



RECEIVED

MAY 25 2021

By: _____
County Judge

May 10, 2021

Honorable Richard Cortez

Hidalgo County Judge

100 E. Cano

Edinburg, TX. 78539

Re: El Morillo Drain Maintenance Contribution Fiscal Year 2020 (October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020)

Dear Judge Cortez,

Hidalgo County, along with Cameron and Willacy County has been providing its pro-rata share of the local match funding of the operation and maintenance cost for the El Morillo Drain. The proration is based on a split of 45% for Cameron County, 45% for Hidalgo County and 10% for Willacy County.

The El Morillo Drain is a project that diverts inflow in the Rio Grande River at a point in Mexico northwest of Reynosa which is across the river from Anzaldua's Park. The drain runs through Reynosa and out to the Gulf of Mexico via a system of open ditches, canals and underground pipelines. The water that is diverted is of very poor quality, and essentially if allowed to drain into the river would make downstream water unusable for irrigation or other purposes.

The drain is operated by the International Boundary and Water Commission – United States and Mexico (USIBWC). The drain was complete in 1969. The portion of the U.S. section of the river was the responsibility of the Lower Rio Grande Water Committee (a non-profit with local citizens primarily from the Agriculture community on the board). The law providing for the joint operation of the drain provided for a local match obligation for the O&M of the drain (PL89-584). The Committee sought the financial assistance of the three counties for the provision of the local match. The Commissioner's Court adopted a resolution in 1972 appointing the Committee as the County point of contact with the USIBWC and provided its portion of the local O&M match. The Rio Grande Regional Water Authority (RGRWA), a state created entity, by agreement with the Committee took over the Committee's position relating to the drain in 2008. The Commissioner's Court recognized the transfer of the responsibility from the Committee to the RGRWA. The Commissioner's Court in such recognition agreed to continue to the O&M for the U.S. section of the drain.

Based on the foregoing, I have enclosed an invoice for the County's portion of the O&M funding. I have also enclosed a copy of the letter from the USIBWC relating to the request for payment. I have also enclosed the IBWC Letter requesting payment date May 4, 2021 for your records. If you have

questions, please call me at your convenience. I am available to present this item to the Commissioner's Court if you find that necessary. I have attached the RGRWA invoice for fiscal year 2020. This invoice is payable presently. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

I greatly appreciate your review and payment therefore.

Thank you,



Jim Darling, General Manager – RGRWA

Cc: Sergio Contreras, RGV Partnership



INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE DIVISION

May 4, 2021

Mr. Sergio Contreras, President
Rio Grande Regional Water Authority
322 S. Missouri Ave.
Weslaco, Texas 78596

Dear Mr. Contreras:

I refer to Contract No. IBM-09-A004, dated March 4, 2009 between the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC), and the Rio Grande Regional Water Authority (RGRWA), where the RGRWA is to pay one-half of the Morillo Drain Operation and Maintenance (O&M) cost allocated to the U.S. Section. The Morillo Drain conveyance channel was constructed in Mexico and is operated by Mexico for the discharge of saline water into Morillo and other drains in Mexico. Regular operations, maintenance, and improvements costs of the conveyance system are incurred annually.

The expenditures for the Morillo Drain during the 2020 Fiscal Year (October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020) is \$377,059.70. The USIBWC is responsible for 50% of the share cost to Mexico as per Minute No. 223 and Minute No. 303, dated November 30, 1965 and May 15, 2000, respectively. The breakdown of the said amount is given in Attachment 1. This amount equates to \$188,529.85. RGRWA is responsible for reimbursing the U.S. Section for 50% of the U.S. costs or \$94,264.93 plus a \$1.00 not paid in FY2019, for a total amount of \$94,265.93.

As stipulated in Contract No. IBM-09-A004, please submit a payment in the amount of **\$94,265.93** for the Morillo Drain O&M costs from October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020. In accordance with Federal Acquisition Regulations, please make payment by check or money order to the United States Section, International Boundary and Water Commission on or before November 1, 2021.

The FY 2021 estimated costs will be provided as soon as the projects are approved and funding is secured.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 915-832-4133 or David Duran at 915-832-4791.

Sincerely,

Digitally signed
by Xochitl
ARANDA
Date: 2021.05.04
14:42:18 -06'00'

Xochitl Aranda, P.E.
Acting Principal Engineer

Enclosures As stated

ATTACHMENT I
RIO GRANDE REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY FY 2020 COSTS

CONTRACT NO.	PRIORITY (WORK PLAN)	CONTRACT DESCRIPTION	U.S. SECTION'S COST	RGRWA COST (50%)
MINUTE 223				
Electrical Costs	N/A	FY 2020	\$ 36,285.88	\$ 18,142.94
O&M Costs	N/A	FY 2020	\$ 62,278.33	\$ 31,139.17
MINUTE 303 - FY 2020 Emergency Work and Planned Work				
CILA-REY-AD-13-2020	1	Emergency repair to Pump No. 3	\$ 6,273.07	\$ 3,136.54
MINUTE 303 FY 2020 WORK PLAN				
CILA-REY-INV-24-2020	1	Modernization of the electrical substation.		
	2	Modernization of control panel for the sliding gates and general maintenance of the sliding gates.	\$ 39,912.62	\$ 19,956.31
	7	Supply and installation of the rotating hoist to remove trash from the wet wells and access ladders to wet wells.		
CILA-REY-INV-21-2020	3	Clearing and vegetation removal from the slopes and right of way, in the reaches from Km 00+130 to Km 6+607, Km 7+263 to Km 13+800, and Km 17+600 to Km 39+800.		
	4	Repair of damaged slabs in the reach from 3+800 to 13+800 of the Morillo bypass canal.	\$ 43,779.95	\$ 21,889.98
	5	Maintenance work on the access roads to the Morillo bypass canal (Reaches Km 00+130 to Km 03+807, Km 5+200 to Km 6+307, Km 7+263 to Km 10+000, Km 19+100 to Km 25+100, and Km 30+200 to 32+400).		
	6	Removal of sediment and debris from crossing siphons and culverts between Km 2+800 and Km 13+800.		
TOTAL			\$ 188,529.85	\$ 94,264.93