



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

February 9, 2017

Ms. Kelli A. N. Carlton
Counsel for Comal County Emergency Services District No. 4
The Carlton Law Firm, P.L.L.C.
2705 Bee Cave Road, Suite 200
Austin, Texas 78746

OR2017-02997

Dear Ms. Carlton:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Public Information Act (the "Act"), chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 645543.

The Comal County Emergency Services District No. 4 (the "district"), which you represent, received a request for a specified agreement pertaining to specified entities entered into on a specified date. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.103 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

We note the submitted information is subject to section 552.022 of the Government Code. Section 552.022(a) provides, in relevant part:

(a) [T]he following categories of information are public information and not excepted from required disclosure unless made confidential under this chapter or other law:

...

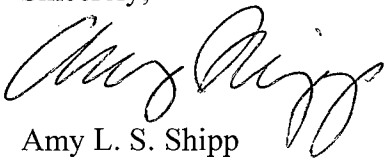
(3) information in an account, voucher, or contract relating to the receipt or expenditure of public or other funds by a governmental body[.]

Gov't Code § 552.022(a)(3). The submitted information consists of information in an account, contract, or voucher relating to the receipt or expenditure of funds by the district that is subject to section 552.022(a)(3). This information must be released unless it is made confidential under the Act or other law. *See id.* Although you seek to withhold this information under section 552.103 of the Government Code, this section is a discretionary exception to disclosure that protects a governmental body's interests and does not make information confidential under the Act. *See Dallas Area Rapid Transit v. Dallas Morning News*, 4 S.W.3d 469, 475-76 (Tex. App.—Dallas 1999, no pet.) (governmental body may waive section 552.103); Open Records Decision Nos. 665 at 2 n.5 (2000) (discretionary exceptions generally), 663 at 5 (1999) (waiver of discretionary exceptions). Accordingly, the district may not withhold the submitted information under section 552.103. As you raise no further exceptions to disclosure, the district must release the submitted information.

This letter ruling is limited to the particular information at issue in this request and limited to the facts as presented to us; therefore, this ruling must not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other information or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For more information concerning those rights and responsibilities, please visit our website at http://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open/orl_ruling_info.shtml, or call the Office of the Attorney General's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Act may be directed to the Office of the Attorney General, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



Amy L. S. Shipp
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

ALS/eb

Ref: ID# 645543

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)