



BLX Group LLC

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Dallas, TX 75204
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September 19, 2019

Ms. Martha L. Salazar
H.C. Purchasing Agent, CPPB
Hidalgo County, Texas
2812 S. Business Hwy 281
Edinburg, Texas 78539

Re: Arbitrage Rebate Compliance Services

Dear Ms. Salazar:

Enclosed please find an engagement letter between BLX Group LLC and Hidalgo County, Texas for the purposes of providing arbitrage rebate compliance services for the transaction listed on Exhibit A. If it meets with your approval, please sign and email the attached Exhibit A to sstallings@blxgroup.com at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for this opportunity to be of service to the Hidalgo County, Texas. We look forward to working with you! If you have any questions, I can be reached at (214) 989-2701.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandra Fuller Stallings".

Sandra Fuller Stallings
Chief Operating Officer / Managing Director
sstallings@blxgroup.com

SFS/A92

Enclosure

cc: Claire Martinez



BLX is not being engaged hereunder, and BLX is not hereby obligated, to undertake any of the following: (1) independently determine whether securities allocable to proceeds of the bonds were purchased at fair market value within the meaning of the Treasury Regulations; (2) perform an audit or review of the investments acquired with gross proceeds or the payment of debt service on the Bonds; (3) perform calculations or other research as to the desirability of elections or selections that may be available under applicable federal tax law; (4) review the tax-exempt status of interest on the Bonds or any other aspect of the Bond program except for rebate and penalty liability to the extent set forth in this engagement letter; (5) consider any information obtained by BLX pursuant to this engagement for any purpose other than determining such rebate and penalty liability; and (6) update any report delivered hereunder because of events occurring, changes in regulations, or data or information received, subsequent to the date of delivery of such report. Should the Obligor desire BLX to undertake any of the foregoing, such work will be the subject of a separate engagement and a separate fee, if any. In addition, BLX will be entitled to rely entirely on information provided by the Obligor and the Trustee and/or their agents and assigns without independent verification. The fee with respect to the Bonds will be determined pursuant to Exhibit B hereto. Engagement Fees are due upon each engagement and Report Fees are due upon delivery of each report by BLX. This engagement is terminable by either party by 30 day's written notice to the other, such termination to be effective as of such 30th day. BLX shall be entitled to assign its rights and obligations under this engagement in whole or in part upon prior written consent of the Obligor. No additional fees will be charged by Orrick for providing the legal services described herein. BLX will separately compensate Orrick for such services.

BLX and/or Orrick may have client relationships with other parties involved in some manner with the Bonds or the Obligor (for example, underwriters, trustees, rating agencies, insurers, credit providers, lenders, contractors, developers, advisors, investment advisors/providers/brokers, public entities and others) whether with respect to the Bonds or some unrelated matter(s). Upon the commencement of this engagement, BLX will notify the Obligor of any conflicts of interest created by this engagement by and between BLX, Orrick, and the Obligor. If this engagement letter is satisfactory, please have an authorized official execute one copy and return it to the undersigned.

Very truly yours,

BLX GROUP LLC

Sandra Fuller Stallings
Chief Operating Officer / Managing Director

Accepted:

HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

By:

Print Name/Title:

Date:

E-mail Address:

Richard F. Cortez
Richard F. Cortez, County Judge
10/2/19

APPROVED BY
COMMISSIONERS' COURT
ON: 9/27/19 me

EXHIBIT A
 BONDS TO BE ENGAGED

Hidalgo County's outstanding issues currently include:

ISSUANCE OUTSTANDING	PRINCIPAL
1. Certificates of Obligation, Taxable Series 2009C (BABs)	\$ 7,625,000.00
2. Certificates of Obligation, Series 2010A	\$1,305,000.00
3. Certificates of Obligation, Taxable Series 2010B(BABs)	\$17,785,000.00
4. Limited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2014A	\$1,045,000.00
5. Limited Tax Refunding Bonds, Taxable Series 2014B	\$5,175,000.00
6. Certificates of Obligation, Series 2014	\$18,780,000.00
7. Limited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2014C	\$19,200,000.00
8. Tax Notes, Series 2014	\$1,195,000.00
9. Certificates of Obligation, Series 2015A	\$15,635,000.00
10. Limited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2015B	\$14,760,000.00
11. Limited Tax Refunding Bonds, Taxable Series 2015C	\$12,270,000.00
12. Certificates of Obligation, Series 2016	\$31,670,000.00
13. Certificates of Obligation, Series 2017	\$27,745,000.00
14. Certificates of Obligation, Series 2018A	\$118,890,000.00
15. Certificates of Obligation, Series 2018B	\$24,690,000.00
16. Limited Tax Refunding Bonds, Taxable Series 2018C	\$23,200,000.00

Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1 outstanding issues currently include:

ISSUANCE OUTSTANDING	PRINCIPAL
1. Unlimited Tax Improvement Bonds, Series 2013	\$56,640,000.00
2. Unlimited Tax Improvement Bonds, Series 2014	\$ 7,665,000.00
3. Refunding Bond 2016	\$49,405,000.00
4. Unlimited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2018	\$ 6,095,000.00



EXHIBIT B

ARBITRAGE REBATE COMPLIANCE SERVICES FEE SCHEDULE

Base Fee

<u>Service</u>	<u>Fees</u>
Arbitrage Rebate and Yield Restriction Report (per issue, per report)	\$1,500
Extra Period Fee (for each year beyond the first year covered in the report)	\$500
Debt Service Funds Only Rebate Report (five year basis)	\$3,000

Optional Services

Evaluating various elections and applications *To be negotiated separately*

September 24, 2019

Wali

						Place	Place
Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP	1	2	1	2	1	3	2
Perdue Brandon Fielder Collins & Mott, LLP	1	1	1	1	2	4	1

Public Participation Form: Fern McClaugherty
Fern McClaugherty would like to know who did the grading.

Legal Council, Josephine Ramirez, informs the Court the Evaluation Committee was appointed thru a previous Commissioners Court meeting. Commissioner Ellie Torres stated the Court had named the Chiefs to the Committee for purposes of grading.

On motion by COMMISSIONER PCT. 1, DAVID FUENTES, seconded by COMMISSIONER PCT. 3, JOE M. FLORES, the Court made a UNANIMOUS vote of approval.

Vote: 5 - 0 – Unanimously

B. Authority to negotiate with No. 1 ranked firm, Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins, & Mott, LLP for a fair and reasonable fee for the purpose of entering a contract for legal services pursuant to Government Code 2254 and Article 103.0031 of the Code of Criminal Procedure with selected well qualified law firm on the basis of demonstrated competence, qualifications and experience in requested legal services.

On motion by COMMISSIONER PCT. 2, EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU, seconded by COMMISSIONER PCT. 1, DAVID FUENTES, the Court made a UNANIMOUS vote of approval.

Vote: 5 - 0 -Unanimously

10/2/19
DK
JS

- 2. AI-72357 Acceptance and approval of the final negotiated contract with BLX Group LLC (ranked #1-CC- 08/20/2019 - AI#71863) for RFP 2019-109 titled: Arbitrage Calculation Services for Hidalgo County.

On motion by COMMISSIONER PCT. 1, DAVID FUENTES, seconded by COMMISSIONER PCT. 2, EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU, the Court made a UNANIMOUS vote of approval.

Vote: 5 - 0 – Unanimously

- 3. AI-72425 Presentation by Mr. Timothy Foster regarding Pharmacy Benefits Management Analysis

No action to be taken on this item.

- 4. AI-72410 Discussion, consideration and action to appoint/designate additional members to the Evaluation Committee [CC action 09-10-19] for the RFP project numbered and titled: RFP - 2019-221-10-02-YSS "Consulting Services for Self Funded Insurance Group Health"

No action to be taken on this item.

September 24, 2019



**AGENDA
CC REGULAR
HIDALGO COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS COURT
MEETING
September 24, 2019
2:00 P.M.**

NOTICE is hereby given in accordance with Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, that a REGULAR MEETING of the Commissioners Court will be held in the Commissioners Courtroom of the Administration Building, 100 E. Cano, 1st floor, Edinburg, Hidalgo County, Texas. Discussion and possible action relating to the following business will be transacted:

1. **Roll Call**

Judge Richard Cortez called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

All Commissioners were present during roll call.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

The court was led by United States Marine Corps Veteran, Agustin "Gus" Garcia, the entire court recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **Prayer**

Opening prayer was offered by Julia Sullivan.

4. **Approval of Consent Agenda**

The court moved to approve the consent agenda with the exception of item 9. A., 9. D., 3.O., and 11.C to be pulled for further discussion.

On motion by COMMISSIONER PCT. 1, DAVID FUENTES, seconded by COMMISSIONER PCT. 3, JOE M. FLORES, the Court made a UNANIMOUS vote of approval.

Vote: 5 - 0 – Unanimously

The Court moved to agenda item 16.A.

5. **County Judge's Office:**

A. AI-72315 Proclamation declaring September 2019 as Valley Voter Awareness Month.

On motion by COMMISSIONER PCT. 3, JOE M. FLORES, seconded by COMMISSIONER PCT. 2, EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU, the Court made a UNANIMOUS vote of approval.

Vote: 5 - 0 – Unanimously

Public Participation Form: Fern McClaugherty.

Ms. McClaugherty questions what the County does to help the voting turn out. She informs the Court the County has 370,000 plus registered voters but many do not show up to vote. She stated something needs to be done to get the people out to vote.

Elections Administrator, Yvonne Ramon, is in agreement with Ms. McClaugherty. She recognizes it is not enough to just register to vote we need to be accountable for voting as

BLX 

PERSPECTIVE • EXPERIENCE • PROCESS





**RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR
ARBITRAGE CALCULATION SERVICES
RFQ NO. 2019-109-06-12-YZV**

Hidalgo County

June 19, 2019

PROJECT MANAGER

Nancy Kummer

Chief Business Development Officer/Managing Director

T 213.612.2215

E nkummer@blxgroup.com



BLX Group LLC

777 S. Figueroa Street, Suite 3200

Los Angeles, CA 90017-5855

Ph 213 612 2200 Fx 213 612 2200

www.blxgroup.com

June 19, 2019

Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
2802 S. Hwy Business 281 - Administration Bldg.
Edinburg, Texas 78539

Re: RFQ: 2019-109-06-12-YZV – Arbitrage Calculation Services

Ladies and Gentlemen:

On behalf of BLX Group LLC (“BLX”), I am pleased to submit the attached proposal in response to Hidalgo County and Hidalgo County Drainage District #1’s (collectively, the “County”) Arbitrage Calculation Services RFQ. We are privileged to have served as the County’s arbitrage calculation consultant from 2007 through 2011. During that time, we completed more than 30 arbitrage calculations for 8 of the County’s bond issues. BLX draws upon deep expertise supporting municipal offerings with decades of client service experience paired with advanced processes, methodologies and technology.

Since its inception 30 years ago, BLX has been a subsidiary of Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP (“Orrick”). Orrick has been providing quality municipal finance legal services for over one hundred years, has ranked first nationally as bond counsel for most of the last two decades, and encompasses the largest and most experienced public finance tax group of its kind. BLX consultants work with Orrick tax and bond attorneys to ensure that the legal aspects of each analysis have been appropriately addressed.

We understand the scope of the proposed engagement and are highly qualified to perform the arbitrage rebate services the County is seeking. BLX will provide such services in accordance with both federal tax law requirements and best practices. Our qualifications are supported by three important elements foundational to delivering certainty, resourcefulness, and timely reporting to our clients:

(1) Perspective

- The in-depth knowledge and experience of our professionals, along with the exceptional variety and scope of our engagements, give our team unsurpassed expertise and a unique perspective.
- Our working relationship with Orrick enables us to monitor the continual changes in the municipal finance environment, to understand their potential impact on our clients, to develop strategies that protect and advance each client’s interests, and ultimately to identify the single best technical approach to any particular analysis. Our reports are delivered with an Orrick legal opinion that attests that the calculations are prepared in accordance with the Treasury Regulations.

(2) Experience

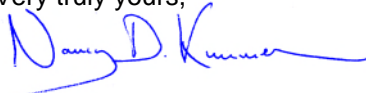
- Our senior professionals have been with the firm for many years and have decades of experience handling a broad range of engagements for a wide variety of clients. There are few situations, client needs, regulatory complexities or legal situations that we have not previously encountered and successfully handled.
- Our degreed and educated staff provide responsive and reliable customer service as well as on-site training. Our clients know the BLX professionals they rely upon will be part of their team for years to come.
- Our team members are familiar with the legal and regulatory constraints within which our clients must operate. We understand the needs and expectations of officials at the IRS and other regulatory agencies.

(3) Process

- We utilize vetted and efficient data collection methods and resources.
- We have instituted policies and procedures to ensure that all analyses reflect the most recent version of the Treasury Regulations as well as all beneficial elections available thereunder.
- Our processes include multiple levels of rigorous internal reviews and checks and balances to ensure accuracy and to confirm that possible alternatives are identified and compared.

Partnering with BLX and taking advantage of our strong tax and analytical skill set and competitive pricing is the best choice for a successful, yet cost-effective engagement. I will serve as your relationship manager and primary point of contact. In that role, I will be responsible for leading an open dialogue within BLX and with the County. I am excited about the prospect of working together and look forward to addressing any questions you may have. I can be reached at **213.612.2215** or via e-mail at **nkummer@blxgroup.com**.

Very truly yours,



Nancy D. Kummer
Chief Business Development Officer/Managing Director
BLX Group LLC

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COVER LETTER

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APPENDICES

- A. CERTIFICATIONS AND SUBMITTALS
- B. ORGANIZATIONAL CHART
- C. APPLYING METHODOLOGICAL DISCRETION

1. UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROJECT

This section should demonstrate the submitter's understanding of the project needs, the work required, and any local issues or concerns. This description should be concise, and candid.

BLX's overarching objectives in any engagement are to provide certainty and attentive client service. We are distinguished in our ability to meet this goal via three core principles:

- (i) a broad **perspective** grounded in the regulatory domain and acquired by working in concert with Orrick's Public Finance Tax Group and developing industry standards on the proper application of arbitrage rebate regulations for nearly three decades. BLX can address circumstances requiring methodological discretion and provide confidence that the ultimate approach has been verified by the nation's leading tax experts.
- (ii) a rigorous **procedural and technical approach** ensuring that all analyses are accurate and providing a superior client experience. We address a broad range of municipal and client requirements by utilizing an arsenal of methodologies and by hosting educational forums. Our advanced online platforms and processes are designed in-house by a team of software engineers working in concert with our industry experts to minimize risk and to cost-efficiently prepare analyses while maintaining consultative flexibility. We adhere to strict IRS and client deadlines and provide complimentary access to a secure online portal.

We also offer onsite training and host an annual post-issuance compliance conference to deliver an enriching client experience.

- (iii) a responsive **degreed and experienced staff** dedicated to delivering analyses within 30 to 45 days of their computation date. As the country's largest provider of arbitrage rebate compliance services, BLX has 34 full-time professionals, strategically located in five fully-staffed offices nationwide. BLX personnel assigned to this engagement would be local to you in our **Dallas** office and would be immediately available to ensure a smooth transition of any prior work to BLX. Their long tenure, coupled with the transparency of BLX's reports, will ensure the fluid sharing of information and provide continuity in the event of staff turnover at the County.

BLX is a value-added partner with the requisite credentials to manage the County's compliance requirements. We have encountered and successfully tackled a similar scope of work in literally thousands of arbitrage compliance engagements.

MOST QUALIFIED RESPONDENT

Due to the diverse nature of our practice and resources, we believe that BLX is best qualified to assist the County in providing arbitrage calculation services for the County’s taxable and tax-exempt transactions. Over the past three decades BLX has been able to distinguish itself from other firms and when challenges arise, issuers turn to BLX to accurately provide results expeditiously. The following table is based on our understanding of how we stack up against our competition to address the scope of work described in your RFQ.

	<i>BLX</i>	<i>First Southwest</i>	<i>ACS</i>	<i>BNY Mellon</i>	<i>PFM</i>	<i>AMTEC</i>
Offers Legal Opinion	✓		✓			
Team of Tax Lawyers Available through Parent Company, Orrick	✓					
Fully Staffed Texas Office of Arbitrage Consultants	✓	✓		✓		
Degreed Professional Staff	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
25+ years providing arbitrage service	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Have prepared calculations for Issuers in all 50 States plus Guam & Puerto Rico	✓					
Hosts Education Workshops	✓	✓				
SEC & MSRB Registered	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Independent of Underwriting Services	✓		✓			✓
Swap Monitoring/Evaluation	✓					
Team Providing Secondary Market Disclosure Services	✓	✓				

As outlined in the table above, many firms do not stack up against the qualifications, resources and offerings of BLX. Firms with more narrow experience, or firms that seem to state proudly that “rebate is all we do,” are simply unable to provide advice regarding investments, debt structuring, accounting methodology and other matters that relate to arbitrage rebate compliance.

2. FIRM QUALIFICATIONS

The County of Hidalgo is seeking to contract with a competent firm(s), registered and licensed to practice in the State of Texas, that has/have had experience in, but not limited to, the following areas:

Qualified firm must have a minimum of five (5) years experience with arbitrage rebate compliance services;

BLX was originally established **30 years** ago (March 1989) as the Financial Services Group of Orrick, Herrington, & Sutcliffe LLP ("Orrick"). The name of the group was changed to Bond Logistix LLC in 2000 to reflect the capacity of the firm to provide expanded services to public finance partners. In July of 2010, the firm's name changed to BLX Group LLC. With the addition of professionals, offices and services, we needed a name that would leverage our market presence and arbitrage rebate core, yet accommodate a broader and growing list of the professional services we deliver to clients.

BLX is registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB) as a municipal advisor. We have been providing arbitrage rebate compliance services to issuers of tax-exempt debt since our founding. Our company has evolved substantially over the past several years with the expansion of our service platform that integrates our expertise in the areas of arbitrage rebate compliance, financial advisory, debt and derivative advisory, and municipal regulatory compliance. While BLX is independent of banking and underwriting firms, we are often asked by such firms to assist them in regulatory projects.

Since inception 30 years ago, BLX has been a subsidiary of global transaction law firm Orrick. Orrick is generally regarded as the premier public finance law firm in the nation; they have been providing quality legal services to municipal issuers, underwriters, and trustees for one hundred years and have ranked first nationally as bond counsel for most of the last two decades. Orrick's Public Finance Tax Group is the largest and most experienced group of its kind.

Unique Qualification: While all responders will assert they have the requisite skills to provide arbitrage rebate calculations, our unique differentiators, listed below, provide peace of mind, certainty and the best possible value for the County.

- (i) Our clients benefit greatly from BLX being a **wholly-owned subsidiary of Orrick with unlimited access to tax expertise**. Being a subsidiary of a law firm, BLX holds itself accountable to the highest standards of the Treasury Department's Circular No. 230 which governs tax practitioners. Orrick tax partners are on the front lines closing bond deals, providing legal guidance, receiving updated educational information, working with the IRS on various tax matters, and attending and presenting at seminars across the nation. BLX receives regulatory updates from the Orrick tax partners and routinely consults with them on technical complexities. We have access to these additional resources at no charge to the County.
- (ii) **Senior BLX consultants average more than 20 years of experience in arbitrage compliance and public finance**. Their tenure enabled them to become experts and thoroughly master the post-issuance compliance domain surrounding debt offerings. This expertise allows us to accommodate even the most unusual and complex circumstances and to apply beneficial analytical alternatives when available. BLX consultants are recruited from strong educational and occupational backgrounds and undergo rigorous financial, technical, and regulatory training by nationally recognized experts.
- (iii) **BLX is a national authority and leader on post-issuance compliance education**. For the past six years, we have hosted an annual post-issuance compliance workshop in Las Vegas, Nevada, and the 2019 workshop is to be held in Austin, Texas in November. We routinely provide conference presentations as well as conduct onsite training for numerous clients throughout the year. We also host webinars to keep clients apprised of regulatory developments and best practices on a variety of topics, ranging from continuing disclosure to private use and post-issuance compliance. In addition to gaining valuable insight and staying up-to-date through Orrick, our staff includes an associate member of the National Association of Bond Lawyers who disseminates timely regulatory updates.

- (iv) Under Orrick's careful guidance, BLX consultants have accumulated **extensive experience interfacing with IRS agents** and are familiar with their operating procedures. The IRS and other federal agencies have greatly increased their scrutiny of all tax aspects of state and local government bonds. In addition to responding to random audits, BLX consultants have processed and retrieved over \$66 million in refund claims for their clients. Some of these claims materialized due to changes in the interest rate environment while others stem from BLX consultants optimizing the analysis of a prior consultant who failed to identify the lowest legally permissible rebate liability.

In light of the IRS's increased enforcement efforts, we strongly believe that BLX's depth of financial expertise, combined with our pulse on regulatory matters and direct exposure with the IRS, provides the highest level of comfort available.

Qualified firm must have an office located in Texas.

The contemplated project will be provided from BLX's Dallas office with support from Orrick's Houston and Austin offices.

Texas Location: BLX Group LLC - 2711 N. Haskell Avenue, Suite 2600 SW, LB # 35, Dallas, TX 75204

A description of the firm's personnel and their most recent similar projects.

PROPOSED BLX TEAM

The members of BLX's proposed team have been carefully selected based on their area of expertise and prior experience with similar financing programs. Consistent with our foundational pillars, we are eager to demonstrate that your assigned professionals will work seamlessly together as a team to meet your requirements with certainty, and do so in a timely and efficient manner. Their tenure at BLX and mastery of our advanced processes will ensure a smooth transition as well as continuity for your organization. They are well versed in post-issuance compliance matters and have developed a reliable and broad perspective through years of quality industry experience. Their depth of knowledge, acquired by being immersed in exhaustive regulatory and transactional matters, will make them keen advocates for your program.

Project Manager: Sandee Stallings heads BLX's compliance services and will serve as your project manager. She will address your day-to-day needs and coordinate efforts internally with Orrick and with other BLX team members. She has a wide range of public finance experience, which combined with her project management expertise, has consistently resulted in successful transactions and great client satisfaction. She will be fully committed to delivering BLX's industry-leading services to you and your team and is available **7 days a week via phone or e-mail**. Furthermore, she routinely conducts and is available for complimentary site visits as needed.

Legal Analysis: Larry Sobel, Orrick Tax Partner, will provide the necessary legal analysis and review which are integral to our services. Larry is not simply a sole-practitioner attorney like that available to other compliance firms; he represents and is supported by the entire Orrick Tax Group, which has handled more volume than that of any competing group over the last two decades.

Team Members: Having provided compliance services to hundreds of municipalities across the country, the BLX professionals assigned to your account are widely considered to be among the nation's leading non-attorney experts in tax matters relating to municipal bond financing. Their collective experience exceeds that of competing firms, and, in some cases, it surpasses the experience of the entire firm.

<i>Personnel/Title</i>	<i>Role</i>	<i>Office Location</i>	<i>Tenure at BLX/ ORRICK</i>	<i>Industry Experience</i>
Sandee Stallings COO/Managing Director	Client Relationship Management Technical Analysis Optimization/Verification Report Review	Dallas	20 years	30 years
Greg Rowan Managing Director	Technical Analysis Optimization/Verification Report Review	Dallas	17 years	20 years
Amber Rhodes Managing Director	Technical Analysis Optimization/Verification Report Review	Dallas	16 years	19 years
Kristin Cragg Associate Director	Financial Modeling Reconciliation Report Production	Dallas	11 years	15 years
Jennifer Heinsbroek Associate Director	Financial Modeling Reconciliation Report Production	Dallas	13 years	15 years
Matthew Hunt Associate Director	Financial Modeling Reconciliation Report Production	Dallas	13 years	18 years
Larry Sobel Tax Partner, Orrick	Legal Analysis	Los Angeles Houston	33 years	35+ years

A minimum of at least five (5) such projects with federal, state or local governments in the past three (3) years.

Experience: We have identified in the table below our arbitrage rebate calculation experience for the last three (3) years with federal, state and local governments. Also provided is a representative list of such projects.

<i>Number of Reports</i>	<i>Number of Issues</i>	<i>Number of Issuers</i>	<i>Aggregate Par Amt.</i>
9,937	5,090	1,050	\$616.26 billion

<i>Representative List of Experience</i>	
City of Anaheim (CA)	Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia (GA)
City of Cleveland (OH)	New Jersey Educational Facilities Authority (NJ)
City of Pasadena (CA)	New Jersey Higher Edu. Student Assistance Authority (NJ)
City of Riverside (CA)	New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (NJ)
City and County of Honolulu (HI)	New York City Municipal Water Finance Authority (NY)
City and County of San Francisco (CA)	Ohio Housing Finance Agency (OH)
Conroe Independent School District (TX)	Orange County (CA)
County of Sacramento (CA)	Riverside County (CA)
Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District (TX)	Rockwall Independent School District (TX)
Denton Independent School District (TX)	San Diego Unified School District (CA)
Eagle Mountain-Saginaw Independent School District (TX)	San Francisco International Airport (CA)
Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FL)	State of California (CA)
Florida Municipal Power Agency (FL)	State of Connecticut (CT)
Illinois Housing Development Authority (IL)	State of Hawaii (HI)
King County (WA)	State of South Carolina (SC)
Lewisville Independent School District (TX)	Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs (TX)
Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (CA)	Texas Veterans' Land Board (TX)
Miami-Dade County (FL)	Williamson County (TX)

A minimum of three (3) client references for whom the same type work was performed. References must include name, address, telephone number, date and project description.

Additionally, this section should include a description of the firm's project personnel and their most recent similar projects. For each project, a client contract name and phone number should be included for reference purposes. Additionally, the names of the personnel proposed for this project who participated in the listed projects should be provided.

Client	Williamson County
Contact	Julie Kiley, First Assistant County Auditor
Address	710 S. Main Street, Suite 301, Georgetown, TX 78626
Telephone/Email	(512) 943-1552 / jkiley@wilco.org
Years of Service	2016 – present
Services Provided	Arbitrage Calculation Services, Escrow Bidding Services
Complexities	Commingled Funds, Refundings and Transferred Proceeds
BLX Consultant	Sandee Stallings, Greg Rowan, Amber Rhodes, Kristin Cragg

Client	CPS Energy (TX)
Contact	Linda Dzierzanowski, CPA, MBA, Financial Analyst, Debt Management
Address	145 Navarro Street, San Antonio, TX 78296
Telephone/Email	(210) 353-2396 / LRDzierzanowski@CPSEnergy.com
Years of Service	1999 – present
Services Provided	Arbitrage Calculation, Refund Claim Services
Complexities	Commercial Paper Program, Commingled Funds, Refundings and Transferred Proceeds, Variable Rate Bonds
BLX Consultant	Sandee Stallings (since 1994), Greg Rowan, Amber Rhodes, Kristin Cragg, Matthew Hunt

Client	City of San Angelo
Contact	Dale Hahn, Cash & Debt Analyst
Address	72 West College, San Angelo TX 76903
Telephone/Email	(325) 657-4251 ext.1222 / marlin.hahn@cosatx.us
Years of Service	1999 – Present
Services Provided	Arbitrage Calculation Services
Complexities	Commingled Funds, Refundings and Transferred Proceeds
BLX Consultant	Sandee Stallings (since 1997), Greg Rowan, Amber Rhodes, Matthew Hunt

Client	City of Mesquite
Contact	Debbie Mol, Director of Finance
Address	P.O. Box 850137, Mesquite, TX 75185
Telephone/Email	(972) 216-6287 / dmol@ci.mesquite.tx.us
Years of Service	1999 – present
Services Provided	Arbitrage Calculation Services
Complexities	Commingled Funds, Refundings and Transferred Proceeds
BLX Consultant	Sandee Stallings (since 1995), Greg Rowan, Amber Rhodes, Kristin Cragg, Jennifer Heinsbroek

Client	City of Cleveland
Contact	Betsy Hruby, Debt Manager - Deputy Finance Director
Address	601 Lakeside Avenue, Room 104, Cleveland, OH 44114
Telephone/Email	(216) 664-3663 / BHruby@city.cleveland.oh.us
Years of Service	2007 – present
Services Provided	Arbitrage Calculation, Refund Claim Services
Complexities	Commingled Funds, Refundings and Transferred Proceeds, Variable Rate Bonds
BLX Consultant	Sandee Stallings, Greg Rowan, Amber Rhodes, Matthew Hunt

GENERAL EXPERIENCE

In the last 5 years, BLX has provided over 19,760 arbitrage rebate calculations and legal opinions, for approximately 7,600 bond issues (bond type: utilities, power, water and sewer, solid waste, and general obligation). With this experience comes an understanding of the nuances of the various bond structures and complexities unique to issuers. Our familiarity with a variety of debt profiles and service needs has been accumulated through this rich and diverse experience. The proficiency we have acquired through our enduring tenure, along with the technical knowledge of our seasoned staff, make BLX distinctly qualified to fulfill the County’s scope of work cost-effectively without sacrificing quality.

BLX is often hired to complete the more challenging arbitrage work associated with sophisticated issuer’s active commercial paper programs as well as computations related to complex market segments such as housing, student loan, and public power.

Being the largest firm of our kind, our consistent growth, geographic reach, depth of resources and breadth of experience are all strong indicators that BLX has also succeeded at providing the highest quality technical and client services available in the industry.

Provided below is a breakdown of our experience with Texas and non-Texas issuers in the last five years.

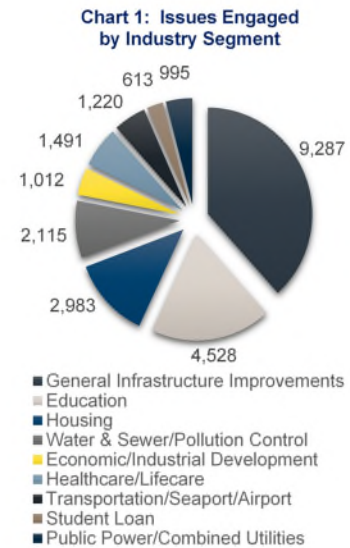
<i>State</i>	<i>No. of Issuers</i>	<i>No. of Issues</i>	<i>Aggregate Par Amt.</i>
Texas	117	875	\$65.64 billion
Non-Texas	1,232	6,721	\$739.95 billion

We maintain long-standing engagements with many of the nation’s largest and most sophisticated issuers. Our technical, financial and regulatory expertise is evidenced by the fact that we are often asked to assist investment banking, financial advisory, consulting, and law firms with complex structurings and problem-solving, especially in the realm of correctly applying federal tax law and arbitrage requirements. This level of technical proficiency far surpasses what is required for many arbitrage analyses, but enables BLX to handle complex analyses and to provide issuers with a high degree of comfort that all analyses are accurate.

Table 1: Experience Highlights

	# of Issues	Par (\$billion)
Overall	24,244	2,075.33
Fixed	20,591	1,763.10
Variable	3,653	312.23
Refunding Issues	9,418	973.57
Commingled Funds	9,196	992.79

BLX’s arbitrage rebate practice represents the full spectrum of issue types and technical complexities. As illustrated in Table 1, we have worked on thousands of analyses involving commingled funds, transferred proceeds, and variable rate debt (with or without hedges). These are some of the most challenging analyses; they require a thorough understanding of the legal, economic, and technical aspects of arbitrage computations. Furthermore, and as shown in Chart 1, our practice is seasoned and fortified by the breadth of public and private industry segments we have serviced; we have clients in sectors ranging from education, healthcare, and general infrastructure, to housing, student loan, and public power. This rich and diverse experience enables us to immediately recognize debt and investment features, spend less time figuring out the issue’s structure, and spend more time optimizing the analysis of any given bond issue.



In addition, our procedural approach, our process of checks and balances, and our quick access to Orrick’s expert legal resources give us a distinct advantage not only in recognizing and appropriately addressing structures with which we have prior

experience, but also in isolating the single best approach for structures for which no precedent exists. Our expertise allows us to accommodate even the most unusual and complex circumstances, and to apply beneficial analytical alternatives when available.

Not unlike the expertise and support the County currently receives from our parent-company, Orrick, BLX is a go-to strategic partner for your post-issuance compliance requirements. We have the staffing and organizational infrastructure to meet your needs.

(i) We staff **34 full time consultants**, strategically located nationwide. We are headquartered in Los Angeles and have fully-staffed offices in Dallas, New York, Phoenix, and Tampa. BLX is thereby uniquely positioned to meet your scheduled requirements and respond quickly to requests for additional support. Please see Appendix B for our firm's organizational chart.

(ii) **Our large-scale production is seamless.** BLX prepares about 3,400 arbitrage rebate reports annually. We have in place the processes and resources to address the County's current and future needs with no interruption to our procedures or strain on our consultants.

(iii) **Our rigorous system of built-in checks and balances** ensures compliance with laws governing arbitrage rebate and also ensures that the County receives the best arbitrage consulting services available.

(iv) **We continually invest in technology** to enhance our clients' experience: (a) Our internal tracking software notifies the members of the proposed team well in advance of scheduled computation dates, allowing us to maintain a smooth work-flow and react promptly to unforeseen circumstances. Consequently, we have the capacity to consistently exceed the County's expectations with regard to timely and accurate reporting. (b) We advocate transparency and provide complimentary access to the BLXPortal, a secure service that allows our clients to access detailed information about their rebate engagements, view rebate reports, and review scheduled computations. (c) BLX Digital, our team of 3 full-time software engineers, partners with our 34 consultants to deliver accurate and efficiently produced reports.

(v) **Orrick oversight** is provided by a three-member management committee, whose members (Orrick attorneys) have been the place since BLX's inception. BLX's President, Craig Underwood, has been at the helm of BLX since 1989 and Sandee Stallings, BLX's Chief Operating Officer, has been providing arbitrage consulting for nearly 3 decades and has been with BLX since 1999.

BLX will work with Orrick to provide all of the legal resources necessary to fulfill this engagement. Under Orrick's careful guidance, BLX consultants have accumulated extensive experience interfacing with IRS agents and are familiar with their regulatory interpretations. Orrick is already familiar with your debt structure and tax-related considerations. Our collaborative team is fully versed in Sections 103 and 148 of the Internal Revenue Code and related Treasury Regulations - the relevant sections of the Code pertaining to arbitrage rebate and yield restriction compliance. Carefully sorting through the different rules set forth in prior versions of the Tax Regulations and making the proper permitted beneficial elections can reduce rebate liabilities by hundreds of thousands of dollars. A legal review is important to reach an optimal result that is fully compliant with the Treasury Regulations in a variety of complex areas such as commingled funds, transferred proceeds, and universal cap.

IN-HOUSE LEGAL EXPERTISE

BLX works closely with tax and bond attorneys at Orrick, our parent company, to ensure the legal aspects of your analyses are appropriately addressed. Our collective intellectual property including Orrick's intimate knowledge of your debt structure and is attuned to your compliance needs. Our services include the necessary transparency to document your tax position:

Global Perspective: Orrick handles roughly 500 bond counsel transactions per year, which represents more than 12% of the U.S. market share. BLX's body of knowledge is shaped by routine interactions with Orrick's innovative public finance and non-profit attorneys. This exposure enables us to gain a broad perspective on regulatory trends and best practices for your post-issuance compliance program.

We understand tax law applications and make impactful decisions based upon the synergy gained by working with 20 diverse Orrick public finance practitioners (including 11 partners).

Legal / Professional Opinion: Arbitrage analyses are complex enough, and the results delivered from competing firms vary enough, that a professional opinion matters. BLX delivers each analysis with an Orrick legal opinion attesting that it conforms to the appropriate Treasury Regulations. The Orrick legal opinion carries with it the credentials of an institution that has provided quality legal services to municipal issuers and borrowers for almost 100 years. The Orrick opinion, supported by its underlying knowledge base, has far more weight under scrutiny than that of a sole practitioner or certified public accountant.

Legal Developments: The effects of important changes to Treasury Regulations and proposed legislation impacting tax-exempt finance are debated and openly discussed in e-mail threads that include the entire Orrick public finance group, of which BLX is a part. Therefore, BLX is often aware of regulations being considered and the positions bond and tax counsels are likely to take on prospective changes. Furthermore, Sandee Stallings is an associate member of the National Association of Bond Lawyers and receives notices of all regulatory updates as they occur. BLX has a strong commitment to tracking legal developments at the federal level to ensure our practice areas are up to date on all municipal compliance requirements.

IRS Audits: During IRS audits, we believe the County should be relieved that we are not an independent firm or have bond counsel on "retainer" but rather feel confident that BLX's depth of financial expertise and Orrick's legal expertise provides issuers with the highest level of comfort available. We are confident that BLX's direct experience with the IRS and its audit agents on arbitrage-related matters greatly surpasses that of any other firm.

Tax Law Changes: We see tax law changes as potential opportunities to provide additional benefit to our clients. Although most changes in tax law are applicable prospectively, many are retroactively available by election. Our approach is to first carefully analyze the changes in tax law and then develop a transaction profile for issues that are or may be affected from an arbitrage or yield restriction perspective. For example, when the 1993 Regulations were introduced we developed a list of the pros and cons of electing into the 1993 Regulations. By utilizing this check list, we were able to efficiently identify candidates that might benefit from electing into the 1993 Regulations and notified our clients accordingly.

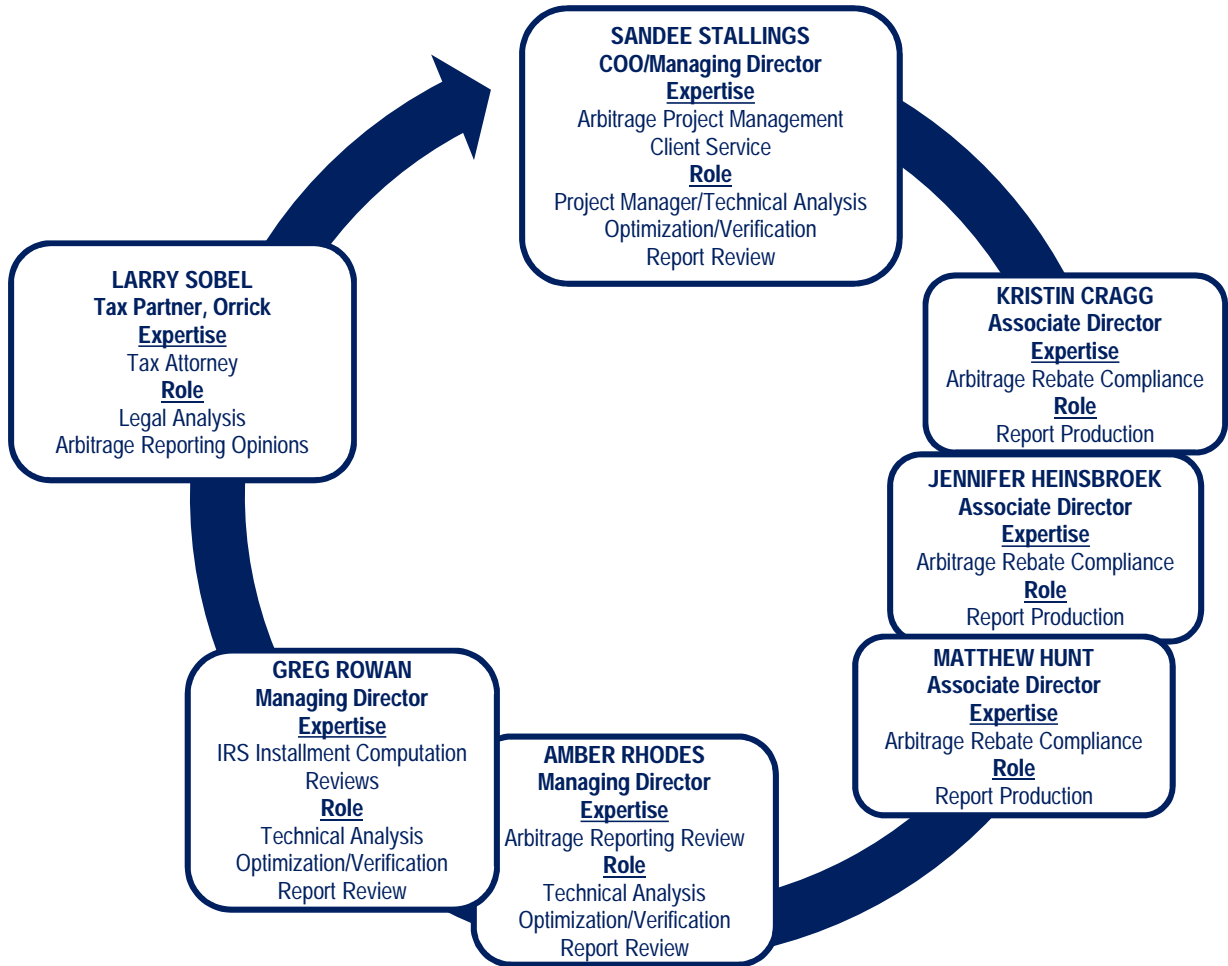
The table below summarizes some of the methodologies BLX has applied and the approximate, cumulative savings that have accrued to BLX's clients as a result.

<i>Methodology</i>	<i>Savings</i>
Allocation and Valuation Analyses	\$16 Million
Variable Rate Optimizations	\$9 Million
Various Elections	\$6 Million
Rebate Refund Requests Successfully Retrieved	\$66 Million

3. PERSONNEL AND STAFFING

The participant should provide an organizational chart for the project and a summary paragraph of the project work to be performed by each proposed staff member. Biographic summaries that highlight the experience relevant to the specific project responsibilities should be provided for all proposed personnel. There is a one (1) page limitation for each biographic summary provided.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART OF PROJECT TEAM



RESUMES OF PROPOSED TEAM**Sandra Stallings****Chief Operating Officer /
Managing Director****DALLAS****T:** (214) 989-2701**E:** sstallings@blxgroup.com**INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE**

30 Years

TENURE AT BLX

20 Years

EDUCATIONNebraska Wesleyan University
BS in Business Administration,
Finance, 1986**FINRA LICENSES**Series 50 Municipal Advisor Rep
(August 2017 to Present)Series 63 Uniform Securities Rep
(2004 to Present)Series 65 Investment Advisor Rep
(1996 to Present)Series 7 General Securities Rep
(1990 to 2015)**MEMBERSHIPS**

GTOT, NABL, and GFOA

Women in Public Finance, Texas Chapter

Sandee is BLX's Chief Operating Officer. A senior member of BLX's management team with 30 years of public finance experience, she heads BLX's Compliance Services, which encompasses Arbitrage Rebate and Yield Restriction Compliance, Post-Issuance Compliance, Secondary Market Disclosure, and Program Administration Services. Sandee is responsible for all aspects of project management, client services, work quality and the overall operations of our compliance and consulting services nationwide. She oversees production in the Los Angeles, Phoenix, Dallas, Tampa, and New York offices.

In addition to her management responsibilities, Sandee is an industry leader in monitoring compliance of tax-exempt financings for all types of issuers of municipal bonds. Her expertise, which includes the highly complicated areas of student loan and housing bond structures, is enhanced by her close working relationship with Orrick Tax Partners.

She joined BLX's predecessor organization, the Financial Services Group of Orrick, in 1999 when it acquired the Arbitrage Rebate Consulting Group of Dain Rauscher Incorporated (Dain). From 1994 through 1999, as Vice President and Manager, she was responsible for the oversight of the Dain Group. For the five years between 1989 and 1994, she directed the daily functions of the Arbitrage Rebate Services Group at First Southwest Company and was instrumental in the establishment of that practice.

From 1986 to 1989, Sandee was associated with the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas and the Federal Reserve Board in Washington, D.C. where she performed audits of bank holding companies and Federal Reserve branches, respectively.



Greg Rowan

Managing Director

DALLAS

T: (214) 989-2705

E: growan@blxgroup.com

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

20 Years

TENURE AT BLX

17 Years

EDUCATION

University of North Texas

BA in Finance, 1996

FINRA LICENSE

Series 50 Municipal Advisor Rep
(2018 to Present)

Series 65 Investment Advisor Rep
(2003 to mid-2017)

Greg joined BLX in 2002 and is currently a Managing Director. He is responsible for overseeing the Dallas office's arbitrage rebate practice. Greg is primarily engaged in reviewing arbitrage rebate analyses, training new consultants, coordinating production workflow, developing special projects, and managing client relationships. He has been involved in the production and review of over 10,000 arbitrage rebate reports, and is responsible for the technical review of rebate reports for many of our most complicated tax-exempt financings.

Prior to overseeing the production of arbitrage rebate reports for the Dallas office, Greg acquired extensive analytical skills by designing customized Excel platforms for a wide variety of issuers with special requirements.

Arbitrage Calculation Experience: Birdville Independent School District (TX), Calhoun Port Authority (TX), City and County of San Francisco (CA), City of Albany (CA), City of Bakersfield (CA), City of Cleveland (OH), City of Des Moines (WA), City of Fontana (CA), City of Montclair (CA), City of Novato (CA), City of Peoria (AZ), City of Richmond (CA), City of Roseville (CA), City of San Angelo (TX), City of San Jose (CA), City of Santa Barbara (CA), City of Sapulpa (OK), City of Sunnyvale (CA), City of Turlock (CA), City of Vancouver (WA), Clear Lake Water Authority (TX), CPS Energy (TX), Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District (TX), Dallas Housing Authority (TX), Denton Independent School District (TX), Hendrick Medical Center (TX), Irving Independent School District (TX), Jasper Independent School District (TX), Jefferson County Drainage District No. 7 (TX), Lake Dallas Independent School District (TX), Lake Travis Independent School District (TX), Lewisville Independent School District (TX), Mineral Wells Independent School District (TX), New York City Municipal Water Finance Authority (NY), Rockwall Independent School District (TX), Slaton, City of (TX), Spring Independent School District (TX), Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs (TX), Texas Department of Transportation (TX), Texas Veterans' Land Board (TX), Titus Regional Medical Center (TX), Victoria County (TX)

Amber Rhodes**Managing Director****DALLAS****T:** (214) 989-2718**E:** arhodes@blxgroup.com**INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE**

19 Years

EDUCATION

Texas Christian University

Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance, 1999

FINRA LICENSE

Series 65 Investment Advisor Rep

(2004 to 2017)

TENURE AT BLX

16 Years

Amber joined BLX in 2003. Prior to BLX, she gained three years of arbitrage rebate experience as a consultant at First Southwest Asset Management in their Arbitrage Rebate department.

Currently, Amber is primarily focused on reviewing arbitrage rebate analyses as well as training new Dallas consultants on technical matters. She supports consultants in identifying the optimal methodology for various arbitrage rebate and yield restriction calculations, as well as expenditure exception analyses.

Arbitrage Calculation Experience: Aransas County (TX), Bastrop Independent School District (TX), Birdville Independent School District (TX), Channelview Independent School District (TX), City and County of San Francisco (CA), City of Albany (CA), City of Casa Grande (AZ), City of Columbia (MO), City of Farmers Branch (TX), City of Flagstaff (AZ), City of Garden Grove (CA), City of Hutto (TX), City of Liberty Hill (TX), City of Lincoln (CA), City of Lodi (CA), City of Novato (CA), City of Peoria (AZ), City of Roseville (CA), City of San Angelo (TX), City of San Buenaventura (CA), City of San Jose (CA), City of Santa Barbara (CA), City of Sapulpa (OK), City of Slaton (TX), City of Turlock (CA), City of Weatherford (TX), Clear Lake Water Authority (TX), Conroe Independent School District (TX), Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District (TX), Denton Independent School District (TX), Eagle Mountain-Saginaw Independent School District (TX), Eanes Independent School District (TX), Ector County Independent School District (TX), Georgetown Independent School District (TX), Grand Prairie Independent School District (TX), Greater Texoma Utility Authority (TX), Huffman Independent School District (TX), Lake Travis Independent School District (TX), Lewisville Independent School District (TX), Lumberton Municipal Utility District (TX), Montgomery County (TX), New Caney Independent School District (TX), Pearland Independent School District (TX), Rockwall Independent School District (TX), Stephenville Independent School District (TX), Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs (TX), Texas State University System (TX), Texas Veterans' Land Board (TX), Waxahachie Independent School District (TX), Wichita Falls Independent School District (TX), Winfree Academy Charter School (TX)

Kristin Cragg

Associate Director

DALLAS

T: (214) 989-2708

E: kcragg@blxgroup.com

EDUCATION

Southern Methodist University

BA in Finance, 1999

University of Texas, Dallas

MS in Accounting & Information Management, 2008

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

15 Years

TENURE AT BLX

11 Years

Kristin joined BLX in March 2008. Prior to joining BLX, with a strong interest in finance and accounting, she worked as a consultant at First Southwest Company for 4 years. Currently, Kristin's responsibilities include the preparation of arbitrage rebate, yield restriction, and acquired purpose investment analyses. She has completed more than 2,000 arbitrage rebate calculations.

Arbitrage Calculation Experience: Azle Independent School District (TX), Blue Skies of Texas (TX), Brownsville Public Utilities Board (TX), CITGO Petroleum Corporation (TX), City of Beaumont (TX), City of Burlingame (CA), City of Floresville Electric Light & Power System (TX), City of Mesquite (TX), City of Odessa (TX), Corpus Christi Independent School District (TX), CPS Energy (TX), Dignity Health (CA), Dysart Unified School District No. 89 of Maricopa County (AZ), Elgin Independent School District (TX), Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FL), Midlothian Independent School District (TX), Montclair Redevelopment Agency (CA), New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (NJ), Newcastle Public Schools (OK), Northern Inyo County Local Hospital District (CA), Saint Mary's University (TX), Santa Cruz County (CA), Sunshine State Governmental Financing Commission (FL), Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs (TX), Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (SD), Williamson County (TX), WPPI Energy (WI)

Jennifer Heinsbroek

Associate Director

DALLAS

T: (214) 989-2716

E: jheinsbroek@blxgroup.com

EDUCATION

Southern Methodist University

BS in Finance, 2001

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

15 Years

TENURE AT BLX

13 Years

Jennifer joined BLX in 2006. Prior to joining BLX, she worked as an arbitrage rebate consultant at First Southwest Asset Management for two years. Her current responsibilities include preparing arbitrage rebate and yield restriction compliance reports, as well as verification analyses. She has personally completed over 2,500 arbitrage rebate analyses. Many of the bond issues Jennifer provides analyses for require complex analytical work and involve variable rate yield calculations, interest rate swaps, parity/pooled reserve fund allocations, debt service fund analyses, interest earnings analyses, transferred proceeds penalty analyses, and the uncommingling of multiple funds.

Arbitrage Calculation Experience: Aransas County (TX), Blue Skies of Texas (TX), Canton Independent School District (TX), City of Sapulpa (OK), City of San Jose (CA), City of White Settlement (TX), Clear Lake Water Authority (TX), Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District (TX), Denton Independent School District (TX), Ector County Independent School District (TX), Killeen Independent School District (TX), Krum Independent School District (TX), Lewisville Independent School District (TX), Montgomery County (TX), New Caney Independent School District (TX), Rockwall Independent School District (TX), Stephenville Independent School District (TX), Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs (TX), Texas State University System (TX), Waxahachie Independent School District (TX), Wichita Falls Independent School District (TX)

Matthew Hunt

Associate Director

DALLAS

T: (214) 989-2720

E: mhunt@blxgroup.com

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

18 Years

TENURE AT BLX

13 Years

EDUCATION

University of Texas

BA in Economics, 2000

Southern Methodist University

MBA in Corporate Finance, 2005

FINRA LICENSESSeries 50 Municipal Advisor Rep
(2016 to Present)Series 7 General Securities Rep
(2001 to 2011)

Matt joined BLX in 2006. His current responsibilities include preparing arbitrage rebate, yield restriction, and acquired purpose investment analyses. Matt also manages all recovery of overpayment and special project opportunities.

With a strong interest in finance, he began working at Fidelity Investments as a Trading Representative prior to joining BLX. His responsibilities included servicing client accounts as well as placing mutual fund, equity, and complex option trades for clients.

Arbitrage Calculation Experience: Alaska Student Loan Corporation (AK), Chelan County Public Utility District #1 (WA), Clear Lake Water Authority (TX), CPS Energy (TX), Denton Independent School District (TX), Dignity Health (CA), Hendrick Medical Center (TX), Kentucky Higher Education Student Loan Corporation (KY), King County Housing Authority (WA), Lake Dallas Independent School District (TX), Miami-Dade County (FL), Mineral Wells Independent School District (TX), M-S-R Public Power Agency (CA), New Jersey Higher Education Student Assistance Authority (NJ), New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (NJ), Pearland Independent School District (TX), Rockwall Independent School District (TX), Springtown Independent School District (TX), State of South Carolina (SC), Texas Department of Housing & Community Affairs (TX), Texas Veterans' Land Board (TX), Waste Connections, Inc. (TX)

**Larry Sobel**

Partner, Orrick

LOS ANGELES

T: (213) 612-2421

E: lsobel@orrick.com

**INDUSTRY
EXPERIENCE**

35+ Years

TENURE AT ORRICK

33 Years

EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania Law School

J.D., cum laude, 1976

Drexel University

B.S., magna cum laude, 1973

MEMBERSHIPAmerican Bar Association, Section of
Taxation, Tax Exempt Finance CommitteeNational Association of Bond Lawyers,
Tax Exempt Finance Committee

State Bar of California

District of Columbia Bar

State Bar of New York

Pennsylvania Bar Association

State Bar of Texas

Larry Sobel, is a tax partner in the Los Angeles and Houston offices. Larry has more than 35 years of experience in federal tax laws and regulations relating to all types of tax-exempt financings, particularly public power, private activity bonds such as airport facilities, colleges and universities and hospitals and exempt organizations and advance refunding issues.

As both bond counsel and underwriter's counsel, he has been responsible for structuring and analyzing the tax aspects of many tax-exempt financings throughout the country.

Larry has extensive experience in handling IRS audits of bond transactions. He has represented issuers in dozens of audits all of which have ended favorably either with the IRS issuing a "no change" letter or by negotiating a reasonable settlement when needed. Larry also has handled a number of submissions under the IRS' Voluntary Closing Agreement Program (or VCAP). The two most recent VCAP submissions represented cases of first impression for the IRS; one involving an issue of qualified energy conservation bonds relating to determining the amount of those bonds eligible for the federal subsidy; the other involved the plan to convert a "new money" bond issue into an advance refunding (which did not meet all of the requirements for a tax-exempt advance refunding). Both cases ultimately were resolved on the original terms proposed to the IRS.

Larry has also been instrumental in developing new financing techniques and structures. He first devised the tax structure and analysis for, and has served as tax counsel on, Orrick's tax-exempt tobacco revenue securitizations. He has developed the tax structure on numerous tax-exempt prepayments for natural gas for municipal utilities both within and outside of California.

4. REQUIRED CERTIFICATIONS AND SUBMITTAL

This section will contain any licenses and certifications as required by Hidalgo County, the State of Texas, etc. The firm(s) should add copies of their Professional Liability Insurance. Hidalgo County requires limits as described and detailed in Exhibit "C"-Insurance Requirements contained herein.

Please see Appendix A for BLX's certifications and evidence/sample insurance certificates.

5. SCOPE OF SERVICES

The firm selected will be required to perform arbitrage calculations for the Hidalgo County and Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1 current certificates of obligation issues and any new issues that may be added during the term of the contract.

Hidalgo County's outstanding issues currently include:

ISSUANCE OUTSTANDING	PRINCIPAL
1. Certificates of Obligation, Taxable Series 2009C (BABs)	\$ 7,625,000.00
2. Certificates of Obligation, Series 2010A	\$1,305,000.00
3. Certificates of Obligation, Taxable Series 2010B(BABs)	\$17,785,000.00
4. Limited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2014A	\$1,045,000.00
5. Limited Tax Refunding Bonds, Taxable Series 2014B	\$5,175,000.00
6. Certificates of Obligation, Series 2014	\$18,780,000.00
7. Limited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2014C	\$19,200,000.00
8. Tax Notes, Series 2014	\$1,195,000.00
9. Certificates of Obligation, Series 2015A	\$15,635,000.00
10. Limited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2015B	\$14,760,000.00
11. Limited Tax Refunding Bonds, Taxable Series 2015C	\$12,270,000.00
12. Certificates of Obligation, Series 2016	\$31,670,000.00
13. Certificates of Obligation, Series 2017	\$27,745,000.00
14. Certificates of Obligation, Series 2018A	\$118,890,000.00
15. Certificates of Obligation, Series 2018B	\$24,690,000.00
16. Limited Tax Refunding Bonds, Taxable Series 2018C	\$23,200,000.00
	\$340,970,000.00

Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1 outstanding issues currently include:

ISSUANCE OUTSTANDING	PRINCIPAL
1. Unlimited Tax Improvement Bonds, Series 2013	\$56,640,000.00
2. Unlimited Tax Improvement Bonds, Series 2014	\$ 7,665,000.00
3. Refunding Bond 2016	\$49,405,000.00
4. Unlimited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2018	\$ 6,095,000.00
	\$119,805,000.00

1. Arbitrage Compliance Program

Firm will establish a program to ensure Hidalgo County and Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1 are in compliance with all arbitrage rebate requirements contained in Section 148 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (as revised) and related Treasury Regulations. As part of this compliance program the Firm will serve as a resource to all parties involved, explaining the requirements of the Code and Regulations and providing practical solutions to problems as they occur. The Firm will provide constant interaction with the County and the Drainage District and provide the following additional services:

- **Assist the County and the Drainage District in understanding the computational and reporting requirements of the Code and Regulations as they currently exist and facilitate their understanding of changes as they occur.**
- **Be knowledgeable of the rules regarding expiration of temporary periods and be prepared to assist County and the Drainage District in monitoring yield-restricted funds, which may be invested.**
- **Assist the County and the Drainage District, on a rebate installment date, in evaluating whether a full or partial payment of the rebate liability should be paid.**

Issuer education is very important to us; we would be pleased to provide an on-site training session at the County's request at no additional charge. Additionally, open communication allows BLX to achieve a clear understanding of the unique characteristics, circumstances, and objectives of each client. Daily communications will be over the telephone and/or email, as the County prefers, also at no additional charge.

BLX's strength and longevity are derived from our extensive technical resources, proficiency, and the oversight provided by Orrick. As you will notice from our firm organizational chart included as Appendix B, BLX has 12 Managing Directors, each bringing tremendous intellectual resources and talent to our firm. A firm does not amass and retain that amount of quantitative talent without an environment of challenging work, diligence and mutual respect. This work environment differentiates us and provides peace of mind and certainty for our clients in the following ways:

(i) **Efficient Operations:** BLX will deploy its resources such that each is dedicated to the component of a given rebate calculation that makes that resource most efficient. Our professionals spend less time on information collection and data entry, and more time analyzing and applying regulatory knowledge to uncover the approach that produces the best result for their clients. Accordingly, our professionals gain more exposure and acquire expertise you can rely on in a wide variety of scenarios.

(ii) **Attentive Service:** We will prioritize the perspectives and sensitivities of the County. Having provided arbitrage consulting services to tax-exempt issuers in every U.S. State and Territory, we are poised to provide you with recommendations, guidance, and support that is right for your organization. Our team is committed to addressing your service needs every step of the way.

(iii) **Advanced Technology:** We use proprietary spreadsheet-based templates rather than commercial software because of the flexibility they afford our clients. A pre-designed system is limited to built-in methodologies. We recognize that the best answer is often produced from an approach that is rarely used. Our flexible technological platform is in place to give you the certainty that contingencies can be vetted out. We have invested substantially in technology to enhance our clients' experience: (a) Our internal tracking software notifies the members of the proposed team well in advance of scheduled computation dates, allowing us to maintain a smooth work-flow and react promptly to unforeseen circumstances. Consequently, we have the capacity to consistently exceed the County's expectations with regard to timely and accurate reporting. (b) We advocate transparency and provide complimentary access to the BLXPortal, a secure web-based service that allows our clients to access detailed information about their rebate engagements, view rebate reports, and review scheduled computations. A quick view of some of the detailed bond issue information available on the BLXPortal is shown next page:

BLX Portal

Matter Detail / Anytown IFA 2012A Bonds Current client: City of Anytown

Relationship Manager: Sandra Stallings | Josh Cain / BLX

Bond Issue
 Lease Rev Bds, Series 2015
 Water Rev Ref Bds, Series 2014
 Infrastructure Rev Ref Bds, Series 2014 A
Anytown IFA 2012A Bonds
 Cap Improv Rev Ref Bds, Series 2012
 Anytown IFA Civic Center 2009A Bonds
 Civic Center 2009B Bonds
 Water Rev Bds, Series 2008
 Ltd Ob Improv Bds, Randy Way
 Infrastructure Ref Rev Bds, Series 2006 A
 CIFF, Series 2006
 CIFF, Series 2005
 Infrastructure Rev Ref Bds, Series 2005 A
 Infrastructure Rev Ref Bds, Series 2004 C
 CIFF, Series 2004
 Infrastructure Rev Ref Bds, Series 2004 A
 CIFF, Series 2003
 CIFF, Series 2002
 Infrastructure Rev Ref Bds, Series 2002 A

\$22,395,000
 Anytown Infrastructure Financing Authority
 Infrastructure Revenue Refunding Bonds
 Series 2012A

BLX Contacts

PROJECT MANAGER	RELATIONSHIP MANAGER
Nancy Kummer (213) 612-2215 nkummer@blxgroup.com	Sandra Stallings (214) 989-2701 sstallings@BLXGroup.com

Matter Details

Matter #	612-12862	Latest Report	09/02/2016
Opened	08/02/2012	Next Report	09/02/2021
Total Rebate and YR Payments	\$0.00	Next 5th Year	09/02/2021

Issue Details

Dated Date	06/20/2012	CUSIP	037833100
Issue Date	06/20/2012		

Reports

Comp. Date	Remaining Proceeds	Cumulative Rebate Liability	Yield Restriction Liability
09/02/2016	880,009.36	(291,006.94)	(35,666.61)

2. Computational Requirements

Firm will compute the arbitrage rebate that is most advantageous to Hidalgo County and Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1 using computational methods that comply with arbitrage regulations.

- Review all applicable bond documents including tax or arbitrage certificate, official statement and other related documents.
- Compute the arbitrage yield on the bonds in accordance with the regulations and revise such computations in the event that events occur subsequent to delivery of the bonds, which would require re-computation.
- Identify, and separately account for, all "Gross Proceeds" (as last term is defined in the Treasury Regulations) of the bond issue, including those requiring allocation analyses due to "transferred proceeds" and/or "commingled funds" circumstances.
- Obtain the necessary information related to investments, including expenditure detail; or investment detail; and/or interest earnings.
- Compute the yield on the earnings of the gross proceeds of the issue.
- Firm must be familiar with all of the various regulations to determine which regulations to apply in order to compute the lowest lawful arbitrage liability amount.
- Perform computations of rebatable arbitrage at least once every five years and as of the date all bonds of the issue are retired.
- Provide an executive summary and opinion identifying the methodology employed, major assumptions, conclusions, and any recommendations for changes in record keeping and investment policy. The opinion provided must state that all work performed is consistent with Federal Tax Law and other applicable law.

BLX APPROACH TO SATISFY REQUIREMENTS OF THE "SCOPE OF WORK"

We have read carefully and fully understand the "Scope of Work" as set forth in the RFQ. BLX's expert technical and regulatory resources, notwithstanding, we have consistently endeavored to "raise the bar" with respect to providing industry leading client services. We are available at any time to provide recommendations, guidance, and any other requested support in areas where our experience and expertise are of value. We appreciate the perspectives and sensitivities of each issuer client, and prioritize them over current market forces – our clients always take precedence.

We propose to follow the work plan outlined below:

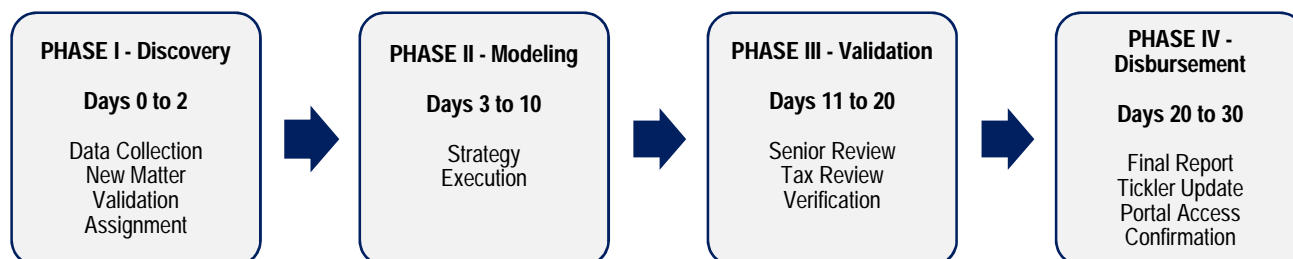
1. Upon engagement of a new transaction, our initial efforts will be dedicated to compiling and formatting any required records and documentation not currently in our possession;
2. We subsequently establish a new record in our file center, and enter the subject transaction on our tickler/tracking database system;
3. Sandee Stallings, the Project Manager, will then allocate the transaction to a consultant assigned to the project based on issue type, complexity, and prior experience;
4. The consultant will next review the relevant materials to initially determine (1) applicable law, (2) existence and location of Gross Proceeds, and (3) yield calculation considerations;
5. The consultant then develops a recommended approach, taking into consideration the availability of election and exception relief, and the effect of transferred proceeds and/or commingled funds on the calculation;
6. The consultant's preliminary findings and recommended approach are presented to one or more of a Senior or Managing Consultant, Associate or Managing Director, and/or Tax Partner and approved or modified as appropriate;
7. The consultant reviews each investment purchase, receipt, sale, and disposition to compile the net cash flow of relevant non-purpose receipts and payments. This analysis determines the amount of arbitrage liability that has been incurred as a result of such investments;
8. The consultant's draft report undergoes a peer review. Consultants discuss the application of alternative allocation, valuation, or regulatory provisions to see if the initial result can be improved;
9. The results and analysis are considered for further improvement and approval by a Managing Director and an Orrick Tax Partner;
10. A final report, accompanied by an Orrick legal opinion and a summary of computational assumptions is prepared. The legal opinion affirms that the analysis was performed in accordance with all applicable laws, rulings, and regulations. The summary of computational assumptions includes a summary of relevant dates, elections, and exceptions, and an outline of the methodology employed; and
11. Any necessary IRS forms, for example IRS form 8038-T, are prepared and forwarded to the County for signature.

BLX maintains a database monitoring system whereby all relevant information about a particular bond issue, including notifications of upcoming rebate calculations and rebate payment dates, is easily recalled. This enables us to provide timely reporting to all BLX clients.

Issuer education is very important to us; we would be pleased to provide complimentary on-site training sessions at the County's request. Additionally, open communication allows BLX to achieve a clear understanding of the unique characteristics, circumstances, and objectives of each client. Daily communications will be over the telephone and/or email, as the County prefers, also at no additional charge.

METHOD OF CALCULATING ARBITRAGE REBATE

BLX has been providing arbitrage consulting services to tax-exempt issuers since 1989, and has developed extensive experience in applying and interpreting the arbitrage rebate regulations. We have designed a rigorous system of checks and balances to ensure that all analyses are both timely and accurate. To ensure the certainty of your results, our procedures entail a multiplicity of reviews by increasingly experienced consultants, each of whom approaches a given analysis with a distinct and fresh viewpoint. The entire process is validated by the legal review performed by Orrick’s expert tax lawyers.



To ensure the certainty of your results, our procedures entail a multiplicity of reviews by increasingly experienced consultants, each of whom approaches the analysis with a distinct and fresh viewpoint. The entire process is then validated with a legal review by Orrick’s expert tax lawyers. The procedures put in place to meet your scope of services, and deliver findings you can count on, are outlined below. Methodological examples applicable to your debt profile are included in Appendix C.

PHASE I		DISCOVERY	
Data Collection	Identify the most efficient and cost-effective sources and compile legal documents and investment records not already in our possession.		
New Matter	Open virtual files and track a unique matter for each of your bond transactions in our database. Our tickler system ensures that reports are delivered on time and that pertinent details can be accessed by the BLX professionals involved in the production, review, and delivery of your analyses.		
Validation	Confirm issue is subject to the rebate and/or yield restriction requirements via a thorough review of available tax documents.		
Assignment	Assign transaction to a consultant based upon issue type, complexity, and similarity to prior experience. Determine whether it is legally required or advisable to undertake a given analysis in conjunction with one or more related issues.		
PHASE II		MODELING	
Strategy	Working with a senior BLX professional and/or Orrick tax partner, consultant reviews legal documents to uncover any unusual or unique elements impacting initial analytical direction. Together, they review your documents and circumstances to identify proceeds subject to rebate and/or yield restriction and determine which methodologies and elective exceptions are best suited for you.		
Execution	Consultant calculates the arbitrage yield, identifies and separately accounts for all proceeds (e.g., transferred proceeds and commingled funds), determines the value of unexpended proceeds, applies the arbitrage yield to your net non-purpose investments cash flow to determine its future value, and generates your rebate and yield restriction liabilities.		
PHASE III		VALIDATION	
Senior Review	Drafts are reviewed by a BLX director. Alternative allocation and valuation approaches are discussed, agreed upon, and executed. The director determines if elective regulatory provisions will improve your results.		
Tax Review	Throughout the validation process, the consultant works with one or more Orrick tax partners to ascertain that applicable rules and regulations were followed, and to ensure that a complete tax analysis has been performed.		

Verification	Consultant incorporates any modifications to the methodology, and senior BLX professional verifies the accuracy of the final analysis.
PHASE IV DISBURSEMENT	
Final Report	A final report is assembled and delivered to you within 30 days of the computation date. It includes a summary of methodologies, assumptions, and conclusions, a legal opinion attesting that your analysis was prepared in accordance with applicable federal tax law, and any necessary filing materials (including IRS Form 8038-T and payment explanations).
Tickler Update	Update the relevant elements of our database tracking system to automatically notify our team in advance of the next anticipated computation date.
Portal Access	Once a report is issued, it is tagged as a portal document. You can view the report through our online portal access and peruse through a summary of your outstanding issues (including last and next computation dates, next IRS filing date, and most recent rebate and yield restriction liabilities).
Confirmation	We will ensure you are in possession of the report, that the service has been executed to your satisfaction, and answer any questions about the analysis.

TRANSITION

Because of the size and scope of our practice, we are able to understand all flow of funds mechanics, positions taken by tax counsel, investment record formats, and the underlying economics of your transactions quickly and without burdening the County staff. We are very comfortable that we will not encounter issues, concepts, or problems significantly different than those we have encountered previously in literally thousands of issues for which we have provided tax compliance services.

If awarded, BLX will be able to dedicate resources to the County immediately upon engagement. Within a few days of being notified of our engagement, Sandra Stallings will be available to meet in person, if beneficial to County, to discuss the initial steps of the engagement, and to identify bond documents and other materials we will need. In general, our list will include five or six bond transcript documents, all current bond proceeds account records, and any prior existing arbitrage rebate analyses. We are almost always able to pick up where the prior provider left off without creating too much of a burden on the County's staff, and routinely attempt to rely upon the prior contractor's calculations.

For the bond issues listed in the RFQ and for future bond issues, the BLX proposed team will work closely with the County staff in order to limit the County's involvement in gathering (or seeking to identify an alternative source for) the documents listed below:

<i>Document</i>	<i>Online Sources MAC / EMMA</i>	<i>Financial Advisor or Bond Counsel</i>	<i>County Staff</i>
Official Statement	•		
Tax Certificate		•	
IRS Form 8038-G		•	
Verification Report	•	•	
Investment Agreements		•	
Swap or Hedging Agreements		•	
Prior Rebate Reports / Documents filed with IRS			•
Investment Records			•
Expenditure and Interest Income detail or TexPool, TexStar, Investment Statements			•

3. Internal Revenue Service Reporting Requirements

Firm will serve as the interface between the County and/or the Drainage District and the Internal Revenue Service. Firm must be knowledgeable of the reporting and documentation requirements associated with compliance of the arbitrage rules and perform the following duties:

- **Complete Internal Revenue Service Form 8038-T and any other necessary reports so that only a signature is required prior to filing on either an installment computation date or final installment date.**
- **Provide a written report supporting the computations to the County and the Drainage District.**
- **Determine the correction amount and the penalties associated with any installment failure as required.**
- **Assist in applying for permitted refunds for certain overpayments in the event the County and the Drainage District overpays the amount of rebatable arbitrage for an issue.**
- **Maintain complete records supporting the computations of rebatable arbitrage for a period of not less than six years after the final maturity of all bonds of an issue.**
- **Assist the County and the Drainage District, as necessary, in responding to any inquiries or audits by the Internal Revenue Service related to the computations performed by the rebate calculation agent.**
- **Maintain a tickler system, which monitors critical deadlines, calculation due dates, rebate exception dates, and expiration of temporary periods.**

In the event a refund claim has been identified, BLX will prepare the necessary documentation to support the Refund Claim. This documentation primarily consists of providing arbitrage rebate calculations and accompanying Orrick legal opinions addressing the County's arbitrage rebate liability with respect to the Bonds. After review by the County, BLX will file the necessary forms and documentation with the IRS in accordance with Revenue Procedure 2008-37 and the instructions related to the IRS Form 8038-R. BLX will process the Refund Claim with the IRS to completion, including responding to any requests for additional information or calculations made by the IRS.

BLX's rebate refund request services are designed to minimize the administrative burden placed on its clients. For that reason, BLX typically assumes power of attorney for the obligated party during the refund request process. This can minimize, or eliminate, additional legal and consulting fees and reduce the time to process the request by eliminating redundant "cross-talk" between the obligor, the IRS, BLX, and Orrick.

BLX has the requisite expertise, experience, and procedures in place to assist the County with the intricacies of the arbitrage rebate refund process. BLX has successfully assisted in the recovery of over **\$66** million in rebate overpayments. The County cannot retain a consultant with more IRS refund experience, or with the financial and legal resources that BLX and Orrick bring to the County. IRS agents are familiar with BLX's report format and supporting schedules which helps speed the refund recovery process significantly. As a result of the combination of these factors, BLX may be able to expedite the refund process, thereby minimizing the opportunity cost of unrecovered and un-invested rebate overpayments.



HIDALGO COUNTY

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

ARBITRAGE CALCULATIONS SERVICES

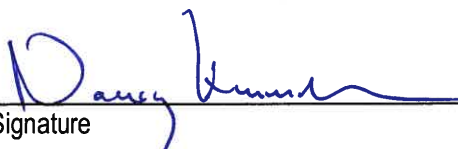
RFQ No.: 2019-109-06-12-YZV

RFQ SUBMITTAL CHECKLIST

All forms listed below must be submitted in the RFQ response. If forms are not submitted, your response may be considered non-responsive.

Indicate with a check mark (✓) the Forms completed and included in this response:

- Page 10 of Legal Notice
- Exhibit "C" – Insurance Requirement Acknowledgement forms (pages 3 and 4)
- Exhibit "D" - CIQ Form -Copy of County Clerk File Recording fee receipt (if applicable)
- Exhibit "E" – Vendor/Bidder Application - W-9 Form – HUB/DBE
- Exhibit "F" – Certification Regarding Debarment
- Exhibit "H" – Required Contract Clauses for Contracts Under Federal Award 2 – CFR 200, Appendix II & FEMA (if applicable)
- Exhibit "J" – Proposer's Affidavit
- SAMS.gov Registration Acknowledgement
- One (1) Original (original must be one (1) sided and clearly marked as original), two (2) Copies, and three (3) USB's in PDF format containing a complete copy of Response.


Signature

6/5/2019
Date

Request for Qualifications
for
HIDALGO COUNTY & HIDALGO COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT #1
"ARBITRAGE CALCULATION SERVICES"
RFQ NO: 2019-109-06-12-YZV

To: Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
Physical Location: 2802 S. Business Hwy. 281
Postal/ Mailing: 2812 S. Business Hwy. 281
Edinburg, Texas 78539

In accordance with the Requirements, and subject to all laws and regulations of the United States and state and local laws, the undersigned respondent proposes and commits to furnish all labor, equipment, material, software, and services as set forth in the documents hereinbefore mentioned. The undersigned further agrees, upon acceptance of its qualification, to execute a contract and/or Purchase Order issued by Hidalgo County for performing and completing the work described in the Requirements within the time stated and for the prices proposed in the documents attached hereto and made a part hereof.

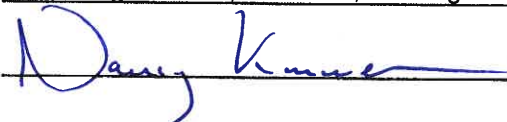
Respondent acknowledges receipt of all of the pages of the documents referenced in the Request for Qualification Table of Contents presented in connection with this procurement. Respondent understands that Hidalgo County reserves the right to reject any or all qualifications and further reserves the right to design the evaluation criteria to be used in selecting the lowest and best qualification.

Respondent agrees that this qualification shall be good and may not be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) calendar days after the scheduled closing time for receiving qualifications, as contained in the Requirements.

Respectfully submitted,

Firm: BLX Group LLC

Address: 777 S. Figueroa St., Ste. 3200, Los Angeles, CA 90017

By: 

Printed Name: Nancy D. Kummer

Title: Chief Business Development Officer/Managing Director

Insurance Requirement Acknowledgment

I, Nancy D. Kummer, authorized representative for
BLX Group LLC, Company/Vendor


hereby acknowledge receipt of the County's required insurance limits. Said requirements:

- will be acquired within 10 working days after notification from Purchasing Department of award of project by the Hidalgo County Commissioners= Court;
- will acquire additional amounts required to meet the County's requirements within 10 working days after notification from Purchasing Department of award of project by the Hidalgo County Commissioners= Court; currently carry the following

Professional Liability (Errors & Omissions): \$ in excess of \$1,000,000

Automobile Liability: \$ 1,000,000 General Liability: \$ 2,000,000

- have already been met, see attached copy of insurance certificate.


Authorized Representative

6/5/2019
Date

Notice to Proposer: A certificate of insurance for the required insurance limits shall be provided to the Purchasing Department's Contract Managers in order to qualify for award and to execute a contract between your Company and the County

Failure to provide Certificates of Insurance to the Purchasing Department's Contract Managers will cause the award to be rescinded and re-awarded to next qualified vendor. Certificates of Insurance will be monitored and verified on a **quarterly basis** to ensure coverage policy is in place. It is the Company's obligation to maintain the appropriate insurance coverage throughout the term of the contract.

THIS FORM MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR PACKET



CERTIFICATE OF LIABILITY INSURANCE

DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)
06/05/2019

THIS CERTIFICATE IS ISSUED AS A MATTER OF INFORMATION ONLY AND CONFERS NO RIGHTS UPON THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER. THIS CERTIFICATE DOES NOT AFFIRMATIVELY OR NEGATIVELY AMEND, EXTEND OR ALTER THE COVERAGE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES BELOW. THIS CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE ISSUING INSURER(S), AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OR PRODUCER, AND THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER.

IMPORTANT: If the certificate holder is an ADDITIONAL INSURED, the policy(ies) must have ADDITIONAL INSURED provisions or be endorsed. If SUBROGATION IS WAIVED, subject to the terms and conditions of the policy, certain policies may require an endorsement. A statement on this certificate does not confer rights to the certificate holder in lieu of such endorsement(s).

PRODUCER MARSH RISK & INSURANCE SERVICES 345 CALIFORNIA STREET, SUITE 1300 CALIFORNIA LICENSE NO. 0437153 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94104 CN102668209-BLX3-E&O-18-19	CONTACT NAME: PHONE (A/C, No, Ext): _____ FAX (A/C, No): _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____														
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>INSURER(S) AFFORDING COVERAGE</th> <th>NAIC #</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>INSURER A : XL Specialty Insurance Company</td> <td>37885</td> </tr> <tr> <td>INSURER B :</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>INSURER C :</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>INSURER D :</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>INSURER E :</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>INSURER F :</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		INSURER(S) AFFORDING COVERAGE	NAIC #	INSURER A : XL Specialty Insurance Company	37885	INSURER B :		INSURER C :		INSURER D :		INSURER E :		INSURER F :
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INSURER D :															
INSURER E :															
INSURER F :															
INSURED BLX GROUP LLC 777 SOUTH FIGUEROA STREET, SUITE 3200 LOS ANGELES, CA 90017															

COVERAGES **CERTIFICATE NUMBER:** SEA-003616939-01 **REVISION NUMBER: 1**

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE POLICIES OF INSURANCE LISTED BELOW HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO THE INSURED NAMED ABOVE FOR THE POLICY PERIOD INDICATED. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY REQUIREMENT, TERM OR CONDITION OF ANY CONTRACT OR OTHER DOCUMENT WITH RESPECT TO WHICH THIS CERTIFICATE MAY BE ISSUED OR MAY PERTAIN, THE INSURANCE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES DESCRIBED HEREIN IS SUBJECT TO ALL THE TERMS, EXCLUSIONS AND CONDITIONS OF SUCH POLICIES. LIMITS SHOWN MAY HAVE BEEN REDUCED BY PAID CLAIMS.

INSR LTR	TYPE OF INSURANCE	ADDL INSD	SUBR WVD	POLICY NUMBER	POLICY EFF (MM/DD/YYYY)	POLICY EXP (MM/DD/YYYY)	LIMITS
	COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY <input type="checkbox"/> CLAIMS-MADE <input type="checkbox"/> OCCUR GEN'L AGGREGATE LIMIT APPLIES PER: <input type="checkbox"/> POLICY <input type="checkbox"/> PRO-JECT <input type="checkbox"/> LOC OTHER: _____						EACH OCCURRENCE \$ _____ DAMAGE TO RENTED PREMISES (Ea occurrence) \$ _____ MED EXP (Any one person) \$ _____ PERSONAL & ADV INJURY \$ _____ GENERAL AGGREGATE \$ _____ PRODUCTS - COMP/OP AGG \$ _____ \$ _____
	AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY <input type="checkbox"/> ANY AUTO <input type="checkbox"/> OWNED AUTOS ONLY <input type="checkbox"/> SCHEDULED AUTOS NON-OWNED <input type="checkbox"/> HIRED AUTOS ONLY <input type="checkbox"/> AUTOS ONLY						COMBINED SINGLE LIMIT (Ea accident) \$ _____ BODILY INJURY (Per person) \$ _____ BODILY INJURY (Per accident) \$ _____ PROPERTY DAMAGE (Per accident) \$ _____ \$ _____
	UMBRELLA LIAB <input type="checkbox"/> OCCUR EXCESS LIAB <input type="checkbox"/> CLAIMS-MADE DED RETENTION \$ _____						EACH OCCURRENCE \$ _____ AGGREGATE \$ _____ \$ _____
	WORKERS COMPENSATION AND EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ANY PROPRIETOR/PARTNER/EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEMBER EXCLUDED? (Mandatory in NH) If yes, describe under DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS below	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A				<input type="checkbox"/> PER STATUTE <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER E.L. EACH ACCIDENT \$ _____ E.L. DISEASE - EA EMPLOYEE \$ _____ E.L. DISEASE - POLICY LIMIT \$ _____
A	PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INVESTMENT COMPANY			ELU158859-18	11/28/2018	11/28/2019	LIMIT OF LIABILITY: \$2,000,000 RETENTION: \$250,000

DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS / LOCATIONS / VEHICLES (ACORD 101, Additional Remarks Schedule, may be attached if more space is required)

REF: EVIDENCE OF PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY COVERAGE
||||||| TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN |||||||

THIS IS A CLAIMS MADE POLICY. EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED HEREIN, THIS POLICY ONLY APPLIES TO CLAIMS FIRST MADE DURING THE POLICY PERIOD.

CERTIFICATE HOLDER

CANCELLATION

HIDALGO COUNTY ATTENTION: PURCHASING DEPARTMENT 2812 S. HIGHWAY BUS 281 EDINBURG, TX 78539	SHOULD ANY OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED POLICIES BE CANCELLED BEFORE THE EXPIRATION DATE THEREOF, NOTICE WILL BE DELIVERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICY PROVISIONS. AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE of Marsh Risk & Insurance Services Raquel Ildefonso <i>Raquel Ildefonso</i>
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CERTIFICATE OF LIABILITY INSURANCE

DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)
06/05/2019

THIS CERTIFICATE IS ISSUED AS A MATTER OF INFORMATION ONLY AND CONFERS NO RIGHTS UPON THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER. THIS CERTIFICATE DOES NOT AFFIRMATIVELY OR NEGATIVELY AMEND, EXTEND OR ALTER THE COVERAGE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES BELOW. THIS CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE ISSUING INSURER(S), AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OR PRODUCER, AND THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER.

IMPORTANT: If the certificate holder is an ADDITIONAL INSURED, the policy(ies) must have ADDITIONAL INSURED provisions or be endorsed. If SUBROGATION IS WAIVED, subject to the terms and conditions of the policy, certain policies may require an endorsement. A statement on this certificate does not confer rights to the certificate holder in lieu of such endorsement(s).

PRODUCER MARSH RISK & INSURANCE SERVICES 345 CALIFORNIA STREET, SUITE 1300 CALIFORNIA LICENSE NO. 0437153 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94104 Attn: Angela Bacon (415) 743-7521	CONTACT NAME:		
	PHONE (A/C, No, Ext):	FAX (A/C, No):	
	E-MAIL ADDRESS:		
	INSURER(S) AFFORDING COVERAGE		NAIC #
	INSURER A : Chubb Indemnity Insurance Co		12777
	INSURER B :		
INSURER C :			
INSURER D :			
INSURER E :			
INSURER F :			

COVERAGES **CERTIFICATE NUMBER:** SEA-003616979-01 **REVISION NUMBER:** 1

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE POLICIES OF INSURANCE LISTED BELOW HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO THE INSURED NAMED ABOVE FOR THE POLICY PERIOD INDICATED. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY REQUIREMENT, TERM OR CONDITION OF ANY CONTRACT OR OTHER DOCUMENT WITH RESPECT TO WHICH THIS CERTIFICATE MAY BE ISSUED OR MAY PERTAIN, THE INSURANCE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES DESCRIBED HEREIN IS SUBJECT TO ALL THE TERMS, EXCLUSIONS AND CONDITIONS OF SUCH POLICIES. LIMITS SHOWN MAY HAVE BEEN REDUCED BY PAID CLAIMS.

INSR LTR	TYPE OF INSURANCE	ADDL INSD	SUBR WVD	POLICY NUMBER	POLICY EFF (MM/DD/YYYY)	POLICY EXP (MM/DD/YYYY)	LIMITS	
	COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY <input type="checkbox"/> CLAIMS-MADE <input type="checkbox"/> OCCUR GEN'L AGGREGATE LIMIT APPLIES PER: <input type="checkbox"/> POLICY <input type="checkbox"/> PRO-JECT <input type="checkbox"/> LOC OTHER:						EACH OCCURRENCE	\$
	AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY <input type="checkbox"/> ANY AUTO <input type="checkbox"/> OWNED AUTOS ONLY <input type="checkbox"/> SCHEDULED AUTOS <input type="checkbox"/> HIRED AUTOS ONLY <input type="checkbox"/> NON-OWNED AUTOS ONLY						COMBINED SINGLE LIMIT (Ea accident)	\$
	UMBRELLA LIAB <input type="checkbox"/> OCCUR EXCESS LIAB <input type="checkbox"/> CLAIMS-MADE DED RETENTION \$						EACH OCCURRENCE	\$
A	WORKERS COMPENSATION AND EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ANY PROPRIETOR/PARTNER/EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEMBER EXCLUDED? (Mandatory in NH) If yes, describe under DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS below	Y/N N	N/A	71756264	10/01/2018	10/01/2019	X PER STATUTE OTH-ER	
							E.L. EACH ACCIDENT	\$ 1,000,000
							E.L. DISEASE - EA EMPLOYEE	\$ 1,000,000
							E.L. DISEASE - POLICY LIMIT	\$ 1,000,000

DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS / LOCATIONS / VEHICLES (ACORD 101, Additional Remarks Schedule, may be attached if more space is required)

CERTIFICATE HOLDER Hidalgo County Attn: Purchasing Department 2812 S. Highway Bus. 281 Edinburg, TX 78539	CANCELLATION SHOULD ANY OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED POLICIES BE CANCELLED BEFORE THE EXPIRATION DATE THEREOF, NOTICE WILL BE DELIVERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICY PROVISIONS. AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE of Marsh Risk & Insurance Services Jeffrey Perkins
--	---

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This is to certify that I, Nancy D. Kummer, possess all of the APPLICABLE:

1. Licenses: N/A
2. Bonds: N/A
3. Certificates: Insurance Certificates
4. Permits: N/A
5. Other: _____

necessary to carry out the required project. Furthermore, I am providing copies of the required documentation so that, if my company is awarded this project, I may be eligible to enter into a contract with Hidalgo County and proceed to complete the project in a timely manner.

*** Any licenses, bonds, certificates, permit's, etc. which are required must be presented as part of the packet in order to expedite the evaluation process. Failure to provide said documentation will result in the disqualification of your proposal/qualification.**



Authorized Signature

6/5/2019

Date

BLX Group LLC

Company

777 S. Figueroa St., Ste. 3200

Address

Los Angeles, CA 90017

City, State, Zip

CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE

FORM CIQ

For vendor doing business with local governmental entity

This questionnaire reflects changes made to the law by H.B. 23, 84th Leg., Regular Session.

This questionnaire is being filed in accordance with Chapter 176, Local Government Code, by a vendor who has a business relationship as defined by Section 176.001(1-a) with a local governmental entity and the vendor meets requirements under Section 176.006(a).

By law this questionnaire must be filed with the records administrator of the local governmental entity not later than the 7th business day after the date the vendor becomes aware of facts that require the statement to be filed. See Section 176.006(a-1), Local Government Code.

A vendor commits an offense if the vendor knowingly violates Section 176.006, Local Government Code. An offense under this section is a misdemeanor.

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received

1 Name of vendor who has a business relationship with local governmental entity.

No business relationship

2 Check this box if you are filing an update to a previously filed questionnaire. (The law requires that you file an updated completed questionnaire with the appropriate filing authority not later than the 7th business day after the date on which you became aware that the originally filed questionnaire was incomplete or inaccurate.) N/A

3 Name of local government officer about whom the information is being disclosed.

N/A

Name of Officer

4 Describe each employment or other business relationship with the local government officer, or a family member of the officer, as described by Section 176.003(a)(2)(A). Also describe any family relationship with the local government officer. Complete subparts A and B for each employment or business relationship described. Attach additional pages to this Form CIQ as necessary.

N/A

A. Is the local government officer or a family member of the officer receiving or likely to receive taxable income, other than investment income, from the vendor?

Yes

No

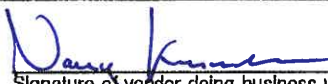
B. Is the vendor receiving or likely to receive taxable income, other than investment income, from or at the direction of the local government officer or a family member of the officer AND the taxable income is not received from the local governmental entity?

Yes

No

5 Describe each employment or business relationship that the vendor named in Section 1 maintains with a corporation or other business entity with respect to which the local government officer serves as an officer or director, or holds an ownership interest of one percent or more.

6 Check this box if the vendor has given the local government officer or a family member of the officer one or more gifts as described in Section 176.003(a)(2)(B), excluding gifts described in Section 176.003(a-1). N/A

7  for BLX Group LLC
Signature of vendor doing business with the governmental entity

6/5/2019

Date

**HIDALGO COUNTY
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT**

Proposer/Vendor Application

Complete in print or type. Please return this application to the Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
 thru Facsimile: (956) 318-2629 or (956) 292-7612
 in person or regular mail to:
 Mailing/Postal Address: 2812 S. Business Hwy. 281
 Physical Address: 2802 S. Business Hwy. 281
 Edinburg, Texas 78539
 or e-mail: purchasing@co.hidalgo.tx.us

Company Name: BLX Group LLC		Telephone No. (214) 989-2700
dba Name:		
Legal Name: BLX Group LLC		
Mailing Address: 2711 N. Haskell Ave, Suite 2600 SW, LB#35		Fax No. (214) 989-2712
Physical Address: 2711 N. Haskell Ave, Suite 2600 SW, LB#35		
City, State, Zip Dallas, TX 75204		Tax I.D. No. 51-0404065
Remit to Address : 2711 N. Haskell Ave, Suite 2600 SW, LB#35		City, State, Zip Dallas, TX 75204
E-Mail Address: sstallings@blxgroup.com		
Representative(s) Name(s) & Title(s) Sandra F. Stallings, COO/Managing Director		
Type of Organization (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Individual <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partnership <input type="checkbox"/> Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LLC <input type="checkbox"/> Sole Proprietor <input type="checkbox"/> Other, Specify		
State Identification No. 51-0404065 (Please attached completed W-9 form with this application) Federal Identification No. or (if individual) SS No.		
State of Incorporation: State of Delaware		Date: 9/29/200 Other: BLX has been providing Arbitrage Services for 30 years.
Type of Business (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturer <input type="checkbox"/> Wholesaler <input type="checkbox"/> Retailer <input type="checkbox"/> Broker <input type="checkbox"/> Distributor <input type="checkbox"/> Service Organization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other, Specify Arbitrage Rebate Compliance Services		
Name & Title of Person(s) Authorized to Sign Bids, Proposals, and/or Contracts: Sandra F. Stallings, COO/Managing Director		
Small and/or Disadvantaged Business Information (check application criteria) N/A		
Small Business: <input type="checkbox"/> Disadvantaged Business (At Least 51% Ownership)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 125,000 annual gross receipt <input type="checkbox"/> Black American <input type="checkbox"/> Native American <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 250,000 annual gross receipt <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic American <input type="checkbox"/> Women <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 499,000 annual gross receipt <input type="checkbox"/> Asian Pacific American <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> More than 500,000 annual gross receipt		
Have you been certified as a HUB or an MBE/WBE source? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
Indicate Certification No.(s): N/A or are Certificate(s) attached? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
What type of product(s) is/are solicited by your company?: Arbitrage Rebate Compliance Services		
Would you like to be provided with specifications for procurements of such products? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
To Be Completed by the County: Rec'd by (Purchasing): _____ Date Rec'd by (Purchasing): _____		
Date Forwarded Information to Auditor's Office: _____ Entry Date: _____ Vendor No.: _____		

(THIS PAGE MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH PROPOSAL)

HISTORICALLY UNDERUTILIZED BUSINESS (HUB) DECLARATION

The primary objective of the Hidalgo County HUB Program is to ensure Historically Underutilized Businesses receive a fair and equal opportunity for participation in the County's procurement process. This fact holds true for Services (Professional & Non-Professional), Commodities, and Construction contracts and any subcontracts thereon. The program strongly encourages Prime Contractors to provide subcontracting opportunities to Certified Hub Contractors/Vendors. Our goal for HUB contractor/vendor participation, as well as HUB subcontractor participation is 30%. To be considered as a "Certified HUB Contractor/Vendor" the contractor/vendor must have been certified by, and hold a current and valid certification with any of the three agencies listed below.

Have you been Certified as a HUB or an MBE/WBE source? Yes No

If yes, by whom? Texas Building & Procurement Commission Other _____

Indicate Certification No(s): N/A or Are Certificate(s) Attached? Yes No

LIST OF CERTIFIED HUB SUBCONTRACTORS

(Attach additional pages if necessary)

What percentage of the Bid, RFP, or RFQ is to be subcontracted with Certified HUB sources?: _____%
(List HUB Subcontractor information below).

HUB Subcontractor Name: N/A HUB Status:
Certifying Agency (Check all applicable): Texas Building & Procurement Commission other
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip:
Contact Person: _____ Title: _____ Phone No.: ()
Subcontract Amount: \$ _____ Description of Work to be Performed:

HUB Subcontractor Name: N/A HUB Status:
Certifying Agency (Check all applicable): Texas Building & Procurement Commission other
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip:
Contact Person: _____ Title: _____ Phone No.: ()
Subcontract Amount: \$ _____ Description of Work to be Performed:

HUB Subcontractor Name: N/A HUB Status:
Certifying Agency (Check all applicable): Texas Building & Procurement Commission other
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip:
Contact Person: _____ Title: _____ Phone No.: ()
Subcontract Amount: \$ _____ Description of Work to be Performed:

(THIS PAGE MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH PROPOSAL)

Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification

Give Form to the
requester. Do not
send to the IRS.

▶ Go to www.irs.gov/FormW9 for instructions and the latest information.

Print or type.
See Specific Instructions on page 3.

1 Name (as shown on your income tax return). Name is required on this line; do not leave this line blank. BLX Group LLC	
2 Business name/disregarded entity name, if different from above	
3 Check appropriate box for federal tax classification of the person whose name is entered on line 1. Check only one of the following seven boxes.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual/sole proprietor or single-member LLC <input type="checkbox"/> C Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> S Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership <input type="checkbox"/> Trust/estate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Limited liability company. Enter the tax classification (C=C corporation, S=S corporation, P=Partnership) ▶ C <small>Note: Check the appropriate box in the line above for the tax classification of the single-member owner. Do not check LLC if the LLC is classified as a single-member LLC that is disregarded from the owner unless the owner of the LLC is another LLC that is not disregarded from the owner for U.S. federal tax purposes. Otherwise, a single-member LLC that is disregarded from the owner should check the appropriate box for the tax classification of its owner.</small>	
4 Exemptions (codes apply only to certain entities, not individuals; see instructions on page 3): Exempt payee code (if any) _____ Exemption from FATCA reporting code (if any) _____ <small>(Applies to accounts maintained outside the U.S.)</small>	
5 Address (number, street, and apt. or suite no.) See instructions. 2711 N. Haskell Avenue, Suite 2600 SW, LB#35	Requester's name and address (optional)
6 City, state, and ZIP code Dallas, TX 75204	
7 List account number(s) here (optional) N/A	

Part I Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)

Enter your TIN in the appropriate box. The TIN provided must match the name given on line 1 to avoid backup withholding. For individuals, this is generally your social security number (SSN). However, for a resident alien, sole proprietor, or disregarded entity, see the instructions for Part I, later. For other entities, it is your employer identification number (EIN). If you do not have a number, see *How to get a TIN*, later.

Note: If the account is in more than one name, see the instructions for line 1. Also see *What Name and Number To Give the Requester* for guidelines on whose number to enter.

Social security number																					
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5	1																				

Part II Certification

Under penalties of perjury, I certify that:

1. The number shown on this form is my correct taxpayer identification number (or I am waiting for a number to be issued to me); and
2. I am not subject to backup withholding because: (a) I am exempt from backup withholding, or (b) I have not been notified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that I am subject to backup withholding as a result of a failure to report all interest or dividends, or (c) the IRS has notified me that I am no longer subject to backup withholding; and
3. I am a U.S. citizen or other U.S. person (defined below); and
4. The FATCA code(s) entered on this form (if any) indicating that I am exempt from FATCA reporting is correct.

Certification instructions. You must cross out item 2 above if you have been notified by the IRS that you are currently subject to backup withholding because you have failed to report all interest and dividends on your tax return. For real estate transactions, item 2 does not apply. For mortgage interest paid, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, contributions to an individual retirement arrangement (IRA), and generally, payments other than interest and dividends, you are not required to sign the certification, but you must provide your correct TIN. See the instructions for Part II, later.

Sign Here	Signature of U.S. person ▶	Date ▶ 6/5/2019
------------------	----------------------------	------------------------

General Instructions

Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code unless otherwise noted.

Future developments. For the latest information about developments related to Form W-9 and its instructions, such as legislation enacted after they were published, go to www.irs.gov/FormW9.

Purpose of Form

An individual or entity (Form W-9 requester) who is required to file an information return with the IRS must obtain your correct taxpayer identification number (TIN) which may be your social security number (SSN), individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN), adoption taxpayer identification number (ATIN), or employer identification number (EIN), to report on an information return the amount paid to you, or other amount reportable on an information return. Examples of information returns include, but are not limited to, the following.

- Form 1099-INT (Interest earned or paid)

- Form 1099-DIV (dividends, including those from stocks or mutual funds)
- Form 1099-MISC (various types of income, prizes, awards, or gross proceeds)
- Form 1099-B (stock or mutual fund sales and certain other transactions by brokers)
- Form 1099-S (proceeds from real estate transactions)
- Form 1099-K (merchant card and third party network transactions)
- Form 1098 (home mortgage interest), 1098-E (student loan interest), 1098-T (tuition)
- Form 1099-C (canceled debt)
- Form 1099-A (acquisition or abandonment of secured property)

Use Form W-9 only if you are a U.S. person (including a resident alien), to provide your correct TIN.

If you do not return Form W-9 to the requester with a TIN, you might be subject to backup withholding. See What is backup withholding, later.

**Certification
Regarding Debarment, Suspension Ineligibility**

As is required by the Federal Regulations Implementing Executive Order 12549, Debarment and Suspension, 45 CFR Part 76, Government-wide Debarment and Suspension, in the applicant certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that both it and its principals:

- a. Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any federal department or agency;
- b. Have not within a three-year period preceding this bid/proposal and/or application been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (federal, state or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction, violation of federal or state antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, theory, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;
- c. Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a government entity with commission of any of the offenses enumerated herein; and
- d. Have not within a three-year period preceding this bid/proposal and/or application had one or more public transactions terminated of cause or default.

Signature: Nancy Kummer

Print Name: Nancy D. Kummer

Title: CBDO/Managing Director

Telephone Number: 213.612.2215

Date: 6/5/2019

If the proposer is unable to certify to all of the statements in this Certification, such proposer should attach an explanation to this proposal.

Exhibit “H”

(If Applicable)

2 C.F.R. § 200.326 & 2 C.F.R. Part 200,
Appendix II

Required Contract Clauses for Non-Federal
Entity Contracts Under Federal Awards

&

Required Contract Clauses for Non-Federal
Entity Contracts Under Federal Awards with
the Federal Emergency Management Agency
(FEMA)

2 C.F.R. § 200.326 & 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, Required Contract Clauses for Non-Federal Entity Contracts Under Federal Awards

The United States Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued in 2 C.F.R. 200: *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Subpart D: Post Federal Award Requirements: 2 CFR §§200.317-200.326 of the Uniform Guidance contain provisions applicable to procurements made with federal grant funding.

As a non-Federal entity, the County of Hidalgo's ("County") contracts must contain the applicable contract clauses described in Appendix II to the Uniform Guidance (Contract Provisions for non-Federal Entity Contracts Under Federal Awards), which are set forth below. 2 C.F.R. §200.326. If applicable, the following clauses shall supersede any existing, similar clauses stated within the bid document, contract, and/or Terms and Conditions. *The term "Contractor" used herein refers to the proposer, bidder or other entity/individual responding to the applicable procurement packet.*

If applicable, the regulations in 2 CFR, Part 200 and Appendix II to the Uniform Guidance, as it may be amended from time to time, and the contract clauses below, are incorporated by reference as part of this procurement packet and any resulting agreement.

To procure goods and services using funds under a federal grant or contract, specific federal laws, regulations, and requirements may apply in addition to those under state law. The following provisions are required and apply when federal funds are expended by the County of Hidalgo for any contract resulting from this procurement process.

1. Remedies.

- a. **Applicability.** This requirement applies to all Federal grant and cooperative agreement programs.
- b. **Standard.** Contracts for more than the simplified acquisition threshold currently set at \$150,000, which is the inflation adjusted amount determined by the Civilian Agency Acquisition Council and the Defense Acquisition Regulations Council (Councils) as authorized by 41 U.S.C. 1908, must address administrative, contractual, or legal remedies in instances where contractors violate or breach contract terms, and provide for such sanctions and penalties as appropriate. See 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, ¶ A.
- c. **Statement.** Pursuant to Federal Rule (A) above, when federal funds are expended by the County, the County reserves all rights and privileges under the applicable laws and regulations with respect to this procurement in the event of breach of contract by either party. Contractor shall comply with all applicable Federal, State of Texas, and local laws, rules, and regulations and shall obtain all applicable licenses and permits for the conduct of its business and the performance of the services, and any provision of equipment and material ("Applicable Law"). All transactions related to any of the Contract Documents shall be governed by the laws of the State of Texas, and trial of any action brought in connection with the bid or the Contract Documents shall be held exclusively in a state court in the County of Hidalgo, Texas.

2. **Termination for Cause and Convenience.**

- a. **Applicability.** This requirement applies to all Federal grant and cooperative agreement programs.
- b. **Standard.** All contracts in excess of \$10,000 shall address termination for cause and for convenience by the non-Federal entity including the manner by which it will be effected and the basis for settlement as follows. See 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, ¶ B.
- c. **Statement. Termination.** County may terminate this Agreement for any reason upon ten (10) days written notice to the other party. County may terminate this Agreement immediately upon written notice if Contractor breaches this Agreement. In the event of any termination, Contractor shall promptly deliver to the County any and all Work Materials prepared for the County prior to the effective date of such termination, all of which shall become County's sole property. After receipt of the Work Materials, County will pay Contractor for the services which the County determines were satisfactorily performed as of the effective date of the termination.

Excuses for Non-Performance. Either party shall be absolved from its obligations under this contract when and to the extent that performance is delayed or prevented (and in the County of Hidalgo's case when and to the extent that its need for the articles, materials or work to be supplied hereunder is reduced or eliminated) by reason of acts of God, fire explosion, war riots, strikes, labor disputes, or governmental laws, orders or regulations.

Default. If Contractor or Subcontractor shall breach any provision hereof or shall become insolvent, enter voluntary or involuntary bankruptcy or receivership proceedings or make an assignment to the benefit of creditors, County of Hidalgo shall have the right (without limiting any other rights or remedies which it may have hereunder or by operation of law) to terminate this contract by written notice to Contractor whereupon County shall be relieved of all further obligation hereunder except the obligation to pay the reasonable value of Contractor's prior performance (at not exceeding the contract rate), and Contractor shall be liable to County for all costs incurred by County in completing or procuring the completion of performance in excess of the contract price herein specified. The County's right to require strict performance of any obligation hereunder shall not be affected by any previous waiver, forbearance of course of dealing. Time is of the essence thereof.

3. **Equal Employment Opportunity.**

- a. **Applicability:** This requirement applies to all Federal grant and cooperative agreement programs.
- b. **Standard.** Except as otherwise provided under 41 C.F.R. Part 60, all contracts that meet the definition of "federally assisted construction contract" in 41 C.F.R. § 60-1.3 must include the equal opportunity clause provided under 41 C.F.R. § 60- 1.4(b), in accordance with Executive Order 11246, *Equal Employment Opportunity* (30 Fed. Reg. 12319, 12935, 3 C.F.R. Part, 1964-1965 Comp., p. 339), as amended by Executive Order 11375, *Amending Executive Order 11246 Relating to Equal Employment Opportunity*, and implementing regulations at 41 C.F.R. Part 60 (Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, Equal Employment Opportunity, Department of Labor). See 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, ¶ C.

c. Key Definitions:

- (1) *Federally Assisted Construction Contract.* The regulation at 41 C.F.R. § 60-1.3 defines a "federally assisted construction contract" as any agreement or modification thereof between any applicant and a person for construction work which is paid for in whole or in part with funds obtained from the Government or borrowed on the credit of the Government pursuant to any Federal program involving a grant, contract, loan, insurance, or guarantee, or undertaken pursuant to any Federal program involving such grant, contract, loan, insurance, or guarantee, or any application or modification thereof approved by the Government for a grant, contract, loan, insurance, or guarantee under which the applicant itself participates in the construction work.
 - (2) *Construction Work.* The regulation at 41 C.F.R. § 60-1.3 defines "construction work" as the construction, rehabilitation, alteration, conversion, extension, demolition or repair of buildings, highways, or other changes or improvements to real property, including facilities providing utility services. The term also includes the supervision, inspection, and other onsite functions incidental to the actual construction
- d. Statement: Contractor will comply with the Nondiscrimination Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended and all Federal regulations relative to nondiscrimination in Federally assisted programs. The regulation at 41 C.F.R. Part 60-1.4(b) requires the insertion of the following contract clause:

"During the performance of this contract, the contractor agrees as follows:

- (1) The contractor will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. The contractor will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated during employment without regard to their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Such action shall include, but not be limited to the following: Employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. The contractor agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices to be provided setting forth the provisions of this nondiscrimination clause.
- (2) The contractor will, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the contractor, state that all qualified applicants will receive considerations for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.
- (3) The contractor will send to each labor union or representative of workers with which he has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding, a notice to be provided advising the said labor union or workers' representatives of the contractor's commitments under this section, and shall post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment.
- (4) The contractor will comply with all provisions of Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, and of the rules, regulations, and relevant orders of the Secretary of Labor.
- (5) The contractor will furnish all information and reports required by Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, and by rules, regulations, and orders of the Secretary of Labor, or pursuant thereto, and will permit access to his books, records, and accounts by the

administering agency and the Secretary of Labor for purposes of investigation to ascertain compliance with such rules, regulations, and orders.

(6) In the event of the contractor's noncompliance with the nondiscrimination clauses of this contract or with any of the said rules, regulations, or orders, this contract may be canceled, terminated, or suspended in whole or in part and the contractor may be declared ineligible for further Government contracts or federally assisted construction contracts in accordance with procedures authorized in Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, and such other sanctions as may be imposed and remedies invoked as provided in Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, or by rule, regulation, or order of the Secretary of Labor, or as otherwise provided by law.

(7) The contractor will include the portion of the sentence immediately preceding paragraph (1) and the provisions of paragraphs (1) through (7) in every subcontract or purchase order unless exempted by rules, regulations, or orders of the Secretary of Labor issued pursuant to section 204 of Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, so that such provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor or vendor. The contractor will take such action with respect to any subcontract or purchase order as the administering agency may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions, including sanctions for noncompliance: Provided, however, That in the event a contractor becomes involved in, or is threatened with, litigation with a subcontractor or vendor as a result of such direction by the administering agency the contractor may request the United States to enter into such litigation to protect the interests of the United States."

4. **Davis Bacon Act and Copeland Anti-Kickback Act.**

- a. **Applicability of Davis-Bacon Act.** The Davis-Bacon Act only applies to the emergency Management Preparedness Grant Program, Homeland Security Grant Program, Nonprofit Security Grant Program, Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program, Port Security Grant Program, and Transit Security Grant Program. **It does not apply to other Federal grant and cooperative agreement programs, including the Public Assistance Program.**
- b. **Standard.** All prime construction contracts in excess of \$2,000 awarded by non-Federal entities must include a provision for compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§ 3141-3144 and 3146-3148) as supplemented by Department of Labor regulations at 29 C.F.R. Part 5 (Labor Standards Provisions Applicable to Contracts Covering Federally Financed and Assisted Construction)). **See 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, ¶ D.**

In accordance with the statute, contractors must be required to pay wages to laborers and mechanics at a rate not less than the prevailing wages specified in a wage determination made by the Secretary of Labor. In addition, contractors must be required to pay wages not less than once a week.

The non-Federal entity must place a copy of the current prevailing wage determination issued by the Department of Labor in each solicitation. The decision to award a contract or subcontract must be conditioned upon the acceptance of the wage determination. The non-Federal entity must report all suspected or reported violations to the Federal awarding City.

In contracts subject to the Davis-Bacon Act, the contracts must also include a provision for compliance with the Copeland "Anti-Kickback" Act (40 U.S.C. § 3145), as supplemented by

Department of Labor regulations at 29 C.F.R. Part 3 (Contractors and Subcontractors on Public Building or Public Work Financed in Whole or in Part by Loans or Grants from the United States). The Copeland Anti-Kickback Act provides that each contractor or subrecipient must be prohibited from inducing, by any means, any person employed in the construction, completion, or repair of public work, to give up any part of the compensation to which he or she is otherwise entitled. The non-Federal entity must report all suspected or reported violations to FEMA or applicable Federal entity.

- c. Statement. The regulation at 29 C.F.R. § 5.5(a) does provide the required contract clause that applies to compliance with both the Davis-Bacon and Copeland Acts. However, as discussed in the previous subsection, the Davis-Bacon Act does not apply to Public Assistance recipients and subrecipients. In situations where the Davis-Bacon Act does not apply, neither does the Copeland "Anti-Kickback Act." However, for purposes of grant programs where both clauses do apply, FEMA or applicable Federal entity requires the following contract clause:

"Compliance with the Copeland "Anti-Kickback" Act.

(1) *Contractor.* The contractor shall comply with 18 U.S.C. § 874, 40 U.S.C. § 3145, and the requirements of 29 C.F.R. pt. 3 as may be applicable, which are incorporated by reference into this contract.

(2) *Subcontracts.* The contractor or subcontractor shall insert in any subcontracts the clause above and such other clauses as Federal requirements may by appropriate instructions require, and also a clause requiring the subcontractors to include these clauses in any lower tier subcontracts. The prime contractor shall be responsible for the compliance by any subcontractor or lower tier subcontractor with all of these contract clauses.

(3) *Breach.* A breach of the contract clauses above may be grounds for termination of the contract, and for debarment as a contractor and subcontractor as provided in 29 C.F.R. § 5.12."

5. Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act.

- a. Applicability: This requirement applies to all Federal grant and cooperative agreement programs.
- b. Standard. Where applicable (see 40 U.S.C. § 3701), all contracts awarded by the non-Federal entity in excess of \$100,000 that involve the employment of mechanics or laborers must include a provision for compliance with 40 U.S.C. §§ 3702 and 3704, as supplemented by Department of Labor regulations at 29 C.F.R. Part 5. See 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, ¶ E.

Under 40 U.S.C. § 3702, each contractor must be required to compute the wages of every mechanic and laborer on the basis of a standard work week of 40 hours. Work in excess of the standard work week is permissible provided that the worker is compensated at a rate of not less than one and a half times the basic rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of 40 hours in the work week.

The requirements of 40 U.S.C. § 3704 are applicable to construction work and provide that no laborer or mechanic must be required to work in surroundings or under working conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous or dangerous. These requirements do not apply to the purchases of

supplies or materials or articles ordinarily available on the open market, or contracts for transportation or transmission of intelligence.

The regulation at 29 C.F.R. § 5.5(b) provides the required contract clause concerning compliance with the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act:

c. Statement.

“Compliance with the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act.

(1) *Overtime requirements.* No contractor or subcontractor contracting for any part of the contract work which may require or involve the employment of laborers or mechanics shall require or permit any such laborer or mechanic in any workweek in which he or she is employed on such work to work in excess of forty hours in such workweek unless such laborer or mechanic receives compensation at a rate not less than one and one-half times the basic rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of forty hours in such workweek.

(2) *Violation; liability for unpaid wages; liquidated damages.* In the event of any violation of the clause set forth in paragraph (1) of this section the contractor and any subcontractor responsible therefor shall be liable for the unpaid wages. In addition, such contractor and subcontractor shall be liable to the United States (in the case of work done under contract for the District of Columbia or a territory, to such District or to such territory), for liquidated damages. Such liquidated damages shall be computed with respect to each individual laborer or mechanic, including watchmen and guards, employed in violation of the clause set forth in paragraph (1) of this section, in the sum of \$10 for each calendar day on which such individual was required or permitted to work in excess of the standard workweek of forty hours without payment of the overtime wages required by the clause set forth in paragraph (1) of this section.

(3) *Withholding for unpaid wages and liquidated damages.* The County of Hidalgo shall upon its own action or upon written request of an authorized representative of the Department of Labor withhold or cause to be withheld, from any moneys payable on account of work performed by the contractor or subcontractor under any such contract or any other Federal contract with the same prime contractor, or any other federally-assisted contract subject to the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, which is held by the same prime contractor, such sums as may be determined to be necessary to satisfy any liabilities of such contractor or subcontractor for unpaid wages and liquidated damages as provided in the clause set forth in paragraph (2) of this section.

(4) *Subcontracts.* The contractor or subcontractor shall insert in any subcontracts the clauses set forth in paragraph (1) through (4) of this section and also a clause requiring the subcontractors to include these clauses in any lower tier subcontracts. The prime contractor shall be responsible for compliance by any subcontractor or lower tier subcontractor with the clauses set forth in paragraphs (1) through (4) of this section.”

6. Rights to Inventions Made Under a Contract or Agreement.

- a. Applicability: Stafford Act Disaster Grants. This requirement **does not apply to the Public Assistance**, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Fire Management Assistance Grant Program, Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Grant Program, Disaster Case Management Grant

Program, and Federal Assistance to Individuals and Households – Other Needs Assistance Grant Program, as FEMA or Federal awards under these programs do not meet the definition of “funding agreement.”

- b. Standard. If the FEMA or Federal award meets the definition of “funding agreement” under 37 C.F.R. § 401.2(a) and the non-Federal entity wishes to enter into a contract with a small business firm or nonprofit organization regarding the substitution of parties, assignment or performance of experimental, developmental, or research work under that “funding agreement,” the non-Federal entity must comply with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. Part 401 (Rights to Inventions Made by Nonprofit Organizations and Small Business Firms Under Government Grants, Contracts and Cooperative Agreements), and any implementing regulations issued by FEMA or applicable awarding agency. See 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, ¶ F.
- c. Key Definition: The regulation at 37 C.F.R. § 401.2(a) currently defines “funding agreement” as any contract, grant, or cooperative agreement entered into between any Federal agency, other than the Tennessee Valley Authority, and any contractor for the performance of experimental, developmental, or research work funded in whole or in part by the Federal government. This term also includes any assignment, substitution of parties, or subcontract of any type entered into for the performance of experimental, developmental, or research work under a funding agreement as defined in the first sentence of this paragraph.

7. Clean Air Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

- a. Applicability and Standard: Contracts of amounts in excess of \$150,000 must contain a provision that requires the contractor to agree to comply with all applicable standards, orders, or regulations issued pursuant to the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 7401-7671q) and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act as amended (33 U.S.C. §§ 1251-1387). Violations must be reported to the Federal awarding agency and the Regional Office of the Environmental Protection Agency. See 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, ¶ G.
- b. Statement: Included in contracts as provided in section “7a” above.
 - (1) The contractor agrees to comply with all applicable standards, orders or regulations issued pursuant to the Clean Air Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 7401 et seq. and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.
 - (2) The contractor agrees to report each violation to the Federal awarding agency (e.g. Federal Emergency Management Agency-FEMA) and the Regional Office of the Environmental Protection Agency. Contractor understands and agrees that each violation reported to the County of Hidalgo will, in turn, be reported as required to assure notification to the Federal awarding agency and the appropriate Environmental Protection Agency Regional Office.
 - (3) The contractor agrees to include these requirements in each subcontract exceeding \$150,000 financed in whole or in part with Federal assistance provided by the applicable Federal awarding agency (e.g. FEMA).

8. Debarment and Suspension.

- a. Applicability: This requirement applies to all Federal grant and cooperative agreement programs.

- b. Standard. Non-Federal entities and contractors are subject to the debarment and suspension regulations implementing Executive Order 12549, *Debarment and Suspension* (1986) and Executive Order 12689, *Debarment and Suspension* (1989) at 2 C.F.R. Part 180 and the Department of Homeland Security's regulations at 2 C.F.R. Part 3000 (Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension).

These regulations restrict awards, subawards, and contracts with certain parties that are debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in Federal assistance programs and activities. See 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, ¶ H; and Chapter IV, ¶ 6.d and Appendix C, ¶ 2. A contract award must not be made to parties listed in the SAM Exclusions. SAM Exclusions is the list maintained by the General Services Administration that contains the names of parties debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded by agencies, as well as parties declared ineligible under statutory or regulatory authority other than Executive Order 12549. SAM exclusions can be accessed at www.sam.gov. See 2 C.F.R. § 180.530; Chapter IV, ¶ 6.d and Appendix C, ¶ 2.

In general, an "excluded" party cannot receive a Federal grant award or a contract within the meaning of a "covered transaction," to include subawards and subcontracts. This includes parties that receive Federal funding indirectly, such as contractors to recipients and subrecipients. The key to the exclusion is whether there is a "covered transaction," which is any nonprocurement transaction (unless excepted) at either a "primary" or "secondary" tier. Although "covered transactions" do not include contracts awarded by the Federal Government for purposes of the nonprocurement common rule and DHS's implementing regulations, it does include some contracts awarded by recipients and subrecipient.

Specifically, a covered transaction includes the following contracts for goods or services:

- (1) The contract is awarded by a recipient or subrecipient in the amount of at least \$25,000.
 - (2) The contract requires the approval of FEMA or applicable Federal entity, regardless of amount.
 - (3) The contract is for Federally-required audit services.
 - (4) A subcontract is also a covered transaction if it is awarded by the contractor of a recipient or subrecipient and requires either the approval of FEMA or applicable Federal entity or is in excess of \$25,000.
- c. Statement. The following provides a debarment and suspension clause. It incorporates a method of verifying that contractors are not excluded or disqualified:

For maximum protection, provide a print or electronic document for every prime and subcontractor, from www.sam.gov in order to ensure that they are not debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in Federal assistance programs and activities.

This contract is a covered transaction for purposes of 2 C.F.R. pt. 180 and 2 C.F.R. pt. 3000. As such the contractor is required to verify that none of the contractor, its principals (defined at 2 C.F.R. § 180.995), or its affiliates (defined at 2 C.F.R. § 180.905) are excluded (defined at 2 C.F.R. 180.940) or disqualified (defined at 2 C.F.R. § 180.935).

The contractor must comply with 2 C.F.R. pt. 180, subpart C and 2 C.F.R. pt. 3000, subpart C and must include a requirement to comply with these regulations in any lower tier covered transaction it enters into.

This certification is a material representation of fact relied upon by (insert name of subrecipient). If it is later determined that the contractor did not comply with 2 C.F.R. pt. 180, subpart C and 2 C.F.R. pt. 3000, subpart C, in addition to remedies available to (name of state agency serving as recipient and name of subrecipient), the Federal Government may pursue available remedies, including but not limited to suspension and/or debarment.

The bidder or proposer agrees to comply with the requirements of 2 C.F.R. pt. 180, subpart C and 2 C.F.R. pt. 3000, subpart C while this offer is valid and throughout the period of any contract that may arise from this offer. The bidder or proposer further agrees to include a provision requiring such compliance in its lower tier covered transactions.”

9. **Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment.**

- a. **Applicability:** This requirement applies to all Federal grant and cooperative agreement programs.
- b. **Standard.** Contractors that apply or bid for an award of \$100,000 or more must file the required certification. See 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, ¶ I; 44 C.F.R. Part 18; Chapter IV, 6.c; Appendix C, ¶ 4. Each tier certifies to the tier above that it will not and has not used Federal appropriated funds to pay any person or organization for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any City, a member of Congress, officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with obtaining any Federal contract, grant or any other award covered by 31 U.S.C. § 1352. Each tier must also disclose any lobbying with non-Federal funds that takes place in connection with obtaining any Federal award. Such disclosures are forwarded from tier to tier up to the non-Federal award. See Chapter IV, ¶ 6.c and Appendix C, ¶ 4.
- c. **Statement.** The following statement in bold provides a Byrd Anti-Lobbying contract clause:

(IF APPLICABLE, PLEASE FILL IN BLANKS AND SIGN)

“Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment, 31 U.S.C. § 1352 (as amended)

Contractors who apply or bid for an award of \$100,000 or more shall file the required certification. Each tier certifies to the tier above that it will not and has not used Federal appropriated funds to pay any person or organization for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress, officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with obtaining any Federal contract, grant, or any other award covered by 31 U.S.C. § 1352. Each tier shall also disclose any lobbying with non-Federal funds that takes place in connection with obtaining any Federal award. Such disclosures are forwarded from tier to tier up to the recipient.”

APPENDIX A, 44 C.F.R. PART 18 – CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING

Certification for Contracts, Grants, Loans, and Cooperative Agreements

(To be submitted with each bid or offer exceeding \$100,000)

The undersigned Contractor, BLX Group LLC
certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge, that:

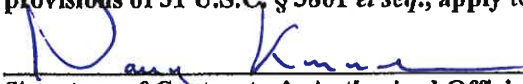
1. No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of an agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

2. If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.

3. The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by 31, U.S.C. § 1352 (as amended by the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995). Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

The Contractor, BLX Group LLC, certifies or affirms the truthfulness and accuracy of each statement of its certification and disclosure, if any. In addition, the Contractor understands and agrees that the provisions of 31 U.S.C. § 3801 *et seq.*, apply to this certification and disclosure, if any.


Signature of Contractor's Authorized Official

Nancy D. Kummer, CBDO/Managing Director
Name and Title of Contractor's Authorized Official

6/5/2019

Date"

10. **Procurement of Recovered Materials.**

- a. **Applicability:** This requirement applies to all Federal grant and cooperative agreement programs.
- b. **Standard.** A non-Federal entity that is a state agency or agency of a political subdivision of a state and its contractors must comply with Section 6002 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, Pub. L. No. 89-272 (1965) (codified as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act at 42 U.S.C. § 6962). See 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, ¶ J; 2 C.F.R. § 200.322; *PDAT Supplement*, Chapter V, ¶ 7.

The requirements of Section 6002 include procuring only items designated in guidelines of the EPA at 40 C.F.R. Part 247 that contain the highest percentage of recovered materials practicable, consistent with maintaining a satisfactory level of competition, where the purchase price of the item exceeds \$10,000 or the value of the quantity acquired by the preceding fiscal year exceeded \$10,000; procuring solid waste management services in a manner that maximizes energy and resource recovery; and establishing an affirmative procurement program for procurement of recovered materials identified in the EPA guidelines.

- c. **Statement.** The following provides the clause that a state agency or agency of a political subdivision of a state and its contractors can include in contracts meeting the above contract thresholds:

“(1) In the performance of this contract, the Contractor shall make maximum use of products containing recovered materials that are EPA- designated items unless the product cannot be acquired—

- (i) Competitively within a timeframe providing for compliance with the contract performance schedule;
- (ii) Meeting contract performance requirements; or
- (iii) At a reasonable price.

- (3) Information about this requirement, along with the list of EPA-designate items, is available at EPA’s Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines web site, <https://www.epa.gov/snm/comprehensive-procurement-guideline-cpg-program>.”

Additional Required Contract Clauses for Non-Federal Entity Contracts Under Federal Awards with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Additional FEMA or applicable Federal Requirements. In addition to the requirements above, non-Federal entity contracts under Federal award subject to financial assistance from FEMA are required to contain the following additional contract clauses. The Uniform Guidance authorizes FEMA to require additional provisions for non-Federal entity contracts. FEMA, pursuant to this authority, requires or recommends the following:

These clauses are incorporated by reference as part of this procurement packet and any resulting agreement.

11. Changes.

- a. Standard. To be eligible for FEMA assistance under the non-Federal entity's Federal grant or cooperative agreement, the cost of the change, modification, change order, or constructive change must be allowable, allocable, within the scope of its grant or cooperative agreement, and reasonable for the completion of project scope. FEMA or applicable Federal entity recommends, therefore, that a non-Federal entity include a changes clause in its contract that describes how, if at all, changes can be made by either party to alter the method, price, or schedule of the work without breaching the contract. The language of the clause may differ depending on the nature of the contract and the end-item procured.
- b. Statement. The following provides a contract clause regarding access to records:

"The contractor shall secure written authorization before proceeding with any additional work, whether requested by the County or required to complete the contract. The cost for any changes to the contract price, whether requested by the County or the Contractor will be approved only after submitting the contractor's true costs for the work and related equipment costs and site expenses."

12. Access to Records.

- a. Standard. All non-Federal entities must place into their contracts a provision that all contractors and their successors, transferees, assignees, and subcontractors acknowledge and agree to comply with applicable provisions governing Department and FEMA or applicable Federal entity access to records, accounts, documents, information, facilities, and staff. See DHS Standard Terms and Conditions, v 3.0, ¶ XXVI (2013).
- b. Statement. The following provides a contract clause regarding access to records:

"Access to Records. The following access to records requirements apply to this contract:

(1) The contractor agrees to provide the County of Hidalgo, the FEMA or applicable Federal Administrator, the Comptroller General of the United States, or any of their authorized representatives access to any books, documents, papers, and records of the Contractor which are directly pertinent to this contract for the purposes of making audits, examinations, excerpts, and transcriptions.

(2) The Contractor agrees to permit any of the foregoing parties to reproduce by any means whatsoever or to copy excerpts and transcriptions as reasonably needed.

(3) The contractor agrees to provide the FEMA or applicable Federal Administrator or his authorized representatives access to construction or other work sites pertaining to the work being completed under the contract."

13. DHS Seal, Logo, and Flags.

- a. Standard. All non-Federal entities must place in their contracts a provision that a contractor shall not use the DHS seal(s), logos, crests, or reproductions of flags or likenesses of DHS City

officials without specific FEMA or applicable Federal entity pre-approval. See DHS Standard Terms and Conditions, v3.0, ¶ XXV (2013).

b. Statement. The following provides a contract clause regarding DHS Seal, Logo, and Flags:

“The contractor shall not use the DHS seal(s), logos, crests, or reproductions of flags or likenesses of DHS City officials without specific FEMA or applicable Federal entity pre-approval.”

14. Compliance with Federal Law, Regulations, and Executive Orders.

a. Standard. All non-Federal entities must place into their contracts an acknowledgement that FEMA or applicable Federal financial assistance will be used to fund the contract along with the requirement that the contractor will comply with all applicable Federal law, regulations, executive orders, and FEMA or applicable Federal policies, procedures, and directives.

b. Statement. The following provides a contract clause regarding Compliance with Federal Law, Regulations and Executive Orders:

“This is an acknowledgement that Federal financial assistance will be used to fund the contract only. The contractor will comply will all applicable Federal law, regulations, executive orders, FEMA or applicable Federal policies, procedures, and directives.”

15. No Obligation by Federal Government.

a. Standard. The non-Federal entity must include a provision in its contract that states that the Federal Government is not a party to the contract and is not subject to any obligations or liabilities to the non-Federal entity, contractor, or any other party pertaining to any matter resulting from the contract.

b. Statement. The following provides a contract clause regarding no obligation by the Federal Government:

“The Federal Government is not a party to this contract and is not subject to any obligations or liabilities to the non-Federal entity, contractor, or any other party pertaining to any matter resulting from the contract.”

16. Program Fraud and False or Fraudulent Statements or Related Acts.

a. Standard. The non-Federal entity must include a provision in its contract that the contractor acknowledges that 31 U.S.C. Chap. 38 (Administrative Remedies for False Claims and Statements) applies to its actions pertaining to the contract.

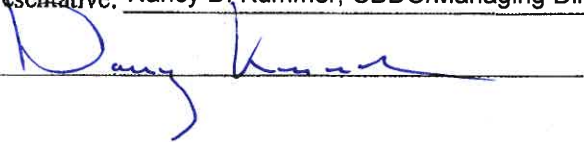
b. Statement. The following provides a contract clause regarding Fraud and False or Fraudulent Related Acts:

“The contractor acknowledges that 31 U.S.C. Chap. 38 (Administrative Remedies for False Claims and Statements) applies to the contractor’s actions pertaining to this contract.”

Contractor agrees to comply with all federal, state and local laws, rules, regulations and ordinances, as applicable. It is further acknowledged that the Contractor read and understands all provisions, laws, acts, regulations, etc. as specifically noted above and certifies compliance with the same.

Vendor's Name/Company Name: BLX Group LLC

Printed Name and Title of Authorized Representative: Nancy D. Kummer, CBDO/Managing Dir

Signature of Authorized Representative: 

Date: 6/5/2019

Exhibit "J"

PROPOSER'S AFFIDAVIT

**PROPOSER'S AFFIDAVIT OF NON-COLLUSION
NON-CONFLICT OF INTEREST, AND ANTI-LOBBYING**

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HIDALGO

Affiant, Nancy D. Kummer, being first duly sworn, deposes that:

- (1) Affiant does hereby state neither the proposer nor any of the proposer's officers, partners, owners, agents, representatives, employees, or parties in interest, has in any way colluded, conspired, agreed, directly or indirectly with any person, firm, corporation, or another proposer, or potential proposer, to provide any money or other valuable consideration for assistance in procuring or attempting to procure a contract or fix the prices in the attached proposed or the proposal of any other proposer, and further states that no such money or another reward will be hereinafter paid.
- (2) Affiant further states they have neither recommended nor suggested to Hidalgo County or any of its officials or employees, any of the terms or provisions set forth in their Request for Proposal and subsequent agreement, except at a meeting open to all interested proposers, of which proper notice was given.
- (3) Affiant, further states their officers, employees, or agents have not, and will not attempt to lobby, directly or indirectly, the Hidalgo County Commissioner's Court between proposal submission date and award by the Hidalgo County Commissioner's Court.
- (4) Affiant further states no officer, or stockholder of the proposer is a member of the staff, or related to any employee of Hidalgo County except as noted herein below:

Signature/Title: Chief Business Development Officer/Managing Director

Nancy Kummer

Subscribed and sworn to before me this June day of _____, 2019.

Notary Public

My commission expires: _____, 20__

See attached certificate

CALIFORNIA JURAT WITH AFFIANT STATEMENT

GOVERNMENT CODE § 8202

- See Attached Document (Notary to cross out lines 1–6 below)
- See Statement Below (Lines 1–6 to be completed only by document signer[s], not Notary)

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

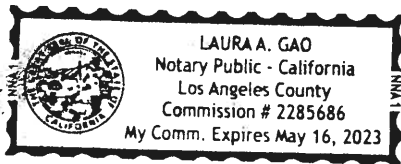
6 _____

Signature of Document Signer No. 1 *Signature of Document Signer No. 2 (if any)*

A notary public or other officer completing this certificate verifies only the identity of the individual who signed the document to which this certificate is attached, and not the truthfulness, accuracy, or validity of that document.

State of California
 County of Los Angeles

Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me
 on this 6th day of June, 2019,
 by Date Month Year
 (1) Nancy D. Kummer
 (and (2) _____),
Name(s) of Signer(s)



Place Notary Seal and/or Stamp Above

proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person(s) who appeared before me.
 Signature Laura A. Gao
Signature of Notary Public

OPTIONAL

Completing this information can deter alteration of the document or fraudulent reattachment of this form to an unintended document.

Description of Attached Document

Title or Type of Document: Proposer's Affidavit

Document Date: _____ Number of Pages: _____

Signer(s) Other Than Named Above: _____

SAM Search Results
List of records matching your search for :

Record Status: Active
CAGE Code: 8b8m0

ENTITY BLX Group LLC	Status: Active
DUNS: 093756232 +4:	CAGE Code: 8B8M0 DoDAAC:
Expiration Date: 05/16/2020	Has Active Exclusion?: No Debt Subject to Offset?: No
Address: 777 S Figueroa St Ste 3200	
City: Los Angeles	State/Province: CALIFORNIA
ZIP Code: 90017-5830	Country: UNITED STATES

ADDENDUM NO.1

June 06, 2019

“Arbitrage Calculation Services” RFQ NO.: 2019-109-06-12-YZV

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES

1. Reply to questions date has changed from ~~Thursday, June 06, 2019~~

Response will be provided: Wednesday, June 12, 2019.

2. RFQ Acceptance date: ~~Wednesday, June 12, 2019 @ 9:30 a.m.~~ **has changed to:**

RFQ Acceptance date has been extended to: Wednesday, June 19, 2019 @ 9:30

I acknowledge receipt of ADDENDUM NO. 1 dated, June 06, 2019 for RFQ-“Arbitrage Calculation Services”-Hidalgo County.

BY:



Signature

Print Name: Nancy D. Kummer

Company Name: BLX Group LLC

Date: 6/6/2019

NOTE: PLEASE SUBMIT THIS ADDENDUM WITH YOUR REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION PACKET IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THE RFQ.



2802 S. Bus. Hwy 281
Edinburg, Texas 78539
Phone: (956) 318-2626
Fax: (956) 318-2629
www.co.hidalgo.tx.us/purchasing

June 06, 2019

RE: ADDENDUM NO. 1
FOR RFQ No.: 2019-109-06-12-YZV
Hidalgo County "Arbitrage Calculation Services"

Dear Gentlemen:

Attached you will find **ADDENDUM NO. 1**, in connection with Hidalgo County's request for qualifications for **"Arbitrage Calculation Services"**.

Please acknowledge receipt of ADDENDUM NO. 1 by signing and returning this notice with your packet submittal.

If you do not receive all pages of this **ADDENDUM** please notify us immediately at (956) 318-2626.

Please be advised that this **ADDENDUM** will complete your packet for Hidalgo County's **"Arbitrage Calculation Services"**.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Martha L. Salazar

Martha L. Salazar, CPPB
Hidalgo County Purchasing Agent

Enclosures
MLS/yzv



2802 S. Bus. Hwy 281
Edinburg, Texas 78539
Phone: (956) 318-2626
Fax: (956) 318-2629
www.co.hidalgo.tx.us/purchasing

MEMORANDUM

To: All Participating Vendors
From: Yolanda Velasquez, Contract Specialist II
H. C. Purchasing Department
Date: June 12, 2019 as per Addendum 1 dated June 06th
Subject: HIDALGO COUNTY –“Arbitrage Calculations Services”
RFQ No.: 2019-109-06-12-YZV

The following information is in response to written questions received from a participating vendor in connection with the project referenced above:

Question No. 1: Who is the County’s current provider and what is the current provider charging (per issue pricing) for (i) issues with proceeds outstanding; (ii) debt service fund only issues?

Answer No 1:

The County’s current provide is Arbitrage Compliance Specialist, Inc. Please refer to 2015 Fee Schedule.

Question No. 2: Will the County require annual or five year calculations?

Answer No 2:

Five year calculations.

Question No. 3: When was the last computation date for each of the County’s bond issues with regards to arbitrage rebate?

Answer No 3:

Certificates of Obligation, Series 2009B.....October 21, 2014
Certificates of Obligation, Taxable Series 2009C.....October 21, 2014
Certificates of Obligation, Series 2010A.....July 14, 2015

Question No. 4: What was last year’s total bill from provider?

Answer No 4:

The total amount paid t Arbitrage Compliance Specialist, Inc. during 2018 was \$5,850.00 for County.
Drainage District – Zero (0) for 2018

Question No. 5: Can the County provide us with a listing of issues that currently have proceeds outstanding and a listing of issues that are Debt Service Fund only.

Answer No 5:

COUNTY

ISSUANCE WITH PROCEEDS OUTSTANDING

Certificates of Obligation, Series 2010A-B
Certificates of Obligation, Series 2014
Certificates of Obligation, Series 2015A
Certificates of Obligation, Series 2016
Certificates of Obligation, Series 2017
Certificates of Obligation, Series 2018A-B

DEBT SERVICE FUNDS ONLY

Tax Notes, Series 2014
Certificates of Obligation Series 2009 B-C
Limited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2014A
Limited Tax Refunding Bonds, Taxable Series
2014B, 2015C & 2018C
Limited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series, 2014C,
2015B

Question No 6: What is the reason for the County going out for an RFQ? Has the County been satisfied with current provider and their pricing?

Answer No 6:

There are no more renewal options available

Question No. 7: How has the County been keeping up with bond issues? On a FYE basis, if so, have all reports been updated through FYE 2018? Or on a 5 year basis?

Answer No 7:

Five (5) year basis.

Question No. 8: Does the County maintain a "Reserve Portion" in the Debt Service Fund or is the Debt Service Fund depleted annually and treated as bona fide each year?

Answer No 8:

Generally, there is a balance at year-end in the debt service funds approximately equal to the debt service interest payments due by February 15th of the following year.

Please acknowledge receipt of these questions and response by signing below and returning back via e-mail yolanda.velasquez@co.hidalgo.tx.us.



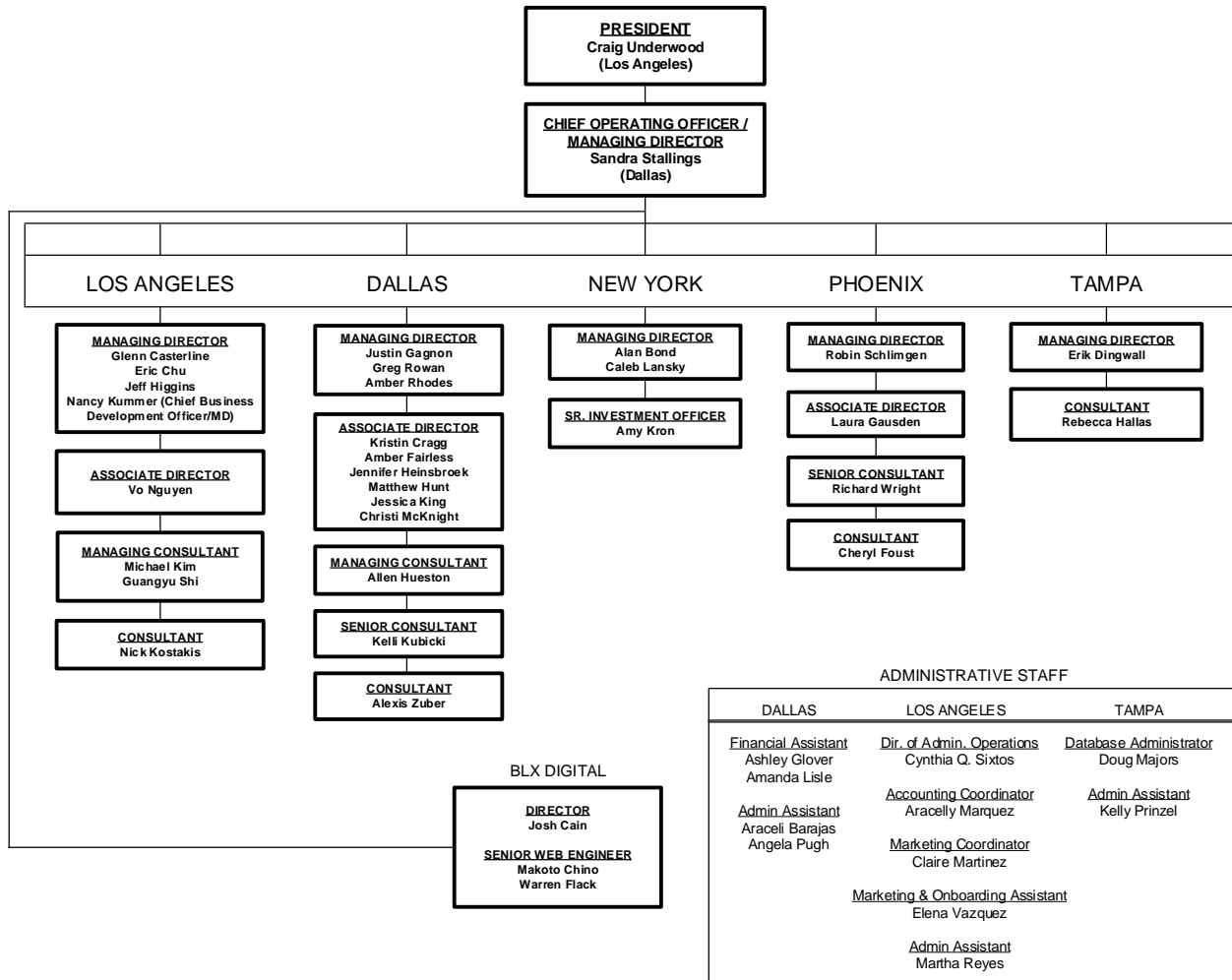
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT

Nancy D. Kummer
PRINTED NAME

6/13/2019
DATE

Should you require additional information, please do not hesitate to call me at (956) 318-2626 4881.
Thank you.

APPENDIX B – ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



APPENDIX C – APPLYING METHODOLOGICAL DISCRETION

To deliver optimum results, BLX carefully evaluates beneficial elections and alternate allocation and valuation methods at both the bond and program levels. We integrate the results of individual analyses into an overarching and consistently applied strategy to not only ensure the certainty of our findings but to support an exemplary post-issuance program. The following examples illustrate how utilizing methodological discretion benefits our clients.

COMMINGLED FUNDS: Commingled funds arise when proceeds subject to rebate are commingled with other types of monies (e.g., proceeds eligible for an exception, proceeds of another tax-exempt issue, or non-bond proceeds). An “allocation analysis” is undertaken to allocate investments and expenditures to each type of monies. Various consistently applied approaches are allowed under the regulations. BLX carefully weighs in the parameters of a given bond issue and program to identify which permissible methodology yields the optimal economic result.

How? BLX has performed multiple allocation analyses for a transportation authority in the state of New York that have resulted in cumulative rebate payment savings of over \$3.5 million.

TRANSFERRED PROCEEDS: Transferred proceeds arise in connection with refunding and refunded bonds and can significantly complicate the process of identifying gross proceeds of a particular bond issue. Transferred proceeds can involve multiple bond issues originally subject to different versions of the regulations. Our legal and technical expertise enable us to flesh out the intricacies and differences between successive versions of the regulations and to pinpoint when to make beneficial elections.

How? We have performed transferred proceeds analyses for virtually every issuer type and tax-exempt debt instrument. BLX prepared rebate analyses with transferred proceeds associated with multiple refunding bonds, as well as proceeds commingled in a large parity reserve fund on behalf of a large international airport. These turn-key allocation and optimization analyses enabled the issuer to recover rebate payments totaling over \$3.2 million from the IRS.

MARKET VS. PRESENT VALUE OF SECURITIES: The regulations allow several methods of valuing securities held as of a computation date, transferred proceeds date, or other applicable allocation date. Because rebate analyses are based on non-purpose payments and receipts through computation and transferred proceeds dates, securities held as of such dates must be valued to represent a receipt or disposition of principal and accrued interest. The regulations allow such valuations to be at either market value, present/accreted value, or plain par - valued at 100 if purchased at a “de minimis” discount or premium. The selection can have a tremendous impact on the bottom line rebate liability. BLX evaluates the merits of these three valuation methods on a case-by-case basis.

How? BLX performed an allocation and valuation analysis for a large electric authority in Georgia that resulted in approximately \$2.5 million in arbitrage rebate payment savings. In addition, we analyzed the investment holdings of a large California school district and performed an allocation analysis which eliminated a \$695,000 rebate liability.

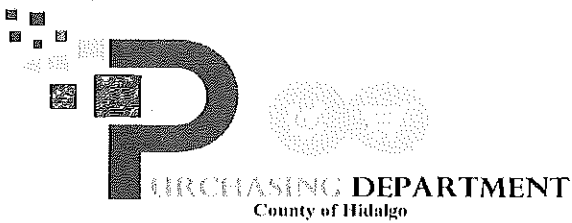
VARIABLE RATE BONDS, QUALIFIED GUARANTEES, AND DERIVATIVES: Variable rate bond yield calculations are more complex than fixed rate analyses; instead of determining the yield over the life of the issue using the

How? BLX has saved our clients millions of dollars as a result of variable rate bond yield optimization. The bond yield is an important benchmark, and we recognize that it's in your best interest for us to capture all eligible outlays in determining it.

expected debt service, the yield is determined using actual payments for a specific time period. The flexibility to use different combinations of yield periods in determining bond yields allows us to optimize your rebate liability by comparing the bond yield and the investment yield for “slices” of the computation period. In addition, qualified guarantees and derivatives (such as interest rate swaps and caps) add another layer of complexity. We are experienced in the review of the associated closing documents to validate the inclusion of qualified guarantee fees and qualified hedge transactions. While we boast an active derivative advisory practice and are well versed in the proper amortization of upfront qualified guarantee and hedge termination fees, BLX professionals work closely with Orrick tax attorneys to ensure that the treatment of each letter of credit and derivative is based on solid legal reasoning and analysis.

UNIVERSAL CAP PROVISIONS: The Universal Cap provisions state that, starting (at the latest) with the end of the first bond year that follows the second anniversary, the balance of proceeds allocated to a bond issue for arbitrage rebate purposes must not exceed the value of the outstanding bonds. A legally accurate and economically optimal application of the Universal Cap provisions is one of the most important areas requiring methodological discretion in order to achieve the most favorable result.

How? BLX obtained a \$1.2 million arbitrage rebate refund from the IRS for a large city in Washington. The bond issues in question utilized a common reserve structure, and a prior rebate provider had missed a requirement to apply the universal cap provision which had a beneficial impact for the city. BLX consultants worked closely with IRS representatives, undertook the complex and lengthy re-allocation analysis, arrived at a final result \$1.2 million lower than amounts previously paid, and subsequently obtained the refunds for the issuer.



2802 S. Bus. Hwy 281
Edinburg, Texas 78539
Phone: (956) 318-2626
Fax: (956) 318-2629
www.co.hidalgo.tx.us/purchasing

May 28, 2019

Bidder's name

Address

City

State, Zip Code

**RE: HIDALGO COUNTY
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS-"ARBITRAGE CALCULATION SERVICES"
RFQ NO: 2019-109-06-12-YZV**

Dear Ladies/Gentlemen:

Enclosed, please find the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) packet for your consideration. Careful review is required as the packets have been modified to reflect new requirements and changes within Hidalgo County.

Hidalgo County Purchasing Department welcomes and appreciates your participation in the RFQ process.

If assistance is required, please do not hesitate to call the Purchasing Department (956) 318-2626 ext. 4881.

Sincerely,

Martha L. Salazar, CPPB
Hidalgo County Purchasing Agent

MLS/yzv
Enclosures



2802 S. Bus. Hwy 281
 Edinburg, Texas 78539
 Phone: (956) 318-2626
 Fax: (956) 318-2629
www.co.hidalgo.tx.us/purchasing

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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)
HIDALGO COUNTY/H.C. DRAINAGE DISTRICT #1
“ARBITRAGE CALCULATION SERVICES”
 RFQ No.: 2019-109-06-12-YZV

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	No. OF PAGES
1.	Request For Proposal Letter	1
2.	Request For Proposal Bid, Legal Notice	10
3.	Exhibit A, Services/Requirements	7
4.	Exhibit B, Evaluation Criteria Forms	1
5.	Exhibit C, Insurance Requirements	4
6.	Exhibit D, (CIQ) Conflict of Interest Questionnaire (if applicable)	2
7.	Exhibit E, Vendor/Bidder Application and W-9 forms(s)	8
8.	Exhibit F, Certification Regarding Debarment	1
9.	Exhibit G, Title VI Appendices “A” through “E”	6
10.	Exhibit H, Required Contract Clauses for Contracts Under Federal Award (if applicable)	15
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13.	Draft Service Contract	9
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The above-mentioned items shall be found in this Request for Proposal packet that is attached herewith. Should you find that any of the listed items are not attached in its entirety, please contact Purchasing by calling (956) 318-2626 or e-mail, to advise us of the missing documentation, and Purchasing will forward information either through facsimile, email or by U. S. Mail.



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)

HIDALGO COUNTY & HIDALGO COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT No. 1
Edinburg, Texas

“Arbitrage Calculation Services”

RFQ NO: 2019-109-06-12-YZV

Acceptance Due Date: **JUNE 12, 2019**

Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department

Contact Person:

Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
2802 S. Hwy Business 281-Administration Bldg.
Edinburg, Texas 78539 78539

1. Sealed qualifications will be received for "**Arbitrage Calculation Services-Hidalgo County and Hidalgo County Drainage District #1**", in accordance with the requirements attached hereto as Exhibit "A". Qualifications should address all requirements set forth. Respondents (may also be referred to as bidder, contractor or vendor) may suggest substitutions of features which they feel would be in the best interest of Hidalgo County ("County"), however, a strong rationale must be presented for any deviation from the requirements. Hidalgo County reserves the right to reject the deviation and its effect on the overall qualifications.
2. **One (1) original (pages one-sided – clearly marked ORIGINAL), two (2) copies** of all qualifications and **three (3) CD/USB in PDF format** are required with the respondent's name and address clearly typed/printed on upper left-hand corner and the proper notation clearly typed/printed on the lower left-hand corner of the envelope and/or package, **RFQ: 2019-109-06-12-YVZ Hidalgo County and Hidalgo County Drainage District #1**", and in County's Purchasing Department, Physical Location: 2802 S. Business Hwy. 281 Postal/ Mailing: 2812 S. Business Hwy. 281 Administration Building, Edinburg, Texas, **ON OR BEFORE 9:30 A.M., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2019.**

NO FACSIMILES OR LATE ARRIVALS WILL BE ACCEPTED. ANY QUALIFICATION RECEIVED AFTER THAT TIME WILL NOT BE OPENED AND WILL BE RETURNED. OVERNIGHT MAIL MUST ALSO BE PROPERLY LABELED ON THE OUTSIDE OF EXPRESS ENVELOPE AND/OR PACKAGE IN REFERENCE TO QUALIFICATION.

Hidalgo County and Hidalgo County Drainage District #1 reserves the right to refuse and reject any/all qualifications and to waive any/all formalities or technicalities or to accept the RFQ considered the best and most advantageous to Hidalgo County and Drainage District.

Additionally, all forms listed below must be properly executed and included with your RFQ:

1. Legal Notice (See **page11**);
 2. Insurance pages with Acknowledgment Forms (See **Exhibit "C"**);
 3. Form CIQ-Conflict of Interest Questionnaire (See **Exhibit "D"**);
 4. Vendor Bidder Application & W-9 forms (See **Exhibit "E"**);
 5. Certification Regarding Debarment (See **Exhibit "F"**);
 6. (If applicable) - Required Contract Clauses for Contracts Under Federal Award – 2 CFR 200, Appendix II & FEMA (See **Exhibit "H"**);
 7. Proposer's Affidavit (See **Exhibit "J"**); and
 8. SAMS.gov Registration Acknowledgement (See **Number 17** below).
3. Hidalgo County reserves the right to separate and accept or eliminate any item(s) listed under this qualification that it deems necessary to accommodate budgetary and/or operational requirements. Hidalgo County also reserves the right to reject any or all qualifications submitted and further reserves the right to design the evaluation criteria to be used in selecting the lowest and best qualification for approval. Receipt of any qualification shall under no circumstances obligate County to accept the lowest dollar qualification. The award of this contract shall be made to the responsible offeror whose qualification is determined to be the best-evaluated offer resulting from negotiation, taking into consideration the relative importance of price and other evaluation factors as herein set forth.
 4. Failure of the delivered item to perform as specified or failure to meet the stated delivery schedule shall release Hidalgo County from all obligations to the contracting party with regard to the item(s) in question. In such event, County may elect to award the contract to the next-lowest responsible respondent or to reject all qualifications and re-advertise.
 5. For work to be performed at a County owned or operated location, each respondent shall, in its sole discretion, visit the job site before preparing the qualification and thoroughly familiarize himself/herself with existing conditions. Respondent should take field dimensions and note all circumstances which affect the dollar amount of the qualification.
 6. Descriptive specifications are referenced in this document to indicate the general kind and quality of equipment desired by Hidalgo County. Due to various styles and models of equipment, respondents are required to include illustrations,

specifications, explanation of warranties, and service data with their qualification including catalog numbers and any necessary references.

7. Proposed prices are to remain firm for a minimum of ninety (90) days after priced qualification opening.
8. County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all qualifications.
9. Any interpretations, amendments, corrections or changes to this qualification document must be in a written addendum and signed by the County Judge or his designee. Addenda will be mailed to all who are known to have received a copy of the Request for Qualifications. Respondents shall acknowledge receipt of all addenda as a part of their qualification.
10. Costs are to be net F.O.B., County Prepaid.
11. The county is exempt from Federal Excise Tax, State Tax, and Local Tax. DO NOT include tax in cost figure. If it is determined that tax was included in the cost figure it will not be included in the tabulation of any awards. Tax exemption certificates will be furnished upon request.
12. Funds for this procurement have been provided through the County budget for this fiscal year only. County, on an annual basis, has the right to reconsider a contract during the budget process for ensuing years if financial resources of County are insufficient to meet the liabilities of said contract. The award of a qualification or contract hereunder will not be construed to create a debt of the County which is payable out of funds beyond the current fiscal year.
13. **DELIVERY INSTRUCTIONS:**
 - No deliveries accepted after 3:00 P.M., Monday-Friday (if applicable).
 - At least seventy-two (72) hours prior notice of delivery must (if applicable) be given to Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent before delivery will be accepted.
 - If you need additional information call the office listed below:

Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent
(956) 318-2626

14. **BILLING AND PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS:**

- Invoices must include:
 - a) Name and address of successful respondent
 - b) Name and address of receiving department or official
 - c) Purchase Order Number and Contract number (if any)
 - d) Notation - **"Hidalgo County & Hidalgo County Drainage District #1- RFQ: 2019-109-06-12-YZV
"Arbitrage Calculation Services"**,
 - e) Descriptive information as to the items or services delivered, including product code, item number, quantity, etc.
- Discount payments will be considered when offered.
- Contact person for Billing and Payment questions:

HIDALGO COUNTY AUDITOR'S OFFICE
Postal/Mailing 2808 S. Business Hwy. 281

Edinburg, Texas 78539
956-318-2511

HIDALGO COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT #1

Postal/Mailing 902 North Doolittle Road
Edinburg, Texas 78542
956-292-7080

15. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Qualification Opening, 9:30 A.M.	June 12, 2019
Award of Contract:	2019
Commence Work or Deliver Products:	2019

16. HIDALGO COUNTY HOLIDAYS:

2019 YEAR	
New Year's Day	01/01/19
Martin Luther King Day	01/21/19
President's Day	02/18/19
Good Friday	04/19/19
Memorial Day	05/27/19
Independence Day	07/04/19
Labor Day	09/02/19
Columbus Day	10/14/19
Veteran's Day	11/11/19
Thanksgiving Day	11/28/19-11/29/19
Christmas Day	12/24/19-12/25/19
New Year's Eve	12/31/19

17. BID OR PERFORMANCE BOND AND DEBARMENT CERTIFICATION; PAYMENT UNDER CONTRACT:

- If the contract proposed is for the construction of public works or is for a contract for goods and services exceeding \$100,000, all bidders shall furnish a good and sufficient bid bond in the amount of five percent of the total contract price. A bid bond must be executed by a surety company authorized to do business in Texas.
- Together with the signing of a contract or issuance of a purchase order following the acceptance of qualification, and prior to the commencement of the actual work, the respondent shall furnish a performance bond to the County for the full amount of the contract, if that contract exceeds \$50,000.
- 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.
- If a contract is for the construction, alteration or repair of public buildings or public works, the contractor shall provide a payment bond for a contract in excess of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), as required by Tex. Govt. Code Ch. 2253.

- For requirements contracts, bond requirements are determined by applying the proposed unit price to the estimated quantities included in the specifications.
- All respondents are also required to furnish a certification or acknowledgment stating that the contractor or vendor is free from suspension or debarment pursuant to federal regulation 45CFR76. Register at SAMs System for Award Management @ www.sam.gov.

18. TITLE VI NOTICE/ NONDISCRIMINATION

- a) By submitting a bid, the bidder certifies that it will comply with the following nondiscrimination statutes and their implementing regulations. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended (78 Stat.252, 42 U.S.C. §§2000d to 2000d-4) provides that no person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which the Recipient receives Federal financial assistance. Title VI has been broadened by related statutes, regulations and executive orders as found in Appendices "A" through "E" as delineated in the USDOT Standard Title VI/Non-Discrimination Assurances-Specific Assurances to prohibit discrimination on other grounds including, but not limited to, religion, sex, age, and disability. (Title VI-Appendices "A" through "E") are hereby attached as **Exhibit "G"**. The County's entire Title VI policy may be found at <https://www.hidalgocounty.us/2071/Title-VINondiscrimination-Plan> and is hereby incorporated by reference.
- b) The following required statement and the applicable provisions of the Title VI Appendices "A" through "E" expanding these protections to the categories described herein are hereby incorporated by reference as applicable.
 - "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 bidders 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".
- c) The bidder will attach all applicable notices, including those referenced in Title VI – Appendices "A" through "E", to which it is obligated to provide or submit as part of the bid.
 - If applicable, Form FHWA 1273 – "*Required Contract Provisions Federal-Aid Construction Contracts*", must be physically attached to certain Federal-aid construction contracts. A contractor (or subcontractor) is required to insert Form FHWA 1273 in each subcontract and all lower tier subcontracts. Form FHWA 1273 is attached as **Exhibit "I"**, and, if applicable, its provisions are incorporated in and made part of the contract entered into between the County and the successful respondent related to the present procurement.

19) ETHICAL STANDARDS:

- 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 qualification 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.

- No public official shall have an interest in a contract awarded hereunder except in accordance with Tex. Loc. Govt. Code Chapter 171.

- **NOTICE:**

ALL COMMUNICATIONS BY A VENDOR TO THE COUNTY, ITS OFFICIALS, AND DEPARTMENT HEADS REGARDING THIS PROCUREMENT SHALL BE DONE THROUGH THE HIDALGO COUNTY PURCHASING DEPARTMENT.

No vendor, its representative, agent, or employee shall engage in private communication with a member of the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court or county department heads regarding any procurement of goods or services by the County from the date that the bid, RFP, or RFQ is released. No private communication regarding the purchase shall be permitted until the procurement process is complete and a purchase order is granted or a contract is entered into. Members of the commissioner's court are required to make a reasonable effort to inform themselves regarding potential procurements and have a duty to inquire of vendors, their representatives or employees, the nature of any private communication being sought prior to engaging in any communication. "Private Communication" means communication with any vendor outside of a posted meeting of the governing body, a regular meeting of a standing or appointed committee, or negotiation with a vendor which has been specifically authorized by the governing body.

19. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Effective January 1, 2016, Chapter 176 of the Texas Local Government Code requires that any vendor, person, consultant or contractor considering doing business with Hidalgo County ("the County") to disclose in the Conflict of Interest Questionnaire (the "CIQ") attached as Exhibit "D", the vendor, person, consultant or contractor's affiliation or business relationship that might cause a conflict of interest with the County. By law, the CIQ must be filed with the Hidalgo County Clerk's Office no later than the seventh business day after the date the person becomes aware of facts that require the statement to be filed. The disclosure requirement applies to a person or business that contracts or seeks to contract with Hidalgo County for the sale or purchase of property, goods or service. Any purchase order or contract resulting from this process shall be considered null and void if the successful respondent fails to comply with the Texas Local Government Code Chapter 176. Vendors, consultants, contractors and others who desire to conduct business with Hidalgo County are encouraged to refer to Texas Local Government Code Chapter 176 for details of this law. An offense under Texas Local Government Code Chapter 176 is a Class C Misdemeanor.

If applicable, completed Form CIQ must be submitted to the Hidalgo County Clerk's Office located at 100 N. Clossner, Edinburg, Texas 78539 - Hidalgo County Courthouse.

COMPLETION AND SUBMISSION OF FORM CIQ IS THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PROSPECTIVE RESPONDENT. QUESTIONS REGARDING COMPLIANCE SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO YOUR LEGAL COUNSEL.

20. CERTIFICATE OF INTERESTED PARTIES (FORM HB1295)

As of January 1, 2016, to comply with Texas Government Code Section §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, we have updated and revised our RFQ packet. In accordance with these requirements, a business must submit a completed Certificate of Interested Parties Form 1295 to the County before the County may enter into a contract with the business entity. In box 3 of Form 1295, you will provide the RFQ No. 2019-109-06-12-YZV, as shown on the packet. Once completed and filed with the Texas Ethics Commission, Form 1295 must be printed, signed, and submitted to our office via email to yolanda.velasquez@co.hidalgo.tx.us. Hidalgo County cannot enter into a contract until Form 1295 is submitted. Therefore, failure to timely submit signed Form 1295 may result in a delay of the award. Full instructions for completion and submittal of Form 1295 may be found on the Texas Ethics Commission website:

<https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/tec/1295-Info.htm>

THE AWARDED VENDOR WILL HAVE THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE DATE THE HIDALGO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' COURT APPROVES THIS AGREEMENT TO SUBMIT THE SIGNED NOTARIZED FORM 1295. HIDALGO COUNTY CANNOT ENTER INTO A CONTRACT UNTIL FORM 1295 IS SUBMITTED.

21. If during the life of any contract, or qualification awarded, the successful respondents' 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 County.
22. Qualifications and all goods and services provided thereunder shall comply with all federal, state and local laws concerning this type(s) of goods and/or services.
23. Minimum Standards for Responsible Prospective Respondents: A prospective respondent must affirmatively demonstrate the respondent's responsibility. A prospective respondent, by submitting a qualification, represents to County that it meets the following requirements:
 - Possess or is able to obtain adequate financial resources as required to perform under the qualification;
 - Be able to comply with the required or proposed delivery schedule;
 - Have a satisfactory record of performance;
 - Have a satisfactory record of integrity and ethics; and
 - Be otherwise qualified and eligible to receive an award.
24. Successful respondent will pay or cause to be paid, without cost or expenses to County, all FICA, FUTA/SUTA and Federal Income Withholding Taxes of all employees, and all wages and benefits as required by Federal or State law. Successful respondents' officers, agents, and/or employees will not be entitled to any benefits of an employee or elected official of County, including, but not limited to, benefits associated with County's civil service system.
25. Any 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 County with thirty (30) days written notice prior to cancellation.
26. County reserves the right to enforce performance of any contract awarded hereunder in any manner prescribed by law or deemed to be in the best interest of the County. County reserves the right to terminate the contract immediately in the event of breach or default by a successful respondent, or in the event, a successful respondent fails to:
 - A. Meet schedules;
 - B. Pay any required fees or taxes; or
 - C. Otherwise, perform in accordance with the requirements.
27. Successful respondent shall defend, indemnify and save harmless County and all its elected officials, officers, agents and employees 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 on account of any negligent act or fault of the successful respondent, or of any agent, employee, subcontractor or supplier in the execution of, or performance under, any contract which may result from qualification award. Successful respondent indemnifies and will indemnify and save harmless County from liability, claim or demand on their part, agents, servants, customers, and/or employees whether such liability, claim, or demand arises from event or casualty happening on or within the occupied premises themselves or happening upon or in any of the halls, elevators, entrances, stairways or approaches to the facilities within which the occupied premises are located. Successful respondent shall pay any judgment with costs which may be obtained against county growing out of

such injury or damages, and shall, upon request, provide a defense to County by counsel reasonably acceptable to County. Successful respondents' 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 or services provided by the successful respondent.

28. 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 Request for Qualifications shall be subject to County approval. Items found to be defective or not meeting specifications shall be replaced by the successful respondent within two (2) business days at no expense to County. Items that are not picked up within one (1) week after notification shall be deemed a donation to County and may be used or disposed of at County's discretion and without waiver of any other rights of County as to the items' nonconformity.
29. This document and any disputes arising hereunder shall be governed and construed according to the laws of the State of Texas and will be performable exclusively in Hidalgo County, Texas.
30. The successful respondent shall not assign, sell, transfer or convey its rights under any awarded contract, in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of County.
31. Respondents shall provide with the qualification response, a list of at least three (3) references where like services have been supplied by their firm. Include the name of the business or government, address, telephone number and the name of the representative or contact person.
32. CONTRACTS SUBJECT TO FEDERAL AWARD:
 - The procurement standards of 2 CFR, Part 200, including, but not limited to 2 CFR 200.317-200.326, and applicable Hidalgo County Purchasing Policy (found at <https://www.hidalgocounty.us/805/County-Administrative-Policies>) address the County's requirements, as a non-Federal entity, in regards to contracts it enters into that are subject to federal award. Pursuant to 2 CFR 200.236, the County, as a non-Federal entity, is required to include into contracts subject to federal award, the applicable provisions and contract clauses described in Appendix II to 2 CFR 200, the provisions of Appendix II to 2 CFR 200 and the required contract clauses found in **Exhibit "H"** are incorporated by reference, whether specified explicitly or not, as part of this procurement packet and any resulting agreement.
 - In addition, should the County's contracts under Federal award be subject to assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), FEMA requires the inclusion of contract terms in addition to those under Appendix II to 2 CFR 200. **If applicable**, the additional contract clauses required by FEMA are found in **Exhibit "H"** and incorporated by reference, whether specified explicitly or not, as part of this procurement packet and any resulting agreement. Should the contract be subject to assistance from FEMA, it is the County's intention to comply with FEMA requirements; therefore, any conflict in terms should be resolved as such.
 - **If applicable**, in accordance with 2 CFR 200.319, Contractors that develop or draft specifications, requirements, statements of work, or invitations for bids or requests for proposals must be excluded from competing for such procurements. (See 2 CFR 200.219). Additionally, Hidalgo County policy provides that for federal road projects, engineers, engineering firms, and/or a subsidiary, affiliate, or a consultant of the engineer or engineering firm who has received compensation from the County, that assist in the development of, or draft specifications, requirements, statements of work, or invitations for bids or requests for proposals, will be excluded from competing for such procurements (i.e...subsequent construction engineering/management and/or inspection/testing) for all other phases of the project. (See Hidalgo County Policy: "Procedures for Selection and Contracting of Professional Service Providers for Federal Road Projects" found at <https://www.hidalgocounty.us/805/County-Administrative-Policies>, which, if applicable, is incorporated by reference, whether specified explicitly or not, as part of this procurement packet and any resulting agreement for all purposes).

33. 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. (See **Exhibit "E"** for requirements).

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 sub-contractors 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 business, 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.

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.

34. Respondents must provide all applicable documentation requested with this Qualification in their response. Failure to provide this information may result in rejection of the qualification as non-conforming.

Request for Qualifications
for
HIDALGO COUNTY & HIDALGO COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT #1
“ARBITRAGE CALCULATION SERVICES”
RFQ NO: 2019-109-06-12-YZV

To: Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
Physical Location: 2802 S. Business Hwy. 281
Postal/ Mailing: 2812 S. Business Hwy. 281
Edinburg, Texas 78539

In accordance with the Requirements, and subject to all laws and regulations of the United States and state and local laws, the undersigned respondent proposes and commits to furnish all labor, equipment, material, software, and services as set forth in the documents hereinbefore mentioned. The undersigned further agrees, upon acceptance of its qualification, to execute a contract and/or Purchase Order issued by Hidalgo County for performing and completing the work described in the Requirements within the time stated and for the prices proposed in the documents attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Respondent acknowledges receipt of all of the pages of the documents referenced in the Request for Qualification Table of Contents presented in connection with this procurement. Respondent understands that Hidalgo County reserves the right to reject any or all qualifications and further reserves the right to design the evaluation criteria to be used in selecting the lowest and best qualification.

Respondent agrees that this qualification shall be good and may not be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) calendar days after the scheduled closing time for receiving qualifications, as contained in the Requirements.

Respectfully submitted,

Firm: _____
Address: _____
By: _____
Printed Name: _____
Title: _____

EXHIBIT A
REQUIREMENTS

**HIDALGO COUNTY and
HIDALGO COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 1
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS**

**"ARBITRAGE CALCULATION SERVICES"
RFQ NO:2019-109-06-12-YZV**

Hidalgo County is inviting statements of qualifications from qualified arbitrage firms to provide arbitrage calculation services. The County of Hidalgo is seeking to enter into an arbitrage calculation services contract(s) with a qualified state-(Texas) arbitrage consulting firm(s). The Hidalgo County Purchasing Department will receive sealed envelopes containing Statements of Qualifications for the provision of **"HIDALGO COUNTY-ARBITRAGE CALCULATION SERVICES REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS"** as specified herein. Statements of Qualifications will be accepted until **9:30 A.M. JUNE 12, 2019**. **ANY RFQ RECEIVED AFTER THAT DATE AND TIME WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AND WILL BE RETURNED UNOPENED.**

The Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1 Board of Director's may, at their option, utilize the **"ARBITRAGE CALCULATION SERVICES"** selected by Hidalgo County for Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1. Should the Board of Directors of Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1 decide the firm selected as the Provider is the same as the one selected by Hidalgo County, the Provider shall offer Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1 the same terms and provisions as it offers Hidalgo County.

Deliver Submittal to:
Hidalgo County Administration Building-Purchasing Department
Attn: Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, H.C. Purchasing Agent

RFQ NO: 2019-109-06-00-YZV

US Postal Mail Address: 2812 S. Business Hwy 281, Edinburg, Texas 78539

Physical Address: 2802 S. Business Hwy. 281, Edinburg, Texas 78539

The Submittal Envelope Must Show the RFQ Number, Name and Acceptance Date.

The following outlines the Request For Qualifications:

SECTION I GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Hidalgo County is requesting that statements of qualifications be routed to Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent, with a **Physical location of:** 2802 So. Business Hwy 281, **(Southeast Corner of Canton & Business Highway 281)** H.C. Administration Building, Edinburg, Texas, 78539.

WRITTEN QUESTIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED VIA EMAIL: [yolanda.velasquez@co.hidalgo.tx.us](mailto: yolanda.velasquez@co.hidalgo.tx.us) **BY NO LATER THAN Tuesday, June 04, 2019, at 5:00 P.M.** at (956) 318-2629. Responses will be sent to all applicants via facsimile or email by **Thursday, June 06, 2019, at 5:00 P.M.** **TELEPHONE INQUIRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

PROPOSER'S AFFIDAVIT:

Prior to Contract award, respondents to this RFQ must submit a signed Proposer's Affidavit (attached herein as **Exhibit E**) stating that the submission is (1) not the result of Collusion as described in the Proposer's Affidavit, (2) that the Respondent does not have a Conflict of Interest as described in the Proposer's, Affidavit or that the Respondent has not and will not attempt to lobby directly or indirectly as described in the Proposer's Affidavit.

NON-COLLUSION:

Submitters, by submitting a signed submission, certify that the accompanying submission is not the result of, or affected by, any unlawful act of collusion with any other person or company engaged in the same line of business or commerce, or any other fraudulent act punishable under Texas or United States law.

NON-DISCRIMINATION:

Submitters, during the performance of this contract, will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, religion, sex, national origin or disability except where religion, sex, national origin or disability is a bona fide occupational qualification reasonably necessary to the normal operation of the contractor.

PROCESSING TIME FOR PAYMENT:

Submitters are advised that a minimum of thirty (30) days is required to process invoices for payment.

ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION OF BIDS:

Hidalgo County's Purchasing Department will not accept telegraphic or electronically transmitted submissions.

PROOF OF FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS CAPABILITY:

Submitters must, upon request, furnish satisfactory evidence of their ability to furnish products or services in accordance with the terms and conditions of these requirements. Hidalgo County will make the final determination as to the submitter's ability.

SUBMITTER DEFAULT:

Hidalgo County reserves the right, in case of submitter default, to procure the articles or services from other sources and hold the defaulting submitter responsible for any excess costs occasioned thereby.

RESTRICTIVE OR AMBIGUOUS REQUIREMENTS:

It is the responsibility of the submitter to review the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) packet and to notify the Purchasing Department if the requirements are formulated in a manner that would unnecessarily restrict competition. Any such protest or question regarding the requirements or bidding procedures must be received in the Purchasing Department not less than seventy-two hours prior to the time set for the opening. These criteria also apply to requirements that are ambiguous.

RFO DELIVERY: Hidalgo County requires submitters, when hand delivering qualifications, to make sure that it is stamped with date and time by the County Purchasing Department staff.

SIGNING OF QUALIFICATIONS:

In order to be considered, all submittals **must** be signed. **Please sign the original in blue ink.**

WAIVING OF INFORMALITIES:

Hidalgo County reserves the right to waive minor informalities or technicalities when it is in the best interest of Hidalgo County.

SUBCONTRACTING:

The successful submitter may not subcontract the award without the written consent of the Commissioners' Court of Hidalgo County.

TERM OF CONTRACT:

It is intended that the term of the contract will be for an initial period of one (1) year with the County's option to renew for three (3)-one (1) year terms, under the same rates, terms and conditions.

Hidalgo County reserves the right to continue this agreement for an additional sixty (60) day grace period at the end of the agreement for unforeseen delay in award of the new request for qualifications.

All costs and expenses associated with the preparation and submission of (bids, proposals, qualifications and/or quotes) shall be the responsibility of the submitter and no reimbursement for such charges or expenses shall be passed onto Hidalgo County.

DAVIS BACON ACT: (IF APPLICABLE)

All selected and awarded firms are required to include the Davis-Bacon Act when advertising and developing specifications.

SECTION II RFQ REQUIREMENTS

Request For Qualifications:

The required contents and limitations for the preparation of the RFQ are described in this section. Failure to provide the requested information or adhere to any County limitations will result in disqualification of the submitted RFQ.

Number Of Copies To Be Submitted

A total of **one (1) original, two (2) copies and three (3) USB's in PDF Format** of the RFQ shall be submitted to the address on the cover letter.

Contents:

The required contents for the RFQ are presented below in the order they should be incorporated into the submitted document.

Understanding of the Project:

This section should demonstrate the submitter's understanding of the project needs, the work required, and any local issues or concerns. This description should be concise, candid, and limited to 3 pages in length.

Firm(s) Qualifications:

The County of Hidalgo is seeking to contract with a competent firm(s), registered and licensed to practice in the State of Texas, that has/have had experience in, but not limited to, the following areas:

- Qualified firm must have a minimum of five (5) years experience with arbitrage rebate compliance services;
- Qualified firm must have an office located in Texas;
- A description of the firm's personnel and their most recent similar projects.
- A minimum of at least five (5) such projects with federal, state or local governments in the past three (3) years.
- A minimum of three (3) client references for whom the same type work was performed. References must include name, address, telephone number, date and project description.

Additionally, this section should include a description of the firm's project personnel and their most recent similar projects. For each project, a client contract name and phone number should be included for reference purposes. Additionally, the names of the personnel proposed for this project who participated in the listed projects should be provided. This project list is limited to 5 pages.

Personnel and Staffing:

The participant should provide an organizational chart for the project and a summary paragraph of the project work to be performed by each proposed staff member. Biographic summaries that highlight the experience relevant to the specific project responsibilities should be provided for all proposed personnel. There is a one (1) page limitation for each biographic summary provided.

Required Certifications and Submittal:

This section will contain any licenses and certifications as required by Hidalgo County, the State of Texas, etc. The firm(s) should add copies of their Professional Liability Insurance. Hidalgo County requires limits as described and detailed in Exhibit "C"-Insurance Requirements contained herein

SCOPE OF SERVICES:

The firm selected will be required to perform arbitrage calculations for the Hidalgo County and Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1 current certificates of obligation issues and any new issues that may be added during the term of the contract.

Hidalgo County's outstanding issues currently include:

ISSUANCE OUTSTANDING	PRINCIPAL
1. Certificates of Obligation, Taxable Series 2009C (BABs)	\$ 7,625,000.00
2. Certificates of Obligation, Series 2010A	\$ 1,305,000.00
3. Certificates of Obligation, Taxable Series 2010B(BABs)	\$17,785,000.00
4. Limited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2014A	\$ 1,045,000.00
5. Limited Tax Refunding Bonds, Taxable Series 2014B	\$ 5,175,000.00
6. Certificates of Obligation, Series 2014	\$18,780,000.00
7. Limited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2014C	\$19,200,000.00
8. Tax Notes, Series 2014	\$ 1,195,000.00
9. Certificates of Obligation, Series 2015A	\$15,635,000.00
10. Limited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2015B	\$14,760,000.00
11. Limited Tax Refunding Bonds, Taxable Series 2015C	\$12,270,000.00
12. Certificates of Obligation, Series 2016	\$31,670,000.00
13. Certificates of Obligation, Series 2017	\$27,745,000.00
14. Certificates of Obligation, Series 2018A	\$118,890,000.00
15. Certificates of Obligation, Series 2018B	\$24,690,000.00
16. Limited Tax Refunding Bonds, Taxable Series 2018C	\$23,200,000.00
	\$340,970,000.00

Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1 outstanding issues currently include:

ISSUANCE OUTSTANDING	PRINCIPAL
1. Unlimited Tax Improvement Bonds, Series 2013	\$56,640,000.00
2. Unlimited Tax Improvement Bonds, Series 2014	\$ 7,665,000.00
3. Refunding Bond 2016	\$49,405,000.00
4. Unlimited Tax Refunding Bonds, Series 2018	\$ 6,095,000.00
	\$119,805,000.00

1. Arbitrage Compliance Program

Firm will establish a program to ensure Hidalgo County and Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1 are in compliance with all arbitrage rebate requirements contained in Section 148 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (as revised) and related Treasury Regulations. As part of this compliance program the Firm will serve as a resource to all parties involved, explaining the requirements of the Code and Regulations and providing practical solutions to problems as they occur. The Firm will provide constant interaction with the County and the Drainage District and provide the following additional services:

- Assist the County and the Drainage District in understanding the computational and reporting requirements of the Code and Regulations as they currently exist and facilitate their understanding of changes as they occur.
- Be knowledgeable of the rules regarding expiration of temporary periods and be prepared to assist County and the Drainage District in monitoring yield-restricted funds, which may be invested.
- Assist the County and the Drainage District, on a rebate installment date, in evaluating whether a full or partial payment of the rebate liability should be paid.

2. Computational Requirements

Firm will compute the arbitrage rebate that is most advantageous to Hidalgo County and Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1 using computational methods that comply with arbitrage regulations.

- Review all applicable bond documents including tax or arbitrage certificate, official statement and other related documents.
- Compute the arbitrage yield on the bonds in accordance with the regulations and revise such computations in the event that events occur subsequent to delivery of the bonds, which would require re-computation.
- Identify, and separately account for, all "Gross Proceeds" (as last term is defined in the Treasury Regulations) of the bond issue, including those requiring allocation analyses due to "transferred proceeds" and/or "commingled funds" circumstances.
- Obtain the necessary information related to investments, including expenditure detail; or investment detail; and/or interest earnings.
- Compute the yield on the earnings of the gross proceeds of the issue.
- Firm must be familiar with all of the various regulations to determine which regulations to apply in order to compute the lowest lawful arbitrage liability amount.
- Perform computations of rebatable arbitrage at least once every five years and as of the date all bonds of the issue are retired.
- Provide an executive summary and opinion identifying the methodology employed, major assumptions, conclusions, and any recommendations for changes in record keeping and investment policy. The opinion provided must state that all work performed is consistent with Federal Tax Law and other applicable law.

3. Internal Revenue Service Reporting Requirements

Firm will serve as the interface between the County and/or the Drainage District and the Internal Revenue Service. Firm must be knowledgeable of the reporting and documentation requirements associated with compliance of the arbitrage rules and perform the following duties:

- Complete Internal Revenue Service Form 8038-T and any other necessary reports so that only a signature is required prior to filing on either an installment computation date or final installment date.
- Provide a written report supporting the computations to the County and the Drainage District.
- Determine the correction amount and the penalties associated with any installment failure as required.
- Assist in applying for permitted refunds for certain overpayments in the event the County and the Drainage District overpays the amount of rebatable arbitrage for an issue.
- Maintain complete records supporting the computations of rebatable arbitrage for a period of not less than six years after the final maturity of all bonds of an issue.
- Assist the County and the Drainage District, as necessary, in responding to any inquiries or audits by the Internal Revenue Service related to the computations performed by the rebate calculation agent.
- Maintain a tickler system, which monitors critical deadlines, calculation due dates, rebate exception dates, and expiration of temporary periods.

PARTICIPANTS ARE NOT TO PROVIDE A FEE SCHEDULE AT THIS TIME WITH THIS SUBMITTAL: The fee will be negotiated based on the scope of work and services.

PART III-SELECTION AND SCHEDULES

SELECTION PROCEDURES/EVALUATION SYSTEM:

The evaluation consists of a 100-point scoring system. However, after the 100-point evaluation, Hidalgo County Commissioner's Court may elect to narrow the participating firms by requesting a presentation from a representative of each firm.

- A. Hidalgo County Commissioner's Court and/or an Evaluation Committee (selected and/or designated by Commissioner's Court) will review, score and evaluate the written Statements of Qualifications (SOQ's) received in response to this Hidalgo County request for qualifications.
- B. After the SOQ's have been reviewed, scored and evaluated, a grid will be presented to Commissioner's Court for the purposes of ranking.

Categories are further detailed in the Selection Criteria (Exhibit B) section of the RFQ.

NEGOTIATION PROCESS: The number one ranked firm will be contacted to submit a letter of engagement/contract for negotiations. If negotiations prove unsuccessful, Commissioner's Court will terminate negotiations with the firm and will contact the next highest ranked firm to open negotiations. The County of Hidalgo reserves the right to reject any and all RFQ's.

TERMINATION OF SERVICES: Any contract awarded to a qualified firm will be in effect until (a) the contract expires or (b) performance of all services are completed, or (c) terminated by County with or without cause, with thirty (30) day's written notice prior to cancellation.

EXHIBIT "B"
RFQ EVALUATION FORM
"ARBITRAGE CALCULATION SERVICES"
RFQ 2019-109-06-12-YZV

<u>Selection Criteria</u>	<u>Minimum Points</u>	<u>Score</u>
1. FIRMS EXPERIENCE	25 PTS	0 - 25
Experience in Arbitrage consulting and compliance related to municipal bond issues		
Comments/Rationale for points:	TOTAL:	_____
2. FIRM'S ORGANIZATION	25 PTS	0 - 25
Organization, size, and structure of firm (i.e., adequate firm resources dedicated to arbitrage consulting and compliance services)		
Comments/Rationale for points:	TOTAL:	_____
3. FIRM'S QUALIFICATIONS	25 PTS	0 - 25
Qualifications of staff to be assigned (i.e., team members demonstrated ability, years, and type of experience)		
Comments/Rationale for points:	TOTAL:	_____
4. FIRM'S RESPONSIVENESS	25 PTS	0 - 25
Responsiveness of written proposals to the scope of services		
Comments/Rationale for points:	TOTAL:	_____
		TOTAL SCORE:

Firm: _____

Evaluator: _____ Date: _____

EXHIBIT "C"

Insurance Requirements

The proposer awarded the contract shall furnish proof of insurance, which will also include any subcontractor that is subcontracted by the proposer in at least the following limits, to be in place prior to providing any services under this Contract and to continue at all times in force in effect during the term of this Contract:

1. Professional liability insurance policy with limits of at least One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) per occurrence, or limited to claims made, include at least a five (5) year extended reporting period.
2. Automobile liability insurance policy with limits of at least Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000.00) per person and Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) per occurrence. Coverage should include injury to or death of persons and property damage claims with limits up to Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) arising out of the services provided to County hereunder.
3. Uninsured/Underinsured motorist coverage in an amount equal to the bodily injury limits set forth immediately above;
4. A Five Hundred Thousand Dollar (\$500,000.00) Comprehensive General Liability Insurance policy providing additional coverage to all underlying liabilities of County consistent with potential exposure of County under the Texas Tort Claims Act;
5. Workers compensation insurance in amounts established by Texas law, unless the Bidder is specifically exempted from the Texas Workers Compensation Act, Texas Labor Code Chapter 401, et. seq.

Hidalgo County will only accept certificates of insurance on an Acord form (as attached hereto). Certificates of insurance naming County as an additional insured shall be submitted to County for approval prior to any services being performed by Contractor. Each policy of insurance required hereunder shall extend for a period equivalent to, or longer than the term of the Contract, and any insurer hereunder shall be required to give at least thirty (30) days written notice to the County prior to the cancellation of any such coverage on the termination date, or otherwise. This Contract shall be automatically suspended upon the cancellation, or other termination, of any required policy of insurance hereunder, and such suspension shall continue until evidence adequate replacement coverage is provided to County. If replacement coverage is not provided within thirty (30) days following suspension of the Contract, this Contract shall automatically terminate.

ACORD		CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE	DATE (MM/DD/YY)
PRODUCER		THIS CERTIFICATE IS ISSUED AS A MATTER OF INFORMATION ONLY AND CONFERS NO RIGHTS UPON THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER. THIS CERTIFICATE DOES NOT AMEND, EXTEND OR ALTER THE COVERAGE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES BELOW.	
INSURED		INSURERS AFFORDING COVERAGE	
		INSURER A:	
		INSURER B:	
		INSURER C:	
		INSURER D:	
		INSURER E:	

COVERAGES

THE POLICIES OF INSURANCE LISTED BELOW HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO THE INSURED NAMED ABOVE FOR THE POLICY PERIOD INDICATED. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY REQUIREMENT, TERM OR CONDITION OF ANY CONTRACT OR OTHER DOCUMENT WITH RESPECT TO WHICH THIS CERTIFICATE MAY BE ISSUED OR MAY PERTAIN, THE INSURANCE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES DESCRIBED HEREIN IS SUBJECT TO ALL THEIR TERMS, EXCLUSIONS AND CONDITIONS OF SUCH POLICIES. AGGREGATE LIMITS SHOWN MAY HAVE BEEN REDUCED BY PAID CLAIMS.

INSR LTR	TYPE OF INSURANCE	POLICY NUMBER	POLICY EFFECTIVE DATE (MM/DD/YY)	POLICY EXPIRATION DATE (MM/DD/YY)	LIMITS
A	GENERAL LIABILITY				EACH OCCURRENCE \$
	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY				FIRE DAMAGE (Any one fire) \$
	<input type="checkbox"/> CLAIMS MADE OCCUR				MED. (Any one person) \$
	<input type="checkbox"/> OWNER'S & CONT PROT				PER. & ADV INJURY \$
	<input type="checkbox"/> OWNER'S PROTECTIVE LIABILITY				ANNUAL AGGREGATE \$
	<input type="checkbox"/> GEN'L AGGREGATE LIMIT APPLIES PER POLICY PROJECT <input type="checkbox"/> LOC				PRODUCTS - COMP/OP AGG \$
B	AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY				COMBINED SINGLE LIMIT (Ea accident) \$
	<input type="checkbox"/> ANY AUTO				BODILY INJURY (Per person) \$
	<input type="checkbox"/> ALL OWNED AUTOS				BODILY INJURY (Per accident) \$
	<input type="checkbox"/> SCHEDULED AUTOS				PROPERTY DAMAGE (Per accident) \$
	<input type="checkbox"/> HIRED AUTOS				
<input type="checkbox"/> NON-OWNED AUTOS					
	GARAGE LIABILITY				AUTO ONLY-EA ACCIDENT \$
	<input type="checkbox"/> ANY AUTO				OTHER THAN EA ACC \$
					AUTO ONLY AGG \$
C	EXCESS LIABILITY				EACH OCCURRENCE \$
	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUR <input type="checkbox"/> CLAIMS MADE				AGGREGATE \$
	<input type="checkbox"/> DEDUCTIBLE				\$
	<input type="checkbox"/> RETENTION \$				\$
D	WORKERS COMPENSATION AND EMPLOYER'S LIABILITY				WC STATUT. <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER TORY LIMITS
					E.L. EACH ACCIDENT \$
					E.L. DISEASE-EA EMPLOYEE \$
					E.L. DISEASE-POLICY LIMIT \$
	OTHER				

DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS / LOCATION / VEHICLES / EXCLUSIONS ADDED BY ENDORSEMENT / SPECIAL PROVISIONS
 County of Hidalgo shall be named as additional insured on all Commercial General Liability policies.

CERTIFICATE HOLDER	ADDITIONAL INSURED; INSURER LETTER:	CANCELLATION
Hidalgo County Attn: Purchasing Department 2812 S Highway Bus. 281 Edinburg, Texas 78539		SHOULD ANY OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED POLICIES BE CANCELLED BEFORE THE EXPIRATION DATE THEREOF, THE ISSUING INSURER WILL ENDEAVOR TO MAIL <u>30</u> DAYS WRITTEN NOTICE TO THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER NAMED TO THE LEFT, BUT FAILURE TO DO SO SHALL IMPOSE NO OBLIGATION OR LIABILITY OF ANY KIND UPON THE INSURER, ITS AGENTS OR REPRESENTATIVES.
		AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

Insurance Requirement Acknowledgment

I, _____, authorized representative for

Company/Vendor

hereby acknowledge receipt of the County's required insurance limits. Said requirements:

- will be acquired within 10 working days after notification from Purchasing Department of award of project by the Hidalgo County Commissioners= Court;
- will acquire additional amounts required to meet the County's requirements within 10 working days after notification from Purchasing Department of award of project by the Hidalgo County Commissioners= Court; currently carry the following

Professional Liability (Errors & Omissions): \$ _____

Automobile Liability: \$ _____ General Liability: \$ _____

- have already been met, see attached copy of insurance certificate.

Authorized Representative

Date

Notice to Proposer: A certificate of insurance for the required insurance limits shall be provided to the Purchasing Department's Contract Managers in order to qualify for award and to execute a contract between your Company and the County

Failure to provide Certificates of Insurance to the Purchasing Department's Contract Managers will cause the award to be rescinded and re-awarded to next qualified vendor. Certificates of Insurance will be monitored and verified on a **quarterly basis** to ensure coverage policy is in place. It is the Company=s obligation to maintain the appropriate insurance coverage throughout the term of the contract.

THIS FORM MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR PACKET

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This is to certify that I, _____, possess all of the **APPLICABLE:**

1. Licenses: _____
2. Bonds: _____
3. Certificates: _____
4. Permits: _____
5. Other: _____

necessary to carry out the required project. Furthermore, I am providing copies of the required documentation so that, if my company is awarded this project, I may be eligible to enter into a contract with Hidalgo County and proceed to complete the project in a timely manner.

*** Any licenses, bonds, certificates, permit's, etc. which are required must be presented as part of the packet in order to expedite the evaluation process. Failure to provide said documentation will result in the disqualification of your proposal/qualification.**

Authorized Signature

Date

Company

Address

City, State, Zip

CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE
For vendor doing business with local governmental entity

FORM CIQ

This questionnaire reflects changes made to the law by H.B. 23, 84th Leg., Regular Session.

This questionnaire is being filed in accordance with Chapter 176, Local Government Code, by a vendor who has a business relationship as defined by Section 176.001(1-a) with a local governmental entity and the vendor meets requirements under Section 176.006(a).

By law this questionnaire must be filed with the records administrator of the local governmental entity not later than the 7th business day after the date the vendor becomes aware of facts that require the statement to be filed. See Section 176.006(a-1), Local Government Code.

A vendor commits an offense if the vendor knowingly violates Section 176.006, Local Government Code. An offense under this section is a misdemeanor.

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received

1 Name of vendor who has a business relationship with local governmental entity.

2 Check this box if you are filing an update to a previously filed questionnaire. (The law requires that you file an updated completed questionnaire with the appropriate filing authority not later than the 7th business day after the date on which you became aware that the originally filed questionnaire was incomplete or inaccurate.)

3 Name of local government officer about whom the information is being disclosed.

Name of Officer

4 Describe each employment or other business relationship with the local government officer, or a family member of the officer, as described by Section 176.003(a)(2)(A). Also describe any family relationship with the local government officer. Complete subparts A and B for each employment or business relationship described. Attach additional pages to this Form CIQ as necessary.

A. Is the local government officer or a family member of the officer receiving or likely to receive taxable income, other than investment income, from the vendor?

Yes No

B. Is the vendor receiving or likely to receive taxable income, other than investment income, from or at the direction of the local government officer or a family member of the officer AND the taxable income is not received from the local governmental entity?

Yes No

5 Describe each employment or business relationship that the vendor named in Section 1 maintains with a corporation or other business entity with respect to which the local government officer serves as an officer or director, or holds an ownership interest of one percent or more.

6 Check this box if the vendor has given the local government officer or a family member of the officer one or more gifts as described in Section 176.003(a)(2)(B), excluding gifts described in Section 176.003(a-1).

7

Signature of vendor doing business with the governmental entity

Date

CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE
For vendor doing business with local governmental entity

A complete copy of Chapter 176 of the Local Government Code may be found at <http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/LG/htm/LG.176.htm>. For easy reference, below are some of the sections cited on this form.

Local Government Code § 176.001(1-a): "Business relationship" means a connection between two or more parties based on commercial activity of one of the parties. The term does not include a connection based on:

- (A) a transaction that is subject to rate or fee regulation by a federal, state, or local governmental entity or an agency of a federal, state, or local governmental entity;
- (B) a transaction conducted at a price and subject to terms available to the public; or
- (C) a purchase or lease of goods or services from a person that is chartered by a state or federal agency and that is subject to regular examination by, and reporting to, that agency.

Local Government Code § 176.003(a)(2)(A) and (B):

(a) A local government officer shall file a conflicts disclosure statement with respect to a vendor if:

(2) the vendor:

(A) has an employment or other business relationship with the local government officer or a family member of the officer that results in the officer or family member receiving taxable income, other than investment income, that exceeds \$2,500 during the 12-month period preceding the date that the officer becomes aware that

(i) a contract between the local governmental entity and vendor has been executed; or

(ii) the local governmental entity is considering entering into a contract with the vendor;

(B) has given to the local government officer or a family member of the officer one or more gifts that have an aggregate value of more than \$100 in the 12-month period preceding the date the officer becomes aware that:

(i) a contract between the local governmental entity and vendor has been executed; or

(ii) the local governmental entity is considering entering into a contract with the vendor.

Local Government Code § 176.006(a) and (a-1)

(a) A vendor shall file a completed conflict of interest questionnaire if the vendor has a business relationship with a local governmental entity and:

(1) has an employment or other business relationship with a local government officer of that local governmental entity, or a family member of the officer, described by Section 176.003(a)(2)(A);

(2) has given a local government officer of that local governmental entity, or a family member of the officer, one or more gifts with the aggregate value specified by Section 176.003(a)(2)(B), excluding any gift described by Section 176.003(a-1); or

(3) has a family relationship with a local government officer of that local governmental entity.

(a-1) The completed conflict of interest questionnaire must be filed with the appropriate records administrator not later than the seventh business day after the later of:

(1) the date that the vendor:

(A) begins discussions or negotiations to enter into a contract with the local governmental entity; or

(B) submits to the local governmental entity an application, response to a request for proposals or bids, correspondence, or another writing related to a potential contract with the local governmental entity; or

(2) the date the vendor becomes aware:

(A) of an employment or other business relationship with a local government officer, or a family member of the officer, described by Subsection (a);

(B) that the vendor has given one or more gifts described by Subsection (a); or

(C) of a family relationship with a local government officer.

HISTORICALLY UNDERUTILIZED BUSINESS (HUB) DECLARATION

The primary objective of the Hidalgo County HUB Program is to ensure Historically Underutilized Businesses receive a fair and equal opportunity for participation in the County's procurement process. This fact holds true for Services (Professional & Non-Professional), Commodities, and Construction contracts and any subcontracts thereon. The program strongly encourages Prime Contractors to provide subcontracting opportunities to Certified Hub Contractors/Vendors. Our goal for HUB contractor/vendor participation, as well as HUB subcontractor participation is 30%. To be considered as a "Certified HUB Contractor/Vendor" the contractor/vendor must have been certified by, and hold a current and valid certification with any of the three agencies listed below.

Have you been Certified as a HUB or an MBE/WBE source? Yes No

If yes, by whom? Texas Building & Procurement Commission Other _____

Indicate Certification No(s): _____ or Are Certificate(s) Attached? Yes No

LIST OF CERTIFIED HUB SUBCONTRACTORS

(Attach additional pages if necessary)

What percentage of the Bid, RFP, or RFQ is to be subcontracted with Certified HUB sources? _____ %
(List HUB Subcontractor information below).

HUB Subcontractor Name: _____ HUB Status: _____
Certifying Agency (Check all applicable): Texas Building & Procurement Commission other
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Contact Person: _____ Title: _____ Phone No.: () _____
Subcontract Amount: \$ _____ Description of Work to be Performed: _____

HUB Subcontractor Name: _____ HUB Status: _____
Certifying Agency (Check all applicable): Texas Building & Procurement Commission other
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Contact Person: _____ Title: _____ Phone No.: () _____
Subcontract Amount: \$ _____ Description of Work to be Performed: _____

HUB Subcontractor Name: _____ HUB Status: _____
Certifying Agency (Check all applicable): Texas Building & Procurement Commission other
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Contact Person: _____ Title: _____ Phone No.: () _____
Subcontract Amount: \$ _____ Description of Work to be Performed: _____

(THIS PAGE MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH PROPOSAL)

Request for Taxpayer Identification Number and Certification

Give Form to the
requester. Do not
send to the IRS.

▶ Go to www.irs.gov/FormW9 for instructions and the latest information.

Print or type. See Specific Instructions on page 3.	<p>1 Name (as shown on your income tax return). Name is required on this line; do not leave this line blank.</p> <p>2 Business name/disregarded entity name, if different from above</p> <p>3 Check appropriate box for federal tax classification of the person whose name is entered on line 1. Check only one of the following seven boxes.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Individual/sole proprietor or single-member LLC <input type="checkbox"/> C Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> S Corporation <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership <input type="checkbox"/> Trust/estate</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Limited liability company. Enter the tax classification (C=C corporation, S=S corporation, P=Partnership) ▶ _____</p> <p><small>Note: Check the appropriate box in the line above for the tax classification of the single-member owner. Do not check LLC if the LLC is classified as a single-member LLC that is disregarded from the owner unless the owner of the LLC is another LLC that is not disregarded from the owner for U.S. federal tax purposes. Otherwise, a single-member LLC that is disregarded from the owner should check the appropriate box for the tax classification of its owner.</small></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other (see Instructions) ▶ _____</p>	<p>4 Exemptions (codes apply only to certain entities, not individuals; see instructions on page 3):</p> <p>Exempt payee code (if any) _____</p> <p>Exemption from FATCA reporting code (if any) _____</p> <p><small>(Applies to accounts maintained outside the U.S.)</small></p>
	<p>5 Address (number, street, and apt. or suite no.) See instructions.</p> <p>6 City, state, and ZIP code</p> <p>7 List account number(s) here (optional)</p>	<p>Requester's name and address (optional)</p>

Part I Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)

Enter your TIN in the appropriate box. The TIN provided must match the name given on line 1 to avoid backup withholding. For individuals, this is generally your social security number (SSN). However, for a resident alien, sole proprietor, or disregarded entity, see the instructions for Part I, later. For other entities, it is your employer identification number (EIN). If you do not have a number, see *How to get a TIN*, later.

Note: If the account is in more than one name, see the instructions for line 1. Also see *What Name and Number To Give the Requester* for guidelines on whose number to enter.

Social security number								
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or								
Employer identification number								
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Part II Certification

Under penalties of perjury, I certify that:

- The number shown on this form is my correct taxpayer identification number (or I am waiting for a number to be issued to me); and
- I am not subject to backup withholding because: (a) I am exempt from backup withholding, or (b) I have not been notified by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that I am subject to backup withholding as a result of a failure to report all interest or dividends, or (c) the IRS has notified me that I am no longer subject to backup withholding; and
- I am a U.S. citizen or other U.S. person (defined below); and
- The FATCA code(s) entered on this form (if any) indicating that I am exempt from FATCA reporting is correct.

Certification instructions. You must cross out item 2 above if you have been notified by the IRS that you are currently subject to backup withholding because you have failed to report all interest and dividends on your tax return. For real estate transactions, item 2 does not apply. For mortgage interest paid, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, contributions to an individual retirement arrangement (IRA), and generally, payments other than interest and dividends, you are not required to sign the certification, but you must provide your correct TIN. See the instructions for Part II, later.

Sign Here	<p>Signature of U.S. person ▶ _____</p>	<p>Date ▶ _____</p>
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General Instructions

Section references are to the Internal Revenue Code unless otherwise noted.

Future developments. For the latest information about developments related to Form W-9 and its instructions, such as legislation enacted after they were published, go to www.irs.gov/FormW9.

Purpose of Form

An individual or entity (Form W-9 requester) who is required to file an information return with the IRS must obtain your correct taxpayer identification number (TIN) which may be your social security number (SSN), individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN), adoption taxpayer identification number (ATIN), or employer identification number (EIN), to report on an information return the amount paid to you, or other amount reportable on an information return. Examples of information returns include, but are not limited to, the following.

- Form 1099-DIV (dividends, including those from stocks or mutual funds)
- Form 1099-MISC (various types of income, prizes, awards, or gross proceeds)
- Form 1099-B (stock or mutual fund sales and certain other transactions by brokers)
- Form 1099-S (proceeds from real estate transactions)
- Form 1099-K (merchant card and third party network transactions)
- Form 1098 (home mortgage interest), 1098-E (student loan interest), 1098-T (tuition)
- Form 1099-C (canceled debt)
- Form 1099-A (acquisition or abandonment of secured property)

Use Form W-9 only if you are a U.S. person (including a resident alien), to provide your correct TIN.

If you do not return Form W-9 to the requester with a TIN, you might be subject to backup withholding. See What is backup withholding, later.

By signing the filled-out form, you:

1. Certify that the TIN you are giving is correct (or you are waiting for a number to be issued),
2. Certify that you are not subject to backup withholding, or
3. Claim exemption from backup withholding. If you are a U.S. exempt payee. If applicable, you are also certifying that as a U.S. person, your allocable share of any partnership income from a U.S. trade or business is not subject to the withholding tax on foreign partners' share of effectively connected income, and
4. Certify that FATCA code(s) entered on this form (if any) indicating that you are exempt from the FATCA reporting, is correct. See *What is FATCA reporting*, later, for further information.

Note: If you are a U.S. person and a requester gives you a form other than Form W-9 to request your TIN, you must use the requester's form if it is substantially similar to this Form W-9.

Definition of a U.S. person. For federal tax purposes, you are considered a U.S. person if you are:

- An individual who is a U.S. citizen or U.S. resident alien;
- A partnership, corporation, company, or association created or organized in the United States or under the laws of the United States;
- An estate (other than a foreign estate); or
- A domestic trust (as defined in Regulations section 301.7701-7).

Special rules for partnerships. Partnerships that conduct a trade or business in the United States are generally required to pay a withholding tax under section 1446 on any foreign partners' share of effectively connected taxable income from such business. Further, in certain cases where a Form W-9 has not been received, the rules under section 1446 require a partnership to presume that a partner is a foreign person, and pay the section 1446 withholding tax. Therefore, if you are a U.S. person that is a partner in a partnership conducting a trade or business in the United States, provide Form W-9 to the partnership to establish your U.S. status and avoid section 1446 withholding on your share of partnership income.

In the cases below, the following person must give Form W-9 to the partnership for purposes of establishing its U.S. status and avoiding withholding on its allocable share of net income from the partnership conducting a trade or business in the United States.

- In the case of a disregarded entity with a U.S. owner, the U.S. owner of the disregarded entity and not the entity;
- In the case of a grantor trust with a U.S. grantor or other U.S. owner, generally, the U.S. grantor or other U.S. owner of the grantor trust and not the trust; and
- In the case of a U.S. trust (other than a grantor trust), the U.S. trust (other than a grantor trust) and not the beneficiaries of the trust.

Foreign person. If you are a foreign person or the U.S. branch of a foreign bank that has elected to be treated as a U.S. person, do not use Form W-9. Instead, use the appropriate Form W-8 or Form 8233 (see Pub. 515, *Withholding of Tax on Nonresident Aliens and Foreign Entities*).

Nonresident alien who becomes a resident alien. Generally, only a nonresident alien individual may use the terms of a tax treaty to reduce or eliminate U.S. tax on certain types of income. However, most tax treaties contain a provision known as a "saving clause." Exceptions specified in the saving clause may permit an exemption from tax to continue for certain types of income even after the payee has otherwise become a U.S. resident alien for tax purposes.

If you are a U.S. resident alien who is relying on an exception contained in the saving clause of a tax treaty to claim an exemption from U.S. tax on certain types of income, you must attach a statement to Form W-9 that specifies the following five items.

1. The treaty country. Generally, this must be the same treaty under which you claimed exemption from tax as a nonresident alien.
2. The treaty article addressing the income.
3. The article number (or location) in the tax treaty that contains the saving clause and its exceptions.
4. The type and amount of income that qualifies for the exemption from tax.
5. Sufficient facts to justify the exemption from tax under the terms of the treaty article.

Example. Article 20 of the U.S.-China income tax treaty allows an exemption from tax for scholarship income received by a Chinese student temporarily present in the United States. Under U.S. law, this student will become a resident alien for tax purposes if his or her stay in the United States exceeds 5 calendar years. However, paragraph 2 of the first Protocol to the U.S.-China treaty (dated April 30, 1984) allows the provisions of Article 20 to continue to apply even after the Chinese student becomes a resident alien of the United States. A Chinese student who qualifies for this exception (under paragraph 2 of the first protocol) and is relying on this exception to claim an exemption from tax on his or her scholarship or fellowship income would attach to Form W-9 a statement that includes the information described above to support that exemption.

If you are a nonresident alien or a foreign entity, give the requester the appropriate completed Form W-8 or Form 8233.

Backup Withholding

What is backup withholding? Persons making certain payments to you must under certain conditions withhold and pay to the IRS 24% of such payments. This is called "backup withholding." Payments that may be subject to backup withholding include interest, tax-exempt interest, dividends, broker and barter exchange transactions, rents, royalties, nonemployee pay, payments made in settlement of payment card and third party network transactions, and certain payments from fishing boat operators. Real estate transactions are not subject to backup withholding.

You will not be subject to backup withholding on payments you receive if you give the requester your correct TIN, make the proper certifications, and report all your taxable interest and dividends on your tax return.

Payments you receive will be subject to backup withholding if:

1. You do not furnish your TIN to the requester,
2. You do not certify your TIN when required (see the instructions for Part II for details),
3. The IRS tells the requester that you furnished an incorrect TIN,
4. The IRS tells you that you are subject to backup withholding because you did not report all your interest and dividends on your tax return (for reportable interest and dividends only), or
5. You do not certify to the requester that you are not subject to backup withholding under 4 above (for reportable interest and dividend accounts opened after 1983 only).

Certain payees and payments are exempt from backup withholding. See *Exempt payee code*, later, and the separate instructions for the Requester of Form W-9 for more information.

Also see *Special rules for partnerships*, earlier.

What is FATCA Reporting?

The Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) requires a participating foreign financial institution to report all United States account holders that are specified United States persons. Certain payees are exempt from FATCA reporting. See *Exemption from FATCA reporting code*, later, and the instructions for the Requester of Form W-9 for more information.

Updating Your Information

You must provide updated information to any person to whom you claimed to be an exempt payee if you are no longer an exempt payee and anticipate receiving reportable payments in the future from this person. For example, you may need to provide updated information if you are a C corporation that elects to be an S corporation, or if you no longer are tax exempt. In addition, you must furnish a new Form W-9 if the name or TIN changes for the account; for example, if the grantor of a grantor trust dies.

Penalties

Failure to furnish TIN. If you fail to furnish your correct TIN to a requester, you are subject to a penalty of \$50 for each such failure unless your failure is due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect.

Civil penalty for false information with respect to withholding. If you make a false statement with no reasonable basis that results in no backup withholding, you are subject to a \$500 penalty.

Criminal penalty for falsifying information. Willfully falsifying certifications or affirmations may subject you to criminal penalties including fines and/or imprisonment.

Misuse of TINs. If the requester discloses or uses TINs in violation of federal law, the requester may be subject to civil and criminal penalties.

Specific Instructions

Line 1

You must enter one of the following on this line; do not leave this line blank. The name should match the name on your tax return.

If this Form W-9 is for a joint account (other than an account maintained by a foreign financial institution (FFI)), list first, and then circle, the name of the person or entity whose number you entered in Part I of Form W-9. If you are providing Form W-9 to an FFI to document a joint account, each holder of the account that is a U.S. person must provide a Form W-9.

a. **Individual.** Generally, enter the name shown on your tax return. If you have changed your last name without informing the Social Security Administration (SSA) of the name change, enter your first name, the last name as shown on your social security card, and your new last name.

Note: ITIN applicant: Enter your individual name as it was entered on your Form W-7 application, line 1a. This should also be the same as the name you entered on the Form 1040/1040A/1040EZ you filed with your application.

b. **Sole proprietor or single-member LLC.** Enter your individual name as shown on your 1040/1040A/1040EZ on line 1. You may enter your business, trade, or "doing business as" (DBA) name on line 2.

c. **Partnership, LLC that is not a single-member LLC, C corporation, or S corporation.** Enter the entity's name as shown on the entity's tax return on line 1 and any business, trade, or DBA name on line 2.

d. **Other entities.** Enter your name as shown on required U.S. federal tax documents on line 1. This name should match the name shown on the charter or other legal document creating the entity. You may enter any business, trade, or DBA name on line 2.

e. **Disregarded entity.** For U.S. federal tax purposes, an entity that is disregarded as an entity separate from its owner is treated as a "disregarded entity." See Regulations section 301.7701-2(c)(2)(iii). Enter the owner's name on line 1. The name of the entity entered on line 1 should never be a disregarded entity. The name on line 1 should be the name shown on the income tax return on which the income should be reported. For example, if a foreign LLC that is treated as a disregarded entity for U.S. federal tax purposes has a single owner that is a U.S. person, the U.S. owner's name is required to be provided on line 1. If the direct owner of the entity is also a disregarded entity, enter the first owner that is not disregarded for federal tax purposes. Enter the disregarded entity's name on line 2, "Business name/disregarded entity name." If the owner of the disregarded entity is a foreign person, the owner must complete an appropriate Form W-8 instead of a Form W-9. This is the case even if the foreign person has a U.S. TIN.

Line 2

If you have a business name, trade name, DBA name, or disregarded entity name, you may enter it on line 2.

Line 3

Check the appropriate box on line 3 for the U.S. federal tax classification of the person whose name is entered on line 1. Check only one box on line 3.

IF the entity/person on line 1 is a(n) . . .	THEN check the box for . . .
• Corporation	Corporation
• Individual • Sole proprietorship, or • Single-member limited liability company (LLC) owned by an individual and disregarded for U.S. federal tax purposes.	Individual/sole proprietor or single-member LLC
• LLC treated as a partnership for U.S. federal tax purposes, • LLC that has filed Form 8832 or 2553 to be taxed as a corporation, or • LLC that is disregarded as an entity separate from its owner but the owner is another LLC that is not disregarded for U.S. federal tax purposes.	Limited liability company and enter the appropriate tax classification. (P= Partnership; C= C corporation; or S= S corporation)
• Partnership	Partnership
• Trust/estate	Trust/estate

Line 4, Exemptions

If you are exempt from backup withholding and/or FATCA reporting, enter in the appropriate space on line 4 any code(s) that may apply to you.

Exempt payee code.

- Generally, individuals (including sole proprietors) are not exempt from backup withholding.
- Except as provided below, corporations are exempt from backup withholding for certain payments, including interest and dividends.
- Corporations are not exempt from backup withholding for payments made in settlement of payment card or third party network transactions.
- Corporations are not exempt from backup withholding with respect to attorneys' fees or gross proceeds paid to attorneys, and corporations that provide medical or health care services are not exempt with respect to payments reportable on Form 1099-MISC.

The following codes identify payees that are exempt from backup withholding. Enter the appropriate code in the space in line 4.

- 1—An organization exempt from tax under section 501(a), any IRA, or a custodial account under section 403(b)(7) if the account satisfies the requirements of section 401(f)(2)
- 2—The United States or any of its agencies or instrumentalities
- 3—A state, the District of Columbia, a U.S. commonwealth or possession, or any of their political subdivisions or instrumentalities
- 4—A foreign government or any of its political subdivisions, agencies, or instrumentalities
- 5—A corporation
- 6—A dealer in securities or commodities required to register in the United States, the District of Columbia, or a U.S. commonwealth or possession
- 7—A futures commission merchant registered with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission
- 8—A real estate investment trust
- 9—An entity registered at all times during the tax year under the Investment Company Act of 1940
- 10—A common trust fund operated by a bank under section 584(a)
- 11—A financial institution
- 12—A middleman known in the investment community as a nominee or custodian
- 13—A trust exempt from tax under section 664 or described in section 4947

The following chart shows types of payments that may be exempt from backup withholding. The chart applies to the exempt payees listed above, 1 through 13.

IF the payment is for . . .	THEN the payment is exempt for . . .
Interest and dividend payments	All exempt payees except for 7
Broker transactions	Exempt payees 1 through 4 and 6 through 11 and all C corporations. S corporations must not enter an exempt payee code because they are exempt only for sales of noncovered securities acquired prior to 2012.
Barter exchange transactions and patronage dividends	Exempt payees 1 through 4
Payments over \$600 required to be reported and direct sales over \$5,000 ¹	Generally, exempt payees 1 through 5 ²
Payments made in settlement of payment card or third party network transactions	Exempt payees 1 through 4

¹ See Form 1099-MISC, Miscellaneous Income, and its instructions.

² However, the following payments made to a corporation and reportable on Form 1099-MISC are not exempt from backup withholding: medical and health care payments, attorneys' fees, gross proceeds paid to an attorney reportable under section 6045(f), and payments for services paid by a federal executive agency.

Exemption from FATCA reporting code. The following codes identify payees that are exempt from reporting under FATCA. These codes apply to persons submitting this form for accounts maintained outside of the United States by certain foreign financial institutions. Therefore, if you are only submitting this form for an account you hold in the United States, you may leave this field blank. Consult with the person requesting this form if you are uncertain if the financial institution is subject to these requirements. A requester may indicate that a code is not required by providing you with a Form W-9 with "Not Applicable" (or any similar indication) written or printed on the line for a FATCA exemption code.

A—An organization exempt from tax under section 501(a) or any individual retirement plan as defined in section 7701(a)(37)

B—The United States or any of its agencies or instrumentalities

C—A state, the District of Columbia, a U.S. commonwealth or possession, or any of their political subdivisions or instrumentalities

D—A corporation the stock of which is regularly traded on one or more established securities markets, as described in Regulations section 1.1472-1(c)(1)(i)

E—A corporation that is a member of the same expanded affiliated group as a corporation described in Regulations section 1.1472-1(c)(1)(i)

F—A dealer in securities, commodities, or derivative financial instruments (including notional principal contracts, futures, forwards, and options) that is registered as such under the laws of the United States or any state

G—A real estate investment trust

H—A regulated investment company as defined in section 851 or an entity registered at all times during the tax year under the Investment Company Act of 1940

I—A common trust fund as defined in section 584(a)

J—A bank as defined in section 581

K—A broker

L—A trust exempt from tax under section 664 or described in section 4947(a)(1)

M—A tax exempt trust under a section 403(b) plan or section 457(g) plan

Note: You may wish to consult with the financial institution requesting this form to determine whether the FATCA code and/or exempt payee code should be completed.

Line 5

Enter your address (number, street, and apartment or suite number). This is where the requester of this Form W-9 will mail your Information returns. If this address differs from the one the requester already has on file, write NEW at the top. If a new address is provided, there is still a chance the old address will be used until the payor changes your address in their records.

Line 6

Enter your city, state, and ZIP code.

Part I. Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN)

Enter your TIN in the appropriate box. If you are a resident alien and you do not have and are not eligible to get an SSN, your TIN is your IRS individual taxpayer identification number (ITIN). Enter it in the social security number box. If you do not have an ITIN, see *How to get a TIN* below.

If you are a sole proprietor and you have an EIN, you may enter either your SSN or EIN.

If you are a single-member LLC that is disregarded as an entity separate from its owner, enter the owner's SSN (or EIN, if the owner has one). Do not enter the disregarded entity's EIN. If the LLC is classified as a corporation or partnership, enter the entity's EIN.

Note: See *What Name and Number To Give the Requester*, later, for further clarification of name and TIN combinations.

How to get a TIN. If you do not have a TIN, apply for one immediately. To apply for an SSN, get Form SS-5, Application for a Social Security Card, from your local SSA office or get this form online at www.SSA.gov. You may also get this form by calling 1-800-772-1213. Use Form W-7, Application for IRS Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, to apply for an ITIN, or Form SS-4, Application for Employer Identification Number, to apply for an EIN. You can apply for an EIN online by accessing the IRS website at www.irs.gov/Businesses and clicking on Employer Identification Number (EIN) under Starting a Business. Go to www.irs.gov/Forms to view, download, or print Form W-7 and/or Form SS-4. Or, you can go to www.irs.gov/OrderForms to place an order and have Form W-7 and/or SS-4 mailed to you within 10 business days.

If you are asked to complete Form W-9 but do not have a TIN, apply for a TIN and write "Applied For" in the space for the TIN, sign and date the form, and give it to the requester. For interest and dividend payments, and certain payments made with respect to readily tradable instruments, generally you will have 60 days to get a TIN and give it to the requester before you are subject to backup withholding on payments. The 60-day rule does not apply to other types of payments. You will be subject to backup withholding on all such payments until you provide your TIN to the requester.

Note: Entering "Applied For" means that you have already applied for a TIN or that you intend to apply for one soon.

Caution: A disregarded U.S. entity that has a foreign owner must use the appropriate Form W-8.

Part II. Certification

To establish to the withholding agent that you are a U.S. person, or resident alien, sign Form W-9. You may be requested to sign by the withholding agent even if item 1, 4, or 5 below indicates otherwise.

For a joint account, only the person whose TIN is shown in Part I should sign (when required). In the case of a disregarded entity, the person identified on line 1 must sign. Exempt payees, see *Exempt payee code*, earlier.

Signature requirements. Complete the certification as indicated in items 1 through 5 below.

1. Interest, dividend, and barter exchange accounts opened before 1984 and broker accounts considered active during 1983. You must give your correct TIN, but you do not have to sign the certification.

2. Interest, dividend, broker, and barter exchange accounts opened after 1983 and broker accounts considered inactive during 1983. You must sign the certification or backup withholding will apply. If you are subject to backup withholding and you are merely providing your correct TIN to the requester, you must cross out item 2 in the certification before signing the form.

3. Real estate transactions. You must sign the certification. You may cross out item 2 of the certification.

4. Other payments. You must give your correct TIN, but you do not have to sign the certification unless you have been notified that you have previously given an incorrect TIN. "Other payments" include payments made in the course of the requester's trade or business for rents, royalties, goods (other than bills for merchandise), medical and health care services (including payments to corporations), payments to a nonemployee for services, payments made in settlement of payment card and third party network transactions, payments to certain fishing boat crew members and fishermen, and gross proceeds paid to attorneys (including payments to corporations).

5. Mortgage interest paid by you, acquisition or abandonment of secured property, cancellation of debt, qualified tuition program payments (under section 529), ABL E accounts (under section 529A), IRA, Coverdell ESA, Archer MSA or HSA contributions or distributions, and pension distributions. You must give your correct TIN, but you do not have to sign the certification.

What Name and Number To Give the Requester

For this type of account:	Give name and SSN of:
1. Individual	The individual
2. Two or more individuals (joint account) other than an account maintained by an FFI	The actual owner of the account or, if combined funds, the first individual on the account ¹
3. Two or more U.S. persons (joint account maintained by an FFI)	Each holder of the account
4. Custodial account of a minor (Uniform Gift to Minors Act)	The minor ²
5. a. The usual revocable savings trust (grantor is also trustee)	The grantor-trustee ¹
b. So-called trust account that is not a legal or valid trust under state law	The actual owner ¹
6. Sole proprietorship or disregarded entity owned by an individual	The owner ³
7. Grantor trust filing under Optional Form 1099 Filing Method 1 (see Regulations section 1.671-4(b)(2)(i)(A))	The grantor ⁴
For this type of account:	Give name and EIN of:
8. Disregarded entity not owned by an individual	The owner
9. A valid trust, estate, or pension trust	Legal entity ⁴
10. Corporation or LLC electing corporate status on Form 8832 or Form 2553	The corporation
11. Association, club, religious, charitable, educational, or other tax-exempt organization	The organization
12. Partnership or multi-member LLC	The partnership
13. A broker or registered nominee	The broker or nominee

For this type of account:	Give name and EIN of:
14. Account with the Department of Agriculture in the name of a public entity (such as a state or local government, school district, or prison) that receives agricultural program payments	The public entity
15. Grantor trust filing under the Form 1041 Filing Method or the Optional Form 1099 Filing Method 2 (see Regulations section 1.671-4(b)(2)(i)(B))	The trust

¹ List first and circle the name of the person whose number you furnish. If only one person on a joint account has an SSN, that person's number must be furnished.

² Circle the minor's name and furnish the minor's SSN.

³ You must show your individual name and you may also enter your business or DBA name on the "Business name/disregarded entity" name line. You may use either your SSN or EIN (if you have one), but the IRS encourages you to use your SSN.

⁴ List first and circle the name of the trust, estate, or pension trust. (Do not furnish the TIN of the personal representative or trustee unless the legal entity itself is not designated in the account title.) Also see *Special rules for partnerships*, earlier.

*Note: The grantor also must provide a Form W-9 to trustee of trust.

Note: If no name is circled when more than one name is listed, the number will be considered to be that of the first name listed.

Secure Your Tax Records From Identity Theft

Identity theft occurs when someone uses your personal information such as your name, SSN, or other identifying information, without your permission, to commit fraud or other crimes. An identity thief may use your SSN to get a job or may file a tax return using your SSN to receive a refund.

To reduce your risk:

- Protect your SSN,
- Ensure your employer is protecting your SSN, and
- Be careful when choosing a tax preparer.

If your tax records are affected by identity theft and you receive a notice from the IRS, respond right away to the name and phone number printed on the IRS notice or letter.

If your tax records are not currently affected by identity theft but you think you are at risk due to a lost or stolen purse or wallet, questionable credit card activity or credit report, contact the IRS Identity Theft Hotline at 1-800-908-4490 or submit Form 14039.

For more information, see Pub. 5027, Identity Theft Information for Taxpayers.

Victims of identity theft who are experiencing economic harm or a systemic problem, or are seeking help in resolving tax problems that have not been resolved through normal channels, may be eligible for Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS) assistance. You can reach TAS by calling the TAS toll-free case intake line at 1-877-777-4778 or TTY/TDD 1-800-829-4059.

Protect yourself from suspicious emails or phishing schemes. Phishing is the creation and use of email and websites designed to mimic legitimate business emails and websites. The most common act is sending an email to a user falsely claiming to be an established legitimate enterprise in an attempt to scam the user into surrendering private information that will be used for identity theft.

The IRS does not initiate contacts with taxpayers via emails. Also, the IRS does not request personal detailed information through email or ask taxpayers for the PIN numbers, passwords, or similar secret access information for their credit card, bank, or other financial accounts.

If you receive an unsolicited email claiming to be from the IRS, forward this message to phishing@irs.gov. You may also report misuse of the IRS name, logo, or other IRS property to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) at 1-800-368-4484. You can forward suspicious emails to the Federal Trade Commission at spam@uce.gov or report them at www.ftc.gov/complaint. You can contact the FTC at www.ftc.gov/idtheft or 877-IDTHEFT (877-438-4338). If you have been the victim of identity theft, see www.IdentityTheft.gov and Pub. 5027.

Visit www.irs.gov/IdentityTheft to learn more about identity theft and how to reduce your risk.

Privacy Act Notice

Section 6109 of the Internal Revenue Code requires you to provide your correct TIN to persons (including federal agencies) who are required to file information returns with the IRS to report interest, dividends, or certain other income paid to you; mortgage interest you paid; the acquisition or abandonment of secured property; the cancellation of debt; or contributions you made to an IRA, Archer MSA, or HSA. The person collecting this form uses the information on the form to file information returns with the IRS, reporting the above information. Routine uses of this information include giving it to the Department of Justice for civil and criminal litigation and to cities, states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. commonwealths and possessions for use in administering their laws. The information also may be disclosed to other countries under a treaty, to federal and state agencies to enforce civil and criminal laws, or to federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies to combat terrorism. You must provide your TIN whether or not you are required to file a tax return. Under section 3406, payers must generally withhold a percentage of taxable interest, dividend, and certain other payments to a payee who does not give a TIN to the payer. Certain penalties may also apply for providing false or fraudulent information.

**Certification
Regarding Debarment, Suspension Ineligibility**

As is required by the Federal Regulations Implementing Executive Order 12549, Debarment and Suspension, 45 CFR Part 76, Government-wide Debarment and Suspension, in the applicant certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that both it and its principals:

- a. Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any federal department or agency;
- b. Have not within a three-year period preceding this bid/proposal and/or application been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (federal, state or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction, violation of federal or state antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, theory, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;
- c. Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a government entity with commission of any of the offenses enumerated herein; and
- d. Have not within a three-year period preceding this bid/proposal and/or application had one or more public transactions terminated of cause or default.

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Title: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Date: _____

If the proposer is unable to certify to all of the statements in this Certification, such proposer should attach an explanation to this proposal.

Exhibit "G"

Title VI Appendices

"A" thru "E"

APPENDIX A

During the performance of this contract, the contractor, for itself, its assignees, and successors in interest (hereinafter referred to as the "contractor") agrees as follows:

1. **Compliance with Regulations:** The contractor (hereinafter includes consultants) will comply with the Acts and the Regulations relative to Nondiscrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, as they may be amended from time to time, which are herein incorporated by reference and made a part of this contract.
2. **Nondiscrimination:** The contractor, with regard to the work performed by it during the contract, will not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in the selection and retention of subcontractors, including procurements of materials and leases of equipment. The contractor will not participate directly or indirectly in the discrimination prohibited by the Acts and the Regulations, including employment practices when the contract covers any activity, project, or program set forth in Appendix B of 49 CFR Part 21.
3. **Solicitations for Subcontracts, Including Procurements of Materials and Equipment:** In all solicitations, either by competitive bidding, or negotiation made by the contractor for work to be performed under a subcontract, including procurements of materials, or leases of equipment, each potential subcontractor or supplier will be notified by the contractor of the contractor's obligations under this contract and the Acts and the Regulations relative to Nondiscrimination on the grounds of race, color, or national origin.
4. **Information and Reports:** The contractor will provide all information and reports required by the Acts, the Regulations, and directives issued pursuant thereto and will permit access to its books, records, accounts, other sources of information, and its facilities as may be determined by the Recipient or the Federal Highway Administration to be pertinent to ascertain compliance with such Acts, Regulations, and instructions. Where any information required of a contractor is in the exclusive possession of another who fails or refuses to furnish the information, the contractor will so certify to the Recipient or the Federal Highway Administration, as appropriate, and will set forth what efforts it has made to obtain the information.
5. **Sanctions for Noncompliance:** In the event of a contractor's noncompliance with the Nondiscrimination provisions of this contract, the Recipient will impose such contract sanctions as it or the Federal Highway Administration may determine to be appropriate, including, but not limited to:
 - a. withholding payments to the contractor under the contract until the contractor complies; and/or
 - b. cancelling, terminating, or suspending contract, in whole or in part.
6. **Incorporation of Provisions:** The contractor will include the provisions of paragraphs one through six in every subcontract, including procurements of materials and leases of equipment, unless exempt by the Acts, the Regulations and directives issued pursuant thereto. The contractor will take action with respect to any subcontract or procurement as the Recipient or the Federal Highway Administration may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions including sanctions for noncompliance. Provided, that if the contractor becomes involved in, or is threatened with litigation by a subcontractor, or supplier because of such direction, the contractor may request the Recipient to enter into any litigation to protect the interests of the Recipient. In addition, the contractor may request the United States to enter into the litigation to protect the interests of the United States.

APPENDIX B

CLAUSES FOR DEEDS TRANSFERRING UNITED STATES PROPERTY

The following clauses will be included in deeds effecting or recording the transfer of real property, structures, or improvements thereon, or granting interest therein from the United States pursuant to the provisions of Assurance 4:

NOW, THEREFORE, the U.S. Department of Transportation as authorized by law and upon the condition that the **COUNTY OF HIDALGO** will accept title to the lands and maintain the project constructed thereon in accordance with all applicable federal statutes, the Regulations for the Administration of all Department of Transportation programs, and the policies and procedures prescribed by the Federal Highway Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation in accordance and in compliance with all requirements imposed by Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, U.S. Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office of the Secretary, Part 21, Nondiscrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the U.S. Department of Transportation pertaining to and effectuating the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252; 42 U.S.C. § 2000d to 2000d-4), does hereby remise, release, quitclaim and convey unto the **COUNTY OF HIDALGO** all the right, title and interest of the U.S. Department of Transportation in and to said lands described in Exhibit 1 attached hereto and made a part hereof.

(HABENDUM CLAUSE)

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD said lands and interests therein unto **COUNTY OF HIDALGO** and its successors forever, subject, however, to the covenants, conditions, restrictions and reservations herein contained as follows, which will remain in effect for the period during which the real property or structures are used for a purpose for which Federal financial assistance is extended or for another purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits and will be binding on the **COUNTY OF HIDALGO**, its successors and assigns.

The **COUNTY OF HIDALGO**, in consideration of the conveyance of said lands and interests in lands, does hereby covenant and agree as a covenant running with the land for itself, its successors and assigns, that (1) no person will on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination with regard to any facility located wholly or in part on, over ,or under such lands hereby conveyed [,] [and]* (2) that the **COUNTY OF HIDALGO** will use the lands and interests in lands and interests in lands so conveyed, in compliance with all requirements imposed by or pursuant to Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, U.S. Department of Transportation, Subtitle A, Office of the Secretary, Part 21, Nondiscrimination in Federally-assisted programs of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Effectuation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and as said Regulations and Acts may be amended[, and(3) that in the event of breach of any of the above-mentioned nondiscrimination conditions, the Department will have a right to enter or re-enter said lands and facilities on said land ,and that above described land and facilities will thereon revert to and vest in and become the absolute property of the U.S. Department of Transportation and its assigns as such interest existed prior to this instruction].*

(*Reverted clause and related language to be used only when it is determined that such a clause is necessary in order to make clear the purpose of Title VI.)

APPENDIX C

CLAUSES FOR TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY ACQUIRED OR IMPROVED UNDER THE ACTIVITY, FACILITY, OR PROGRAM

The following clauses will be included in deeds, licenses, leases, permits, or similar instruments entered into by the **COUNTY OF HIDALGO** pursuant to the provisions of Assurance 7(a):

- A. The (grantee, lessee, permittee, etc. as appropriate) for himself/herself, his/her heirs, personal representatives, successors in interest, and assigns, as a part of the consideration hereof, does hereby covenant and agree [in the case of deeds and leases add "as a covenant running with the land"] that:
 1. In the event facilities are constructed, maintained, or otherwise operated on the property described in this (deed, license, lease, permit, etc.) for a purpose for which a U.S. Department of Transportation activity, facility, or program is extended or for another purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits, the (grantee, licensee, lessee, permitted, etc.) will maintain and operate such facilities and services in compliance with all requirements imposed by the Acts and Regulations (as may be amended) such that no person on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, will be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the use of said facilities.
- B. With respect to licenses, leases, permits, etc., in the event of breach of any of the above Nondiscrimination covenants, **COUNTY OF HIDALGO** will have the right to terminate the (lease, license, permit, etc.) and to enter, re-enter, and repossess said lands and facilities thereon, and hold the same as if the (lease, license, permit, etc.) had never been made or issued.*
- C. With respect to a deed, in the event of breach of any of the above Nondiscrimination covenants, the **COUNTY OF HIDALGO** will have the right to enter or re-enter the lands and facilities thereon, and the above described lands and facilities will there upon revert to and vest in and become the absolute property of the **COUNTY OF HIDALGO** and its assigns.*

(*Reverted clause and related language to be used only when it is determined that such a clause is necessary in order to make clear the purpose of Title VI.)

APPENDIX D

CLAUSES FOR CONSTRUCTION/USE/ACCESS TO REAL PROPERTY ACQUIRED UNDER THE ACTIVITY, FACILITY OR PROGRAM

The following clauses will be included in deeds, licenses, permits, or similar instruments/agreements entered into by **COUNTY OF HIDALGO** pursuant to the provisions of Assurance 7(b):

- A. The (grantee, licensee, permittee, etc., as appropriate) for himself/herself, his/her heirs, personal representatives, successors in interest, and assigns, as a part of the consideration hereof, does hereby covenant and agree (in the case of deeds and leases add, "as a covenant running with the land") that (1) no person on the ground of race, color, or national origin, will be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the use of said facilities, (2) that in the construction of any improvements on, over, or under such land, and the furnishing of services thereon, no person on the ground of race, color, or national origin, will be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination, (3) that the (grantee, licensee, lessee, permittee, etc.) will use the premises in compliance with all other requirements imposed by or pursuant to the Acts and Regulations, as amended, set forth in this Assurance.
- B. With respect to (licenses, leases, permits, etc.), in the event of breach of any of the above Nondiscrimination covenants, **COUNTY OF HIDALGO** will have the right to terminate the (license, permit, etc., as appropriate) and to enter or re-enter and repossess said land and the facilities thereon, and hold the same as if said (license, permit, etc., as appropriate) had never been made or issued.*
- C. With respect to deeds, in the event of breach of any of the above Nondiscrimination covenants, **COUNTY OF HIDALGO** will there upon revert to and vest in and become the absolute property of **COUNTY OF HIDALGO** and its assigns.*

(*Reverted clause and related language to be used only when it is determined that such a clause is necessary in order to make clear the purpose of Title VI.)

APPENDIX E

During the performance of this contract, the contractor, for itself, its assignees, and successors in interest (hereinafter referred to as the "contractor") agrees to comply with the following nondiscrimination statutes and authorities; including but not limited to:

Pertinent Nondiscrimination Authorities:

- Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. § 2000d et seq., 78 stat. 252), (prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin); and 49CFR Part 21.
- The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, (42U.S.C. § 4601), (prohibits unfair treatment of persons displaced or whose property has been acquired because of Federal or Federal-aid programs and projects);
- Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973, (23U.S.C. § 324et seq.), (prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex);
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, (29U.S.C. § 794 et seq.), as amended, (prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability); and 49CFRPart 27;
- The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended,(42U.S.C. § 6101 et seq.), (prohibits discrimination on the basis of age);
- Airport and Airway Improvement Act of 1982, (49U.S.C. § 4 71, Section 4 7123),as amended, (prohibits discrimination based on race, creed, color, national origin, or sex);
- The Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987,(PL 100-209), (Broadened the scope, coverage and applicability of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, The Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, by expanding the definition of the terms "programs or activities" to include all of the programs or activities of the Federal-aid recipients, sub recipients and contractors, whether such programs or activities are Federally funded or not);
- Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability in the operation of public entities, public and private transportation systems, places of public accommodation, and certain testing entities (42 U.S.C. §§ 12131-12189)as implemented by Department of Transportation regulations at 49C.F.R. parts 37 and 38;
- The Federal Aviation Administration's Nondiscrimination statute (49U.S.C. § 47123) (prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, and sex);
- Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, which ensures discrimination against minority populations by discouraging programs, policies, and activities with disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations;
- Executive Order 13166, Improving Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency, and resulting agency guidance, national origin discrimination includes discrimination because of limited English proficiency (LEP). To ensure compliance with Title VI, you must take reasonable steps to ensure that LEP persons have meaningful access to your programs (70 Fed. Reg. at 74087 to 74100);
- Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended, which prohibits you from discriminating because of sex in education programs or activities (20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq).

Exhibit “H”

(If Applicable)

2 C.F.R. § 200.326 & 2 C.F.R. Part 200,
Appendix II

Required Contract Clauses for Non-Federal
Entity Contracts Under Federal Awards

&

Required Contract Clauses for Non-Federal
Entity Contracts Under Federal Awards with
the Federal Emergency Management Agency
(FEMA)

2 C.F.R. § 200.326 & 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, Required Contract Clauses for Non-Federal Entity Contracts Under Federal Awards

The United States Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued in 2 C.F.R. 200: *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Subpart D: Post Federal Award Requirements: 2 CFR §§200.317-200.326 of the Uniform Guidance contain provisions applicable to procurements made with federal grant funding.

As a non-Federal entity, the County of Hidalgo's ("County") contracts must contain the applicable contract clauses described in Appendix II to the Uniform Guidance (Contract Provisions for non-Federal Entity Contracts Under Federal Awards), which are set forth below. 2 C.F.R. §200.326. If applicable, the following clauses shall supersede any existing, similar clauses stated within the bid document, contract, and/or Terms and Conditions. *The term "Contractor" used herein refers to the proposer, bidder or other entity/individual responding to the applicable procurement packet.*

If applicable, the regulations in 2 CFR, Part 200 and Appendix II to the Uniform Guidance, as it may be amended from time to time, and the contract clauses below, are incorporated by reference as part of this procurement packet and any resulting agreement.

To procure goods and services using funds under a federal grant or contract, specific federal laws, regulations, and requirements may apply in addition to those under state law. The following provisions are required and apply when federal funds are expended by the County of Hidalgo for any contract resulting from this procurement process.

1. Remedies.

- a. Applicability. This requirement applies to all Federal grant and cooperative agreement programs.
- b. Standard. Contracts for more than the simplified acquisition threshold currently set at \$150,000, which is the inflation adjusted amount determined by the Civilian Agency Acquisition Council and the Defense Acquisition Regulations Council (Councils) as authorized by 41 U.S.C. 1908, must address administrative, contractual, or legal remedies in instances where contractors violate or breach contract terms, and provide for such sanctions and penalties as appropriate. See 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, ¶ A.
- c. Statement. Pursuant to Federal Rule (A) above, when federal funds are expended by the County, the County reserves all rights and privileges under the applicable laws and regulations with respect to this procurement in the event of breach of contract by either party. Contractor shall comply with all applicable Federal, State of Texas, and local laws, rules, and regulations and shall obtain all applicable licenses and permits for the conduct of its business and the performance of the services, and any provision of equipment and material ("Applicable Law"). All transactions related to any of the Contract Documents shall be governed by the laws of the State of Texas, and trial of any action brought in connection with the bid or the Contract Documents shall be held exclusively in a state court in the County of Hidalgo, Texas.

2. **Termination for Cause and Convenience.**

- a. **Applicability.** This requirement applies to all Federal grant and cooperative agreement programs.
- b. **Standard.** All contracts in excess of \$10,000 shall address termination for cause and for convenience by the non-Federal entity including the manner by which it will be effected and the basis for settlement as follows. See 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, ¶ B.
- c. **Statement. Termination.** County may terminate this Agreement for any reason upon ten (10) days written notice to the other party. County may terminate this Agreement immediately upon written notice if Contractor breaches this Agreement. In the event of any termination, Contractor shall promptly deliver to the County any and all Work Materials prepared for the County prior to the effective date of such termination, all of which shall become County's sole property. After receipt of the Work Materials, County will pay Contractor for the services which the County determines were satisfactorily performed as of the effective date of the termination.

Excuses for Non-Performance. Either party shall be absolved from its obligations under this contract when and to the extent that performance is delayed or prevented (and in the County of Hidalgo's case when and to the extent that its need for the articles, materials or work to be supplied hereunder is reduced or eliminated) by reason of acts of God, fire explosion, war riots, strikes, labor disputes, or governmental laws, orders or regulations.

Default. If Contractor or Subcontractor shall breach any provision hereof or shall become insolvent, enter voluntary or involuntary bankruptcy or receivership proceedings or make an assignment to the benefit of creditors, County of Hidalgo shall have the right (without limiting any other rights or remedies which it may have hereunder or by operation of law) to terminate this contract by written notice to Contractor whereupon County shall be relieved of all further obligation hereunder except the obligation to pay the reasonable value of Contractor's prior performance (at not exceeding the contract rate), and Contractor shall be liable to County for all costs incurred by County in completing or procuring the completion of performance in excess of the contract price herein specified. The County's right to require strict performance of any obligation hereunder shall not be affected by any previous waiver, forbearance of course of dealing. Time is of the essence thereof.

3. **Equal Employment Opportunity.**

- a. **Applicability:** This requirement applies to all Federal grant and cooperative agreement programs.
- b. **Standard.** Except as otherwise provided under 41 C.F.R. Part 60, all contracts that meet the definition of "federally assisted construction contract" in 41 C.F.R. § 60-1.3 must include the equal opportunity clause provided under 41 C.F.R. § 60- 1.4(b), in accordance with Executive Order 11246, *Equal Employment Opportunity* (30 Fed. Reg. 12319, 12935, 3 C.F.R. Part, 1964-1965 Comp., p. 339), as amended by Executive Order 11375, *Amending Executive Order 11246 Relating to Equal Employment Opportunity*, and implementing regulations at 41 C.F.R. Part 60 (Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, Equal Employment Opportunity, Department of Labor). See 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, ¶ C.

c. Key Definitions:

- (1) *Federally Assisted Construction Contract.* The regulation at 41 C.F.R. § 60-1.3 defines a “federally assisted construction contract” as any agreement or modification thereof between any applicant and a person for construction work which is paid for in whole or in part with funds obtained from the Government or borrowed on the credit of the Government pursuant to any Federal program involving a grant, contract, loan, insurance, or guarantee, or undertaken pursuant to any Federal program involving such grant, contract, loan, insurance, or guarantee, or any application or modification thereof approved by the Government for a grant, contract, loan, insurance, or guarantee under which the applicant itself participates in the construction work.
- (2) *Construction Work.* The regulation at 41 C.F.R. § 60-1.3 defines “construction work” as the construction, rehabilitation, alteration, conversion, extension, demolition or repair of buildings, highways, or other changes or improvements to real property, including facilities providing utility services. The term also includes the supervision, inspection, and other onsite functions incidental to the actual construction

d. Statement: Contractor will comply with the Nondiscrimination Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended and all Federal regulations relative to nondiscrimination in Federally assisted programs. The regulation at 41 C.F.R. Part 60-1.4(b) requires the insertion of the following contract clause:

“During the performance of this contract, the contractor agrees as follows:

(1) The contractor will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. The contractor will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated during employment without regard to their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Such action shall include, but not be limited to the following: Employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. The contractor agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices to be provided setting forth the provisions of this nondiscrimination clause.

(2) The contractor will, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the contractor, state that all qualified applicants will receive considerations for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

(3) The contractor will send to each labor union or representative of workers with which he has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding, a notice to be provided advising the said labor union or workers' representatives of the contractor's commitments under this section, and shall post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment.

(4) The contractor will comply with all provisions of Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, and of the rules, regulations, and relevant orders of the Secretary of Labor.

(5) The contractor will furnish all information and reports required by Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, and by rules, regulations, and orders of the Secretary of Labor, or pursuant thereto, and will permit access to his books, records, and accounts by the

administering agency and the Secretary of Labor for purposes of investigation to ascertain compliance with such rules, regulations, and orders.

(6) In the event of the contractor's noncompliance with the nondiscrimination clauses of this contract or with any of the said rules, regulations, or orders, this contract may be canceled, terminated, or suspended in whole or in part and the contractor may be declared ineligible for further Government contracts or federally assisted construction contracts in accordance with procedures authorized in Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, and such other sanctions as may be imposed and remedies invoked as provided in Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, or by rule, regulation, or order of the Secretary of Labor, or as otherwise provided by law.

(7) The contractor will include the portion of the sentence immediately preceding paragraph (1) and the provisions of paragraphs (1) through (7) in every subcontract or purchase order unless exempted by rules, regulations, or orders of the Secretary of Labor issued pursuant to section 204 of Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, so that such provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor or vendor. The contractor will take such action with respect to any subcontract or purchase order as the administering agency may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions, including sanctions for noncompliance: Provided, however, That in the event a contractor becomes involved in, or is threatened with, litigation with a subcontractor or vendor as a result of such direction by the administering agency the contractor may request the United States to enter into such litigation to protect the interests of the United States."

4. Davis Bacon Act and Copeland Anti-Kickback Act.

- a. Applicability of Davis-Bacon Act. The Davis-Bacon Act only applies to the emergency Management Preparedness Grant Program, Homeland Security Grant Program, Nonprofit Security Grant Program, Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program, Port Security Grant Program, and Transit Security Grant Program. **It does not apply to other Federal grant and cooperative agreement programs, including the Public Assistance Program.**
- b. Standard. All prime construction contracts in excess of \$2,000 awarded by non-Federal entities must include a provision for compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§ 3141-3144 and 3146-3148) as supplemented by Department of Labor regulations at 29 C.F.R. Part 5 (Labor Standards Provisions Applicable to Contracts Covering Federally Financed and Assisted Construction)). See 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, ¶ D.

In accordance with the statute, contractors must be required to pay wages to laborers and mechanics at a rate not less than the prevailing wages specified in a wage determination made by the Secretary of Labor. In addition, contractors must be required to pay wages not less than once a week.

The non-Federal entity must place a copy of the current prevailing wage determination issued by the Department of Labor in each solicitation. The decision to award a contract or subcontract must be conditioned upon the acceptance of the wage determination. The non-Federal entity must report all suspected or reported violations to the Federal awarding City.

In contracts subject to the Davis-Bacon Act, the contracts must also include a provision for compliance with the Copeland "Anti-Kickback" Act (40 U.S.C. § 3145), as supplemented by

Department of Labor regulations at 29 C.F.R. Part 3 (Contractors and Subcontractors on Public Building or Public Work Financed in Whole or in Part by Loans or Grants from the United States). The Copeland Anti-Kickback Act provides that each contractor or subrecipient must be prohibited from inducing, by any means, any person employed in the construction, completion, or repair of public work, to give up any part of the compensation to which he or she is otherwise entitled. The non-Federal entity must report all suspected or reported violations to FEMA or applicable Federal entity.

- c. Statement. The regulation at 29 C.F.R. § 5.5(a) does provide the required contract clause that applies to compliance with both the Davis-Bacon and Copeland Acts. However, as discussed in the previous subsection, the Davis-Bacon Act does not apply to Public Assistance recipients and subrecipients. In situations where the Davis-Bacon Act does not apply, neither does the Copeland "Anti-Kickback Act." However, for purposes of grant programs where both clauses do apply, FEMA or applicable Federal entity requires the following contract clause:

"Compliance with the Copeland "Anti-Kickback" Act.

(1) *Contractor*. The contractor shall comply with 18 U.S.C. § 874, 40 U.S.C. § 3145, and the requirements of 29 C.F.R. pt. 3 as may be applicable, which are incorporated by reference into this contract.

(2) *Subcontracts*. The contractor or subcontractor shall insert in any subcontracts the clause above and such other clauses as Federal requirements may by appropriate instructions require, and also a clause requiring the subcontractors to include these clauses in any lower tier subcontracts. The prime contractor shall be responsible for the compliance by any subcontractor or lower tier subcontractor with all of these contract clauses.

(3) *Breach*. A breach of the contract clauses above may be grounds for termination of the contract, and for debarment as a contractor and subcontractor as provided in 29 C.F.R. § 5.12."

5. Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act.

- a. Applicability: This requirement applies to all Federal grant and cooperative agreement programs.
- b. Standard. Where applicable (see 40 U.S.C. § 3701), all contracts awarded by the non-Federal entity in excess of \$100,000 that involve the employment of mechanics or laborers must include a provision for compliance with 40 U.S.C. §§ 3702 and 3704, as supplemented by Department of Labor regulations at 29 C.F.R. Part 5. See 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, ¶ E.

Under 40 U.S.C. § 3702, each contractor must be required to compute the wages of every mechanic and laborer on the basis of a standard work week of 40 hours. Work in excess of the standard work week is permissible provided that the worker is compensated at a rate of not less than one and a half times the basic rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of 40 hours in the work week.

The requirements of 40 U.S.C. § 3704 are applicable to construction work and provide that no laborer or mechanic must be required to work in surroundings or under working conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous or dangerous. These requirements do not apply to the purchases of

supplies or materials or articles ordinarily available on the open market, or contracts for transportation or transmission of intelligence.

The regulation at 29 C.F.R. § 5.5(b) provides the required contract clause concerning compliance with the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act:

c. Statement.

“Compliance with the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act.

(1) *Overtime requirements.* No contractor or subcontractor contracting for any part of the contract work which may require or involve the employment of laborers or mechanics shall require or permit any such laborer or mechanic in any workweek in which he or she is employed on such work to work in excess of forty hours in such workweek unless such laborer or mechanic receives compensation at a rate not less than one and one-half times the basic rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of forty hours in such workweek.

(2) *Violation; liability for unpaid wages; liquidated damages.* In the event of any violation of the clause set forth in paragraph (1) of this section the contractor and any subcontractor responsible therefor shall be liable for the unpaid wages. In addition, such contractor and subcontractor shall be liable to the United States (in the case of work done under contract for the District of Columbia or a territory, to such District or to such territory), for liquidated damages. Such liquidated damages shall be computed with respect to each individual laborer or mechanic, including watchmen and guards, employed in violation of the clause set forth in paragraph (1) of this section, in the sum of \$10 for each calendar day on which such individual was required or permitted to work in excess of the standard workweek of forty hours without payment of the overtime wages required by the clause set forth in paragraph (1) of this section.

(3) *Withholding for unpaid wages and liquidated damages.* The County of Hidalgo shall upon its own action or upon written request of an authorized representative of the Department of Labor withhold or cause to be withheld, from any moneys payable on account of work performed by the contractor or subcontractor under any such contract or any other Federal contract with the same prime contractor, or any other federally-assisted contract subject to the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, which is held by the same prime contractor, such sums as may be determined to be necessary to satisfy any liabilities of such contractor or subcontractor for unpaid wages and liquidated damages as provided in the clause set forth in paragraph (2) of this section.

(4) *Subcontracts.* The contractor or subcontractor shall insert in any subcontracts the clauses set forth in paragraph (1) through (4) of this section and also a clause requiring the subcontractors to include these clauses in any lower tier subcontracts. The prime contractor shall be responsible for compliance by any subcontractor or lower tier subcontractor with the clauses set forth in paragraphs (1) through (4) of this section.”

6. Rights to Inventions Made Under a Contract or Agreement.

- a. Applicability: Stafford Act Disaster Grants. This requirement **does not apply to the Public Assistance**, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Fire Management Assistance Grant Program, Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Grant Program, Disaster Case Management Grant

Program, and Federal Assistance to Individuals and Households – Other Needs Assistance Grant Program, as FEMA or Federal awards under these programs do not meet the definition of “funding agreement.”

- b. Standard. If the FEMA or Federal award meets the definition of “funding agreement” under 37 C.F.R. § 401.2(a) and the non-Federal entity wishes to enter into a contract with a small business firm or nonprofit organization regarding the substitution of parties, assignment or performance of experimental, developmental, or research work under that “funding agreement,” the non-Federal entity must comply with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. Part 401 (Rights to Inventions Made by Nonprofit Organizations and Small Business Firms Under Government Grants, Contracts and Cooperative Agreements), and any implementing regulations issued by FEMA or applicable awarding agency. See 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, ¶ F.
- c. Key Definition: The regulation at 37 C.F.R. § 401.2(a) currently defines “funding agreement” as any contract, grant, or cooperative agreement entered into between any Federal agency, other than the Tennessee Valley Authority, and any contractor for the performance of experimental, developmental, or research work funded in whole or in part by the Federal government. This term also includes any assignment, substitution of parties, or subcontract of any type entered into for the performance of experimental, developmental, or research work under a funding agreement as defined in the first sentence of this paragraph.

7. Clean Air Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

- a. Applicability and Standard: Contracts of amounts in excess of \$150,000 must contain a provision that requires the contractor to agree to comply with all applicable standards, orders, or regulations issued pursuant to the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. §§ 7401-7671q) and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act as amended (33 U.S.C. §§ 1251-1387). Violations must be reported to the Federal awarding agency and the Regional Office of the Environmental Protection Agency. See 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, ¶ G.
- b. Statement: Included in contracts as provided in section “7a” above.
 - (1) The contractor agrees to comply with all applicable standards, orders or regulations issued pursuant to the Clean Air Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 7401 et seq. and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.
 - (2) The contractor agrees to report each violation to the Federal awarding agency (e.g. Federal Emergency Management Agency-FEMA) and the Regional Office of the Environmental Protection Agency. Contractor understands and agrees that each violation reported to the County of Hidalgo will, in turn, be reported as required to assure notification to the Federal awarding agency and the appropriate Environmental Protection Agency Regional Office.
 - (3) The contractor agrees to include these requirements in each subcontract exceeding \$150,000 financed in whole or in part with Federal assistance provided by the applicable Federal awarding agency (e.g. FEMA).

8. Debarment and Suspension.

- a. Applicability: This requirement applies to all Federal grant and cooperative agreement programs.

- b. Standard. Non-Federal entities and contractors are subject to the debarment and suspension regulations implementing Executive Order 12549, *Debarment and Suspension* (1986) and Executive Order 12689, *Debarment and Suspension* (1989) at 2 C.F.R. Part 180 and the Department of Homeland Security's regulations at 2 C.F.R. Part 3000 (Nonprocurement Debarment and Suspension).

These regulations restrict awards, subawards, and contracts with certain parties that are debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in Federal assistance programs and activities. See 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, ¶ H; and Chapter IV, ¶ 6.d and Appendix C, ¶ 2. A contract award must not be made to parties listed in the SAM Exclusions. SAM Exclusions is the list maintained by the General Services Administration that contains the names of parties debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded by agencies, as well as parties declared ineligible under statutory or regulatory authority other than Executive Order 12549. SAM exclusions can be accessed at www.sam.gov. See 2 C.F.R. § 180.530; Chapter IV, ¶ 6.d and Appendix C, ¶ 2.

In general, an "excluded" party cannot receive a Federal grant award or a contract within the meaning of a "covered transaction," to include subawards and subcontracts. This includes parties that receive Federal funding indirectly, such as contractors to recipients and subrecipients. The key to the exclusion is whether there is a "covered transaction," which is any nonprocurement transaction (unless excepted) at either a "primary" or "secondary" tier. Although "covered transactions" do not include contracts awarded by the Federal Government for purposes of the nonprocurement common rule and DHS's implementing regulations, it does include some contracts awarded by recipients and subrecipient.

Specifically, a covered transaction includes the following contracts for goods or services:

- (1) The contract is awarded by a recipient or subrecipient in the amount of at least \$25,000.
 - (2) The contract requires the approval of FEMA or applicable Federal entity, regardless of amount.
 - (3) The contract is for Federally-required audit services.
 - (4) A subcontract is also a covered transaction if it is awarded by the contractor of a recipient or subrecipient and requires either the approval of FEMA or applicable Federal entity or is in excess of \$25,000.
- c. Statement. The following provides a debarment and suspension clause. It incorporates a method of verifying that contractors are not excluded or disqualified:

For maximum protection, provide a print or electronic document for every prime and subcontractor, from www.sam.gov in order to ensure that they are not debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in Federal assistance programs and activities.

This contract is a covered transaction for purposes of 2 C.F.R. pt. 180 and 2 C.F.R. pt. 3000. As such the contractor is required to verify that none of the contractor, its principals (defined at 2 C.F.R. § 180.995), or its affiliates (defined at 2 C.F.R. § 180.905) are excluded (defined at 2 C.F.R. 180.940) or disqualified (defined at 2 C.F.R. § 180.935).

The contractor must comply with 2 C.F.R. pt. 180, subpart C and 2 C.F.R. pt. 3000, subpart C and must include a requirement to comply with these regulations in any lower tier covered transaction it enters into.

This certification is a material representation of fact relied upon by (insert name of subrecipient). If it is later determined that the contractor did not comply with 2 C.F.R. pt. 180, subpart C and 2 C.F.R. pt. 3000, subpart C, in addition to remedies available to (name of state agency serving as recipient and name of subrecipient), the Federal Government may pursue available remedies, including but not limited to suspension and/or debarment.

The bidder or proposer agrees to comply with the requirements of 2 C.F.R. pt. 180, subpart C and 2 C.F.R. pt. 3000, subpart C while this offer is valid and throughout the period of any contract that may arise from this offer. The bidder or proposer further agrees to include a provision requiring such compliance in its lower tier covered transactions.”

9. **Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment.**

- a. **Applicability:** This requirement applies to all Federal grant and cooperative agreement programs.
- b. **Standard.** Contractors that apply or bid for an award of \$100,000 or more must file the required certification. See 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, ¶ I; 44 C.F.R. Part 18; Chapter IV, 6.c; Appendix C, ¶ 4. Each tier certifies to the tier above that it will not and has not used Federal appropriated funds to pay any person or organization for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any City, a member of Congress, officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with obtaining any Federal contract, grant or any other award covered by 31 U.S.C. § 1352. Each tier must also disclose any lobbying with non-Federal funds that takes place in connection with obtaining any Federal award. Such disclosures are forwarded from tier to tier up to the non-Federal award. See Chapter IV, ¶ 6.c and Appendix C, ¶ 4.
- c. **Statement.** The following statement in bold provides a Byrd Anti-Lobbying contract clause:

(IF APPLICABLE, PLEASE FILL IN BLANKS AND SIGN)

“Byrd Anti-Lobbying Amendment, 31 U.S.C. § 1352 (as amended)

Contractors who apply or bid for an award of \$100,000 or more shall file the required certification. Each tier certifies to the tier above that it will not and has not used Federal appropriated funds to pay any person or organization for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress, officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with obtaining any Federal contract, grant, or any other award covered by 31 U.S.C. § 1352. Each tier shall also disclose any lobbying with non-Federal funds that takes place in connection with obtaining any Federal award. Such disclosures are forwarded from tier to tier up to the recipient.”

APPENDIX A, 44 C.F.R. PART 18 – CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING

Certification for Contracts, Grants, Loans, and Cooperative Agreements

(To be submitted with each bid or offer exceeding \$100,000)

The undersigned Contractor, _____, certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge, that:

1. No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of an agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

2. If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.

3. The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by 31, U.S.C. § 1352 (as amended by the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995). Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

The Contractor, _____, certifies or affirms the truthfulness and accuracy of each statement of its certification and disclosure, if any. In addition, the Contractor understands and agrees that the provisions of 31 U.S.C. § 3801 *et seq.*, apply to this certification and disclosure, if any.

Signature of Contractor's Authorized Official

Name and Title of Contractor's Authorized Official

Date

10. **Procurement of Recovered Materials.**

- a. **Applicability:** This requirement applies to all Federal grant and cooperative agreement programs.
- b. **Standard.** A non-Federal entity that is a **state agency or agency of a political subdivision** of a state and its contractors must comply with Section 6002 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, Pub. L. No. 89-272 (1965) (codified as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act at 42 U.S.C. § 6962). See 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II, ¶ J; 2 C.F.R. § 200.322; *PDAT Supplement*, Chapter V, ¶ 7.

The requirements of Section 6002 include procuring only items designated in guidelines of the EPA at 40 C.F.R. Part 247 that contain the highest percentage of recovered materials practicable, consistent with maintaining a satisfactory level of competition, where the purchase price of the item exceeds \$10,000 or the value of the quantity acquired by the preceding fiscal year exceeded \$10,000; procuring solid waste management services in a manner that maximizes energy and resource recovery; and establishing an affirmative procurement program for procurement of recovered materials identified in the EPA guidelines.

- c. **Statement.** The following provides the clause that a state agency or agency of a political subdivision of a state and its contractors can include in contracts meeting the above contract thresholds:

“(1) In the performance of this contract, the Contractor shall make maximum use of products containing recovered materials that are EPA- designated items unless the product cannot be acquired—

- (i) Competitively within a timeframe providing for compliance with the contract performance schedule;
- (ii) Meeting contract performance requirements; or
- (iii) At a reasonable price.

- (3) Information about this requirement, along with the list of EPA-designate items, is available at EPA’s Comprehensive Procurement Guidelines web site, <https://www.epa.gov/smm/comprehensive-procurement-guideline-cpg-program>.”

Additional Required Contract Clauses for Non-Federal Entity Contracts Under Federal Awards with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Additional FEMA or applicable Federal Requirements. In addition to the requirements above, non-Federal entity contracts under Federal award subject to financial assistance from FEMA are required to contain the following additional contract clauses. The Uniform Guidance authorizes FEMA to require additional provisions for non-Federal entity contracts. FEMA, pursuant to this authority, requires or recommends the following:

These clauses are incorporated by reference as part of this procurement packet and any resulting agreement.

11. **Changes.**

- a. **Standard.** To be eligible for FEMA assistance under the non-Federal entity's Federal grant or cooperative agreement, the cost of the change, modification, change order, or constructive change must be allowable, allocable, within the scope of its grant or cooperative agreement, and reasonable for the completion of project scope. FEMA or applicable Federal entity recommends, therefore, that a non-Federal entity include a changes clause in its contract that describes how, if at all, changes can be made by either party to alter the method, price, or schedule of the work without breaching the contract. The language of the clause may differ depending on the nature of the contract and the end-item procured.
- b. **Statement.** The following provides a contract clause regarding access to records:

"The contractor shall secure written authorization before proceeding with any additional work, whether requested by the County or required to complete the contract. The cost for any changes to the contract price, whether requested by the County or the Contractor will be approved only after submitting the contractor's true costs for the work and related equipment costs and site expenses."

12. **Access to Records.**

- a. **Standard.** All non-Federal entities must place into their contracts a provision that all contractors and their successors, transferees, assignees, and subcontractors acknowledge and agree to comply with applicable provisions governing Department and FEMA or applicable Federal entity access to records, accounts, documents, information, facilities, and staff. See DHS Standard Terms and Conditions, v 3.0, ¶ XXVI (2013).
- b. **Statement.** The following provides a contract clause regarding access to records:

"Access to Records. The following access to records requirements apply to this contract:

(1) The contractor agrees to provide the County of Hidalgo, the FEMA or applicable Federal Administrator, the Comptroller General of the United States, or any of their authorized representatives access to any books, documents, papers, and records of the Contractor which are directly pertinent to this contract for the purposes of making audits, examinations, excerpts, and transcriptions.

(2) The Contractor agrees to permit any of the foregoing parties to reproduce by any means whatsoever or to copy excerpts and transcriptions as reasonably needed.

(3) The contractor agrees to provide the FEMA or applicable Federal Administrator or his authorized representatives access to construction or other work sites pertaining to the work being completed under the contract."

13. **DHS Seal, Logo, and Flags.**

- a. **Standard.** All non-Federal entities must place in their contracts a provision that a contractor shall not use the DHS seal(s), logos, crests, or reproductions of flags or likenesses of DHS City

officials without specific FEMA or applicable Federal entity pre-approval. See DHS Standard Terms and Conditions, v3.0, ¶ XXV (2013).

- b. Statement. The following provides a contract clause regarding DHS Seal, Logo, and Flags:

“The contractor shall not use the DHS seal(s), logos, crests, or reproductions of flags or likenesses of DHS City officials without specific FEMA or applicable Federal entity pre-approval.”

14. Compliance with Federal Law, Regulations, and Executive Orders.

- a. Standard. All non-Federal entities must place into their contracts an acknowledgement that FEMA or applicable Federal financial assistance will be used to fund the contract along with the requirement that the contractor will comply with all applicable Federal law, regulations, executive orders, and FEMA or applicable Federal policies, procedures, and directives.

- b. Statement. The following provides a contract clause regarding Compliance with Federal Law, Regulations and Executive Orders:

“This is an acknowledgement that Federal financial assistance will be used to fund the contract only. The contractor will comply will all applicable Federal law, regulations, executive orders, FEMA or applicable Federal policies, procedures, and directives.”

15. No Obligation by Federal Government.

- a. Standard. The non-Federal entity must include a provision in its contract that states that the Federal Government is not a party to the contract and is not subject to any obligations or liabilities to the non-Federal entity, contractor, or any other party pertaining to any matter resulting from the contract.

- b. Statement. The following provides a contract clause regarding no obligation by the Federal Government:

“The Federal Government is not a party to this contract and is not subject to any obligations or liabilities to the non-Federal entity, contractor, or any other party pertaining to any matter resulting from the contract.”

16. Program Fraud and False or Fraudulent Statements or Related Acts.

- a. Standard. The non-Federal entity must include a provision in its contract that the contractor acknowledges that 31 U.S.C. Chap. 38 (Administrative Remedies for False Claims and Statements) applies to its actions pertaining to the contract.

- b. Statement. The following provides a contract clause regarding Fraud and False or Fraudulent Related Acts:

“The contractor acknowledges that 31 U.S.C. Chap. 38 (Administrative Remedies for False Claims and Statements) applies to the contractor’s actions pertaining to this contract.”

Contractor agrees to comply with all federal, state and local laws, rules, regulations and ordinances, as applicable. It is further acknowledged that the Contractor read and understands all provisions, laws, acts, regulations, etc. as specifically noted above and certifies compliance with the same.

Vendor's Name/Company Name: _____

Printed Name and Title of Authorized Representative: _____

Signature of Authorized Representative: _____

Date: _____

Exhibit "I"

FHWA 1273

**REQUIRED CONTRACT PROVISIONS
FEDERAL-AID CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS**

- I. General
- II. Nondiscrimination
- III. Nonsegregated Facilities
- IV. Davis-Bacon and Related Act Provisions
- V. Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act Provisions
- VI. Subletting or Assigning the Contract
- VII. Safety; Accident Prevention
- VIII. False Statements Concerning Highway Projects
- IX. Implementation of Clean Air Act and Federal Water Pollution Control Act
- X. Compliance with Governmentwide Suspension and Debarment Requirements
- XI. Certification Regarding Use of Contract Funds for Lobbying

3. A breach of any of the stipulations contained in these Required Contract Provisions may be sufficient grounds for withholding of progress payments, withholding of final payment, termination of the contract, suspension / debarment or any other action determined to be appropriate by the contracting agency and FHWA.

4. Selection of Labor: During the performance of this contract, the contractor shall not use convict labor for any purpose within the limits of a construction project on a Federal-aid highway unless it is labor performed by convicts who are on parole, supervised release, or probation. The term Federal-aid highway does not include roadways functionally classified as local roads or rural minor collectors.

ATTACHMENTS

A. Employment and Materials Preference for Appalachian Development Highway System or Appalachian Local Access Road Contracts (included in Appalachian contracts only)

II. NONDISCRIMINATION

The provisions of this section related to 23 CFR Part 230 are applicable to all Federal-aid construction contracts and to all related construction subcontracts of \$10,000 or more. The provisions of 23 CFR Part 230 are not applicable to material supply, engineering, or architectural service contracts.

I. GENERAL

1. Form FHWA-1273 must be physically incorporated in each construction contract funded under Title 23 (excluding emergency contracts solely intended for debris removal). The contractor (or subcontractor) must insert this form in each subcontract and further require its inclusion in all lower tier subcontracts (excluding purchase orders, rental agreements and other agreements for supplies or services).

In addition, the contractor and all subcontractors must comply with the following policies: Executive Order 11246, 41 CFR 60, 29 CFR 1625-1627, Title 23 USC Section 140, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 USC 794), Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, and related regulations including 49 CFR Parts 21, 26 and 27; and 23 CFR Parts 200, 230, and 633.

The applicable requirements of Form FHWA-1273 are incorporated by reference for work done under any purchase order, rental agreement or agreement for other services. The prime contractor shall be responsible for compliance by any subcontractor, lower-tier subcontractor or service provider.

The contractor and all subcontractors must comply with: the requirements of the Equal Opportunity Clause in 41 CFR 60-1.4(b) and, for all construction contracts exceeding \$10,000, the Standard Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Construction Contract Specifications in 41 CFR 60-4.3.

Form FHWA-1273 must be included in all Federal-aid design-build contracts, in all subcontracts and in lower tier subcontracts (excluding subcontracts for design services, purchase orders, rental agreements and other agreements for supplies or services). The design-builder shall be responsible for compliance by any subcontractor, lower-tier subcontractor or service provider.

Note: The U.S. Department of Labor has exclusive authority to determine compliance with Executive Order 11246 and the policies of the Secretary of Labor including 41 CFR 60, and 29 CFR 1625-1627. The contracting agency and the FHWA have the authority and the responsibility to ensure compliance with Title 23 USC Section 140, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 USC 794), and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, and related regulations including 49 CFR Parts 21, 26 and 27; and 23 CFR Parts 200, 230, and 633.

Contracting agencies may reference Form FHWA-1273 in bid proposal or request for proposal documents, however, the Form FHWA-1273 must be physically incorporated (not referenced) in all contracts, subcontracts and lower-tier subcontracts (excluding purchase orders, rental agreements and other agreements for supplies or services related to a construction contract).

The following provision is adopted from 23 CFR 230, Appendix A, with appropriate revisions to conform to the U.S. Department of Labor (US DOL) and FHWA requirements.

2. Subject to the applicability criteria noted in the following sections, these contract provisions shall apply to all work performed on the contract by the contractor's own organization and with the assistance of workers under the contractor's immediate superintendence and to all work performed on the contract by piecework, station work, or by subcontract.

1. Equal Employment Opportunity: Equal employment opportunity (EEO) requirements not to discriminate and to take affirmative action to assure equal opportunity as set forth under laws, executive orders, rules, regulations (28 CFR 35, 29 CFR 1630, 29 CFR 1625-1627, 41 CFR 60 and 49 CFR 27) and orders of the Secretary of Labor as modified by the provisions prescribed herein, and imposed pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 140 shall constitute the EEO and specific affirmative action standards for the contractor's project activities under

this contract. The provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) set forth under 28 CFR 35 and 29 CFR 1630 are incorporated by reference in this contract. In the execution of this contract, the contractor agrees to comply with the following minimum specific requirement activities of EEO:

a. The contractor will work with the contracting agency and the Federal Government to ensure that it has made every good faith effort to provide equal opportunity with respect to all of its terms and conditions of employment and in their review of activities under the contract.

b. The contractor will accept as its operating policy the following statement:

"It is the policy of this Company to assure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their race, religion, sex, color, national origin, age or disability. Such action shall include: employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship, pre-apprenticeship, and/or on-the-job training."

2. EEO Officer: The contractor will designate and make known to the contracting officers an EEO Officer who will have the responsibility for and must be capable of effectively administering and promoting an active EEO program and who must be assigned adequate authority and responsibility to do so.

3. Dissemination of Policy: All members of the contractor's staff who are authorized to hire, supervise, promote, and discharge employees, or who recommend such action, or who are substantially involved in such action, will be made fully cognizant of, and will implement, the contractor's EEO policy and contractual responsibilities to provide EEO in each grade and classification of employment. To ensure that the above agreement will be met, the following actions will be taken as a minimum:

a. Periodic meetings of supervisory and personnel office employees will be conducted before the start of work and then not less often than once every six months, at which time the contractor's EEO policy and its implementation will be reviewed and explained. The meetings will be conducted by the EEO Officer.

b. All new supervisory or personnel office employees will be given a thorough indoctrination by the EEO Officer, covering all major aspects of the contractor's EEO obligations within thirty days following their reporting for duty with the contractor.

c. All personnel who are engaged in direct recruitment for the project will be instructed by the EEO Officer in the contractor's procedures for locating and hiring minorities and women.

d. Notices and posters setting forth the contractor's EEO policy will be placed in areas readily accessible to employees, applicants for employment and potential employees.

e. The contractor's EEO policy and the procedures to implement such policy will be brought to the attention of employees by means of meetings, employee handbooks, or other appropriate means.

4. Recruitment: When advertising for employees, the contractor will include in all advertisements for employees the notation: "An Equal Opportunity Employer." All such advertisements will be placed in publications having a large circulation among minorities and women in the area from which the project work force would normally be derived.

a. The contractor will, unless precluded by a valid bargaining agreement, conduct systematic and direct recruitment through public and private employee referral sources likely to yield qualified minorities and women. To meet this requirement, the contractor will identify sources of potential minority group employees, and establish with such identified sources procedures whereby minority and women applicants may be referred to the contractor for employment consideration.

b. In the event the contractor has a valid bargaining agreement providing for exclusive hiring hall referrals, the contractor is expected to observe the provisions of that agreement to the extent that the system meets the contractor's compliance with EEO contract provisions. Where implementation of such an agreement has the effect of discriminating against minorities or women, or obligates the contractor to do the same, such implementation violates Federal nondiscrimination provisions.

c. The contractor will encourage its present employees to refer minorities and women as applicants for employment. Information and procedures with regard to referring such applicants will be discussed with employees.

5. Personnel Actions: Wages, working conditions, and employee benefits shall be established and administered, and personnel actions of every type, including hiring, upgrading, promotion, transfer, demotion, layoff, and termination, shall be taken without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or disability. The following procedures shall be followed:

a. The contractor will conduct periodic inspections of project sites to insure that working conditions and employee facilities do not indicate discriminatory treatment of project site personnel.

b. The contractor will periodically evaluate the spread of wages paid within each classification to determine any evidence of discriminatory wage practices.

c. The contractor will periodically review selected personnel actions in depth to determine whether there is evidence of discrimination. Where evidence is found, the contractor will promptly take corrective action. If the review indicates that the discrimination may extend beyond the actions reviewed, such corrective action shall include all affected persons.

d. The contractor will promptly investigate all complaints of alleged discrimination made to the contractor in connection with its obligations under this contract, will attempt to resolve such complaints, and will take appropriate corrective action within a reasonable time. If the investigation indicates that the discrimination may affect persons other than the complainant, such corrective action shall include such other persons. Upon completion of each investigation, the contractor will inform every complainant of all of their avenues of appeal.

6. Training and Promotion:

a. The contractor will assist in locating, qualifying, and increasing the skills of minorities and women who are

applicants for employment or current employees. Such efforts should be aimed at developing full journey level status employees in the type of trade or job classification involved.

b. Consistent with the contractor's work force requirements and as permissible under Federal and State regulations, the contractor shall make full use of training programs, i.e., apprenticeship, and on-the-job training programs for the geographical area of contract performance. In the event a special provision for training is provided under this contract, this subparagraph will be superseded as indicated in the special provision. The contracting agency may reserve training positions for persons who receive welfare assistance in accordance with 23 U.S.C. 140(a).

c. The contractor will advise employees and applicants for employment of available training programs and entrance requirements for each.

d. The contractor will periodically review the training and promotion potential of employees who are minorities and women and will encourage eligible employees to apply for such training and promotion.

7. Unions: If the contractor relies in whole or in part upon unions as a source of employees, the contractor will use good faith efforts to obtain the cooperation of such unions to increase opportunities for minorities and women. Actions by the contractor, either directly or through a contractor's association acting as agent, will include the procedures set forth below:

a. The contractor will use good faith efforts to develop, in cooperation with the unions, joint training programs aimed toward qualifying more minorities and women for membership in the unions and increasing the skills of minorities and women so that they may qualify for higher paying employment.

b. The contractor will use good faith efforts to incorporate an EEO clause into each union agreement to the end that such union will be contractually bound to refer applicants without regard to their race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or disability.

c. The contractor is to obtain information as to the referral practices and policies of the labor union except that to the extent such information is within the exclusive possession of the labor union and such labor union refuses to furnish such information to the contractor, the contractor shall so certify to the contracting agency and shall set forth what efforts have been made to obtain such information.

d. In the event the union is unable to provide the contractor with a reasonable flow of referrals within the time limit set forth in the collective bargaining agreement, the contractor will, through independent recruitment efforts, fill the employment vacancies without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or disability; making full efforts to obtain qualified and/or qualifiable minorities and women. The failure of a union to provide sufficient referrals (even though it is obligated to provide exclusive referrals under the terms of a collective bargaining agreement) does not relieve the contractor from the requirements of this paragraph. In the event the union referral practice prevents the contractor from meeting the obligations pursuant to Executive Order 11246, as amended, and these special provisions, such contractor shall immediately notify the contracting agency.

8. Reasonable Accommodation for Applicants / Employees with Disabilities: The contractor must be familiar

with the requirements for and comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act and all rules and regulations established there under. Employers must provide reasonable accommodation in all employment activities unless to do so would cause an undue hardship.

9. Selection of Subcontractors, Procurement of Materials and Leasing of Equipment: The contractor shall not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or disability in the selection and retention of subcontractors, including procurement of materials and leases of equipment. The contractor shall take all necessary and reasonable steps to ensure nondiscrimination in the administration of this contract.

a. The contractor shall notify all potential subcontractors and suppliers and lessors of their EEO obligations under this contract.

b. The contractor will use good faith efforts to ensure subcontractor compliance with their EEO obligations.

10. Assurance Required by 49 CFR 26.13(b):

a. The requirements of 49 CFR Part 26 and the State DOT's U.S. DOT-approved DBE program are incorporated by reference.

b. The contractor or subcontractor shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex in the performance of this contract. The contractor shall carry out applicable requirements of 49 CFR Part 26 in the award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts. Failure by the contractor to carry out these requirements is a material breach of this contract, which may result in the termination of this contract or such other remedy as the contracting agency deems appropriate.

11. Records and Reports: The contractor shall keep such records as necessary to document compliance with the EEO requirements. Such records shall be retained for a period of three years following the date of the final payment to the contractor for all contract work and shall be available at reasonable times and places for inspection by authorized representatives of the contracting agency and the FHWA.

a. The records kept by the contractor shall document the following:

(1) The number and work hours of minority and non-minority group members and women employed in each work classification on the project;

(2) The progress and efforts being made in cooperation with unions, when applicable, to increase employment opportunities for minorities and women; and

(3) The progress and efforts being made in locating, hiring, training, qualifying, and upgrading minorities and women;

b. The contractors and subcontractors will submit an annual report to the contracting agency each July for the duration of the project, indicating the number of minority, women, and non-minority group employees currently engaged in each work classification required by the contract work. This information is to be reported on Form FHWA-1391. The staffing data should represent the project work force on board in all or any part of the last payroll period preceding the end of July. If on-the-job training is being required by special provision, the contractor

will be required to collect and report training data. The employment data should reflect the work force on board during all or any part of the last payroll period preceding the end of July.

III. NONSEGREGATED FACILITIES

This provision is applicable to all Federal-aid construction contracts and to all related construction subcontracts of \$10,000 or more.

The contractor must ensure that facilities provided for employees are provided in such a manner that segregation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin cannot result. The contractor may neither require such segregated use by written or oral policies nor tolerate such use by employee custom. The contractor's obligation extends further to ensure that its employees are not assigned to perform their services at any location, under the contractor's control, where the facilities are segregated. The term "facilities" includes waiting rooms, work areas, restaurants and other eating areas, time clocks, restrooms, washrooms, locker rooms, and other storage or dressing areas, parking lots, drinking fountains, recreation or entertainment areas, transportation, and housing provided for employees. The contractor shall provide separate or single-user restrooms and necessary dressing or sleeping areas to assure privacy between sexes.

IV. DAVIS-BACON AND RELATED ACT PROVISIONS

This section is applicable to all Federal-aid construction projects exceeding \$2,000 and to all related subcontracts and lower-tier subcontracts (regardless of subcontract size). The requirements apply to all projects located within the right-of-way of a roadway that is functionally classified as Federal-aid highway. This excludes roadways functionally classified as local roads or rural minor collectors, which are exempt. Contracting agencies may elect to apply these requirements to other projects.

The following provisions are from the U.S. Department of Labor regulations in 29 CFR 5.5 "Contract provisions and related matters" with minor revisions to conform to the FHWA-1273 format and FHWA program requirements.

1. Minimum wages

a. All laborers and mechanics employed or working upon the site of the work, will be paid unconditionally and not less often than once a week, and without subsequent deduction or rebate on any account (except such payroll deductions as are permitted by regulations issued by the Secretary of Labor under the Copeland Act (29 CFR part 3)), the full amount of wages and bona fide fringe benefits (or cash equivalents thereof) due at time of payment computed at rates not less than those contained in the wage determination of the Secretary of Labor which is attached hereto and made a part hereof, regardless of any contractual relationship which may be alleged to exist between the contractor and such laborers and mechanics.

Contributions made or costs reasonably anticipated for bona fide fringe benefits under section 1(b)(2) of the Davis-Bacon Act on behalf of laborers or mechanics are considered wages paid to such laborers or mechanics, subject to the provisions

of paragraph 1.d. of this section; also, regular contributions made or costs incurred for more than a weekly period (but not less often than quarterly) under plans, funds, or programs which cover the particular weekly period, are deemed to be constructively made or incurred during such weekly period. Such laborers and mechanics shall be paid the appropriate wage rate and fringe benefits on the wage determination for the classification of work actually performed, without regard to skill, except as provided in 29 CFR 5.5(a)(4). Laborers or mechanics performing work in more than one classification may be compensated at the rate specified for each classification for the time actually worked therein: Provided, That the employer's payroll records accurately set forth the time spent in each classification in which work is performed. The wage determination (including any additional classification and wage rates conforming under paragraph 1.b. of this section) and the Davis-Bacon poster (WH-1321) shall be posted at all times by the contractor and its subcontractors at the site of the work in a prominent and accessible place where it can be easily seen by the workers.

b.(1) The contracting officer shall require that any class of laborers or mechanics, including helpers, which is not listed in the wage determination and which is to be employed under the contract shall be classified in conformance with the wage determination. The contracting officer shall approve an additional classification and wage rate and fringe benefits therefore only when the following criteria have been met:

(i) The work to be performed by the classification requested is not performed by a classification in the wage determination; and

(ii) The classification is utilized in the area by the construction industry; and

(iii) The proposed wage rate, including any bona fide fringe benefits, bears a reasonable relationship to the wage rates contained in the wage determination.

(2) If the contractor and the laborers and mechanics to be employed in the classification (if known), or their representatives, and the contracting officer agree on the classification and wage rate (including the amount designated for fringe benefits where appropriate), a report of the action taken shall be sent by the contracting officer to the Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, Employment Standards Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, DC 20210. The Administrator, or an authorized representative, will approve, modify, or disapprove every additional classification action within 30 days of receipt and so advise the contracting officer or will notify the contracting officer within the 30-day period that additional time is necessary.

(3) In the event the contractor, the laborers or mechanics to be employed in the classification or their representatives, and the contracting officer do not agree on the proposed classification and wage rate (including the amount designated for fringe benefits, where appropriate), the contracting officer shall refer the questions, including the views of all interested parties and the recommendation of the contracting officer, to the Wage and Hour Administrator for determination. The Wage and Hour Administrator, or an authorized representative, will issue a determination within 30 days of receipt and so advise the contracting officer or

will notify the contracting officer within the 30-day period that additional time is necessary.

(4) The wage rate (including fringe benefits where appropriate) determined pursuant to paragraphs 1.b.(2) or 1.b.(3) of this section, shall be paid to all workers performing work in the classification under this contract from the first day on which work is performed in the classification.

c. Whenever the minimum wage rate prescribed in the contract for a class of laborers or mechanics includes a fringe benefit which is not expressed as an hourly rate, the contractor shall either pay the benefit as stated in the wage determination or shall pay another bona fide fringe benefit or an hourly cash equivalent thereof.

d. If the contractor does not make payments to a trustee or other third person, the contractor may consider as part of the wages of any laborer or mechanic the amount of any costs reasonably anticipated in providing bona fide fringe benefits under a plan or program. Provided, That the Secretary of Labor has found, upon the written request of the contractor, that the applicable standards of the Davis-Bacon Act have been met. The Secretary of Labor may require the contractor to set aside in a separate account assets for the meeting of obligations under the plan or program.

2. Withholding

The contracting agency shall upon its own action or upon written request of an authorized representative of the Department of Labor, withhold or cause to be withheld from the contractor under this contract, or any other Federal contract with the same prime contractor, or any other federally-assisted contract subject to Davis-Bacon prevailing wage requirements, which is held by the same prime contractor, so much of the accrued payments or advances as may be considered necessary to pay laborers and mechanics, including apprentices, trainees, and helpers, employed by the contractor or any subcontractor the full amount of wages required by the contract. In the event of failure to pay any laborer or mechanic, including any apprentice, trainee, or helper, employed or working on the site of the work, all or part of the wages required by the contract, the contracting agency may, after written notice to the contractor, take such action as may be necessary to cause the suspension of any further payment, advance, or guarantee of funds until such violations have ceased.

3. Payrolls and basic records

a. Payrolls and basic records relating thereto shall be maintained by the contractor during the course of the work and preserved for a period of three years thereafter for all laborers and mechanics working at the site of the work. Such records shall contain the name, address, and social security number of each such worker, his or her correct classification, hourly rates of wages paid (including rates of contributions or costs anticipated for bona fide fringe benefits or cash equivalents thereof of the types described in section 1(b)(2)(B) of the Davis-Bacon Act), daily and weekly number of hours worked, deductions made and actual wages paid. Whenever the Secretary of Labor has found under 29 CFR 5.5(a)(1)(iv) that the wages of any laborer or mechanic include the amount of any costs reasonably anticipated in providing benefits under a plan or program described in section 1(b)(2)(B) of the Davis-

Bacon Act, the contractor shall maintain records which show that the commitment to provide such benefits is enforceable, that the plan or program is financially responsible, and that the plan or program has been communicated in writing to the laborers or mechanics affected, and records which show the costs anticipated or the actual cost incurred in providing such benefits. Contractors employing apprentices or trainees under approved programs shall maintain written evidence of the registration of apprenticeship programs and certification of trainee programs, the registration of the apprentices and trainees, and the ratios and wage rates prescribed in the applicable programs.

b.(1) The contractor shall submit weekly for each week in which any contract work is performed a copy of all payrolls to the contracting agency. The payrolls submitted shall set out accurately and completely all of the information required to be maintained under 29 CFR 5.5(a)(3)(i), except that full social security numbers and home addresses shall not be included on weekly transmittals. Instead the payrolls shall only need to include an individually identifying number for each employee (e.g., the last four digits of the employee's social security number). The required weekly payroll information may be submitted in any form desired. Optional Form WH-347 is available for this purpose from the Wage and Hour Division Web site at <http://www.dol.gov/esa/whd/forms/wh347instr.htm> or its successor site. The prime contractor is responsible for the submission of copies of payrolls by all subcontractors. Contractors and subcontractors shall maintain the full social security number and current address of each covered worker, and shall provide them upon request to the contracting agency for transmission to the State DOT, the FHWA or the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor for purposes of an investigation or audit of compliance with prevailing wage requirements. It is not a violation of this section for a prime contractor to require a subcontractor to provide addresses and social security numbers to the prime contractor for its own records, without weekly submission to the contracting agency..

(2) Each payroll submitted shall be accompanied by a "Statement of Compliance," signed by the contractor or subcontractor or his or her agent who pays or supervises the payment of the persons employed under the contract and shall certify the following:

(i) That the payroll for the payroll period contains the information required to be provided under §5.5 (a)(3)(ii) of Regulations, 29 CFR part 5, the appropriate information is being maintained under §5.5 (a)(3)(i) of Regulations, 29 CFR part 5, and that such information is correct and complete;

(ii) That each laborer or mechanic (including each helper, apprentice, and trainee) employed on the contract during the payroll period has been paid the full weekly wages earned, without rebate, either directly or indirectly, and that no deductions have been made either directly or indirectly from the full wages earned, other than permissible deductions as set forth in Regulations, 29 CFR part 3;

(iii) That each laborer or mechanic has been paid not less than the applicable wage rates and fringe benefits or cash equivalents for the classification of work performed, as specified in the applicable wage determination incorporated into the contract.

(3) The weekly submission of a properly executed certification set forth on the reverse side of Optional Form WH-347 shall satisfy the requirement for submission of the "Statement of Compliance" required by paragraph 3.b.(2) of this section.

(4) The falsification of any of the above certifications may subject the contractor or subcontractor to civil or criminal prosecution under section 1001 of title 18 and section 231 of title 31 of the United States Code.

c. The contractor or subcontractor shall make the records required under paragraph 3.a. of this section available for inspection, copying, or transcription by authorized representatives of the contracting agency, the State DOT, the FHWA, or the Department of Labor, and shall permit such representatives to interview employees during working hours on the job. If the contractor or subcontractor fails to submit the required records or to make them available, the FHWA may, after written notice to the contractor, the contracting agency or the State DOT, take such action as may be necessary to cause the suspension of any further payment, advance, or guarantee of funds. Furthermore, failure to submit the required records upon request or to make such records available may be grounds for debarment action pursuant to 29 CFR 5.12.

4. Apprentices and trainees

a. Apprentices (programs of the USDOL).

Apprentices will be permitted to work at less than the predetermined rate for the work they performed when they are employed pursuant to and individually registered in a bona fide apprenticeship program registered with the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Office of Apprenticeship Training, Employer and Labor Services, or with a State Apprenticeship Agency recognized by the Office, or if a person is employed in his or her first 90 days of probationary employment as an apprentice in such an apprenticeship program, who is not individually registered in the program, but who has been certified by the Office of Apprenticeship Training, Employer and Labor Services or a State Apprenticeship Agency (where appropriate) to be eligible for probationary employment as an apprentice.

The allowable ratio of apprentices to journeymen on the job site in any craft classification shall not be greater than the ratio permitted to the contractor as to the entire work force under the registered program. Any worker listed on a payroll at an apprentice wage rate, who is not registered or otherwise employed as stated above, shall be paid not less than the applicable wage rate on the wage determination for the classification of work actually performed. In addition, any apprentice performing work on the job site in excess of the ratio permitted under the registered program shall be paid not less than the applicable wage rate on the wage determination for the work actually performed. Where a contractor is performing construction on a project in a locality other than that in which its program is registered, the ratios and wage rates (expressed in percentages of the journeyman's hourly rate) specified in the contractor's or subcontractor's registered program shall be observed.

Every apprentice must be paid at not less than the rate specified in the registered program for the apprentice's level of progress, expressed as a percentage of the journeymen hourly

rate specified in the applicable wage determination. Apprentices shall be paid fringe benefits in accordance with the provisions of the apprenticeship program. If the apprenticeship program does not specify fringe benefits, apprentices must be paid the full amount of fringe benefits listed on the wage determination for the applicable classification. If the Administrator determines that a different practice prevails for the applicable apprentice classification, fringes shall be paid in accordance with that determination.

In the event the Office of Apprenticeship Training, Employer and Labor Services, or a State Apprenticeship Agency recognized by the Office, withdraws approval of an apprenticeship program, the contractor will no longer be permitted to utilize apprentices at less than the applicable predetermined rate for the work performed until an acceptable program is approved.

b. Trainees (programs of the USDOL).

Except as provided in 29 CFR 5.16, trainees will not be permitted to work at less than the predetermined rate for the work performed unless they are employed pursuant to and individually registered in a program which has received prior approval, evidenced by formal certification by the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration.

The ratio of trainees to journeymen on the job site shall not be greater than permitted under the plan approved by the Employment and Training Administration.

Every trainee must be paid at not less than the rate specified in the approved program for the trainee's level of progress, expressed as a percentage of the journeyman hourly rate specified in the applicable wage determination. Trainees shall be paid fringe benefits in accordance with the provisions of the trainee program. If the trainee program does not mention fringe benefits, trainees shall be paid the full amount of fringe benefits listed on the wage determination unless the Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division determines that there is an apprenticeship program associated with the corresponding journeyman wage rate on the wage determination which provides for less than full fringe benefits for apprentices. Any employee listed on the payroll at a trainee rate who is not registered and participating in a training plan approved by the Employment and Training Administration shall be paid not less than the applicable wage rate on the wage determination for the classification of work actually performed. In addition, any trainee performing work on the job site in excess of the ratio permitted under the registered program shall be paid not less than the applicable wage rate on the wage determination for the work actually performed.

In the event the Employment and Training Administration withdraws approval of a training program, the contractor will no longer be permitted to utilize trainees at less than the applicable predetermined rate for the work performed until an acceptable program is approved.

c. Equal employment opportunity. The utilization of apprentices, trainees and journeymen under this part shall be in conformity with the equal employment opportunity requirements of Executive Order 11246, as amended, and 29 CFR part 30.

d. Apprentices and Trainees (programs of the U.S. DOT).

Apprentices and trainees working under apprenticeship and skill training programs which have been certified by the Secretary of Transportation as promoting EEO in connection with Federal-aid highway construction programs are not subject to the requirements of paragraph 4 of this Section IV. The straight time hourly wage rates for apprentices and trainees under such programs will be established by the particular programs. The ratio of apprentices and trainees to journeymen shall not be greater than permitted by the terms of the particular program.

5. Compliance with Copeland Act requirements. The contractor shall comply with the requirements of 29 CFR part 3, which are incorporated by reference in this contract.

6. Subcontracts. The contractor or subcontractor shall insert Form FHWA-1273 in any subcontracts and also require the subcontractors to include Form FHWA-1273 in any lower tier subcontracts. The prime contractor shall be responsible for the compliance by any subcontractor or lower tier subcontractor with all the contract clauses in 29 CFR 5.5.

7. Contract termination; debarment. A breach of the contract clauses in 29 CFR 5.5 may be grounds for termination of the contract, and for debarment as a contractor and a subcontractor as provided in 29 CFR 5.12.

8. Compliance with Davis-Bacon and Related Act requirements. All rulings and interpretations of the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts contained in 29 CFR parts 1, 3, and 5 are herein incorporated by reference in this contract.

9. Disputes concerning labor standards. Disputes arising out of the labor standards provisions of this contract shall not be subject to the general disputes clause of this contract. Such disputes shall be resolved in accordance with the procedures of the Department of Labor set forth in 29 CFR parts 5, 6, and 7. Disputes within the meaning of this clause include disputes between the contractor (or any of its subcontractors) and the contracting agency, the U.S. Department of Labor, or the employees or their representatives.

10. Certification of eligibility.

a. By entering into this contract, the contractor certifies that neither it (nor he or she) nor any person or firm who has an interest in the contractor's firm is a person or firm ineligible to be awarded Government contracts by virtue of section 3(a) of the Davis-Bacon Act or 29 CFR 5.12(a)(1).

b. No part of this contract shall be subcontracted to any person or firm ineligible for award of a Government contract by virtue of section 3(a) of the Davis-Bacon Act or 29 CFR 5.12(a)(1).

c. The penalty for making false statements is prescribed in the U.S. Criminal Code, 16 U.S.C. 1001.

V. CONTRACT WORK HOURS AND SAFETY STANDARDS ACT

The following clauses apply to any Federal-aid construction contract in an amount in excess of \$100,000 and subject to the overtime provisions of the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act. These clauses shall be inserted in addition to the clauses required by 29 CFR 5.5(a) or 29 CFR 4.6. As used in this paragraph, the terms laborers and mechanics include watchmen and guards.

1. Overtime requirements. No contractor or subcontractor contracting for any part of the contract work which may require or involve the employment of laborers or mechanics shall require or permit any such laborer or mechanic in any workweek in which he or she is employed on such work to work in excess of forty hours in such workweek unless such laborer or mechanic receives compensation at a rate not less than one and one-half times the basic rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of forty hours in such workweek.

2. Violation; liability for unpaid wages; liquidated damages. In the event of any violation of the clause set forth in paragraph (1.) of this section, the contractor and any subcontractor responsible therefor shall be liable for the unpaid wages. In addition, such contractor and subcontractor shall be liable to the United States (in the case of work done under contract for the District of Columbia or a territory, to such District or to such territory), for liquidated damages. Such liquidated damages shall be computed with respect to each individual laborer or mechanic, including watchmen and guards, employed in violation of the clause set forth in paragraph (1.) of this section, in the sum of \$10 for each calendar day on which such individual was required or permitted to work in excess of the standard workweek of forty hours without payment of the overtime wages required by the clause set forth in paragraph (1.) of this section.

3. Withholding for unpaid wages and liquidated damages. The FHWA or the contracting agency shall upon its own action or upon written request of an authorized representative of the Department of Labor withhold or cause to be withheld, from any moneys payable on account of work performed by the contractor or subcontractor under any such contract or any other Federal contract with the same prime contractor, or any other federally-assisted contract subject to the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act, which is held by the same prime contractor, such sums as may be determined to be necessary to satisfy any liabilities of such contractor or subcontractor for unpaid wages and liquidated damages as provided in the clause set forth in paragraph (2.) of this section.

4. Subcontracts. The contractor or subcontractor shall insert in any subcontracts the clauses set forth in paragraph (1.) through (4.) of this section and also a clause requiring the subcontractors to include these clauses in any lower tier subcontracts. The prime contractor shall be responsible for compliance by any subcontractor or lower tier subcontractor with the clauses set forth in paragraphs (1.) through (4.) of this section.

VI. SUBLETTING OR ASSIGNING THE CONTRACT

This provision is applicable to all Federal-aid construction contracts on the National Highway System.

1. The contractor shall perform with its own organization contract work amounting to not less than 30 percent (or a greater percentage if specified elsewhere in the contract) of the total original contract price, excluding any specialty items designated by the contracting agency. Specialty items may be performed by subcontract and the amount of any such specialty items performed may be deducted from the total original contract price before computing the amount of work required to be performed by the contractor's own organization (23 CFR 635.116).

a. The term "perform work with its own organization" refers to workers employed or leased by the prime contractor, and equipment owned or rented by the prime contractor, with or without operators. Such term does not include employees or equipment of a subcontractor or lower tier subcontractor, agents of the prime contractor, or any other assignees. The term may include payments for the costs of hiring leased employees from an employee leasing firm meeting all relevant Federal and State regulatory requirements. Leased employees may only be included in this term if the prime contractor meets all of the following conditions:

(1) the prime contractor maintains control over the supervision of the day-to-day activities of the leased employees;

(2) the prime contractor remains responsible for the quality of the work of the leased employees;

(3) the prime contractor retains all power to accept or exclude individual employees from work on the project; and

(4) the prime contractor remains ultimately responsible for the payment of predetermined minimum wages, the submission of payrolls, statements of compliance and all other Federal regulatory requirements.

b. "Specialty Items" shall be construed to be limited to work that requires highly specialized knowledge, abilities, or equipment not ordinarily available in the type of contracting organizations qualified and expected to bid or propose on the contract as a whole and in general are to be limited to minor components of the overall contract.

2. The contract amount upon which the requirements set forth in paragraph (1) of Section VI is computed includes the cost of material and manufactured products which are to be purchased or produced by the contractor under the contract provisions.

3. The contractor shall furnish (a) a competent superintendent or supervisor who is employed by the firm, has full authority to direct performance of the work in accordance with the contract requirements, and is in charge of all construction operations (regardless of who performs the work) and (b) such other of its own organizational resources (supervision, management, and engineering services) as the contracting officer determines is necessary to assure the performance of the contract.

4. No portion of the contract shall be sublet, assigned or otherwise disposed of except with the written consent of the contracting officer, or authorized representative, and such consent when given shall not be construed to relieve the contractor of any responsibility for the fulfillment of the contract. Written consent will be given only after the contracting agency has assured that each subcontract is

evidenced in writing and that it contains all pertinent provisions and requirements of the prime contract.

5. The 30% self-performance requirement of paragraph (1) is not applicable to design-build contracts; however, contracting agencies may establish their own self-performance requirements.

VII. SAFETY: ACCIDENT PREVENTION

This provision is applicable to all Federal-aid construction contracts and to all related subcontracts.

1. In the performance of this contract the contractor shall comply with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws governing safety, health, and sanitation (23 CFR 635). The contractor shall provide all safeguards, safety devices and protective equipment and take any other needed actions as it determines, or as the contracting officer may determine, to be reasonably necessary to protect the life and health of employees on the job and the safety of the public and to protect property in connection with the performance of the work covered by the contract.

2. It is a condition of this contract, and shall be made a condition of each subcontract, which the contractor enters into pursuant to this contract, that the contractor and any subcontractor shall not permit any employee, in performance of the contract, to work in surroundings or under conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous or dangerous to his/her health or safety, as determined under construction safety and health standards (29 CFR 1926) promulgated by the Secretary of Labor, in accordance with Section 107 of the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. 3704).

3. Pursuant to 29 CFR 1926.3, it is a condition of this contract that the Secretary of Labor or authorized representative thereof, shall have right of entry to any site of contract performance to inspect or investigate the matter of compliance with the construction safety and health standards and to carry out the duties of the Secretary under Section 107 of the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C.3704).

VIII. FALSE STATEMENTS CONCERNING HIGHWAY PROJECTS

This provision is applicable to all Federal-aid construction contracts and to all related subcontracts.

In order to assure high quality and durable construction in conformity with approved plans and specifications and a high degree of reliability on statements and representations made by engineers, contractors, suppliers, and workers on Federal-aid highway projects, it is essential that all persons concerned with the project perform their functions as carefully, thoroughly, and honestly as possible. Willful falsification, distortion, or misrepresentation with respect to any facts related to the project is a violation of Federal law. To prevent any misunderstanding regarding the seriousness of these and similar acts, Form FHWA-1022 shall be posted on each Federal-aid highway project (23 CFR 635) in one or more places where it is readily available to all persons concerned with the project:

18 U.S.C. 1020 reads as follows:

"Whoever, being an officer, agent, or employee of the United States, or of any State or Territory, or whoever, whether a person, association, firm, or corporation, knowingly makes any false statement, false representation, or false report as to the character, quality, quantity, or cost of the material used or to be used, or the quantity or quality of the work performed or to be performed, or the cost thereof in connection with the submission of plans, maps, specifications, contracts, or costs of construction on any highway or related project submitted for approval to the Secretary of Transportation; or

Whoever knowingly makes any false statement, false representation, false report or false claim with respect to the character, quality, quantity, or cost of any work performed or to be performed, or materials furnished or to be furnished, in connection with the construction of any highway or related project approved by the Secretary of Transportation; or

Whoever knowingly makes any false statement or false representation as to material fact in any statement, certificate, or report submitted pursuant to provisions of the Federal-aid Roads Act approved July 1, 1916, (39 Stat. 355), as amended and supplemented;

Shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than 5 years or both."

IX. IMPLEMENTATION OF CLEAN AIR ACT AND FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT

This provision is applicable to all Federal-aid construction contracts and to all related subcontracts.

By submission of this bid/proposal or the execution of this contract, or subcontract, as appropriate, the bidder, proposer, Federal-aid construction contractor, or subcontractor, as appropriate, will be deemed to have stipulated as follows:

1. That any person who is or will be utilized in the performance of this contract is not prohibited from receiving an award due to a violation of Section 508 of the Clean Water Act or Section 306 of the Clean Air Act.

2. That the contractor agrees to include or cause to be included the requirements of paragraph (1) of this Section X in every subcontract, and further agrees to take such action as the contracting agency may direct as a means of enforcing such requirements.

X. CERTIFICATION REGARDING DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, INELIGIBILITY AND VOLUNTARY EXCLUSION

This provision is applicable to all Federal-aid construction contracts, design-build contracts, subcontracts, lower-tier subcontracts, purchase orders, lease agreements, consultant contracts or any other covered transaction requiring FHWA approval or that is estimated to cost \$25,000 or more – as defined in 2 CFR Parts 180 and 1200.

1. Instructions for Certification – First Tier Participants:

a. By signing and submitting this proposal, the prospective first tier participant is providing the certification set out below.

b. The inability of a person to provide the certification set out below will not necessarily result in denial of participation in this

covered transaction. The prospective first tier participant shall submit an explanation of why it cannot provide the certification set out below. The certification or explanation will be considered in connection with the department or agency's determination whether to enter into this transaction. However, failure of the prospective first tier participant to furnish a certification or an explanation shall disqualify such a person from participation in this transaction.

c. The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when the contracting agency determined to enter into this transaction. If it is later determined that the prospective participant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the contracting agency may terminate this transaction for cause of default.

d. The prospective first tier participant shall provide immediate written notice to the contracting agency to whom this proposal is submitted if any time the prospective first tier participant learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.

e. The terms "covered transaction," "debarred," "suspended," "ineligible," "participant," "person," "principal," and "voluntarily excluded," as used in this clause, are defined in 2 CFR Parts 180 and 1200. "First Tier Covered Transactions" refers to any covered transaction between a grantee or subgrantee of Federal funds and a participant (such as the prime or general contract). "Lower Tier Covered Transactions" refers to any covered transaction under a First Tier Covered Transaction (such as subcontracts). "First Tier Participant" refers to the participant who has entered into a covered transaction with a grantee or subgrantee of Federal funds (such as the prime or general contract). "Lower Tier Participant" refers any participant who has entered into a covered transaction with a First Tier Participant or other Lower Tier Participants (such as subcontractors and suppliers).

f. The prospective first tier participant agrees by submitting this proposal that, should the proposed covered transaction be entered into, it shall not knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the department or agency entering into this transaction.

g. The prospective first tier participant further agrees by submitting this proposal that it will include the clause titled "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion-Lower Tier Covered Transactions," provided by the department or contracting agency, entering into this covered transaction, without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions exceeding the \$25,000 threshold.

h. A participant in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of a prospective participant in a lower tier covered transaction that is not debarred, suspended, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from the covered transaction, unless it knows that the certification is erroneous. A participant is responsible for ensuring that its principals are not suspended, debarred, or otherwise ineligible to participate in covered transactions. To verify the eligibility of its principals, as well as the eligibility of any lower tier prospective participants, each participant may, but is not required to, check the Excluded Parties List System website (<https://www.epls.gov/>), which is compiled by the General Services Administration.

i. Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require the establishment of a system of records in order to render in good faith the certification required by this clause. The knowledge and information of the prospective participant is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.

j. Except for transactions authorized under paragraph (f) of these instructions, if a participant in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a person who is suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department or agency may terminate this transaction for cause or default.

2. Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion – First Tier Participants:

a. The prospective first tier participant certifies to the best of its knowledge and belief, that it and its principals:

(1) Are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participating in covered transactions by any Federal department or agency;

(2) Have not within a three-year period preceding this proposal been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against them for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (Federal, State or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of Federal or State antitrust statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;

(3) Are not presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (Federal, State or local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in paragraph (a)(2) of this certification; and

(4) Have not within a three-year period preceding this application/proposal had one or more public transactions (Federal, State or local) terminated for cause or default.

b. Where the prospective participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

2. Instructions for Certification - Lower Tier Participants:

(Applicable to all subcontracts, purchase orders and other lower tier transactions requiring prior FHWA approval or estimated to cost \$25,000 or more - 2 CFR Parts 180 and 1200)

a. By signing and submitting this proposal, the prospective lower tier is providing the certification set out below.

b. The certification in this clause is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was entered into. If it is later determined that the prospective lower tier participant knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the department, or agency with which

this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.

c. The prospective lower tier participant shall provide immediate written notice to the person to which this proposal is submitted if at any time the prospective lower tier participant learns that its certification was erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.

d. The terms "covered transaction," "debarred," "suspended," "ineligible," "participant," "person," "principal," and "voluntarily excluded," as used in this clause, are defined in 2 CFR Parts 180 and 1200. You may contact the person to which this proposal is submitted for assistance in obtaining a copy of those regulations. "First Tier Covered Transactions" refers to any covered transaction between a grantee or subgrantee of Federal funds and a participant (such as the prime or general contract). "Lower Tier Covered Transactions" refers to any covered transaction under a First Tier Covered Transaction (such as subcontracts). "First Tier Participant" refers to the participant who has entered into a covered transaction with a grantee or subgrantee of Federal funds (such as the prime or general contractor). "Lower Tier Participant" refers any participant who has entered into a covered transaction with a First Tier Participant or other Lower Tier Participants (such as subcontractors and suppliers).

e. The prospective lower tier participant agrees by submitting this proposal that, should the proposed covered transaction be entered into, it shall not knowingly enter into any lower tier covered transaction with a person who is debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this covered transaction, unless authorized by the department or agency with which this transaction originated.

f. The prospective lower tier participant further agrees by submitting this proposal that it will include this clause titled "Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion-Lower Tier Covered Transaction," without modification, in all lower tier covered transactions and in all solicitations for lower tier covered transactions exceeding the \$25,000 threshold.

g. A participant in a covered transaction may rely upon a certification of a prospective participant in a lower tier covered transaction that is not debarred, suspended, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from the covered transaction, unless it knows that the certification is erroneous. A participant is responsible for ensuring that its principals are not suspended, debarred, or otherwise ineligible to participate in covered transactions. To verify the eligibility of its principals, as well as the eligibility of any lower tier prospective participants, each participant may, but is not required to, check the Excluded Parties List System website (<https://www.epls.gov/>), which is compiled by the General Services Administration.

h. Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render in good faith the certification required by this clause. The knowledge and information of participant is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.

i. Except for transactions authorized under paragraph e of these instructions, if a participant in a covered transaction knowingly enters into a lower tier covered transaction with a person who is suspended, debarred, ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction, in addition to other remedies available to the Federal Government, the

department or agency with which this transaction originated may pursue available remedies, including suspension and/or debarment.

* * * * *

Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion--Lower Tier Participants:

1. The prospective lower tier participant certifies, by submission of this proposal, that neither it nor its principals is presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participating in covered transactions by any Federal department or agency.

2. Where the prospective lower tier participant is unable to certify to any of the statements in this certification, such prospective participant shall attach an explanation to this proposal.

* * * * *

XI. CERTIFICATION REGARDING USE OF CONTRACT FUNDS FOR LOBBYING

This provision is applicable to all Federal-aid construction contracts and to all related subcontracts which exceed \$100,000 (49 CFR 20).

1. The prospective participant certifies, by signing and submitting this bid or proposal, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

a. No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any Federal agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

b. If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any Federal agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.

2. This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by 31 U.S.C. 1352. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

3. The prospective participant also agrees by submitting its bid or proposal that the participant shall require that the language of this certification be included in all lower tier subcontracts, which exceed \$100,000 and that all such recipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

**ATTACHMENT A - EMPLOYMENT AND MATERIALS
PREFERENCE FOR APPALACHIAN DEVELOPMENT
HIGHWAY SYSTEM OR APPALACHIAN LOCAL ACCESS
ROAD CONTRACTS**

This provision is applicable to all Federal-aid projects funded under the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965.

1. During the performance of this contract, the contractor undertaking to do work which is, or reasonably may be, done as on-site work, shall give preference to qualified persons who regularly reside in the labor area as designated by the DOL wherein the contract work is situated, or the subregion, or the Appalachian counties of the State wherein the contract work is situated, except:

a. To the extent that qualified persons regularly residing in the area are not available.

b. For the reasonable needs of the contractor to employ supervisory or specially experienced personnel necessary to assure an efficient execution of the contract work.

c. For the obligation of the contractor to offer employment to present or former employees as the result of a lawful collective bargaining contract, provided that the number of nonresident persons employed under this subparagraph (1c) shall not exceed 20 percent of the total number of employees employed by the contractor on the contract work, except as provided in subparagraph (4) below.

2. The contractor shall place a job order with the State Employment Service indicating (a) the classifications of the laborers, mechanics and other employees required to perform the contract work, (b) the number of employees required in each classification, (c) the date on which the participant estimates such employees will be required, and (d) any other pertinent information required by the State Employment Service to complete the job order form. The job order may be placed with the State Employment Service in writing or by telephone. If during the course of the contract work, the information submitted by the contractor in the original job order is substantially modified, the participant shall promptly notify the State Employment Service.

3. The contractor shall give full consideration to all qualified job applicants referred to him by the State Employment Service. The contractor is not required to grant employment to any job applicants who, in his opinion, are not qualified to perform the classification of work required.

4. If, within one week following the placing of a job order by the contractor with the State Employment Service, the State Employment Service is unable to refer any qualified job applicants to the contractor, or less than the number requested, the State Employment Service will forward a certificate to the contractor indicating the unavailability of applicants. Such certificate shall be made a part of the contractor's permanent project records. Upon receipt of this certificate, the contractor may employ persons who do not normally reside in the labor area to fill positions covered by the certificate, notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraph (1c) above.

5. The provisions of 23 CFR 633.207(e) allow the contracting agency to provide a contractual preference for the use of mineral resource materials native to the Appalachian region.

6. The contractor shall include the provisions of Sections 1 through 4 of this Attachment A in every subcontract for work which is, or reasonably may be, done as on-site work.

Exhibit "J"

PROPOSER'S AFFIDAVIT

PROPOSER'S AFFIDAVIT OF NON-COLLUSION NON-CONFLICT OF INTEREST, AND ANTI-LOBBYING
--

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HIDALGO

Affiant, _____, being first duly sworn, deposes that:

(1) Affiant does hereby state neither the proposer nor any of the proposer's officers, partners, owners, agents, representatives, employees, or parties in interest, has in any way colluded, conspired, agreed, directly or indirectly with any person, firm, corporation, or another proposer, or potential proposer, to provide any money or other valuable consideration for assistance in procuring or attempting to procure a contract or fix the prices in the attached proposed or the proposal of any other proposer, and further states that no such money or another reward will be hereinafter paid.

(2) Affiant further states they have neither recommended nor suggested to Hidalgo County or any of its officials or employees, any of the terms or provisions set forth in their Request for Proposal and subsequent agreement, except at a meeting open to all interested proposers, of which proper notice was given.

(3) Affiant, further states their officers, employees, or agents have not, and will not attempt to lobby, directly or indirectly, the Hidalgo County Commissioner's Court between proposal submission date and award by the Hidalgo County Commissioner's Court.

(4) Affiant further states no officer, or stockholder of the proposer is a member of the staff, or related to any employee of Hidalgo County except as noted herein below:

Signature/Title: _____

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____, 2019.

Notary Public

My commission expires: _____, 20____

2. Company hereby promises and agrees to render and provide, during the term of this Contract, and shall be obligated to render and provide the Services in accordance with the RFQ Packet of Hidalgo County following a request for Services by the County or its designated agent. Company agrees in performing the Services that it will use proper professional standards, comply with any and all appropriate laws and regulations in providing the Services, and devote such time as is necessary to safely and efficiently provide the Services.

3. This Contract shall be for a period of one (1) year commencing on _____, 2019 and expiring on _____, 2020 and may extended at the sole discretion of the County for an additional three (3) one (1) year term under the same rates, terms and conditions. Hidalgo County also reserves the right to continue this Contract for an additional sixty (60) day grace period at the end of the Contract term due to any unforeseen delay of award for next term and contingent upon cost remaining unchanged, unless this Contract is terminated pursuant to the provisions herein, whichever occurs first.

4. As a condition of this Contract, Company shall hold and maintain throughout the term of this Contract all licenses and permits required, or which may be required by any authority during the term hereof to provide the Services.

5. All trucks or vehicles operated by the Company to perform the Services shall contain all equipment required by any authority to operate on streets and roads and all person in the employment of Company who operate such trucks or vehicles shall have the required licenses, qualifications, skill and expertise to perform such Services and shall comply with all the laws,

rules and regulations prescribed by any agency or authority having jurisdiction with regard to the operation of such trucks or vehicles in providing the Services.

6. As consideration for rendering the Services, County agrees to pay Company the amounts specified in Exhibit "B" attached hereto payable against written invoice submitted by Company.

7. Company shall provide insurance in force on all its vehicles and all persons connected with providing Services under this Contract naming County as an additional insured (with the coverages and in the amounts described on Exhibit "C" attached hereto and incorporated herein at this point for all purposes), and shall furnish to County certificates of such insurance coverage.

8. Company shall provide a sufficient number of trucks, vehicles, personnel and equipment available to safely and efficiently provide the Services.

9. Company shall indemnify and hold harmless County, its elected officials, employees and agents from any and all claims, damages, losses, and expenses including attorney's fees for the defense of any action against County arising out of, resulting from, or connected with the provision of the Service by Company under this Contract. Said indemnity shall cover any act or failure to act by the Company, its agents or employees.

10. This Contract shall not be assignable in whole or in part by either party without prior written consent of the other party.

11. It is expressly agreed that this Contract and the performance by the parties hereunder does not create any agency relationship or master-servant relationship and that County

has no supervision of the performance of the Services provided by Company, and that Company is an independent contractor under this Contract.

12. Any notice required or permitted to be given hereunder shall be in writing and shall be delivered personally or sent by certified mail, postage prepaid, as set forth below:

If to County:

**The County of Hidalgo
Attn: County Judge
100 E. Cano Street, 2nd Floor
Edinburg, Texas 78539**

If to Company

13. In case any one or more of the provisions contained in this Contract shall for any reason be held to be invalid, illegal or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision thereof and this Contract shall be construed as if such invalid, illegal, or unenforceable provision had never been contained herein.

14. Any contract award to a successful bidder will be in effect until (a) the contract expires (b) delivery and acceptance of products, and/or performance of services ordered, or (c) terminated without cause by County with thirty day's written notice prior to cancellation.

15. This Contract shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of and be enforceable by the parties hereto and their respective heirs, executors, administrators, legal representatives, successors, and assigns where permitted by this Contract.

16. **THIS CONTRACT SHALL BE GOVERNED BY AND CONSTRUED IN**

ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF TEXAS AND SHALL BE PERFORMABLE IN HIDALGO COUNTY.

17. 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 Contract, County may terminate this Contract upon ninety (90) days written notice to Company. County agrees, however, to use reasonable efforts to secure funds necessary for the continued performance of this Contract. The parties intend this provision to be a continuing right to terminate this Contract at the expiration of each budget period of County pursuant to the provisions of Tex. Loc. Govt. Code Ann. ' 271.903 (Vernon Supp. 1996).

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

19. Immunities. Nothing in this Contract is intended to and County does not hereby waive, release or relinquish any right to assert any of the defenses County enjoys by virtue of the state or federal constitution, laws, rules or regulations, and any sovereign, official or qualified immunity available to County as to any claim or action of any person, entity, or individual against County.

WITNESS our hands in duplicate originals this _____ day of _____, 2019.

COUNTY OF HIDALGO

ATTEST:

By: _____
Richard F. Cortez, County Judge

By: _____
Arturo Guajardo Jr., County Clerk

Company: _____

By: _____

Printed Name: _____

Title: _____

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Atlas, Hall & Rodriguez, LLP

By: _____
Stephen L. Crain

EXHIBIT “A”
HIDALGO COUNTY’S
REQUEST FOR BIDS (RFB)
PACKET

DRAFT

EXHIBIT "B"
VENDOR'S BID

DRAFT

**EXHIBIT “C”
INSURANCE
REQUIREMENTS**

DRAFT



HIDALGO COUNTY

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

ARBITRAGE CALCULATIONS SERVICES

RFQ No.: 2019-109-06-12-YZV

RFQ SUBMITTAL CHECKLIST

All forms listed below must be submitted in the RFQ response. If forms are not submitted, your response may be considered non-responsive.

Indicate with a check mark (✓) the Forms completed and included in this response:

_____ Page 10 of Legal Notice

_____ Exhibit "C" – Insurance Requirement Acknowledgement forms (pages 3 and 4)

_____ Exhibit "D" - CIQ Form -Copy of County Clerk File Recording fee receipt (if applicable)

_____ Exhibit "E" – Vendor/Bidder Application - W-9 Form – HUB/DBE

_____ Exhibit "F" – Certification Regarding Debarment

_____ Exhibit "H" – Required Contract Clauses for Contracts Under Federal Award 2 – CFR 200, Appendix II & FEMA (if applicable)

_____ Exhibit "J" – Proposer's Affidavit

_____ SAMS.gov Registration Acknowledgement

_____ One (1) Original (original must be one (1) sided and clearly marked as original), two (2) Copies, and three (3) USB's in PDF format containing a complete copy of Response.

Signature

Date