



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

July 24, 2019

Mr. Adam Aldrete  
Legal Counsel  
CPS Energy  
P.O. Box 1771  
San Antonio, Texas 78296-1771

OR2019-20253

Dear Mr. Aldrete:

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# 776842.

The City Public Service Board of the City of San Antonio ("CPS Energy") received a request for bid tabulations pertaining to a specified request for proposals. Although CPS Energy takes no position regarding whether the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under the Act, CPS Energy informs us its release may implicate the proprietary interests of the following: BVA Scientific, Inc; Thomas Scientific; and VWR International, LLC. Accordingly, the district states, and provides documentation showing, it notified these third parties of the request for information and of their right to submit arguments to this office. *See Gov't Code § 552.305(d); see also Open Records Decision No. 542 (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.

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) of the Government Code to submit its reasons, if any, as to why information relating to that party should be withheld from public disclosure. *See Gov't Code § 552.305(d)(2)(B).* As of the date of this letter, we have not received comments from any interested third party explaining why the information at issue should not be released. Thus, we have no basis to conclude the third parties have a protected

proprietary interest in the submitted information. *See id.* § 552.110; 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, CPS Energy may not withhold the submitted information on the basis of any proprietary interest the third parties may have in the information. As no exceptions to disclosure are raised, 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](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,



Sean Nottingham  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

SPN/mo

Ref: ID# 776842

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)