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## AGENDA ITEM MEMO

**BOARD MEETING DATE:** April 10, 2025

**TO:** Board Members

**THROUGH:** Bryan McMath, Executive Administrator  
Ashley Harden, General Counsel  
Georgia Sanchez, Interim Chief Financial Officer  
John T. Dupnik, P.G., Deputy Executive Administrator, Water Science and Conservation

**FROM:** Mark W. Wentzel, Ph.D., Hydrologist, River Science and Hydrosurvey  
Mindy Conyers, Ph.D., Manager, River Science and Hydrosurvey

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Amendment to the U.S. Geological Survey Contract in support of Water Resources Investigations

### **ACTION REQUESTED**

Consider authorizing the Executive Administrator to amend the Fiscal Year 2025 contract with the U.S. Geological Survey for Water Resources Investigations by adding an additional \$131,765 for a total cost not to exceed \$2,178,195, including \$1,814,460 from the Texas Water Development Board and \$363,735 from the U.S. Geological Survey.

### **BACKGROUND**

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) maintains a network of streamflow, lake level, and precipitation gages in the state of Texas. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, that network includes 787 streamflow, 160 lake level, and 408 precipitation gages. Annual operation and maintenance costs for these gages are shared by the USGS and funding partners, including federal, state, and local entities. Each year, the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) enters into a contractual agreement with the USGS to cover the cost of operation and maintenance for a portion of the statewide network.

In August 2024, the Board authorized the Executive Administrator to execute a contract with the USGS to operate and maintain 108 streamflow, 40 lake level, and 45 precipitation gages for continuation of the Water Resources Investigations data collection program in FY 2025. After final negotiation, the total amount of the FY 2025 contract was set at \$2,046,430, with the TWDB contributing \$1,682,695 from general revenue and the Texas Infrastructure Resiliency Fund and the USGS contributing \$363,735.

#### **Our Mission**

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

#### **Board Members**

L'Oreal Stepney, P.E., Chairwoman | Tonya R. Miller, Board Member  
Bryan McMath, Executive Administrator

### **KEY ISSUES**

Following execution of the FY 2025 contract, staff, in consultation with the U.S. Geological Survey, identified three stream gage locations in need of funding for one-time infrastructure improvements:

1. *USGS Gage No. 08123850 Colorado River above Silver, Texas*  
Relocate gage to opposite bank to eliminate safety concerns of accessing the site via an old, unmaintained oilfield bridge.
2. *USGS Gage No. 08127000 Elm Creek at Ballinger, Texas*  
Improve ability to continue operation during high flows by relocating gage housing to higher ground.
3. *USGS Gage No. 08169792 Guadalupe River at FM1117 near Seguin, Texas*  
Improve ability to continue operation during high flows by replacing gage housing currently supported by a wooden structure in the floodplain with a metal platform on higher ground.

The total cost for these three improvements is \$131,765, which can be paid for using \$91,305 remaining in general revenue budgeted for stream gaging combined with an additional \$40,460 in general revenue provided by the TWDB. Therefore, this item seeks additional authorization to amend the contract to add \$131,765 from the TWDB for a total contract amount not to exceed \$2,178,195, including a total of \$1,814,460 from the TWDB.

Reinvesting budgeted funds in the existing gaging network contract furthers the objectives of statewide water resources and flood data collection and dissemination.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Executive Administrator recommends approval of the proposed amendment to the contract with the U.S. Geological Survey for FY 2025 Water Resources Investigations to add \$131,765 for a total cost not to exceed \$2,178,195.