

**TO:** Board Members

**THROUGH:** Jeff Walker, Executive Administrator  
John T. Dupnik, P.G., Deputy Executive Administrator, Water Science and Conservation  
Todd Chenoweth, General Counsel  
Rebecca Trevino, Chief Financial Officer

**FROM:** Erika Mancha, Manager, Innovative Water Technologies  
Kevin Kluge, Director Conservation and Innovative Water Technologies

**DATE:** December 5, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Statewide survey of aquifer suitability

## **ACTION REQUESTED**

Consider authorizing the Executive Administrator to award, negotiate, and execute a contract in a total amount not to exceed \$500,000 from General Revenue for a statewide survey of aquifer suitability for aquifer storage and recovery projects or aquifer recharge projects.

## **BACKGROUND**

In 2019, the 86th Texas Legislature passed House Bill 721, directing the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to conduct a statewide survey of Texas' major and minor aquifers to identify the relative suitability of aquifers for use in aquifer storage and recovery projects and aquifer recharge projects based on (1) hydrogeological characteristics, with a focus on storage potential, transmissivity, infiltration characteristics, storativity, recoverability, and water quality; (2) the frequency, volume, and distance to excess water available for potential storage; and (3) the current and future water supply needs identified in the state water plan. The TWDB must submit a report that includes an overview of the statewide survey to the governor, lieutenant governor, and house speaker by December 15, 2020.

The 86th Texas Legislature appropriated \$500,000 from General Revenue to the TWDB to conduct the statewide survey (House Bill 1, General Appropriations Act, 2019 Legislature, Regular Session, page VI-52).

<b>Our Mission</b>	:	<b>Board Members</b>
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

On October 10, 2019, the TWDB published a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Services to Conduct A Statewide Survey of Aquifer Suitability for Aquifer Storage and Recovery Projects or Aquifer Recharge Projects in the Electronic State Business Daily. The scope of work included eight main tasks: literature review, hydrogeological parameter screening, excess water screening, water supply needs screening, final suitability rating, public data display, draft and final report, and project management. The deadline to submit a statement of qualifications was November 12, 2019.

**KEY ISSUES**

In response to the RFQ, the TWDB Contract Administration Division received three statements on or before the deadline. Staff reviewed, scored, and ranked the statements using the criteria identified in the General Research and Planning Subchapter (31 Texas Administrative Code §355.50) and as specified in the RFQ. A list of applicants and their ranking are provided in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of statement of qualifications received.

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Study participants</b>
1	HDR Engineering, Inc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• INTERA, Inc.</li><li>• Collier Consulting, Inc.</li><li>• GeoSystem Analysis, Inc.</li><li>• Bureau of Economic Geology</li><li>• Cooper Consulting Company</li><li>• Floodace, LLC</li></ul>
2	LRE Water, LLC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Carollo Engineers, Inc.</li><li>• Wet Rock</li><li>• Michelle A. Sutherland Groundwater Resource Consulting</li><li>• Thornhill Group, Inc.</li></ul>
3	Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, Inc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Freese and Nichols, Inc.</li><li>• Blanton &amp; Associates, Inc.</li><li>• Aqua Strategies, Inc.</li></ul>

The applicable scope of work, project schedule, and contract amount will be negotiated with the applicant recommended for funding after the TWDB approves this item. Failure to arrive at mutually agreeable terms of a contract with the most qualified applicant shall constitute a rejection of the TWDB's offer and may result in subsequent negotiations with the next most qualified applicant.

**RECOMMENDATION**

In order to conduct the statewide survey as required by House Bill 721, the Executive Administrator recommends approval of the contractor selection and authorization to execute the contract.

Attachment(s):       None