



**PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD MEETING
AGENDA ITEM
REGULAR MEETING**

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

SUBJECT

Interlocal Agreement with Texas A&M AgriLife Research for the Research and Collaboration Pipeline Program

BACKGROUND

EPWater desires to enter into an Interlocal Agreement with Texas A&M AgriLife Research (AgriLife) to support the utility's applied research and innovation needs. AgriLife, through its El Paso-based research center, has established expertise in agricultural, environmental, and water resource research, including projects that directly impact water conservation, wastewater reuse, and brackish groundwater management.

This new Research and Collaboration Pipeline (RCP) Program provides a flexible mechanism for EPWater to issue task orders to AgriLife for research projects aligned with the utility's strategic sustainability and resiliency goals. Task orders will allow EPWater to rapidly mobilize expert resources to address high-priority challenges such as advanced treatment, biosolids management, and pilot testing for emerging contaminants. Deliverables and funding levels will be determined per task order and subject to budget funds availability.

PRIOR PSB ACTION

- None

UTILITY KPI ALIGNMENT

Infrastructure Performance

EVALUATION PROCESS

AgriLife is uniquely positioned to support EPWater's research objectives due to its existing local presence, access to faculty experts, and track record of publishing impactful, peer-reviewed work. Funds will be allocated through individual task orders and paid to AgriLife on a cost-reimbursable basis.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Funding is available in Account Number 7720 and this expenditure is part of the FY2025-26 budget.

PROPOSED ACTION REQUESTED

Consider and approve an Interlocal Agreement for the Research and Collaboration Pipeline Program with Texas A&M AgriLife Research for an amount not-to-exceed \$500,000 for a term of five years.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED

- None