



**DeWight Dopslauf, C.P.M., CPPO**  
**Harris County Purchasing Agent**

March 15, 2021

Commissioners Court  
Harris County, Texas

**RE: Job No. 150225**

Members of Commissioners Court:

Please approve the attached Order(s) authorizing the County Judge to execute the attached First Amendment to the Agreement(s) for the following:

**Description:** Audit Services for Harris County, Harris County Flood Control District, Harris County District Clerk and County Clerk Registry Funds and Related Entities

**Vendor(s):** Melton & Melton, LLP

**Amount:** \$710,000 previously approved funds for the term 12/01/2019 - 11/30/2020  
46,000 additional funds for the extended term through 11/30/2021  
\$756,000

**Reviewed By:** • Harris County Purchasing • Budget Management Department

The First Amendment provides for additional funds and extends the term of the Agreement. Purchase order(s) will be issued upon Commissioners Court approval..

Sincerely,

DeWight Dopslauf  
Purchasing Agent

CAK  
Attachment(s)  
cc: Vendor(s)

**FOR INCLUSION ON COMMISSIONERS COURT AGENDA MARCH 30, 2021**

**FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
HARRIS COUNTY, HARRIS COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT, AND  
MELTON & MELTON, LLP**

THE STATE OF TEXAS     §  
  §  
COUNTY OF HARRIS     §

This amendment to the Agreement is made and entered into by and between Harris County (the “County”) and Harris County Flood Control District (the “District”), acting through its Harris County Budget Management Department (the “Department”) and Melton & Melton, LLP (“Contractor”). The County, the District, and the Contractor are referred to herein collectively as “Parties” and individually as a “Party.”

*Recitals*

On August 9, 2016, the County and the Contractor entered into an Agreement (the “Agreement”) to furnish auditing services for Harris County, Harris County Flood Control District, and Harris County District Clerk in accordance with Request for Quotation “RFQ” 15/0225 (“Services”).

The Parties desire to amend that Agreement and extend the Agreement until November 30, 2021.

*Terms*

I.

The Parties agree to amend the terms of the Agreement attached hereto as Exhibit A and to extend the term until November 30, 2021.

Contractor’s 2021 Engagement Letters are attached hereto as Exhibit B and subject to the terms in Exhibit A.

II.


The County hereby appropriates Forty-Six Thousand and No/Dollars (\$46,000.00) to cover the full extended term and all amounts due for Services, also including any outstanding invoices covering Services prior to the date of approval of this amendment.

III.

Execution. Multiple Counterparts: This amendment may be executed in several counterparts. Each counterpart is deemed an original. All counterparts together constitute one and the same instrument. Each Party warrants that the undersigned is a duly authorized representative with the power to execute this amendment.

MELTON & MELTON, LLP

HARRIS COUNTY

By: 

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
LINA HIDALGO  
COUNTY JUDGE

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
CHRISTIAN D. MENESEE  
COUNTY ATTORNEY

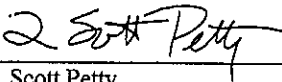
By:   
T. Scott Petty  
Assistant County Attorney  
C.A. File 21GEN0515

Exhibit A

Agreement between Harris County and Melton & Melton, LLP

(follows behind)

**AGREEMENT BETWEEN HARRIS COUNTY AND MELTON & MELTON, LLP**

THE STATE OF TEXAS     §  
  §  
COUNTY OF HARRIS     §

This Agreement is made and entered into by and between Harris County (the "County"), a body corporate and politic under the laws of the State of Texas, acting by and through Harris County Budget Management Department (the "Department"), and Melton & Melton, LLP. ("Contractor"). The County and Contractor are referred to herein collectively as the "Parties" and individually as a "Party."

**1) GENERAL SCOPE OF SERVICES**

- A) Contractor agrees to furnish auditing services for the Harris County District and County Clerks in accordance with Request for Quotation "RFQ" 15/0225 incorporated herein by reference as if set forth word for word in accordance with Contractor's engagement letter attached hereto as Exhibit A ("RFP") and incorporated herein by reference (the "Services"). In the event of any conflict, the order of precedence shall be this 1) Agreement, 2) the RFQ 3) the Engagement Letter.
- B) Contractor warrants and represents that it is registered with the Texas Secretary of State to transact business in Texas, and is current on all state and local fees and taxes, including but not limited to Franchise Account Status with the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts of in good standing.
- C) Contractor warrants and represents that neither it, nor any of its principals or other affiliated entities, owe any debts to Harris County, including, but not limited to delinquent taxes, court judgments, tickets, tolls, fees, or fines. Taxes are deemed delinquent on the date certain as specified by the Harris County Tax Office. For the purposes of this Agreement, a court judgment is not required for delinquent taxes to be considered a debt.
- D) Unless otherwise stated in this Agreement, words which have well-known technical or industry meanings are used in accordance with such recognized meaning.
- E) Contractor warrants and represents it will deliver the Services in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, rules, and regulations relating to the Services. Contractor warrants and represents it will deliver the Services in compliance with all applicable standards of professional and ethical conduct applicable to the auditing profession including but not limited to Auditing Standards, OMB Uniform Grant Guidance, and UGMS.

- F) Contractor's designated representative for Services under this Agreement shall be Steven Drenth. Mr. Drenth will be available to County Departments who have questions or concerns regarding the Services and shall facilitate completion of the Services.

2) **INDEPENDENT PARTIES**

- A) The Services performed by Contractor under this Agreement are performed by Contractor as an independent contractor. This Agreement is not intended to create and shall not constitute a partnership or joint venture between the Parties. Contractor shall have and retain the exclusive right of control over employment, firing, discipline, compensation, insurance, and benefits in accordance with the applicable laws of the State of Texas. Contractor has no authority to bind or otherwise obligate the County orally, in writing or by any act or omission. Nothing contained herein shall establish an agency, employee-employer relationship, partnership, joint enterprise, joint employer, or joint venture relationship by or between the County and Contractor.
- B) **IN THE EVENT THAT ANY STATE OR FEDERAL AGENCY, OR COURT OF COMPETENT JURISDICTION DETERMINES THAT CONTRACTOR IS NOT AN INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR, CONTRACTOR AGREES TO INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS THE COUNTY FOR ANY AND ALL DAMAGES, PENALTIES, ASSESSMENTS, TAXES, OR EXPENSES THAT MAY BE INCURRED BY COUNTY AS A RESULT OF THIS DETERMINATION.**
- C) Contractor warrants that it will comply with all federal and state laws including but not limited to the Prompt Pay Act, in the payment of its workers.
- D) Contractor is solely responsible for the payment of wages and any applicable benefits to workers for Services performed for the County. Contractor shall be responsible for withholding federal and state income taxes, paying Federal Social Security taxes, maintaining unemployment insurance and maintaining workers' compensation insurance in an amount and under such terms as required by the applicable laws of the State of Texas.

**THE COUNTY'S PAYMENT IS TO THE CONTRACTOR. THE COUNTY SHALL HAVE NO LIABILITY, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, FOR PAYMENT TO CONTRACTOR'S WORKERS OR SUBCONTRACTORS. CONTRACTOR SHALL INDEMNIFY AND HOLD THE COUNTY HARMLESS FROM ANY AND ALL SUCH CLAIMS.**

- E) Contractor's workers are not entitled to any contributions by or benefits from the County for any pension plan, bonus plan or any other benefit plan. Contractor and the workers furnished by Contractor shall not be entitled to any fringe

benefits or similar benefits afforded to employees of the County. The County is not liable for payment of any federal or state taxes and charges including, but not limited to, income withholding taxes, social security, unemployment, workers' compensation, and similar taxes and charges. This Article shall survive the expiration or termination of this Agreement.

- F) The County is not responsible to Contractor or Contractor's workers for payment of any overtime compensation or any additional payments pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. Section 207 9a(1), as amended; the Texas Pay Day Act; the Equal Pay Act; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. Section 2000e, *et al.*, as amended; or any provisions of the Texas Labor Code Ann., as amended.
- G) Neither Party shall have the authority to enter into contracts or agreements on behalf of the other Party.

**3) TERM**

The term shall begin upon final execution and remain in full force and effect for twelve (12) consecutive months. At the County's option, this Agreement may be renewed on the same terms and conditions for four (4) additional one (1) year periods (each a "Renewal Term"), with pricing revised according to Article 5 of this Agreement.

**4) CONTRACTOR'S COMPENSATION**

- A) Subject to the Limitation of Appropriation, the County agrees to pay Contractor according the rates:

County Clerk	District Clerk
2016 Fiscal Year \$20,000	2016 Fiscal Year \$20,000
2017 Fiscal Year \$20,000	2017 Fiscal Year \$20,000
2018 Fiscal Year \$21,000	2018 Fiscal Year \$21,000
2019 Fiscal Year \$22,000	2019 Fiscal Year \$22,000
2020 Fiscal Year \$23,000	2020 Fiscal Year \$23,000

**Average professional rates by staff level**

Level Average hourly rate

Partner/Director \$350

Senior manager \$300

Manager \$250

Staff \$175

- B) Contractor shall not perform any Services until it receives a Purchase Order from the County. Any Services performed prior to the receipt of a Purchase Order shall be at the Contractor's sole expense.
- C) The Contractor understands and agrees that, in accordance with the Texas Constitution, the County is prohibited from paying Contractor in advance for any of the Services or deliverables.

**5) TERMS OF PAYMENT**

- A) Contractor shall submit to the Harris County Auditor a sworn invoice for services rendered each month to: Harris County Auditor, 101 Preston 8<sup>th</sup> floor, Houston, Texas 77002. Each invoice shall be in a form acceptable to the County Auditor and shall include such detail of the services as may be requested by the County Auditor for verification purposes.
- B) The invoices shall, at a minimum, include a description of the services, the day(s) and the time(s) that Contractor performed the services, the department for which the Contractor provided services, and the total amount billed for the services. After receipt of an invoice, County Auditor shall forward the invoice to the Department for review and approval with such modifications as may be deemed appropriate, and after review, the department will return the invoice, with any modifications, to the County Auditor for payment. The County shall pay each invoice as approved by the County Auditor in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas.

**6) LIMITATION OF APPROPRIATION**

- A) Contractor understands and agrees, said understanding and agreement also being of the absolute essence of this Agreement, that the total maximum compensation that Contractor may become entitled to for the Services performed under this Agreement, and the total maximum sum that the County shall become liable to pay to Contractor under this Agreement, shall not under any conditions, circumstances, or interpretations thereof exceed the sum of Forty Thousand and No/Dollars (\$40,000.00). Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, or that may be construed to the contrary, the County's liability under the terms and provisions of this Agreement is limited to this sum.
- B) Contractor understands and agrees that the laws governing the letting of contracts for the County require the approval of the Harris County Auditor and her certification that funds are, or will be, available for the payment of the obligations created under the Agreement before such contracts become effective. Therefore, Contractor shall not proceed with any Services until such time that it receives a Purchase Order issued by the Harris County Purchasing Agent. Any Services performed by Contractor prior to its receipt of a Purchase Order are at Contractor's own expense.



- C) Contractor does understand and agree, said understanding and agreement also being of the absolute essence of this Agreement, that the total maximum compensation that Contractor may become entitled to hereunder, and the total maximum sum that the Contractor shall become liable to pay to Contractor hereunder, shall not under any conditions, circumstances, or interpretations thereof exceed the sum certified by the Purchase Order. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, or that may be construed to the contrary, the County's liability under the terms and provisions of this Agreement is limited to this sum. When all the funds so certified are expended, Contractor's sole and exclusive remedy shall be to terminate this Agreement. If the Services and charges to be provided for will equal or exceed the amount certified available, Contractor shall notify the County immediately.
- D) With regard to the renewal or extension of this Agreement, the County has not allocated any funds for any renewal or extension period beyond the current fiscal year. Therefore, if the County exercises any renewal option, the renewal is subject to the future allocation and certification of funds for the renewal period.

**7) TEXAS PUBLIC INFORMATION ACT**

- A) The Parties expressly acknowledge that this Agreement is subject to the Texas Public Information Act, Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §§ 552.001 *et seq.*, as amended (the "Act"). Contractor expressly understands and agrees that the County shall release any and all information necessary to comply with Texas law without the prior written consent of Contractor.
- B) It is expressly understood and agreed that the County, its officers and employees may request advice, decisions and opinions of the Attorney General of Texas ("Attorney General") in regard to the application of the Act to any software, or any part thereof, or other information or data furnished to the County, whether or not the same are available to the public. It is further understood that the County, its officers and employees shall have the right to rely on the advice, decisions, and opinions of the Attorney General, and that the County, its officers, and employees shall have no liability or obligations to Contractor for the disclosure to the public, or to any person or persons, of any software, or a part thereof, or other information or data furnished to the County in reliance on any advice, decision or opinion of the Attorney General.
- C) In the event the County receives a written request for information pursuant to the Act that affects Contractor's rights, title to, or interest in any information or data or a part thereof, furnished to the County by Contractor under this Agreement, then the County will promptly notify Contractor of such request. Contractor may, at its own option and expense, prepare comments and submit information directly to the Attorney General stating why the requested information is exempt from disclosure pursuant to the requirements of the Act. Contractor is solely responsible for submitting the memorandum brief and information to the Attorney General within the time period prescribed by the Act. Contractor is solely

responsible for seeking any declaratory or injunctive relief regarding the disclosure of information that it deems confidential or privileged.

- D) **Electronic Mail Addresses.** Contractor affirmatively consents to the disclosure of its e-mail addresses that are provided to the County, including any agency or department of the County. This consent is intended to comply with the requirements of the Act, and shall survive termination of this Agreement. This consent shall apply to e-mail addresses provided by Contractor and agents acting on behalf of Contractor and shall apply to any e-mail address provided in any form for any reason whether related to this Agreement or otherwise.

8) **TERMINATION**

- A) The County may terminate this Agreement at any time by providing thirty (30) days notice in writing to the Contractor.
- B) Upon receipt of termination notice, Contractor shall discontinue all Services in connection with the performance of this Agreement and shall proceed to cancel promptly all existing orders and contracts insofar as such orders or contracts are chargeable to this Agreement.
- C) Within thirty (30) days after receipt of notice of termination, Contractor agrees to submit an invoice showing in detail the Services performed under this Agreement up to and including the date of termination.
- D) The County agrees to pay Contractor that proportion of the prescribed charges for the Services actually performed and deliverables actually received under this Agreement bear to the total Services or deliverables called for under this Agreement, less such payments on account of charges as have previously been made.
- E) *Force Majeure.* In the event that either Party is unable to perform any of its obligations under the Agreement or to enjoy any of the benefits because of natural disaster, actions or decrees of governmental bodies or communications line failure not the fault of the affected party (referred to as a "*Force Majeure* Event"), the Party who has been so affected immediately agrees to give notice to the other Party and agrees to do everything possible to resume performance. Upon receipt of such notice, the Agreement is immediately suspended. If the period of nonperformance exceeds ten (10) calendar days from the receipt of notice of the *Force Majeure* Event, the Party whose ability to perform has not been so affected may terminate the Agreement immediately by giving written notice to the other Party.
- F) Copies of all completed or partially completed information, programs, inventions, software (including source code), firmware, designs, documentation or data (the "Documents") developed, created or invented under this Agreement shall be delivered to the County when this Agreement is terminated or completed.

- G) Agreement Transition. In the event the Agreement ends by either expiration or termination, Contractor shall assist in the transition until such time that a new contractor can be completely operational. Contractor acknowledges its responsibility to cooperate fully with the replacement contractor and the County to ensure a smooth and timely transition to the replacement contractor. Such transitional period shall not extend more than ninety (90) days beyond the expiration/termination date of the Agreement, or any extension thereof. During any transition period, all other terms and conditions of the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect as originally written.

9) **NOTICE**

- A) Any notice required to be given under the provisions of this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be duly served when it shall have been delivered in person or deposited, enclosed in a wrapper with the proper postage prepaid thereon, and duly registered or certified, return receipt requested, in a United States Post Office, addressed to the County or Contractor at the following addresses. If mailed, any notice or communication shall be deemed to be received three (3) days after the date of deposit in the United States Mail. Unless otherwise provided in this Agreement, all notices shall be delivered to the following addresses:

To Contractor: Melton & Melton LLP  
6002 Rogerdale Road, Suite 200  
Houston, Texas 77072  
Attn: Steve Drenth

To the County: Harris County Budget Management Department  
1310 Prairie Suite 500  
Houston, Texas 77002  
Attn: Mike Austin

Copy To: Harris County Purchasing Agent  
1001 Preston, Suite 670  
Houston, Texas 77002  
Attn: Patty Kenyon

- B) Either Party may designate a different address by giving the other Party ten (10) days written notice.

10) **COMPLIANCE AND STANDARDS**

- A) Contractor represents and warrants that it is capable and willing to provide the Services called for in the Agreement, and agrees to render the Services in accordance with the generally accepted standards applicable to the Services. Contractor shall use that degree of care and skill commensurate with the profession to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, rules, and regulations relating to the Services and Contractor's performance to be rendered hereunder. Contractor represents that Contractor and its personnel are fully qualified to perform the Services and provide the deliverables described in this Agreement.
- B) Contractor agrees to keep confidential the contents of all its discussions with County officials. Contractor agrees to keep confidential the contents of all County records and all other information obtained during Contractor's performance of Services under this Agreement. Contractor shall not release any confidential information unless the County, in writing, authorizes Contractor to release specific information to any third parties.
- C) Contractor shall not access any information it is not authorized to receive, nor shall Contractor copy, recreate, or use any proprietary information or Documents obtained in connection with this Agreement other than for the performance of this Agreement.
- D) Contractor warrants and represents that it is not in breach of any other contract, obligation or covenant that would affect Contractor's ability to perform hereunder and, as a result of entering into this Agreement, will not breach any such contract, obligation, or covenant.
- E) Contractor warrants and represents that it is registered with the Texas Secretary of State to transact business in Texas, and is current on all state and local fees and taxes, including but not limited to Franchise Account Status of "in good standing" with the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.
- F) Contractor warrants and represents that neither it, nor any of its principals or other affiliated entities, owe any debts to Harris County, including, but not limited to delinquent taxes, court judgments, tickets, tolls, fees, or fines. Taxes are deemed delinquent on the date certain as specified by the Harris County Tax Office. For the purposes of this Agreement, a court judgment is not required for delinquent taxes to be considered a debt.
- G) Conflict of Interest: Contractor warrants and represents to the County that it does not have nor shall it knowingly acquire any interest that would conflict in any manner with the performance of its obligations under this Agreement. Furthermore, Contractor warrants that no company or person, other than a bona fide employee, has been employed to solicit or secure this subcontract with County, and that Contractor has not paid or agreed to pay any company or person, other than a bona fide employee, any fee, commission, percentage,

brokerage fee, gift, or any other consideration, contingent upon or resulting from the award or making of this Agreement. For breach or violation of this provision, the County shall have the right to terminate the Agreement without liability or in its discretion to deduct from the Agreement amount, or otherwise recover, the full amount of such fee, commission, brokerage fee, gift, or contingent fee.

- H) Lobbying: Contractor shall not use County funds to directly or indirectly pay any person for influencing or attempting to influence any public employee or official in connection with the awarding of any contract or the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment or modification of any contract. Pursuant to 31 U.S.C.A. § 1352 (2003), if at any time during the Agreement term funding to Contractor exceeds \$100,000.00, Contractor shall file with the County the Federal Standard Form LLL titled "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying."
- I) No Federal Exclusion: Contractor warrants and represents that it is not debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in any Federal programs, including but not limited to the following: Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Office of Inspector General (OIG) - List of Excluded Individuals & Entities (LEIE); U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) - Excluded Parties List System (EPLS); All States (50) Health & Human Services Commission Medicaid OIG Sanction List; Government Terrorist Watch List (OFAC / Patriot Act); Department of Commerce, Bureau of Industry and Security, Denied Persons List; and Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Most Wanted. Contractor must immediately notify the County of any such exclusion or suspension. Contractor warrants and represents that it is in good standing with all State and Federal agencies that have a contracting or regulatory relationship with the County. Contractor warrants and represents that no person who has an ownership or controlling interest in Contractor's business or who is an agent or managing employee of Contractor has been convicted of a criminal offense related to involvement in any federal program.
- J) County and its designee shall have the right to conduct examinations, studies and audits of the services, payments, and efficiencies provided under this Agreement and County may make such examinations, studies, and audits at any time whether before or after payment. Contractor shall cooperate with such examinations, studies, and audits and provide County with such records, data, documents, including all of Contractor's backup and support data for billings, and Contractor shall provide access to such records, data, documents and personnel as are requested by County or the County Auditor. All payments made by County are subject to re-evaluation and refund or withholding of future payments conditioned on the results of the audit. This section shall survive termination of this Agreement.
- K) Prior to execution of the Agreement, Contractor shall, as an update, complete Form 1295 in accordance with Tex. Gov't Code Ann. § 2252.908 concerning

"Interested Parties," Contractor warrants and represents that all the information on the form is complete and accurate.

11) **PUBLIC CONTACT**

Contact with the news media, citizens of Harris County, or governmental agencies shall be the responsibility of the County. Under no circumstances shall Contractor release any material or information developed in the performance of its Services without the express written permission of the County.

12) **INDEMNIFICATION**

**CONTRACTOR SHALL INDEMNIFY, DEFEND, AND HOLD HARMLESS THE COUNTY FROM AND AGAINST ALL CLAIMS AND LIABILITY DUE TO THE ACTIVITIES OF CONTRACTOR, OR ANOTHER ENTITY OVER WHICH CONTRACTOR EXERCISES CONTROL, PERFORMED UNDER THIS AGREEMENT AND WHICH RESULT FROM ANY NEGLIGENT ACT, ERROR, OR OMISSION; INTENTIONAL TORT; INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY INFRINGEMENT; OR FAILURE TO PAY A SUBCONTRACTOR OR SUPPLIER; COMMITTED BY CONTRACTOR OR ANOTHER ENTITY OVER WHICH CONTRACTOR EXERCISES CONTROL.**

**CONTRACTOR SHALL ALSO INDEMNIFY, DEFEND, AND HOLD HARMLESS THE COUNTY FROM AND AGAINST ANY AND ALL EXPENSES, INCLUDING REASONABLE ATTORNEY'S FEES WHICH MIGHT BE INCURRED BY THE COUNTY, IN LITIGATION OR OTHERWISE RESISTING SAID CLAIMS OR LIABILITIES WHICH MIGHT BE IMPOSED ON THE COUNTY AS THE RESULT OF SUCH ACTIVITIES BY CONTRACTOR OR ANOTHER ENTITY OVER WHICH CONTRACTOR EXERCISES CONTROL.**

**CONTRACTOR SHALL INDEMNIFY, DEFEND, AND HOLD THE COUNTY HARMLESS FROM ANY AND ALL LIABILITY, EXPENSE, JUDGMENT, SUIT, CAUSE OF ACTION, OR DEMAND FOR PERSONAL INJURY, DEATH, OR DIRECT DAMAGE TO TANGIBLE PROPERTY WHICH MAY ACCRUE AGAINST THE COUNTY TO THE EXTENT IT IS CAUSED BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF CONTRACTOR OR ANOTHER ENTITY OVER WHICH CONTRACTOR EXERCISES CONTROL, WHILE PERFORMING SERVICES UNDER THIS AGREEMENT. COUNTY WILL GIVE CONTRACTOR PROMPT, WRITTEN NOTICE OF ANY SUCH CLAIM OR SUIT. COUNTY SHALL COOPERATE WITH CONTRACTOR IN ITS DEFENSE OR SETTLEMENT OF SUCH CLAIM OR SUIT.**

**IF A RESTRAINING ORDER OR TEMPORARY INJUNCTION IS GRANTED DUE TO ANY ACT, ERROR, OR OMISSION COMMITTED BY CONTRACTOR**

OR ANOTHER ENTITY OVER WHICH CONTRACTOR EXERCISES CONTROL, CONTRACTOR SHALL MAKE EVERY EFFORT, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO SECURING A SATISFACTORY BOND, TO OBTAIN THE SUSPENSION OF ANY SUCH RESTRAINING ORDER OR TEMPORARY INJUNCTION.

COUNTY RESERVES THE RIGHT, AT ITS OWN EXPENSE, TO BE INDEPENDENTLY REPRESENTED BY COUNSEL OF ITS OWN CHOICE IN CONNECTION WITH ANY SUCH SUIT OR PROCEEDING.

**13) APPLICABLE LAW AND VENUE**

- A) The Agreement is subject to the state and federal laws, orders, rules, and regulations relating to the Agreement and funded by state or federal funds or of applicable conditions of participation in Medicaid or Medicare program(s).
- B) This Agreement is governed by the laws of the State of Texas.
- C) The forum for any action under or related to the Agreement is exclusively in a state or federal court of competent jurisdiction in Texas.
- D) The exclusive venue for any action under or related to the Agreement is in a state or federal court of competent jurisdiction in Houston, Harris County, Texas

**14) TAXES AND CHARGES**

- A) The County is a political subdivision under the laws of the State of Texas and claims exemption from sales and use taxes under Tex. Tax Code Ann. §151.309, as amended. The County agrees to provide exemption certificates to Contractor upon request.
- B) The County is neither liable for any personal property taxes, charges, or fees assessed against Contractor nor obligated to reimburse Contractor for any taxes, charges, or fees assessed against Contractor for the supplies provided or any Services rendered.

**15) NO PERSONAL LIABILITY; NO WAIVER OF IMMUNITY**

- A) Nothing in the Agreement is construed as creating any personal liability on the part of any officer, director, employee, or agent of any public body that may be a Party to the Agreement, and the Parties expressly agree that the execution of the Agreement does not create any personal liability on the part of any officer, director, employee, or agent of the County.

- B) The Parties agree that no provision of this Agreement extends the County's liability beyond the liability provided in the Texas Constitution and the laws of the State of Texas.
- C) Neither the execution of this Agreement nor any other conduct of either Party relating to this Agreement shall be considered a waiver by the County of any right, defense, or immunity under the Texas Constitution or the laws of the State of Texas.
- D) The County does not agree to binding arbitration, nor does the County waive its right to a jury trial.

**16) INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS**

- A) The Contractor shall, at all times during the term of this Agreement, maintain insurance coverage with not less than the type and requirements in this Article. Such insurance is to be provided at the sole cost of the Contractor. These requirements do not establish limits of the Contractor's liability.
  - i) All policies of insurance shall waive all rights of subrogation against the County, its officers, employees, and agents.
  - ii) Upon request, certified copies of original insurance policies shall be furnished to the County.
  - iii) The County reserves the right to require additional insurance as it deems it necessary.
- B) Contractor shall maintain at a minimum:
  - i) Commercial General Liability Occurrence Form including, but not limited to, Premises and Operations, Products Liability Broad Form Property Damage, Contractual Liability, Personal and Advertising Injury Liability and where the exposure exists, coverage for watercraft, blasting collapse and explosions, blowout, cratering and underground damage.

One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) each occurrence Limit Bodily Injury; Products-Completed/Operations Limit One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00); One Million Dollars Personal and Advertising Injury Limit (\$1,000,000.00); General Aggregate Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) per project; Umbrella/Excess Liability One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) Each Occurrence, One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) Aggregate.

The County shall be named as an "additional insured" on the commercial general liability policy and any separate policies, where applicable,



covering the requirements of this Article.

- ii) Professional/Errors and Omissions Liability, One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) Each Occurrence, One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) Aggregate.
- iii) Workers' Compensation (with Waiver of subrogation to the County) Employer's Liability, including all states, U.S. Longshoremen, Harbor Workers and other endorsements, if applicable to the Project, and in accordance with Texas state law.
- iv) Automobile Liability Coverage: Combined single limit of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) Combined Liability Limits for Bodily Injury and Property Damage Combined. The County shall be named as an "additional insured" on the automobile policy.
- v) Proof of insurance with proof of waiver of subrogation and County designated as an "additional insured" must be returned attached to the signed Agreement as Exhibit D, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

**17) NO FEDERAL EXCLUSION**

- A) Contractor warrants that Contractor is not an "Ineligible Person." An "Ineligible Person" is an individual or entity who:
  - i) is currently excluded, debarred, suspended, or otherwise ineligible to participate in any federal and/or state grant, health care program, or in federal and/or state procurement or nonprocurement programs. This includes but is not limited to persons who are on the List of Excluded Individuals or Entities of the Inspector General, List of Parties excluded from Federal Programs by the General Services Administration or the Medicaid Sanction List; or,
  - ii) has been convicted of a criminal offense related to the provision of health care items or services [within the rules and regulations of 42 USC §1320a-7(a)], but has not yet been excluded, debarred, suspended, or otherwise declared ineligible.
- B) Contractor agrees to report immediately to the County if Contractor becomes an "Ineligible Person" during the term of this Agreement.

**18) OWNERSHIP OF DOCUMENTS; COPYRIGHT**

**20) WAIVER OF BREACH**

Waiver by either Party of a breach or violation of any provision of the Agreement is not a waiver of any subsequent breach.

**21) SEVERABILITY**

If any provision or part of the Agreement or its application to any person, entity, or circumstance is ever held by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid for any reason, the remainder of the Agreement and the application of such provision or part of the Agreement to other persons, entities, or circumstances are not affected.

**22) SURVIVAL OF TERMS**

Any provision of this Agreement that, by its plain meaning, is intended to survive the expiration or earlier termination of this Agreement including, but not limited to the indemnification provision, shall survive such expiration or earlier termination. If an ambiguity exists as to survival, the provision shall be deemed to survive.

**23) CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION**

- A) This Agreement shall not be construed against or in favor of any Party hereto based upon the fact that the Party did or did not authorize this Agreement.
- B) The headings in this Agreement are for convenience or reference only and shall not control or affect the meaning or construction of this Agreement.
- C) When terms are used in the singular or plural, the meaning shall apply to both.
- D) When either the male or female gender is used, the meaning shall apply to both.

**24) SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS**

- A) The County and Contractor bind themselves and their successors, executors, administrators, and assigns to the other Party of this Agreement and to the successors, executors, administrators, and assigns of such other Party, in respect to all covenants of this Agreement.
- B) Neither the County nor Contractor shall assign, sublet, or transfer its or his interest in this Agreement without written consent of the other, which will not be unreasonably withheld.

**25) NO THIRD-PARTY BENEFICIARIES**

- A) The County is not obligated or liable to any party other than Contractor for the performance of this Agreement.
- B) Nothing in the Agreement is intended or shall be deemed or construed to create any additional rights or remedies in any third party.
- C) Nothing contained in the Agreement shall be construed to or operate in any manner whatsoever to increase the rights of any third party, or the duties or responsibilities of County with respect to any third party.

**26) EFFECTIVE DATE**

The Effective Date of this Agreement will be the date the Agreement is approved by the Commissioners Court of Harris County.


**27) ENTIRE AGREEMENT; MODIFICATIONS**

- A) This instrument contains the entire Agreement between the Parties relating to the rights herein granted and obligations herein assumed.
- B) Any oral or written representations or modifications concerning this instrument shall not be effective excepting a subsequent written modification signed by both Parties.

**28) EXECUTION, MULTIPLE COUNTERPARTS**

This Agreement may be executed in several counterparts. Each counterpart is deemed an original. All counterparts together constitute one and the same instrument. Each Party warrants that the undersigned is a duly authorized representative with the power to execute this Agreement.

Melton & Melton, L.L.P.

By: 

HARRIS COUNTY

By:   
COUNTY JUDGE ED EMMETT

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date:           AUG 09 2016          

*Ed Emmett sm*  
ED EMMETT  
COUNTY JUDGE

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
VINCE RYAN  
COUNTY ATTORNEY

By: *Amy Gros*  
Amy Gros  
Assistant County Attorney  
C.A. File 16GEN0566

EXHIBIT A  
Engagement Letter



**MELTON & MELTON, L.L.P.**  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

November 19, 2015

To the Honorable Ed Emmett, County Judge,  
Members of the Commissioners Court of  
Harris County, Texas and Chris Daniel, District Clerk

We are pleased to confirm our understanding of the services we are to provide Harris County, Texas, District Clerk Registry of the Court Accounts for the year ended February 28, 2016. We will audit the financial statements of Harris County, Texas, District Clerk Registry of the Court Accounts, including the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements of Harris County, Texas, District Clerk Registry of the Court Accounts as of and for the year ended February 28, 2016.

**Audit Objective**

The objective of our audit is the expression of opinions as to whether your financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. Our audit will be conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and will include tests of the accounting records and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such opinions. We will issue a written report upon completion of our audit of Harris County, Texas, District Clerk Registry of the Court Accounts' financial statements. Our report will be addressed to the Honorable Ed Emmett, County Judge, Members of the Commissioners Court of Harris County, Texas and Chris Daniel, District Clerk of Harris County, Texas, District Clerk Registry of the Court Accounts. We cannot provide assurance that unmodified opinions will be expressed. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for us to modify our opinions or add emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraphs. If our opinions on the financial statements are other than unmodified, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to form or have not formed opinions, we may decline to express opinions or may withdraw from this engagement.

**Audit Procedures—General**

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements; therefore, our audit will involve judgment about the number of transactions to be examined and the areas to be tested. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We will plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable rather than absolute assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the government or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the government.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, combined with the inherent limitations of internal control, and because we will not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, there is a risk that material misstatements may exist and not be detected by us, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards. In addition, an audit is not designed to detect immaterial misstatements, or violations of laws or governmental regulations that do not have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, we will inform the appropriate level of management of any material errors, any fraudulent financial reporting, or misappropriation of assets that come to our attention. We will also inform the appropriate level of management of any violations of laws or governmental regulations that come to our attention, unless clearly inconsequential. Our responsibility, as auditors, is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any later periods for which we are not engaged as auditors.

Our procedures will include tests of documentary evidence supporting the transactions recorded in the accounts, and may include tests of the physical existence of inventories, and direct confirmation of receivables and certain other assets and liabilities by correspondence with selected individuals, funding sources, creditors, and financial institutions. We will request written representations from your attorneys as part of the engagement, and they may

bill you for responding to this inquiry. At the conclusion of our audit, we will require certain written representations from you about the financial statements and related matters.

**Audit Procedures—Internal Control**

Our audit will include obtaining an understanding of the entity and its environment, including internal control, sufficient to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and to design the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures. An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify deficiencies in internal control. However, during the audit, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance internal control related matters that are required to be communicated under AICPA professional standards.

**Audit Procedures—Compliance**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of Harris County, Texas, District Clerk Registry of the Court Accounts' compliance with the provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and agreements. However, the objective of our audit will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance and we will not express such an opinion.

**Management Responsibilities**

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining effective internal controls, including monitoring ongoing activities; for the selection and application of accounting principles; and for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

Management is also responsible for making all financial records and related information available to us and for the accuracy and completeness of that information. You are also responsible for providing us with (1) access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, (2) additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit, and (3) unrestricted access to persons within the government from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

Your responsibilities include adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements and confirming to us in the management representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.

You are responsible for the design and implementation of programs and controls to prevent and detect fraud, and for informing us about all known or suspected fraud affecting the government involving (1) management, (2) employees who have significant roles in internal control, and (3) others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. Your responsibilities include informing us of your knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the government received in communications from employees, former employees, regulators, or others. In addition, you are responsible for identifying and ensuring that the government complies with applicable laws and regulations.

You agree to assume all management responsibilities for financial statement preparation services and any other nonattest services we provide; oversee the services by designating an individual, preferably from senior management, with suitable skill, knowledge, or experience; evaluate the adequacy and results of the services; and accept responsibility for them.

**Engagement Administration, Fees, and Other**

We understand that your employees will prepare all cash or other confirmations we request and will locate any documents selected by us for testing.

We expect to begin our audit on approximately May 2, 2016. Steven Drenth is the engagement partner and is responsible for supervising the engagement and signing the report or authorizing another individual to sign it.

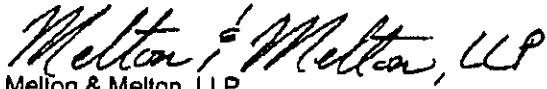
Our fee for these services will be at our standard hourly rates plus out-of-pocket costs (such as report reproduction, word processing, postage, travel, copies, telephone, etc.) except that we agree that our gross fee, including expenses will not exceed \$20,000. Our standard hourly rates vary according to the degree of

Harris County, Texas  
District Clerk Registry of the Court Accounts  
November 19, 2015  
Page 3

responsibility involved and the experience level of the personnel assigned to your audit. Our invoices for these fees will be rendered as work progresses and are payable on presentation.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to Harris County, Texas, District Clerk Registry of the Court Accounts and believe this letter accurately summarizes the significant terms of our engagement. If you have any questions, please let us know. If you agree with the terms of our engagement as described in this letter, please sign the enclosed copy and return it to us.

Very truly yours,

  
Melton & Melton, LLP

**RESPONSE:**

This letter correctly sets forth the understanding of Harris County, Texas, District Clerk Registry of the Court Accounts.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(follows behind)

**ORDER OF COMMISSIONERS COURT**  
**Authorizing Agreement with Melton & Melton LLP**



The Commissioners Court of Harris County, Texas, met in regular session at its regular term at the Harris County Administration Building in the City of Houston, Texas, on AUG 09 2016, with all members present except NONE

A quorum was present. Among other business, the following was transacted:

ORDER AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT  
WITH MELTON & MELTON LLP

Commissioner Cagle introduced an order and moved that Commissioners Court adopt the order. Commissioner MORMAN seconded the motion for adoption of the order. The motion, carrying with it the adoption of the order, prevailed by the following vote:

	Yes	No	Abstain
Judge Ed Emmett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comm. Gene L. Locke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comm. Jack Morman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comm. Steve Radack	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comm. R. Jack Cagle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The County Judge thereupon announced that the motion had duly and lawfully carried and that the order had been duly and lawfully adopted. The order adopted follows:

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The Harris County Judge is authorized to execute on behalf of Harris County an Agreement between Harris County and Melton & Melton LLP for Melton & Melton LLP to provide auditing services for County and District Clerks at a cost to the County not to exceed \$40,000.00. The Agreement is incorporated by reference and made a part of this order for all intents and purposes as thought set out in full word for word.
2. All Harris County officials and employees are authorized to do any and all things necessary or convenient to accomplish the purposes of this order.

Presented to Commissioner's Court

AUG 09 2016

APPROVE CIM  
Recorded Vol \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

Exhibit B  
Engagement Letters  
(follow behind)



**MELTON & MELTON, L.L.P.**  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

February 19, 2021

To the Honorable Lina Hidalgo, County Judge,  
Members of the Commissioners Court of  
Harris County, Texas and Marilyn Burgess, District Clerk

You have requested that we audit the Harris County, Texas, District Clerk Registry of the Court Accounts (“District Clerk Registry Accounts”), as of February 28, 2021, and for the year then ended and the related notes, which collectively comprise the District Clerk Registry Accounts’ basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. We are pleased to confirm our acceptance and our understanding of this audit engagement by means of this letter. Our audit will be conducted with the objective of our expressing an opinion on those basic financial statements.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, (U.S. GAAP,) as promulgated by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) require that management’s discussion and analysis be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the GASB, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. As part of our engagement, we will apply certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information (RSI) in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, (U.S. GAAS). These limited procedures will consist primarily of inquiries of management regarding their methods of measurement and presentation, and comparing the information for consistency with management’s responses to our inquiries. We will not express an opinion or provide any form of assurance on the RSI. The following RSI is required by U.S. GAAP. This RSI will be subjected to certain limited procedures but will not be audited:

- Management’s Discussion and Analysis

**Auditor Responsibilities**

We will conduct our audit in accordance with U.S. GAAS. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the basic financial statements are free from material misstatement. An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the basic financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor’s judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the basic financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, misappropriation of assets, or violations of laws, governmental regulations, grant agreements, or contractual agreements.

An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used, and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the basic financial statements. If appropriate, our procedures will therefore include tests of documentary evidence that support the transactions recorded in the accounts, and direct confirmation of cash, investments, and certain other assets and liabilities by correspondence with creditors and financial institutions. As part of our audit process, we will request written representations from your attorneys, and they may bill you for responding. At the conclusion of our audit, we will also request certain written representations from you about the basic financial statements and related matters.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, together with the inherent limitations of internal control, an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements (whether caused by errors, fraudulent financial reporting, misappropriation of assets, or violations of laws or governmental regulations) may not be detected exists, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with U.S. GAAS.

In making our risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the basic financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. However, we will communicate to you in writing concerning any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control relevant to the audit of the basic financial statements that we have identified during the audit. Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any other periods.

We cannot provide assurance that unmodified opinions will be expressed. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for us to modify our opinions or add emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraphs. If our opinions on the basic financial statements are other than unmodified, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to form or have not formed opinions, we may decline to express opinions or to issue a report as a result of this engagement.

### **Compliance with Laws and Regulations**

As previously discussed, as part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the basic financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of the District Clerk Registry Accounts' compliance with the provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and agreements. However, the objective of our audit will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance and we will not express such an opinion.

### **Management Responsibilities**

Our audit will be conducted on the basis that management and, when appropriate, those charged with governance acknowledge and understand that they have responsibility:

- a. For the preparation and fair presentation of the basic financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America;
- b. For the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of basic financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, fraudulent financial reporting, misappropriation of assets, or violations of laws, governmental regulations, grant agreements, or contractual agreement; and
- c. For identifying and ensuring that the entity complies with laws and regulations applicable to its activities.
- d. To provide us with:
- e. Access to all information of which management is aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the basic financial statements, such as records, documentation, and other matters;
  - a. Additional information that we may request from management for the purpose of the audit; and
  - b. Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
- f. For including the auditor's report in any document containing basic financial statements that indicates that such basic financial statements have been audited by the entity's auditor;

Harris County, Texas, District Clerk  
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February 19, 2021

- g. For adjusting the basic financial statements to correct material misstatements and confirming to us in the management representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the current year period under audit are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the basic financial statements as a whole;
- h. For maintaining adequate records, selecting and applying accounting principles, and safeguarding assets.

With regard to the supplementary information referred to above, you acknowledge and understand your responsibility: (a) for the preparation of the supplementary information in accordance with the applicable criteria; (b) to provide us with the appropriate written representations regarding supplementary information; (c) to include our report on the supplementary information in any document that contains the supplementary information and that indicates that we have reported on such supplementary information; and (d) to present the supplementary information with the audited basic financial statements, or if the supplementary information will not be presented with the audited basic financial statements, to make the audited basic financial statements readily available to the intended users of the supplementary information no later than the date of issuance by you of the supplementary information and our report thereon.

As part of our audit process, we will request from management and, when appropriate, those charged with governance, written confirmation concerning representations made to us in connection with the audit.

### **Reporting**

We will issue a written report upon completion of our audit of the District Clerk Registry Accounts' basic financial statements. Our report will be addressed to the Commissioners Court of the District Clerk Registry Accounts. We cannot provide assurance that unmodified opinions will be expressed. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for us to modify our opinions, add an emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraph(s), or withdraw from the engagement.

### **Other**

We understand that your employees will prepare all confirmations we request and will locate any documents or support for any other transactions we select for testing.

If you intend to publish or otherwise reproduce the basic financial statements and make reference to our firm, you agree to provide us with printers' proofs or masters for our review and approval before printing. You also agree to provide us with a copy of the final reproduced material for our approval before it is distributed.

### **Provisions of Engagement Administration, Timing and Fees**

During the course of the engagement, we may communicate with you or your personnel via fax or e-mail, and you should be aware that communication in those mediums contains a risk of misdirected or intercepted communications.

Steven Drenth is the engagement partner for the audit services specified in this letter. His responsibilities include supervising Melton & Melton, LLP's services performed as part of this engagement and signing or authorizing another qualified firm representative to sign the audit report.

Harris County, Texas, District Clerk  
Registry of the Court Accounts  
February 19, 2021

Our fee for these services will be at our standard hourly rates plus out-of-pocket costs such as report production, word processing, postage, etc., except that we agree that our gross fee, including expenses will not exceed \$21,000. Our standard hourly rates vary according to the degree of responsibility involved and the experience level of the personnel assigned to your audit. Our invoices for these fees will be rendered as work progresses and are payable on presentation.

During the course of the audit we may observe opportunities for economy in, or improved controls over, your operations. We will bring such matters to the attention of the appropriate level of management, either orally or in writing.

You agree to inform us of facts that may affect the basic financial statements of which you may become aware during the period from the date of the auditor's report to the date the financial statements are issued.

We agree to retain our audit documentation or work papers for a period of at least five years from the date of our report.

At the conclusion of our audit engagement, we will communicate to the Commissioners Court the following significant findings from the audit:

- Our view about the qualitative aspects of the entity's significant accounting practices;
- Significant difficulties, if any, encountered during the audit;
- Uncorrected misstatements, other than those we believe are trivial, if any;
- Disagreements with management, if any;
- Other findings or issues, if any, arising from the audit that are, in our professional judgment, significant and relevant to those charged with governance regarding their oversight of the financial reporting process;
- Material, corrected misstatements that were brought to the attention of management as a result of our audit procedures;
- Representations we requested from management;
- Management's consultations with other accountants, if any; and
- Significant issues, if any, arising from the audit that were discussed, or the subject of correspondence, with management.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the property of Melton & Melton, LLP and constitutes confidential information. However, we may be requested to make certain audit documentation available to regulators pursuant to authority given to it by law or regulation, or to peer reviewers. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision of Melton & Melton, LLP's personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected audit documentation to applicable regulators. The regulators may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies of information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

Please sign and return the attached copy of this letter to indicate your acknowledgment of, and agreement with, the arrangements for our audit of the basic financial statements including our respective responsibilities.

Harris County, Texas, District Clerk  
Registry of the Court Accounts  
February 19, 2021

We appreciate the opportunity to be your financial statement auditors and look forward to working with you and your staff.

Respectfully,



Melton & Melton, LLP

\*\*\*\*\*

RESPONSE:

This letter correctly sets forth our understanding of Harris County, Texas, District Clerk Registry of the Court Accounts.

Acknowledged and agreed on behalf of Harris County, Texas, District Clerk Registry of the Court Accounts by:

Name:  \_\_\_\_\_

Title: Purchasing Agent \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 2.24.21 \_\_\_\_\_



**MELTON & MELTON, L.L.P.**  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

February 19, 2021

To the Honorable Lina Hidalgo, County Judge,  
Members of the Commissioners Court of  
Harris County, Texas and Teneshia Hudspeth, County Clerk

You have requested that we audit the Harris County, Texas, County Clerk Registry of the Court Accounts (“County Clerk Registry Accounts”), as of February 28, 2021, and for the year then ended and the related notes, which collectively comprise the County Clerk Registry Accounts’ basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. We are pleased to confirm our acceptance and our understanding of this audit engagement by means of this letter. Our audit will be conducted with the objective of our expressing an opinion on those basic financial statements.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, (U.S. GAAP,) as promulgated by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) require that management’s discussion and analysis be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the GASB, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. As part of our engagement, we will apply certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information (RSI) in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, (U.S. GAAS). These limited procedures will consist primarily of inquiries of management regarding their methods of measurement and presentation, and comparing the information for consistency with management’s responses to our inquiries. We will not express an opinion or provide any form of assurance on the RSI. The following RSI is required by U.S. GAAP. This RSI will be subjected to certain limited procedures but will not be audited:

- Management’s Discussion and Analysis

**Auditor Responsibilities**

We will conduct our audit in accordance with U.S. GAAS. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the basic financial statements are free from material misstatement. An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the basic financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor’s judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the basic financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, misappropriation of assets, or violations of laws, governmental regulations, grant agreements, or contractual agreements.

An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used, and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the basic financial statements. If appropriate, our procedures will therefore include tests of documentary evidence that support the transactions recorded in the accounts, and direct confirmation of cash, investments, and certain other assets and liabilities by correspondence with creditors and financial institutions. As part of our audit process, we will request written representations from your attorneys, and they may bill you for responding. At the conclusion of our audit, we will also request certain written representations from you about the basic financial statements and related matters.



Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, together with the inherent limitations of internal control, an unavoidable risk that some material misstatements (whether caused by errors, fraudulent financial reporting, misappropriation of assets, or violations of laws or governmental regulations) may not be detected exists, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with U.S. GAAS.

In making our risk assessments, we consider internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the basic financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. However, we will communicate to you in writing concerning any significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in internal control relevant to the audit of the basic financial statements that we have identified during the audit. Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to any other periods.

We cannot provide assurance that unmodified opinions will be expressed. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for us to modify our opinions or add emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraphs. If our opinions on the basic financial statements are other than unmodified, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to form or have not formed opinions, we may decline to express opinions or to issue a report as a result of this engagement.

### **Compliance with Laws and Regulations**

As previously discussed, as part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the basic financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of the County Clerk Registry Accounts' compliance with the provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and agreements. However, the objective of our audit will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance and we will not express such an opinion.

### **Management Responsibilities**

Our audit will be conducted on the basis that management and, when appropriate, those charged with governance acknowledge and understand that they have responsibility:

- a. For the preparation and fair presentation of the basic financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America;
- b. For the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of basic financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, fraudulent financial reporting, misappropriation of assets, or violations of laws, governmental regulations, grant agreements, or contractual agreement; and
- c. For identifying and ensuring that the entity complies with laws and regulations applicable to its activities.
- d. To provide us with:
- e. Access to all information of which management is aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the basic financial statements, such as records, documentation, and other matters;
  - a. Additional information that we may request from management for the purpose of the audit; and
  - b. Unrestricted access to persons within the entity from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
- f. For including the auditor's report in any document containing basic financial statements that indicates that such basic financial statements have been audited by the entity's auditor;

Harris County, Texas, County Clerk  
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- g. For adjusting the basic financial statements to correct material misstatements and confirming to us in the management representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the current year period under audit are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the basic financial statements as a whole;
- h. For maintaining adequate records, selecting and applying accounting principles, and safeguarding assets.

With regard to the supplementary information referred to above, you acknowledge and understand your responsibility: (a) for the preparation of the supplementary information in accordance with the applicable criteria; (b) to provide us with the appropriate written representations regarding supplementary information; (c) to include our report on the supplementary information in any document that contains the supplementary information and that indicates that we have reported on such supplementary information; and (d) to present the supplementary information with the audited basic financial statements, or if the supplementary information will not be presented with the audited basic financial statements, to make the audited basic financial statements readily available to the intended users of the supplementary information no later than the date of issuance by you of the supplementary information and our report thereon.

As part of our audit process, we will request from management and, when appropriate, those charged with governance, written confirmation concerning representations made to us in connection with the audit.

### **Reporting**

We will issue a written report upon completion of our audit of the County Clerk Registry Accounts' basic financial statements. Our report will be addressed to the Commissioners Court of the County Clerk Registry Accounts. We cannot provide assurance that unmodified opinions will be expressed. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for us to modify our opinions, add an emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraph(s), or withdraw from the engagement.

### **Other**

We understand that your employees will prepare all confirmations we request and will locate any documents or support for any other transactions we select for testing.

If you intend to publish or otherwise reproduce the basic financial statements and make reference to our firm, you agree to provide us with printers' proofs or masters for our review and approval before printing. You also agree to provide us with a copy of the final reproduced material for our approval before it is distributed.

### **Provisions of Engagement Administration, Timing and Fees**

During the course of the engagement, we may communicate with you or your personnel via fax or e-mail, and you should be aware that communication in those mediums contains a risk of misdirected or intercepted communications.

Steven Drenth is the engagement partner for the audit services specified in this letter. His responsibilities include supervising Melton & Melton, LLP's services performed as part of this engagement and signing or authorizing another qualified firm representative to sign the audit report.

Harris County, Texas, County Clerk  
Registry of the Court Accounts  
February 19, 2021

Harris County, Texas, County Clerk  
Registry of the Court Accounts  
February 19, 2021

Our fee for these services will be at our standard hourly rates plus out-of-pocket costs such as report production, word processing, postage, etc., except that we agree that our gross fee, including expenses will not exceed \$21,000. Our standard hourly rates vary according to the degree of responsibility involved and the experience level of the personnel assigned to your audit. Our invoices for these fees will be rendered as work progresses and are payable on presentation.

During the course of the audit we may observe opportunities for economy in, or improved controls over, your operations. We will bring such matters to the attention of the appropriate level of management, either orally or in writing.

You agree to inform us of facts that may affect the basic financial statements of which you may become aware during the period from the date of the auditor's report to the date the financial statements are issued.

We agree to retain our audit documentation or work papers for a period of at least five years from the date of our report.

At the conclusion of our audit engagement, we will communicate to the Commissioners Court the following significant findings from the audit:

- Our view about the qualitative aspects of the entity's significant accounting practices;
- Significant difficulties, if any, encountered during the audit;
- Uncorrected misstatements, other than those we believe are trivial, if any;
- Disagreements with management, if any;
- Other findings or issues, if any, arising from the audit that are, in our professional judgment, significant and relevant to those charged with governance regarding their oversight of the financial reporting process;
- Material, corrected misstatements that were brought to the attention of management as a result of our audit procedures;
- Representations we requested from management;
- Management's consultations with other accountants, if any; and
- Significant issues, if any, arising from the audit that were discussed, or the subject of correspondence, with management.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the property of Melton & Melton, LLP and constitutes confidential information. However, we may be requested to make certain audit documentation available to regulators pursuant to authority given to it by law or regulation, or to peer reviewers. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision of Melton & Melton, LLP's personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected audit documentation to applicable regulators. The regulators may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies of information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

Please sign and return the attached copy of this letter to indicate your acknowledgment of, and agreement with, the arrangements for our audit of the basic financial statements including our respective responsibilities.

Harris County, Texas, County Clerk  
Registry of the Court Accounts  
February 19, 2021

We appreciate the opportunity to be your financial statement auditors and look forward to working with you and your staff.

Respectfully,



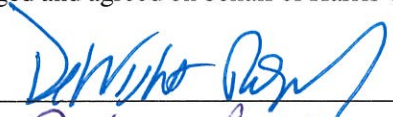
Melton & Melton, LLP

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RESPONSE:

This letter correctly sets forth our understanding of Harris County, Texas, County Clerk Registry of the Court Accounts.

Acknowledged and agreed on behalf of Harris County, Texas, County Clerk Registry of the Court Accounts by:

Name:   
Title: Purchasing Agent  
Date: 2.24-21

ORDER OF COMMISSIONERS COURT  
Authorizing execution of amendment to an Agreement

The Commissioners Court of Harris County, Texas, convened at a meeting of said Court at the Harris County Administration Building in the City of Houston, Texas, on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2021 with all members present except \_\_\_\_\_.

A quorum was present. Among other business, the following was transacted:

**ORDER AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE  
AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
HARRIS COUNTY, HARRIS COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT, AND  
MELTON & MELTON, LLP**

Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ introduced an order and made a motion that the same be adopted. Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ seconded the motion for adoption of the order. The motion, carrying with it the adoption of the order, prevailed by the following vote:

Vote of the Court	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Judge Hidalgo	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comm. Ellis	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comm. Garcia	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comm. Ramsey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comm. Cagle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The County Judge thereupon announced that the motion had duly and lawfully carried and that the order had been duly and lawfully adopted. The order thus adopted follows:

**IT IS ORDERED** that County Judge Lina Hidalgo be, and is hereby, authorized to execute for and on behalf of Harris County, the First Amendment to the Agreement between Harris County, Harris County Flood Control District, and Melton & Melton, LLP; to furnish auditing services for Harris County, Harris County Flood Control District, and Harris County District Clerk in accordance with Request for Quotation "RFQ" 15/0225; to adopt the terms of the previous Agreement and to extend the term until November 30, 2021; for Forty-Six Thousand and No/Dollars (\$46,000.00) in appropriated funds; under the same terms and conditions specified in the attached First Amendment, incorporated herein as though fully set forth word for word.

All Harris County officials and employees are authorized to do any and all things necessary or convenient to accomplish the purpose of this Order.