



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

September 16, 2019

Corpus Christi Business and Job Development Board Meeting Action

DATE: September 4, 2019

TO: President and Honorable Board Members,
Corpus Christi Business and Job Development Corporation

THRU: Peter Zanoni, Executive Director

FROM: Jeff H. Edmonds, P. E., Director, Engineering Services
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<p>Engineering Design Contract Salt Flats Levee Improvements</p>

CAPTION:

Motion approving a Professional Services contract to Govind Development, LLC, in the amount of \$267,470 to design levee improvements for the Salt Flats Levee Improvements Project with funds available in the Type A Seawall Fund, and recommending City Council approval.

SUMMARY:

To recommend City Council approval of the award of a professional services contract for the engineering and design of the Salt Flats Levee Improvements project.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS:

The Salt Flats Levee is an integral part of the downtown flood protection system consisting of the following elements: Salt Flats Levee, Port Authority Wharf, Promenade, Museum Floodwall, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Bulkhead, Seawall and two storm water pump stations located at Kinney Street and Power Street. Those elements function as a system to protect downtown and the SEA District from storm surge events.

The Salt Flat Levee prevents storm surge in the Ship Channel from entering the downtown protected area. It was originally referred to as the Backwater Levee and was part of the original Seawall construction project that was completed in 1941. The Salt Flats Levee was reconstructed in 1956 under a project by the Nueces County Engineering Department. The closure gates were subsequently upgraded in 2000 but the majority of the levee remains as reconstructed in 1956.

The Salt Flats Levee has numerous known deficiencies.

According to 1985 Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the City's downtown area was shown as largely protected against a 100-year flood event. Beginning in 2006, however, FEMA began to re-evaluate how protected areas are treated on FIRMs. The current approach by FEMA is to map the actual failure mechanisms that may occur in protected areas to determine base flood elevations (BFEs). Unless system owners can prove that a system is protected against failure, one or more failure scenarios will be used to determine BFEs. One scenario being modeled by FEMA is a breach of the Salt Flats Levee. That failure scenario has the greatest potential to create flooding in the downtown and has the greatest impact on the proposed BFE.

Improvements to the Salt Flats Levee have been programmed in the Seawall Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for a number of years. Coordination with the new Harbor Bridge and changes in FEMA policy have prevented the project from previously moving forward. In addition to enhancing the level of protection afforded by the downtown flood protection system, correcting deficiencies with the Salt Flats Levee will allow the City to challenge FEMA's levee breach scenario.

This professional service contract provides for engineering and design services to assess the deficiencies, recommended improvements and preparation of specifications, estimates, and related construction documents for Salt Flats Levee Improvements. Services also include topographic survey and subsurface utility condition investigations with bid and construction phase technical support.

Govind Development, LLC, was selected through Request for Qualifications (RFQ) No. 2018-10. The selection committee consisted of one representative from Planning and two from Engineering Services. Govind Development, LLC, was recommended as most qualified based on five factors: 1) experience of the firm, 2) experience of key personnel with specific experience with flood management projects, 3) project approach and management plan, 4) capacity to meet the project requirements and timelines, and 5) past performance.

ALTERNATIVES

Failure to correct deficiencies with Salt Flats Levee and properly protect the downtown flood area could result in severe flooding, jeopardize the City's FEMA certification process and affect insurance rates in the downtown area.

FISCAL IMPACT

A recommendation for City Council approval of this item will result in placing this contract on the City Council Agenda in October 2019. If Council approves award of the contract to Govind Development, LLC, in the amount of \$267,470 design for improvements to the Salt Flats Levee project can begin upon a Notice to Proceed with funding approved and available in the Type A Seawall Fund.

Funding Detail:

Fund: Seawall System CIP (Fund 3271)
Mission Element: Seawall (ME 707)
Project #: Salt Flats Levee Improvements (#E17117)
Activity: E17117-01-3271-EXP

RECOMMENDATION:

City Staff asks the Corpus Christi Business and & Job Development Corporation to recommend City Council approve the engineering design contract with Govind Development, LLC, for the Salt Flats Levee Improvements project in the amount of \$267,470 so design work may begin.

LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

Location Map
Presentation
Contract