

2. Architect hereby promises to review the Project as presented by County (on a per-project basis) and to submit to County within fourteen (14) days of receipt of the specifications (the "Specifications"), a proposal. The proposal shall including but not be limited to: (1) fee structure for the Project; (2) services included in the basic fee; (3) amount of, or basis for, compensation of additional services (including additional services that may arise during the course of the project and cost of architect's consultants); and (4) cost for reimbursables (collectively the "Architect's Proposal");

3. County shall enter into negotiations with the Architect regarding the Architect's Proposal for the Services and should the parties reach an agreement, then the parties shall enter into an additional contract, specifically the AIA B101-2007 (as modified by County" and AIA A 201-2007 (as modified by County), in order to detail the Architect's and County's duties and responsibilities. However, if the parties are unsuccessful at reaching an agreement for any specific Project, then the County may seek the services of other architects.

4. Architect agrees in performing the Services that it will use proper professional standards, comply with any and all appropriate laws and regulations in providing the Services, and devote such time as is necessary to safely and efficiently provide the Services.

5. This Contract shall be for a period beginning _____, 2010 and ending on _____, 2011, unless this Contract is terminated pursuant to the provisions herein.

6. As a condition of this Contract, Architect shall hold and maintain throughout the term of this Contract all licenses and permits required, or which may be required by any authority during the term hereof to provide the Services.

7. All trucks or vehicles operated by the Architect to perform the Services shall contain all equipment required by any authority to operate on streets and roads and all persons in the employ of Architect who operate such trucks or vehicles shall have the required licenses, qualifications, skill and expertise to perform such Services and shall comply with all laws, rules and regulations prescribed by any agency or authority having jurisdiction with regard to the operation of such trucks or vehicles in providing the Services.

8. Architect 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 the coverage and in the amounts described on the Specifications and shall furnish to County certificates of such insurance coverage in the Architect's Proposal.

9. Architect shall indemnify and hold harmless County, its elected officials, employees and agents from any and all claims, damages, losses, and expenses including attorney's fees for the defense of any action against County arising out of, resulting from, or connected with the provision of the Service by Architect under this Contract. Said indemnity shall cover any act or failure to act by the Architect, its agents or employees.

10. This Contract shall not be assignable in whole or in part by either party without prior written consent of the other party.

11. It is expressly agreed that this Contract and the performance by the parties hereunder does not create any agency relationship or master-servant relationship that

County has no supervision of the performance of the Services provided by Architect, and that Architect is an independent contractor under this Contract.

12. Any notice required or permitted to be given hereunder shall be in writing and shall be delivered personally or sent by certified mail, postage prepaid, as set forth below:

If to County: The County of Hidalgo
Attn: County Judge
100 E. Cano, 2nd Floor
Edinburg, Texas 78539

If to Architect: ERO International, LLP
Attn: El R. Ochoa, P.E., AIA
300 South 8th Street
McAllen, Texas 78501

13. In case any one or more of the provisions contained in this Agreement shall for any reason be held to be invalid, illegal or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision thereof and this Agreement shall be construed as if such invalid, illegal, or unenforceable provision had never been contained herein.

14. Any contract award to the Architect will be in effect until (a) the contract expires, (b) delivery and acceptance of products, and/or performance of Services or (c) terminated without cause by County with thirty (30) days written notice prior to cancellation.

15. This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of and be enforceable by the parties hereto and their respective heirs, executors, administrators, legal representatives, successors, and assigns where permitted by this Agreement.

16. This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas and shall be performable in Hidalgo County.

17. 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 County under this Agreement, County may terminate this Agreement upon thirty (30) days written notice to Architect. County 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 County pursuant to the provisions of Tex. Loc. Govt. Code Ann. § 271.903.

WITNESS our hands in duplicate originals this ____ day of _____, 2010.

COUNTY OF HIDALGO, TEXAS

By: _____
Rene A. Ramirez, County Judge

ATTEST:

Arturo Guajardo, Jr., County Clerk

ARCHITECT
ERO International, LLP

By: _____
Printed Name: _____
Title: _____
Date: _____

Approved by Commissioners Court on: _____

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

By: _____
Stephen L. Crain