

**TO:** Board Members

**THROUGH:** Jeff Walker, Executive Administrator  
David Carter, Director, Support Services and Contracts  
Jessica Zuba, Deputy Executive Administrator, Water Supply & Infrastructure

**FROM:** Temple McKinnon, Director, Water Use, Projections & Planning

**DATE:** August 23, 2018

**SUBJECT:** Facilitation Contract for Uniform Standards Stakeholder Committee Prioritization Process

## **ACTION REQUESTED**

Consider authorizing a transfer of funds in an amount not to exceed \$15,000, from the Water Assistance Fund to the Research and Planning Fund, to contract for facilitation services to assist the stakeholders committee of regional water planning group chairs review and/or modify the uniform standards for project prioritization for the 2021 regional water plans.

## **BACKGROUND**

House Bill 4 (83<sup>rd</sup> Legislature) established a project prioritization process to be conducted by the regional water planning groups. As part of this process, Texas Water Code § 15.436 required the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to create a stakeholders committee (Committee) composed of regional water planning groups chairs or their designees to establish uniform standards to be used by the regional water planning groups in prioritizing projects in their regional plans. These project prioritizations are one of the criteria utilized by TWDB for prioritizing State Water Implementation Fund for Texas projects. Additionally, the TWDB is required to consult the Committee from time to time regarding regional prioritization of projects.

Uniform standards for project prioritization were initially developed by the Committee, through a facilitated effort, in November 2013 and were approved by the Board at their December 5, 2013 meeting. These standards were applied to projects in the 2011 regional water plans by the regional water planning groups and final project prioritizations were submitted to the TWDB on September 1, 2014. The Committee reconvened through a facilitated effort on January 13, 2015 to review the uniform standards prior to the

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prioritization of projects in the 2016 regional water plans. The Committee voted to make no changes to the uniform standards and project prioritizations were submitted along with the 2016 regional water plans by December 1, 2015.

The TWDB has recommended to the Committee that they reconvene at least once per planning cycle to review the uniform standards that have been adopted. At a May 2018 conference call with regional water planning group chairs, it was requested that the TWDB schedule a meeting of the Committee the last week of November 2018. To support the Committee's review of the uniform standards for project prioritization of the 2021 regional water plans, the Executive Administrator is recommending to again contract with a facilitator to assist in the Committee's work effort. To execute this contract, funds must be transferred from the Water Assistance Fund to the Research and Planning Fund.

**KEY ISSUES**

The total amount of the facilitation contract is an amount up to and not to exceed \$15,000.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Executive Administrator recommends approving transfer of funds from the Water Assistance Fund to the Research and Planning Fund to support the facilitation of the Uniform Standards Stakeholder Committee.