

# RFSOQ - Benefit and Impact Analysis of the Marvin Nichols Project on Regions C and D

## 1. Project Background

On June 26, 2025, the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) found that an interregional conflict existed between the 2026 Region C and Region D Initially Prepared Plans (IPPs) and invited the regional water planning groups to engage in mediation to attempt to resolve the conflict. The basis of the interregional conflict is the assertion by the Region D Board that the Marvin Nichols water management strategy within the Region C IPP would adversely impact “agriculture, the timber industry, farming and ranching, natural resources, and environmental factors” within Region D. One of the guiding principles in the development of the state water plan is that regional water plans shall provide for the orderly development, management, and conservation of water resources and preparation for and response to drought conditions so that sufficient water will be available at a reasonable cost to satisfy a reasonable projected use of water to ensure public health, safety, and welfare; further economic development; and protect the agricultural and natural resources of the affected regional water planning areas and the state. At the end of July 2025, representatives from both Region C and Region D met in mediation and discussed the issues related to the current conflict in their regional water plans relating to the proposed Marvin Nichols Reservoir. The resulting “Agreement Resolving the Declared Conflict Between the Region C and Region D 2026 Initially Prepared Water Plans” (Mediated Agreement) was finalized on August 1, 2025.

One of the requirements of the Mediated Agreement is that Regions C and D support an independent study to address the potential adverse impacts and potential benefits of Marvin Nichols and the anticipated mitigation land requirements on the economic, agricultural, and natural resources of Regions C and D. The intent of this independent study is to address several of the critical issues identified within the interregional conflict between the two Regions regarding the Marvin Nichols Reservoir recommended water management strategy. The fundamental source of the conflict is the disagreement regarding the potential adverse impact the strategy will have on the economic, agricultural, and natural resources within Region D. These impacts go further to impact both Regions when you consider the monetary and non-monetary factors. The following language comes directly from the Mediated Agreement that was reached by a joint effort of the Regions, and it captures the objective of this study.

“The study will include consideration of economic, agricultural, and natural resource impacts in Regions C and D, including monetary and non-monetary factors, such as water affordability, private property rights, community impacts; mitigation land scenarios (including assessment of compensation strategies for impacted landowners and industries); and unexplored economic opportunities to Region D associated with Marvin Nichols implementation.”

## 2. Summary

On behalf of the Group, Riverbend Water Resources District (Riverbend) is hereby inviting Statements of Qualifications (SOQs) from qualified firms to provide services for the Benefit and Impact Analysis of the Marvin Nichols Project on Regions C and D. The Consultant must be able to provide a fresh, independent assessment of the study components.

Do not provide any fee estimates, pricing, or billing rate information as part of the SOQ submittal.

### 3. Scope of Work

The purpose of the following scope of work is to complete an independent study to address the potential benefits and impacts of Marvin Nichols and the anticipated associated mitigation land acquisition on the economic, agricultural, and natural resources of Regions C and D. The following scope of work is a basic outline of the components of the project. It is expected that responding firms will provide more detail in their project approach within the SOQ.

#### **Task A. Project Management**

- Consultant will develop and maintain a project schedule and provide monthly updates to the Region C-D Interregional Working Group (Working Group) regarding work completed in the prior month, budget status, schedule status, data needs, upcoming milestones, and any other pertinent information.
- Consultant will hold periodic meetings with the Working Group, which will include, but not be limited to, the following (meetings may be held in person or virtually, depending on the availability of the Working Group):
  - Kick-Off Meeting: Consultant will meet in person with the Working Group to review the scope and schedule of the project and critical project milestones. Project goals, objectives, expectations, and deliverables will also be reviewed.
  - Biweekly Check-In Meeting: Consultant will meet virtually with the Working Group on a biweekly basis to discuss the overall status of the project.
  - Workshops: Consultant will hold workshops as needed to present key deliverables/technical memorandums and to gain input on evaluation criteria, weights, and priorities to be used in the study.
  - Concluding Workshop: Consultant will meet in person with the Working Group to present the results of the study.

#### **Task B. Review of Previous Studies and Background Information**

- The intended outcome of this task is for the Consultant to gain an understanding of prior studies completed that evaluated various aspects of the Marvin Nichols Project. The current effort is not intended to be a compilation of work completed in previous studies; rather, the previous studies should serve as background information only.
- Consultant will obtain and review any studies/data pertinent to the scope of work. An initial list of available regional planning documents is provided below; however, a more comprehensive list of documents may be provided during the project scoping process. In all cases, it is the expectation that the Consultant will review available studies and use their expertise and judgement to determine what information may be pertinent and reasonable to include in the current study.
  - Appendix J of 2026 Region C Water Plan: *Quantitative Analysis of the Impacts of Marvin Nichols Reservoir*
  - *Response to Region C's Analysis and Quantification of the Impacts of Marvin Nichols Reservoir Water Management Strategy on Natural Resources*, by Trungale Engineering & Science and Environmental Conservation Alliance (2014)
  - *Expert Analysis and Opinion Concerning Analysis and Quantification of the Impacts of the Marvin Nichols Reservoir Water Management Strategy on the Agricultural and Natural Resources of Region D and the State*, by Sharon Mattox, Ph.D, JD (2014)

- Appendix L of 2026 Region C Water Plan: *Socioeconomic Impacts of Projected Water Shortages for the Region C Regional Water Planning Area*
- Chapter 6.9 of the 2026 Region D Water Plan: *Marvin Nichols Reservoir and Impacts on Water Resources, Agricultural Resources, and Natural Resources.*
- Chapter 6.10 of the 2026 Region D Water Plan: *Conclusion*
- Chapter 8.12 of the 2026 Region D Water Plan: *Sulphur River Basin.*
- *The Economic Impact of the Proposed Marvin Nichols I Reservoir to the Northeast Texas Forestry Industry* by Dr. Weihuan Xu, Ph.D, Texas Forest Service (2002)
- *Letter from Thomas Cloud on impacts of Marvin Nichols Reservoir*, US Department of Interior (2000)
- *Texas Water and Wildlife: An Assessment of Direct Impacts to Wildlife Habitat from Future Water Development Projects* by Frye & Curtis, Texas Parks & Wildlife and US Fish & Wildlife Service (1990)

**Task C. Identification & Evaluation of Potential Impacts and Benefits of the Marvin Nichols Project**

- Consultant will identify and evaluate the economic, agricultural, and natural resource impacts in Regions C and D, including monetary and non-monetary factors, such as water affordability, private property rights, community impacts; mitigation land scenarios (including assessment of compensation strategies for impacted landowners and industries); and unexplored economic opportunities to Region D associated with Marvin Nichols implementation.
- There will be a requirement of an on-the-ground study and analysis of the impacted areas including the proposed reservoir/dam site and potential mitigation acreage required for the project. Consultant will provide qualifications and proposed process for conducting the on-the-ground study.
- Consultant will provide a thorough analysis of all identified potential impacts and benefits, presenting results in a concise, clear manner.
- Evaluation of each factor will include financial/quantitative analysis, where appropriate, or qualitative analysis.

**Task D. Development of Comprehensive Technical Report**

- The assumptions and conclusions for all previous tasks should be thoroughly documented in a technical report. The report should include detailed discussions on the following, at a minimum:
  - Project background and purpose of the study
  - Brief discussion of relevant previous studies reviewed
  - Identification and description of factors considered in the study
  - Analysis of each of the factors considered in the study
  - Findings regarding overall benefits and impacts of the Marvin Nichols Project

**4. List of Deliverables**

The anticipated deliverables for this project include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Kickoff meeting summary to include scope and schedule of the project, critical project milestones, project goals, objectives, expectations, and deliverables.
- Minutes for all meetings and check-ins.
- Technical report documenting the information described in Task D above.

- Workshop with presentation by Consultant summarizing the results to the Working Group.
- Presentation by Consultant summarizing results to Region C and Region D boards, if requested.

5. Region C-D Interregional Working Group Members

- Jim Thompson – Region D
- Howdy Lisenbee – Region D
- Fred Milton – Region D
- Cindy Gwinn – Region D
- Matt Penk – Region C
- Galen Roberts – Region C
- Ronna Hartt – Region C
- Steve Pettit – Region C
- Nicole Rutigliano – Region C

6. Evaluation Criteria

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Weighted Percentage</b>
Experience and Qualifications of Firm/Team & Key Personnel	25%
Project Approach	35%
Capabilities, Resources and Responsiveness to meet Project Schedule	15%
Litigation History, Current Contracts and Conflict of Interest	15%
Previous Similar Projects & References	10%

7. Instructions for Preparation of SOQ

SOQ Organization: To facilitate the Working Group’s review of the SOQs, respondents are requested to organize the main document as outlined below. If the Respondent wishes to submit additional information in support of or to strengthen the SOQ, such information may be submitted separately in a single Appendix. The Appendix should contain links or QR codes to online content rather than the actual content itself. SOQs shall be limited to 30 pages excluding the cover page, table of contents, section dividers, and optional appendix. All pages must be 8.5”x11”, or foldable to 8.5x11 size.

Submittals should be provided electronically as a single PDF document rather than in hard copy format. Please send at least three (3) USB drives with identical files on each drive. The USB drives will not be returned to the submitter after a selection is made.

**General**

In order to minimize the work of the firms initially submitting and the review time required by the selection committee, the following instructions should be followed in preparing the SOQ. Only firms qualified to perform the work per the expectations communicated in this Request for Statement of Qualifications are asked to submit an SOQ.

Organize the submittal into the following sections:

- Section 1 – Executive Summary & Team Organization
- Section 2 – General Information about the Firm/Team and Key Personnel
- Section 3 – Project Approach
- Section 4 – Capabilities, Resources and Responsiveness to meet Project Schedule
- Section 5 – Litigation & Conflicts
- Section 6 – Previous Similar Projects & References

### **Section 1 - Executive Summary & Team Organization (Limit 2 pages)**

- Provide an Executive Summary of:
  - the Firm/Team that will deliver the study,
  - the objective of the study and deliverables,
  - the unique experience and qualifications that the Firm/Team brings to the study to address the potential benefits and impacts of Marvin Nichols and the anticipated associated mitigation land acquisition on the economic, agricultural, and natural resources of Regions C and D,
  - any other summary information that you feel is important.

### **Section 2 - Experience & Qualifications of the Firm/Team & Key Personnel (Limit 8 pages)**

- Type of Firms – private/public corporation, partnership, any business certifications or designations (for example – Small Business, historically underutilized business (HUB), etc.)
- Number of years in business for each firm.
- Office Locations - list home office and Texas office locations.
- Types of services each firm normally provides.
- Any industry-leading design, modeling, or other technology capabilities.
- Key personnel expected to be assigned to the project. List the principal-in-charge, project manager, and lead professional in each discipline. If more than one firm is involved, provide this information for each firm and clearly indicate who will serve as project manager for the entire team. **The expectation is that the key personnel identified in the SOQ will be the personnel actually executing the project.**
- Personnel Resumes
  - Provide a single-paged, abbreviated resume for each individual listed in the project organization. Resumes should be provided separately in the Appendix to stay within the 8-page limit for this section. Include the following information in each resume:
    - Name
    - Title within the firm
    - Project assignment
    - Education - degree/year/university/specialty
    - Registration - state/year
    - Number of years with firm
    - Summary of experience related to this project
    - For the project manager and the project engineer, include current project assignments and associated completion dates. Organize resumes in order listed in project management.

- Professional liability insurance - limit of current coverage of the principal firm.
- Provide a list of projects that the firm has worked on or is currently working on as a prime consultant or subconsultant for Region C or Region D. Identify the nature of the project(s) and the sponsor agency for the project.

### **Section 3 – Project Approach (Limit 10 pages)**

Prepare a narrative on your approach to the project. Within the narrative, provide at least the following:

- The Firm/Team’s understanding of the Marvin Nichols Water Management Strategy (WMS).
- The Firm/Team’s understanding of the objectives of the study, and how you will approach the project and the deliverables to provide a meaningful advancement of the understanding of the impacts and benefits of the Marvin Nichols WMS.
- A description of the approach, management, and tasks your firm will use to complete the study and deliverables.
- Address any key obstacles or risks to the project and how to overcome them.
- Identify key deliverables and the role they will play in the successful acceptance and adoption of the study results.
- ***NOTE: Do not describe how you perform studies but rather describe how you will successfully complete and deliver this study.***

### **Section 4 – Project Schedule (Limit 2 pages)**

- Provide a project schedule, in Gantt Chart or similar format, that outlines the full schedule, key milestones, and deliverables. Schedule provided should be based on what the Consultant believes is a reasonable and realistic schedule to complete the project in such a way as to provide a thorough and complete analysis of the impacts and benefits. Consultant’s submittal will not be penalized if the proposed schedule does not meet the required project completion date listed in the Mediated Agreement (July 2027).
- Identify any significant risk factors to the project completing on schedule, and how to minimize those risks.

### **Section 5 – Current or Recent Litigation and Conflict of Interest (Limit 2 pages)**

- Submit a list of any current litigation, or litigation resolved within the previous three (3) years. This should be for each firm within the project team.
- Identify any potential financial interests of the firm(s) in the Marvin Nichols Project.
- An apparent conflict of interest will NOT disqualify a Firm/Team but should be disclosed to protect the credibility of the project/study.
- Provide a Form 1295 (Certificate of Interested Parties) for the Agency that will serve as the Project Administrator for the Interregional Working Group.

### **Section 6 - Experience Record and References (Limit 6 pages)**

- Prepare a tabulation of information about at least three projects performed by the firm during the last ten years that best illustrate the firm's ability to perform the services required for this project. The following is the minimum information required:
  - Location of project and owner - provide the name of an individual, address, phone, and email address of someone who is familiar with the project.
  - Brief description of the project and resulting outcomes.
  - Firm staff involved in the project and their roles

8. Submission of SOQ

The SOQ shall be sent by email, mail or hand delivery no later than Monday, June 15, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. SOQs received after the above date and time will be considered non-responsive and will be returned unopened. Please send at least three (3) USB drives with identical files on each drive. The USB drives will not be returned to the submitter after a selection is made.

The SOQ shall be delivered to the following address:

**Riverbend Water Resources District**  
**Attn: Kyle Dooley**  
**228 Texas Avenue, Suite A**  
**New Boston, TX 75570**  
**Email: kyledooley@rwr.org**

**Deadlines and Approximate Timeline**

RFQ Released:	April 13, 2026
Optional Pre-Submittal Meeting	April 28, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. Riverbend Water Resources District 228 Texas Avenue, Suite A New Boston, TX 75570
Deadline for Submitting SOQ	June 15, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. Riverbend Water Resources District 228 Texas Avenue, Suite A New Boston, TX 75570
SOQs Evaluated	July 13, 2026
Interviews with Highest Ranking Firms (If needed)	July 20-24, 2026
Contract Negotiations	July 27-September 21, 2026
Board of Directors Approval & Contract Award	November 2026
Notice to Proceed	November 2026

**Selection Process**

The Interregional Working Group may select an individual, firm, or a team that it determines to be the most qualified to perform the work as defined in the scope of work. If a team of firms is proposed for the project, the team must be structured in a manner where one firm is the prime contracting party and the other(s) will be a sub-contractor to the prime. Please be advised that an individual, firm, or team determined to be the most qualified to perform the work may be required to submit information pursuant

to Chapter 2252 of the Texas Government Code and in compliance with HB 1295 as passed by the 84th Regular Legislative Session.

All statements of qualifications received will be evaluated by the Interregional Working Group. The Interregional Working Group will rank all submittals. The Group reserves the right to conduct interviews with the top-ranked firms if deemed appropriate to further aid in the selection of the best qualified firm.

After evaluation by the selection committee, notification of the most qualified firm will be made to the Region C and Region D Boards of Directors. It is the intent for the Interregional Working Group to negotiate scope and fee with the most qualified firm and award a contract. Each Board served through their representative working group reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals and to waive any and/or all technicalities and informalities received in response to this RFQ. Lobbying of The Group members or the Boards of Directors of either Region C or Region D and staff will not be permitted nor tolerated during the RFQ solicitation period.

If the Interregional Working Group decides to interview selected firms, the in-person interview will consist of a 20-minute presentation, followed by a 30-minute question and answer session with the interview panel. The presentation your consultant team will make may be of a content/format of your choosing, but it should illustrate your overall experience, overall approach to projects of this type, and personnel that will be made available.

#### **Reservation of Rights and Contact Person**

The Interregional Working Group reserves the right to:

- Reject any and all qualifications received.
- Issue a subsequent RFQ.
- Amend the RFQ or cancel the entire RFQ.
- Remedy technical errors in the RFQ process.
- Negotiate with any, all or none of the Respondents to the RFQ.
- Waive informalities and irregularities.

This RFQ does not commit The Group to enter into a Contract, nor does it obligate it to pay any costs incurred in the preparation and submission of qualifications or in anticipation of a contract.

All questions should be directed to Kyle Dooley in writing at [kyledooley@rwr.org](mailto:kyledooley@rwr.org).