

THE J. RAMIREZ LAW FIRM
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May 22, 2020

Hon. Ricardo Cortez
Hidalgo County Judge.
2812 S. Bus. Highway 281
County of Hidalgo
Edinburg, Texas 7839

Re: Engagement of Bond Counsel

Honorable Judge :

We are pleased to submit to you our agreement for The J. Ramirez Law Firm 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") has issued in the past and 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 The J. Ramirez Law Firm, Bond Counsel. Our fees are on a contingency basis and will be billed only if the obligations are issued. Any out-of-pocket costs are reimbursable. Any additional services are billed accordingly.

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 County staff, 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;

(7) Review of any investment vehicle which the Issuer will use for purposes of investing bond proceeds to assure the procurement of investments conforms to Issuer policy, state law, and the IRS Code and Regulations; and

(8) Prior to and in connection with the closing of each series of the Obligations, if necessary, preparation and delivery of a Tax Exemption 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 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 greater

Additional Services

In addition to the foregoing Basic Services, as Bond Counsel, The J. Ramirez Law Firm 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 preclearance under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, if applicable, 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. In addition, the firm is available on an hourly basis to issue advisory opinions on matters involving any prior or currently outstanding series of bonds. The fee for any additional services which do not constitute direct bond issuance fees but are needed in connection with, resolving a legal issue, will be at an hourly rate of \$250.00, and \$60.00 and \$80.00 per hour for services of a legal assistants.

The compensation for bond issuance legal services stated herein will be contingent on the Issuer's sale of any bonds authorized for issuance.

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 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 Board of Directors 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 The J. Ramirez Law Firm as Bond Counsel is satisfactory, please evidence your acceptance and approval by executing two copies in the space provided below.

Very truly yours,

THE J. RAMIREZ LAW FIRM

APPROVED AND ACCEPTED:
HIDALGO COUNTY

Date: _____