



COMMISSIONERS COURT COMMUNICATION

AGENDA DATE: May 21st, 2012

CONSENT OR REGULAR: Consent

CONTRACT REFERENCE NO
(IF APPLICABLE): _____

SUBJECT:

Approve and authorize the Purchase Agent to publish a Notice for a Hearing to TxCDBG Contract No. 729165 as required by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA). Upon completion of the notification period, approve and authorize the County Judge to sign the close-out document. Advertisement funds are available in account No. plandevlop-6022

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION OF TOPIC:

The County of El Paso has successfully completed its 2009-2011 Texas Community Development Program (TxCDBG No. 79165) by assisting approximately 170 residents with decommissioning of their septic tanks and yard line connection to the new sewer mains installed in these two subdivisions.

Advertisement cost will be paid from plandevlop-6022

PRIOR COMMISSIONERS COURT ACTION (IF ANY):

None for the Close-out item

RECOMMENDATION:

Approval of the item

COUNTY ATTORNEY APPROVAL

The attached document has been given legal review by the El Paso County Attorney's Office on behalf of the County of El Paso, its officers, and employees. Said legal review should not be relied upon by any person or entity other than the County of El Paso, its officers, and employees.

COUNTY ATTORNEY:

LEGAL REVIEW:

LEGAL REVIEW NOTES (If Applicable):

DATE:

SUBMITTED BY: Ernesto Carrizal III, P.E., Public Works Director. Public Works (915) 546-2015

May 21st, 2012

Cindy Miller
Regional Coordinator
Texas Department Agriculture
Office of Rural Affairs
PO Box 12847
Austin, TX 78711

RE: Bosque Bonito units 1&2 waste water Improvement Project TxCDBG No. 729165 Closeout

Dear Ms. Miller:

I am pleased to inform you that the County of El Paso has successfully completed its 2009-2011 Texas Community Development Program (TxCDBG No. 729165) within the contract period. Enclosed, are the Certificate of Completion, Final Project Completion Report and other closeout documentations as outlined in the "TxCDBG Implementation Manual."

The financial audit for the referenced projects will be included as part of the County's FY-2010/2011 audits as conducted in accordance with the current Single Audit Act Amendments (P.L. 104-156); OMB Circular No. A-133, for Audits of States, Local Governments, Non-Profit Organizations and contractual requirements; and the Texas Community Development Program (2010) Implementation Manual (Audit-Ch.14). The County anticipates the completion of said audits by March 2013, at which time the County Auditor's office will submit one copy to your office.

If you should have any questions concerning this matter, please feel free to call Munzer Alsarraj, at (915) 543-3845.

Sincerely,

Veronica Escobar
County Judge

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS
BOSQUE BONITO 1&2 WAST WATER PROJECT TxCDBG
CONTRACT NO. 729165**

Notice is hereby given scheduled public hearings to be held at 6:00 PM Thursday, May 31st, 2012 at the Lower Valley Water District, 1557FM Road 1110, Clint TX, 79836. Purpose of the meeting is to hold a final hearing to receive comments on the completion of the Bosque Bonito 1&2 waste water Project under the Economically Distressed Area Program TxCDBG Contract No. 729165. Citizens are encouraged to attend this public hearing and present their views to the County. Interested persons who cannot attend or require special assistance are asked to contact Munzer Alsarraj, El Paso County, 800 E. Overland St., Suite 200, El Paso, TX 79901, (915) 543-3845.

CHAPTER 12

CONTRACT CLOSEOUT

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CHAPTER 12

CONTRACT CLOSEOUT

12.0 Introduction

The TxCDBG contract closeout process is designed to ensure that all CDBG activities are completed and funds are expended within the contract, program rules, and state and federal requirements. This means that all financial, administrative, and performance issues related to the activities undertaken by the Grant Recipient have been resolved to the satisfaction of TxCDBG and the Grant Recipient.

The closeout process should begin when:

- All costs to be paid with TxCDBG funds have been expended and requested for payment, with the exception of closeout costs (final administrative and audit costs) and other costs approved in writing by TXCDBG;
- The work described in the Performance Statement has been completed; and
- The Grant Recipient's other responsibilities under its agreement with TxCDBG have been met.

12.1 Final Public Hearing

Grant Recipients should provide for and encourage citizen participation by residents of the areas in which TxCDBG funds were used. The Grant Recipient's Citizen Participation Plan (TXCDBG Contract Section 21) and Section 570.486 of the Regulations require a Final Public Hearing regarding the activities completed under the TxCDBG contract.

TxCDBG Final Public Hearing requirements:

- Schedule the Hearing after the project is completed but prior to submitting the closeout report:
 - at a location convenient to the contract beneficiaries;
 - after 5 p.m. on a weekday or on a Saturday or Sunday; and
 - provide accommodation for citizens with disabilities.
- Provide notice of the Hearing to citizens:
 - Publish a notice (or article) in the non-legal section of a newspaper with general circulation in the Grant Recipient's jurisdiction:
 - publish at least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the scheduled hearing;
 - include the date, time, and location of the hearing and the topics to be considered; and
 - if appropriate, publish in both English and Spanish or other appropriate language.
 - Post the notice prominently in public buildings and distribute them to interested community groups.
- Document the Hearing and make the records available to the public as required by Texas Government Code, Chapter 552:
 - public hearing notice (full page tear OR a photocopy of the notice and publisher's affidavit);
 - list of the attendees and minutes of the hearing.

12.2 Closeout Report

The *Project Completion Report (Form A1200)*, or PCR, must be submitted within sixty (60) days of the contract end date (i.e. the PCR due date). If all construction activities are completed prior to the contract end date, then the PCR due date is sixty (60) after construction is completed.

The PCR consists of four separate parts, described below. Instructions for completing each field are imbedded within the form – hold the cursor over the field to read the instructions.

12.2.1 Part I. General Reports

Total Persons Benefitting:

Report the total number of beneficiaries and the number of low- to moderate-income beneficiaries for the contract. Count each person only once, even if that person benefits from multiple activities.

Certificate of Expenditures

This section of the PCR documents financial status of the completed project, including both TXCDBG funds and any other funds used for the project, listed by budget activity in the following columns:

- TxCDBG Budget: Funds allotted to each budget activity according to the TxCDBG Contract Exhibit B, Budget including all amendments and modifications.
- TxCDBG Funds Drawn To Date: Funds received from TxCDBG through approved Requests for Payment. Pending Requests for Payment are NOT included in this amount.
- TxCDBG Reserved Funds: Costs that have been incurred but have not yet been reimbursed by TxCDBG. This amount includes Requests for Payment that have been submitted but not yet approved, as well as requests that have not been submitted by the Grant Recipient. This column may only be used if the PCR is submitted on or before the PCR due date.
- Unutilized Funds (Deob): Funds that will NOT be requested by the Grant Recipient, including all funds not Drawn to Date or requested for Reserve. All funds included in this column will be deobligated by TxCDBG upon administrative completion of the contract and will be unavailable for reimbursement.
- Local Contribution: All funds or in-kind contributions other than TxCDBG funds used to complete the project. This amount divided by TxCDBG funds expended (Drawn To Date + Reserved Funds) must meet or exceed the percentage match commitment in the contract.

TXCDBG will deobligate all funds that are:

- identified by the Grant Recipient in the Unutilized Funds (Deob) column;
- not requested for payment or reserved by the PCR due date; or
- reserved but not requested for payment with appropriate documentation within ninety (90) days after the contract end date or approved for extended reserve (see table on next page).

In limited circumstances, TXCDBG may allow funds to be reserved for more than ninety (90) days after the contract end date. This extended reserve period must be requested by the Grant Recipient and approved by TXCDBG in writing, and will be formalized using the *Exception Certificate of Expenditures (Form A106)*, described in Section 1.1.4. Extended reserve may be approved in the following cases:

- the TxCDBG contract is part of a project funded through multiple funding agencies, and the TxCDBG-funded activities are complete while related activities are not yet complete;
- the TxCDBG contract is involved in litigation or other disputes regarding workmanship; or
- other circumstances approved in writing by TXCDBG staff.

Costs that may be Reserved more than 90 Days after the Contract End Date

| Costs | Maximum Amount Reserved | Deadline to Submit Request for Payment |
|---|--|--|
| Administration costs | Final 5% of the TxCDBG Administration budget (TxCDBG contract Section 4.A.7) | "Administratively Complete" letter + 30 days |
| Audit costs | Actual cost of Single Audit reports if required by TxCDBG | Contract End Date + Fiscal Year End + 9 months (costs for delinquent audit will not be reimbursed) |
| Other reserved costs approved on <u>Form A106</u> | Amount <u>approved by</u> TXCDBG | "Administratively Complete" letter + 30 days |

Civil Rights & Citizen Participation

This section of the PCR requires the Grant Recipient to certify by checking the appropriate boxes that the following federal requirements, included in the TxCDBG contract and Chapter 10 of this manual, were satisfied under this contract:

- Equal Employment Opportunity Requirements (described in Sections 10.1.1 and 10.1.2);
- Section 3 Requirements (described in Section 10.1.3);
- Promotion of MBE Participation requirements (described in Section 10.1.4);
- Excessive Force Policy requirements (described in Section 10.1.5);
- Section 504 Requirements (described in Section 10.1.6); and
- Fair Housing Requirements (described in Section 10.1.7).

The Grant Recipient must also provide the following additional Information:

- Fair Housing Activity – describe briefly the activity completed during the contract period to affirmatively further fair housing. A list of acceptable activities is provided in Section 10.1.7.
- Final Public Hearing Comments – provide a summary of comments received during the final public hearing, including a brief assessment of the citizen comment(s) and explanation of any action taken in response to the comment(s).
- Final Public Hearing Date – report the date of the final public hearing for the project.
- Hearing Publication Date – report the date that the notice of the final public hearing was published in a local newspaper, as described in this chapter, Section 12.1. This date **MUST** be at least three (3) days prior to the date that the hearing was held.
- Work Completed Date – report the date that all construction or other project activities (excluding administrative tasks) were completed. This date **MUST** be prior to the final public hearing date.

NOTE: Evidence of the Hearing publication (tear sheet or copy with publisher's affidavit) must be included as an attachment to the PCR.

Certifications

The chief elected official must sign the PCR, certifying that:

- a) All activities undertaken with funds provided under the contract identified in this report, have, to the best of my knowledge, been carried out in accordance with the contract agreement;
- b) The information contained in this Project Completion Report is accurate to the best of my knowledge;
- c) All records related to contractor activities are available for review;
- d) TXCDBG funds were not used to reduce the level of local financial support for housing and community development activities;
- e) No attempt to recover any capital costs of public improvements assisted in whole or in part with such funds by assessing any amount against properties owned and occupied by persons of low and moderate income, including any fee charged or assessment made as a condition of obtaining access to such public improvements unless (a) such funds are used to pay the

proportion of such fee or assessment that related to the capital costs of such public improvements that are financed from revenue sources other than such funds; or (b) for purposes of assessing any amount against properties owned and occupied by persons of moderate income, contractor certifies that it lacks sufficient funds under this contract to comply with the requirements of clause (a);

- f) The persons to benefit from the activities described in Exhibit A, Performance Statement, of this contract are receiving service or a benefit from the use of the new or improved facilities and activities; and
- g) Proper provision has been made for the payment of all unpaid costs and unsettled third-party claims and the State of Texas is under no obligation to make any further payment to the recipient under the contract agreement in excess of the amount identified in the Certificate of Expenditures table as "TxCDBG Reserved Funds".

Attachments

For each attachment, indicate whether the document is attached or not required.

- Publication, Final Public Hearing – the publication may be submitted electronically by scanning a copy of the notice and the publisher's affidavit, or by mailing the original tearsheet.
- Project Map – If the project includes construction activities, the Grant Recipient must attach a project map showing the project as actually built.
- Evidence of Benefit – If the project includes work on private property, including water and sewer service connections, the Grant Recipient must attach evidence that the households are in fact receiving a benefit:
 - List the name, address, number of beneficiaries, and income level of each household; and
 - Documentation that beneficiaries are receiving services for such projects, such as:
 - Copies of utility bills for all beneficiary households;
 - Printout of accounts from utility billing system;
 - Other reasonable documentation approved by TxCDBG.

12.2.2 Part II. Performance Report

Actual Accomplishments

This section of the PCR reports all work completed, organized by the activity. Engineering and administration activities are not reported. The work reported must correspond to the project described in the Performance Statement and be described in quantitative terms. (If the Performance Statement describes a project item without using quantities, report the item as lump sum with a quantity of one.)

If the current Performance Statement and actual accomplishments vary in quantities and/or number of beneficiaries served, please contact the Regional Coordinator for technical assistance. A contract modification or amendment is generally required when quantities vary by more than 15% and in other cases as appropriate. If the completed project is significantly different from the Performance Statement, the PCR will not be accepted until a contract amendment is requested and TxCDBG staff determines that the changes are acceptable. TXCDBG is not obligated to reimburse work that is not included in the contract.

The Grant Recipient must confirm that the work was performed in the location(s) described in the current Performance Statement. If work was performed in a different location, the Grant Recipient must resolve this issue with TxCDBG staff prior to submitting the PCR.

HUD Performance Measures

This section of the PCR reports performance measures as required by HUD (described in more detail in the Program Overview section of this manual). Performance Measures must be reported separately for all activities, excluding engineering, administration, and acquisition (if incidental to the project).

For each activity, indicate the selection that best describes the activity.

- Objective**
(the purpose that the project supports)
- 1) Suitable Living Environment
 - 2) Decent Housing
 - 3) Economic Opportunity
- Outcome** (the way that the project supports the identified objective)
- 1) Availability / Accessibility
 - 2) Affordability
 - 3) Sustainability

Performance measures and beneficiary information are reported for acquisition activities only if CDBG funds are used only to acquire the property rather than to improve the property. Do not report acquisition activities if the acquisition is incidental to the overall project, such as acquisition of easements for a water system project.

Indicators (the type of benefit for each activity)

For each activity, select one item from Step 1 and one item from Step 2 that best describes the activity, then assign beneficiaries to the indicator.

| Indicator Step 1 | | Example |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| Public Facility / Infrastructure; | physical improvements to local facilities | water system improvements, first-time sewer connections, community center construction |
| Public Service | services provided to residents | job training, child care, crime prevention (very few Localities provide such services with TxCDBG funds) |

| Indicator Step 2 | | Example |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| New Access | a new service or facility | first-time water service |
| Improved Access | improved access to an existing service or facility | a job training activity where previously, the residents had to drive to another city to the nearest job training center |
| No longer Substandard | improves an existing service or facility such that it is no longer substandard | reconstruction of a road damaged by flooding |

The Grant Recipient may assign beneficiaries to more than one indicator if appropriate. The total beneficiaries for all indicators must equal the total beneficiaries for the activity.

Example: A water activity that benefits 50 persons may provide new access to 30 persons and improved access to 20 persons.

Special Category (identifies certain activities reported to HUD for various purposes)

Select all applicable categories to describe the activity. If no categories apply, select “none”.

- **Colonia:** A rural community or neighborhood located within 150 miles of the U.S.-Mexican border that lacks adequate infrastructure and frequently also lacks other basic services.
- **Presidentially declared major disaster area:** An area declared a major disaster under Subchapter IV of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.
- **Historic preservation area:** An area designated for historic preservation by local, state, or Federal officials.

- Brownfield redevelopment area: An abandoned, idled, or underused property where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or potential environmental contamination.
- Displacement: Activity where any household, business, farm, or nonprofit organization moved permanently from real property as a direct result of a CDBG-assisted rehabilitation, demolition, or acquisition activity.
- One for One Replacement Housing: The activity being assisted results in the conversion or demolition of one or more dwelling units that must be replaced.
- Rental Housing: Activity is tenant-based rental assistance.
- Multi-Unit Housing: Activity involves two or more units per structure.
- Revolving Loan Fund: Activity funded through a revolving loan fund with a set of accounts that are independent of other program accounts.
- Special Assessment: A public improvement activity for which a special assessment will be levied.
- Favored Activity: An economic development activity that is of important National interest.
- Float Funded: An eligible activity carried out using CDBG funds that were also programmed for one or more other activities at the time the funds were committed to the new activity. Activities financed with float loans must generate sufficient program income within an established time frame to enable the Grant Recipient to carry out the activities that were initially programmed.

HUD Performance Measures (Housing activities only)

This section of the PCR reports additional performance measures related to housing activities and appears on the form only if the appropriate box is marked.

Indicate the number of **housing units** completed for each category:

- Units occupied by elderly: units occupied by one or more persons age 62 and over
- Units made accessible: units made accessible for the occupant through the removal of architectural barriers. The unit does not need to be made fully accessible according to Section 504 standards to be considered accessible for this performance measure.
- Units qualified as Energy Star: units which have been certified through inspection and testing as meeting the Energy Star Qualified New Home Standard
- Units moved from substandard to standard: units that were substandard prior to the rehabilitation and now meet HQS or local codes
- Units brought into compliance with lead safety rules (24 CFR Part 35): units made lead safe (24 CFR Part 35). Do not count housing units that are free of lead-based paint (e.g., built in 1978 or later, a lead-based paint inspection report shows no lead paint in the property), or housing units where the rehabilitation work does not address all surfaces that could pose a hazard (e.g., rehabilitation work less than \$5,000 per unit).

If the housing rehabilitation activity is limited to one or more of the following, mark appropriate boxes:

- Installing smoke detectors
- Installing security devices
- Performing emergency housing repairs
- Providing supplies and equipment for painting houses
- Operating a Tool Lending Library

12.2.3 Part III. Beneficiary Report

Click the appropriate buttons to create Beneficiary Detail Reports. A new report will appear on the next page each time a button is clicked.

- Click "Activities on Public Property" for activities that occurred only on public property, including public easements. Creates Part III(a).
- Click "Activities on Private Property" for activities that occurred on private property. Creates Part III(b).

If multiple activities benefit exactly the same group of persons, the detailed beneficiary information may be reported once for the group of activities in order to minimize the length of the report. Indicate all activities to which the report applies at the top of the report.

Note: If a subset of the beneficiaries of one activity also benefit from a different activity, the subset is separate group that must be reported separately.

Add as many Beneficiary Detail Reports as necessary to describe all activities included in the TxCDBG Contract Exhibit A, Performance Statement (excluding engineering, administration, and acquisition if incidental to the project).

Beneficiary Detail Report

Complete Beneficiary Detail Reports for all activities in the Performance Statement (excluding engineering, administration, and acquisition if incidental to the project). The total number of persons benefitting, and the number of households benefitting if applicable, must equal the total beneficiaries or households for the activity in the Performance Statement.

Part III(a) Beneficiary Detail Report – Activities on Public Property – report all beneficiaries for the group of activities according to gender, race, ethnicity, and income level.

Part III(b) Beneficiary Detail Report – Activities on Private Property – report all information required by Part III(a) for persons benefitting, as well as similar information for each household receiving a benefit.

- Gender, race, and ethnicity information must be reported for the person designated as the “head of household” for each residence.
- Household income level is reported separately for owner-occupied and renter-occupied households; if information is not available, the household is presumed to be owner-occupied.

The TDRA website includes an *Income Category Estimation Worksheet* to facilitate reporting beneficiaries for the four HUD income categories. The *HUD Census-based Data Spreadsheet* is also available on the TDRA website for projects documenting beneficiaries through census data; for projects documenting beneficiaries through survey data, income categories may be inferred from the same census information if:

- the survey questionnaire was completed prior to November 1, 2007;
- the activity being reported is NOT housing rehabilitation or on-site sewer facility (OSSF) improvement; and
- for contracts awarded after June 1, 2007, the PCR is submitted within sixty (60) days of the end of the original contract period.

If the number of beneficiaries or homes actually served varies from the number of beneficiaries required by the current contract Performance Statement, the Grant Recipient must contact the Regional Coordinator for technical assistance regarding a Performance Statement amendment.

12.2.4 Part IV. Final Financial Interest Report

The Grant Recipient must report final procurement information for all contracts executed under the TxCDBG contract, including professional services providers, construction contractors and sub-contractors, and suppliers, with contracts of \$2,000 or more. The contract amount report should include any change orders. Check the appropriate box to report subcontracts valued at \$2,000 or more under the prime contractor.

All contracts and subcontracts included in this report should previously have been reported on a *Financial Interest Report (Form A503)*. If the information previously reported was incomplete or if information other than the contract amount has been modified, the Grant Recipient must submit revised reports prior to submitting the PCR.

12.3 Acceptance of the Closeout Report

Once the PCR is submitted, TXCDBG staff will review the report for accuracy and completeness.

- Incomplete reports will not be accepted and will be returned to the Grant Recipient.
- Minor deficiencies in the information provided (if any) will be described in a letter to the Grant Recipient and must be corrected within thirty days of that letter.
- PCRs that include serious deficiencies or information that does not reflect the Performance Statement and/or Budget will not be accepted and will be returned to the Grant Recipient.

All fields of the PCR are required!
Incomplete reports will not be accepted.

Scanned versions of the signed PCR and Hearing publication may initially be emailed to TxCDBG; an acceptable complete PCR will be considered "received" on the date the email is received by TXCDBG to comply with the PCR due date and the 24-month threshold described in Section 1.1.3. A PCR with the original signature of the chief elected official, along with the newspaper tear sheet or publisher's affidavit of the Public Hearing publication, must be received within five business days of the electronic document.

Submit electronic copies to:

closeouts@orca.state.tx.us

Subject line: Grant Recipient name, Contract No., Region

TDRA Disaster Recovery Division:

drs-closeouts@orca.state.tx.us

Submit original PCRs to the Regional Coordinator

(Austin headquarters or appropriate field office).

Delinquent Closeouts

Late submittal of closeouts may affect a Grant Recipient's current or future TxCDBG funding.

- Requests for Payment on all open contracts may be held until an acceptable PCR is received.
- New awards may be placed on hold until an acceptable PCR is received, and the award may be withdrawn if the delinquencies are not resolved within 90 days of the award announcement.
- Continual unsatisfactory performance and delays in submitting closeout documents may be considered evidence of a lack of administrative capacity for future TxCDBG funding.

If the Grant Recipient is unable to complete the PCR in a timely manner due to disputed construction work, litigation, participation of other funding agencies in a large scale or phased project, or other serious circumstance beyond the control of the Grant Recipient that prevents contract closeout, the Grant Recipient may request an exception to the PCR due date in writing. TXCDBG will respond to all such requests in writing. If an exception is granted:

- a new PCR due date will be established for the contract;

- the Grant Recipient will not be penalized for late submission in subsequent application cycles until the revised PCR due date;
- the Grant Recipient must provide quarterly reports until the PCR is submitted and accepted;
- the Grant Recipient must still meet all thresholds and other requirements to apply for future TxCDBG funding - the *Certificate of Expenditure (Form A106)* may be used to document compliance with the 24-Month threshold as described in Chapter 1, Section 1.1.3; and
- another exception may be requested if the situation is not resolved by the new PCR due date.

A revised PCR submission date is NOT an extension of the contract period; costs incurred after the contract end date may not be eligible for reimbursement.

Contract Closeout

The contract closeout process involves three separate actions:

The contract is not considered “closed” until all three steps have been completed.

- 1) The Grant Recipient submits PCR, certifying that the project is complete and all requirements have been met.
- 2) TXCDBG monitoring staff issues a letter stating that the project is **Administratively Complete** as described in **Chapter 13: Monitoring**. This status allows TXCDBG staff to release any reserved administration funds (other than those reserved for audit costs).
- 3) TXCDBG audit staff issues an **Audit Complete** letter, stating that all required audit reports related to the project have been submitted and accepted. Once this letter is issued, funds reserved for audit costs may be released; however, any other reserved funds must be held until the contract is *Administratively Complete*.

The second “completion” letter, which may be **either** the **Administratively Complete** letter or the **Audit Complete** letter, will include a statement that the contract is closed as of the date of that letter. Only the second letter issued for the contract will include this statement.

Note: Contract closeout does not begin the record retention period for the contract. Please see Program Overview Section P.2.3 for further information on record retention requirements.