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AGENDA ITEM MEMO

BOARD MEETING DATE: September 10, 2026

TO: Board Members

THROUGH: Bryan McMath, Executive Administrator
Ashley Harden, General Counsel
Georgia Sanchez, Chief Financial Officer
Jessica Peña, Deputy Executive Administrator, Water Supply and Infrastructure

FROM: Marvin Cole-Chaney, Assistant Deputy Executive Administrator, Water Supply and Infrastructure

SUBJECT: Mapping and Line Locates for Small Rural Water Utilities

ACTION REQUESTED

Consider authorizing the Executive Administrator to initiate and enter into one or more contracts in a total cumulative amount not to exceed \$4,750,000 to implement mapping and line locating services for small rural water utilities.

BACKGROUND

As part of Senate Bill 1, Section 17.18, and enacted under House Bill 500, Section 6.02(c), the 89th Texas Legislature directed \$4,750,000 in appropriated funds from the general revenue fund to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for mapping and line locates for small rural water utilities serving 1,100 or fewer customers.

The purpose of the work is to locate, identify, and map existing water distribution lines and associated infrastructure for eligible small rural water utilities. Services may include field verification using appropriate detection technologies, GPS data collection, and creation of accurate digital maps compatible with GIS platforms. Deliverables are expected to include comprehensive final reports, georeferenced maps, and electronic files suitable for integration into a utility's asset management system, if applicable. TWDB issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) on June 1, 2026. Responses were due June 30, 2026. The solicitation identified an anticipated contract start date of September 1, 2026, and a contract end date of August 31, 2027.

Our Mission

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

Board Members

L'Oreal Stepney, P.E., Chairwoman | W. Brady Franks, Board Member | Ashley Morgan, Board Member
Bryan McMath, Executive Administrator

KEY ISSUES

The RFP stated that TWDB would award the contract based on best value and as determined by the evaluation committee's review of the proposals. The evaluation criteria included experience and expertise in water resources, utility systems, planning, geolocation of assets, individualized deliverables, geographical mapping software, rural water utility systems, asset management planning, financial or technical assistance coordination, consulting contracts, field identification and asset location, project and schedule management, team capacity, quality control, and the number of systems anticipated to receive services within the not-to-exceed amount. The TWDB received 21 responses, of which 19 were administratively complete.

The recommended contractors are Texas Rural Water Association and Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.

If approved, the recommended contractors will provide services to the TWDB and participating small rural water utilities, which will include:

- coordinating with TWDB regarding system selection and providing proposed eligible systems and backup systems;
- conducting kickoff meetings and developing detailed work plans that address methodology, equipment, and safety protocols;
- identifying water distribution lines, customer connections, and associated property easements using appropriate detection technologies;
- collecting precise geospatial coordinates and relevant asset attributes, when available;
- creating GIS-compatible digital maps and georeferenced files for use by utilities;
- performing data validation and quality assurance checks; and
- preparing final reports and providing training or user documentation for utility staff.

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize the Executive Administrator to execute one or more contracts with the selected vendors totaling up to \$4,750,000 for mapping and line locating services for small rural water utilities serving 1,100 or fewer customers, with the ability to extend the contract term once if necessary.