

AGENDA ITEM MEMO

BOARD MEETING DATE: March 10, 2021

TO: Board Members

THROUGH: Jeff Walker, Executive Administrator
Ashley Harden, General Counsel
Rebecca Trevino, Chief Financial Officer

FROM: Jessica Zuba, Deputy Executive Administrator, Water Supply and
Infrastructure
T. Clay Schultz, Ph.D., Director, Regional Water Project Development

SUBJECT: Contract Renewal for Engineering Services

ACTION REQUESTED

Consider authorizing the Executive Administrator to execute an amendment to an interagency contract with the University of Texas at Arlington to renew the contract and increase the contract total by an amount not to exceed an additional \$634,964 to provide engineering services.

BACKGROUND

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), through its office of Water Supply and Infrastructure (WSI), is responsible for ensuring that infrastructure projects funded with TWDB programs are constructed in accordance with programmatic requirements and approved plans and specifications. In addition, WSI engineering staff, via delegation of authority by the Executive Administrator, is authorized to inspect the construction and materials of any project at any time.

The highly competitive job market has made filling engineering vacancies challenging. With the increased demand of the TWDB's established funding programs, increase in the use of alternative project delivery options, and the implementation of the new Flood Infrastructure Fund, engineering workloads have increased significantly. This has resulted in longer review times and project delays.

To help address the issue, the TWDB entered an interagency contract with the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) in January 2020 (Contract 2000012402), to provide engineering services including four tasks:

Our Mission

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

Board Members

Peter M. Lake, Chairman | Kathleen Jackson, Board Member | Brooke T. Paup, Board Member
Jeff Walker, Executive Administrator

- Technical and engineering assistance for plan reviews
- On-site inspection services of TWDB projects
- Development of program guidance manuals for use by external customers
- Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Intended Use Plan (IUP) Development-Project Information Form (PIF) scoring

KEY ISSUES

As of the beginning of February 2021, UTA has been assigned 54 plans and specifications for review, with 28 of those approved. The remainder are under review or have comment letters that have been sent to the entities. They have also conducted 63 total site visits throughout the state and reviewed and scored 104 PIFs for the 2021 CWSRF IUP. Lastly, they have been working on drafting the program guidance documents and are currently working to finalize two of the five specified in the scope of work.

This partnership has proved beneficial to WSI and the agency as a whole. The current contract will expire at the end of April. WSI is working with UTA to continue this contract, with possible expansion of the scope of work. The cost of this proposal would be funded using State Revolving Fund fees and salary savings from Fiscal Year 2021.

RECOMMENDATION

The Executive Administrator recommends approval to execute a contract amendment to renew a contract for engineering services with the University of Texas at Arlington and increase the contract total by an amount not to exceed an additional \$634,964.