

## **AGENDA ITEM 8.M.**

**RE:** Approval of Architectural Firm Pool and Authorization to Negotiate and Execute Contracts with Selected Firms

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** It is recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of an Architectural Firm Pool consisting of Alta Architects, O'Connell Robertson, Cavazos Architects, and Able City, as recommended through the evaluation process, and authorize the College President to negotiate and execute contracts with the selected firms, as needed, for architectural services in accordance with RFQ No. 26-0616, applicable law, College policy, and available project funding.

**BACKGROUND:** Laredo College issued Request for Qualifications (RFQ) No. 26-0616 for Architectural Services to establish a pool of qualified architectural firms to provide professional architectural and multidisciplinary design services for future College projects. The RFQ contemplates architectural services associated with the planning, design, permitting, bidding, and construction administration of new and renovated College facilities.

The RFQ provides for the selection of firms in accordance with established College procedures and Texas Government Code, Chapter 2254, and specifically permits the selection committee to recommend multiple qualified firms to the Board of Trustees. The RFQ further provides that the College may award multiple contracts and negotiate separately for services associated with individual projects.

Following receipt of qualifications, an Evaluation Committee reviewed and evaluated the responding firms based on their qualifications, experience, personnel, understanding of College needs, past performance, design approach, and ability to manage project budgets and schedules. The evaluation tabulation identifies the following four highest-ranked firms:

1. Alta Architects – Rank 1
2. O'Connell Robertson – Rank 2
3. Cavazos Architects – Rank 3
4. Able City – Rank 4

The evaluation included participation by the Board of Trustees President, Board of Trustees Parliamentarian, College President, and Vice President of Finance and Administration.

Based on the results of the evaluation process, the Administration recommends establishing an architectural firm pool consisting of the four highest-ranked firms. Inclusion in the pool will allow the College to engage qualified architectural firms as needs arise for future capital improvement, renovation, deferred maintenance, and other facility projects. Specific scopes of work and professional fees will be negotiated in accordance with applicable procurement requirements and the terms of the RFQ.

**BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS:** There is no immediate fiscal impact associated with establishing the architectural firm pool. Fees and costs for architectural services will be negotiated on a project-by-project basis and charged to the funding source approved or otherwise available for each respective project. The RFQ specifically provides that fees and services will be negotiated separately for each project.

**CONTACT PERSONS:**

Dr. Minita Ramirez, President

Mr. Cesar E. Vela Jr., CPA, Vice President of Finance and Administration

Mr. Miguel Rangel, Director of Purchasing

Mr. Wicho Tijerina, Director of Plant Operations and Maintenance