

TO: Board Members

THROUGH: Jeff Walker, Executive Administrator
Ashley Harden, General Counsel
Rebecca Trevino, Chief Financial Officer

FROM: Richard A. Wade, Deputy Executive Administrator, TNRIS

DATE: May 26, 2020

SUBJECT: Scanning of the Historical Aerial Photography Archive

ACTION REQUESTED

Consider authorizing the Executive Administrator to execute a contract in a total amount not to exceed \$300,000, using bulk scanning contracts from a Texas Department of Information Resources list of pre-qualified vendors.

BACKGROUND

The Historical Aerial Photography Archive maintained by the Texas Natural Resources Information System (TNRIS), a division of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), is one of the most utilized and important data collections at TNRIS. It is comprised of over 1 million frames of hard copy aerial photos covering all parts of Texas from dates as far back as the 1920s. The archive is unique and serves as the central collection of historic aerial photography for the state of Texas.

The physical archive is deteriorating from constant daily use by research personnel. A major reorganization of the archive was completed in 2019 by TNRIS staff. Further, the archive was closed to outside consultants in 2020. These two major steps will help preserve the photos and fully position the archive for a large bulk scanning project.

TNRIS is managing this bulk scanning project to complete the digital transformation of the entire positive frame photo archive. The new scans will be added to an existing online database. This project will expedite public access to the digital frames online from the TNRIS website, eliminating the need for physical access of hard copy photos.

Our Mission : **Board Members**

To provide leadership, information, education, and support for planning, financial assistance, and outreach for the conservation and responsible development of water for Texas : Peter M. Lake, Chairman | Kathleen Jackson, Board Member | Brooke T. Paup, Board Member
: Jeff Walker, Executive Administrator

Participating partner: Texas Water Development Board

Total cost for TWDB: Not to exceed \$300,000

Total project cost: Pending competitive bids; estimated not to exceed \$300,000 by information acquired from published DIR price lists for scanning

The scanned historic aerial photos will be used by researchers to identify temporal changes on private property, to enhance environmental impact assessments, and to observe landscape and land use changes, such as pre-land reclamation of reservoirs in Texas.

KEY ISSUES

After the historic aerial photos are scanned, they will each require georeferencing for use in map applications and with other digital geographic datasets. Georeferencing is not a part of this scanning project. However, a bulk georeferencing project is expected to be initiated by TNRIS in Fiscal Year 2022.

RECOMMENDATION

The Executive Administrator recommends approving the execution of a contract in a total amount not to exceed \$300,000 using bulk scanning contracts at the Texas Department of Information Resources for digitally preserving the Historic Aerial Photography Archive.