

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
FOR
ABSTRACTING, TITLE AND RELATED REAL ESTATE SERVICES
FOR THE
CITY OF VIDOR HURRICANE HARVEY BUYOUT PROGRAM ACQUISITION OF UP TO
TWENTY HOMES

The City of Vidor is soliciting proposals for abstracting, title and related real estate services to assist with the acquisition of up to twenty (20) properties in City of Vidor through the Hurricane Harvey CDBG Buyout Program administered by the Texas General Land Office (GLO). The City of Vidor is considering the acquisition of these properties to mitigate against future flooding and damages.

The City of Vidor Government is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The City of Vidor Government encourages all Section 3 businesses, minority-owned firms and women's business enterprises to apply.

Scope of Services

The selected respondent will prepare a full abstract of title in a report form and include copies of vesting deeds, record owner, lienholders, easements, or other restrictions, in accordance with Texas state law. If there are any issues with presenting clear title the homeowner will be given an opportunity to clear any issues at their own expense.

The selected respondent shall deliver an insured Title Commitment Report through a non-fee, full-service title company, authorized to do business in the State of Texas and in good standing with the Texas Department of Insurance of the properties. The Title Commitment Report shall be made in the name of the City of Vidor in the form provided by the Texas Department of Insurance. All title insurance premiums shall be charged at the rate promulgated by the Texas Department of Insurance and in effect on the date of closing at the title company. All title insurance premiums, fees for service, and escrow and closing costs will be paid by the City of Vidor directly to the title company, unless otherwise directed by the City.

The selected respondent shall deliver to the City of Vidor via hand delivery or US Mail, all original executed conveyance instruments, deed and easements, and all original curative instruments required to clear items on Schedules B and C of the Title Commitment, and concurrently submit electronic copies of a fully executed Payment Package, including, but not limited to:

- 1) Payment Instructions Form;
- 2) Request for Payment Form for the parcel;
- 3) Original instrument(s) of conveyance;
- 4) Original executed Contract Agreement(s), fee and easement;
- 5) All documents necessary to clear title as shown on Schedules B and C of the title commitment;
- 6) Other such documents as may be required by the County to fulfill the needs of the project acquisitions;
- 7) Copy of the title commitment; and
- 8) Notice of prorated taxes to be utilized at the closing, if any.

The City will submit the fully executed Payment Package to the title vendor and request the title company provide a Buyer's Settlement Statement. The City will obtain authorization to disburse the funds to the title company for the account of the property owner for payment of the necessary land, improvements and

damages, if any, and for the title company's closing escrow fees, for each parcel. An original Owner's Policy will be delivered to the City.

Under this solicitation one (1) respondent will be selected.

Request for Proposals

The following information should be included:

1. Name of Respondent;
2. Respondent address;
3. Respondent telephone number;
4. Respondent federal tax identification number;
5. Name, title address, telephone number, fax number, and email address of contact person authorized to contractually obligate the Respondent on behalf of the Respondent.

Contents of Proposals

Respondents should letter and number responses exactly as the questions are presented herein. Interested Respondents are invited to submit Proposals that contain the following information:

1. Introduction (transmittal letter);
2. Background and Experience;
3. Personnel/Professional Qualifications;
4. Time for Completion;
5. Cost Proposal.

1. Introduction (transmittal letter)

By signing the letter, the Respondent certifies that the signatory is authorized to bind the Respondent.

The Request for Proposals ("RFP") response must include:

- a. A brief statement of the Respondent's understanding of the scope of the work to be performed;
- b. A confirmation that the Respondent meets the appropriate state certification/licensing requirements to practice in the State of Texas;
- c. A confirmation that the Respondent has not had a record of substandard work within the last five years;
- d. A confirmation that the Respondent has not engaged in any unethical practices within the last five years;
- e. A brief statement that the firm or its key employees have identified no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the City of Vidor;
- f. A confirmation that the Respondent is not debarred or suspended from either the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS) in the System for Award Management (SAM) or the State of Texas Comptroller Debarred Vendor List. Include verification that your company as well as the company's principal is not listed (is not debarred) through the System for Award Management (www.SAM.gov). Enclose a print out of the search results that includes the record date.
- g. Form CIQ, enclosed in Exhibit B. Texas Local Government Code chapter 176 requires that any vendor or person who enters or seeks to enter into a contract with a local government entity disclose in the Questionnaire Form CIQ the vendor or person's employment, affiliation, business relationship, family relationship or provision of gifts that might cause a conflict of interest with a

local government entity. Questionnaire form CIQ is included in the RFP and must be submitted with the response.

- h. Certification Regarding Lobbying, enclosed in Exhibit B. Certification for Contracts, Grants, Loans, and Cooperative Agreements is included in the RFP and must be submitted with the response.
- i. Any other information that the Respondent feels appropriate;
- j. The signature of an individual who is authorized to provide information of this nature in the name of the Respondent submitting the RFP.

2. Background and Experience

Respondents should:

- a. Describe Respondent's firm by providing its full legal name, date of establishment, type of entity and business expertise, short history, current ownership structure and any recent or materially significant proposed change in ownership.
- b. Describe any prior engagements in which Respondent's firm assisted a governmental entity in dealings with acquisition and/or buyout projects and any other projects relating to federally-funded programs. Respondent should include all examples of work on similar projects as described in the Scope of Services. Respondent should provide the names, phone numbers, and emails of contact persons in the organizations for whom any projects referenced in this section were conducted. Respondent should include written references (letters or forms are acceptable) from previous clients attesting to the quality of work and compliance with performance schedules Respondent cites in this section.
- c. Describe any issue the characteristics of which would be uniquely relevant in evaluating the experience of Respondent's firm to handle the proposed project(s).

3. Personnel/Professional Qualifications

Respondents should:

- a. Identify staff members (as applicable), in the job classifications of who would be assigned to act for Respondent's firm in key management and field positions providing the services described in the Scope of Services, and the functions to be performed by each.
- b. Include resumes or curriculum vitae of each such staff member designated above, including name, position, telephone number, fax number, email address, education, and years and type of experience.
- c. Estimate the number of persons to be assigned to this project, indicating the number working in Texas and the number working elsewhere.
- d. Provide current information on professional errors and omissions coverage carried by Respondent's firm, including amount of coverage.

4. Time for Completion

The time for completion of the required services is an essential element of the proposal. Respondents should describe their firm's workload and current capacity to accomplish the work in the required time. The time required from authorization to proceed to complete the services shall be stated in the proposal.

5. Cost Proposal

Estimated cost for the services to be provided herein will be a consideration in selecting the proposer to be used by the City. Respondents must provide a cost estimate for the abstracting, title, and related real estate services described in the Scope of Services clearly stating the proposed lump sum, fixed price for the services on a per parcel basis.

Evaluation Criteria

The City of Vidor will evaluate respondents on the basis of the written materials submitted and according to the following factors:

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. Background and experience with this particular type of project | 40 pts. |
| 2. Personnel/Professional Qualifications | 30 pts. |
| 3. Current capacity to accomplish the work in the required time. | 10 pts. |
| 4. Cost Proposal | <u>20 pts.</u> |
| Total: | 100 pts. |

The City of Vidor, or appointed representative, shall evaluate each proposal received. Responses will be evaluated based upon the documented ability of the respondent to satisfy the requirements of this Request for Proposals. If the City desires, the firms will be notified to participate in an interview before the selection process is completed.

Contract Requirements

Form 1295, enclosed in Exhibit B. Effective January 1, 2016, all contracts and contract amendments, extensions, or renewals executed by the Commissioners Court will require the completion of Form 1295 "Certificate of Interested Parties" pursuant to Government Code § 2252.908. Form 1295 must be completed by awarded vendor at time of signed contract submission. Form 1295 is included in this RFP for your information.

Required Contract Provisions. Applicable provisions must be included in all contracts executed as a result of this RFP. A copy of the required contract provisions is included in this RFP for your information.

Deadline for Submission

The proposals received will be submitted not later than 3:00 P.M. on Thursday, May 20, 2021. Any proposal received after 3:00 P.M. will be returned unopened. Please submit four (4) hard copies of your proposals that must be mailed or hand-delivered to:

ATTN: Robbie Hood
City of Vidor
1395 North Main Street
Vidor, TX 77662

Please state "**Hurricane Harvey Buyout Program – Proposal Statement for Abstracting, Title and Related Real Estate Services**" on the cover.

Please include a separate sealed envelope providing the lump sum, fixed per parcel price clearly marked "**Hurricane Harvey Buyout Program - Sealed Cost Proposal For Abstracting, Title And Related Real Estate Services.**"

Questions should be directed via email to Cheryl Ray, Finance Director, at cray@cityofvidor.com.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE

For vendor doing business with local governmental entity

FORM CIQ

This questionnaire reflects changes made to the law by H.B. 23, 84th Leg., Regular Session.

This questionnaire is being filed in accordance with Chapter 176, Local Government Code, by a vendor who has a business relationship as defined by Section 176.001(1-a) with a local governmental entity and the vendor meets requirements under Section 176.006(a).

By law this questionnaire must be filed with the records administrator of the local governmental entity not later than the 7th business day after the date the vendor becomes aware of facts that require the statement to be filed. See Section 176.006(a-1), Local Government Code.

A vendor commits an offense if the vendor knowingly violates Section 176.006, Local Government Code. An offense under this section is a misdemeanor.

OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received

1 Name of vendor who has a business relationship with local governmental entity.

2 Check this box if you are filing an update to a previously filed questionnaire. (The law requires that you file an updated completed questionnaire with the appropriate filing authority not later than the 7th business day after the date on which you became aware that the originally filed questionnaire was incomplete or inaccurate.)

3 Name of local government officer about whom the information is being disclosed.

Name of Officer

4 Describe each employment or other business relationship with the local government officer, or a family member of the officer, as described by Section 176.003(a)(2)(A). Also describe any family relationship with the local government officer. Complete subparts A and B for each employment or business relationship described. Attach additional pages to this Form CIQ as necessary.

A. Is the local government officer or a family member of the officer receiving or likely to receive taxable income, other than investment income, from the vendor?

Yes No

B. Is the vendor receiving or likely to receive taxable income, other than investment income, from or at the direction of the local government officer or a family member of the officer AND the taxable income is not received from the local governmental entity?

Yes No

5 Describe each employment or business relationship that the vendor named in Section 1 maintains with a corporation or other business entity with respect to which the local government officer serves as an officer or director, or holds an ownership interest of one percent or more.

6 Check this box if the vendor has given the local government officer or a family member of the officer one or more gifts as described in Section 176.003(a)(2)(B), excluding gifts described in Section 176.003(a-1).

7

Signature of vendor doing business with the governmental entity

Date

CONFLICT OF INTEREST QUESTIONNAIRE

For vendor doing business with local governmental entity

A complete copy of Chapter 176 of the Local Government Code may be found at <http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/LG/htm/LG.176.htm>. For easy reference, below are some of the sections cited on this form.

Local Government Code § 176.001(1-a): "Business relationship" means a connection between two or more parties based on commercial activity of one of the parties. The term does not include a connection based on:

- (A) a transaction that is subject to rate or fee regulation by a federal, state, or local governmental entity or an agency of a federal, state, or local governmental entity;
- (B) a transaction conducted at a price and subject to terms available to the public; or
- (C) a purchase or lease of goods or services from a person that is chartered by a state or federal agency and that is subject to regular examination by, and reporting to, that agency.

Local Government Code § 176.003(a)(2)(A) and (B):

(a) A local government officer shall file a conflicts disclosure statement with respect to a vendor if:

(2) the vendor:

(A) has an employment or other business relationship with the local government officer or a family member of the officer that results in the officer or family member receiving taxable income, other than investment income, that exceeds \$2,500 during the 12-month period preceding the date that the officer becomes aware that

(i) a contract between the local governmental entity and vendor has been executed;
or

(ii) the local governmental entity is considering entering into a contract with the vendor;

(B) has given to the local government officer or a family member of the officer one or more gifts that have an aggregate value of more than \$100 in the 12-month period preceding the date the officer becomes aware that:

(i) a contract between the local governmental entity and vendor has been executed; or

(ii) the local governmental entity is considering entering into a contract with the vendor.

Local Government Code § 176.006(a) and (a-1)

(a) A vendor shall file a completed conflict of interest questionnaire if the vendor has a business relationship with a local governmental entity and:

(1) has an employment or other business relationship with a local government officer of that local governmental entity, or a family member of the officer, described by Section 176.003(a)(2)(A);

(2) has given a local government officer of that local governmental entity, or a family member of the officer, one or more gifts with the aggregate value specified by Section 176.003(a)(2)(B), excluding any gift described by Section 176.003(a-1); or

(3) has a family relationship with a local government officer of that local governmental entity.

(a-1) The completed conflict of interest questionnaire must be filed with the appropriate records administrator not later than the seventh business day after the later of:

(1) the date that the vendor:

(A) begins discussions or negotiations to enter into a contract with the local governmental entity; or

(B) submits to the local governmental entity an application, response to a request for proposals or bids, correspondence, or another writing related to a potential contract with the local governmental entity; or

(2) the date the vendor becomes aware:

(A) of an employment or other business relationship with a local government officer, or a family member of the officer, described by Subsection (a);

(B) that the vendor has given one or more gifts described by Subsection (a); or

(C) of a family relationship with a local government officer.

CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING

The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

(1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

(2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure of Lobbying Activities," in accordance with its instructions.

(3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents of all sub-awards at all tiers (including subcontracts, sub-grants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all sub-recipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, United States Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

Organization: _____

Street address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

CERTIFIED BY: (type or print)

TITLE:

(signature)

(date)

Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

Complete this form to disclose lobbying activities pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1352
(See reverse for public burden disclosure)

<p>1. Type of Federal Action: a. contract _____ b. grant c. cooperative agreement d. loan e. loan guarantee f. loan insurance</p>	<p>2. Status of Federal Action: a. bid/offer/application _____ b. initial award c. post-award</p>	<p>3. Report Type: a. initial filing _____ b. material change</p> <p>For material change only: Year _____ quarter _____ Date of last report _____</p>
<p>4. Name and Address of Reporting Entity: _____ Prime _____ Subawardee Tier _____, if Known:</p> <p>Congressional District, if known:</p>	<p>5. If Reporting Entity in No. 4 is Subawardee, Enter Name and Address of Prime:</p> <p>Congressional District, if known:</p>	
<p>6. Federal Department/Agency:</p>	<p>7. Federal Program Name/Description:</p> <p>CFDA Number, <i>if applicable</i>: _____</p>	
<p>8. Federal Action Number, if known:</p>	<p>9. Award Amount, if known:</p> <p>\$ _____</p>	
<p>10. a. Name and Address of Lobbying Registrant <i>(if individual, last name, first name, MI):</i></p>	<p>b. Individuals Performing Services <i>(including address if different from No. 10a)</i> <i>(last name, first name, MI):</i></p>	
<p>11. Information requested through this form is authorized by title 31 U.S.C. section 1352. This disclosure of lobbying activities is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed by the tier above when this transaction was made or entered into. This disclosure is required pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1352. This information will be reported to the Congress semi-annually and will be available for public inspection. Any person who fails to file the required disclosure shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.</p>	<p>Signature: _____</p> <p>Print Name: _____</p> <p>Title: _____</p> <p>Telephone No.: _____ Date: _____</p>	
<p>Federal Use Only</p>	<p>Authorized for Local Reproduction Standard Form - LLL (Rev. 7-97)</p>	

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETION OF SF-LLL, DISCLOSURE OF LOBBYING ACTIVITIES

This disclosure form shall be completed by the reporting entity, whether subawardee or prime Federal recipient, at the initiation or receipt of a covered Federal action, or a material change to a previous filing, pursuant to title 31 U.S.C. section 1352. The filing of a form is required for each payment or agreement to make payment to any lobbying entity for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a Member of Congress in connection with a covered Federal action. Complete all items that apply for both the initial filing and material change report. Refer to the implementing guidance published by the Office of Management and Budget for additional information.

1. Identify the type of covered Federal action for which lobbying activity is and/or has been secured to influence the outcome of a covered Federal action.
2. Identify the status of the covered Federal action.
3. Identify the appropriate classification of this report. If this is a followup report caused by a material change to the information previously reported, enter the year and quarter in which the change occurred. Enter the date of the last previously submitted report by this reporting entity for this covered Federal action.
4. Enter the full name, address, city, State and zip code of the reporting entity. Include Congressional District, if known. Check the appropriate classification of the reporting entity that designates if it is, or expects to be, a prime or subaward recipient. Identify the tier of the subawardee, e.g., the first subawardee of the prime is the 1st tier. Subawards include but are not limited to subcontracts, subgrants and contract awards under grants.
5. If the organization filing the report in item 4 checks "Subawardee," then enter the full name, address, city, State and zip code of the prime Federal recipient. Include Congressional District, if known.
6. Enter the name of the federal agency making the award or loan commitment. Include at least one organizational level below agency name, if known. For example, Department of Transportation, United States Coast Guard.
7. Enter the Federal program name or description for the covered Federal action (item 1). If known, enter the full Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number for grants, cooperative agreements, loans, and loan commitments.
8. Enter the most appropriate Federal identifying number available for the Federal action identified in item 1 (e.g., Request for Proposal (RFP) number; Invitations for Bid (IFB) number; grant announcement number; the contract, grant, or loan award number; the application/proposal control number assigned by the Federal agency). Included prefixes, e.g., "RFP-DE-90-001."
9. For a covered Federal action where there has been an award or loan commitment by the Federal agency, enter the Federal amount of the award/loan commitment for the prime entity identified in item 4 or 5.
10. (a) Enter the full name, address, city, State and zip code of the lobbying registrant under the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 engaged by the reporting entity identified in item 4 to influence the covered Federal action.

(b) Enter the full names of the individual(s) performing services, and include full address if different from 10(a). Enter Last Name, First Name, and Middle Initial (MI).
11. The certifying official shall sign and date the form, print his/her name, title, and telephone number.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act, as amended, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control Number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is OMB No. 0348-0046. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0046), Washington, DC 20503

CERTIFICATE OF INTERESTED PARTIES FORM (HB 1295)

(To be completed by the awarded vendor)

The Texas Government Code §2252.908, and the rules issued by the Texas Ethics Commission found in Title 1, Sections 46.1, 46.3 and 46.5 of the Texas Administrative Code, require a business entity to submit a completed Form 1295 to the City before the City may enter into a contract with that business entity. Form 1295 must be completed online. In Box 3 of the form, provide the solicitation number, contract number or contract name. The form is available from the Texas Ethics Commission by accessing the following web address:

https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/whatsnew/elf_info_form1295.htm

The following definitions found in the statute and Texas Ethics Commission rules may be helpful in completing Form 1295.

“Business entity” includes an entity through which business is conducted with a governmental entity or state agency, regardless of whether the entity is a for-profit or nonprofit entity. The term does not include a governmental entity or state agency.

“Controlling interest” means: (1) an ownership interest or participating interest in a business entity by virtue of units, percentage, shares, stock, or otherwise that exceeds 10 percent; (2) membership on the board of directors or other governing body of a business entity of which the board or other governing body is composed of not more than 10 members; or (3) service as an officer of a business entity that has four or fewer officers, or service as one of the four officers most highly compensated by a business entity that has more than four officers.

“Interested party” means: (1) a person who has a controlling interest in a business entity with whom a governmental entity or state agency contracts; or (2) a person who actively participates in facilitating a contract or negotiating the terms of a contract with a governmental entity or state agency, including a broker, intermediary, adviser, or attorney for the business entity.

“Intermediary”, for purposes of this rule, means a person who actively participates in the facilitation of the contract or negotiating the contract, including a broker, adviser, attorney, or representative of or agent for the business entity who:

- (1) receives compensation from the business entity for the person’s participation;
- (2) communicates directly with the governmental entity or state agency on behalf of the business entity regarding the contract; and
- (3) is not an employee of the business entity.

**FEDERAL COMPLIANCE PROVISIONS
FOR
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACTS**

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1. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY (Equal Opportunity Clause) (*applicable to contracts and subcontracts above \$10,000*)

During the performance of any contract, the Contractor agrees as follows:

A. The Contractor will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. The Contractor will take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Such action shall include, but not be limited to, the following: employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. The Contractor agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices to be provided setting forth the provisions of this nondiscrimination clause.

B. The Contractor will, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the Contractor, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

C. The Contractor will send to each labor union or representative of workers with which he has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding, a notice to be provided by the Contract Compliance Officer advising the said labor union or workers' representatives of the Contractor's commitment under this section, and shall post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment.

D. The Contractor will comply with all provisions of Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, as amended, and the rules, regulations, and relevant orders of the Secretary of Labor.

E. The Contractor will furnish all information and reports required by Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, as amended, and by rules, regulations, and orders of the Secretary of Labor, or pursuant thereto, and will permit access to his books, records, and accounts by the Department and the Secretary of Labor for purposes of investigation to ascertain compliance with such rules, regulations, and others.

F. In the event of the Contractor's noncompliance with the non-discrimination clauses of any contract or with any of the said rules, regulations, or orders, that contract may be cancelled, terminated, or suspended in whole or in part and the Contractor may be declared ineligible for further Government contracts in accordance with procedures authorized in Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, as amended, or by rule, regulation, or order of the Secretary of Labor, or as otherwise provided by law.

G. The Contractor will include the provisions of the sentence immediately preceding paragraph A and the provisions of paragraphs A through G in every subcontract or purchase order unless exempted by rules, regulations, or orders of the Secretary of Labor issued pursuant to Section 204 of Executive Order 11246 of September 24, 1965, as amended, so that such provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor or vendor. The Contractor will take such action with respect to any subcontract or purchase order as the Department may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions, including sanctions for noncompliance. Provided, however, that in the event a contractor becomes involved in, or is threatened with, litigation with a subcontractor or vendor as a result of such direction by the Department, the Contractor may request the United States to enter into such litigation to protect the interest of the United States.

2. CERTIFICATION OF NONSEGREGATED FACILITIES (*applicable to contracts and subcontracts over \$10,000*)

By the submission of this bid, the bidder, offeror, applicant or subcontractor certifies that he/she does not maintain or provide for his/her establishments, and that he/she does not permit employees to perform their services at any location, under his/her control, where segregated facilities are maintained. He/she certifies further that he/she will not maintain or provide for employees any segregated facilities at any of his/her establishments, and he/she will not permit employees to perform their services at any location under his/her control where segregated facilities are maintained. The bidder, offeror, applicant or subcontractor agrees that a breach of this certification is a violation of the equal opportunity clause of this contract.

As used in this certification, the term "segregated facilities" means any waiting rooms, work areas, rest rooms and wash rooms, restaurants and other eating areas, time clocks, locker rooms, and other storage or dressing areas, parking lots, drinking fountains, recreation or entertainment areas, transportation and housing facilities provided for employees which are segregated by explicit directive or are, in fact, segregated on the basis of race, color, religion, or national origin because of habit, local custom, or any other reason.

He/she further agrees that (except where he/she has obtained for specific time periods) he/she will obtain identical certification from proposed subcontractors prior to the award of subcontracts exceeding \$10,000 which are not exempt from the provisions of the equal opportunity clause; that he/she will retain such certifications in his/her files; and that he/she will forward the following notice to such proposed subcontractors (except where proposed subcontractors have submitted identical certifications for specific time periods).

3. CIVIL RIGHTS

The Contractor shall comply with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. No person shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

4. SECTION 109 OF THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1974

The Contractor shall comply with the provisions of Section 109 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. No person in the United States shall on the grounds of race, color, national origin, or sex be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity funded in whole or in part with funds made available under this title. Section 109 further provides that discrimination on the basis of age under the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 or with respect to an otherwise qualified handicapped individual as provided in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, is prohibited.

5. SECTION 3 OF THE HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1968 - COMPLIANCE IN THE PROVISION OF TRAINING, EMPLOYMENT AND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

A. The work to be performed under any contract is subject to the requirements of Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended, 12 U.S.C. 1701u (section 3). The purpose of section 3 is to ensure that employment and other economic opportunities generated by HUD assistance or HUD-assisted projects covered by Section 3, shall, to the greatest extent feasible, be directed to low- and very low-income persons, particularly persons who are recipients of HUD assistance for housing.

B. The parties to any contract agree to comply with HUD's regulations in 24 CFR part 135, which implement Section 3. As evidenced by their execution of this contract, the parties to any contract certify that they are under no contractual or other impediment that would prevent them from complying with the part 135 regulations.

C. The contractor agrees to send to each labor organization or representative of workers with which the contractor has a collective bargaining agreement or other understanding, if any, a notice advising the labor organization or workers' representative of the contractor's commitments under this Section 3 clause, and will post copies of the notice in conspicuous places at the work site where both employees and applicants for training and employment positions can see the notice. The notice shall describe the Section 3 preference, shall set forth minimum number and job titles subject to hire, availability of apprenticeship and training positions, the qualifications for each, and the name and location of the person(s) taking applications for each of the positions, and the anticipated date the work shall begin.

D. The contractor agrees to include this Section 3 clause in every subcontract subject to compliance with regulations in 24 CFR part 135, and agrees to take appropriate action, as provided in an applicable provision of the subcontract or in this Section 3 clause, upon a finding that the subcontractor is in violation of the regulations in 24 CFR part 135. The contractor will not subcontract with any subcontractor where the contractor has notice or knowledge that the subcontractor has been found in violation of the regulations in 24 CFR part 135.

E. The contractor will certify that any vacant employment positions, including training positions, that are filled (1) after the contractor is selected but before the contract is executed, and (2) with persons other than those to whom the regulations of 24 CFR part 135 require employment opportunities to be directed, were not filled to circumvent the contractor's obligations under 24 CFR part 135.

F. Noncompliance with HUD's regulations in 24 CFR part 135 may result in sanctions, termination of any contract for default, and debarment or suspension from future HUD assisted contracts.

G. With respect to work performed in connection with Section 3 covered Indian housing assistance, Section 7(b) of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 450e) also applies to the work to be performed under this contract. Section 7(b) requires that to the greatest extent feasible (i)

preference and opportunities for training and employment shall be given to Indians, and (ii) preference in the award of contracts and subcontracts shall be given to Indian organizations and Indian-owned Economic Enterprises.

Parties to any contract that are subject to the provisions of Section 3 and section 7(b) agree to comply with Section 3 to the maximum extent feasible, but not in derogation of compliance with Section 7(b).

6. SECTION 503 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973 (29 USC 793) (*applicable to contracts and subcontracts over \$10,000*)

A. The contractor will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of physical or mental handicap in regard to any position for which the employee or applicant for employment is otherwise qualified. The contractor agrees to take affirmative action to employ, advance in employment and otherwise treat qualified handicapped individuals without discrimination based upon their physical or mental handicap in all employment practices such as the following: employment upgrading, demotion or transfer, recruitment, advertising, layoff or termination, rates of pay or other forms of compensation, and selection for training, including apprenticeship.

B. The Contractor agrees to comply with the rules, regulations, and relevant orders of the Secretary of Labor issued pursuant to the Act.

C. In the event of the Contractor's noncompliance with the requirements of this clause, actions for noncompliance may be taken in accordance with the rules, regulations, and relevant orders of the Secretary of Labor issued pursuant to the Act.

D. The Contractor agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices in a form to be prescribed by the Director, provided by or through the contracting officer. Such notices shall state the Contractor's obligation under the law to take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment qualified handicapped employees and applicants for employment, and the rights of applicants and employees.

E. The Contractor will notify each labor union or representative of workers with which it has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract understanding, that the Contractor is bound by the terms of Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and is committed to take affirmative action to employ and advance in employment physically and mentally handicapped individuals.

F. The Contractor will include the provisions of this clause in every subcontract or purchase order of \$10,000 or more unless exempted by rules, regulations, or orders of the Secretary issued pursuant to Section 503 of the Act, so that such provisions will be binding upon each subcontractor or vendor. The Contractor will take such action with respect to any subcontract or purchase order as the Director of the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs may direct to enforce such provisions, including action for noncompliance.

7. SECTION 504 OF THE REHABILITATION ACT OF 1973, AS AMENDED

The Contractor agrees that no otherwise qualified individual with disabilities shall, solely by reason of his disability, be denied the benefits, or be subjected to discrimination including discrimination in employment, any program or activity that receives the benefits from the federal financial assistance.

8. AGE DISCRIMINATION ACT OF 1975

The Contractor shall comply with the provisions of the Age Discrimination Act of 1975. No person in the United States shall, on the basis of age, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under, any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

9. CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH AIR AND WATER ACTS (*applicable to contracts and subcontracts exceeding \$100,000*)

The Contractor and all subcontractors shall comply with the requirements of the Clean Air Act, as amended, 42 USC 1857 et seq., the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, 33 USC 1251 et seq., and the regulations of the Environmental Protection Agency with respect thereto, at 40 CFR Part 15, as amended.

In addition to the foregoing requirements, all nonexempt contractors and subcontractors shall furnish to the owner, the following:

A. A stipulation by the Contractor or subcontractors, that any facility to be utilized in the performance of any nonexempt contract or subcontract, is not listed on the List of Violating Facilities issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) pursuant to 40 CFR Part 15, as amended.

B. Agreement by the Contractor to comply with all the requirements of Section 114 of the Clean Air Act, as amended, (42 USC 1857 c-8) and Section 308 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended, (33 USC 1318) relating to inspection, monitoring, entry, reports and information, as well as all other requirements specified in said Section 114 and Section 308, and all regulations and guidelines issued thereunder.

C. A stipulation that as a condition for the award of the contract, prompt notice will be given of any notification received from the Director, Office of Federal Activities, EPA, indicating that a facility utilized, or to be utilized for the contract, is under consideration to be listed on the EPA List of Violating Facilities.

D. Agreement by the Contractor that he will include, or cause to be included, the criteria and requirements in paragraph (1) through (4) of this section in every nonexempt subcontract and requiring that the Contractor will take such action as the government may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions.

10. FLOOD DISASTER PROTECTION

Any contract is subject to the requirements of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234). Nothing included as a part of the contract is approved for acquisition or construction purposes as defined under Section 3(a) of said Act, for use in an area identified by the Secretary of HUD as having special flood hazards which is located in a community not then in compliance with the requirements for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program pursuant to Section 201(d) of said Act; and the use of any assistance provided under the contract for such acquisition for construction in such identified areas in communities then participating in the National Flood Insurance Program shall be subject to the mandatory purchase of flood insurance requirements or Section 102(a) of said Act.

Any contract or agreement for the sale, lease, or other transfer of land acquired, cleared or improved with assistance provided under any Contract shall contain, if such land is located in an area identified by the Secretary as having special flood hazards and in which the sale of flood insurance has been made available under the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 4001 et seq., provisions obligating the transferee and its successors or assigns to obtain and maintain, during the ownership of such land, such flood insurance as required with respect to financial assistance for acquisition or construction purposes under Section 102(a) of Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973.

11. ACCESS TO RECORDS - MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS

The State of Texas, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Comptroller General of the United States, or any of their duly authorized representatives, shall have access to any books, documents, papers and records of the Contractor which are directly pertinent to this specific contract, for the purpose of audits, examinations, and making excerpts and transcriptions.

All records connected with any contract will be maintained in a central location by the unit of local government and will be maintained for a period of five (5) years from the official date of the State's final closeout of the grant.

12. INSPECTION

The authorized representative and agents of the State of Texas and the Department of Housing and Urban Development shall be permitted to inspect all work, materials, payrolls, records of personnel, invoices of materials, and other relevant data and records.

13. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The Contractor shall complete and submit all reports, in such form and according to such schedule, as may be required by the Owner.

14. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

A. No officer or employee of the local jurisdiction or its designees or agents, no member of the governing body, and no other public official of the locality who his/her tenure or for one year thereafter, shall have any interest, direct or indirect, in any contract or subcontract, or the proceeds thereof, for work to be performed. Further, the Contractor shall cause to be incorporated in all subcontracts the language set forth in this paragraph prohibiting conflict of interest.

B. No member of or delegate to Congress, or Resident Commissioner, shall be admitted to any share or part of any contract or to any benefit that may arise therefrom, but this provision shall not be construed to extend to any contract if made with a corporation for its general benefit.

15. ACTIVITIES AND CONTRACTS NOT SUBJECT TO EXECUTIVE ORDER 11246, AS AMENDED (*applicable to contracts and subcontracts of \$10,000 and under*)

During the performance of any contract, the Contractor agrees as follows:

A. The Contractor shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. The Contractor shall take affirmative action to ensure that applicants for employment are employed, and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Such action shall include, but not be limited to, the following: employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship.

B. The Contractor shall post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices to be provided by Contracting Officer setting forth the provisions of this non-discrimination clause. The Contractor shall state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

C. Contractors shall incorporate foregoing requirements in all subcontracts.

16. PATENTS

A. The Contractor shall hold and save the Owner and its officers, agents, servants, and employees harmless from liability of any nature or kind, including cost and expenses for, or on account of any patented or unpatented invention, process, article, or appliance manufactured or used in the performance of the contract including its use by the Owner, unless otherwise specifically stipulated in the Contract Document.

B. License or Royalty Fees: License and/or Royalty Fees for the use of a process which is authorized by the Owner of the project must be reasonable, and paid to the holder of the patent, or his authorized license, direct by the Owner and not by or through the Contractor.

C. If the Contractor uses any design device or materials covered by letters, patent or copyright, he shall provide for such use by suitable agreement with the owner of such patented or copyrighted design device or material. It is mutually agreed and understood, that without exception the contract prices shall include all royalties or costs arising from the use of such design, device or materials, in any way involved in the work. The Contractor and/or his Sureties shall indemnify and save harmless the Owner of the project from any and all claims for infringement by reason of the use of such patented or copy-righted design, device or materials or any trademark or copy-right in connection with work agreed to be performed under this contract, and shall indemnify the Owner for any cost, expense, or damage which it may be obliged to pay by reason of such infringement at any time during the prosecution of the work or after completion of the work.

17. COPYRIGHT

No materials, to include but not limited to reports, maps, or documents produced as a result of this contract, in whole or in part, shall be available to the Contractor for copyright purposes. Any such materials produced as a result of any contract that might be subject to copyright shall be the property of the Owner and all such rights shall belong to the Owner.

18. TERMINATION FOR CAUSE

If, through any cause, the Contractor shall fail to fulfill in a timely and proper manner his obligations under this contract, or if the Contractor shall violate any of the covenants, agreements, or stipulations of this contract, the Owner shall thereupon have the right to terminate any contract by giving written notice to the Contractor of such termination and specifying the effective date thereof, at least five (5) days before the effective date of such termination. In such event, all finished or unfinished documents, data, studies, surveys, drawings, maps, models, photographs, and reports prepared by the Contractor under any contract shall, at the option of the Owner, become the Owner's property and the Contractor shall be entitled to receive just and equitable compensation for any work satisfactorily completed hereunder. Notwithstanding the above, the Contractor shall not be relieved of liability to the Owner for damages sustained by the Owner by virtue of any breach of the contract by the Contractor, and the Owner may withhold any payments to the Contractor for the purpose of set-off until such time as the exact amount of damages due the Owner from the Contractor is determined.

19. TERMINATION FOR CONVENIENCE

The Owner may terminate any contract at any time by giving at least ten (10) days' notice in writing to the Contractor. If the contract is terminated by the Owner as provided herein, the Contractor will be paid for the time provided and expenses incurred up to the termination date.

20. ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The Contractor shall comply with mandatory standards and policies relating to energy efficiency which are contained in the state energy conservation plan issued in compliance with the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (Public Law 94-163).

21. SUBCONTRACTS

A. The Contractor shall not enter into any subcontract with any subcontractor who has been debarred, suspended, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participating in contracting programs by any agency of the United States Government or the State of Texas.

B. The Contractor shall be as fully responsible to the Owner for the acts and omissions of the Contractor's subcontractors, and of persons either directly or indirectly employed by them, as he is for the acts and omissions of persons directly employed by the Contractor.

C. The Contractor shall cause appropriate provisions to be inserted in all subcontracts relative to the work to bind subcontractor to the Contractor by the terms of the contract documents insofar as applicable to the work of subcontractors and to give the Contractor the same power as regards terminating any subcontract that the Owner may exercise over the Contractor under any provision of the contract documents.

D. Nothing contained in any contract shall create any contractual relation between any subcontractor and the Owner.

22. DEBARMENT, SUSPENSION, AND INELIGIBILITY

The Contractor represents and warrants that it and its subcontractors are not debarred, suspended, or placed in ineligibility status under the provisions of 24 CFR 24 (government debarment and suspension regulations).

23. BREACH OF CONTRACT TERMS

Any violation or breach of terms of any contract on the part of the Contractor or the Contractor's subcontractors may result in the suspension or termination of the contract or such other action that may be necessary to enforce the rights of the parties of the contract. The duties and obligations imposed by the contract documents and the rights and remedies available thereunder shall be in addition to and not a limitation of any duties, obligations, rights and remedies otherwise imposed or available by law.

24. PROVISIONS REQUIRED BY LAW DEEMED INSERTED

Each and every provision of law and clause required by law to be inserted in any contract shall be deemed to be inserted herein and the contract shall be read and enforced as though it were included herein, and if through mistake or otherwise any such provision is not inserted, or is not correctly inserted, then upon the application of either party the contract shall forthwith be physically amended to make such insertion or correction.

25. CHANGES

The Owner may, from time to time, request changes in the scope of the services of the Contractor to be performed hereunder. Such changes, including any increase or decrease in the amount of the Contractor's compensation which are mutually agreed upon by and between the Owner and the Contractor, shall be incorporated in written and executed amendments to this Contract.

26. PERSONNEL

The Contractor represents that it has, or will secure at its own expense, all personnel required in performing the services under this Contract. Such personnel shall not be employees of or have any contractual relationship with the Owner. All the services required hereunder will be performed by the Contractor or under its supervision, and all personnel engaged in the work shall be fully qualified and shall be authorized or permitted under State and local law to perform such services.

No person who is serving sentence in a penal or correctional institution shall be employed on work under any Contract.

27. ANTI-KICKBACK RULES

Salaries of personnel performing work under any Contract shall be paid unconditionally and not less often than once a month without payroll deduction or rebate on any account except only such payroll deductions as are mandatory by law or permitted by the applicable regulations issued by the Secretary of Labor pursuant to the "Anti-Kickback Act" of June 13, 1934 (48 Stat. 948; 62 Stat. 740; 63 Stat. 108; Title 18 U.S.C. 874; and Title 40 U.S.C. 276c). The Contractor shall comply with all applicable "Anti-Kickback" regulations and shall insert appropriate provisions in all subcontracts covering work under the contract to ensure compliance by the subcontractors with such regulations, and shall be responsible for the submission of affidavits required of subcontractors thereunder except as the Secretary of Labor may specifically provide for variations of or exemptions from the requirements thereof.

28. ASSIGNABILITY

The Contractor shall not assign any interest in any Contract, and shall not transfer any interest in the same (whether by assignment or novation) without prior written approval of the Owner provided that claims for money due or to become due the Contractor from the Owner under the Contract may be assigned to a bank, trust company, or other financial institution, or to a Trustee in Bankruptcy, without such approval. Notice of any such assignment or transfer shall be furnished promptly to the Owner.

29. INTEREST OF CONTRACTOR

The Contractor covenants that he presently has no interest and shall not acquire any interest direct or indirect in the above-described project or any parcels therein or any other interest which would conflict in any manner or degree with the performance of his services hereunder. The Contractor further covenants that in the performance of any Contract no person having any such interest shall be employed.

30. POLITICAL ACTIVITY

The Contractor will comply with the provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. 1501 et seq.), which limits the political activity of employees.

31. COMPLIANCE WITH THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

The parties agree to comply with the regulations, policies, guidelines, and requirements of the Office of Management and Budget, Circulars A-95, A-102, A-133, and A-54, as they relate to the use of Federal funds under any contract.

32. DISCRIMINATION DUE TO BELIEFS

No person with responsibilities in operation of the project to which this grant relates will discriminate with respect to any program participant or any applicant for participation in such program because of political affiliation or beliefs.

33. CONFIDENTIAL FINDINGS

All of the reports, information, data, etc., prepared or assembled by the Contractor under any Contract are confidential, and the Contractor agrees that they shall not be made available to any individual or organization without prior written approval of the Owner.

34. LOBBYING

The Contractor certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief that:

1. No federally appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the contractor, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any federal contract, the making of any federal grant, the making of any federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.
2. If any funds other than federally appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with this federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement, the contractor shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.