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AGENDA ITEM MEMO

BOARD MEETING DATE: January 22, 2026

TO: Board Members

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

FROM: Manuel Razo, GISP, CFM, Assistant Director, Flood Science and Community Assistance
Dena Green, P.E., CFM, Director, Flood Science and Community Assistance

SUBJECT: Approval to Procure Contractors for Master Service Agreements to Support Flood Science, Community Assistance, and Grant Management Services

ACTION REQUESTED

Consider authorizing the Executive Administrator to negotiate and execute contracts with 7 engineering firms selected to support statewide flood science, community assistance, and grant management programs in an amount not to exceed \$12,000,000 per contract.

BACKGROUND

The 86th Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 500, which appropriated \$47 million from the Floodplain Management Account in the Texas Infrastructure Resiliency Fund to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for, among other activities, developing and updating flood risk data to support the development of a state flood plan as stated in Texas Water Code (TWC) §16.062(e)(1) and §16.316(c)(5). Since then, the account has been replenished twice to continue such activities.

In August 2021, following a competitive selection process, the TWDB negotiated and executed contracts with five firms to expand the agency’s flood hazard mapping efforts by performing Base Level Engineering (BLE) and detailed mapping activities across Texas using the funds appropriated by the Texas Legislature along with Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Cooperating Technical Partners grant funding. Additionally, a variety of activities were initiated to advance flood science that supports state flood

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planning, flood mitigation funding, and community outreach activities. The contract capacity of the initial round of contracts will be fully utilized with the contract term ending August 2026. The current proposed action would initiate a new round of contracts, allowing TWDB to complete additional work related to updated flood risk modeling and mapping, as well as other flood related activities outlined in TWC §16.453. The TWDB validates and updates, BLE models and maps for 20 percent of the state's watersheds on a yearly basis.

In June 2025, the TWDB published Request for Qualifications (RFQ) No. 580-25-RFQ-0017 for the award of five to seven service contracts to perform flood science, community assistance, and grant management activities. The work will include flood risk modeling and mapping, support for the TWDB's state and federal grant programs, flood planning support, and related activities. A significant portion of this work is planned to focus on the continued update of statewide flood risk data, including, conducting engineering studies for watersheds, and updating Base Level Engineering models and maps, as needed, to reflect current conditions. Most of the funding for these contracts will come from appropriations to the Floodplain Management Account, but it may also include future grant funding through FEMA's Cooperating Technical Partners Program, Community Assistance Program – State Support Services Element (CAP-SSSE), or the Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA).

KEY ISSUES

The proposed contracts will support the development of updated flood risk models and maps every five years as well as CAP support for outreach material, FMA grant management activities to support communities, and flood science projects. To achieve these tasks, the TWDB intends to work with selected and qualified contractors. There were a total of 20 administratively complete applications received in response to the RFQ by the deadline. Responses were ranked and scored on a common set of criteria that included experience with flood modeling and mapping, flood mitigation, and flood outreach. The top-ranked applicants, AECOM Technical Services, CDM Smith, Dewberry, Freese and Nichols, Halff Associates, LJA Engineering, and Michael Baker International were selected to negotiate and potentially execute contracts with the agency.

RECOMMENDATION

The Executive Administrator (EA) requests authority to negotiate and execute contracts with AECOM Technical Services, CDM Smith, Dewberry, Freese and Nichols, Halff Associates, LJA Engineering, and Michael Baker International applicants for RFQ No. 580-25-RFQ-0017, which will provide contract support for the development of updated flood risk models and maps, Community Assistance Program activities, grant management activities, and flood science projects. 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 scoring respondent.