



KEN PAXTON
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

June 9, 2017

Mr. Oscar Cancino
Executive Director
Agua Special Utility District
P.O. Box 4379
Mission, Texas 78573-0075

OR2017-12737

Dear Mr. Cancino:

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# 661975.

The Agua Special Utility District (the "district") received a request for contracts and payment records pertaining to named individuals since January 1, 2015. The district does not take a position as to whether the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under the Act. However, the district states it notified interested third parties of the district's receipt of the request for information and of their right to submit arguments to this office as to why the requested information should not be released.¹ *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d); *see also* Open Records Decision No. 542 at 3 (1990) (statutory predecessor to section 552.305 permits governmental body to rely on interested third party to raise and explain applicability of exception in the Act in certain circumstances). We have reviewed the submitted information.

Initially, we note the district only submitted two contracts: one with Pathfinder Public Affairs; and the other with Casslee Investments, L.L.C., d/b/a CSJ Group. We assume, to the extent any additional responsive information existed when the district received the request for information, the district has released it to the requestor. If not, then the district must do so immediately. *See* Gov't Code §§ 552.006, .301, .302; Open Records Decision No. 664 (2000).

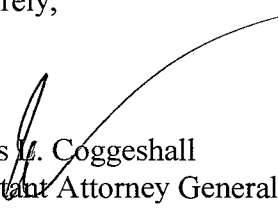
¹The district does not inform us which third parties it notified.

An interested third party is allowed ten business days after the date of its receipt of the governmental body's notice under section 552.305(d) to submit its reasons, if any, as to why requested information relating to it should be withheld from disclosure. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d)(2)(B). As of the date of this letter, no interested third party has submitted to this office any reasons explaining why the requested information should not be released. Accordingly, we have no basis for concluding the submitted information constitutes proprietary information of any third party, and the district may not withhold any portion of it on that basis. *See* Open Records Decision Nos. 661 at 5-6 (1999) (to prevent disclosure of commercial or financial information, party must show by specific factual evidence, not conclusory or generalized allegations, release of requested information would cause that party substantial competitive harm), 552 at 5 (1990) (party must establish *prima facie* case that information is trade secret), 542 at 3. Therefore, 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,



James M. Coggeshall
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

JLC/bw

Ref: ID# 661975

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)