

Office of the City Manager

City of Richland Hills, Texas

Memorandum

To: Honorable Mayor Bill Agan and members of the Richland Hills City Council
From: Eric Strong, City Manager
Date: February 16th, 2016
Subject: TCAP

Council Action Requested:

Approval of Resolution authorizing the City to extend its agreement with the Texas Coalition for Affordable Power (TCAP).

Background Information:

Our current electricity contract runs through the end of 2017. For the past several years, we have procured our energy through a group known as the Texas Coalition for Affordable Power (TCAP). TCAP is a coalition of cities that have all come together to purchase energy in one large block, with the idea being that the larger the group we are, the better the rate we will get.

Staff has been pleased with our relationship with TCAP and feel it is in the best interest of the City to continue procuring our energy through them. In order to continue our membership with TCAP, we need to approve the attached resolution at this meeting. The alternative to staying with TCAP would be to go out and start accepting bids on our own for energy pricing. The drawback to this is that since our volume of energy procurement is much lower than the group, we are likely to get a higher rate.

While we don't yet know the rate that we will get through TCAP, the resolution only authorizes them to enter into an agreement for us if the rate they can obtain is less than 4.1 cents per KWH. This is a great rate, especially considering that we will be locking this in from 2017-2022.

It is staffs recommendation that we stay with TCAP and that you approve the attached resolution.

Attachments: Resolution

Board/Citizen Input: N/A

Financial Impact: Reduction in Energy costs over time.

Staff Contacts:

Eric Strong

City Manager

estrong@richlandhills.com

RESOLUTION _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF _____, TEXAS, AUTHORIZING THE TEXAS COALITION FOR AFFORDABLE POWER, INC. (TCAP) TO NEGOTIATE AN ELECTRIC SUPPLY AGREEMENT FOR FIVE YEARS FOR DELIVERIES OF ELECTRICITY EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2018; AUTHORIZING TCAP TO ACT AS AN AGENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR ELECTRICITY; AUTHORIZING _____ or _____ TO EXECUTE AN ELECTRIC SUPPLY AGREEMENT FOR DELIVERIES OF ELECTRICITY EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2018 AND COMMITTING TO BUDGET FOR ENERGY PURCHASES IN 2018 THROUGH 2022 AND TO HONOR THE CITY'S COMMITMENTS TO PURCHASE POWER FOR ITS ELECTRICAL NEEDS IN 2018 THROUGH 2022 THROUGH TCAP

1. **WHEREAS**, the City of _____, Texas (City) is a member of Texas Coalition For Affordable Power, Inc. (TCAP), a non-profit, political subdivision corporation dedicated to securing electric power for its more than 170 members in the competitive retail market; and

2. **WHEREAS**, TCAP has unique rights under Texas law to negotiate directly in the wholesale market and arrange separate contracts for power supply and retail services which provides TCAP leverage to achieve contract provisions that single city negotiations with a Retail Electric Provider (REP) would be unlikely to produce; and

3. **WHEREAS**, TCAP's geographic diversity across all four ERCOT zones produces an aggregated peak load that is lower than the total of individual peak loads of the individual TCAP members, allowing price benefits in the wholesale market that are not likely to be available to any given TCAP member alone; and

4. **WHEREAS**, TCAP and its predecessor organizations, Cities Aggregation Power Project, Inc. (CAPP) and South Texas Aggregation Project, Inc. (STAP), negotiated favorable

contract terms that resulted in rebates from the wholesale supplier and reasonable commodity prices for delivered electricity since 2002 resulting in stable budgets for electricity for members; and

5. **WHEREAS**, commodity prices for electricity experienced significant volatility between 2002 and 2009, with prices ranging from 4 cents to over 13 cents per kWh, causing CAPP and STAP members to welcome a five year contractual commitment that came close to cutting the 2008 prices in half, with that contract being extended until December 31, 2017, with a negotiated price reduction of about 1 cent per kWh; and

6. **WHEREAS**, TCAP has become a forceful voice for consumer protections and market reform to benefit the public and well as cities and other political subdivisions; and

7. **WHEREAS**, TCAP is owned by its members and distributes monetary and other resources according to relative load size of members and is controlled by a 15 member Board of Directors, all of whom must be city employees of members who represent diversity in size and geography; and

8. **WHEREAS**, wholesale power prices within the deregulated Texas market are largely determined by the NYMEX gas futures prices for natural gas which are currently low and relatively stable, but which change daily; and

9. **WHEREAS**, daily price changes require retail customers to execute a contract immediately upon receipt of a favorable offer; and

10. **WHEREAS**, pursuant to Texas Local Government Code Section 252.022(a)(15) expenditures for electricity are exempt from competitive bidding requirements; and

11. **WHEREAS**, on any given day, TCAP is able to capture a favorable wholesale price for any period of time, comparable to or better than any given REP or broker; and

12. **WHEREAS**, TCAP intends to continue to contract with its current wholesale supplier, NextEra, because the relationship with NextEra is such that NextEra is willing, after it knows the size of a given load, to execute a contract at or below prescribed price and terms; and

13. **WHEREAS**, the City desires to execute a contract for electricity for the period beyond the expiration of its current contract on December 31, 2017, that locks-in favorable wholesale prices under one of three different supply options:

Option 1 - fixed-price, full-requirements at a price not to exceed 4.1 cents per kWh for the North and West zones or 4.25 cents per kWh for the South and Houston zones;

Option 2 - fixed price for on-peak hours and variable spot market prices for off-peak hours;

Option 3 - block energy at a fixed price to cover the base load hours, a fixed price for solar energy to cover mid-day peak hours (approximately 10% of total load) and variable spot market prices for all remaining consumption; and

14. **WHEREAS**, TCAP will allow members six weeks from receipt of this resolution to consider whether to participate in this second opportunity to contract for post-2017 electrical supply, and thereafter allow NextEra until June 30, 2016 to contact for power for five years at a price not to exceed 4.1 cents per kWh in the North and West zones and a price not to exceed 4.25 cents per kWh in the South and Houston zones for Option 1 , so long as the aggregated load for any of the three supply options reaches at least 50 megawatts; and

15. **WHEREAS**, wholesale suppliers demand assurance that TCAP will pay for all contracted load; and

16. **WHEREAS**, the City needs to assure TCAP that it will sign a Commercial Electric Supply Agreement (CESA) reflecting the contract extension and budget for energy

purchases for the post-2017 period and honor its commitment to purchase power for its electrical needs for 2018 through 2022 through TCAP,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF

_____, TEXAS:

Section 1:

That the TCAP Board of Directors and its consultants and advisors are agents authorized to negotiate for the City’s electricity needs as a member of TCAP for the period 2018 through 2022 at a price not to exceed 4.1 cents per kWh for the North and West zones and a price not to exceed 4.25 cents per kWh in the Houston and South zones for supply Option 1;

Section 2:

The City prefers to participate in supply Option _____ with the following understanding: a) while supply Option 1 is a full-requirements, fixed-price option, Options 2 (fixed price on-peak, variable spot prices for off-peak usage) and 3 (fixed price for base load, fixed price for a portion of peak load, and variable spot market for remainder) have variable price components and savings over Option 1 cannot be guaranteed, and b) if there is insufficient desire among members to achieve a 50 MW threshold for either Option 2 or 3, the member selecting the inadequately subscribed option will be placed in the Option 1 category. If no option is selected, TCAP will assume that a passed Resolution approves of Option 1.

Section 3:

Assuming this resolution is passed before February 25, 2016 and the combined load of TCAP members passing this resolution exceeds 50 megawatts for the preferred Option and NextEra is able to provide TCAP an opportunity prior to June 30, 2016 to contract for power to be delivered to members at a price not to exceed 4.1 cents per kWh for the North and West zones and not to exceed 4.25 cents per kWh in the Houston and South zones for supply Option 1 for the period January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2022, any one of the following individuals is hereby authorized to sign an electric supply agreement for the City within 24 hours of receipt of a contract that has been approved and recommended by the TCAP Board of Directors: _____ or _____ or _____.

Section 4:

That the City will commit to purchase power to meet all of its electricity needs eligible for competition pursuant to the TCAP approved supply agreement and approve funds necessary to pay electricity costs proportionate to the City’s load under the supply agreement (whether wholesale or retail) arranged by TCAP and signed by TCAP’s Executive Director or President or other TCAP representatives authorized by the TCAP Board.

Section 5:

That a copy of this resolution shall be sent to Jay Doegey, Executive Director, TCAP, 15455 Dallas Parkway, Suite 600, Addison, Texas 75001 and Geoffrey M. Gay, legal counsel to TCAP at 816 Congress Avenue, Suite 1900, Austin, Texas 78701.

PRESENTED AND PASSED on this the ____ day of _____, 2016, by a vote of _____ ayes and _____ nays at a regular meeting of the City Council of _____, Texas.

Mayor

ATTEST:
