consultant physician to review health data and recommend future studies. The grant will also support contract environmental engineering services to monitor Air Force remediation efforts and substantiate results reported.

POLICY ANALYSIS

This ordinance follows the City practice of utilizing Federal, State and other funds to provide public health services for the residents of our community.

FISCAL IMPACT

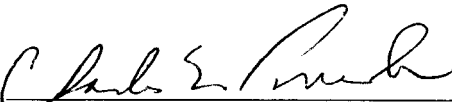
For this fifth year of operation, funding from the Air Force will be \$500,000.00. Subsequent funds for the remaining term of this ten (10) year agreement will be provided through periodic contract amendments and submitted for City Council approval. The amount for each succeeding fiscal year will be adjusted by an amendment to the original agreement. The maximum funding for the ten (10) year cooperative agreement is \$5,000,000.00.

COORDINATION

The City Attorney's Office and the Human Resources Department Risk Management Division have reviewed and approved the agreement with the Department of the Air Force. This item has been coordinated with the Office of Management and Budget, the Finance Department, and the Departments of Environmental Services and External Relations.

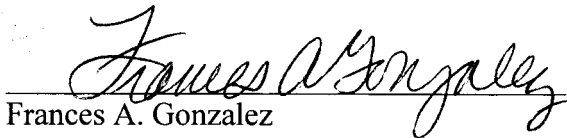
SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS

Provisions of the Ethics Ordinance do not apply.



Fernando A. Guerra, MD, MPH

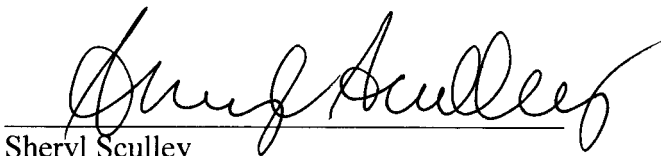
Director of Health, San Antonio Metropolitan Health District



Frances A. Gonzalez

Assistant City Manager

Approved for Council Consideration:



Sheryl Sculley

City Manager