



Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
2812 S. Business Highway 281
New Administration Building
Edinburg, Texas 78539
(956) 318-2626/ Fax: (956) 318-2629

March 5, 2014

RECEIVED MAR - 6 2014

The J. Ramirez Law Firm
Attn: Honorable Jesus Ramirez
Ebony Park, Suite B
N. Veterans Blvd.
San Juan, Texas 78539

Honorable Ramirez:

Enclosed for your signature, are two sets of the "Letter Of Engagement" between Hidalgo County and The J. Ramirez Law Firm for the "Bond Counsel" services.

Please sign and return back so as to route the documents for the rest of the applicable signatures. I will forward a set back to the firm for your records upon full execution.

Thank you,

Vangie Y. Garcia, Contract's Manager
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department

24.

Purchasing Department - Marty Salazar:

Notes:

A. FOR ANY CONTRACT(S) AWARDED AND APPROVED UNDER THIS AGENDA, EXECUTED COPIES OF THE CONTRACT(S) WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE COUNTY INTRA-NET WEBSITE AND WILL BE FORWARDED VIA E-MAIL, FAX OR HAND DELIVERED TO HIDALGO COUNTY AUDITOR'S OFFICE.

B. ANY AND ALL REQUESTS FOR PAYMENT(S) APPROVED WILL BE SUBJECT TO COUNTY AUDITORS PROCESSING PROCEDURES INCLUDING AUTHORITY FOR COUNTY TREASURER TO ISSUE PAYMENT(S)/CHECK(S).

A.

Hidalgo County

1. AI-42831

A. Pursuant to Article 13.3.3.1, AIA-Form of Agreement between HC & Alcocer-Garcia Associates, project architect for: Renovations/Remodeling of 1st & 2nd Floors of former Administration Building located at 100 E. Cano, Edinburg, Texas confirmation of notification to architect (through Purchasing Dept. after full consultation with Executive Officer) to proceed and engage services of appropriate professional services consultant to assess substance found by General Contractor in an area (as yet not surveyed due to continuous occupancy); or, in the alternative:

NO ACTION taken on this Item.

B. Through HC's membership/participation with The Interlocal Purchasing System (TIPS), authority to accept and approve proposals awarded TIPS vendor (AAMECC) for the testing of identified suspicious (possibly ACM) including the writing of specifications for abate/remediation and monitoring services including the issuance of applicable POs.

On motion by COMMISSIONER PCT. 1, A.C. CUELLAR, JR., seconded by COMMISSIONER PCT. 3, JOE M. FLORES, the Court made a UNANIMOUS vote of approval.

Vote: 5 - 0 - Unanimously

2. AI-42833

Approval for the automatic extension of a successive one (1) year term (as provided in the letter of engagement) with **The J. Ramirez Law Firm**, fka, Ramirez & Guerrero, for continued provision of services as Bond Counsel for Hidalgo County.

On motion by COMMISSIONER PCT. 4, JOSEPH PALACIOS, seconded by COMMISSIONER PCT. 1, A.C. CUELLAR, JR., the Court made a UNANIMOUS vote of approval.

Vote: 5 - 0 - Unanimously



AI-42833

Purchasing Department 41. A. 3.

CC REGULAR

Meeting Date: 02/11/2014

Submitted For: Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Submitted By: Vangie Garcia, PURCHASING DEPT. Purchasing Agent

Department: PURCHASING DEPT.

Information

CAPTION

Approval for the automatic extension of a successive one (1) year term (as provided in the letter of engagement) with **The J. Ramirez Law Firm**, fka, Ramirez & Guerrero, for continued provision of services as Bond Counsel for Hidalgo County.

BACKGROUND

Agreement shall be automatically extended for successive one year terms however is placed on yearly basis pursuant to fiscal budgetary purposes. Effective date March 16, 2014 with ending date of March 15, 2015 for said extension.

Fiscal Impact

FISCAL YEAR: 2014

ACCT. #: 1100-415-30-125-006-0-339

FUNDS AVAILABLE Y/N?:

MATCHING FUNDS Y/N?:

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

FISCAL YEAR:

ACCT. #:

FUNDS AVAILABLE Y/N?:

MATCHING FUNDS Y/N?:

BUDGETARY IMPACT:

Available funding as of 01/24/14: \$257,489.78

Attachments

Agreement and legal's approval

Form Review

<u>Inbox</u>	<u>Reviewed By</u>	<u>Date</u>
Purchasing Department	Marty Salazar	01/31/2014 04:49 PM
Budget & Management	Debbie Tamez	02/04/2014 10:28 AM
Purchasing Department	Marty Salazar	01/31/2014 04:49 PM
Budget & Management	Debbie Tamez	02/04/2014 10:28 AM

Glinda Pacheco
Auditor's Office

Form Started By: Vangie Garcia

Started On: 01/24/2014 10:23 AM



Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
2812 S. Business Highway 281
New Administration Building
Edinburg, Texas 78539
(956) 318-2626/ Fax: (956) 318-2629

January 24, 2014

The J. Ramirez Law Firm
Ebony Park, Suite B,
N. Veterans Blvd.
San Juan, Texas 78589

certified Mail: 7099-3220-002-9745-4438
Email: dcepeda@rg-legal.com

Re: Renewal Of Bond Counsel Agreement

Honorable Jesus Ramirez;

Hidalgo County Purchasing Department will be requesting Commissioners' Court approval of the annual automatic one (1) year renewal term for the County's Letter Of Engagement with The J. Ramirez Law Firm for the "Bond Counsel" services pursuant to the same rates, terms and conditions of the agreement.

Please acknowledge receipt of this notice of placement on the Commissioners' Court meeting of **Tuesday, February 11, 2014** for discussion, consideration and action, by signing below and returning to the Purchasing Department, by no later than **10:00 a.m., Wednesday, January 29, 2014 and or sooner**, if possible, via facsimile to (956) 956-318-2629 or email to: evangelina.garcia@co.hidalgo.tx.us so as to meet the agenda request form deadlines.

In addition, since the name of the firm has been changed, please forward an updated letter of engagement with the new name of the firm with the same rates, terms and conditions as the current agreement in place.

By: _____ Date: JAN 30 2013

Additionally, we are requesting your company provide an updated certificate of insurance as required through Hidalgo County's Request for (Bid, Quote, Proposal, Statement of Qualification, if applicable).

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (956) 318-2626. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated and we hope your company continues its business relationship with Hidalgo County.

Sincerely,
Vangie Y. Garcia, Contract's Manager
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department

THE J. RAMIREZ LAW FIRM

Attorneys at Law

700 N. Veterans Blvd., Ste. B

San Juan, Texas 78589

Phone: (956) 502-5424

Fax: (956) 502-5007

February 4, 2014

Hon. Ramon Garcia
County of Hidalgo
100 E. Cano
Edinburg, Texas 78539

Re: Engagement of Bond Counsel

Honorable Judge Garcia:

We are pleased to submit to you a proposed agreement for The J. Ramirez Law Firm to serve as Bond Counsel with respect to one or more series of obligations (including new money bonds, refunding bonds, personal property finance obligations and lease and lease purchase and installment purchase agreements) that the County of Hidalgo (the "Issuer") intends to issue, or may issue in the future, for the purposes, respectively, of construction of improvements, purchase of personal property and/or to refund or restructure its existing debt service or lease-purchase revenue bonds through a public facilities corporation (hereinafter referred to as the "Obligations"). When approved by you, this letter will become effective and will evidence an agreement between the Issuer and The J. Ramirez Law Firm, Bond Counsel. Our fees are billed only if the obligations are issued. Any out-of-pocket costs are reimburseable.

Basic Services

Bond Counsel will prepare, or assist the Issuer in the preparation of, all required legal documents and proceedings and will perform all other necessary legal work in connection with the Issuer's authorization, issuance and sale of each series of the Obligations. Our services as Bond Counsel will include the following Basic Services, which we will carry out directly or in concert with officials, staff, and consultants of the Issuer:

(1) Preparation of all notices (including notices of public meetings, notices and resolutions regarding reimbursement bonds and published notices), resolutions and orders (including those governing calling bond elections), resolutions and other legal proceedings necessary to authorize issuance of each series of the Obligations, and all other instruments which comprise the transcript of legal proceedings of the Issuer pertaining to the authorization, issuance and sale of each such series;

(2) Attendance of all meetings called or arranged by or on behalf of the Issuer or Issuer personnel (or their representatives) who are responsible for the issuance, sale and delivery of the Obligations, to the extent required or requested by such persons, to discuss the legal aspects of the Obligations, including but not limited to the sizing, timing or sale of each series of the Obligations;

(3) Consultation with Issuer officials and staff and the Issuer's financial advisors and independent auditors to review information to be included in the offering documents for each series of the Obligations;

(4) Preparation and submission, as required by law, of transcripts of legal proceedings pertaining to the issuance of each series of the Obligations to the Attorney General of Texas;

(5) Supervision of the printing of each series of the Obligations and the delivery thereof to the purchasers, including, if requested, solicitation of bids from bond printers under the direction of the County Judge or financial advisor or other Issuer personnel who are responsible for the issuance, sale and delivery of the Obligations, to obtain the lowest responsible printing costs for the Issuer;

(6) At the closing of each series of the Obligations, delivery of an approving opinion, based on facts and law existing as of its date, which shall be fully acceptable in the national public finance field, generally to the effect that such series has been duly issued, executed and delivered in accordance with the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas, that the Obligations of each series constitute valid and legally binding obligations of the Issuer secured by a lien on and pledge of, as appropriate, ad valorem taxes, revenues, or other available funds of the Issuer pledged to their payment in the respective Bond Order (subject to bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, moratorium and other similar laws in effect from time to time relating to or affecting the enforcement of rights of creditors, and the Issuer) and that interest on such series of the Obligations is excludable from the gross income of the owners thereof for federal income tax purposes under then existing law; provided that after the closing we do not undertake to provide continuing advice concerning any actions necessary to assure that interest paid on the Obligations will continue to be excluded from gross income for federal income tax purposes; and

(7) Prior to and in connection with the closing of each series of the Obligations, preparation and delivery of a Tax Exemption and No-Arbitrage Certificate that will enable appropriate officials of the Issuer to comply with the arbitrage requirements of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as they affect the Obligations, including yield restrictions and rebate requirements.

Compensation

A base fee of \$15,000 for up to \$3,000,000.00 in principal amount of bonds;

\$1,000 for every \$1,000,000 from \$3,000,000 to \$20,000,000;

\$750 for every \$1,000,000 from \$20,000,000 and above

Additional Services

In addition to the foregoing Basic Services, as Bond Counsel, The J. Ramirez Law Firm is prepared to undertake the following Additional Services, as requested by the Issuer or Issuer's personnel who are responsible for the issuance, sale and delivery of the Obligations. Services rendered in connection with calling a bond election limited to preparing a bond election order, preparing an order for appointment of early voting and election personnel, preparing form notices of the election, preparing a letter request for pre-clearance under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, and providing advisory opinions to the Issuer related to calling and publicizing the election and to the appointment of early voting and election personnel will be billed at a flat fee of \$3,000.00. The fee for any additional services which do not constitute direct bond counsel fees but are needed in connection with, resolving a legal issue, will be at an hourly rate of \$200.00 or \$175.00, depending on lawyer assigned.

The compensation for legal services stated herein will be contingent on the Issuer's sale of any bonds authorized for issuance.

Bond Counsel will be reimbursed for up to a maximum \$1,000.00 of its reasonable and actual out-of-pocket expenses, such as the cost of reproduction of documents, out-of-town travel, long distance telephone, telegraph, telex and similar expenses, deliveries, and for the actual cost of all items paid for by Bond Counsel on behalf of the Issuer, incurred in connection with the performance of all services hereunder. All of the expenses of Bond Counsel will be reasonable and expenses which may exceed \$1,000.00 will be subject to prior approval of the Issuer. The Attorney General filing fees and the costs of printing the bonds will be the responsibility of issuer.

Payment to Bond Counsel for all services shall be payable only out of the proceeds of the sale of each series of the Obligations and shall be contingent upon the sale and delivery of each series of the Obligations during the term of this agreement.

The term of this agreement shall be for one year from the date of its approval by the Issuer, but shall be automatically extended for successive one year terms unless the Issuer gives us notice of termination during the last month of any term. Additionally, the Issuer may at any time terminate this agreement by giving us 30 days written notice of termination.

No provision of this agreement shall be deemed to be an agreement or undertaking of any member of the Commissioners Court or any official or employee of the Issuer, and no such member, official or employee shall be personally liable in connection herewith or be subject to any personal liability or accountability by reason of the terms hereof.

If this proposed agreement for the services of The J. Ramirez Law Firm as Bond Counsel is satisfactory, please evidence your acceptance and approval by executing two copies in the space provided below.


Sincerely,

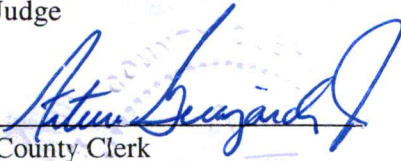
THE J. RAMIREZ LAW FIRM

By: 
JESUS RAMIREZ

APPROVED AND ACCEPTED:

COUNTY OF HIDALGO


Judge


County Clerk

Approved by Commissioners' Court
on 2/11/14 RO

(SEAL)



Zimbra

evangelina.garcia@co.hidalgo.tx.us

Re: Letter Of Engagement and renewal notice -Bond Counsel-Hidalgo County

From : Evangelina Garcia <evangelina.garcia@co.hidalgo.tx.us> Fri, Jan 31, 2014 10:59 AM
Subject : Re: Letter Of Engagement and renewal notice -Bond Counsel-Hidalgo County
To : Steve Crain <scrain@atlashall.com>
Cc : Martha Salazar <martha.salazar@co.hidalgo.tx.us>

Thank you.....

From: "Steve Crain" <scrain@atlashall.com>
To: "Evangelina Garcia" <evangelina.garcia@co.hidalgo.tx.us>
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2014 10:57:59 AM
Subject: RE: Letter Of Engagement and renewal notice -Bond Counsel-Hidalgo County

The engagement letter is OK.

From: Evangelina Garcia [mailto:evangelina.garcia@co.hidalgo.tx.us]
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2014 10:14 AM
To: Steve Crain
Cc: Martha Salazar
Subject: Fwd: Letter Of Engagement and renewal notice -Bond Counsel-Hidalgo County

Good Morning Mr. Crain:
The document has been revised as requested, please review as to form.

Thank you

From: "David Cepeda" <dcepeda@rg-legal.com>
To: "Evangelina Garcia" <evangelina.garcia@co.hidalgo.tx.us>
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2014 9:32:55 AM
Subject: RE: Letter Of Engagement and renewal notice -Bond Counsel-Hidalgo County

Please see revised agreement attached. "President and Superintendent" were replaced with County Judge.

From: Evangelina Garcia [mailto:evangelina.garcia@co.hidalgo.tx.us]
Sent: Friday, January 31, 2014 9:02 AM
To: David Cepeda
Subject: Re: Letter Of Engagement and renewal notice -Bond Counsel-Hidalgo County