

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: Texas A&M Research Foundation - Leon Creek Fish Tissue Contaminants Study

DATE: June 29, 2006

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This ordinance authorizes the City Manager to execute and authorize payment for a professional services agreement not to exceed \$29,865.00 with Texas A&M Research Foundation on behalf of its Geochemical & Environmental Research Group (GERG). The agreement provides for laboratory analysis of fish tissue samples from the lower Leon Creek for the Public Center for Environmental Health (PCEH). The PCEH, operated by the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD) and funded by the Department of Defense (DoD), is responsible for investigating, assessing and otherwise addressing environmental health concerns related to environmental issues at the former Kelly Air Force Base (KAFB) and surrounding communities. The GERG test period will run July 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006.

Staff recommends approval.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Kelly Air Force Base (AFB), established in 1916, was the first military air base in Texas. After World War II, the usage of thousands of gallons of fuels, oils, solvents and other petroleum products at the base resulted in the release of industrial chemical contaminants. The most common were chlorinated solvents (i.e., PCE, TCE, 1, 2-DCE, and vinyl chloride). In 1988, a City Public Works crew discovered underground jet fuel during a street construction project in the Quintana Road neighborhood. This was the first indication that contamination from Kelly AFB had gone beyond the base boundaries.

In 1999, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) conducted a public health assessment of the former Kelly AFB area, including an analysis of whole fish from lower Leon Creek. ATSDR concluded that exposure to toxins from a whole fish would not adversely affect human health.

In 2000, the United States Air Force (USAF), conducting routine monitoring along Leon Creek, found that whole fish samples contained polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and organochlorine pesticides. A follow-up study in 2002 determined that the consumption of any species of fish taken from lower Leon Creek would pose a possible public health hazard for cancer and adverse systemic health outcomes.

Retesting the lower Leon Creek will require sufficient samples to evaluate species-specific and site-specific issues. The proposed study will include collection of commonly consumed fish from three previously sampled sites, plus continued monitoring of fish tissue PCB contamination. The

proposed study will attempt to collect the same target species from sample sites in the initial study in order to evaluate site-specific species contaminant concentrations.

Fish samples will be collected by a team of San Antonio River Authority, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and PCEH staff members, and then analyzed by GERG. GERG is the only laboratory currently used by the Seafood and Aquatic Life Group of the Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) for assessing risk associated with consumption of fish. The GERG laboratory has a vigorous Quality Assurance Program and experience in fish analytical work. This study will require the collection of forty two (42) fish with emphasis on collecting the target species: largemouth bass, channel catfish, white bass, sunfish, and common carp.

TDSHS recommends completing a limited number of analyses (six) for semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) because the 2002 fish tissue data indicated that most of these compounds were not detected in fish tissue.

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

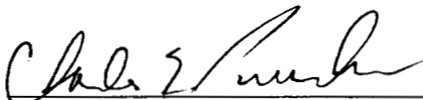
The total cost for this professional service is budgeted not to exceed \$29,865.00.

COORDINATION

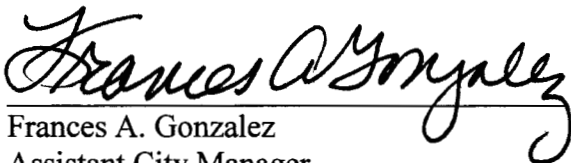
The City Attorney's Office and Human Resources-Risk Management Division, has reviewed and approved the agreement. The SAMHD has coordinated with Finance Department and the Office of Management and Budget.

SUPPLEMENTARY COMMENTS

A Discretionary Contracts Disclosure form is not required for this contract.

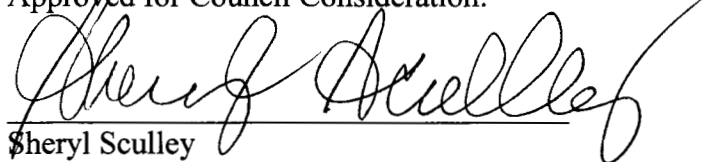


Fernando A. Guerra, MD, MPH
Director of Health



Frances A. Gonzalez
Assistant City Manager

Approved for Council Consideration:



Sheryl Sculley
City Manager