

Attachment A

**Contract for Services between the
Commission on State Emergency Communications (CSEC) and
North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG)**

Contract for 9-1-1 Service

Article 1. Parties and Purposes

- 1.1 The Texas Commission on State Emergency Communications ("Commission") is charged by law with the responsibility to oversee the provision of 9-1-1 emergency services throughout the state, and North Central Texas Council of Governments ("RPC") is charged with the responsibility to provide these services in its region. Providing these services requires a partnership among and cooperative efforts by the Commission, the RPC, and the local governments represented on the RPC's governing body.
- 1.2 The Commission and the RPC enter into this Contract for 9-1-1 Service ("Contract") to clarify and better define the rights and duties of each in carrying out their individual and collective responsibilities under the law.

Article 2. Compliance with Applicable Law

- 2.1 The RPC shall comply with all applicable federal and state laws ("applicable law") in carrying out its strategic plan that has been approved by the Commission.
- 2.2 Applicable law includes, but is not limited to, Health and Safety Code Chapter 771; Commission Rules (Title 1, Part 12, Texas Administrative Code) and Program Policy Statements; the biennial state General Appropriations Act; Texas Government Code (including Uniform Grant and Contract Management Standards [UGMS]), Chapter 783 and Title 1, Part 1, Chapter 5, Subchapter A, Division 4, Texas Administrative Code; Preservation and Management of Local Government Records Act, Chapter 441, Subchapter J; and Resolution of Certain Contract Claims Against the State, Chapter 2260); Texas Local Government Code (including Regional Planning Commissions Act, Chapter 391).
- 2.3 The Commission may adopt new policies, procedures and rules and amend its existing policies, procedures and rules subject to applicable law. Any new or amended policy or procedure (other than an adopted rule) shall be enforceable against the RPC 30 days following the date of its adoption, unless the Commission finds and declares that an emergency exists which requires that such policy or procedure be enforceable immediately against the RPC. The Commission shall provide the RPC written notice of all new or amended policies, procedures and interpretations of Commission rules within a reasonable time after same are adopted by the Commission.
- 2.4 The RPC shall repay any allocated and distributed equalization surcharge and 9-1-1 service fees (collectively, "9-1-1 funds") expended by the RPC in noncompliance with applicable law. Such reimbursement shall be made in accordance with established Commission policies and procedures. The RPC shall

advise the Commission in writing of its efforts to recover 9-1-1 funds in accordance with Article 4.1 herein.

- 2.5 In accordance with Health and Safety Code Section 771.078(c)(6), the Commission may withhold disbursement of funds to the RPC for failing to follow a standard imposed by this Contract, a Commission rule and/or policy, or a statute.
- 2.6 The RPC shall maintain, at a minimum, a separate investment account for all 9-1-1 funds received. The RPC shall utilize an accounting system that complies with applicable law, including specifically the requirements in UGMS, Subpart C - Post Award Requirements, Section .20 - Standards for Financial Management Systems - which requires recipients of state funds to maintain records which adequately identify the source and application of funds provided for financially assisted activities. These records must contain information pertaining to grant or sub grant awards and authorizations, obligations, unobligated balances, assets, liabilities, outlays or expenditures, and income.

Article 3. Monitoring Compliance

- 3.1 The RPC recognizes that the Commission reserves the right to perform monitoring of the RPC and/or its performing local governments or Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) for compliance with applicable law, and the RPC agrees to cooperate fully with such monitoring.
- 3.2 The RPC recognizes that the Commission reserves the right to monitor RPC financial procedures and validate financial reimbursement requests for compliance with applicable law, accuracy, completeness, and appropriateness, prior to the Commission distributing allocated 9-1-1 funds.

Article 4. Standard Interlocal Agreement with Local Governments

- 4.1 The RPC shall use interlocal agreements between itself and its local governments relating to the planning, development, operation, and provision of 9-1-1 service, the use of 9-1-1 funds and adherence to applicable law. These agreements must, at a minimum, provide for compliance with applicable law by including provisions that:
 - (a) the RPC will provide 9-1-1 funds to the local governments on a cost reimbursement basis using a monitoring process that provides assurance that the reimbursement requests from the local governments are complete, accurate, and appropriate;
 - (b) the RPC may withhold, decrease, or seek reimbursement of 9-1-1 funds in the event that those 9-1-1 funds were used in noncompliance with applicable law;
 - (c) the local governments shall reimburse the RPC and/or the Commission, as applicable, any 9-1-1 funds used in noncompliance with applicable law;

- (d) reimbursement of 9-1-1 funds under subsection (c) shall be made by the local government within 60 days after demand by the RPC, unless an alternative repayment plan is approved by the RPC and the Commission;
- (e) address the RPC's ownership, transfer of ownership, and/or control of equipment acquired with 9-1-1 funds in connection with providing 9-1-1 service ("9-1-1 equipment");
- (f) require the RPC to maintain a current inventory of all 9-1-1 equipment;
- (g) require a control system to be developed by the local government to ensure adequate safeguards to prevent loss, damage, or theft of 9-1-1 equipment;
- (h) require reimbursement to the RPC and/or the Commission for damage to 9-1-1 equipment; other than ordinary wear and tear;
- (i) the local governments will maintain adequate fiscal records and supporting documentation of all 9-1-1 funds reimbursed to such local governments for 9-1-1 service consistent with applicable law and generally accepted accounting principles, and as approved in the RPC's current approved Strategic Plan;
- (j) the Commission or its duly authorized representative shall have access to and the right to examine all books, accounts, records, files, and/or other papers, or property pertaining to the 9-1-1 service, belonging to or in use by the local government, the PSAP, or by any other entity that has performed or will perform activities related to the agreements;
- (k) the local government will provide 9-1-1 service as a condition of the receipt of 9-1-1 funds as prescribed by the RPC strategic plan; and
- (l) funding of 9-1-1 service is contingent on appropriations made to the Commission by the Texas Legislature, and if 9-1-1 funds are not made available to the RPC by the Commission or if legally available 9-1-1 funds are exhausted, then the RPC will not be obligated to provide the reimbursements contemplated by this Contract.

Article 5. Competitive Procurement and Contract Administration

- 5.1 The RPC shall use competitive procurement practices and procedures similar to those required by applicable law in connection with the procurement of any items to be obtained with 9-1-1 funds.

- 5.2 The RPC shall include a specific, detailed statement of work, including appropriate benchmarks to evaluate compliance, in all contracts with vendors, local governments, and PSAPs to be paid from 9-1-1 funds.
- 5.3 The RPC shall implement a contract administration management system that ensures contractors perform in accordance with the terms, conditions, and specifications of their contracts or purchase orders.
- 5.4 The RPC shall maintain sufficient records detailing the history of procurement, including the rationale for the method of procurement, the selection of contract type, the contractor selection or rejection, and the basis for the contract price, as outlined in the records retention requirements in UGMS.

Article 6. Allocation and Use of 9-1-1 Funds

- 6.1 In accordance with applicable law, the Commission shall allocate 9-1-1 funds appropriated to the Commission to the RPC solely for use in carrying out its Commission-approved strategic plan. Funds will be distributed to the RPC quarterly, according to current Commission payment methodology as set forth in Commission policy, unless the RPC is in substantial noncompliance with any applicable law or provision of this Contract. The RPC shall utilize the money allocated only for providing 9-1-1 service within the RPC's jurisdiction.
- 6.2 The Commission shall ensure that no more than \$17,000,000 appropriated to the Commission for the FY 2010-2011 biennium shall be allocated to the RPCs for administration of the statewide 9-1-1 program, according to the General Appropriations Act.
- 6.3 None of the 9-1-1 funds appropriated to the Commission and allocated to the RPC may be used to replace or fund a reserve for future replacement of 9-1-1 equipment.
- 6.4 The RPC shall assist the Commission in creating comprehensive statewide capital replacement plan for submittal to the Legislative Budget Board no later than November 1st of each calendar year.
- 6.5 As provided by Health & Safety Code Section 771.078(d), not more than ten percent (10%) of the money received by the RPC may be used by the RPC for indirect costs. In this subsection, "indirect costs" means costs that are not directly attributable to a single action of the RPC. (Note: In administering this subsection, the governor's office is required to use federal Office of Management and Budget circulars A-87 and A-122 or any rules relating to the determination of indirect costs adopted under Texas Government Code Chapter 783.)
- 6.6 As provided by Health & Safety Code Section 771.078(f), upon request from the RPC, the Commission shall provide the RPC with documentation and financial records of the amount of money collected in its region or of an amount of money

allocated to the RPC in accordance with Health & Safety Code, Section 771.078, and this Contract.

Article 7. 9-1-1 Funds Distribution

- 7.1 As provided by applicable law, a state agency shall distribute grants on a reimbursement basis, or as needed, unless otherwise provided by statute or otherwise determined by the grantor agency to be necessary for the purposes of the grant.
- 7.2 Quarterly disbursement of 9-1-1 funds to the RPC shall be made on a cost reimbursement basis according to applicable law. If the RPC's funding is depleted before the end of a fiscal quarter, a financial emergency funding request may be made by the RPC to the Commission (see Article 8. RPC Emergency Funding).
- 7.3 The Commission has determined that a proper public purpose is served by providing start-up funding, at the beginning of each fiscal year, to the RPC for payment of operating costs of the region's 9-1-1 system. Start-up funding to the RPC from the Commission may be made at the beginning of each fiscal year. The Commission shall provide start-up funds to the RPC according to applicable law. Start-up funding is defined as 9-1-1 funds allocated to the RPC to pay initial fiscal year 9-1-1 program expenses, prior to the first quarterly reimbursement request being received. Any remaining 9-1-1 funds from the prior fiscal year, ending on August 31st, shall be returned to the Commission no later than October 30th of the current fiscal year.

Article 8. RPC Emergency Funding

- 8.1 Notwithstanding the requirements in Article 7, the Commission may distribute in accordance with Commission policy allocated 9-1-1 funds to the RPC upon demonstration and documentation that a financial emergency exists that will compromise the provisioning of 9-1-1 service or impact public safety.
- 8.2 The Commission shall consider a financial emergency as a situation in which the RPC requires additional funding to sustain the current and normal operation of 9-1-1 systems and their administration, as well as to meet contractual obligations as provided for in the RPC's approved strategic plan; and that, without the assistance of these additional funds, would result in a compromise of the 9-1-1 system or impact public safety. A financial emergency would arise, and public safety compromised, if the 9-1-1 system was terminated due to non-payment of invoices.
- 8.3 Emergency 9-1-1 funds may be distributed based upon the documented expenditures creating the need. The provision of emergency 9-1-1 funds will be used for specific operational and administrative expenses identified in the supporting documentation.

- 8.4 The request shall include a narrative description of what the 9-1-1 funds are to be used for, and how these expenditures relate to the RPC's strategic plan.
- 8.5 The Commission will review the request for accuracy and compliance with the current approved strategic plan and applicable law. Upon review and approval of the request, the Commission will disburse the necessary 9-1-1 funds, not to exceed the total allocated to the RPC in its Commission-approved strategic plan.

Article 9. Strategic Planning

- 9.1 In accordance with applicable law, the RPC shall develop a strategic plan for the establishment and operation of 9-1-1 service throughout its region. The 9-1-1 service must meet the standards established by the Commission. A strategic plan must describe how 9-1-1 service is to be administered.
- 9.2 The RPC must update its strategic plan at least once during each state fiscal biennium, and must include the following:
- (a) A description of how money allocated to the region is to be allocated throughout the region served by the RPC;
 - (b) Projected financial operating information for the two state fiscal years following the submission of the plan;
 - (c) Strategic planning information for the five state fiscal years following submission of the plan; and
 - (d) A Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) plan, pursuant to Chapter 2161 of the Government Code.
- 9.3 The RPC shall submit a strategic plan, or amendment to its plan, to the Commission for review and approval or disapproval, as required by Health & Safety Code Section 771.056. The Commission, consistent with applicable law, shall consider the appropriateness of the strategic plan or amendment thereto in satisfying the standards set by the Commission, the cost and effectiveness of the strategic plan or amendment, as well as the appropriateness of the strategic plan or amendment in context with overall statewide 9-1-1 service.
- 9.4 The Commission shall notify the RPC of the approval or disapproval of the strategic plan submission, or amendment to the plan, in accordance with applicable law.
- 9.5 If the strategic plan or amendment thereto is approved, the Commission shall allocate 9-1-1 funds to the RPC in accordance with the terms of this Contract and applicable law.

Article 10. Reporting Requirements

- 10.1 The RPC shall submit financial and performance information and reports regarding 9-1-1 service and administration to the Commission. The RPC shall provide the reporting information in accordance with applicable law and generally accepted accounting principles. The RPC shall submit the following information to the Commission, at least once per quarter of each fiscal year:
- (a) Financial information regarding administrative and program expenses; and
 - (b) Information regarding the current performance, efficiency, and degree of implementation of emergency communications services in the region served by the RPC.
- 10.2 The RPC shall be responsible for collecting and reporting efficiency data on the operation of each of the 9-1-1 answering points within its region. The RPC shall submit such information to the Commission at least once per quarter of each fiscal year, according to applicable law.

Article 11. Use and Creation of Public Safety Answering Points

- 11.1 The RPC shall comply with the minimum standards and guidelines established by Commission Rule 251.1, *Regional Strategic Plans for 9-1-1 Service*, for the use of PSAPs and the creation of PSAPs.

Article 12. Dispute Resolution

- 12.1 The dispute resolution process provided for in Government Code Chapter 2260, Subsection F, shall be used by the Commission and the RPC to attempt to resolve disputes arising under this Contract. Disputes include, but are not limited to, disagreement between the parties about the meaning or application of the RPC's proposed or approved strategic plan, or this Contract.
- 12.2 The parties desire to resolve disputes without litigation. Accordingly, if a dispute arises, the parties agree to attempt in good faith to resolve the dispute between themselves. To this end, the parties agree not to sue one another, except to enforce compliance with this Article 12, until they have exhausted the procedures set out in this Article 12.
- 12.3 At the written request of either party, each party shall appoint one non-lawyer representative to negotiate informally and in good faith to resolve any dispute arising between the parties. The parties agree to appoint their representatives and hold the first negotiating meeting within 15 calendar days of receipt of the request. The representatives appointed shall determine the location, format, frequency, and duration of the negotiations.

- 12.4 If the representatives cannot resolve the dispute within 30 calendar days after the first negotiation meeting, the parties agree to submit the dispute to mediation by an administrative law judge employed by the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) per Government Code Chapter 2009.
- 12.5 Within 45 calendar days after the effective date of this Contract, the Commission agrees to contract with SOAH to mediate any future disputes between the parties described in Article 12.1. Each party agrees to pay one-half the total fee and expenses SOAH charges for conducting a mediation, and the Commission agrees that the RPC's share of the total is an allowable cost reimbursable to the RPC under this Contract.
- 12.6 The parties agree to continue performing their duties under this Contract, which are unaffected by the dispute, during the negotiation and mediation process.
- 12.7 If the parties are unable to settle their dispute by mediation, either party may request a contested case hearing under Texas Government Code Section 2260.102.
- 12.8 Nothing in this Article 12 shall be considered as a waiver of sovereign immunity.

Article 13. Miscellaneous Provisions

- 13.1 The RPC shall work with the Commission and the local governments to develop, maintain and regularly monitor performance of the operation and the provision of 9-1-1 service and to develop and implement risk assessment processes.
- 13.2 As the RPC becomes aware of the need for additional training or expertise relating to the planning, development, implementation or operation of 9-1-1 service, by the RPC or the local governments in their areas, the RPC shall notify the Commission promptly so that all parties may address the need in a timely manner.
- 13.3 Unless otherwise directed by the Commission, the RPC shall arrange for the performance of an annual financial and compliance audit of its financial statements and internal control environment according to the requirements of UGMS and the Texas Single Audit Circular, as established by the Governor's Office of Budget, Planning, and Policy pursuant to Government Code Chapter 783. The RPC shall be liable to the Commission for any costs disallowed as a result of the audit of its financial statements and internal control environment.
- 13.4 The RPC recognizes the right of the State Auditor's Office to review and/or audit the RPC's documentation and accounts relevant to the state-funded 9-1-1 program as authorized by applicable law. Such an audit or review is considered separate and apart from audits required by UGMS.

- 13.5 A summary of the approved RPC 9-1-1 strategic plan costs and revenue allocations shall be made a part of this Contract by way of Attachment A, *Recipient 9-1-1 Costs Summary*.
- 13.6 The RPC shall provide, at a minimum, the Commission with all reports and/or information as required by applicable law.
- 13.7 In the event of any conflict between any provision in this Contract and an adopted Commission rule or policy, present or future, the Commission rule or policy shall take precedence.
- 13.8 This Contract sets forth all of the representations, promises, agreements, conditions, and understandings between the RPC and the Commission relating to the subject matter of the Contract, and supersedes any prior or contemporaneous representations, promises, agreements, conditions, or understandings, whether oral or written, in any way relating to the subject matter hereof.
- 13.9 Any alterations, additions, or deletions to the terms of this Contract shall be made by amendment hereto in writing and executed by both parties to this Contract.
- 13.10 This Contract takes effect on September 1, 2009, and shall terminate on August 31, 2011.

AGREED TO:



 Paul Mallett
 Executive Director
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 Austin, Texas 78701-3942

7/23/09

Date



 Mike Eastland
 Executive Director
 North Central Texas Council of Governments
 P. O. Box 5888
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7/24/09

Date

RECEIVED

JUL 31 2009

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