



## **AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

Action Item for the City Council Meeting November 28, 2023

**DATE:** November 28, 2023

**TO:** Peter Zaroni, City Manager

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### **Interlocal Agreement between the City and Texas A&M–Corpus Christi for Environmental Monitoring Services**

#### **CAPTION:**

Resolution authorizing a one-year Interlocal Agreement, with two one-year extension options, with Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi for air and water monitoring services, for an amount up to \$217,545 for one year and a total amount up to \$588,454.00 if both one-year options are exercised, with funding from Water and Storm Water Funds.

#### **SUMMARY:**

This item is a resolution for a one-year Interlocal Agreement with Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi's Conrad Blucher Institute for Surveying and Science. The purpose of the proposed interlocal agreement is to continue operating and maintaining thirteen real-time environmental monitoring stations located in Nueces Bay, Nueces River, Oso Creek, and within the City of Corpus Christi.

#### **BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:**

The Conrad Blucher Institute for Surveying and Science at Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi (TAMUCC) has been operating and maintaining various environmental monitoring stations for the City of Corpus Christi since 1991. The purpose of the proposed interlocal agreement is for TAMUCC to provide air and water monitoring services for the City. The data gathered from this service is used by the City to determine the quantity and frequency of freshwater pass-throughs as required by TCEQ. It also is used to assist CCW and Public Works in monitoring Oso Creek water levels in order to protect adjacent infrastructure and facilities. Furthermore, CCW will not satisfy MS4 (Municipal Storm Sewer System) permit requirements for storm water runoff without the data provided by TAMUCC through the monitoring service.

The state of Texas requires all cities with a population greater than 100,000 to regulate stormwater

through a Phase I MS4 program. This is due to the potential for contaminants and other hazardous material to be washed into surface waters of the state during rainfall events. In order to maintain the permit and be in compliance with TCEQ regulations, there are numerous requirements that must be completed by the City, including public education, industrial inspections to ensure secondary containment and pollution prevention, construction site inspections, ditch monitoring and cleaning, and more to reduce the volume of pollutants that may be washed into bays and other receiving water bodies. Additionally, the City of Corpus Christi is required to conduct monitoring and sampling during rainfall events to determine if further steps need to be taken to protect the receiving water bodies. Monitoring and sampling have strict requirements according to the permit, including a two-hour timeframe to collect representative samples after rainfall accumulation at approved locations has measured 0.1". The rain gauges utilized in this program alert the stormwater team to collect samples during the required timeframe.

The monitoring services are carried out across thirteen real-time environmental monitoring stations located in Nueces Bay, Nueces River, Oso Creek, and other sites within city limits. Nueces Bay and Nueces River water quality monitoring stations primarily report water temperature, specific conductance, salinity, dissolved oxygen, and pH levels. This data is vital to determine the quantity and frequency of freshwater pass-through events required by the amended Agreed Order between the City and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) via the Wesley Seale Dam.

Oso Creek water level monitoring stations will report air gap clearance, stage, air temperature, relative humidity, barometric pressure, and liquid precipitation. Air gap clearance refers to the distance from the monitor station to the water level. Stage refers to a fixed and defined water level based on elevation. All of this data will assist CCW and Public Works in monitoring Oso Creek water levels in relation to adjacent infrastructure and facilities.

Corpus Christi meteorological monitoring stations will report air temperature, wind speed, wind direction, liquid precipitation, barometric pressure, and relative humidity. These stations help CCW and Public Works determine the frequency of collection of water samples during rain events in order to satisfy the storm water runoff (MS4) permit. Additionally, an alert system through this monitoring system sends email notifications when rainfall values reach certain thresholds. The equipment does not record air quality. It records air temperature only.

All monitoring are detailed in the agreed upon scope of work that is attached. All data obtained through this agreement is loaded on TAMUCC's Conrad Blucher Institute's website and is accessible to the public.

### **ALTERNATIVES:**

The alternative is not to approve the proposed interlocal agreement between the City and TAMUCC; however, not approving the proposed interlocal agreement will eliminate the air and water monitoring services and thus the City's awareness of vital data used to determine the quantity and frequency of freshwater pass-throughs. This will result in the City being out of compliance with TCEQ and other entities.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

The financial impact for FY 2024 will be in the amount of \$217,545. Of the \$217,545, \$79,706 will come from the Corpus Christi Water's Water Quality division. Another \$79,706 will come from the Corpus Christi Water's Environmental Studies division. Finally, \$58,133 will come from Public Work's Storm Water division.

**Funding Detail:**

Fund: 4010 Water Fund  
Organization/Activity: 31501 Water Quality  
Department: 45 Water  
Account: 530000 Professional Services  
Amount: \$79,706.00

Fund: 4010 Water Fund  
Organization/Activity: 30220 Environmental Studies  
Department: 45 Water  
Account: 530000 Professional Services  
Amount: \$79,706.00

Fund: 4300 Storm Water Fund  
Organization/Activity: 32006 Environmental Services  
Department: Storm Water Operations  
Account: 530000 Professional Services  
Amount: \$58,133.00

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends approval of the interlocal agreement with Texas A&M University Corpus Christi, as presented.

**LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

Interlocal Agreement