

Exhibit A

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN

AND TEXAS COALITION FOR AFFORDABLE

POWER, INC.

This Professional Services Agreement (“AGREEMENT”) is made and entered by and between Texas Coalition for Affordable Power, Inc. (“TCAP”), a non-profit, political subdivision corporation, and \_\_\_\_\_ (“MEMBER”), a TCAP member.

**SECTION 1 DURATION:**

This AGREEMENT becomes effective as of signing by MEMBER and shall remain effective as long as MEMBER is being served by TCAP and MEMBER’s electric load included in a current TCAP procurement.

**SECTION 2 PURPOSE OF AGREEMENT:**

The purpose of this AGREEMENT is to define services and obligations of TCAP to MEMBER and obligations of MEMBER to TCAP and other members. In furtherance of this AGREEMENT, MEMBER will enter into a Commercial Electric Service Agreement (“CESA”) with a retail electric provider (“REP”) selected by TCAP pursuant to the terms set forth herein; provided that nothing in this AGREEMENT is intended to alter the price or other terms of MEMBER’s current CESA in effect through December 31, 2022.

**SECTION 3 OBLIGATIONS OF TCAP TO MEMBER:**

MEMBER authorizes TCAP to contract for the purchase of energy for MEMBER in the wholesale market from an energy manager selected by TCAP (“Energy Manager”) and to select an acceptable, cost-beneficial REP to serve MEMBER’s electric accounts. TCAP shall provide procurement services, which services shall consist of securing wholesale power for MEMBER through an alternative procurement strategy, such as TCAP’s Strategic Hedging Program (“SHP”), as may be authorized and defined by TCAP’s Board of Directors. If MEMBER has provided to TCAP an Authorized Election Form, TCAP’s procurement services to MEMBER shall also consist of arranging fixed-price, fixed-term offers to MEMBER following solicitation of competitive offers. TCAP consultants and attorneys will negotiate terms and conditions of all contracts, monitor performance of Energy Managers and REPs, work to avoid and remedy problems that may be encountered by MEMBER where possible, assist MEMBER with wires company issues, and represent MEMBER in energy related matters before State agencies, the courts or legislature. TCAP will provide additional customer services to MEMBER that are defined in SECTION 5.

**SECTION 4 OBLIGATIONS AND RIGHTS OF MEMBER:**

MEMBER will honor the terms of its CESA and promptly pay or promptly dispute invoices from its REP. MEMBER will comply with the confidentiality and non-disclosure obligations contained in its CESA and Section 7 of this AGREEMENT. MEMBER will

designate one or more individuals to receive notices and updates from TCAP and will promptly update contact information. MEMBER will pay aggregation fees to support the non-profit functions of TCAP assessed annually by the TCAP Board of Directors and recovered as part of the energy charges paid to REP. Also, MEMBER will pay or receive refunds equal to the Quarterly Adjustment and the Annual Adjustment mutually agreed upon by TCAP and the Energy Manager to address certain variable costs and charges, including costs imposed by ERCOT, such payment or receipt of funds subject to the reserve account as further described herein. TCAP members will fund, and TCAP will maintain and administer, a reserve account to facilitate the reconciliation of any Quarterly Adjustments or Annual Adjustments by collecting any excess amounts paid and/or paying any deficient amounts incurred (as possible). The reserve account balance will be maintained at a minimum level to cover anticipated future needs for up to two (2) years. The TCAP Board may vote to refund to members amounts in excess of future anticipated needs. Any monies remaining in the reserve account at the dissolution of TCAP will be refunded to current membership at the time of dissolution. TCAP is owned and controlled by its members and is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of employees or elected officials of members. Consistent with TCAP's Bylaws, each MEMBER has a right to nominate its representative to serve on the Board of Directors and has a right to vote in annual elections of Board members. MEMBER has a right to attend or monitor each Board meeting. TCAP has a financial audit performed each year and MEMBER has a right to a copy of the annual audit upon request.

## **SECTION 5 TCAP SERVICES TO MEMBER:**

### **A. Procurement of Energy Supplies and REP Services**

#### **1. TCAP Procurement Services and Capabilities**

TCAP will assist prospective members in reviewing market conditions and in estimating the most price opportune time to contract for energy supplies. TCAP will work with MEMBER to achieve a competitive price that balances supply security and risk tolerance while maintaining superior billing and customer services. As a political subdivision corporation, offering electricity procurement to political subdivisions, TCAP has the ability to procure wholesale energy supplies and REP services separately to secure the most effective combination of competitively priced energy supplies and superior billing and customer services. TCAP may utilize either wholesale or retail sources of power, or some combination of both. TCAP may utilize multiple suppliers with different generation resources. TCAP will solicit bids from multiple sources for energy supplies. TCAP aggregates the load of all members to maximize clout in negotiating contract terms. TCAP's objective in negotiations with suppliers is to continue obtaining favorable terms regarding band widths for annual usage based on total load of all members (rather than based on MEMBER's individual load) and to minimize fees for adding or deleting accounts. TCAP will monitor the wholesale and retail markets for favorable hedging opportunities. TCAP will also monitor, evaluate and issue requests for proposals for power

development opportunities beneficial to its MEMBERS, including renewable projects (each, a “Power Project”).

## **2. MEMBER Procurement Options**

If MEMBER elects a fixed-price contract for a fixed period by submitting an Authorized Election Form, TCAP will function as MEMBER’S agent in the wholesale energy marketplace in soliciting, evaluating and negotiating each such fixed-price contract. Absent an election, MEMBER shall participate in other procurement strategy options offered by TCAP, such as TCAP’s SHP, and TCAP will function as MEMBER’S electric energy procurer. As such, TCAP will (i) oversee the Energy Manager, (ii) will direct the Energy Manager to solicit wholesale energy market quotes, (iii) will cause the Energy Manager to transact at the most favorable executable market quotes and (iv) will negotiate and develop the Energy Price in MEMBER’S CESA (the “CESA Energy Price”). The CESA Energy Price shall be developed and agreed upon by TCAP, the Energy Manager and the REP and shall include the wholesale energy market transactions as well as Energy Manager’s estimate of any non-fixed charges, including zonal congestion charges, ancillaries service charges, and other charges in connection with MEMBER’S load. If MEMBER elects to purchase power from a Power Project solicited and chosen by TCAP via a competitive RFP process (or other similar process), TCAP will function as MEMBER’S electric energy procurer, and will direct the Energy Manager to include the value of the power procured from such projects in the development of MEMBER’S CESA price.

### **B. Customer and Billing Services Provided by TCAP**

#### **1. REP Portal**

TCAP consultants oversee the development and presentation of the REP’s portal for TCAP members; the REP will be responsible for operation of the portal. TCAP provides training and assistance regarding portal use.

#### **2. REP Customer Service**

TCAP negotiates with the REP regarding service standards and annually reviews REP performance. TCAP maintains a right to replace a REP for unsatisfactory performance without affecting the price of wholesale power, so long as the replacement REP has a credit rating acceptable to the Energy Manager. TCAP continuously monitors customer billings and will alert both the REP and MEMBER, when appropriate, of any billing errors and the adjustments needed to ensure accurate and reliable billings to MEMBER. TCAP will advocate on behalf of MEMBER when needed to resolve billing or customer service issues. TCAP will review customer billings and make MEMBER aware of inactive accounts that MEMBER may be able to disconnect to save monthly charges.

### **3. TCAP Assistance with Budgets and Required Filings and Assistance with TDSP Issues**

TCAP monitors Public Utility Commission (“PUC”) and ERCOT activity and will provide MEMBER a forecast of changes in non-by passable charges that may impact MEMBER’s annual budget estimates. TCAP will prepare an annual electricity cost estimate for MEMBER. TCAP will assist MEMBER in preparation of energy related reports that may be necessary for MEMBER to file in response to legislative or agency mandates. TCAP will assist MEMBER in understanding non-bypassable charges included in REP invoices, and assist in resolving issues caused by errors of MEMBER’S Transmission and Distribution Service Provider (“TDSP” aka “wires company”).

### **4. Information Services**

TCAP maintains a member web site, [www.tcaptx.com](http://www.tcaptx.com). In addition to regular blog postings on energy news relevant to MEMBER, TCAP has prepared and posted major reports on the history of deregulation in Texas and a history of ERCOT. TCAP consultants continuously monitor the Nymex gas market, ERCOT energy market, and economic conditions that may affect MEMBER, as well as activities at the PUC and ERCOT. Important trends are noted in consultant reports to the Board of Directors and are attached to Board Minutes. TCAP’s Executive Director prepares and distributes a monthly newsletter and coordinates TCAP activities with various city coalitions and Texas Municipal League (“TML”). The Executive Director monthly newsletters will also include important or trending issues in the energy markets.

### **5. Demand Response, Distributed Generation and Cost Savings Strategy**

TCAP will work with relevant service providers to make available to MEMBER competitive demand reduction programs that facilitate MEMBER’s participation in TDSP and ERCOT cost reduction strategies approved by the PUC. Upon request, TCAP will monitor and evaluate demand reduction program performance metrics. TCAP will assist MEMBER in reviewing, analyzing and developing distributed generation programs that can reduce wires and energy costs and/or provide backup power to specific facilities. TCAP will assist MEMBER in meeting renewable energy goals established by MEMBER, including behind-the-meter solar projects and local wind projects.

### **6. Regulatory and Legislative Representation**

TCAP will provide representation and advocacy services on energy issues relevant to MEMBER in regulatory and legislative areas including, but not limited to, ERCOT stakeholder meetings, PUC projects and dockets, and legislative actions.

## **7. Strategic Hedging**

To the extent that there is sufficient interest and commitment of load of TCAP members within an ERCOT zone, and to the extent MEMBER has not elected a fixed-price contract for a fixed period, MEMBER will perpetually (subject to potential charter or ordinance constraints on length of contracts) commit to two-year participation obligations. MEMBER may terminate participation in the SHP, without energy price penalties and with minimal other termination fees, by providing sufficient notice as set forth herein (Section 6). A SHP price will be determined at least 9 months prior to the effective date of the price by averaging the winning bids from periodic competitive auctions that occur throughout the 24 months preceding the effective date. TCAP will direct Energy Manager to conduct the periodic competitive auctions. TCAP will have the right to audit the auction results. The auction process will be designed to identify competitively priced energy supplies from a variety of creditworthy suppliers, resulting in prices that are rarely, if ever, significantly above prevailing market prices and that should generally be less than pricing for long-term fixed priced contracts (when evaluated from a common contract start date and term). Designed to take advantage of the characteristics of the nation's well supplied energy markets, the SHP will also be flexible enough to respond to market changes when and if they occur in the future. Participation in the SHP may be viewed as a series of 24 -month forward year-to-year contracts for as long as desired by MEMBER. If MEMBER participates in the SHP, MEMBER agrees that TCAP is authorized to direct Energy Manager to procure electric energy in the wholesale market on MEMBER's behalf and that TCAP is authorized to commit MEMBER's load to periodic competitive auctions.

### **SECTION 6 MEMBER RIGHT OF TERMINATION:**

#### **A. Fixed-Term, Fixed-Price Contract**

MEMBER may terminate a CESA prior to the end-of-term specified in a contract subject to payment of "Liquidated Damages" prescribed in MEMBER's CESA. If MEMBER commits to a fixed multi-year term, fixed-price contract and wants to terminate the agreement prior to the end of the fixed multi-year term, liquidated damages will be based on the differential in the price of electric energy futures contracts used to support the fixed-price agreement and the price of comparable electric energy contracts at time of termination and shall also include damages prescribed herein and in the CESA, as applicable. If electric energy prices are lower at the point of termination than they were at time of contracting, MEMBER should expect to pay energy price damages upon early termination. In any event, any termination payment will be calculated and assessed in accordance with MEMBER's CESA.

#### **B. Strategic Hedging Program**

Since the SHP is based on a series of one-year term contracts, MEMBER is entitled to exit the program so long as notice of termination can be given prior to inclusion of MEMBER's load in the competitive auction process for a future year's price. TCAP will periodically notify MEMBER of expected procurement schedules and provide no less than 90 days

prior notice of any upcoming solicitation, and MEMBER may notify TCAP that it wants to exclude its load from the competitive auction process by giving notice at least 60 days prior to the next procurement date. Termination of involvement in SHP without appropriate notice will require calculation of damages as prescribed by CESA under Edison Electric Institute (“EEI”) principles with the intent of making the REP and Energy Manager whole for the termination. Liquidated damages will be based on the differential in the price of electric energy futures contracts used to support the SHP price and the price of comparable electric energy contracts at time of termination and shall also include damages prescribed herein and in the CESA, as applicable. If electric energy prices are lower at the point of termination than they were at time of contracting, MEMBER should expect to pay energy price damages upon early termination. In any event, any termination payment will be calculated and assessed in accordance with MEMBER’s CESA.

### **C. Participation in Power Projects**

If MEMBER has chosen to purchase power from a Power Project through TCAP, in accordance with a signed Project Addendum attached to MEMBER’S CESA, MEMBER’s termination rights with respect to its commitment to purchase power from the Power Project shall be contained in the Project Addendum.

### **SECTION 7 CONFIDENTIALITY:**

MEMBER is a governmental body subject to public information laws, including Chapter 552 of the Texas Government Code. If MEMBER receives a valid request under applicable public information laws for information related to this AGREEMENT or its CESA, it shall provide TCAP notice of the request including a description the information sought prior to MEMBER’s release of information so that TCAP has the opportunity to determine whether such information is subject to an exception as trade secret, competitive, commercial, or financial information. With the exception of the preceding disclosures pursuant to public information laws, a Party (that party, the “Receiving Party”) shall keep confidential and not disclose to third parties any information related this AGREEMENT, except for disclosures to Authorized Parties or as otherwise required by law; and provided that MEMBER authorizes TCAP to provide Energy Manager and REP with any relevant information concerning MEMBER’s account, usage and billings. The provisions of this Section 7 apply regardless of fault and survive termination, cancellation, suspension, completion or expiration of this AGREEMENT for a period of two (2) years. “Authorized Parties” means those respective officers, directors, employees, agents, representatives and professional consultants of MEMBER and TCAP and each of their respective affiliates that have a need to know the confidential information for the purpose of evaluating, performing or administering this AGREEMENT.

### **SECTION 8 PARAGRAPH HEADINGS:**

The paragraph headings contained in this AGREEMENT are for convenience only and shall in no way enlarge or limit the scope or meaning of the various and several paragraphs.

## **SECTION 9 COUNTERPARTS:**

This AGREEMENT may be executed in multiple counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original, and all of which shall constitute but one and the same instrument.

## **SECTION 10 DEFINITIONS:**

**“Annual Adjustment”** shall mean either a credit to MEMBER for the over-collection of funds, or a charge to MEMBER for under-collection of funds, related to Power Project settlements, if applicable. For those MEMBERS that participate in SHP, the Annual Adjustment shall also include (i) adjustments related to the loss factor for each specific ERCOT zone and (ii) adjustments related to load reconciliation as determined by TCAP, the Energy Manager and the REP.

**“Energy Manager”** means the wholesale market participant selected by TCAP to conduct SHP procurements at TCAP’s direction, in accordance with Section 5A and Section 7 of this Agreement. The Energy Manager may sell all or a portion of the required wholesale energy to TCAP or TCAP’s REP.

**“Power Project”** means a power generation project identified by TCAP to supply electric energy to one or more TCAP Members.

**“Project Addendum”** means the Addendum for a Power Project, if any, signed and attached as an Exhibit to MEMBER’S CESA.

**“QSE Services Fee”** means the QSE Services Fee in affect during the Delivery Term, as agreed between TCAP and Energy Manager.

**“Quarterly Adjustment”** shall mean either a credit to MEMBER for the over-collection of funds, or a charge to MEMBER for under-collection of funds, related to (i) ERCOT zonal congestion charges and (ii) ancillary services charges and other charges imposed by governmental agencies or ERCOT upon wholesale suppliers or REPs under statutes, regulations or courts for services within ERCOT zones. Said charges or refunds will be proportional to MEMBER’s relative contribution to TCAP load within specific ERCOT zones.

**“Retail Electric Provider” or “REP”** means the Retail Electric Provider that is party to (i) the REP Services Agreement with TCAP and (ii) the CESA between itself and MEMBER for the provision of retail electric service.

**“Strategic Hedging Program” or “SHP”** means an energy procurement strategy approved by TCAP’s Board of Directors, overseen by TCAP’s designated consultants, and administered by TCAP’s appointed Energy Manager, whereby wholesale energy is solicited and procured at agreed upon intervals, as directed by TCAP.

**EXECUTED** on this the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_.

**MEMBER:**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

**TCAP:**

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_