



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

First Reading for the City Council Meeting of August 13, 2024
Second Reading for the City Council Meeting of August 20, 2024

DATE: August 13, 2024
TO: Peter Zaroni, City Manager
FROM: Dr. Fauzia Khan, Director of Public Health
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Acceptance of the Texas Beach Watch Grant for the Corpus Christi – Nueces County Public Health District

CAPTION:

Ordinance authorizing acceptance and amendments of Texas Beach Watch (TBW) Program Grant for \$140,000.00 from the Texas General Land Office (GLO) to provide beach water sampling in Nueces, Aransas, and San Patricio County under the Texas Beach Watch Program for the period of September 1, 2024, through August 31, 2025; and authorizing one existing position to be funded by this grant and appropriating \$140,000.00 in the Health Grant Fund.

SUMMARY:

The Corpus Christi-Nueces County Public Health District (CCNCPHD) received Contract No. 25-018-000-E709 from the GLO to provide financial assistance for expenses to support the collection of \$140,000.00. The CCNCPHD, in conjunction with the TBW, collects and analyzes recreational beach water samples from designated sampling stations and reports results to the GLO. This grant allows for one position Public Health Technician which is 100% grant funded.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

The GLO has awarded a contract amendment to CCNCPHD to collect and analyze recreational beach water samples to provide water health and safety for biological materials. This contract is effective September 1, 2024, through August 31, 2025. Every year, the GLO awards the Texas Beach Watch Program financial support, which provides for salary, benefits, and expenses.

The TBW collects specimens throughout designated sampling stations in Aransas, Nueces, and San Patricio Counties and monitors waterways. The program monitors these recreational beaches and when Enterococcus bacteria levels in the water exceed the acceptable standards established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the GLO works with local governments to issue advisories warnings to the public. This award has been appropriated to the CCNCPHD since 2015.

Water samples are collected and tested throughout the year. During the peak beach season, which runs from May through September, water samples are collected weekly. During the rest of

the year, samples are collected every two weeks. The one exception occurs in March when weekly sampling is conducted at Gulf of Mexico beaches to coincide with spring break.

The water quality information on the Texas Beach Watch site is updated each time sample results are entered into the database. Local governments post advisory signs provided by the GLO at beach access points where the water quality exceeds acceptable bacterial levels. Once collected base water samples are submitted and analyzed, a repeat sample may be required. Reimbursement for each base sample submitted is \$55.00 and \$70.00 for each repeat sample required. Texas Beach Watch is a program funded by the EPA and the GLO, which administers the program. This contract is not to exceed \$140,000.00.

ALTERNATIVES:

To deny the Texas Beach Watch Grant; however, this would not be the preferred alternative as this service provides an essential real-time report on recreational beach water samples for the community who utilizes these resources.

FISCAL IMPACT:

All services conducted such as collection, testing, and reporting are 100% compensated by the awarded contract.

FUNDING DETAIL:

Fund: 1066 Health Grant Fund
Organization/Activity: 831831F / Texas General Land Office (GLO)
Mission Element: 15
Project # **(CIP Only)**:
Account:

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the Ordinance.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Ordinance
GLO Contract No. 21-043-001
Presentation