

2812 S. Bus. Hwy 281  
Edinburg, Texas 78539  
Phone: (956) 318-2626  
Fax: (956) 318-2629  
[www.co.hidalgo.tx.us/purchasing](http://www.co.hidalgo.tx.us/purchasing)

August 11, 2022

**Research, Applied Technology, Education & Service, Inc.**  
(RATES) d/b/a RATES/RGV  
Lower Rio Grande Valley TPDES Stormwater Regional Task Force  
P O Box 697  
Edinburg, TX 78539

Via email: [jelees@ratesresearch.org](mailto:jelees@ratesresearch.org)  
Term: 09/01/2022 – 10/31/2023

**Re: HB Form 1295 Required/Renewal/Extension Notice**  
**Original Contract - C-19-293-09-10 – “Research, Applied Technology, Education & Service, Inc. (RATES) d/b/a RATES/RGV - Lower Rio Grande Valley TPDES Stormwater Regional Task Force”**

Dear Sir:

Please be advised that Hidalgo County intends to exercise its option to extend/renew the final of three **one-year terms under the same rates, terms, and conditions** with *Research, Applied Technology, Education & Service, Inc. d/b/a RATES/RGV Lower Rio Grande Valley TPDES Stormwater Regional Task Force* for the above-referenced project. As of **January 1, 2016**, to comply with the **Texas Government Code, §2252.908**, and the rules issued by the **Texas Ethics Commission** found in Title 1, Section 46.1, 46.3, and 46.5 of the Texas Administrative Code, a business must submit a completed **Certificate of Interested Parties Form 1295**, to the County before the County may enter into a contract (*extension*) with the business entity.

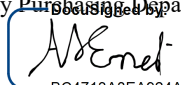
Thus, in order for County staff to process the above-referenced extension/renewal, you must complete and file Form 1295 with the Texas Ethics Commission. Form 1295 can be found at the following website:

[https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/whatsnew/elf\\_info\\_form1295.htm](https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/whatsnew/elf_info_form1295.htm)

In **box 3** of **Form 1295**, provide **reference No. E-22-0479**. Once completed and filed with the Texas Ethics Commission, Form 1295 must be printed, signed, and submitted to our office by the deadline stated below.

To proceed with approval of **Renewal/Extension** for the above-referenced project by Commissioners Court, the signed “**HB Form 1295**” and “**Extension Notice**” must be received in our office completed via email to [alexandra.vela@co.hidalgo.tx.us](mailto:alexandra.vela@co.hidalgo.tx.us) **by no later than Friday, August 12, 2022**. Hidalgo County cannot enter into a contract/renewal until Form 1295 is submitted, therefore, failure to timely submit Form 1295 may result in a delay of the award.

In, addition, please include your “**Updated Certificate of Insurance**” with acknowledgment of receipt to this notice by signing below and returning to the Hidalgo County Purchasing Department, via email to [alexandra.vela@co.hidalgo.tx.us](mailto:alexandra.vela@co.hidalgo.tx.us) by no later than the date reflected above.

By:  Date: 8/12/2022  
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Hidalgo County Purchasing Department welcomes and appreciates your participation in the contract process. If any further assistance is required, please do not hesitate to call the Purchasing Department at 956/318-2626.

Sincerely,

Eduardo Belmarez, MBA, CPM  
Hidalgo County Purchasing Director