

**E Environment Committee
Meeting date: November 13, 2012**

For the Council Meeting of November 28, 2012

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	November 7, 2012
Subject:	Authorization to Enter into an Agreement with the University of Minnesota
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Council Policy 3-3 Expenditures – Procurement of Goods and Services Over \$250,000
Staff Prepared/Presented:	William G. Moore 651-602-1162
Division/Department:	MCES

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council authorize its Regional Administrator to enter into an agreement with the University of Minnesota (University) to provide research services for the Environmental Services Division in an amount not to exceed \$315,000 for a four-year period.

Background

The Metropolitan Council Environmental Services Division (MCES) has research needs in the area of anaerobic digestion, dewatering of wastewater solids, and liquid treatment technologies. The University can meet those needs through its graduate program in the Civil Engineering Department. It is estimated that approximately \$315,000 for the research program will be needed to support the current MCES research needs over the next four years.

Rationale

The University has resources to help the MCES address wastewater-related research needs. A cooperative research arrangement will also help support the development of wastewater engineers that could potentially meet some of the MCES future staffing needs.

At the conclusion of the agreement, the program will be evaluated to determine whether a long-term cooperative program should be developed.

Funding

Funds will be provided in the 2013 and 2014 Operating budgets.

Known Support / Opposition

None.