

## LEGAL NOTICE

These General Provisions are considered standard language for an Offeror (hereinafter referred to as “Offeror”, “Vendor”, “Respondent”, or “Contractor”) submitting a response for a Request for Bids, Proposals, Qualifications or other solicitation (hereinafter referred to as “Procurement Packet”) made by the County of Hidalgo (hereinafter referred to as “Hidalgo County” and “County”).

It is the Offeror’s sole responsibility to be in compliance of all federal, state, and local laws, requirements, rules, codes, ordinances, and regulations applicable to their proposed goods and/or services. In the event of any conflict between the terms and provisions of these requirements and the specifications, the specifications shall govern. In the event of any conflict of interpretation of any part of this overall procurement packet, Hidalgo County’s interpretation shall govern.

The following is a link to all adopted Hidalgo County policies (<https://www.hidalgocounty.us/805/County-Administrative-Policies>), which for all purposes, when applicable whether specified explicitly, is incorporated by reference as part of this procurement packet and any resulting agreement.

- 1. ACCEPTANCE OF SUBMISSION.** Receipt of the submission shall under no circumstance obligate Hidalgo County to accept the response, or make an award. The Offeror is responsible for obtaining any information needed in order to respond and for all costs of submitting its response. An Offeror’s submitted response is to remain firm for a minimum of ninety (90) days after opening.
- 2. ACCESS TO RECORDS.** In special circumstances, Vendor may be required to allow duly authorized representatives of Hidalgo County, or the state and federal government access to contracts, books, documents, and records necessary to verify the nature and extent of the cost of services provided by Vendor. Vendor must keep records within Hidalgo County or note in their submission that records will be available within the boundaries of Hidalgo County to those representatives within one (1) business day of request by the County.
- 3. ACCOUNT CREATION FOR PAYMENT.** Upon award and prior to execution of a contract, Offeror shall cooperate with and submit any required information to the Hidalgo County Auditor’s Office in order to establish an account with the County for payment, including information requested on the Vendor Application, **Appendix “E”** on this procurement packet. This information must be on file with the Hidalgo County Purchasing Department and the Hidalgo County Auditor’s Office. Failure to provide this information may result in a delay in payment and/or back-up withholding as required by the Internal Revenue Service.
- 4. ADDENDA.** When specifications interpretations, amendments, corrections or changes are revised, the Hidalgo County Purchasing Department will issue an Addendum addressing the nature of the change. All released Addenda will be e-mailed to all point of contact(s) who are known to have received or requested a copy of the procurement packet directly from the Hidalgo County Purchasing Department. Offeror must **sign in blue ink and include it in the returned submission package.**
- 5. ASSIGNMENT.** The successful Offeror shall not assign, sell, transfer, convey, or otherwise transfer its rights under any awarded contract, in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of County of Hidalgo County Commissioners Court or other applicable governing body.
- 6. AWARD.** Hidalgo County reserves the right to award this contract on the basis determined on the Procurement Overview, and when applicable, listed on **Appendix “B”**, in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas, to waive any formality or irregularity, to make awards to more than one Offeror, and to reject any or all submissions received. After Hidalgo County Commissioners’ Court approves an award, and the awarded Contractor defaults in meeting the general requirements and/or specifications in complying with the contract agreement, Hidalgo County reserves the right to seek the services of the next lowest bidder(s) and/or qualified Offeror(s). In such event, Hidalgo County shall charge the Awarded Vendor the difference for any additional cost of such item. Hidalgo County reserves the right to add or delete items during the term of the contract under the same rates and conditions.

In the event the lowest dollar Offeror meeting specifications is not awarded a contract, the Offeror may appear before the Commissioners Court, or other applicable governing body and present evidence concerning their responsibility after officially notifying in writing via email **and** certified mail to the Hidalgo County Purchasing Director, 2802 S. BUS HWY 281, Edinburg, TX 78539, (956) 318-2626, [martha.salazar@co.hidalgo.tx.us](mailto:martha.salazar@co.hidalgo.tx.us); “Carbon Copy:” and “Attention To:” the Contract Specialist listed on the cover page of this procurement packet of their intent to appear.

7. **COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LAWS.** The County will search a database maintained by the Texas State Comptroller. A contract may not be entered into with an entity that is identified therein. Search results shall be incorporated for all purposes as part of any resulting agreement entered into by the parties. The Offeror shall follow all federal, state, and local laws, requirements, rules, codes, ordinances, regulations and Hidalgo County Policy & Procedures applicable to their proposed goods and/or services, including, but not limited to those addressed within this procurement packet, the resulting agreement and the following:

**7.1 Attestation Terrorist Organizations - TEX. GOVT. CODE CH. 2252.** Pursuant to the Texas Government Code, including but not limited to Chapter’s 2252, 806 and 807, the Offeror warrants, represents, certifies and attests that, by submitting a response to this procurement packet and/or at the time of execution of this Contract, Agreement, or supplemental agreement thereafter, neither the Offeror, nor any wholly owned subsidiary, majority-owned subsidiary, parent company or affiliate of the same (i) engages in business with Iran, Sudan, or any foreign terrorist or (ii) is a company listed by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

**7.2 Breach of Ethics.** Contracts awarded hereunder shall be in compliance with Tex. Loc. Govt. Code Chapter 171: Regulation of Conflicts of Interest of Officers of Municipalities, Counties and Certain Other Local Governments.

It shall be a breach of ethics to offer, give, or agree to give any elected official, department head or employee, or former elected official, department head or employee, of the County, or for any elected official, department head or employee or former elected official, department head or employee of the County, to solicit, demand, accept or agree to accept from another person, entity or organization, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation or any part of a program requirement or purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing, or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract, or to any solicitation or response to a request therefore pending before any department or agency of the County.

It shall be a breach of ethics for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor for any contract for the County, or any person associated therewith, as an inducement for the award of a subcontract or order.

**7.3 Bonds.** If this procurement packet requires submission of bid bond or proposal guarantee, and performance and payment bonds, an explanation of these requirements will be detailed on the Projects Requirements Acknowledgement listed in **Appendix “C”**. Responses submitted without the required bond or cashier's checks may be deemed unresponsive, thus disqualified from participation.

**7.4 Boycott Israel Verification - TEX. GOVT. CODE 2270.** In accordance with the Texas Government Code, including but not limited to Chapters 2270 and 808, a company, other than a sole proprietorship, with ten or more full time employees is required to certify in writing that it does not boycott Israel and will not boycott Israel during the term of the Contract, if the Contract has a value of \$100,000 or more.

**7.5 Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension Ineligibility, and Voluntary Exclusion.** The Offeror warrants and represents by execution of an award from their response to this procurement packet that it is not debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in any Federal programs, or state assistance, as described under Executive Order 12549, “Debarment and

Suspension.” The Offeror agrees to include this certification in all contracts between itself and any subcontractors in connection with the services performed under any subsequent Contract or Agreement arising from this award. The Offeror also acknowledges that it is their sole responsibility to immediately notify Hidalgo County, in writing, if they or a subcontractor is not in compliance with Executive Order 12549 during the term of this contract. Further, Offeror agrees to refund Hidalgo County for any payments made to the contractor while ineligible. Pursuant to federal regulation 45 CFR Part 76, the Offeror is required to furnish a certification or acknowledgement stating that they are free from suspension and debarment through registration on System for Award Management at [www.sam.gov](http://www.sam.gov) with their response.

**7.6 Davis-Bacon Act/Hidalgo County Adopted Prevailing Wage Rate.** When applicable, in accordance with Texas Government Code, Chapter 2258, as well as any other applicable laws, any Contractor or Subcontractor performing contracts in excess of \$2,000, for the construction, alteration, or repair (including painting and decorating) of public buildings or public works must pay their laborers and mechanics employed under the contract no less than the locally prevailing wages and fringe benefits for corresponding work on similar projects in the area as per the Davis Bacon Act or the rates adopted by Hidalgo County.

**7.7 Disclosure of Conflict of Interest.**

**7.7.1 As an Offeror.** Pursuant to Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 176, an Offeror must disclose an interest between the Offeror, the Offeror’s employees and any Hidalgo County employees arising from relationships within the first degree of consanguinity or affinity. A financial interest arises if the County’s elected official, department head, or employee, or a member of their family, received any gifts valued in excess of \$250 during the preceding twelve (12) month period, or employment of any County’s elected official, department head, or employee, or the County official’s family member.

The Offeror shall not use funds to directly or indirectly pay any person for influencing or attempting to influence any County employee or official in connection with the awarding of any contract or the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment or modification of any contract.

**7.7.2 Certificate of Interested Parties (Form 1295).** Hidalgo County cannot enter into a contract until Form 1295 is submitted, as Texas law, including, but not limited to Tex. Govt. Code Ch. 2252, Title 1 Tex. Ethics Comm. Rules – Title 1, sec. 46 and the Tex. Admin. Code, requires all parties who enter into any contract with the County which must be approved by its governing body, (hereinafter referred to as “Commissioners Court”) to disclose all interested parties. Form 1295 must be completed in its entirety through the Texas Ethics Commission at the following website: [https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/whatsnew/elf\\_info\\_form1295.htm](https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/whatsnew/elf_info_form1295.htm) prior to awarding the Contract. Failure to do so may result in delay of award, or deem your response unresponsive, thus disqualified from participation.

**7.7.3 Collusion.** The Offeror affirms that by responding to any solicitation made by Hidalgo County, it has not communicated directly or indirectly the response made to any competitor or any other person engaged in such line of business. Any or all responses may be rejected if the County believes that collusion exists among the Offerors, and/or the County believes prices provided by the Offerors are inappropriately unbalanced. Respondent’s Affidavit (**Appendix “J”**) must be included in the response.

**7.7.4 Consultants Excluded from Competition.** An outside Consultant or Contractor is prohibited from submitting a response for goods or services requested on a Hidalgo County project of which the Consultant or Contractor was a designer or other previous contributor, assisted in developing or drafting specifications, requirements, statements of work, or requests for goods and/or services must be excluded from competing for such procurements. If such, a Consultant or Contractor submits a response, that response shall be prohibited, and disqualified on the basis of conflict of interest, no matter when the conflict is discovered by Hidalgo County.

**7.7.5 Disclosure of Interested Parties (Form CIQ).** Offeror must fully disclose the existence

of any relationships as defined above in its response to this procurement packet. The Conflict of Interest Questionnaire (CIQ), attached hereto as **Appendix “D”**, must be filed with the Hidalgo County Clerk, located inside the Hidalgo County Courthouse, at 100 N. Clossner, Edinburg, TX 78539 no later than the seventh business day after the date the person becomes aware of facts that require the statement to be filed. **Completion and submission of Form CIQ is the sole responsibility of the Offeror.** Additionally, the Offeror must immediately notify Hidalgo County if the information provided in its response changes at any time.

**7.7.6 Disclosure to Report Lobbying.** When applicable, pursuant to 31 U.S.C.A. §1352 (2003), if at any time during the contract term funding to Contractor exceeds \$100,000.00, Contractor shall file with the County the Federal Standard Form LLL titled “Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying” as detailed in **Appendix “H”**.

**7.8 Disqualification of Offeror.** By submitting a response to this request, an Offeror offering to sell supplies, materials, services, or equipment to Hidalgo County certifies that the Offeror has not violated the antitrust laws of this state codified in Texas Business and Commerce Code §15.01, et seq., as amended, or the federal antitrust laws. If multiple submissions are made by an Offeror and after they are opened, the Offeror requests to withdraw one of the submissions is requested to be withdrawn, the result will be that all of the responses submitted by that Offeror will be withdrawn; however, nothing herein prohibits an Offeror from submitting multiple responses for different products or services.

**7.9 Ethical Business Practices.** Hidalgo County operates its business ethically and in compliance with the law. We ask that any Offeror, their representative, and/or employee doing business with Hidalgo County, who believes they have witnessed any suspected ethical violation or fraud immediately report the allegations to the Hidalgo County Purchasing Director, 2802 S. BUS HWY 281, Edinburg, TX 78539, (956) 318-2626, [martha.salazar@co.hidalgo.tx.us](mailto:martha.salazar@co.hidalgo.tx.us).

Hidalgo County Purchasing Department will conduct a prompt and thorough investigation. At the conclusion of the investigation, Hidalgo County Purchasing Department will refer any suspected criminal activity to the Hidalgo County District Attorney or other appropriate law enforcement agency. Any Offeror who reports suspected ethical violations or fraud can do so without fear of retaliation. Retaliating against any offeror for reporting suspected ethical violations or fraud is strictly prohibited.

**7.10 Historically Underutilized Business/Disadvantaged Business Enterprises.** The County is committed to ensuring that Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB) and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) such as small business enterprises (SBE), minority and women-owned business enterprises (MWBE) receive a fair and equal opportunity for participation in the County’s procurement process. The County encourages the use of these enterprises both as prime and subcontractors as listed in **Appendix “E”**.

When federal funds are expended by the County, the County will take affirmative steps set forth in 2 CFR 200.321 to assure that small, minority, women-owned businesses and labor surplus area owned firms are used when possible. Pursuant to 2 CFR 321, the County requires that a prime contractor who uses subcontractors take affirmative steps set forth in 2 CFR 200.321, including:

- a. Placing qualified small and minority business and women’s business enterprises on solicitation lists;
- b. Assuring that small and minority businesses, and women’s business enterprises are solicited whenever they are potential sources;
- c. Dividing total requirements, when economically feasible, into smaller tasks or quantities to permit maximum participation by small and minority businesses, and women’s business enterprises;
- d. Establishing delivery schedules, where the requirement permits, which encourage participation by small and minority businesses, and women’s business enterprises; and
- e. Using the services and assistance, as appropriate, of such organizations as the Small Business Administration and the Minority Business Development Agency of the Department of Commerce.
- f. Nothing in this section is to be construed to require the County to award a contract other than as required by law and Hidalgo County policies and procedures.

When procurement is related to road construction projects with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), all respondents must submit their HUB/DBE plans as part of their submission to be qualified to participate.

**7.11 Fair Wages.** The Offeror warrants and represents that it will pay all its workers all monies earned by its employees including, but not limited to regular wages, any overtime compensation, or any additional payments pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. Section 207 9a(1), as amended; the Texas Pay Day Act; the Equal Pay Act; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. Section 2000e, *et al.*, as amended; and/or any provisions of the Texas Labor Code Ann., as amended, without cost or expenses to the County.

Awarded Vendors, its officers, agents, and/or employees will not be entitled to any benefits of an employee or elected official of Hidalgo County, including, but not limited to, benefits associated with Hidalgo County's civil service system.

**7.12 Independent Contractor.** 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 the County has no supervision of the performance of the Services provided by Vendor, and that Vendor is an independent contractor under an award through this procurement packet.

**7.13 Nondiscrimination.** By submitting a response to this procurement packet, the Offeror certifies that it will conform to the provisions of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended and related state and federal law.

Offeror, during the performance of this contract, will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, disability or any other protected class under law (except as allowed in the case of bona fide occupational qualifications).

**7.14 Texas Public Information Act.** The Offeror understands and agrees that Hidalgo County is a governmental body for purposes of the Public Information Act, codified as Chapter 552 of the Texas Government Code and as such is required to release information in accordance with the Public Information Act (the "Act"). Hidalgo County must rely on advice, decisions and opinions of the Attorney General of the State of Texas relative to the disclosure of data or information. Submissions will be kept confidential in accordance with the Act and applicable law, and submissions are subject to inclusion into the public record after award. To the extent permitted by law, Offeror may request in writing non-disclosure of any information that it considers to be confidential, proprietary, and/or trade secret in its submission. Such data shall accompany the submission, be readily separable from the response, and shall be CLEARLY MARKED "**CONFIDENTIAL, PROPRIETARY and/or TRADE SECRET**". Hidalgo County will make reasonable efforts to provide Offeror notice in accordance with the Act in the event the County receives a request for information under the Act for information that the Offeror has marked as indicated above. E-mail addresses provided by Offeror to the County as part of its response to this procurement packet are not confidential. Additionally, Offeror provides its affirmative consent to the disclosure of its e-mail addresses, including from its employees, officers, and agents acting on its behalf, that are provided to Hidalgo County. This consent shall survive termination of this agreement and apply to any e-mail address provided in any form for any reason whether related to this procurement packet or otherwise.

**7.15 Title VI Notice.** The County of Hidalgo, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat.252, 42 U.S.C. §§2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all respondents that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit Bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award. Further, Title VI has been broadened by related statutes, regulations and executive orders as found in Appendices "A" through "E" as attached hereto as **Appendix "G"**. Offeror agrees to comply with Title VI as may be required.

- 8. CONTRACT OBLIGATION.** Hidalgo County Commissioners Court must award the contract and the County Judge must sign the contract before it becomes binding on Hidalgo County or the Offeror. Elected officials, department heads, other County employees or representatives are NOT authorized to sign agreements for Hidalgo County, unless prior authorization is approved by the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court, or respective governing body. Binding agreements shall remain in effect until all products and/or services covered by this procurement packet have been satisfactorily delivered and accepted.
- 9. CONTRACT RENEWALS.** Any extension or renewal of the agreement entered into by the parties are made at the County's sole discretion and under the same rates, terms and conditions as the initial agreement, or as amended.
- 10. CONTRACT TRANSITION (Grace Period).** In the event services end by either contract expiration or termination, it shall be required that the successful respondent continue services if requested by the Hidalgo County Purchasing Department, until new services can be completely operational. The successful respondent acknowledges its responsibility to cooperate fully with the replacement vendor and Hidalgo County to ensure a smooth and timely transition to the replacement vendor. Such transitional period shall not extend more than sixty (60) days beyond the expiration/termination date of the contract, or any extension thereof. The successful respondent shall be reimbursed for services during the transitional period at the rate in effect when the transitional period clause is invoked by Hidalgo County. During any transition period, all other terms and conditions of the contract shall remain in full force and effect as originally written and subsequently amended.
- 11. COST OF GOODS AND SERVICES.** Discount payments will be considered when offered. If during the life of any contract, or response awarded, the successful respondent's net prices generally available to other customers for items awarded herein are reduced below the contracted price, it is understood and agreed that the benefits of such reduction shall be extended to Hidalgo County. Failure by the Vendor to notify the County of a decrease in costs for items and/or supplies for which the Vendor was granted a price adjustment, may result in immediate termination of this contract and the County shall not be obligated to pay the Vendor the difference between the contract price and the price adjustment.
- 12. COUNTY APPROVED HOLIDAYS.** There are fourteen (14) County approved holidays. The Offeror is advised that official County business will not be conducted on the dates listed below:

New Year's Day	Friday, January 01, 2021
Martin Luther King Day	Monday, January 18, 2021
President's Day	Monday, February 15, 2021
Good Friday	Friday, April 02, 2021
Memorial Day	Monday, May 31, 2021
Independence Day	Monday, July 05, 2021
Labor Day	Monday, September 06, 2021
Columbus' Day	Monday, October 11, 2021
Veterans' Day	Thursday, November 11, 2021
Thanksgiving	Thursday/Friday, November 25-26, 2021
Christmas	Thursday/Friday, December 23-24, 2021
New Year's Eve	Friday, December 31, 2021

- 13. EVALUATION.** Evaluation shall be used as a determinant as to which proposed items or services are the most efficient and/or most economical for the County, considering all factors which have a bearing on price and performance of the items in the user department's environment. All submissions, except for Requests for Bids, may be subject to negotiations by the Hidalgo County Purchasing Department, or authorized Hidalgo County representative as approved by Hidalgo County Commissioners Court, with recommendation to the appropriate governing body. Compliance with all requirements, delivery and needs of the user department are considerations in evaluating the responses received. **Pricing is NOT the only criteria for making a recommendation.** A preliminary evaluation by Hidalgo County will be held and appropriate responses will be subjected to the negotiating process and a request for a Best and Final Offer. Upon completion of the negotiations, Hidalgo County will make an award. All responses that have been submitted shall be available and open for public record after the contract is awarded, except for trade secrets or confidential information contained in the responses and

identified as such.

Hidalgo County reserves the right to refuse and reject any or all submissions and to waive any or all formalities or technicalities, or to the qualifications considered the best and most advantageous to Hidalgo County. Additionally, Hidalgo County reserves the right to separate and accept or eliminate any item(s) listed under this procurement packet that it deems necessary to accommodate budgetary or operational requirements.

- 14. FISCAL FUNDING.** Hidalgo County has the discretion to utilize grant funding or general funding, however, should grant funding be utilized “Grant Funding” rules will apply. The award of a contract hereunder will not be construed to create a debt of the County which is payable out of funds beyond the current fiscal year. Additionally, should funds not be appropriated by the applicable governing body to continue the lease or contract in their sole discretion, said lease or contract shall become null and void on the last day of the current appropriation of funds.

**14.1 General Funding.** A multi-year lease or lease/purchase arrangement, or any contract continuing as a result of an extension option, must include a fiscal funding out provision in the lease or contract. Funds for this procurement have been provided through the County budget for this fiscal year only. Hidalgo County, on an annual basis and at their discretion, has the right to reconsider a contract during the budget process for ensuing years if financial resources of Hidalgo County are insufficient to meet the liabilities of said contract. After expiration of the lease, leased equipment shall be removed by the Vendor from the user department without penalty of any kind or form to Hidalgo County. All charges and physical activity related to delivery, installation, removal and re-delivery shall be the responsibility of the Vendor.

**14.2 Grant Funding.** Any contract entered into by the County that is to be paid from grant funds shall be limited to payment from the grant funding, and the Offeror understands that the County has not set aside any County funds for the payment of obligations under a grant contract. If grant funding should become unavailable at any time for the continuation of services paid for by the grant, and further funding cannot be obtained for the contract, then the contract shall be null and void.

Additionally, County contracts subject to assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), require inclusion of the contract terms found in **Appendix “H”**. It is the County’s intention to comply with FEMA requirements; therefore, any conflict in terms should be resolved as such.

- 15. FORCE MAJEURE.** If by reason of Force Majeure either Party shall be rendered unable, wholly or in part, to carry out its responsibility under this contract by any occurrence by reason of Force Majeure, then the Party unable to carry out its responsibility shall give the other Party notice and full particulars of such Force Majeure in writing within a reasonable time after the occurrence of the event, and such notice shall suspend the Party’s responsibility for the continuance of the Force Majeure claimed, but for no longer period. Force Majeure means acts of God, floods, hurricanes, tropical storms, tornadoes, earthquakes, or other natural disasters, acts of a public enemy, acts of terrorism, sovereign conduct, riots, civil commotion, strikes or lockouts, and other causes that are not occasioned by either Party’s conduct which by the exercise of due diligence the Party is unable to overcome and which substantially interferes with operations.
- 16. GOVERNING LAW.** This procurement packet is governed by the competitive bidding requirements of the County Purchasing Act, Texas Local Government Code, §262.021 *et seq.*, as amended. Offerors shall comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations. Offeror is further advised that these requirements shall be fully governed by the laws of the State of Texas and venue shall be performable in a federal or state court or competent jurisdiction in Hidalgo County, Texas. Hidalgo County may request and rely on advice, decisions and opinions of the Attorney General of Texas and the Hidalgo County District Attorney concerning any portion of these requirements. The County does not agree to binding arbitration and does not waive its right to a jury trial.
- 17. HIPAA COMPLIANCE.** When applicable, the Offeror agrees to comply with the requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-191 (codified at 45 C.F.R. Parts 160 and 164), as amended (“HIPAA”); privacy and security regulations promulgated by the United States Department of Health and Human Services (“DHHS”); Title XIII, Subtitle D of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Pub. L. No. 111-5, as amended (“HITECH Act”); provisions regarding Confidentiality of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Patient Records (codified at 42 C.F.R. Part 2), as amended; and TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE

ANN. §§81.046, as amended, 181.001 et seq., as amended, 241.151 et seq., as amended, and 611.001 et seq., as amended collectively referred to as "HIPAA", to the extent that the Offeror uses, discloses or has access to protected health information as defined by HIPAA. Offeror may be required to enter a Business Associate Agreement pursuant to HIPAA.

**18. INDEMNIFICATION.** The successful Offeror, shall indemnify, defend, save, and hold Hidalgo County, all its elected officials, officers, agents and employees harmless from all suits, actions, or other claims of any character, name and description brought for or on account of any injuries or damages received or sustained by any person, persons, or property directly or indirectly from contractor's performance on account of any negligent act or fault of the successful Offeror, or of any agent, employee, subcontractor or supplier in the execution of, or performance under, any contract which may result from award or which arises from any event or casualty happening on or within County premises themselves or happening upon or in any halls, elevators, entrances, stairways or approaches of or to such County facilities. Successful Offeror shall pay any judgment with costs which may be obtained against the County growing out of such injury or damages, and shall, upon request, provide a defense to Hidalgo County by counsel reasonably acceptable to the County. The Successful Offeror indemnity hereunder shall include, but is not limited to, claims relating to patent, copyright or trademark infringement and the like, arising out of the goods and services provided by successful Offeror.

**19. INSPECTIONS & TESTING.** Hidalgo County reserves the right to inspect any item(s) or service location for compliance with specifications and requirements and needs of the user department. If an Offeror cannot furnish a sample of a proposed item, where applicable, for review, or fails to satisfactorily show an ability to perform, the County can reject the response as inadequate.

The successful respondent shall warrant that all items/services shall conform to the specifications and/or all warranties provided under the Uniform Commercial Code and be free from all defects in material, workmanship and the like. Items supplied under a contract pursuant to this procurement packet shall be subject to the County's approval. Items found to be defective or not meeting specifications shall be replaced by the successful Offeror within two (2) business days at no expense to the County. Items that are not picked up within one (1) week after notification shall be deemed a donation to the County and may be used or disposed of at the County's discretion, without waiver of any other rights of the County as to the items' nonconformity.

**20. INSURANCE.** Contractor shall procure and maintain, with respect to the subject matter of this procurement packet, appropriate insurance coverage including, as a minimum, public liability and property damage with adequate limits to cover contractor's liability as may arise directly or indirectly from work performed under terms of this procurement packet. Certification of such coverage must be provided to the County as part of this response. (See **Appendix "C": Insurance Requirements**). Prior to award, Hidalgo County must be listed as a Certificate Holder to the policies.

**21. LEGAL DOCUMENTS.** Offeror should submit any agreement for products and/or services which may be required by their organization to enter into a contract with Hidalgo County. The awarded vendor will be required to execute an agreement with Hidalgo County which finalizes the terms and conditions set forth in their response, best and final offer, and any negotiations between the Offeror and Hidalgo County. The agreement is subject to review and amendment by the Hidalgo County District Attorney's Office.

**22. MAINTENANCE.** Maintenance required for equipment proposed should be available in Hidalgo County by a manufacturer-authorized maintenance facility. Costs for this service shall be shown on **Appendix "B"**. If Hidalgo County opts to include maintenance, it shall be so stated in the purchase order and said cost will be included. Service will commence only upon expiration of applicable warranties and should be priced accordingly.

**23. MARKET VOLATILITY AND UNIT PRICE ADJUSTMENTS.** When applicable, Hidalgo County recognizes that during periods of national crisis and unstable economic conditions, unforeseen price increase might affect costs for goods and services contracted on an annual basis. The Price Adjustment procedure may be employed to medicate price volatility on a quarterly basis, on the quarter they're being requested for, then return to the original contract price. The Hidalgo County Purchasing Department has sole discretion whether to grant

the price increase extension with provided sufficient evidence of the request. The requested increase cannot exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the original contract price during the contract term. Lastly, Hidalgo County may at its own discretion, conduct temporary price adjustment reviews at any time.

- 24. MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEETS.** Under the "Hazardous Communication Act", commonly known as the "Texas Right to Know Act", an Offeror must provide to the County with each delivery, material safety data sheets which are applicable to hazardous substances defined in the Act. Failure of the Offeror to furnish the required documentation will be cause to reject any response applying thereto.
- 25. MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR RESPONSIBLE PROSPECTIVE RESPONDENTS.** With their submitted response, the Offeror must affirmatively demonstrate their responsibility as listed on **Appendix "A"**. A prospective respondent, by submitting a response, represents to County that it meets the requirements listed.
- 26. NAME BRANDS.** Specifications may reference name brands and model numbers. It is not the intent of Hidalgo County to restrict or preclude competition in any way, but to establish a desired quality level of merchandise or to meet a pre-established standard due to like existing items. Offerors may offer items of equal stature and the burden of proof of such stature rests with Offerors. Hidalgo County shall act as sole judge in determining equality and acceptability of products offered.
- 27. NEW MILLENNIUM COMPLIANCE.** All products and/or services furnished as part of this contract must be compliant for the present year and forward. This applies to all computers including hardware and software as well as all other commodities with date sensitive embedded chips.
- 28. PAYMENT UNDER CONTRACT.** If the contract is for \$50,000 or less, no money will be paid to the contractor until completion and acceptance of the work or the fulfillment of the purchase obligation to the County, and, if applicable, the receipt by County of satisfactory evidence that all subcontractors and material men have been paid.
- 29. PERFORMANCE ENFORCEMENT.** Hidalgo County reserves the right to enforce performance of any contract, agreement, supplemental agreement, as amended, or participation in the professional services pool, in any manner prescribed by law or deemed to be in the best interest of the County. Hidalgo County reserves the right to terminate the contract awarded hereunder in any manner prescribed by law or deemed to be in the best interest of the County immediately in the event of breach or default by a successful respondent, including, but not limited to failure to maintain qualifications, meet schedules, pay any required fees or taxes, or otherwise failing to perform in accordance with the requirements of this procurement packet.
- 30. POST-AWARD DELIVERY INSTRUCTIONS.** Title and Risk of Loss of goods shall not pass to Hidalgo County until Hidalgo County actually receives and takes possession of the goods at the point or points of delivery. Receiving times may vary with the user department. Generally, deliveries may be made between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on County approved holidays. The Offeror is advised to consult the user department for instructions, and be given at least seventy-two (72) hours prior notice of delivery, if applicable, before delivery will be accepted. The place of delivery shall be identified in the Requirements/Specifications attached hereto as **Appendix "A"** of this procurement packet and/or on the Purchase Order as a "Deliver To:" address.
- 31. POST-AWARD INVOICES AND PAYMENTS.** Offerors shall submit an original, itemized invoice on company letterhead with their company name and address, detailing the deliverable(s) of goods and/or services provided, the respective price, product code, item number, quantity, etc. per line item, the name of receiving/requesting department or elected office, the delivery address, the awarded vendor's contract number, and issued purchase order number. Any invoice, which cannot be verified by the contract price and/or is otherwise incorrect, will be returned to the Offeror for correction. Under term contracts, when multiple deliveries and/or services are required, the Offeror may invoice following each delivery and the County will pay on invoice. Contracts providing for a monthly charge will be billed and paid on a monthly basis only.

Deliverables or services will be considered complete only upon written acceptance by Hidalgo County. No charges may be billed to Hidalgo County unless such costs are explicitly included in the agreement or contract. For billing and payment questions please contact the Hidalgo County Auditor's Office, 2808 S. Business Hwy.

281, Edinburg, Texas 78539, (956) 318-2511.

**32. PROCUREMENT PACKET FORM COMPLETION.** Fill out and return to the Hidalgo County Purchasing Department one (1) complete response in an appropriately sized envelope or box. **PACKAGE MUST SHOW THE COMPANY NAME, RETURN ADDRESS, THE RFB, RFP, RFQ, RFP/Q, etc., PROJECT DESCRIPTION, OPENING DATE AND TIME, AND BE MARKED “SEALED PROPOSAL”.** For Offeror’s convenience, the shipping label on **Appendix “N”** can be used on the submission packet. An authorized representative of the Offeror should sign the Submission Cover Sheet. The contract will be binding only when signed by Hidalgo County, funds are certified by the Hidalgo County Auditor, and an official Hidalgo County Purchase Order is issued by the Hidalgo County Purchasing Department.

**33. PROCUREMENT PACKET SUBMISSION.** Offeror must submit all completed responses to the Hidalgo County Purchasing Department reception desk at 2802 S. BUS. HWY 281, Edinburg, Texas 78539 by the date and time listed under the Submission Deadline and Bid Opening section of the Procurement Overview. Late proposals will not be accepted for any reason.

**33.1 Supplemental Materials.** Offerors are responsible for including all pertinent product data in the submitted response to this procurement packet. Literature, brochures, data sheets, specification information, completed forms requested as part of the procurement packet and any other facts which may affect the evaluation and subsequent contract award should be included. Materials such as legal documents and contractual agreements, which the Offeror wishes to include as a condition of the submission, must also be in the submitted response. Failure to include all necessary and proper supplemental materials may be cause to reject the entire response.

**34. PROOF OF BUSINESS.** Offeror must have been in business under its current name and in its current form (e.g., proprietorship, Chapter S Corporation). Information to be included as part of the Vendor Application, **Appendix “D”**.

**35. PURCHASE ORDER AND DELIVERY.** The successful Offeror shall not deliver products or provide services without a Hidalgo County Purchase Order, signed by the Hidalgo County Purchasing Director, or an authorized agent of the Hidalgo County Purchasing Department. When applicable, the fastest, most reasonable delivery time shall be indicated by the Offeror in the proper place on **Appendix “B”**. Any special information concerning delivery should also be included, on a separate sheet, if necessary. All items shall be shipped **F.O.B. INSIDE DELIVERY** unless otherwise stated in the specifications. This shall be understood to include bringing merchandise to the appropriate room or place designated by the user department. Every tender or delivery of goods must fully comply with all provisions of these requirements and the specifications including time, delivery and quality. Nonconformance shall constitute a breach which must be rectified prior to expiration of the time for performance. Failure to rectify within the performance period will be considered cause to reject future deliveries and cancellation of the contract by Hidalgo County, without prejudice to other remedies provided by law. **Where delivery times are critical, Hidalgo County reserves the right to award accordingly.**

Goods and/or Services must not be provided and **invoices will not be paid** without a purchase order signed by the Hidalgo County Purchasing Director.

**36. QUALIFICATIONS OF OFFEROR.** Offeror’s failure to qualify or maintain qualifications throughout the term of this agreement shall release Hidalgo County from all obligations to the Offeror with regard to the services. In such an event, Hidalgo County may elect to engage another qualified firm or reject all submissions and re-advertise.

**37. RECYCLED MATERIALS.** Hidalgo County encourages the use of products made of recycled materials and shall give preference in purchasing to products made of recycled materials if the products meet applicable specifications as to quantity and quality. Hidalgo County will be the sole judge in determining product preference application.

**38. REFERENCES.** Offeror must provide a total of four (4) references in each response to a solicitation requested by Hidalgo County. **One of the four references listed should be of a project that was canceled.**

Offeror may provide this in form of Reference Letters from other individual(s)/entities or local government entities for whom the Offeror has provided similar services in the past twenty-four (24) months as demonstration of their prior experience, or if Offeror prefers, may utilize the Reference Form **Appendix "M"**. Letters or reference sheet must include the following information:

- Organization/Client Name/Government Entity (Include population of any local governmental entity – some procurements may require a specific population).
- Name of Contact Person
- Contact Telephone, Address and Email
- Name of Project
- Scope of Work
- Contract Period
- Budget Project Amount; Actual Project Amount
- Expected project timeframe; actual project time frame
- Include contact information for one (1) client that services have been canceled, and a description of why the project was canceled.

**39. SCANNED OR RE-TYPED RESPONSE.** If in its response, Offeror either electronically scans, re-types, or in some way reproduces the County's published procurement packet, then in the event of any conflict between the terms and provisions of the County's published procurement packet, or any portion thereof, and the terms and provisions of the response made by the Offeror, the County's proposal package *as published* shall control. Furthermore, if an alteration of any kind to the County's published procurement packet is only discovered after the contract is executed and is or is not being performed; the contract is subject to immediate cancellation.

Regardless of how an Offeror requested or received a copy of this procurement packet to prepare a response, **the response must be submitted in hard copy** according to the instructions contained in this procurement packet.

**40. SEVERABILITY.** If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, phrase or word of these requirements or the specifications shall be held invalid, such holding shall not affect the remaining portions of these requirements and the specifications and it is hereby declared that such remaining portions would have been included in these requirements and the specifications as though the invalid portion had been omitted.

**41. SILENCE OF SPECIFICATIONS.** The apparent silence of specifications as to any detail, or the apparent omission from it of a detailed description concerning any point, shall be regarded as meaning that only the best commercial practice is to prevail and that only material and workmanship of the finest quality are to be used. All interpretations of specifications shall be made on the basis of this statement. The items furnished under this contract shall be new, unused of the latest product in production to commercial trade and shall be of the highest quality as to materials used and workmanship. Manufacturer furnishing these items shall be experienced in design and construction of such items and shall be an established supplier of the item proposed.

**42. SUBCONTRACTING.** Vendor may not subcontract services to another firm without prior written request detailing goods and/or services that are to be subcontracted, and approval of said written request by Hidalgo County Commissioners Court, or applicable governing body.

**43. TAXES.** Hidalgo County is exempt from all federal excise, state and local taxes unless, otherwise stated in this document. Hidalgo County claims exemption from all sales and/or use taxes under Texas Tax Code §151.309, as amended. Offerors are not to include tax in any cost figures (including in any supplemental project specific contracts applicable to pools). If it is determined that tax was included in the cost figure it will not be included in the tabulation of any supplemental project specific awards. Texas Limited Sales Tax Exemption Certificates will be furnished upon written request to the Hidalgo County Purchasing Department, and signed by the Agent, or authorized Purchasing Department representative.

**44. TERM OF CONTRACTS.** If the contract is intended to cover a specific time period, the term will be p in the Requirements/Specifications. Participation in the Professional Services Pool will be in effect until (a) the term expires, or (b) participation is terminated by County with thirty (30) days written notice prior to cancellation with

or without cause. Any supplemental project-specific contract award to a successful respondent will be in effect until (a) the contract expires, (b) delivery and acceptance of products, and/or performance of services ordered, or (c) terminated by the County with thirty (30) days written notice prior to cancellation with or without cause, unless otherwise stated in the executed agreement.

- 45. TERMINATION.** Hidalgo County reserves the right to terminate the contract for default if Offeror breaches any of the terms therein, including warranties of Offeror or if the Offeror becomes insolvent or commits acts of bankruptcy. Such right of termination is in addition to and not in lieu of any other remedies which Hidalgo County may have in law or equity. Default may be construed as, but not limited to, failure to deliver the proper goods and/or services within the proper amount of time, and/or to properly perform any and all services required to Hidalgo County's satisfaction and/or to meet all other obligations and requirements. Hidalgo County may terminate the contract without cause upon thirty (30) days written notice, unless otherwise stated in the executed agreement.
- 46. TERMINATION FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY VIOLATIONS.** Hidalgo County has the option to terminate this contract immediately without prior notice if offeror fails to perform any of its obligations in this contract if the failure (a) created a potential threat to health or safety or (b) violated a law, ordinance, or regulation designed to protect health or safety.
- 47. USAGE REPORTS.** Hidalgo County reserves the right to request, and receive at no additional cost during the yearly contract period, a usage report detailing the services furnished to date under an agreement resulting from this procurement packet. The reports must be furnished no later than five (5) business days after written request and itemize all purchases to date by Hidalgo County department, description of each service purchased, quantity of each service purchased, per unit cost and total amount of all services purchased.
- 48. WAIVER OF SUBROGATION.** Offeror and Offeror's insurance carrier waive any and all rights whatsoever with regard to subrogation against Hidalgo County as an indirect party to any suit arising out of personal or property damages resulting from Offeror's performance under any award resulting from award from this procurement packet.
- 49. WARRANTIES.** Offerors shall furnish all data pertinent to warranties or guarantees which may apply to items in the response to this procurement packet. Offeror may not limit or exclude any implied warranties. Further, Offeror warrants that product sold to the County shall conform to the standards established by the U.S. Department of Labor under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. In the event product does not conform to OSHA Standards, where applicable, Hidalgo County may return the product for correction or replacement at the Offeror's expense. If Offeror fails to make the appropriate correction within a reasonable time, Hidalgo County may correct at the Offeror's expense.

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**LEGAL NOTICE DECLARATION**

**TO:** Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Director  
**ATTN:** Yolanda Velasquez, Contract Specialist II  
Hidalgo County Administration Building/Purchasing Department  
2802 S. Business Hwy. 281  
Edinburg, Texas 78539

**RE:** RFB No. 2021-0844-00-00-YZV

By providing a response to this solicitation, we acknowledge receipt of all of the pages of in this procurement packet. We understand that Hidalgo County reserves the right to reject any or all submissions, and further reserves the right to design the evaluation criteria to be used in selecting the lowest and best qualification.

We acknowledge that we have examined this procurement packet in its entirety, and are familiar with the conditions to be met. In accordance with the Specifications, and subject to all laws and regulations of the United States, State of Texas, and local laws, we propose and commit to furnish all labor, equipment, material, software, and services as set forth in the documents hereinbefore mentioned. We, the undersigned respondent, further agree, upon acceptance of its response to be a member of the Pools of Professional Services and further execute supplemental project-specific contracts with the County as needed. Any purchase order or contract resulting from this process shall be considered null and void if the successful respondent fails to comply with any federal, state or local laws.

We acknowledge that we are providing the required certifications, attestations, verifications and/or acknowledgments as referenced within this procurement packet. We further acknowledge that any and all specifications, provisions, and attachments of this response are incorporated into and made a part of any resulting agreement.

We agree that this response shall be good, and may not be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) calendar days after the scheduled bid opening time and date for receiving the requested solicitation, as contained in the Specifications.

Lastly, we understand that any questions regarding compliance should be directed to our firm's legal counsel. We acknowledge that the individual authorized to bind the company is signing this Acknowledgement Form. By signing this Acknowledgement Form we understand we are providing written verification and certification of the aforementioned, and the County cannot execute a contract for goods or services without this declaration.

Respectfully submitted,

Firm: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Exhibit "A"  
HIDALGO COUNTY PCT. 3  
"Lease of Land (Approx. 3 to 5 Acres) For Solid Waste Citizen Collection Site  
(Abram Area)"  
BID NO.: 2021-0844-00-00-YZV

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**PROJECT OVERVIEW:**

The County of Hidalgo is seeking to lease real property to establish a new citizen's collection station in the Area of Abram, for the disposal of residential solid waste including, but not limited to the following:

**REQUIREMENTS:**

- Real property should be a minimum of approximately **3 to 5 Acres** with all acreage being used as a transfer station;
- Property must be located in the Abram area S of Business 83 between Joe Aguilar Street and South Abram Road;
- The lease will be on a monthly payment basis;
- The County will have a front end loader at the proposed site and may place a small building at the site;
- County employee(s) will be on-site during normal operating/working hours;
- The County is estimating having five (5) thirty (30 c.y.) cubic yard containers on site;
- Bidder is required to submit a copy of property insurance;
- Bidder is required to provide the legal description, and the Property ID, or Geographical ID number (as listed at the Hidalgo County Appraisal District) with the Bid response.;
- Bidder is required to submit the Meets & Bounds of the proposed Property;
- Allow County-owned signage on the leased property; and
- Lessor will be required to sign the Property Owner's Affidavit (30 TAC §330.11(a)), section of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)Municipal Solid Waste, Notice of Intent to Operate a Citizen's Collection Station Application.

**MONTHLY BILLING:**

A monthly invoice and/or statement must be submitted to Hidalgo County Precinct 3, accounts payable division. The invoice and/or statement must reflect the invoice number, the date, descriptive information of the lease, and the Purchase Order Number issued by the Purchasing Department. Invoices and/or statements shall be sent to:

Hidalgo County Precinct No. 3  
724 N. Breyfogle Rd.  
Mission, TX. 78574

**GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:**

1. The term of the contract will be for an initial *three* (3) year term with the County's sole option to extend the contract for an additional *two* (2) - *one* (1) year terms, under the same rates, terms and conditions.
2. Hidalgo County reserves the right to continue this bid for an additional sixty (60) day grace period at the end of the contract term, and with a month-to-month tenancy thereafter, for any unforeseen delay in award of a new bid for the next contract term.

Exhibit "A"  
HIDALGO COUNTY PCT. 3  
"Lease of Land (Approx. 3 to 5 Acres) For Solid Waste Citizen Collection Site  
(Abram Area)"  
BID NO.: 2021-0844-00-00-YZV

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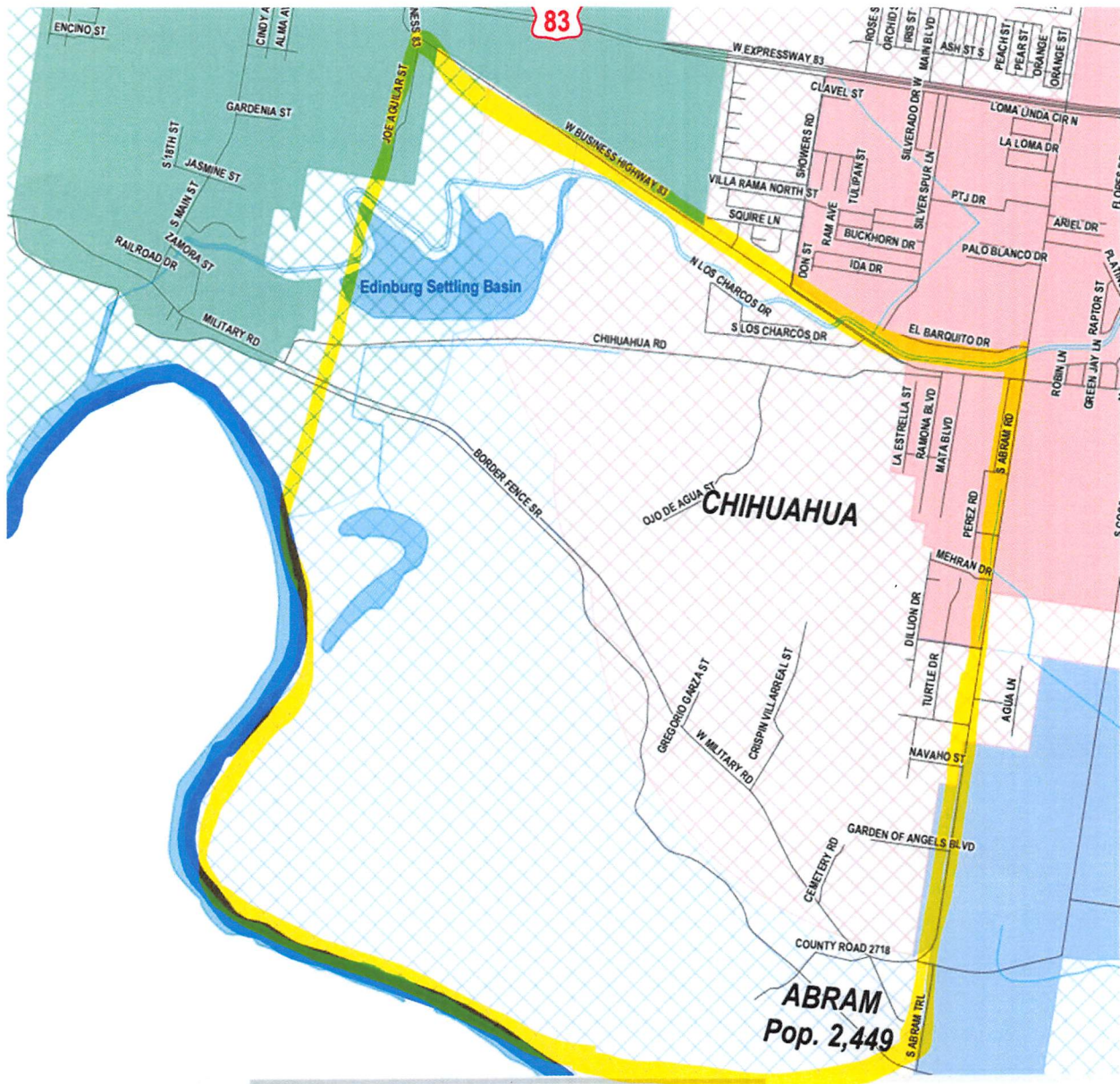
3. Vendor must submit and maintain all proper insurances for the duration of the contract term (refer to Appendix "C").
4. Hidalgo County reserves the right to hold bids for ninety (90) days without taking any action.
5. Hidalgo County reserves the right to add and/or delete acreage during the term of the contract.
6. Hidalgo County at its sole discretion may terminate the lease prior to the expiration of the initial three (3) year term or any subsequence renewal by issuing a thirty (30) day written notice of cancellation.
7. Hidalgo County reserves the right to reject any/all bids, to waive any/all formalities or technicalities, or to accept the lowest and best bid received from the responsible bidder to the County.
8. Any County-owned signage will remain the sole property of the County, during and after the contracted term(s).
9. **All costs and expenses associated with the preparation and submission of a bid shall be the responsibility of the bidder and no reimbursements for such charges or expenses shall be passed on to HIDALGO COUNTY.**

**Additional Information:**

Information regarding this project can be addressed in writing, to the Hidalgo County Purchasing Department. All questions, inquiries, and clarifications regarding this RFB should be addressed to Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent, attention: Heidi Garcia Ortiz, at 2802 South Business Hwy 281, Edinburg, Texas 78539. **TELEPHONE INQUIRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

**All Written Inquiries** will be accepted via email to [yolanda.velasquez@co.hidalgo.tx.us](mailto:yolanda.velasquez@co.hidalgo.tx.us) no later than 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, Month 00, 2021. Responses to said inquiries will be sent to all applicants via email by no later than Thursday, Month 00, 2021.

Lease of Land – Pct. 3 Citizen Collection Site  
Approximately 3 to 5 acres  
South of Bus 83 between Joe Aguilar St. and South Abram Rd.  
Property must have access to a paved road.  
Property must be an unincorporated area





as provided herein. This Lease shall terminate and become null and void without further notice on the expiration of the term specified in Article 1.1, unless sooner terminated or renewed and extended in accordance with this Article 1.4; and any holding over by County after the expiration of that term shall not constitute a renewal of the Lease or give County any rights under the Lease in or to the Leased Premises.

### **Holdover**

1.3 If County holds over and continues in possession of the Leased Premises after expiration of the term of this Lease, County will be deemed to be occupying the Premises on the basis of a tenancy at sufferance, subject to all of the terms and conditions of this Lease. The inclusion of this Article 1.2 shall not be construed as Lessor's consent for County to hold over.

### **Termination**

1.4 County may declare this Lease, and all rights and interest created by it, to be terminated without cause upon giving the other party thirty (30) days written notice. Upon County electing to terminate, this Lease shall cease and come to an end as if the day of the termination election were the day originally fixed in the Lease for its expiration.

### **Lessor's Warranty of Quiet Enjoyment**

1.5 Lessor covenants and agrees that County on paying the rent herein provided for and observing and keeping the covenants, conditions, and terms of this Lease on County's part to be kept or performed, shall lawfully and quietly hold, occupy, and enjoy the Leased Premises during the term of this Lease without hindrance or molestation of Lessor or any person claiming under Lessor except such portion of the Leased Premises, if any, as shall be taken under the power of eminent domain.

## **ARTICLE 2. RENT**

### **Base Rent**

2.1 County agrees to pay to Lessor, during the term hereof, a monthly rental equal to the product of [REDACTED] (\$ X,XXX.00) per month, of the Premises as described in Exhibit B. In the event the Commencement Date is a day other than the first day of the month, the rent for the period from the commencement date to the last day of the month shall be prorated by dividing the monthly rental by the number of calendar days in the month, and multiplying the result by the number of days remaining in the month that includes the Commencement.

### **Time and Manner of Payment**

2.2 All rent due under this article shall be paid by Lessee on a monthly basis and in advance, on the 1<sup>st</sup> business day of each month commencing on the Commencement Date. All installments of rent shall be paid in lawful money of the United States to the Lessor in such location or locations as Lessor shall from time to time designate by written notice to Lessee. Any rent due for any partial-month in the beginning or the end of the term hereof shall be prorated on the basis of a thirty-day month.

#### **Taxes**

2.3 Lessor is responsible for rendering and paying all real estate taxes on the Property. County shall be responsible for taxes, if any, on County's personal property located on the Premises.

### **ARTICLE 3. USE OF PREMISES**

#### **Permitted Use**

3.1 County may use the premises for landfill transfer and any other lawful purposes.

#### **Waste, Nuisance, or Illegal Use**

3.2 County shall not use or permit the use of, the Premises in any manner that results in waste of the Premises or constitutes a nuisance or violates any statute, ordinance, rule, or regulation applicable to the premises or for any illegal purpose.

### **ARTICLE 4. REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE**

4.1 County shall be responsible for repairs and maintenance in connection with damage to the Premises caused by County's negligent use of Premises, and damage to fixtures and improvements resulting from negligent or willful acts of the County, or the County's employees, agents, licensees or invitees. In addition, County shall repair all injury caused by the installation or removal of furniture, fixtures, or property permitted under this Lease to be removed from the Leased Premises. All construction, modifications, maintenance, and/or repairs made by either County or Lessor shall be made by duly qualified individuals in a good and workmanlike manner using high-quality materials. A "good and workmanlike manner" is defined as work that is performed by one who has the knowledge, training, or experience necessary for the successful practice of a trade or occupation and performed in a manner generally considered proficient by those capable of such work.

#### **Lessor's Duty to Repair**

4.2 To the extent applicable to the present lease, Lessor shall maintain in good working

order and make all repairs to the Premises' foundation, roof, plumbing systems, electrical and lighting systems, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems ("HVAC") structural integrity, fire protection and fire alert systems and all other repairs in and to the Leased Premises except that County shall make those repairs occasioned by County's negligent use of the Leased Premises. All repairs/maintenance will need to be addressed within five (5) business working days, with sanitation and leak issues to be prioritized and remedied with an immediate response, by no longer than a 24 hour period.

### **Lessor's Duty**

4.3 To the extent applicable to the present lease, Lessor shall construct, repair, and maintain the Leased Premises so that the Premises will have:

- 1) Effective waterproofing and weather protection of the contents of the Leased Premises by watertight roof, exterior walls, windows, and doors.
- 2) Plumbing facilities that conform to applicable law, maintained in good working order.
- 3) A water supply approved under applicable law that is under the control of County, capable of producing hot and cold running water, or a system that is under the control of Lessor that produces hot and cold running water furnished to County and connected to a sewage disposal system conforming to applicable law.
- 4) Central heating, ventilation, and air conditioning facilities conforming to applicable law to provide ample cooling/heating to the entire Leased Premises and are maintained in good working order. Lessor is responsible for keeping structures on the Premises free of mold at all times.
- 5) Electrical lighting, with wiring and electrical equipment that conforms to applicable law, maintained in good working order.
- 6) Building, grounds, and appurtenances in every part clean, sanitary, and free from all accumulations of debris, and all areas under control of Lessor kept in every part clean, sanitary, and free from all accumulations of debris.
- 7) Floor, stairways, and railings maintained in good repair (including annual waxing of floors).
- 8) Landscaping (all greenery, watering, and maintenance).
- 9) Parking Lot and on-premises roads (including painting, striping, paving, etc.)
- 10) Fire protection and fire alert systems that conform to applicable law, maintained in good working order.

- 11) Pest control services.

### **County's Right to Repair for Lessor or Vacate**

4.4 (a) If after County's notice to Lessor of repairs or maintenance which Lessor has a duty to undertake, Lessor neglects to make such repairs within thirty (30) days following written notice from County, County may make the repairs itself. In such a case, County may deduct the expenses of the repairs from further payment of rent or terminate this Lease Agreement as of the date County vacates the Premises and any rental shall be abated for the unexpired term of this Lease.

(b) For purposes of this Section 4.4, if Lessor makes repairs at least fifteen (15) days following the date of County's notice to Lessor, it will be presumed to have acted in a reasonable time.

## **ARTICLE 5. UTILITIES**

### **Utility Charges**

5.1 To the extent applicable to the present lease, Lessor, at its sole cost and expense, shall have the responsibility of providing the following services at the Premises: electrical and water usage cost services, janitorial services, security alarm services, telecommunication services, and garbage services, used in and about the Leased Premises during the term of this Lease, all such charges to be paid by Lessor directly to the utility company or municipality furnishing the same before the same shall become delinquent.

## **ARTICLE 6. ALTERATIONS, ADDITIONS, AND IMPROVEMENTS**

### **Consent of Lessor**

6.1 County shall not make any alterations, additions, or improvements to the Leased Premises without the prior written consent of Lessor. Consent for nonstructural alterations, additions, or improvements shall not be unreasonably withheld by Lessor.

### **Property of Lessor**

6.2 All alterations, additions, or improvements made by County shall become the property of Lessor at the termination of this Lease. Lessor may, however, require that County remove any or all alterations, additions, and improvements installed or made by County, and any other property placed on the Premises by County, upon termination of the Lease. In the event that Lessor requires County to remove such alterations, additions, or improvements, County shall repair any damage to the Premises caused by such removal.

## **ARTICLE 7. SIGNS**

7.1 Subject to the written approval of Lessor, and further subject to applicable laws, ordinances, and regulations, Lessee shall have the right to install a sign on the Leased Premises. Lessee must remove all signs at the termination of this Lease and repair any damage resulting from the erection or removal of the signs.

## **ARTICLE 8. MECHANIC'S LIEN**

8.1 Lessee will not permit any mechanic's lien or liens to be placed upon the Leased Premises or improvements on the Premises, Lessee will promptly pay the lien. If default in payment of the lien continues for twenty (20) days after written notice from Lessor to Lessee, Lessor may, at its option, pay the lien or any portion of it without inquiry as to its validity. Any amounts paid by the Lessor to remove a mechanic's lien caused to be filed against the Premises or improvements on the Premises by Lessee, including expenses and interest, shall be due from Lessee to Lessor and shall be repaid to Lessor immediately on rendition of notice, together with interest at ten percent (10%) per annum until repaid.

## **ARTICLE 9. INSURANCE AND INDEMNITY**

### **Property Insurance**

9.1 Lessor shall, at its own expense, during the term of this Lease provide insurance on the Leased Premises including all buildings and improvements on the Leased Premises insured against loss or damage by fire with extended coverage to include direct loss by windstorm, hail, explosion, riot, or riot attending a strike, civil commotion, aircraft, vehicles, and smoke, in the aggregate amounts of not less than the full fair insurable value of the buildings and improvements. The insurance is to be carried by one or more insurance companies licensed to do business in Texas and approved by Lessee. The policies shall provide that any proceeds for loss or damage to buildings or improvements shall be payable solely to Lessor, which sum Lessor shall use for repair and restoration purposes as provided herein. Lessee shall maintain all insurance on Lessee's personal property located within the Leased Premises and Lessee covenants and agrees that Lessor shall have no responsibility for damage or destruction of Lessee's personal property located within the Leased Premises.

### **General Liability Insurance**

9.2 **Lessor.** Lessor, at its own expense, shall provide and maintain in force during the term of this Lease, liability insurance with limits of at least Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00), naming County as additional insured. Prior to occupancy of the Premises, Lessor shall provide County with evidence of such insurance satisfying insurance requirements stated in the RFB, such evidence of insurance is attached hereto as “Exhibit C.”

9.3 **Lessor,** at its own expense, shall provide and maintain in force during the term of this Lease any other insurances which may be required or necessary.

9.4 **County.** County, at its own expense, shall provide and maintain in force during the term of this Lease, liability insurance in the amounts deemed adequate by County.

#### **Remedy for Failure to Provide Insurance**

9.4 Lessor shall furnish County with the original of all insurance policies required by this Article. If Lessor does not provide such policies or proof of such insurance within ten (10) days of the execution of this Lease, or if Lessor allows any insurance required under this Article to lapse after receipt of notice of cancellation or non-renewal, or if Lessor fails to deliver proof of insurance showing coverages to County prior to the effective date of such insurance and the original insurance policy within thirty (30) days thereafter, such failure shall be a default of Lessor under this Lease; or County may, but shall not be required, to take out such insurance and pay the premiums on the necessary insurance to comply with Lessor's obligations under the provisions of this Article. Lessor agrees to reimburse County all amounts spent by Lessor to procure and maintain such insurance within fifteen (15) days after demand from Lessor. Failure to pay such amount when due shall be a default of Lessor under this Lease.

### **ARTICLE 10. DAMAGE OR DESTRUCTION OF PREMISES**

#### **Notice to Lessor**

10.1 If the Leased Premises, or any structures or improvements on the Leased Premises, should be damaged or destroyed by fire, tornado, or other casualty, Lessee shall give immediate written notice of the damage or destruction to Lessor, including a description of the damage and, as far as known to Lessee, the cause of the damage.

10.2 If the Leased Premises or any structures or improvements on the Leased Premises should be totally destroyed by fire, tornado, or other casualty, or if it should be so damaged that rebuilding is necessary, this Lease Agreement, at the option of the County, shall terminate and rent

shall be abated for the unexpired portion of this Lease, effective as of the date of said occurrence.

10.3 If the Leased Premises or any structures or improvements on the Leased Premises should be damaged by fire, tornado, or other casualties, but not to such an extent that rebuilding or repairs can reasonably be completed with thirty (30) working days from the date of the occurrence of the damage, this Lease shall not terminate, but Lessor shall if the casualty has occurred prior to the final six (6) months of the lease term, at Lessor's sole cost and risk proceed forthwith to rebuild or repair the Leased Premises to substantially the condition in which they existed prior to such damage. If the casualty occurs during the final six (6) months of the lease term, Lessor shall not be required to rebuild or repair such damage. If the Leased Premises are to be rebuilt or repaired and are untenable in whole or in part following such damage, the rent payable hereunder during the period in which they are untenable shall be adjusted equitably. In the working days from the date of the occurrence of the damage, County may at its option terminate this Lease by written notification at such time to Lessor, whereon all rights and obligations hereunder shall cease.

## **ARTICLE 11. CONDEMNATION**

### **Total Condemnation**

11.1 If during the term of this Lease all of the Leased Premises should be taken for any public or quasi-public use under any governmental law, ordinance, or regulation, or by right of eminent domain, or should be sold to the condemning authority under threat of condemnation, the Lease shall terminate, and the rent shall be abated during the unexpired portion of this Lease, effective as of the date of the taking of the premises by the condemning authority.

### **Partial Condemnation**

11.2 If less than all, but more than ten percent (10%) of the Leased Premises is taken for any public or quasi-public use under any governmental law, ordinance, or regulation, or by right of eminent domain, or should be sold to the condemning authority under threat of condemnation, Lessee may terminate the Lease by giving written notice to Lessor within thirty (30) days after possession of the condemned portion is taken by the entity exercising the power of condemnation.

If the Leased Premises are partially condemned and Lessee fails to exercise the option to terminate the Lease under this section, or if less than ten percent (10%) of the Leased Premises are condemned, this Lease shall not terminate, but Lessor may, at its sole expense, restore and reconstruct the building and other improvements situated on the Leased Premises to make them reasonably tenantable and suitable for the uses for which the Premises are Leased. The rent

payable under Sections 2.1 of this Lease shall be decreased equitably during the period of such restoration or reconstruction.

### **Condemnation Award**

11.3 Lessor and Lessee shall each be entitled to receive and retain such separate awards, and portions of lump-sum awards, as may be allocated to their respective interest in any condemnation proceedings. The termination of this Lease shall not affect the rights of the respective parties to such awards.

## **ARTICLE 12. DEFAULT**

### **Default by Lessee**

12.1 If Lessee shall allow the rent to be in arrears more than ten (10) days after written notice of such delinquency, or shall remain in default under any other condition of this Lease for a period of fifteen (15) days after written notice from Lessor, Lessor may at its option, without notice to Lessee, terminate this Lease or, in the alternative, Lessor may re-enter and take possession of the Premises and remove all persons and property without being deemed guilty of any manner of trespass and relet the Premises, or any part of the Premises, for all or any part of the remainder of the Lease term, to a party satisfactory to Lessor and at such monthly rental as Lessor may with reasonable diligence be able to secure.

### **Default by Lessor**

12.2 If Lessor defaults in the performance of any terms, covenants, or conditions required to be performed by it under this Lease, in addition to other remedies afforded Lessee under this Lease or at law, Lessee may elect that: Upon Lessee's notice to Lessor of repairs or maintenance which Lessor has a duty to undertake, Lessor neglects to make such repairs within thirty (30) days following written notice from Lessee. Lessee may vacate the Premises, in which case it shall be discharged from further payment of rent, the performance of all other terms and conditions of this Lease, and this Lease shall terminate as of the date Lessee vacates the Premises and any rental shall be abated for the unexpired term of this Lease.

### **Cumulative Remedies**

12.4 All rights and remedies of Lessor and Lessee under this Article shall be cumulative, and none shall exclude any other right or remedy provided by law or by any other provision of this Lease. All such rights and remedies may be exercised and enforced concurrently and whenever, and as often, as occasion for their exercise arises.

### **Waiver of Breach**

12.5 A waiver by either Lessor or Lessee of a breach of this Lease by the other party does not constitute a continuing waiver or a waiver of any subsequent breach of the Lease.

### **ARTICLE 13. ASSIGNMENT AND SUBLETTING**

#### **Assignment and Subletting by Lessee**

13.1 Lessee may not sublet, assign, encumber, or otherwise transfer this Lease, or any right or interest in this Lease or the Leased Premises or the improvements on the Leased Premises, without the written consent of Lessor. If Lessee sublets, assigns, encumbers, or otherwise transfers its rights or interest in this Lease or in the Leased Premises or the improvements on the Leased Premises, other than as specified herein, without the written consent of Lessor, Lessor may, at its option, declare this Lease terminated and Lessee and Lessor shall have no further obligation to each other under this Lease. In the event Lessor consents in writing to an assignment, sublease, or other transfer of all or any of Lessee's rights under this Lease, the assignee or sublessee, must assume all of Lessee's obligations under this Lease, and Lessee shall remain liable for every obligation under the Lease. Lessor's consent under this section will not be arbitrarily or unreasonably withheld.

#### **Assignment by Lessor**

13.2 Lessor may assign or transfer any or all of its interests under the terms of this Lease.

### **ARTICLE 14. ADA COMPLIANCE**

14.1 Lessor shall be responsible for ensuring Premises comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as amended. Any contest by Lessor of any law, rule, order, ordinance, regulation or requirement of the ADA shall be done with due diligence through appropriate legal proceeding at no cost to County, and shall not subject the County to criminal/civil prosecutions or penalties or encumbrance the Premises in any way.

### **ARTICLE 15. MISCELLANEOUS**

15.1 **Notices and Addresses.** All notices required under this Lease will be deemed delivered when deposited in certified or registered mail, addressed to the proper party, at the following addresses:

**Lessor:**

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Lessee:**

County of Hidalgo

Attn: County Judge

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

100 E. Cano, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Edinburg, Texas 78539

Either party may change the address to which notices are to be sent by giving the other party notice of the new address in the manner provided in this section.

15.2 **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement contains the entire contract between the parties hereto and each party acknowledges that neither has made (either directly or through an agent or representative) any representation or agreement in connection with this Agreement not specifically set forth herein. This Agreement may be modified or amended only by an agreement in writing executed by the parties hereto, and not otherwise.

15.3 **Parties Bound.** This agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of, the parties to the Lease and their respective heirs, executors, administrators, legal representatives, successors and assigns when permitted by this agreement.

15.4 **Texas Law to Apply.** This agreement shall be construed under, and in accordance with, the laws of the State of Texas, and all obligations of the parties created by this Lease are performable in Hidalgo County, Texas.

15.5 **Legal Construction.** In case any one or more of the provisions contained in this Agreement shall for any reason be held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability shall not affect any other provisions of the agreement, and this agreement shall be construed as if the invalid, illegal, or unenforceable provision had never been included in the agreement.

15.6 **Prior Agreements Superseded.** This agreement constitutes the sole and only agreement of the parties to the agreement and supersedes any prior understandings or written or oral agreements between the parties respecting the subject matter of this agreement.

15.7 **Amendment.** No amendment, modification, or alteration of the terms of this agreement shall be binding unless it is in writing, dated subsequent to the date of this agreement, and duly executed by the parties to this agreement.

15.8 **Rights and Remedies Cumulative.** The rights and remedies provided by this lease agreement are cumulative, and the use of any one right or remedy by either party shall not preclude or waive that party's right to use any or all other remedies. The rights and remedies provided in this Lease are in addition to any other rights the parties may have by law, statute, ordinance, or otherwise.

15.9 **Force Majeure.** Neither Lessor nor Lessee shall be required to perform any term, conditions, or covenant in this Lease so long as such performance is delayed or prevented by force

majeure, which shall mean acts of God, strikes, lockouts, material or labor restrictions by any governmental authority, civil riot, floods, and any other cause not reasonably within the control of Lessor or Lessee and which by the exercise of due diligence Lessor or Lessee is unable, wholly or in part, to prevent or overcome.

15.10 **Real Estate Commission and Finder's Fees.** Neither Lessor nor Lessee has entered into any real estate commission or finder's fee agreements with any broker, agent, or finder in respect of this transaction, and Lessor and Lessee each agree to indemnify and hold harmless the other from and against any and all claims, losses, damages, costs or expenses of any kind, or arrangement or understanding alleged to have been made by the indemnifying party or on its behalf with any broker, salesman or finder in connection with this Lease or the transactions contemplated hereby.

15.11 **Estoppel Information.** Lessee shall, at the request of Lessor, provide any and all information with respect to this Lease to any person designated by Lessor.

15.12 **Time of Essence.** Time is of the essence of this agreement.

15.13 **Governmental Purpose.** The County is entering into this agreement for the purpose of providing for governmental services or functions and will pay for such services out of current revenues available to the paying party as herein provided.

15.14 **Commitment of Current Revenues Only.** In the event that, during any term hereof, the Commissioners Court of County does not appropriate sufficient funds to meet the obligations of County under this Agreement, County may terminate this Agreement upon sixty (60) days written notice to Lessor. County agrees, however, to use best 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 (Vernon Supp. 1996).

15.15 **Immunities.** It is expressly understood and agreed that, in the execution of this agreement, the County does not waive, nor shall be deemed hereby to waive, any immunity or defense that would otherwise be available to it against claims arising in the exercising of governmental powers and functions.

15.16 **Additional Documents.** The Parties agree that they will use reasonable, good faith efforts to execute each such other and further instruments and documents as are or may become necessary or convenient to effectuate and carry out the terms of this Agreement.

15.17 **Non-Discrimination** The Agreement and all related activities shall be conducted in a manner that does not discriminate against any person on a basis prohibited by applicable law

or County and Lessor policy, including without limitation to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status, or disability.

**15.18 Required Contract Provision for Contracts Subject to Federal Award (if applicable).** Pursuant to 2 CFR 200.236, a non-federal entity's contracts must contain the applicable provisions described in Appendix II to 2 CFR 200-Contract Provisions for non-Federal Entity Contracts Under Federal Awards. Additionally, County contracts under Federal award which are subject to assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are also required to contain additional contract clauses. Applicable required contract clauses were provided as part of the initial procurement packet, and as such are incorporated into this agreement for all purposes.

**15.19 Authority to Execute.** The execution and performance of this Agreement by the Parties has been duly authorized by all necessary laws, resolutions, or corporate action, and this Agreement constitutes the valid and enforceable obligations of the participating County and City in accordance with its terms.

**[SIGNATURE PAGE TO FOLLOW]**

**EXECUTED and EFFECTIVE** as of the day and year first written above by the undersigned Lessor and Lessee.

LESSEE:

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Richard F. Cortez, County Judge

ATTEST:

LESSOR:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Arturo Guajardo, Jr., County Clerk

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

APPROVED BY COMMISSIONERS COURT ON: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
Office of the Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney  
Ricardo Rodriguez, Jr.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant District Attorney

**EXHIBIT "A-1"**  
**MEETS & BOUNDS**

**DRAFT**

**EXHIBIT "A"  
RFB PACKET**

**DRAFT**

**EXHIBIT "B"  
BID PAGE**

**DRAFT**

**EXHIBIT “C”  
INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS**