

## **WORK AUTHORIZATION**

### **WORK AUTHORIZATION NO. 8**

#### **PROJECT: Liberty Hill Bypass West (Segment 1) – Environmental Services**

This Work Authorization is made pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Williamson County Contract for Environmental Services, being dated May 9, 2024, and entered into by and between Williamson County, Texas, a political subdivision of the State of Texas, (the "County") and SWCA Environmental Consultants (the "Firm").

Part 1. The Firm will provide the following Environmental Services set forth in Attachment "B" of this Work Authorization.

Part 2. The maximum amount payable for services under this Work Authorization without modification is \$31,559.00.

Part 3. Payment to the Firm for the services established under this Work Authorization shall be made in accordance with the Contract.

Part 4. This Work Authorization shall become effective March 15, 2025 and shall terminate on July 31, 2026. The Firm's Services set forth in Attachment "B" of this Work Authorization shall be fully completed on or before said date unless extended by a Supplemental Work Authorization.

Part 5. This Work Authorization does not waive the parties' responsibilities and obligations provided under the Contract.

Part 6. County believes it has sufficient funds currently available and authorized for expenditure to finance the costs of this Work Authorization. Firm understands and agrees that County's payment of amounts under this Work Authorization is contingent on the County receiving appropriations or other expenditure authority sufficient to allow the County, in the exercise of reasonable administrative discretion, to continue to make payments under this Contract. It is further understood and agreed by Firm that County shall have the right to terminate this Contract at the end of any County fiscal year if the governing body of County does not appropriate sufficient funds as determined by County's budget for the fiscal year in question. County may effect such termination by giving written notice of termination to Firm.

Part 7. This Work Authorization is hereby accepted and acknowledged below.

*Continued next page*


EXECUTED this \_\_\_\_\_.

FIRM:

SWCA Environmental Consultants

COUNTY:

Williamson County, Texas

By:   
Signature

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

Matthew McMillan  
Printed Name

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

Natural Resources Director – Austin  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Services to be Provided by the County

Attachment B – Services to be Provided by the Firm

Attachment C – Work Schedule

Attachment D – Fee Schedule

**APPROVED**

*By Christen Eschberger at 5:25 pm, Mar 27, 2025*

**ATTACHMENT A  
SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY  
FOR THE LIBERTY HILL BYPASS WEST (SEGMENT 1) PROJECT**

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In general, Williamson County and its representatives to their best efforts will render services as follows:

1. Provide the name, business address, and phone number of County's project manager.
2. Assist the Firm, as necessary, with obtaining data and information from other local, regional, State and Federal agencies required for this project.
3. Obtain Rights of Entry from landowners that are unwilling to grant access to the Firm.
4. Provide available appropriate County data on file such as plans and specifications that are deemed pertinent to the completion of the work required by the scope of services (including previous hydraulic studies, models, previous reports and studies, available existing traffic counts, and design year traffic projections).
5. Provide available criteria and full information as to the client's requirements for the project. Provide examples of acceptable format for the required deliverables.
6. Provide timely reviews and decisions necessary for the Firm to maintain the project work schedule. Review recommendations offered by the Firm, progress of work, and final acceptance of all documents.
7. Submittal of documentation to regulatory agencies for review and comment, when specified.
8. Support project development efforts with stakeholders, coordinate meetings, and interface with stakeholders, as needed.
9. Post and maintain project information for public consumption on the County website.
10. Assist with Coordination between the Firm and the County's other subconsultants.
11. Negotiate with all utility companies for any agreements and/or relocations required.
12. Provide an agent as necessary to secure proposed right-of-way.
13. Provide construction observation and review contractor pay applications and progress.
14. Provide Firm with Contractor submittals, Requests for Information (RFIs), shop drawings, and correspondence.
15. Review Firm progress, submittals, and plan changes.

**ATTACHMENT B  
SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE FIRM  
FOR THE LIBERTY HILL BYPASS WEST (SEGMENT 1) PROJECT**

**WORK AUTHORIZATION NO. 8  
PROJECT: Liberty Hill Bypass West (Segment 1) –  
Environmental Services**

The County proposes the Liberty Hill Bypass West (Segment 1) project, which is a new location roadway from State Highway 29 (west of Liberty Hill High School) south to Ranch-to-Market Road 1869 (project). The proposed project will start with two lanes and is the addition of a two-lane road with 12-foot-wide lanes, 10-foot-wide shoulders, turn lanes, and intersection improvements that will serve as a future eastbound frontage road constructed adjacent to the existing roadway. The ultimate project footprint is generally 330 – 360 feet wide, approximately 3.2 miles long, and covers 124.0 acres. Additionally, the County has requested surveys within a County-owned parcel, in addition to the project area. The project footprint with a surrounding 250-foot buffer and also within the County-owned parcel is defined as the project area. Figure 1 depicts the project area.

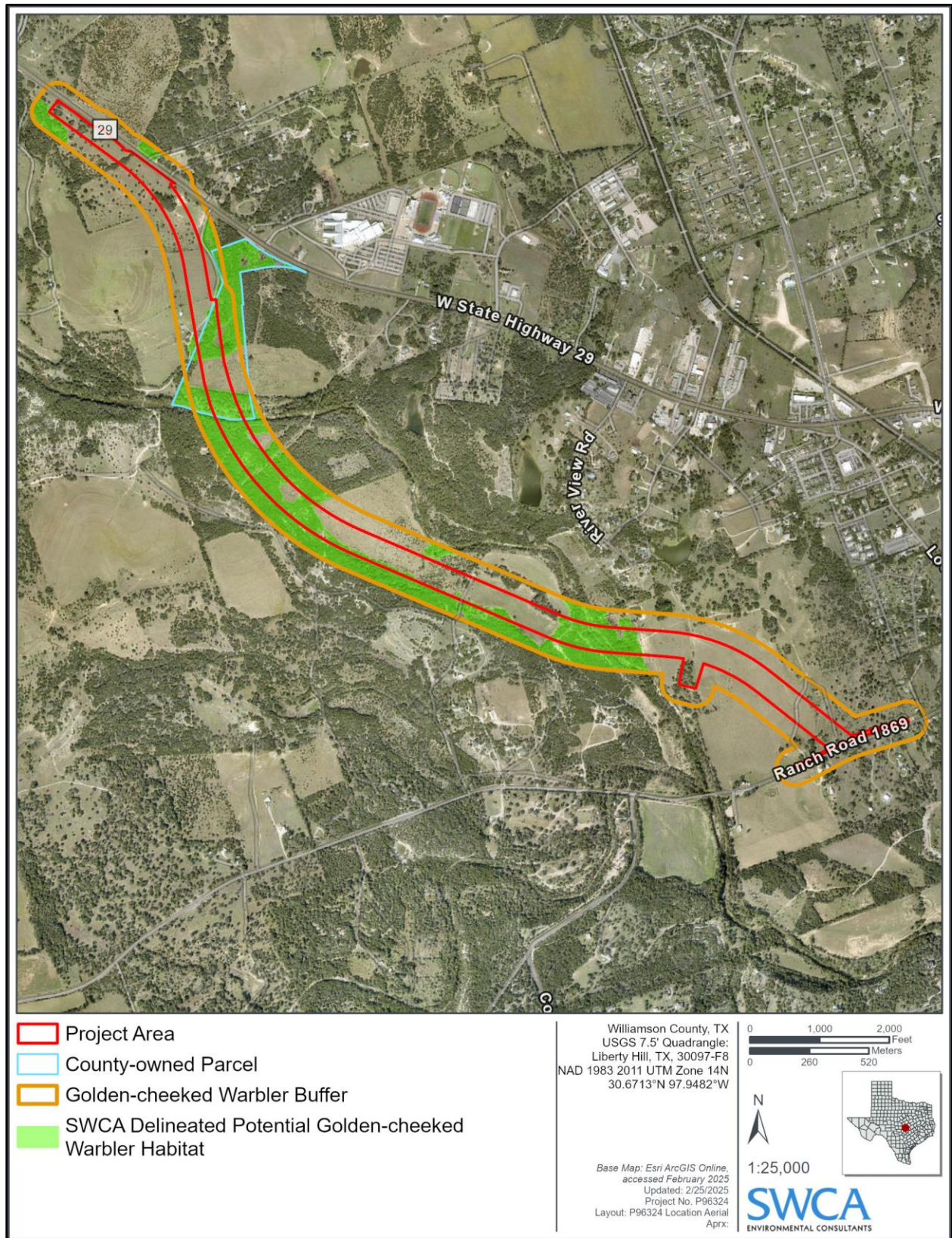
The project area is within the general breeding range of the federally listed endangered golden-cheeked warbler (*Setophaga chrysoparia*). The project area is also within an area that may host the tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*) and monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), both of which are proposed for federal protection under the Endangered Species Act.

Environmental services will be provided upon the request of the County as needed for the project, including:

- Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species Habitat Assessment and Impacts Analysis
- Golden-cheeked Warbler Presence/Absence Survey

To perform these environmental services, the Firm will access those parcels within the project area where right-of-entry has been obtained, which will be coordinated by the County. The Firm anticipates that environmental services will be completed over five separate visits, with consecutive visits spaced at least 5 days apart.

**ATTACHMENT B  
 SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE FIRM  
 FOR THE LIBERTY HILL BYPASS WEST (SEGMENT 1) PROJECT**



**Figure 1. Project location map.**

**ATTACHMENT B**  
**SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE FIRM**  
**FOR THE LIBERTY HILL BYPASS WEST (SEGMENT 1) PROJECT**

**Phase 01: Project Management**

For Phase 01, the Firm is using modified scope language from the County's typical work authorization describing project management.

1. COMMUNICATION:

- a. Firm shall designate one environmental consultant (Texas) to be responsible for the project management and all communications with the County and its representatives.

2. MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORTS, INVOICES, & BILLINGS (17 months assumed):

- a. Submit monthly progress status reports to the County. Progress reports will include tasks completed, tasks/objectives that are planned for the upcoming periods, and lists or descriptions of items or decisions needed from the County and its representatives.
- b. Prepare correspondence, invoices, and progress reports on a monthly basis in accordance with current County requirements.

3. PROJECT COORDINATION & ADMINISTRATION:

- a. Prepare and maintain routine project record keeping, including records of meetings and minutes.
- b. Correspondence and coordination will be handled through and with the concurrence of the County.
- c. Manage project activities (including documenting emails, phone and conference calls, maintain project files for the length of the project, meeting agendas, meeting minutes, and schedule meetings), direct Firm's team/staff, correspond with the County and its representatives, and assist the County and its representatives in preparing responses to project-related inquiries.

4. PROGRESS/COORDINATION MEETINGS (4 virtual meetings assumed):

- a. Attend a kickoff meeting and coordination/progress meeting with the County and its representatives and stakeholders, as necessary, to communicate development of the project and design issues.
- b. Conduct internal coordination meetings as required to advance the development of the project.

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5. PROJECT DOCUMENTS/FILES:

- a. All contract documents, including native files, shall be turned over to the County at each milestone and at the completion of the project or as requested. Documents shall be posted to the County's project management database.

6. DELIVERABLES:

- a. Monthly Invoices and Progress Reports including Deliverable Table
- b. Meeting Minutes, Sign-In Sheets, and Agendas
- c. Project Schedule and Updates
- d. Project Files

**Phase 02: Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat Assessment**

The Firm will perform a field investigation of land features and vegetation communities within the project area as allowed by landowner access to evaluate the potential for golden-cheeked warbler habitat to occur within the project area. The investigation will also address the status of potential habitat for the tricolored bat and monarch butterfly within the project area. Based on an initial desktop review, the Firm anticipates that portions of the project area contain closed canopy woodland that may offer suitable habitat for the endangered golden-cheeked warbler. Additionally, the Firm anticipates that the field investigation results will support the preparation of a Regional Habitat Conservation Plan application for incidental take coverage of the golden-cheeked warbler, should it be needed.

As such, the Firm will utilize a biologist familiar with golden-cheeked warbler habitat preferences to perform a field investigation of closed canopy woodland in the project area to determine potential for use by the species. The field investigation will also include a search for potential habitat for tricolored bat and monarch butterfly, each of which may receive federal protection under the Endangered Species Act in the near future. The Firm anticipates this field investigation will occur in a single day and be conducted from within the limits of the project footprint as allowed by landowner access.

Additionally, the Firm understands that Cambrian Environmental (Cambrian) will perform its own field investigation focusing on potential *Eurycea* salamander and karst invertebrate habitat within the project area. The Firm anticipates adding the Cambrian deliverable as an appendix to the Firm's report as a reference.

**Deliverables**

The Firm will prepare a draft and final *Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat Assessment and Impacts Analysis Report*, which will include a map depicting the distribution of any potentially suitable habitat for federally listed species or species that may become listed in the near future within the project area. Within 4 weeks of the field investigation, the Firm will provide the County with a draft report in electronic format (PDF) for review and comment. The Firm will respond to

**ATTACHMENT B**  
**SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE FIRM**  
**FOR THE LIBERTY HILL BYPASS WEST (SEGMENT 1) PROJECT**

one round of comments and will provide the County with a final version of the report in electronic format within 2 weeks of receiving comments.

**Phase 03: Golden-cheeked Warbler Presence/Absence Surveys**

The Firm will survey up to approximately 59.7 non-contiguous acres of potential golden-cheeked warbler habitat in the project area that was identified through initial desktop review as having potential to be adversely impacted by the proposed project or that is on the County-owned parcel. Actual acreage covered by the survey may decrease pending the results of the Phase 02 habitat assessment, but it is not likely to increase. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) survey protocols for the golden-cheeked warbler call for surveys to be conducted starting no earlier than 30 minutes before sunrise, to end within 7 hours after sunrise, to be completed during the species' breeding season (March 15 – June 1), and to be conducted with a level of effort of 20 hours of survey time per 100 acres of surveyed area. The protocols further require the total survey time to be divided between five survey visits, with a minimum of 1 hour of survey time per visit per survey area.

The potential golden-cheeked warbler habitat identified for survey through desktop review occurs in several individual patches that can be combined into three discrete survey areas, one of which is less than 1 acre in size, one of which is approximately 19 acres in size, and one that will need to cover approximately 50 acres to allow the discrete patches of potential habitat to be combined into one approximately 1.3-mile-long survey area. To fully adhere to USFWS protocols, it will be necessary to spend a minimum of 1 hour of survey time per visit to each of the two smaller survey areas and 2 hours of survey time per visit to the larger survey area to complete the survey. Each visit will be performed by one biologist, with all survey areas visited on the same day, with no more than one visit every 5 days, and with at least three of the visits completed prior to May 15, as stipulated by USFWS protocols. This level of effort would provide a characterization of the number and distribution of golden-cheeked warblers in the surveyed areas. The Firm expects its biologists will be required to stay within the boundaries of the project footprint and County-owned parcel during each survey visit, unless as otherwise allowed by individual landowners. The locations of any golden-cheeked warblers detected in the survey area would be recorded with a GPS device. For warblers detected outside of but within 250 feet of the project footprint, the biologist will record his/her position with the GPS device and the estimated distance and bearing to the bird from that point.

As a condition of the Firm's USFWS Permit (TE800611-4), which authorizes the Firm to conduct presence/absence surveys for golden-cheeked warblers and other federally listed species, the survey results will be submitted to the USFWS. Approval of this proposal is indicative of the County's acknowledgement of this requirement.

**Deliverable**

A digital draft report in Microsoft Word and PDF formats will be submitted for review and approval within 6 weeks upon completion of the final survey visit. The Firm will respond to one round of review from the County on the draft report and provide a final digital report within 2 weeks of receiving comments.

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**Assumptions**

- The estimated cost is based upon complete and open access to the project footprint and County-owned parcel. All land acquisition or right-of-entry to the project footprint will be obtained by the County prior to the commencement of field investigations described within this Work Authorization.
- Factors beyond the Firm's control, such as access restrictions, inclement weather, or unsafe project conditions that result in delays to the project schedule or require additional mobilizations, may require a Supplemental Work Authorization.

**Phase 02 – Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat Assessment**

- The estimated cost does not include presence/absence surveys for any species, which would require a Supplemental Work Authorization.

**Phase 03 – Golden-cheeked Warbler Presence/Absence Surveys**

- Field surveys will be completed by a single biologist per visit, with that biologist permitted by the USFWS to conduct such surveys.
- The Firm will survey the project area five times from March 15 to June 1, 2025.
- Project enrollment within the Williamson County Regional Habitat Conservation Plan for incidental take coverage could be prudent, pending the results of this effort.

**ATTACHMENT C  
WORK SCHEDULE  
FOR THE LIBERTY HILL BYPASS WEST (SEGMENT 1) PROJECT**

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The Firm is prepared to begin work immediately upon receiving a Notice-to-Proceed (NTP) for the work schedule provided for assigned tasks as given. The Firm will perform the field survey within 3 weeks of NTP and will submit the first draft of the report to the County within 6 weeks of field survey completion. All work is expected to be completed and finalized by July 31, 2026.

**ATTACHMENT D  
FEE SCHEDULE  
FOR THE LIBERTY HILL BYPASS WEST (SEGMENT 1) PROJECT**

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The Firm's Standard Rate Schedule is attached to the next page.

**Table 1. Anticipated Fee Details**

<b>Project Role</b>	<b>Per Unit Rate</b>	<b>Number of Units</b>	<b>Value</b>
<b>Labor</b>			
Specialist I	\$77.00	0	\$0.00
Specialist II	\$91.00	0	\$0.00
Specialist III	\$104.00	50	\$5,200.00
Specialist IV	\$114.00	0	\$0.00
Specialist V	\$123.00	67	\$8,241.00
Specialist VI	\$137.00	20	\$2,740.00
Specialist VIII	\$147.00	0	\$0.00
Specialist VIII	\$158.00	2	\$316.00
Specialist IX	\$169.00	53	\$8,957.00
Specialist X	\$189.00	23	\$4,347.00
Specialist XI	\$207.00	0	\$0.00
Specialist XII	\$226.00	0	\$0.00
Subject Matter Expert I	\$230.00	4	\$920.00
<b>Labor Subtotal</b>		219	<b>\$30,721.00</b>
<b>Direct Costs</b>			
Mileage	\$0.700	840	\$588.00
Supplies	\$10.000	1	\$10.00
GIS-Grade GPS	\$40.00	6	\$240.00
<b>Direct Costs Subtotal</b>			<b>\$838.00</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>			<b>\$31,559.00</b>