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AGENDA ITEM MEMO

BOARD MEETING DATE: October 1, 2026

TO: Board Members

THROUGH: Bryan McMath, Executive Administrator
Ashley Harden, General Counsel

FROM: Sam Hermitte, Assistant Deputy Executive Administrator, Water Science and Conservation

SUBJECT: Amendment to the Kerr County SB 3 Outdoor Warning Siren Grant Agreement

ACTION REQUESTED

Consider authorizing the Executive Administrator to execute an amendment to the SB 3 outdoor warning siren grant agreement with Kerr County to increase the contract amount not to exceed \$6,850,000.

BACKGROUND

During the second called session of the 89th Texas Legislature, the legislature passed Senate Bill (SB) 3 relating to outdoor warning sirens in flash flood-prone areas in response to the devastating July 2025 flooding in Texas. The bill requires the Office of the Governor (OOG) to establish and administer a grant program to assist municipalities, counties, and other governmental entities with the costs of installing outdoor warning sirens. In November 2025, the OOG delegated this responsibility to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB).

Additionally, SB 5, passed by the 89th Texas Legislature in the second called session, appropriated \$50 million from the Economic Stabilization Fund to the OOG for the two-year period beginning September 18, 2025 (the effective date of the bill). Funding is for grants to assist counties, municipalities, or other local governments operating within 30 certain counties (as provided by the governor's declaration of disaster on July 4, 2025) to install outdoor warning siren systems, including flood gages and all other components essential to the function of the system. In the November 2025 delegation of the grant program to TWDB, the OOG also agreed to transfer this money to the TWDB for that grant program.

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Bryan McMath, Executive Administrator

KEY ISSUES

On December 16, 2025, the Board authorized the Executive Administrator to enter into grant agreements with each of the 30 counties, including Kerr County, for an initial amount of \$1,000,000, which could be increased to \$1,250,000 by the Executive Administrator. Any increases over \$1,250,000 must be approved by the Board.

On January 13, 2026, the Executive Administrator and Kerr County entered into a grant agreement for an initial amount of \$1,000,000. On August 5, 2026, the Executive Administrator and Kerr County entered into a grant agreement amendment to increase that amount to \$1,250,000.

On September 14, 2026, the EA approved an amended project plan submitted by Kerr County that includes documentation demonstrating that their total estimated project costs to comply with SB 3—including outdoor warning sirens, water level gages, rain gages, flood modeling, a flood prediction system, and all other components and efforts essential to the system—are anticipated to total to a maximum of approximately \$6,850,000.

RECOMMENDATION

The Executive Administrator recommends authorizing the execution of an amendment to the SB 3 outdoor warning siren grant agreement with Kerr County to increase the contract amount not to exceed \$6,850,000.