

THE STATE OF TEXAS :
 :
COUNTY OF HIDALGO :

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT
C-09-032-02-24-A

THIS AGREEMENT is made effective the 24th day of **February, 2009**, by and between the **County of Hidalgo, Texas** ("County") and **Edwards Abstract and Title, Ltd. (DBA) Edwards Abstract and Title Co.** ("Title Agent/Examiner").

W I T N E S S E T H:

WHEREAS, the County requires services for: **Title Report Services in connection to the Acquisition of Land and Disposition of County owned Property** located within **Hidalgo County** and

WHEREAS, the County of Hidalgo solicited Request for Proposals (RFP) for the development and establishment of a yearly pool for "Title Report Services", and

WHEREAS, from which "Title Report Services firm(s)/vendor" has been selected from the "Pool" of pre-qualified Title Report Services from response to the Request for Qualifications (RFP), and

WHEREAS, County has determined that the services of "Title Reports" are sometimes necessary to carry out the required report activities; and

WHEREAS, the County has selected the Title Agent/Examiner to provide title report services within the County of Hidalgo, Texas through its procured approved pool of Title Report Services.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements herein contained, County and Title Agent/Examiner do mutually agree as follows:

1. **Scope of Services.** Title Agent/Examiner agrees to provide to County the services shown in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and entitled "Services to be Provided by the Title Agent/Examiner". Title Agent/Examiner selected is to have adequate experience and a workload free from constraints to complete Title Reports within three (3) business days per parcel. **The Title Agent/Examiner will not begin work or incur costs until authorization of a Purchase Order (PO) in writing by the County for each work order.**

Further, in the event that it is demonstrated by Title Agent/Examiner that Hidalgo County has caused or delayed thus preventing the Title Agent/Examiner from meeting the specified agreed upon deadline to provided the title report(s) ordered, Title Examiner/Agent must advise in written notice to the Purchasing Department or requesting department(s) to authorize and to secure additional time to comply.

2. **Term.** This Contract becomes effective when fully executed by both parties and will terminate Two (2) Year from the date of execution with the County's option for an additional One (1) year extension based on prior year's performance evaluation and contingent upon cost remaining unchanged. Hidalgo County reserves the right to continue this proposal for an additional sixty (60) day "grace period" at the end of the contract term for unforeseen delay of award for next term and contingent upon cost remaining unchanged.

3. **Compensation.** As consideration for rendering the Services provided for in this Contract, the County agrees to pay the Title Agent/Examiner the amounts specified in Exhibit "B" attached hereto payable against written invoice submitted by Title Examiner/Agent. The Title Agent/Examiner is authorized to submit periodic requests for payment within thirty days after completion of each work order. The request for payment shall be made using forms acceptable to the County and shall show the total amount earned to the date of submission and the amount due and payable as of the date of the

current billing. Upon receipt of said request for payment, County shall submit a requisition for payment of said services in the customary manner provided for payments utilized by Hidalgo County, Texas. Title Agent/Examiner agrees to separately account for the receipt and/or expenditure of funds received pursuant to this Contract and to keep adequate books and records of all such receipts and/or expenditures. All payments to Title Agent/Examiner shall be mailed to the address shown in numbered paragraph 21, hereof.

4. **Progress.** Upon acceptance of a work order, the Title Agent/Examiner shall undertake and complete the authorized work. The County or the Title Agent/Examiner can request conferences to be provided at the Title Agent/Examiner's office, the office of the County, or at other agreed upon locations.

5. **Inspection of Work.** The County has the right at all reasonable times to inspect or otherwise evaluate the work performed or being performed hereunder and the premises in which it is being performed. If any inspection or evaluation is made on the premises of the Title Agent/Examiner, or a subcontractor, the Title Agent/Examiner shall provide and require its subcontractor to provide all reasonable facilities and assistance for the safety and convenience of the inspectors in the performance of their duties. All inspections and evaluations shall be performed in such a manner as will not unduly delay the work.

6. **Amendments.** If it becomes necessary at any time during the contract period to change the scope of work, the contract period, the maximum amount payable, the complexity, or the character of this contract, an amendment must be prepared and executed within the contract period. The County retains the right to reject any such amendment proposed by the Title Agent/Examiner unless the County finds the proposed amendment necessary to complete the work authorized herein. Any such amendments be made in writing agreed to by all parties hereto and duly executed before the end of the

contract period as specified.

If the County finds it necessary to require changes in completed work because of errors made by the Title Agent/Examiner, the County shall require the Title Agent/Examiner to correct the work at no cost to the County and without amendment to the contract. If the changes are made at the request of the County and are not due to errors of the Title Agent/Examiner, the County will reimburse the Title Agent/Examiner for the additional work at the same rate of pay established in Exhibit "B", "Basis for Payment". If payment for the additional work will cause the maximum amount payable to be exceeded, an amendment shall be executed in accordance with the terms of this provision.

7. Reporting. The Title Agent/Examiner shall promptly advise the County in writing of events which have a significant impact upon the contract, including:

1. Problems, delays, or adverse conditions which will materially affect the ability to meet time schedules and goals, or preclude the attainment of project work units by established time periods. This disclosure shall be accompanied by a statement of the action taken, or contemplated, and any County or, if Federal funds are involved, Federal assistance needed to resolve the situation.
2. Favorable developments or events which enable meeting time schedules and goals sooner than anticipated or producing more work units than originally projected.

8. Ownership of Documents. Upon completion or termination of this contract, all documents prepared by the Title Agent/Examiner or furnished to the Title Agent/Examiner by the County shall be delivered to and become the property of the County. All sketches, photographs, calculations, and other data prepared under this contract shall be made available, upon request, to the County without restriction or limitation on their further use. The Title Agent/Examiner may, at its own expense, have copies made of the documents or any other data furnished the County under this contract.

9. Independent Contractor. Title Agent/Examiner must comply with all applicable Hidalgo County policies and with any applicable federal, state or local laws,

regulations, orders or ordinances applicable to the services provided by Title Agent/Examiner under this Contract. Notwithstanding the foregoing sentence, Title Agent/Examiner represents and maintains that it is an independent contractor and is not an employee of Hidalgo County, Texas, or any agency thereof, and represents and warrants that it does not desire or request any fringe benefits provided to employees of Hidalgo County, Texas, and/or any agency thereof, including, but not limited to benefits associated with Hidalgo County's civil service program. Title Agent/Examiner agrees to be responsible for any federal income tax, withholding or social security tax liability that might arise from payments received hereunder.

10. Voluntary Termination. Title Agent/Examiner and County agree that any contract award to a successful bidder will be in effect until (a) the contract expires, (b) delivery and acceptance of products, and/or performance of services ordered, or (c) terminated by Contract with the thirty (30) days prior written notice to the other party.

11. Insurance. Title Agent/Examiner agrees to provide liability insurance covering its activities in providing the services for County in an amount not less than the minimum amounts prescribed by the Texas Tort Claims Act, ' 100.001, et seq., Texas Civil Practices and Remedies Code, and shall furnish department a Certificate of Insurance (Exhibit "C"), issued by the insurer that such insurance is in full force and effect.

12. No Assignment. Except as otherwise herein provided, Title Agent/Examiner, may not assign the obligations or rights under this contract to any person without the prior written consent of County.

13. Termination Date. Unless earlier terminated as herein provided, this Contract shall terminate upon completion of projects'.

14. Conflict. Nothing in this Contract shall be construed so as to require the commission of any act contrary to law, and whenever there is any conflict between any

provision of this Contract and any present or future law, ordinance or administrative, executive or judicial regulation, order or decree, or amendment thereof, contrary to which the parties have no legal right to contract, the latter shall prevail, but in such event the affected provision or provisions of this Contract shall be modified only to the extent necessary to bring them within the legal requirements and only during the time such conflict exists.

15. Termination by County. If Title Agent/Examiner fails to deliver quality service, fails to achieve the defined goals, outcomes, strategies and outputs set by County, or if Title Agent/Examiner fails to comply with any conditions in this Contract, then County shall have the right to terminate this Contract upon the giving of ten (10) days prior written notice to Title Agent/Examiner.

16. No Waiver. No waiver by County of any breach of any provision of this Contract shall be deemed to be a waiver of any preceding or succeeding breach of the same or any other provision hereof.

17. Entire Agreement. This Contract contains the entire agreement between the parties hereto, and each party acknowledges that neither has made (either directly or through any agent or representative) any representations or agreements in connection with this Contract not specifically set forth herein. This Contract may be modified or amended only by agreement in writing executed by County and Title Agent/Examiner, and not otherwise.

18. Venue. This Contract shall be construed under and in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas, and all obligations of the parties created hereunder are performable in Hidalgo County, Texas. The parties hereby consent to personal jurisdiction in Hidalgo County, Texas.

19. **Hold Harmless.** In the event Title Agent/Examiner should cause, either directly or indirectly, damage, loss, destruction, liability, or claims against the other party as a result of intentional conduct, negligence or otherwise, Title Agent/Examiner shall hold harmless and indemnify County from any and all obligations, liabilities, causes of action, lawsuits, damages, and assessments, including legal fees, etc., that result from the Title Agent/Examiner's intentional actions or negligence. This indemnification clause shall survive this Contract and be enforceable as a separate agreement in the event its survival and enforcement becomes necessary.

20. **Attorney's Fees.** In the unlikely event that a dispute occurs which is litigated or arbitrated, or a cause of action in law or equity is filed concerning the operation, construction, interpretation, or enforcement of this Contract, the losing party shall bear the cost of the attorney's fees incurred by the prevailing party and any and all costs applicable thereto, including, but not limited to, court costs, deposition fees, expert witness fees, out-of-pocket expenses and travel expenses which are incurred by the prevailing party.

21. **Notices.** Except as may be otherwise specifically provided in this Contract, all notices, demands, requests or communications required or permitted hereunder shall be in writing and shall either be (i) personally delivered against a written receipt, or (ii) sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid and addressed to the parties at the addresses set forth below, or at such other addresses as may have been theretofore specified by written notice delivered in accordance herewith:

If to County:

County of Hidalgo
Attention: County Judge
100 E. Cano, 2nd Floor
Edinburg, Texas 78539

If to Title Agent/Examiner: Edwards Abstract and Title, Ltd.
(DBA) Edwards Abstract and Title Co.
Attn: Byron J. Lewis, President
3111 W. Freddy Gonzalez Drive
Edinburg, Texas 78539

Each notice, demand, request or communication which shall be delivered or mailed in the manner described above shall be deemed sufficiently given for all purposes at such time as it is personally delivered to the addressee or, if mailed, at such time as it is deposited in the United States mail.

22. **Execution of Documents.** The parties hereto covenant and agree that they will execute such other and further instruments and documents as are or may become necessary or convenient to effectuate and carry out the terms of this Contract.

23. **Binding Contract.** This Contract shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the parties hereto and their respective heirs, executors, administrators, legal representatives, successors, and assigns where permitted by this contract.

24. **Gender.** All pronouns used in this Contract shall include the other gender, whether used in the masculine, feminine or neuter gender, and the singular shall include the plural whenever and as often as may be appropriate

25. **Authority.** The execution and performance of this Contract by County and Title Agent/Examiner have been duly authorized by all necessary laws, resolutions or corporate action, and this Contract constitutes the valid and enforceable obligations of County and Title Agent/Examiner in accordance with its terms.

EXECUTED as of the day and year first written above.

APPROVED BY COMMISSIONERS COURT ON _____, 2009.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

COUNTY OF HIDALGO, TEXAS

By: _____
Antonio Mendoza
Asst. Criminal District Attorney

By: _____
Juan D. Salinas, III, County Judge

TITLE AGENT/EXAMINER:

NAME: Edwards Abstract and Title Co.

By: _____

Printed Name: _____

Title: _____

ATTEST:

Arturo Guajardo, Jr., County Clerk

EXHIBIT "A"

Services to be provided by Title
Agent/Examiner



PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
County Of Hidalgo

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) CHECKLIST

"HIDALGO COUNTY -
TITLE REPORT SERVICES (POOL)"

RFP NO: 2009-032-01-21-OTM

1. Request for Proposals Letter.
2. Request for Proposals, Legal Notice, consisting of 8 pages.
3. Exhibit A, Requirements, Scope of Services, Additional Specifications/Requirements consisting of 9 pages.
4. Exhibit B, Evaluation/Selection Criteria, consisting of 3 page.
5. Exhibit C, Insurance Requirements, consisting of 4 pages.
6. Exhibit D, CIQ Conflict Of Interest Questionnaire, consisting of 1 pages.
7. Exhibit E, Proposer's Affidavit, consisting of 1 page.
8. Proposer/Vendor Application and Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) Declaration, consisting of 2 pages.
9. IRS W-9 Form, consisting of 4 pages.
10. Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters, consisting of 1 page.
11. Draft Contract Document, consisting of 4 pages.

The above mentioned items shall be found in the Request for Proposals (RFP) packet that is attached herewith. Should you find that any of the items are not attached in its entirety please contact Purchasing by calling (956) 318-2626, advise of missing documentation, and Purchasing will forward information either through facsimile or by U.S. Mail.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martha L. Salazar".

Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent

January 05, 2009

Date



PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
County Of Hidalgo

January 05, 2009

Re: **HIDALGO COUNTY**
Request For Proposals -

"HIDALGO COUNTY – TITLE REPORT SERVICES (POOL)"

RFP NO: 2009-032-01-21-OTM

Dear Respondents,

Enclosed please find a Request for Proposals (RFP) packet for you review and consideration.

Hidalgo County Purchasing Department welcomes and appreciates your participation in the RFP process.

If any further assistance is required, please do not hesitate to call the Purchasing Department at (956) 318-2626.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martha L. Salazar" followed by a stylized flourish.

Martha L. Salazar, CPPB
Hidalgo County Purchasing Agent

MLS:otm

Enclosures

RFP NO: 2009-032-01-21

BUYER: OLGA T. MONTERO

Tel. No: (956) 318-2626

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Hidalgo County

Edinburg, Texas

“POOL”-TITLE REPORT SERVICES

JANUARY 21, 2009

Contact Person:

Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
Administration Building
Physical Address: 2802 S. Business Hwy. 281
Mailing/US Postal Address: 2812 S. Business Hwy. 281
Edinburg, Texas 78539

(956) 318-2626

Form HCPD-04

LEGAL NOTICE

RFP NO: 2009-032-01-21-otm

1. Sealed proposals will be received for "**Hidalgo County - TITLE REPORT SERVICES (POOL)**", in accordance with the requirements attached hereto as Exhibit "A." Proposals should address all requirements set forth. Proposers may suggest substitutions of features which they feel would be in the best interest of Hidalgo County ("County"). Strong rationale must be presented for any deviation from the requirements. Hidalgo County reserves the right to reject the deviation and its effect on the overall proposal.
2. One (1) original and seven (7) copies of all RFPs are required, with the vendor's name and address clearly typed/printed on upper left hand corner and the proper notation clearly typed/printed on the lower left hand corner of the envelope and/or package. **RFP NO: 2009-032-01-21-otm-Hidalgo County - TITLE REPORT SERVICES (POOL)** and in County's Purchasing Department, **physical address:** 2802 S. Business Hwy. 281; **mailing address:** 2812 S. Hwy. Business 281, New Administration Building, Edinburg, Texas, **on or before 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, JANUARY 21, 2009.**

NO FACSIMILES OR LATE ARRIVALS WILL BE ACCEPTED. ANY RFP RECEIVED AFTER THAT TIME WILL NOT BE OPENED AND WILL BE RETURNED. OVERNIGHT MAIL MUST ALSO BE PROPERLY LABELED ON THE OUTSIDE OF EXPRESS ENVELOPE OR PACKAGE WITH THE FOLLOWING REFERENCE: RFP NO: 2009-032-01-21-otm-"HIDALGO COUNTY - TITLE REPORT SERVICES (POOL)".

WRITTEN QUESTIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED WILL BE ACCEPTED via facsimile to (956) 292-7612 or via e-mail to olga.montero@co.hidalgo.tx.us. BY NO LATER THAN Wednesday, January 14, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. Responses will be sent to all applicants by Friday, January 16, 2009. TELEPHONE INQUIRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Hidalgo County reserves the right to refuse and reject any/all proposals and to waive any/all formalities or technicalities, or to accept the proposal considered the best and most advantageous to Hidalgo County.

3. Hidalgo County reserves the right to: **A.** separate and accept, or eliminate any item(s) listed under this proposal that it deems necessary to accommodate budgetary and/or operational requirements; **B.** right to reject any or all proposals submitted and further reserves the right to design the evaluation criteria to be used in selecting the lowest and best proposal for approval. Receipt of any proposal shall under no circumstances obligate County to accept the lowest dollar proposal and; **C.** award of this contract shall be made to the responsible offeror whose proposal is determined to be the best evaluated offer resulting from negotiation, taking into consideration the relative importance of price and other evaluation factors as herein set forth.
4. Failure of the delivered item(s) to perform as specified or failure to meet the stated delivery schedule shall release Hidalgo County from all obligations to the contracting party with regard to the item(s) in question. In such event, County may elect to award the contract to the next-lowest responsible proposer, or to reject all proposals and re-advertise.

5. For work to be performed at a County owned or operated location, each proposer shall, in its sole discretion, visit the job site before preparing the proposal and thoroughly familiarize himself/herself with existing conditions. Proposer should take field dimensions and note all circumstances which affect the dollar amount of the proposal.
6. Descriptive specifications are referenced in this document to indicate the general kind and quality of equipment desired by Hidalgo County. Due to various styles and models of equipment, proposers are required to include illustrations, specifications, explanation of warranties, and service data with their proposal including catalogue numbers and any necessary references.
7. No proposal may be withdrawn within sixty (60) days from the scheduled time to open proposals.
8. Proposed prices are to remain firm for a minimum of ninety (90) days after priced proposal opening.
9. Any interpretations, amendments, corrections or changes to this proposal document must be in a written addendum and signed by the County Judge or his designee. Addenda will be mailed to all who are known to have received a copy of the Request for Proposals. Proposers shall acknowledge receipt of all addenda as a part of their proposal.
10. County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals.
11. Costs are to be net F.O.B., County Prepaid.
12. County is exempt from Federal Excise Tax, State Tax and Local Tax. Do Not include tax in cost figure. If it is determined that tax was included in the cost figures it will not be included in the tabulation of any awards. Tax exemption certificates will be furnished upon request.
13. Funds for this procurement have been provided through the County budget for this fiscal year only. County, on an annual basis, has the right to reconsider a contract during the budget process for ensuing years if financial resources of County are insufficient to meet the liabilities of said contract. The award of a proposal or contract hereunder will not be construed to create a debt of the County which is payable out of funds beyond the current fiscal year.
14. Upon award and prior to execution of a contract, Sole Proprietorships are required to submit a copy of their social security card to the Hidalgo County Auditor's Office in order to establish an account with the County. All awarded vendors must submit a completed W-9 and a copy of their Federal ID Number Certificate.
15. DELIVERY INSTRUCTIONS: (If applicable)
 - . No deliveries accepted after 3:00 P.M., Monday-Friday.
 - . At least seventy two (72) hours prior notice of delivery must be given to Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent before delivery will be accepted.

If you need additional information call the office listed below:

Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent
(956) 318-2626

16. BILLING AND PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS:

- . Invoices must include:
 - a) Name and address of successful proposer
 - b) Name and address of receiving department or official
 - c) Purchase Order Number (if any)
 - d) Notation – **“Hidalgo County – Title Report Services (Pool)”**
 - e) Descriptive information as to the items or services delivered, including product code, item number, quantity, etc.

. Discount payments will be considered when offered.

. Contact person for Billing and Payment questions:
Hidalgo County Auditor's Office
Ray Eufrazio, County Auditor
2802 S. Business Hwy. 281
Edinburg, TX 78539
956-318-2511

17. Schedule of Events

| | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Projected Proposal Opening, 9:30 A.M., | <u>JANUARY 21, 2009</u> |
| Project/Anticipated Award Date: | _____, 2009 |
| Commence Work or Deliver Products | _____, 2009 |

18. ~~Bid or Performance Bond and Debarment Certification; Payment Under Contract:~~

~~If the contract proposed is for the construction of public works or is for a contract for goods and services exceeding \$100,000, all bidders shall furnish a good and sufficient bid bond in the amount of five percent of the total contract price. A bid bond must be executed with a surety company authorized to do business in Texas.~~

All participants are required to furnish a certification or acknowledgment stating that the contractor or vendor is free from suspension or debarment pursuant to federal regulation 45CFR76.

- . ~~Together with the signing of a contract or issuance of a purchase order following the acceptance of a proposal, and prior to commencement of the actual work, the proposer shall furnish a performance bond to the County for the full amount of the contract, if that contract exceeds \$50,000.~~
- . ~~If the contract is for \$50,000 or less, no money will be paid to the contractor until completion and acceptance of the work or the fulfillment of the purchase obligation to the County, and, if applicable, the receipt by County of satisfactory evidence that all subcontractors and material men have been paid.~~
- . ~~If a contract is for the construction, alteration or repair of public buildings or public works, the contractor shall provide a payment bond for a contract in excess of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), as required by Tex. Govt. Code Ch. 2253.~~
- . ~~For requirements contracts, bond requirements are determined by applying the proposed unit price to the estimated quantities included in the specifications.~~

19. Ethical Standards:

- . It shall be a breach of ethics to offer, give or agree to give any elected official, department head or employee, or former elected official, department head or employee, of the County, or for any elected official, department head or employee or former elected official, department head or employee of the County, to solicit, demand, accept or agree to accept from another person, entity or organization, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation or any part of a program requirement or purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing, or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract, or to any solicitation or proposal therefor pending before any department or agency of the County.
- . It shall be a breach of ethics for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor for any contract for the County, or any person associated therewith, as an inducement for the award of a subcontract or order.
- . No public official shall have an interest in a contract awarded hereunder except in accordance with Tex. Loc. Govt. Code Chapter 171.

20. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest:

- . Effective January 1, 2006, Chapter 176 of the Texas Local Government Code requires that any vendor, person, consultant or contractor considering doing business with Hidalgo County ("the County") to disclose in the Conflict of Interest Questionnaire (the "CIQ") attached as Exhibit D, the vendor, person consultant or contractor's affiliation or business relationship that might cause a conflict of interest with the County. By law, the CIQ must be

filed with the Hidalgo County Clerk's Office no later than the seventh business day after the date the person becomes aware of facts that require that statement to be filed. The disclosure requirement applies to a person or business who contract or seeks to contract with Hidalgo County for the sale or purchase of property, goods or service. Any purchase order or contract resulting from this process shall be considered null and void if the successful Proposer fails to comply with Texas Local Government Code Chapter 176. Vendors, consultants, contractors and others who desire to conduct business with Hidalgo County are encouraged to refer to Texas Local Government Code Chapter 176 for the details of this law. An offense under Texas Local Government Code Chapter 176 is a Class C Misdemeanor.

Please submit complete CIQ forms to the Hidalgo County Clerk's Office located at 100 No. Clossner, Edinburg, Texas 78539-Hidalgo County Courthouse **COMPLETION AND SUBMISSION OF FORM CIQ IS THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PROSPECTIVE PROPOSER.**

21. If, during the life of any contract or proposal awarded, the successful proposer's net prices generally available to other customers for items awarded herein are reduced below the contracted price, it is understood and agreed that the benefits of such reduction shall be extended to County.
22. Proposals, and all goods and services provided thereunder, shall comply with all federal, state and local laws concerning this type(s) of goods and/or services.
23. Minimum Standards For Responsible Prospective Proposers: A prospective proposer must affirmatively demonstrate proposer's responsibility. A prospective proposer, by submitting a proposal, represents to County that it meets the following requirements:
 - . Possess or is able to obtain adequate financial resources as required to perform under the proposal;
 - . Be able to comply with the required or proposed delivery schedule;
 - . Have a satisfactory record of performance;
 - . Have a satisfactory record of integrity and ethics;
 - . Be otherwise qualified and eligible to receive an award.
23. Successful proposer will pay or cause to be paid, without cost or expenses to County, all FICA, FUTA/SUTA and Federal Income Withholding Taxes of all employees, and all wages and benefits as required by Federal or State law. Successful proposers' officers, agents and/or employees will not be entitled to any benefits of an employee or elected official of County, including, but not limited to, benefits associated with County's civil service system.
24. Any contract award to a successful proposer will be in effect until (a) the contract expires, (b) delivery and acceptance of products, and/or performance of services ordered, or (c) terminated by County with thirty (30) day's written notice prior to cancellation.

25. County reserves the right to enforce performance of any contract awarded hereunder in any manner prescribed by law or deemed to be in the best interest of the County in the event of breach or default by successful proposer; County reserves the right to terminate any contract immediately in the event a successful proposer fails to:
 - A. Meet schedules;
 - B. Pay any required fees or taxes; or
 - C. Otherwise perform in accordance with the requirements.
26. Successful proposer shall defend, indemnify and save harmless County and all its elected officials, officers, agents and employees from all suits, actions, or other claims of any character, name and description brought for or on account of any injuries or damages received or sustained by any person, persons, or property on account of any negligent act or fault of the successful proposer, or of any agent, employee, subcontractor or supplier in the execution of, or performance under, any contract which may result from proposal award. Successful proposer indemnifies and will indemnify and save harmless County from liability, claim or demand on their part, agents, servants, customers, and/or employees whether such liability, claim or demand arise from event or casualty happening or within the occupied premises themselves or happening upon or in any of the halls, elevators, entrances, stairways or approaches of or to the facilities within which the occupied premises are located. Successful proposer shall pay any judgment with costs which may be obtained against County growing out of such injury or damages, and shall, upon request, provide a defense to County by counsel reasonably acceptable to County. Successful proposer's indemnity hereunder shall include, but is not limited to, claims relating to patent, copyright or trademark infringement, and the like, arising out of the goods or services provided by successful proposer.
27. Successful proposer shall warrant that all items/services shall conform with the specifications and/or all warranties provided under the Uniform Commercial Code and be free from all defects in material, workmanship and the like. Items supplied under a contract pursuant to this Request for Proposals shall be subject to County's approval. Items found to be defective or not meeting specifications shall be replaced by successful proposer within two business days at no expense to County. Items not picked up within one (1) week after notification shall be deemed a donation to County and may be used or disposed of at County's discretion and without waiver of any other rights of County as to the item's nonconformity.
28. This document and any disputes arising hereunder shall be governed and construed according to the laws of the State of Texas, and will be performable exclusively in Hidalgo County, Texas.
29. The successful proposer shall not assign, sell, transfer or convey its rights under any awarded contract, in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of County.
30. Proposers shall provide with the proposal response, a list of at least three (3) references where like services have been supplied by their firm. Include the name of the business or government, address, telephone number and name of representative or contact person.
31. Proposers must provide **all** documentation requested with this Proposal in their response. Failure to provide this information may result in rejection of the proposal as non conforming.

Request for Proposal
HIDALGO COUNTY -
“TITLE REPORT SERVICES (POOL)”
RFP NO: 2009-032-01-21-OTM

To: Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
Physical Address: 2802 S. Business Hwy. 281
Mailing/US Postal Address: 2812 S. Business Hwy. 281
Edinburg, Texas 78539

In accordance with the Requirements, and subject to all laws and regulations of the United States and state and local laws, the undersigned proposer proposes and commits to furnish all labor, equipment, material, software and services as set forth in the documents hereinbefore mentioned. The undersigned proposer further agrees, upon acceptance of its proposal, to execute a contract and/or Purchase Order issued by Hidalgo County for performing and completing the work described in the Requirements within the time stated and for the prices proposed in the documents attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Proposer acknowledges receipt of all of the pages of the documents referenced in the Request for Proposal Checklist presented in connection with this procurement. Proposer understands that Hidalgo County reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and further reserves the right to design the evaluation criteria to be used in selecting the lowest and best proposal.

Proposer agrees that this proposal shall be good and may not be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) calendar days after the scheduled closing time for receiving proposals, as contained in the Requirements.

Respectfully submitted,

Proposer: _____

Address: _____

By: _____

Printed Name: _____

EXHIBIT A
REQUIREMENTS
HIDALGO COUNTY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

TITLE REPORT SERVICES-“(POOL)”

(Including all Funding Sources, Programs and Entities)

RFP NO: 2009-032-01-21-otm

**HIDALGO COUNTY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
"TITLE REPORT SERVICES"(POOL)
RFP NO: 2009-032-01-21-otm**

Overview:

The County of Hidalgo is seeking to engage services from firm(s) or vendor to provide "Title Report Services" on an "AS NEEDED BASIS". The Hidalgo County Purchasing Department will receive sealed envelopes containing proposals for the provision of "**POOL-TITLE REPORT SERVICES**" as specified herein. Sealed proposals will be accepted until **9:30 A.M., Wednesday, JANUARY 21, 2008. ANY RFP RECEIVED AFTER THAT DATE AND TIME WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AND WILL BE RETURNED UNOPENED.**

Deliver Submittal to:
RFP Number: 2009-032-001-21-OTM

US Postal Mail Address:

Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
Administration Building
2812 S. Business Hwy 281
Edinburg, Texas 78539

Physical Address:

Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
Administration Building
2802 S. Business Hwy. 281
Edinburg, Texas 78539

The Submittal Envelope Must Show The RFP Number, Name And Opening Date.

The following outlines the Request For Proposals:

SECTION I -GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Hidalgo County is requesting that request for proposals be routed to Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent, at:

US Postal Mail Address:

Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
Administration Building
2812 S. Business Hwy 281
Edinburg, Texas 78539

Physical Address:

Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
Administration Building
2802 S. Business Hwy. 281
Edinburg, Texas 78539

WRITTEN QUESTIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED VIA FACSIMILE NO LATER THAN Wednesday, JANUARY 14, 2009, at 5:00 P.M. at (956) 292-7612 or e-mail to olga.montero@co.hidalgo.tx.us . Responses will be sent to all applicants via facsimile by Friday, JANUARY 16, 2008. **TELEPHONE INQUIRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

Effective January 1, 2006, Chapter 176 of the Texas Local Government Code requires that any vendor, person, consultant or contractor considering doing business with Hidalgo County ("the County") to disclose in the Conflict of Interest Questionnaire (the "CIQ") attached as **Exhibit D**, the vendor, person consultant or contractor's affiliation or business relationship that might cause a conflict of interest with the County. By law, the CIQ must be filed with the Hidalgo County Clerk's Office no later than the seventh business day after the date the person becomes aware of facts that require that statement to be filed. The disclosure requirement applies to a person or business who contract or seeks to contract with Hidalgo County for the sale or purchase of property, goods or service. Any purchase order or contract resulting from this process shall be considered null and void if the successful participant fails to comply with Texas Local Government Code Chapter 176. Vendors, consultants, contractors and others who desire to conduct business with Hidalgo County are encouraged to refer to Texas Local Government Code Chapter 176 for the details of this law. An offense under Texas Local Government Code Chapter 176 is a Class C Misdemeanor.

Please submit complete CIQ forms to the Hidalgo County Clerk's Office locate at 100 No. Clossner, Edinburg, Texas 78539-Hidalgo County Courthouse **COMPLETION AND SUBMISSION OF FORM CIQ IS THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PROSPECTIVE BIDDER.**

PROPOSER'S AFFIDAVIT:

Prior Contract award, respondents to this RFP must submit a signed Proposer's Affidavit (attached herein in **Exhibit E**) certifying that the submission is (1) not the result of Collusion as described in the Proposer's Affidavit or that the Respondent has not and will not attempt to lobby directly or indirectly as described in the Proposer's Affidavit.

NON-DISCRIMINATION:

Submitters, during the performance of this contract, will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, religion, sex, national origin or disability except where religion, sex, national origin or disability is a bona fide occupational qualification reasonably necessary to the normal operation of the contractor.

PROCESSING TIME FOR PAYMENT:

Submitters are advised that a minimum of thirty (30) days is required to process invoices for payment.

ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION OF BIDS:

Hidalgo County's Purchasing Department will not accept telegraphic or electronically transmitted submissions.

PROOF OF FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS CAPABILITY:

Submitters must, upon request, furnish satisfactory evidence of their ability to furnish products or services in accordance with the terms and conditions of these requirements. Hidalgo County will make the final determination as to the submitter's ability.

SUBMITTER DEFAULT:

Hidalgo County reserves the right, in case of submitter default, to procure the articles or services from other sources and hold the defaulting submitter responsible for any excess costs occasioned thereby.

RESTRICTIVE OR AMBIGUOUS REQUIREMENTS:

It is the responsibility of the submitter to review the Request for Proposal (RFP) packet and to notify the Purchasing Department if the requirements are formulated in a manner that would unnecessarily restrict competition. Any such protest or question regarding the requirements or proposers procedures must be received in the Purchasing Department not less than seventy-two hours prior to the time set for the opening. These criteria also apply to requirements that are ambiguous.

HAND DELIVERED PROPOSALS:

Hidalgo County requires submitters, when hand delivering proposals, to make sure that it is stamped with date and time by the County Purchasing Staff.

SIGNING OF PROPOSALS:

In order to be considered all submittals **must** be signed. **Please sign the original in blue ink.**

WAIVING OF INFORMALITIES:

Hidalgo County reserves the right to waive minor informalities or technicalities when it is in the best interest of Hidalgo County.

SUBCONTRACTING:

The successful submitter **may not** subcontract the award without the written consent of the Commissioners' Court of Hidalgo County.

TERMINATION OF CONTRACT: The initial term of the contract shall be for **Two Year**, with the County's option for additional **One Year** extension based on prior year's performance evaluation and contingent upon cost remaining unchanged. Hidalgo County reserves the right to continue this proposal for an additional sixty (60) day "Grace Period" at the end of the contract term for unforeseen delay of award for next term and contingent upon cost remaining unchanged. Additional requirements to be included in the contract, stated under **Scope of Services** in **Exhibit "A"**.

DAVIS BACON ACT:

All selected and awarded firms are required to include the Davis-Bacon Act when advertising and developing specifications **(if applicable)**.

SECTION II - RFP REQUIREMENTS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS:

The required contents and limitations for the preparation of the RFP are described in this section. Failure to provide the requested information or adhere to any County limitations will result in disqualification of the submitted RFP. A total of **one (1) original and seven (7) copies** of the RFP shall be submitted to the address on the cover letter.

UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROJECT:

This section should demonstrate the proposers understanding of the project needs, the services required, and any local issues or concerns. Briefly explain how long you have been organized and your business objectives. Explain how long you have been in business. This description should be concise, candid, and limited to 3 pages in length.

PROPOSER'S QUALIFICATIONS:

Hidalgo County is soliciting to contract with a proposer who is qualified, licensed and certified. The proposer will directly perform the required services are required to have any and all applicable licenses, permits, credentials, qualifications to perform necessary services. Must submit any and all applicable licenses, permits, credentials, qualifications with RFP. Photostat copies are acceptable

PERSONNEL AND STAFFING:

The proposers should provide an organizational chart for the project and a summary paragraph of the project work to be performed by each proposed staff member. Biographic summaries that highlight the experience relevant to the specific project responsibilities should be provided for all proposed personnel. There is a one (1) page limitation for each biographic summary provided. Information regarding the proposer's credentials, education and experience with other entities is required and will be scored accordingly during the evaluation process.

REQUIRED CERTIFICATES AND SUBMITTAL:

This section will contain **any/all** licenses, registrations, permits, and certifications as required by the STATE OF TEXAS and HIDALGO COUNTY that you possess that deem you as qualified.

If proposer/vendor cannot meet any of the following services/responsibilities, such exceptions must be noted on the company's cover letter.

SCOPE OF SERVICES

The County of Hidalgo is accepting Proposals from interested firms with the experience in providing "Title Report Services". The purpose of soliciting Proposals (RFP) is to develop a "pool" of pre qualified firms or vendors from which evaluated, ranked and negotiated engagements of Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contracts will be executed for "Title Report Services".

I. FIRM QUALIFICATIONS

A. The firm or vendor selected is to have adequate experience and a workload free from constraints to complete Title Reports within three (3) business days per parcel.

B. The provider should have experience with: (1) State (i.e. Tx DOT), County and other governmental entities as well as private sector firms; and/or (2) Education and/or life experience equivalent in rendering such services.

C. Hidalgo County intends to negotiate and issue one or more Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity Contracts (IDIQ).

D. All information and/or data contained within the completed "Title Report" must be obtained from a Title/Abstract office.

II. SCOPE OF SERVICES

Information to be included in each title report:

1. Name and address of owner of property with information on title vesting;
2. Lien holder with recording information;
3. Legal description of property;
4. Easement affecting property both specifically for the lot and general covering entire subdivision;
5. Show any Federal *and/or* State Tax Liens
6. Provide copies of Deed, Liens, and Easements.
7. Provide copy of maps where information was retrieved
(Highlighted & Specified)

III. RFQ Requirements

Each proposal must address, but may not be limited to, the following issues:

1. Firm Name
2. Name, position, phone and fax number of Point of Contact (POC).
3. Name of Principal Owner and number of years in business.
4. State name of Title Company from whose records information will be obtained.
5. List three governmental projects with names, addresses and phone numbers of representatives who can be contacted for references.
6. Detail how your firm/company has the capability to deliver the services required on a timely basis.

IV. Evaluation Criteria

The following criteria will generally be used to evaluate Statements of Qualifications:

1. Capability to perform all the services required for the noted projects in a timely manner, namely to meet schedules and deadlines of a maximum of three (3) business (working) days per parcel.
2. Recent experience and familiarity with Hidalgo County and the Texas Department of Transportation requirements and procedures;
3. List of recent projects.
4. Professional integrity and competence.
5. Professional background.
6. Current workload.
7. Thoroughness of information provided.

V. Request for Services & Evaluation Process

A department requiring Title Report Services will review, evaluate & rank at least three Statements of Qualifications utilizing the evaluation criteria noted below.

Based on the committee's review and evaluation, a minimum of three (3) firms will be ranked for further consideration and may be required to submit supplemental information.

Negotiations will take place with the potential firms in the order of their ranked evaluation, for subsequent negotiations of fees & services with one or more firms on a rotational basis for the Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) Contract.

VI. Involuntary Termination: The approval of a vendor as prequalified to perform work for the County under this RFP shall be deemed to be terminated and the vendor removed from the qualified vendor list upon the occurrence of any of the following:

- A. The death of the vendor, if an individual, or the primary professional member, if a firm or entity;
- B. The suspension, revocation or cancellation of the vendor's right to practice his profession in the State of Texas;
- C. The imposition of any restriction or limitations by any Governmental authority having jurisdiction over the vendor to such an extent that the vendor cannot engage in the professional practice for which vendor is pre-qualified;
- D. The failure of the vendor to faithfully and diligently perform the usual and customary duties assigned or contracted to it from time to time;
- E. The failure or refusal of the vendor to comply with the reasonable policies, standards and regulations of Hidalgo County which may from time to time be established; provided, however, that such policies, standards and regulations are not contrary to any law or regulatory directive; or
- F. The conduct of the vendor in any unprofessional, unethical, or fraudulent manner; a finding of unprofessional or unethical conduct by any board, institution, organization or professional society having any privilege or right to pass upon the conduct of the vendor, or conduct of the vendor which discredits Hidalgo County.
- G. A vendor submitting a deliverable product, i.e. title report, that results in delay or interruption of the acquisition process including the incurring of additional expense by the County will be grounds for termination of vendor's participation in the "Pool".

PROPOSERS ARE TO PROVIDE A FEE SCHEDULE WITH THIS SUBMITTAL:

Proposer(s) is to provide a proposed fee on proposal page based on the scope of services/work requested.

RFPs must be submitted by no later than 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, JANUARY 21, 2009.

RFP SUBMITTED TO: An original and seven (7) copies of RFPs should be submitted to:

US Postal Mail Address:

Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
Administration Building
2812 S. Business Hwy 281
Edinburg, Texas 78539

Physical Address:

Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
Administration Building
2802 S. Business Hwy. 281
Edinburg, Texas 78539

All/Any costs and expenses associated with the preparation and submission of (bids, proposals and/or quotes) shall be the responsibility of the proposer and not reimbursements for such charges or expenses shall be passed onto Hidalgo County.

Hidalgo County has the authority to utilize State Contracts from its membership with their existing or new cooperatives when ever it is in the County's best interest to do so.

SECTION III – SELECTION/EVALUATION/RANKING

A. SELECTION/EVALUATION/RANKING PROCESS:

The RFP shall be submitted according to the schedule below. The County of Hidalgo is not required to select the proposal with the lowest fees, but shall take into consideration other factors, including past experience, evidence of good organization background, references, ability to provide requested services, and any other factors found necessary for quality services including a presentation of the proposed system. Hidalgo County will evaluate the proposal utilizing the evaluation criteria outlined in Exhibit "B" attached herein. Thereafter, Hidalgo County Commissioners Court will rank and/or award this proposal.

Proposals will be graded on a 100-point system with emphasis on ability to service Hidalgo County including, but not be limited to, the items listed below:

- | | | | |
|----|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. | Responsiveness: | Total Points Possible: | 30 points |
| | a. Thoroughness of Requested Information | | (10 Points) |
| | b. Understanding of Project | | (10 Points) |
| | c. List of References provided | | (10 Points) |
| 2. | Firm Capabilities: | Total Points Possible: | 40 points |
| | a. Quality and Accuracy of work performed | | (10 points) |
| | b. Experience with similar projects | | (10 points) |
| | c. Capability to meet schedules and deadlines | | (10 points) |
| | d. Current workload and ability to commence various requested projects simultaneously | | (10 points) |
| 3. | Cost Fees In considering the proposals, the Hidalgo County reserves the right to select the acceptable applicant who offers contractual terms and conditions that are most advantageous, including but not limited to price per parcel and/or services price per day/hour. | | |
| | | | 30 points |
| | | | Total 100 Points |

B. RANKING OF PROPOSALS:

Hidalgo County will evaluate and score the RFP responses. After the RFPs have been evaluated and scored, Hidalgo County will make a recommendation to Hidalgo County Commissioners Court for approval of rank and/or award of proposal.

C. NEGOTIATION PROCESS:

Compliance with all requirements, the most cost productive, efficient and effective plan will be considered. Emphasis will be placed on capability to perform within the program as well as meeting the needs of Hidalgo County. Accuracy and completeness are essential. If negotiations proved unsuccessful, the next highest ranked proposer will be contacted. Hidalgo County reserves the right to reject any and all RFPs.

EXHIBIT B

SELECTION CRITERIA

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

**HIDALGO COUNTY
“TITLE REPORT SERVICES (POOL)”
(Including all Funding Sources, Programs and Entities)**

RFP NO: 2009-032-01-21-OTM

HIDALGO COUNTY
“TITLE REPORT SERVICES”
RFP NO: 2009-032-01-21 -OTM

EVALUATION CRITERIA

The evaluation criteria will include, but not be limited to, the items listed below:

The RFP shall be submitted according to the schedule below. The County of Hidalgo is not required to select the proposal with the lowest fees, but shall take into consideration other factors, including past experience, evidence of good organization background, references, ability to provide requested services, and any other factors found necessary for quality services including a presentation of the proposed system. Hidalgo County will evaluate the proposal utilizing the evaluation criteria outlined in Exhibit “B” attached herein. Thereafter, Hidalgo County Commissioners Court will rank and/or award this proposal.

Proposals will be graded on a 100-point system with emphasis on ability to service Hidalgo County including, but not be limited to, the items listed below:

- | | | |
|----|---|------------------|
| 1. | Responsiveness: Thoroughness of requested information Comments/Rationale for Points: | 10 points |
| 2. | Understanding of Project | 10 points |
| 3. | List of references provided | 10 points |
| 4. | Quality and Accuracy of work performed | 10 points |
| 5. | Experience with similar projects | 10 points |
| 6. | Capability to meet schedules and deadlines | 10 points |
| 7. | Current workload and ability to commence various requested projects simultaneously | 10 points |
| 8. | Cost Fees. In considering the proposals, the Hidalgo County reserves the right to select the acceptable applicant who offers contractual terms and conditions that are most advantageous, including but not limited to price per parcel and services price per day, hour. 30 points | |

TOTAL POINTS 100

**HIDALGO COUNTY
 "TITLE REPORT SERVICES"
 RFP NO: 2009-032-01-21-OTM**

RFP EVALUATION FORM

| | <u>Selection Criteria</u> | <u>Range</u> | <u>Point Score</u> |
|----|--|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Responsiveness: Thoroughness of requested information Comments/Rationale for Points: _____ _____ | 10 points | _____ |
| 2. | Understanding of Project Comments/Rationale for Points: _____ _____ | 10 points | _____ |
| 3. | List of references provided Comments/Rationale for Points: _____ _____ | 10 points | _____ |
| 4. | Quality and Accuracy of work performed Comments/Rationale for Points: _____ _____ | 10 points | _____ |
| 5. | Experience with similar projects Comments/Rationale for Points: _____ _____ | 10 points | _____ |
| 6. | Capability to meet schedules and deadlines Comments/Rationale for Points: _____ _____ | 10 points | _____ |
| 7. | Current workload and ability to commence various requested projects simultaneously Comments/Rationale for Points: _____ _____ | 10 points | _____ |
| 8. | Cost Fees. Comments/Rationale for Points: _____ _____ | 30 points | _____ |

Total 100% **Score** _____
 Provider: _____
 Evaluator: _____ Date: _____

EXHIBIT “C”
Insurance Requirements
Applicable to the Acquisition of Goods and /or Services (other than
Professional Services)

The Bidder awarded the contract shall furnish proof of insurance, which will also include any subcontractor that is subcontracted by the bidder in at least the following limits, to be in place prior to providing any services under this Contract and to continue at all times in force in effect during the term of this Contract:

1. A Five Hundred Thousand Dollar (\$500,000.00) Comprehensive General Liability insurance policy providing additional coverage to all underlying liabilities of County.
2. Automobile liability insurance policy with limits of at least Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000.00) per person and Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) per occurrence. Coverage should include injury to or death of persons and property damage claims with limits up to Five Hundred Thousand (\$500,000.00) arising out of the services provided to County hereunder.
3. Uninsured/Underinsured motorist coverage in an amount equal to the bodily injury limits set forth immediately above;
4. Workers compensation insurance in amounts established by Texas law, unless the Bidder is specifically exempted from the Texas Workers Compensation Act, Texas Labor Code Chapter 401, et. seq.

Hidalgo County will only accept certificates of insurance on an Acord form (as attached hereto). Certificates of insurance naming County as an additional insured shall be submitted to County for approval prior to any services being performed by Contractor. Each policy of insurance required hereunder shall extend for a period equivalent to, or longer than the term of the Contract, and any insurer hereunder shall be required to give at least thirty (30) days written notice to the County prior to the cancellation of any such coverage on the termination date, or otherwise. This Contract shall be automatically suspended upon the cancellation, or other termination, of any required policy of insurance hereunder, and such suspension shall continue until evidence adequate replacement coverage is provided to County. If replacement coverage is not provided within thirty (30) days following suspension of the Contract, this Contract shall automatically terminate.

Insurance Requirement Acknowledgment

I, _____, authorized representative for _____,
Company/Vendor

hereby acknowledge receipt of the County's required insurance limits. Said requirements:

- will be acquired within 10 working days after notification from Purchasing Department of bid awarded by the Hidalgo County Commissioners' Court;
- will acquire additional amounts required to meet the County's requirements within 10 working days after notification from Purchasing Department of bid award by the Hidalgo County Commissioners' Court; currently carry the following:
Automobile Liability: \$ _____ General Liability: \$ _____
- have already been met, see attached copy of insurance certificate.

Authorized Representative

Date

Notice to Bidder:

A certificate of insurance for the required insurance limits shall be provided to the Purchasing Department's Contract Managers in order to qualify for award of bid and to execute a contract between your Company and the County

Failure to provide Certificates of Insurance to the Purchasing Department's Contract Managers will cause the bid award to be rescinded and re-awarded to next lowest bidder. Certificates of Insurance will be monitored and verified on a **quarterly basis** to ensure coverage policy is in place. It is the Company's obligation to maintain the appropriate insurance coverage throughout the term of the contract.

THIS FORM MUST ACCOMPANY BID PACKET

**PROJECT REQUIREMENTS
ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

This is to certify that I, _____, possess all of the APPLICABLE:

1. Licenses: _____.

2. Bonds: _____.

3. Certificates: _____.

4. Permits: _____.

5. Other: _____.

necessary to carry out the required project. Furthermore, I am providing copies of the required documentation so that, if my company is awarded this bid, I may be eligible to enter into a contract with Hidalgo County and proceed to complete the project in a timely manner.

* Any licenses, bonds, certificates, permits, etc. which are required must be presented as part of the bid packet in order to expedite the bid evaluation process. Failure to provide said documentation will result in the disqualification of your bid.

Authorized Signature

Date

Company

Address

City, State, Zip

EXHIBIT "D"

CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE

FORM CIQ

For vendor or other person doing business with local governmental entity

This questionnaire reflects changes made to the law by H.B. 1491 80th Leg., Regular Session.
This questionnaire is being filed in accordance with Chapter 176, Local Government Code by a person who has a business relationship as defined by Section 176.001(1-a) with a local governmental entity and the person meets requirements under Section 176.006(a).
By law this questionnaire must be filed with the records administrator of the local governmental entity not later than the 7th business day after the date the person becomes aware of facts that require the statement to be filed. See Section 176.006, Local Government Code.
A person commits an offense if the person knowingly violates Section 176.006, Local Government Code. An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor.

OFFICE USE ONLY

File No. _____

1 Name of person who has a business relationship with local governmental entity.

2 Check this box if you are filing an update to a previously filed questionnaire.

(The law requires that you file an updated completed questionnaire with the appropriate filing authority not later than the 7th business day after the date the originally filed questionnaire becomes incomplete or inaccurate.)

3 Name of local government officer with whom filer has employment or business relationship.

Name of Officer

This section (item 3 including subparts A, B, C & D) must be completed for each officer with whom the filer has an employment or other business relationship as defined by Section 176.001(1-a), Local Government Code. Attach additional pages to this Form CIQ as necessary.

A. Is the local government officer named in this section receiving or likely to receive taxable income other than investment income from the filer of the questionnaire?

Yes No

B. Is the filer of the questionnaire receiving or likely to receive taxable income other than investment income from or at the direction of the local government officer named in this section AND the taxable income is not received from the local governmental entity?

Yes No

C. Is the filer of this questionnaire employed by a corporation or other business entity with respect to which the local government officer serves as an officer or director or holds an ownership of 10 percent or more?

Yes No

D. Describe each employment or business relationship with the local government officer named in this section.

4

Signature of person doing business with the governmental entity

Date

PROPOSER'S AFFIDAVIT
Exhibit "E"

PROPOSER'S AFFIDAVIT OF NON-COLLUSION
NON-CONFLICT OF INTEREST, AND ANTI-LOBBYING

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HIDALGO

Affiant, _____, being first duly sworn, deposes that:

(1) Affiant does hereby state neither the Proposer nor any of the Proposer's officers, partners, owners, agents, representatives, employees, or parties in interest, has in any way colluded, conspired, agreed, directly or indirectly with any person, firm, corporation, or other proposer, or potential proposer, to provide any money or other valuable consideration for assistance in procuring or attempting to procure a contract or fix the prices in the attached proposed or the proposal of any other proposer, and further states that no such money or other reward will be hereinafter paid.

(2) Affiant further states they have neither recommended or suggested to Hidalgo County or any of its officials or employees, any of the terms or provisions set forth in their Request for Proposal and subsequent agreement, except at a meeting open to all interested proposers, of which proper notice was given.

(3) Affiant, further states their officers, employees, or agents have not, and will not attempt to lobby, directly or indirectly, the Hidalgo County Commissioner's Court between proposal submission date and award by the Hidalgo County County Commissioner's Court.

(4) Affiant further states no officer, or stockholder of the Proposer is a member of the staff, or related to any employee of the Hidalgo County except as noted herein below:

Signature/Title: _____

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, 2008.

Notary Public

My commission expires: _____, 2008.



HIDALGO COUNTY PURCHASING DEPARTMENT Bidder/Vendor Application

Complete in print or type. Please return this application to the Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
thru Facsimile: (956) 318-2629 or (956) 292-7612
in person or regular mail to: 2812 S. Business Hwy. 281, Edinburg, Texas 78539
or e-mail: purchasing@co.hidalgo.tx.us

| | |
|--|---|
| Company Name: | Telephone No. () |
| dba Name: | |
| Legal Name: | |
| Mailing Address : | Fax No. () |
| Physical Address: | |
| City, State, Zip | Tax I.D. No. |
| Remit to Address : | City, State, Zip |
| E-Mail Address: | |
| Representative(s) Name(s) & Title(s) | |
| Type of Organization (check one): | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership <input type="checkbox"/> Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit <input type="checkbox"/> LLC <input type="checkbox"/> Sole Proprietor <input type="checkbox"/> Other, Specify |
| State Identification No. _____ | (Please attached completed W-9 form with this application) Federal Identification No. or (if individual) SS No. |
| State of Incorporation: _____ | Date: _____ Other: _____ |
| Type of Business (check one): | <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturer <input type="checkbox"/> Wholesaler <input type="checkbox"/> Retailer <input type="checkbox"/> Broker <input type="checkbox"/> Distributor <input type="checkbox"/> Service Organization <input type="checkbox"/> Other, Specify |
| <u>Name & Title of Person(s) Authorized to Sign Bids, Proposals, and/or Contracts:</u> | |
| Small and/or Disadvantaged Business Information (check application criteria) | |
| Small Business: _____ Disadvantaged Business (At Least 51% Ownership) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 125,000 annual gross receipt | <input type="checkbox"/> Black American <input type="checkbox"/> Native American |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 250,000 annual gross receipt | <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic American <input type="checkbox"/> Women |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 499,000 annual gross receipt | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian Pacific American <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> More than 500,000 annual gross receipt | |
| Have you been certified as a HUB or an MBE/WBE source?: | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Indicate Certification No.(s): _____ | or are Certificate(s) attached?: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| What type of product(s) is/are solicited by your company?: | |
| Would you like to be provided with specifications for procurements of such products?: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No | |
| To Be Completed by the County: Rec'd by (Purchasing): _____ Date Rec'd by (Purchasing): _____ | |
| Date Forwarded Information to Auditor's Office: _____ Entry Date: _____ Vendor No.: _____ | |



HISTORICALLY UNDERUTILIZED BUSINESS (HUB) DECLARATION

The primary objective of the Hidalgo County HUB Program is to ensure Historically Underutilized Businesses receive a fair and equal opportunity for participation in the County's procurement process. This fact holds true for Services (Professional & Non-Professional), Commodities, and Construction contracts and any subcontracts thereto. The program strongly encourages Prime Contractors to provide subcontracting opportunities to Certified Hub Contractors/Vendors. Our goal for HUB contractor/vendor participation, as well as HUB subcontractor participation is 30%. To be considered as a "Certified HUB Contractor/Vendor" the contractor/vendor must have been certified by, and hold a current and valid certification with any of the three agencies listed below.

Have you been Certified as a HUB or an MBE/WBE source?: Yes No

If yes, by whom?: Texas Building & Procurement Commission Other _____

Indicate Certification No(s): _____ or Are Certificate(s) Attached?: Yes No

LIST OF CERTIFIED HUB SUBCONTRACTORS

(Attach additional pages if necessary)

What percentage of the Bid, RFP, or RFQ is to be subcontracted with Certified HUB sources?: _____% (List HUB Subcontractor information below).

HUB Subcontractor Name: _____ HUB Status: _____
Certifying Agency (Check all applicable): Texas Building & Procurement Commission Other
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Contact Person: _____ Title: _____ Phone No.: () _____
Subcontract Amount: \$ _____ Description of Work to be Performed: _____

HUB Subcontractor Name: _____ HUB Status: _____
Certifying Agency (Check all applicable): Texas Building & Procurement Commission Other
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Contact Person: _____ Title: _____ Phone No.: () _____
Subcontract Amount: \$ _____ Description of Work to be Performed: _____

HUB Subcontractor Name: _____ HUB Status: _____
Certifying Agency (Check all applicable): Texas Building & Procurement Commission Other
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Contact Person: _____ Title: _____ Phone No.: () _____
Subcontract Amount: \$ _____ Description of Work to be Performed: _____

W-9

Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification

Give form to the requester. Do not send to the IRS.

Print or type specific instructions on page 3.

Part I Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)

Enter your TIN in the appropriate box. The TIN provided must match the name given on Line 1 to avoid backup withholding. For individuals, this is your social security number (SSN). However, for a resident alien, sole proprietor, or disregarded entity, see the Part I instructions on page 3. For other entities, it is your employer identification number (EIN). If you do not have a number, see *How to get a TIN* on page 3.

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Social security number | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| or | | | | | | | | |
| Employer identification number | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |

Note. If the account is in more than one name, see the chart on page 4 for guidelines on whose number to enter.

Part II Certification

Under penalties of perjury, I certify that:

- The number shown on this form is my correct taxpayer identification number (or I am waiting for a number to be issued to me), and
- I am not subject to backup withholding because: (a) I am exempt from backup withholding, or (b) I have not been notified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that I am subject to backup withholding as a result of a failure to report all interest or dividends, or (c) the IRS has notified me that I am no longer subject to backup withholding; and
- I am a U.S. person (including a U.S. resident alien).

Certification instructions. You must check all item 2 above if you have been notified by the IRS that you are currently subject to backup withholding because you have failed to report all interest and dividends on your tax return. For real estate transactions, item 2 does not apply. For mortgage interest paid, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, contributions to an individual retirement arrangement (IRA), and generally, payments other than interest and dividends, you are not required to sign the Certification, but you must provide your correct TIN. (See the instructions on page 4.)

Sign Here

Signature of U.S. person

Date

Purpose of Form

A person who is required to file an information return with the IRS must obtain your correct taxpayer identification number (TIN) to report, for example, income paid to you, real estate transactions, mortgage interest you paid, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, or contributions you made to an IRA.

U.S. person. Use Form W-9 only if you are a U.S. person (including a resident alien), to provide your correct TIN to the person requesting it (the requester) and, when applicable, to:

- Certify that the TIN you are giving is correct (or you are waiting for a number to be issued).
 - Certify that you are not subject to backup withholding, or
 - Claim exemption from backup withholding if you are a U.S. exempt payee.
- If 3 applies, if applicable, you are also certifying that as a U.S. person, your allocable share of any partnership income from a U.S. trade or business is not subject to the withholding tax on foreign partners' share of effectively connected income.

Note. If a requester gives you a form other than Form W-9 to request your TIN, you must use the requester's form if it is substantially similar to this Form W-9.

For federal tax purposes, you are considered a person if you are:

- An individual who is a citizen or resident of the United States;
- A partnership, corporation, company, or association created or organized in the United States or under the laws of the United States; or
- Any estate (other than a foreign estate) or trust. See Regulations sections 301.7701-6(a) and 7(a) for additional information.

Special rules for partnerships. Partnerships that conduct a trade or business in the United States are generally required to pay a withholding tax on any foreign partners' share of income from such business. Further, in certain cases where a Form W-9 has not been received, a partnership is required to presume that a partner is a foreign person, and pay the withholding tax. Therefore, if you are a U.S. person that is a partner in a partnership conducting a trade or business in the United States, provide Form W-9 to the partnership to establish your U.S. status and avoid withholding on your share of partnership income.

The person who gives Form W-9 to the partnership for purposes of establishing its U.S. status and avoiding withholding on its allocable share of net income from the partnership conducting a trade or business in the United States is in the following cases:

- The U.S. owner of a disregarded entity (and not the entity),

- The U.S. grantor or other owner of a grantor trust (and not the trust) and
- The U.S. trust (other than a grantor trust) (and not the owner/beneficiary of the trust).

Foreign person. If you are a foreign person, do not use Form W-9. Instead, use the appropriate Form W-8 (see Publication 915, *Withholding of Tax on Nonresident Aliens and Foreign Entities*).

Nonresident alien who becomes a resident alien.

Generally, only a nonresident alien individual may use the terms of a tax treaty to reduce or eliminate U.S. tax on certain types of income. However, most tax treaties contain a provision known as a "saving clause." Exceptions specified in the saving clause may permit an exemption from tax to continue for certain types of income even after the recipient has otherwise become a U.S. resident alien for tax purposes.

If you are a U.S. resident alien who is relying on an exemption contained in the saving clause of a tax treaty to claim an exemption from U.S. tax on certain types of income, you must attach a statement to Form W-9 that specifies the following five items:

1. The treaty country. Generally, this must be the same treaty under which you claimed exemption from tax as a nonresident alien.
2. The treaty article addressing the income.
3. The article number (or location) in the tax treaty that contains the saving clause and its exceptions.
4. The type and amount of income that qualifies for the exemption from tax.
5. Sufficient facts to justify the exemption from tax under the terms of the treaty article.

Example. Article 20 of the U.S.-China income tax treaty allows an exemption from tax for scholarship income received by a Chinese student temporarily present in the United States. Under U.S. law, this student will become a resident alien for tax purposes if his or her stay in the United States exceeds 5 calendar years. However, paragraph 2 of the first Protocol to the U.S.-China treaty (dated April 30, 1984) allows the provisions of Article 20 to continue to apply even after the Chinese student becomes a resident alien of the United States. A Chinese student who qualifies for this exception (under paragraph 2 of the first protocol) and is relying on this exception to claim an exemption from tax on his or her scholarship or fellowship income would attach to Form W-9 a statement that includes the information described above to support that exemption.

If you are a nonresident alien or a foreign entity not subject to backup withholding, give the requester the appropriate completed Form W-8.

What is backup withholding? Persons making certain payments to you must under certain conditions withhold and pay to the IRS 25% of such payments (after December 31, 2002). This is called "backup withholding." Payments that may be subject to backup withholding include interest, dividends, broker and barter exchange transactions, rents reported, nonemployee pay, and certain payments from taxing bodies or foreign Real estate transactions (are not subject to backup withholding).

You will not be subject to backup withholding on payments you receive if you give the requester your correct TIN, make the proper certifications, and report all your taxable interest and dividends on your tax return.

Payments you receive will be subject to backup withholding if:

1. You do not furnish your TIN to the requester,
2. You do not certify your TIN when required (see the Part II instructions on page 4 for details),

3. The IRS tells the requester that you furnished an incorrect TIN,

4. The IRS tells you that you are subject to backup withholding because you did not report all your interest and dividends on your tax return (for reportable interest and dividends only), or

5. You do not certify to the requester that you are not subject to backup withholding under 4 above (for reportable interest and dividend accounts opened after 1983 only).

Certain payees and payments are exempt from backup withholding. See the instructions below and the separate instructions for the Requester of Form W-9.

Also see *Special rules regarding partnerships* on page 1.

Penalties

Failure to furnish TIN. If you fail to furnish your correct TIN to a requester, you are subject to a penalty of \$50 for each such failure unless your failure is due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect.

Civil penalty for false information with respect to withholding. If you make a false statement with no reasonable basis that results in no backup withholding, you are subject to a \$500 penalty.

Criminal penalty for falsifying information. Willfully falsifying certifications or affirmations may subject you to criminal penalties including fines and/or imprisonment.

Misuse of TINs. If the requester discloses or uses TINs in violation of federal law, the requester may be subject to civil and criminal penalties.

Specific Instructions

Name

If you are an individual, you must generally enter the name shown on your income tax return. However, if you have changed your last name, for instance, due to marriage without informing the Social Security Administration of the name change, enter your first name, the last name shown on your social security card, and your new last name.

If the account is in joint names, list first, and then circle, the name of the person or entity whose number you entered in Part I of the form.

Sole proprietor. Enter your individual name as shown on your income tax return on the "Name" line. You may enter your business, trade, or "doing business as (DBA)" name on the "Business name" line.

Limited liability company (LLC). If you are a single-member LLC (including a foreign LLC with a domestic owner) that is disregarded as an entity separate from its owner under Treasury regulations section 301.7701-3, enter the owner's name on the "Name" line. Enter the LLC's name on the "Business name" line. Check the appropriate box for your filing status (sole proprietor, corporation, etc.), then check the box for "Other" and enter "LLC" in the space provided.

Other entities. Enter your business name as shown on required federal tax documents on the "Name" line. This name should match the name shown on the charter or other legal document creating the entity. You may enter any business trade or DBA name on the "Business name" line.

Note. You are requested to check the appropriate box for your status (individual, sole proprietor, corporation, etc.).

Exempt From Backup Withholding

If you are exempt, enter your name as described above and check the appropriate box for your status; then check the "Exempt from backup withholding" box in the line following the business name, sign and date the form.

Generally, individuals (including sole proprietors) are not exempt from backup withholding. Corporations are exempt from backup withholding for certain payments, such as interest and dividends.

Note. If you are exempt from backup withholding, you should still complete this form to avoid possible erroneous backup withholding.

Exempt payees. Backup withholding is not required on any payments made to the following payees:

1. An organization exempt from tax under section 501(c)(3), any IRA, or a custodial account under section 403(b)(7) if the account satisfies the requirements of section 401(f)(2).
 2. The United States or any of its agencies or instrumentalities.
 3. A state, the District of Columbia, a possession of the United States, or any of their political subdivisions or instrumentalities.
 4. A foreign government or any of its political subdivisions, agencies, or instrumentalities, or
 5. An international organization or any of its agencies or instrumentalities.
- Other payees that may be exempt from backup withholding include:
6. A corporation.
 7. A foreign central bank of issue.
 8. A dealer in securities or commodities required to register in the United States, the District of Columbia, or a possession of the United States.
 9. A futures commission merchant registered with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.
 10. A real estate investment trust.
 11. An entity registered at all times during the tax year under the Investment Company Act of 1940.
 12. A common trust fund operated by a bank under section 584(a).
 13. A financial institution.
 14. A middleman known in the investment community as a nominee or custodian, or
 15. A trust exempt from tax under section 664 or described in section 4947.

The chart below shows types of payments that may be exempt from backup withholding. The chart applies to the exempt recipients listed above, 1 through 15.

| IF the payment is for . . . | THEN the payment is exempt for . . . |
|--|---|
| Interest and dividend payments | All exempt recipients except for 9. |
| Broker transactions | Exempt recipients 1 through 13. Also, a person registered under the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 who regularly acts as a broker. |
| Barter exchange transactions and partnership dividends | Exempt recipients 1 through 13. |
| Payments of up to \$600 in qualified interest reported under section 1033(b)(3)(A) | Generally, exempt recipients 1 through 7. |

See page 10 for More About Exempt Recipients. See also the instructions for each recipient. For more information, see the instructions for each recipient. For more information, see the instructions for each recipient. For more information, see the instructions for each recipient. For more information, see the instructions for each recipient.

Part I. Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)

Enter your TIN in the appropriate box. If you are a resident alien and you do not have and are not eligible to get an SSN, your TIN is your IRS individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN). Enter it in the social security number box. If you do not have an ITIN, see *How to get a TIN* below.

If you are a sole proprietor and you have an EIN, you may enter either your SSN or EIN. However, the IRS prefers that you use your SSN.

If you are a single-owner LLC that is disregarded as an entity separate from its owner (see *Limited liability company (LLC)* on page 2), enter your SSN (or EIN, if you have one); if the LLC is a corporation, partnership, etc., enter the entity's EIN.

Note. See the chart on page 4 for further clarification of name and TIN combinations.

How to get a TIN. If you do not have a TIN, apply for one immediately. To apply for an SSN, get Form SS-5, Application for a Social Security Card, from your local Social Security Administration office or get this form online at www.socialsecurity.gov. You may also get this form by calling 1-800-772-1213. Use Form W-7, Application for IRS Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, to apply for an ITIN, or Form SS-4, Application for Employer Identification Number, to apply for an EIN. You can apply for an EIN online by accessing the IRS website at www.irs.gov/businesses and clicking on Employer ID Numbers under Related Topics. You can get Forms W-7 and SS-4 from the IRS by visiting www.irs.gov or by calling 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).

If you are asked to complete Form W-9 but do not have a TIN, write "Applied For" in the space for the TIN, sign and date the form, and give it to the requester. For interest and dividend payments, and certain payments made with respect to readily tradable instruments, generally you will have 60 days to get a TIN and give it to the requester before you are subject to backup withholding on payments. The 60-day rule does not apply to other types of payments. You will be subject to backup withholding on all such payments until you provide your TIN to the requester.

Note. Writing "Applied For" means that you have already applied for a TIN or that you intend to apply for one soon.

Caution: A disregarded domestic entity that has a foreign owner must use the appropriate Form W-8.

Part II. Certification

To establish to the withholding agent that you are a U.S. person, or resident alien, sign Form W-9. You may be requested to sign by the withholding agent even if items 1, 4, and 6 below indicate otherwise.

For a joint account, only the person whose TIN is shown in Part I should sign (when required). Exempt recipients, see *Exempt From Backup Withholding* on page 2.

Signature requirements. Complete the certification as indicated in 1 through 6 below.

1. Interest, dividend, and barter exchange accounts opened before 1984 and broker accounts considered active during 1983. You must give your correct TIN, but you do not have to sign the certification.

2. Interest, dividend, broker, and barter exchange accounts opened after 1983 and broker accounts considered inactive during 1983. You must sign the certification or backup withholding will apply. If you are subject to backup withholding and you are merely providing your correct TIN to the requester, you must cross out item 2 in the certification before signing the form.

3. Real estate transactions. You must sign the certification. You may cross out item 2 of the certification.

4. Other payments. You must give your correct TIN, but you do not have to sign the certification unless you have been notified that you have previously given an incorrect TIN. "Other payments" include payments made in the course of the requester's trade or business for rents, royalties, goods (other than bills for merchandise), medical and health care services (including payments to corporations), payments to a nonemployee for services, payments to certain fishing boat crew members and fishermen, and gross proceeds paid to attorneys (including payments to corporations).

5. Mortgage interest paid by you, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, qualified tuition program payments (under section 529), IRA, Coverdell ESA, Archer MSA or HSA contributions or distributions, and pension distributions. You must give your correct TIN, but you do not have to sign the certification.

What Name and Number To Give the Requester

| For this type of account: | Give name and SSN of: |
|---|---|
| 1. Individual | The individual. |
| 2. Two or more individuals (joint account) | The actual owner of the account or, if combined funds, the first individual on the account. |
| 3. Trust or an account of a minor (Uniform Gift to Minors Act) | The minor. |
| 4. a. The usual revocable (living) trust (grantor is also trustee) | The grantor/trustee. |
| b. So-called trust account that is not a legal or valid trust under state law | The actual owner. |
| 5. Sole proprietorship or single-owner LLC | The owner. |
| For this type of account: | Give name and EIN of: |
| 6. Sole proprietorship or single-owner LLC | The owner. |
| 7. A valid trust, estate, or pension trust | Legal entity. |
| 8. Corporate or LLC electing corporate status on Form 9632 | The corporation. |
| 9. Association, club, religious, charitable, educational, or other tax-exempt organization | The organization. |
| 10. Partnership or multi-member LLC | The partnership. |
| 11. A broker or registered nominee | The broker or nominee. |
| 12. Account with the Department of Agriculture in the name of a public entity (such as a state or local government, school district, or prison) that receives agricultural program payments | The public entity. |

List first and circle the name of the person whose number you furnish. If only one person on a joint account has an SSN, that person's number must be furnished.

Circle the minor's name, and furnish the minor's SSN.

You must show your individual name and you may also enter your business or "DBA" name on the second name line. You may use either your SSN or EIN if you have one. If you are a sole proprietor, IRS encourages you to use your SSN.

List first and circle the name of the legal trust, estate, or pension trust. Do not furnish the TIN of the principal proprietor or trustee unless the local entity itself is not an accredited institution (file). Also, see *Special Accredited Partnership* on page 3.

Note. If no name is circled when more than one name is listed, the number will be considered to be that of the first name listed.

Privacy Act Notice

Section 6109 of the Internal Revenue Code requires you to provide your correct TIN to persons who must file information returns with the IRS to report interest, dividends, and certain other income paid to you, mortgage interest you paid, the acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, or contributions you made to an IRA, or Archer MSA or HSA. The IRS uses the numbers for identification purposes and to help verify the accuracy of your tax return. The IRS may also provide this information to the Department of Justice for civil and criminal litigation, and to cities, states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. possessions to carry out their tax laws. We may also disclose this information to other countries under a tax treaty, to federal and state agencies to enforce federal nontax criminal laws, or to federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies to combat terrorism.

You must provide your TIN whether or not you are required to file a tax return. Payers must generally withhold 28% of taxable interest, dividend, and certain other payments to a payee who does not give a TIN to a payer. Certain penalties may also apply.

Certification
Regarding Debarment, Suspension and Ineligibility

As is required by the Federal Regulations Implementing Executive Order 12549, Debarment and Suspension, 45 CFR Part 76, Government-wide Debarment and Suspension, the applicant certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that both it and its principals:

- a. Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any federal department or agency;
- b. Have not within a three-year period preceding this bid proposal and/or application been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (federal, state, or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction, violation of federal or state antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;
- c. Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a government entity with commission of any of the offenses enumerated herein; and
- d. Have not within a three-year period preceding this bid proposal and/or application had one or more public transactions terminated for cause or default.

Signature: _____
Print Name: _____
Title: _____
Telephone Number: _____
Date: _____

If the bidder is unable to certify to all of the statements in this Certification, such bidder should attach an explanation to this proposal.

REQUIREMENTS AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT (the "Agreement") is entered into effective as of ____ by and between _____, ("Seller") and **HIDALGO COUNTY** ("Buyer").

WHEREAS, Buyer has solicited proposals for the supply of its requirements of Hidalgo County "[**TITLE REPORT SERVICES**]", as further described in Exhibit "A" which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference for all purposes (the "Products and Warranty") for a period of two (2) year with the County's option to renew one (1) additional year based on the prior year's performance evaluation and contingent upon cost remaining unchanged and;

WHEREAS, Seller has submitted a proposal to supply Buyer's requirements; and

WHEREAS, Buyer has determined that Seller has submitted the lowest and best proposal to meet Buyer's requirements for the Product.

NOW THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the mutual covenants and conditions hereinafter set forth, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. Buyer agrees to purchase from Seller, and Seller agrees to sell to Buyer, all of the Products that Buyer may require for use by Buyer in "**TITLE REPORT SERVICES**" in the areas of **HIDALGO COUNTY** projects for a period of one year with the County's option to renew for one (1) additional year based on the prior year's performance evaluation and contingent upon cost remaining unchanged and it is agreed that the Products will meet the specifications set forth in Exhibit "A" hereto.

2. When Buyer determines that it needs a quantity of the Products to be delivered, it will, according to its Purchasing Policies, complete and submit to Seller a Purchase Order describing the type and quantity of the Products required. The Products are to be delivered by contractor to the location(s) in Hidalgo County specified by Buyer in its Purchase Order.

3. Contractor agrees to pay Seller for each Purchase Order based on the prices set out in Exhibit "B". Seller shall render invoices for each Purchase Order, and the invoices shall be paid by Buyer on or before the 30th day following receipt of the invoice.

4. County and Seller agree that either party may terminate this contract upon thirty (30) days written notice at any time for any reason or no reason at all.

5. General Provisions.

a. **Conflict with Applicable Law.** Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed so as to require the commission of any act contrary to law, and whenever there is any conflict between any provision of this Agreement and any present or future law,

- i. **Headings.** The headings and captions contained in this Agreement are solely for convenient reference and shall not be deemed to affect the meaning or interpretation of any provision or paragraph hereof.
- j. **Gender and Number.** All pronouns used in this Agreement shall include the other gender, whether used in the masculine, feminine or neuter gender, and the singular shall include the plural whenever and as often as may be appropriate
- k. **Authority to Execute.** The execution and performance of this Agreement by Buyer and Seller have been duly authorized by all necessary laws, resolutions or corporate action, and this Agreement constitutes the valid and enforceable obligations of Buyer and Seller in accordance with its terms.
- l. **Commitment of Current Revenues Only.** In the event that, during any term hereof, the Commissioners Court does not appropriate sufficient funds to meet the obligations of Buyer under this Agreement, Buyer may terminate this Agreement upon sixty (60) days written notice to Seller. Buyer agrees, however, to use reasonable efforts to secure funds necessary for the continued performance of this Agreement. The parties intend this provision to be a continuing right to terminate this Agreement at the expiration of each budget period of Buyer pursuant to the provisions of Tex. Loc. Govt. Code Ann. § 271.903 (Vernon Supp. 1996).
- m. **Insurance.** Company shall provide insurance in force on all its vehicles and all persons connected with providing services under this Contract naming County as an additional insured (with coverages and in the amounts described on Exhibit "C" attached hereto and incorporated herein at this point for all purposes), and shall furnish to County certificates of such insurance coverage.
- n. **Purchasing Ethics.** Seller represents and warrants it has not, during the process of being awarded this contract violated the following ethical standards of Buyer and, upon and after the execution of this Agreement, agrees to abide by the following ethical standards of Buyer:
- (1) It shall be a breach of ethics to offer, give or agree to give any elected official, department head or employee, or former elected official, department head or employee, of Hidalgo County, or for any elected official, department head or employee or former elected official, department head or employee of Hidalgo County, to solicit, demand, accept or agree to accept from another person, entity or organization, a gratuity or an officer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation or any part of a program requirement or purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advise, investigation, auditing, or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract, or to any solicitation or proposal therefor pending before any department or agency of Hidalgo County.
 - (2) It shall be a breach of ethics for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor for any contract for Hidalgo County, or any person associated therewith, as an inducement for the award of a subcontract or order.

EXECUTED effective as of the day and year first above written.

APPROVED BY COMMISSIONERS COURT ON, _____, 2009.

HIDALGO COUNTY

Juan D. Salinas, III, County Judge

Date: _____

ATTEST:

Arturo Guajardo, Jr., County Clerk

Date: _____

Company: _____

By: _____

Printed Name: _____

Title: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Atlas & Hall, L.L.P

By: _____

Date: _____

Stephen L. Crain

EXHIBIT “B”

Fee Schedule

6. **Capability to Perform all Services Required:**

- a. Days between Order and Title Report.
Lot and block – 1-3 days
Acreage - 3-5 days
- b. Charges for Title Reports.
Edwards Abstract and Title Co. charges the following fees for title reports:
\$350.00 for lot and block
\$450 for acreage
- c. Staff assigned to County's work.
Edwards Abstract and Title Co. will make available the necessary staff including plant professionals and others to perform the County's requests for title reports.
- d. Other Services.
Edwards Abstract and Title Co. offers services such as environmental run sheets, nothing further certificates and lien checks.

Description:

Environmental Run Sheets
Nothing Further Certificates
Lien Search

Cost:

\$250.00 (subject to change)
\$200.00
\$ 75.00 per name on account

DATE: January 20, 2009

EDWARDS ABSTRACT AND TITLE CO.

BY:



BYRON JAY LEWIS, President