

AGENDA ITEM BRIEFING

Commissioners Court – November 02, 2021

AI Number: 83232

Information: Requesting authority to pay for the Stormwater Projects to improve the much needed infrastructure system in an effort to protect public health as necessary and eligible under the American Rescue Plan Act Fund.

Description of AI: Approval of expenditures

Funding Source: American Rescue Plan Fund

Account No.: 1-1290-441-50-115-101-1-XXX

Requested by: Sergio Cruz, Budget Officer

Department: Budget & Management

Prepared by: Jose Reyes, Program Specialist

Department: Budget & Management

Background:

On May 10, 2021 the U.S. Department of the Treasury announced the launch of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, established by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, to provide \$350 billion in emergency funding for state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments. It allows recipients to use funds for revenue replacement due to reduction in revenue as a result of COVID-19.

The purpose of this action is to provide funds to stormwater projects at various locations throughout Hidalgo County. Investments in this project improves wastewater and stormwater infrastructure systems as such systems play a critical role in protecting public health, improve resilience of infrastructure to severe weather events, create green infrastructure, and protect water bodies from pollution.

Compliance:

The Purchasing Department followed compliance with Texas Local Government Code

262.024(2), Discretionary Exemption, which allows the County to procure goods and services as necessary without the requirement of a competitive solicitation process. Services were also made utilizing the County’s adopted procurement process, such as utilization of competitive quotes and purchasing cooperatives. Expenditures exceeding a threshold were also subject to price verification and the procurement of services complies with 2 CFR 200 requirements.

Administration:

Approval of the item is consistent with Hidalgo County’s intended purpose of the American Rescue Plan Act - Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds . The goal is to provide efficient and effective delivery of services in light of change in technology, the public’s expectations and the area’s population and economy.

Agenda Item Caption

ARPA - American Rescue Plan Act Funds (1290):

1. Discussion, consideration, and action to approve the use of ARPA Relief Funds for a period in which the COVID-19 Public Health and Economic crisis is in effect, as necessary, for the purpose of investments in projects that improve wastewater and stormwater infrastructure systems as such systems play a critical role in protecting public health, improve resilience of infrastructure to severe weather events, create green infrastructure, and protect water bodies from pollution; the Court having reviewed the Agenda Item Briefing, herein finds that such expenditures are reasonable and necessary for the intended use.

2. Approval of Interdepartmental Transfer in the amount of \$1,142,460.00

Recommendations:

The Department of Budget and Management recommends approval of the use of American Rescue Plan Act funds to address the negative effects caused by COVID-19 by including projects to better wastewater and stormwater infrastructure systems, improve resilience of infrastructure to severe weather events, create green infrastructure, and protect water bodies from pollution.