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AGENDA ITEM MEMO

BOARD MEETING DATE: December 17, 2024

TO: Board Members

THROUGH: Bryan McMath, Executive Administrator
Ashley Hardin, General Counsel
Rebecca Trevino, Chief Financial Officer
Edna Jackson, Deputy Executive Administrator, Operations & Administration

FROM: Patricia Avitia, Chief Information Officer
Mia Villarreal, Manager Application Development

SUBJECT: Contract for Applications Architect

ACTION REQUESTED

Consider approving a contract extension and associated increase to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Information Technology (IT) contract, which provides temporary services of an Application Architect III by \$50,000, with a new contract total not to exceed \$602,746 for Fiscal Year 2025 (FY 25).

BACKGROUND

The Texas Department of Information Resources administers an Information Technology Staff Augmentation Contracts program to provide temporary IT staff resources on an as-needed, hourly basis. Among the roles available through this program are Application Architects, professionals who design and analyze software products and infrastructure and play an integral role in the creation, improvement, and testing of software, may be contracted through that program.

In February 2023, the TWDB contracted with a DIR-approved vendor to hire an Application Architect III to provide support for the Water Data for Texas (WDfT) Infrastructure and Software Modernization Project. This project focuses on streamlining the software development process, remediating security and vulnerability items, and modernizing the overall infrastructure of the WDfT system. It is estimated that this project will reduce software defects by 90 percent, speed up delivery of enhancements by 70 percent, and reduce Amazon Web Services costs in this environment by 40 percent.

Our Mission

Leading the state's efforts
in ensuring a secure
water future for Texas

Board Members

Brooke T. Paup, Chairwoman | Tonya R. Miller, Board Member | L'Oreal Stepney, P.E., Board Member
Bryan McMath, Executive Administrator

As provided for by the original contract, the TWDB extended the contract through FY 2025, and the Board approved a contract increase to fully fund this extension. To ensure the successful completion of the WDfT modernization project, a contract increase of \$50,000 is needed. The funding for this contract has been allocated in the FY 2025 WSC Operating Budget.

KEY ISSUES

None.

RECOMMENDATION

To complete the work of the WDfT Infrastructure and Software Modernization Project and realize the efficiencies, enhanced securities, and economies to be generated by that project, the Executive Administrator recommends approving a two-month contract extension and an associated \$50,000 increase to the vendor contract for an Application Architect III, with a new contract total not to exceed \$602,746 for FY 2025.