



## Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

**Meeting Date:** April 24, 2012

**Prepared By:** Thomas Weber **Phone #:** 854-4629

**Division Director/Manager:** Jon A. White, Director, Natural Resources & Environmental Quality Division

**Department Head:** Steven M. Manilla, P.E., County Executive-TNR

**Sponsoring Court Member:** County Judge Samuel T. Biscoe

**AGENDA LANGUAGE:** Consider and take appropriate action to fund the remaining four years of environmental monitoring near the Texas Industries, Inc. site in the Colorado River Corridor from the Travis County allocated reserve.

### **BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST:**

TNR requests \$168,290 in funding from the allocated reserve to be used to continue the remaining years of environmental monitoring to determine if the permitted Texas Industries, Inc. (TXI) mining operation in the Hunters Bend area is affecting the quality of groundwater and air, noise levels, and groundwater elevation. To date, the Commissioners Court has funded only the first year of "baseline" monitoring. Proposed today is a request to fund up to four years of monitoring, including up to two "interim" years of scaled back monitoring prior to the commencement of mining and two "active" years of monitoring to begin once TXI commences mining. A proposed budget for these activities is included as Exhibit A to detail the costs by year and by major task.

On January 11, 2011, the Commissioners Court approved of funding to complement third party funding from the City of Austin (COA) and in-kind laboratory analytical services provided by the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) for the Year One effort. A Request for Services (RFS) resulted in selection and approval of a scope of work and one-year contract effective July 5, 2011 - July 4, 2012, to URS Corporation to conduct the monitoring. The baseline year effort is ongoing at this time and is expected to be completed on schedule. The Professional Services Agreement between the County and URS Corporation provides an option to extend the contract if funding can be secured.

### **STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

TNR staff recommend a one-time approval of \$168,290 to TNR from the Travis County allocated reserve fund to be used to extend the URS Corporation contract to accomplish the remaining four years of the environmental monitoring (July 5, 2012 - July 4, 2016).

**ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:**

This proposal fulfills the concerns of the Commissioners Court that we aggressively determine what, if any, impacts the sand and gravel mining at TXI pose on the environment. Air monitoring is evaluating whether particulate matter results in nuisance or human health impacts on neighborhoods. Noise monitoring similarly is evaluating nuisances and objectionable conditions. Groundwater monitoring evaluates changes in groundwater elevations and changes in the quality of water in the Colorado River Alluvial Aquifer. This aquifer is used as a drinking water and agricultural water source by both private and public water well owners.

Even with a reasonable and well-funded monitoring effort, it may prove difficult to statistically conclude that environmental changes occur from mining. Among the difficulties are changes in the aquifer due to seasonal or weather-related phenomenon unrelated to mining and the possible sporadic nature of air quality or noise changes that could go undetected.

**FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

The cost of the monitoring may be less than is requested, dependent upon the actual time TXI begins to mine sand and gravel. For instance, if mining were to begin in 2013, there would only be one interim year to fund rather than two years. It remains unclear when TXI will commence mining.

The initial contract with URS Corporation was approved for \$60,865.74. A contract amendment approved on September 27, 2011, added \$1,500 to allow for unanticipated legal work to execute an access agreement to use certain wells on private property. For the baseline year nearing completion, the LCRA is providing up to \$15,000 of in-kind services for analysis of groundwater samples and the COA provided \$60,000 towards the overall Colorado River Corridor planning effort that includes the environmental monitoring as a component. Both the COA and LCRA have declined to provide financial support for additional monitoring in the remaining years. TNR does not have the flexibility to move the necessary funding for the remaining years from another source within its departmental budget and therefore requests that this priority be approved from allocated reserve funds or another appropriate source.

**ATTACHMENTS/EXHIBITS:**

Exhibit A - URS Environmental Monitoring Tasks and Costs

**REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:**

Cynthia McDonald	Financial Manager	TNR	854-4239
Steve Manilla	County Executive	TNR	854-9429
Jon White	NREQ Director	TNR	854-7212


**CC:**

Randy Nicholson	Comprehensive Planning Manager	TNR	854-4603
Thomas Weber	Env. Program Manager	TNR	854-4629
Jason Walker	Purchaser	Purchasing Dept.	854-4562

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**0801 - NREQ - Environmental Projects**

**EXHIBIT A**

**URS ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING TASKS AND COSTS**

**JULY 2012 - JULY 2016**



April 11, 2012

Thomas W. Weber  
Transportation & Natural Resources  
Travis County  
1010 Lavaca  
Third Floor  
Austin, TX 78701

**Re: Environmental Monitoring Services for the Colorado River Corridor Plan**

Dear Mr. Weber:

URS Corporation (URS) is pleased to present our cost estimate for Environmental Monitoring Services for the Colorado River Corridor Plan. This estimate includes costs for two years of interim monitoring and two years of monitoring during active mining. These costs are consistent with the technical approach, schedule, and scope presented in our March 2, 2011 proposal. However, three changes to the original scope have been made and include:

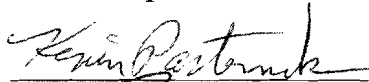
- Addition of an additional interim monitoring year that will take place after the first interim year and before the start of active mining;
- Using URS-owned Airmetrics MiniVol air samplers for measuring PM2.5 and PM10 rather than the Capitol Area Council of Governments air sampling equipment; and
- URS subcontracting directly with LCRA Environmental Laboratory Services for groundwater analytical services.

URS' costs are provided in Attachment 1 and include: 1) cost estimates, by year, for two interim years and two years during active mining; 2) a rate sheet to be used for compensating any additional services (only to be used upon receiving a written request from the Executive Director); 3) unit rates for reimbursable expenses; and 4) additional travel and equipment rental costs. Revisions to the proposed environmental monitoring services have resulted in a cost increase of \$62,031.92 and a new total cost of \$168,289.86 for the four years of proposed environmental monitoring services from June 2012 to June 2016.

We look forward to your favorable consideration and stand ready to continue this project. Should you require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Kevin Pasternak at your convenience.


Respectfully,

**URS Corporation**



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Kevin Pasternak, PG  
Project Manager  
(512) 419-5293



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*For* Tylef P. Jones, PG  
Vice President, Remediation Department  
Manager

URS Corporation  
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# ATTACHMENT 1

## Compensation for Basic Services and Reimbursable Expenses

Year	Task	Description	Unit	Price	Notes
Interim 1	1	Groundwater Availability and Quality - Interim Baseline Sampling (Quarterly Water Level and Annual Water Quality), and First Interim Report	Lump Sum	\$26,648.79	Assumes a 12 month Interim period
Interim 1	1	Reproduction Cost for First Interim Baseline Annual Report	Lump Sum	\$319.87	Reimbursable Cost
<b>Interim 1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Interim Year 1 Total Cost</b>	<b>Lump Sum</b>	<b>\$26,698.66</b>	
Interim 2	1	Groundwater Availability and Quality - Interim Baseline Sampling (Quarterly Water Level and Annual Water Quality), and Second Interim Report	Lump Sum	\$26,809.93	Assumes a 12 month Interim period
Interim 2	1	Reproduction Cost for Second Interim Baseline Annual Report	Lump Sum	\$323.33	Reimbursable Cost
<b>Interim 2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Interim Year 2 Total Cost</b>	<b>Lump Sum</b>	<b>\$27,133.26</b>	
3	1	Groundwater Availability and Quality - Year 2 Groundwater Sampling (quarterly), and Year 3 Annual Report	Lump Sum	\$32,287.74	Assumes 10 wells
3	2	Air - Year 2 Air Sampling (quarterly), and Year 3 Annual Report	Lump Sum	\$17,775.56	
3	3	Noise - Year 3 Sampling (quarterly), and Year 3 Annual Report	Lump Sum	\$13,116.70	
3	1,2,3	Reproduction Cost for Year 3 Annual Report	Lump Sum	\$332.16	Reimbursable Cost
<b>3</b>	<b>1,2,3</b>	<b>Year 3 Total Cost</b>	<b>Lump Sum</b>	<b>\$63,512.16</b>	<b>Finish Noise Monitoring</b>
4	1	Groundwater Availability and Quality - Year 4 Groundwater Sampling (quarterly), and Year 4 Annual Report	Lump Sum	\$33,103.54	Assumes 10 wells
4	2	Air - Year 4 Air Sampling (quarterly), and Year 4 Annual Report	Lump Sum	\$17,506.57	
4	1,2	Reproduction Cost for Year 4 Annual Report	Lump Sum	\$335.66	Reimbursable Cost
<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Year 4 Total Cost</b>	<b>Lump Sum</b>	<b>\$50,945.77</b>	
				<b>\$168,289.86</b>	<b>Grand Sum</b>

## Hourly Rates for Additional Services

Staff Category	2012 Hourly Rate	2013 Hourly Rate	2014 Hourly Rate	2015 Hourly Rate
Senior Project Manager	\$136.35	\$139.08	\$141.86	\$144.69
Deputy Project Manager	\$89.90	\$91.70	\$93.53	\$95.40
Senior Noise Scientist	\$105.19	\$107.30	\$109.44	\$111.63
Senior Air Scientist	\$115.24	\$117.54	\$119.89	\$122.29
Senior Chemist	\$116.17	\$118.50	\$120.87	\$123.29
Senior Project ITR	\$122.18	\$124.62	\$127.11	\$129.65
Staff Scientist/Engineer	\$79.39	\$80.98	\$82.60	\$84.55
Staff Scientist/Geologist	\$83.52	\$85.19	\$86.89	\$88.63
Staff Air Scientist	\$82.11	\$83.75	\$85.43	\$87.14
Staff Chemist	\$88.40	\$90.17	\$91.97	\$93.81
Junior Staff Scientist/Geologist	\$53.49	\$54.56	\$55.65	\$56.76
Senior Noise Scientist ITR	\$143.67	\$146.54	\$149.47	\$152.46
CADD Tech	\$74.51	\$76.00	\$77.52	\$79.07
Clerical/Administrative	\$51.52	\$52.55	\$53.60	\$54.67
Geosciences Expert Community Liaison	\$204.00	\$208.08	\$212.24	\$216.48
Field Tech	\$51.00	\$52.02	\$53.06	\$54.12

## Reimbursable Expenses Rates

Item	Description	Unit	2012 Price	2013 Price	2014 Price	2015 Price
Reproduction	Black and white copies	Each	\$0.07	\$0.07	\$0.07	\$0.07
Miscellaneous Reproduction Supplies (Binders, tabs, etc.)	Laminated color tabs, 3 ring binders	Each	\$7.34	\$7.49	\$7.64	\$7.79
Shipping (FedEX)	Standard delivery	Each	\$12.24	\$12.48	\$12.73	\$12.98
Color Copies	Black and white copies	Each	\$1.09	\$1.11	\$1.13	\$1.15

## Additional Travel and Equipment Rental Costs

Item	Rate	Unit	Note
Water Quality Meter (includes ORP and dissolved oxygen)	\$78.62	day	rent
Water Level Meter	\$29.07	day	rent
Miscellaneous Field Supplies (Ice, Packaging Materials, Tools, Rubber Gloves)	\$20.00	event	purchase, consumables
Transducers (in-situ troll 700 with vent cable and com)	\$924.71	year	lease
Submersible Pump	\$140.00	each	purchase
Noise equipment	\$525.00	week	rent
Air Filter Analysis	\$33.00	each	PM2.5, PM10
Survey Borings, Monitoring Wells	\$250.00	each	subcontractor
Business Mileage (mi)	\$0.500	mile	for personal vehicle use
Daily Truck Rental	\$100.00	day	rent
Daily Car Rental	\$50.00	day	rent
Gasoline for Rental Vehicle or Generator	\$4.00	gallon	purchase, consumables
Sample Shipping (Fed EX)	\$100.00	each	
55 gallon drums	\$55.00	each	purchase
Records Acquisition	\$35.00	each	purchase
Disposable Bailers (case of 24)	\$130.00	case	purchase
Bailer rope	\$65.00	roll	purchase
Generator	\$1,500.00	month	rent
Polytank	\$600.00	each	purchase
Grundfos Pump and Controller	\$500.00	week	rent