



Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
2812 S. Business Highway 281
New Administration Building
Edinburg, Texas 78539
(956) 318-2626/ Fax: (956) 318-2629

January 30, 2013

Ramirez & Guerrero, L.L.P.
Attorneys at Law
700 N. Veteran's Blvd., Suite B
San Juan, Texas 78589

certified Mail: 7099-3220-0002-9745-4391
Email: dcepeda@rg-legal.com

Re: Bond Counsel Agreement

Honorable Jesus Ramirez;

Hidalgo County Purchasing Department will be requesting Commissioners' Court approval of the annual automatic one (1) year renewal term for the County's Letter Of Engagement with Ramirez & Guerrero for the "Bond Counsel" services pursuant to the same rates, terms and conditions of the agreement.

Please acknowledge receipt of this notice of placement on the Commissioners' Court meeting of **Tuesday, February 19, 2013** for discussion, consideration and action, by signing below and returning to the Purchasing Department, by no later than **10:00 a.m., Monday, February 4, 2013 and or sooner**, if possible, via facsimile to (956) 956-318-2629 or email to: evangelina.garcia@co.hidalgo.tx.us so as to meet the agenda request form deadlines.

By: _____

Date: _____

1.31.13

Additionally, we are requesting your company provide an updated certificate of insurance as required through Hidalgo County's Request for (Bid, Quote, Proposal, Statement of Qualification, if applicable).

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (956) 318-2626. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated and we hope your company continues its business relationship with Hidalgo County.

Sincerely,

Vangie Y. Garcia, Contract's Manager
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department

RAMIREZ & GUERRERO, L.L.P.

Attorneys at Law

700 N. Veterans Blvd., Ste. B

San Juan, Texas 78589

Phone: (956) 502-5424

Fax: (956) 502-5007

February 14, 2012

Hon. Ramon Garcia
County of Hidalgo
100 E. Cano
Edinburg, Texas 78539

Re: Engagement of Bond Counsel

Honorable Judge Garcia:

We are pleased to submit to you a proposed agreement for Ramirez & Guerrero, L.L.P. to serve as Bond Counsel with respect to one or more series of obligations (including new money bonds, refunding bonds, personal property finance obligations and lease and lease purchase and installment purchase agreements) that the County of Hidalgo (the "Issuer") intends to issue, or may issue in the future, for the purposes, respectively, of construction of improvements, purchase of personal property and/or to refund or restructure its existing debt service or lease-purchase revenue bonds through a public facilities corporation (hereinafter referred to as the "Obligations"). When approved by you, this letter will become effective and will evidence an agreement between the Issuer and Ramirez & Guerrero, L.L.P., Bond Counsel. Our fees are billed only if the obligations are issued. Any out-of-pocket costs are reimbursable.

Basic Services

Bond Counsel will prepare, or assist the Issuer in the preparation of, all required legal documents and proceedings and will perform all other necessary legal work in connection with the Issuer's authorization, issuance and sale of each series of the Obligations. Our services as Bond Counsel will include the following Basic Services, which we will carry out directly or in concert with officials, staff, and consultants of the Issuer:

(1) Preparation of all notices (including notices of public meetings, notices and resolutions regarding reimbursement bonds and published notices), resolutions and orders (including those governing calling bond elections), resolutions and other legal proceedings necessary to authorize issuance of each series of the Obligations, and all other instruments which comprise the transcript of legal proceedings of the Issuer pertaining to the authorization, issuance and sale of each such series;

(2) Attendance of all meetings called or arranged by or on behalf of the Issuer or Issuer personnel (or their representatives) who are responsible for the issuance, sale and delivery of the Obligations, to the extent required or requested by such persons, to discuss the legal aspects of the Obligations, including but not limited to the sizing, timing or sale of each series of the Obligations;

- (3) Consultation with Issuer officials and staff and the Issuer's financial advisors and independent auditors to review information to be included in the offering documents for each series of the Obligations;
- (4) Preparation and submission, as required by law, of transcripts of legal proceedings pertaining to the issuance of each series of the Obligations to the Attorney General of Texas;
- (5) Supervision of the printing of each series of the Obligations and the delivery thereof to the purchasers, including, if requested, solicitation of bids from bond printers under the direction of the President, the Superintendent or financial advisor or other Issuer personnel who are responsible for the issuance, sale and delivery of the Obligations, to obtain the lowest responsible printing costs for the Issuer;
- (6) At the closing of each series of the Obligations, delivery of an approving opinion, based on facts and law existing as of its date, which shall be fully acceptable in the national public finance field, generally to the effect that such series has been duly issued, executed and delivered in accordance with the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas, that the Obligations of each series constitute valid and legally binding obligations of the Issuer secured by a lien on and pledge of, as appropriate, ad valorem taxes, revenues, or other available funds of the Issuer pledged to their payment in the respective Bond Order (subject to bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, moratorium and other similar laws in effect from time to time relating to or affecting the enforcement of rights of creditors, and the Issuer) and that interest on such series of the Obligations is excludable from the gross income of the owners thereof for federal income tax purposes under then existing law; provided that after the closing we do not undertake to provide continuing advice concerning any actions necessary to assure that interest paid on the Obligations will continue to be excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes; and
- (7) Prior to and in connection with the closing of each series of the Obligations, preparation and delivery of a Tax Exemption and No-Arbitrage Certificate that will enable appropriate officials of the Issuer to comply with the arbitrage requirements of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as they affect the Obligations, including yield restrictions and rebate requirements.

Compensation

A base fee of \$15,000 for up to \$3,000,000.00 in principal amount of bonds;

\$1,000 for every \$1,000,000 from \$3,000,000 to \$20,000,000;

\$750 for every \$1,000,000 from \$20,000,000 and above

Additional Services

In addition to the foregoing Basic Services, as Bond Counsel, Ramirez & Guerrero, L.L.P. is prepared to undertake the following Additional Services, as requested by the Issuer or Issuer's personnel who are responsible for the issuance, sale and delivery of the Obligations. Services rendered in connection with calling a bond election limited to preparing a bond election order, preparing an order for appointment of early voting and election personnel, preparing form notices of the election, preparing a letter request for pre-clearance under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, and providing advisory opinions to the Issuer related to calling and publicizing the election and to the appointment of early voting and election personnel will be billed at a flat fee of \$3,000.00. The fee for any additional services which do not constitute direct bond counsel fees but are needed in connection with, resolving a legal issue, will be at an hourly rate of \$200.00 or \$175.00, depending on lawyer assigned.

Bond Counsel will be reimbursed for up to a maximum \$1,000.00 of its reasonable and actual out-of-pocket expenses, such as the cost of reproduction of documents, out-of-town travel, long distance telephone, telegraph, telex and similar expenses, deliveries, and for the actual cost of all items paid for by Bond Counsel on behalf of the Issuer, incurred in connection with the performance of all services hereunder. All of the expenses of Bond Counsel will be reasonable and expenses which may exceed \$1,000.00 will be subject to prior approval of the Issuer. The Attorney General filing fees and the costs of printing the bonds will be the responsibility of issuer.

Payment to Bond Counsel for all services shall be payable only out of the proceeds of the sale of each series of the Obligations and shall be contingent upon the sale and delivery of each series of the Obligations during the term of this agreement.

The term of this agreement shall be for one year from the date of its approval by the Issuer, but shall be automatically extended for successive one year terms unless the Issuer gives us notice of termination during the last month of any term. Additionally, the Issuer may at any time terminate this agreement by giving us 30 days written notice of termination.

No provision of this agreement shall be deemed to be an agreement or undertaking of any member of the Commissioners Court or any official or employee of the Issuer, and no such member, official or employee shall be personally liable in connection herewith or be subject to any personal liability or accountability by reason of the terms hereof.

If this proposed agreement for the services of Ramirez & Guerrero, L.L.P. as Bond Counsel is satisfactory, please evidence your acceptance and approval by executing two copies in the space provided below.

Sincerely,

RAMIREZ & GUERRERO, L.L.P.

By: *Jesus Ramirez*
JESUS RAMIREZ

APPROVED AND ACCEPTED:

COUNTY OF HIDALGO

Ramiro Gutierrez
Judge

Patricia S. J.
County Clerk

(SEAL)

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

ATLAS & HALL, L.L.P.

BY: *SH*
Stephen L. Crain

Approved by Commissioners' Court
on 2/14/12 RO

APPROVED BY COMMISSIONERS COURT: 02/14/12

Evangelina Garcia

From: Martha Salazar [mailto:martha.salazar@co.hidalgo.tx.us]
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2012 4:46 PM
To: 'Evangelina Garcia'
Subject: FW: Regular AI-30824 Purchasing

From: Steve Crain [mailto:scrain@atlashall.com]
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2012 4:14 PM
To: 'Martha Salazar'
Subject: RE: Regular AI-30824 Purchasing

The engagement letter is fine.

From: Martha Salazar [mailto:martha.salazar@co.hidalgo.tx.us]
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2012 3:44 PM
To: scrain@atlashall.com
Cc: 'Evangelina Garcia'
Subject: FW: Regular AI-30824 Purchasing
Importance: High

Mr. Crain:
Please read below plus attachment and review and comment as to form.
Marty

From: Evangelina Garcia [mailto:evangelina.garcia@co.hidalgo.tx.us]
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2012 3:12 PM
To: 'Martha Salazar'
Subject: RE: Regular AI-30824 Purchasing

Marty:
Here you go, now this is the same letter of engagement that we currently have but was just updated because of the firm's address still reflecting the old address, so they just revised the letter to have the new address including the Judge's name.

This agenda item is requesting to renew another year pursuant to the same terms, rates and conditions.

Thank you

Vangie Y. Garcia, Contract's Manager
2802 S. Business Hwy. 281
New Administration Building
Edinburg, Texas 78539
(956) 292-7000-Extension 4856
email: evangelina.garcia@co.hidalgo.tx.us

From: Martha Salazar [mailto:martha.salazar@co.hidalgo.tx.us]
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2012 2:35 PM