

TO: Board Members

THROUGH: Kevin Patteson, Executive Administrator
Robert E. Mace, Ph.D., P.G., Deputy Executive Administrator, Water
Science & Conservation
Les Trobman, General Counsel

FROM: Janie Hopkins, P.G., Groundwater Monitoring

DATE: February 18, 2016

SUBJECT: Authorization to Award Contract for Groundwater Quality Analysis Services for
Fiscal Year 2016 and Renewal Option for Fiscal Year 2017

ACTION REQUESTED

Consider authorizing the Executive Administrator to negotiate and execute a Fiscal Year 2016 contract and renewal option for Fiscal Year 2017 for groundwater quality analysis services with the selected applicant in an amount not to exceed \$196,000 for each fiscal year, composed of \$100,000 from General Revenue and \$96,000 from the Research and Planning Fund; and transfer \$96,000 from the Water Assistance Fund to the Research and Planning Fund.

BACKGROUND

The proposed Fiscal Year 2016 contract is for water quality analysis of groundwater samples collected statewide by Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) staff and cooperators as part of the agency's ambient groundwater quality monitoring program. The program began in 1988 and is included in the TWDB's strategic plan as part of the agency's water resources planning goal and authorized by Texas Water Code §§16.012 and 16.015. The purpose of this program is to characterize naturally occurring groundwater quality and any changes that may have occurred over time in the state's aquifers.

Staff and cooperating groundwater conservation districts collect groundwater samples, typically from up to 500 sites a year, and submit the samples to an analytical laboratory for tests of various constituents. These analyses are for dissolved ions such as calcium, chloride, and sulfate and for trace minerals such as arsenic, iron, and lead. The analytical suite focuses on naturally-occurring constituents, including other trace metals and radionuclides. Staff enters the results of the chemical analyses in the groundwater database for access by the public and use in the agency's groundwater studies. We send copies of analytical results to the owners who allow us to sample their wells and springs. This information is useful to landowners, municipalities, groundwater conservation districts, regional water planning groups, researchers, and others interested in the quality of their groundwater, its comparison to drinking water standards, and how it may have changed over time. These analyses

<p style="text-align: center;">Our Mission</p> <p>To provide leadership, information, education, and support for planning, financial assistance, and outreach for the conservation and responsible development of water for Texas</p>	<p>⋮</p> <p>⋮</p> <p>⋮</p> <p>⋮</p> <p>⋮</p> <p>⋮</p> <p>⋮</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Board Members</p> <p>Bech Bruun, Chairman Kathleen Jackson, Member Peter Lake, Member</p> <p>Kevin Patteson, Executive Administrator</p>
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are also used to support studies for groundwater availability modeling and external and internal research studies. The number of samples collected is counted in the performance measures we submit to the Legislative Budget Board.

On October 28, 2015, the Board authorized the publication of a Request for Proposals for Fiscal Year 2016 groundwater quality analysis services.

KEY ISSUES

In October and November 2015, staff published the Request for Proposals in the Electronic State Business Daily and the Texas Register. TWDB received proposals from DHL Analytical, Inc., ESC Lab Sciences, the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) Environmental Laboratory Services, Pace Analytical Services, Inc., and Xenco Laboratories. Staff subsequently reviewed and evaluated the respondents' proposals according to the criteria published in the Request for Proposals. These criteria included sample cost, use of approved analytical methods, a certain minimum years of experience, ability to perform pre- and post-sample collection tasks, reputation, history of performance, and financial capability.

The LCRA Environmental Laboratory Services ranked highest among applicants (Attachment 1) after receiving the highest total score. Their proposal indicated the most experience in the use of specific U.S. Environmental Protection Agency methodology that results in detection of naturally-occurring contaminants at low concentrations in groundwater typically used for drinking. Such experience will ensure consistency with results of analyses performed on TWDB samples in previous years. The LCRA lab is certified by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program. Their proposal also included the most comprehensive services essential in adhering to post-field collection sample protocols, including the ability to receive samples at their facility at the correct temperature, thus eliminating the loss of samples during transport to distant labs, and services essential to accurate and low-cost data entry, such as sending analyses in electronic format.

Note that the contract may be renewed for up to one year through execution in the form of a contract amendment. If a contract cannot be negotiated with the top-ranked applicant, TWDB staff will proceed with contract negotiations with Xenco Laboratories, the second-ranked candidate.

RECOMMENDATION

The Executive Administrator recommends approval of this item.

This recommendation has been reviewed by legal counsel and is in compliance with applicable statutes and Board rules.

Attachment 1: Rank Order of the Requests for Proposals

Attachment 1

Rank Order of the Requests for Proposals

Applicants in order of highest score:

1. Lower Colorado River Authority Environmental Laboratory Services
2. Xenco Laboratories
3. DHL Analytical, Inc.
4. Pace Analytical Services, Inc.
5. ESC Lab Sciences