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## AGENDA ITEM MEMO

**BOARD MEETING DATE:** August 15, 2024

**TO:** Board Members

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

**FROM:** Saul Nuccitelli, P.E., Director, Flood Science and Community Assistance

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Amendment to Texas State University Contract in support of the Texas Integrated Flooding Framework Project

### **ACTION REQUESTED**

Consider authorizing the Executive Administrator to amend the contract with Texas State University in support of the Texas Integrated Flooding Framework (TIFF) project with an additional \$325,000 for a total cost of the amended contract not to exceed \$600,000.

### **BACKGROUND**

In 2020, the Texas General Land Office provided \$3,000,000 to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to serve as the lead agency coordinating a comprehensive coastal flood risk reduction planning project in the coastal counties affected by Hurricane Harvey, in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Galveston District. The source of funding for this project is the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program. The TIFF project aims to create guidelines for integrating planning tools, models, and data that will enhance local and state efforts in regional flood planning and mitigation. Subsequently, the Texas General Land Office provided an additional \$1,000,000 in funding to include Starr, Hidalgo, Willacy, and Cameron counties in the TIFF project.

To support the TIFF project, the TWDB contracted with Texas State University to collaborate with stakeholders, facilitate meetings and engage technical advisory teams, and assist in report preparation. Texas State University, through its Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, supports all components of the TIFF project and is responsible for the following tasks:

#### **Our Mission**

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

#### **Board Members**

Brooke T. Paup, Chairwoman | L'Oreal Stepney, P.E., Board Member  
Bryan McMath, Interim Executive Administrator

1. **Convening stakeholders**, including the facilitation of meetings and workshops with the Steering Committee, technical experts, and the Technical Advisory Team members, in addition to development of meeting materials and documentation.
2. **Project management**, including identification and recommendation of best strategic approaches for engaging experts to elicit technical information.
3. **Communications and branding**, including development and execution of additional outreach strategies.
4. **Preparing annual and final reports**, ensuring deliverables, including findings and recommendations, follow the vision of the project.

### **KEY ISSUES**

In June 2023, the Board approved an increase of the current contract of \$275,000, not to exceed \$350,000, to account for the expansion of the original contract and the associated additional funding provided by the Texas General Land Office. Since then, the project timeline has been extended and additional tasks have been identified to provide enhanced engagement with the TIFF Technical Advisory Teams. As a result of the project expansion and the unexpected large number of recommendations generated during 2022 to 2023 activities, additional time and funds are required to fully engage with the Technical Advisory Team members and incorporate their technical expertise and assessment. The funding for this proposed increase will come fully from existing federal funding that was contracted with TWDB through GLO but remained unassigned for potential contractor support.

Thus, the Executive Administrator proposes amending the contract with Texas State University to incorporate and pass through the additional federal funding being provided by the Texas General Land Office to extend their service period from December 31, 2024, to June 30, 2026, and conduct additional tasks to enhance TIFF Technical Advisory Team members' engagement.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Executive Administrator recommends approval to authorize amending the contract with Texas State University with an additional \$325,000 for a total cost of the amended contract not to exceed \$600,000 and extending the expiration date to June 30, 2026.