

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE November 8, 2019

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Upcoming Agenda Item #43 and #44, November 13, 2019 – Federal Legislative Consultant Contracts for Water Infrastructure and Flood Control**

On November 13, 2019, the Dallas City Council will consider an agenda item authorizing professional services contracts with Hector Alcalde and Paul Schlesinger to provide federal legislative services to the City related to water resources, infrastructure, and flood control.

Last month, the City Council approved a contract with CaptialEdge Strategies (Ralph Garboushian) for federal legislative consulting services. While Mr. Garboushian is the City's general federal lobbyist, Mr. Alcalde and Mr. Schlesinger provide specialized services in water resources, infrastructure, flood control, and United States Army Corps of Engineers' projects. Mr. Alcalde and Mr. Schlesinger work very closely with Mr. Garboushian, and these individuals comprise the City's overall federal legislative lobbying team.

Mr. Alcalde and Mr. Schlesinger have represented the City in Washington, DC since 2000. They have lengthy background and specific expertise in water and transportation infrastructure projects and have established critical relationships with key Administration officials and leadership in Congress, which has benefitted the City of Dallas and our efforts to move projects forward. While working on behalf of Dallas, they have helped secure over \$600 million for various projects including:

- \$150 million for the Dallas Floodway Extension Project, including securing a new start designation that allowed construction to begin – uncommonly - the first year it was sought;
- \$238 million for the Dallas Floodway Project, including securing the authorization that increased the amount of Corps participation from \$51 million to \$459 million; and then worked with the Corps and Congress in subsequent years to secure appropriations;
- \$147 million for necessary repairs to the Lewisville Dam; and
- \$104 million for Trinity River bridges.

Under the contract, the lobbying team is in communication with City staff frequently by telephone, through visits to Dallas, written reports, bulletins and memoranda. Information necessary to understanding the effect and impact of federal legislation and federal regulations is provided regularly to City staff.

In the year ahead, the team will continue working on water resources, infrastructure, and flood control issues that are important to the City. For example, they are currently working

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on legislation that would facilitate the appropriation of \$80 million in authorized funds for the state and Dallas County region for environmental infrastructure projects that might be made available to the City. The legislation is expected to pass as part of this year's appropriations process for the Army Corps.

Mr. Alcalde and Mr. Schlesinger have a strong and proven track record of representing the City in Washington, DC and advancing the City's legislative priorities. Staff is recommending approval of these contracts for Fiscal Year 2019-2020.

If you have any questions regarding the consideration of these contracts, please contact Brett Wilkinson, Managing Director of the Office of Strategic Partnerships and Government Affairs, at (214) 670-5797.



Kimberly Tolbert
Chief of Staff to the City Manager

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| T.C. Broadnax, City Manager | Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager |
| Chris Caso, City Attorney (Interim) | Nadia Chandler Hardy, Assistant City Manager and Chief Resilience Officer |
| Mark Swann, City Auditor | Michael Mendoza, Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services |
| Biliera Johnson, City Secretary | M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer |
| Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge | Laila Alequresh, Chief Innovation Officer |
| Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager | M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion |
| Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager | Directors and Assistant Directors |