



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

One-reading ordinance for the City Council Meeting of 09/19/23

DATE: September 19, 2023
TO: Peter Zanoni, City Manager
FROM: Dr. Fauzia Khan, Director of Public Health
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Texas Beach Watch Grant

CAPTION:

One-reading ordinance appropriating \$130,000.00 in the Health Grant Fund for an increase in the Beach Watch Program from the Texas General Land Office (GLO) to collect and analyze recreational beach water samples for the period of September 1, 2023, through August 31, 2024; and authorizing one grant position.

SUMMARY:

The Corpus Christi-Nueces County Public Health District (CCNCPHD) received Contract No. 21-043-001, work order No. E243 with the GLO to provide financial assistance for expenses to support collection in the amount of \$130,000.00. The CCNCPHD in conjunction with the Texas Beach Watch performs collections and analysis of water samples from designated sampling stations and reports results to the public water quality advisories. This grant allows for one FTE Public Health Technician that 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 safety for biological material. This contract is effective as of September 1, 2022, through August 31, 2025. Every year the GLO awards the Texas Beach Watch Program with 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 warning the public not to swim in affected waters.

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.

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
Organization/Activity: 831831F
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