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AGENDA ITEM

BOARD MEETING DATE: October 2, 2025

TO: Board Members

THROUGH: Bryan McMath, Executive Administrator
Ashley Harden, General Counsel
Georgia Sanchez, Chief Financial Officer
Matt Nelson, Deputy Executive Administrator, Office of Planning

FROM: Reem Zoun, P.E., CFM, Assistant Deputy Executive Administrator, Office of Planning

SUBJECT: Approval to Procure Consultants for Flood Management Evaluation Studies for Small Communities

ACTION REQUESTED

Consider authorizing the Executive Administrator (EA) to negotiate and execute contracts with third-party consultants to perform Flood Management Evaluation studies (FMEs) as selected by the Regional Flood Planning Groups (RFPGs) to support the regional flood planning process.

BACKGROUND

The Texas Water Code (TWC) §16.061(b)(2) mandates the inclusion of a statewide, ranked list of ongoing and proposed flood control and mitigation projects in the 2024 State Flood Plan. The 2024 State Flood Plan, approved by the Board on August 12, 2024, includes 3,097 recommended flood management evaluations (FMEs).

During the first cycle of the regional and state flood planning program, it became apparent that while those communities in Texas that have adequate resources were better able to identify and include flood mitigation projects (FMPs) in the regional flood plans, there were numerous communities in Texas that do not have adequate resources, such as engineering staff to develop and oversee technical studies, or sufficient information already available to include a project that has flood risk reduction and no negative effect, as required by rules (31 TAC § 361.39(e)). As a result, some of the 2023 regional flood plans include a long list

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of FMEs, but not many FMPs. As noted in the 2024 State Flood Plan, this is especially apparent for small and rural communities across Texas. This procurement will enable small and rural communities to obtain completed studies with mitigation options conducted by TWDB contractors, allowing them to identify and recommend appropriate projects for inclusion in the 2028 regional flood plans.

The purpose of the TWDB FME effort is for the TWDB to perform a limited number of FMEs as identified and selected by the RFPs and return the results of the studies to the respective regions and communities so they can identify and recommend flood mitigation projects. This request to procure consultants will allow the TWDB to augment the ongoing work of the RFPs and local communities through the completion of high priority FMEs, within each region, for smaller and rural communities. It is anticipated that this new FME effort will provide each region with at least two completed studies (a total of 30 studies, and an unknown resulting number of identified FMPs) on behalf of smaller and/or rural communities during the current cycle of flood planning.

The FMEs to be performed under this contract will be selected, ordered, and submitted to the TWDB by the regional flood planning groups. The results of completed studies will then be included in the next regional flood plans. This ongoing program will continue to perform additional studies to identify additional FMPs during future planning cycles.

KEY ISSUES

An amount not to exceed \$59 million during every 5-year period is allocated towards completion of FME studies on behalf of small, and rural communities in Texas that lack sufficient engineering staff and technical resources, as identified by the regional flood planning groups. These studies will be performed by TWDB-procured contractors, and associated subcontractors, on behalf of RFPs and the communities that lack the resources necessary to fund and oversee these types of flood mitigations studies.

The TWDB will provide oversight for all the work performed under this procurement. The TWDB will oversee the scoping, budgeting and performance of each study by the procured contractors.

To accomplish this objective, the EA posted a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) on May 8, 2025, to procure an estimated 5 contractors through a competitive selection process. If approved, this process will conclude with negotiation and execution of multiple contracts.

The 15 engineering consultant contractors that were responsive to the RFQ were all evaluated based on a common set of criteria identified. The five highest scoring contractors based on the criteria were selected for consideration. If approved and if contract negotiations are successful, these contractors will then perform FMEs, as assigned by the TWDB on behalf of the RFPs, while being overseen by TWDB staff.

RECOMMENDATION

The EA requests authority to negotiate and execute contracts with Freese and Nichols, Halff, Associates, Edge Engineering PLLC, HDR, and AECOM, to carry out FME studies on behalf of the regional flood planning groups for the second and subsequent cycle of flood planning. In the event that the EA is unsuccessful in negotiating a contract with one of the selected respondents, the EA requests authorization to negotiate and execute a contract with the next highest scored respondent.