



KEN PAXTON  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

December 10, 2019

Ms. Shea Smith  
Assistant City Attorney  
City of Sugar Land  
2700 Town Center Boulevard North  
Sugar Land, Texas 77479-0110

OR2019-34689

Dear Ms. Smith:

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# 800415 (ORR# W007829).

The City of Sugar Land (the "city") received a request for information pertaining to a specified request for qualifications. Although the city takes no position regarding whether the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under the Act, the city informs us its release may implicate the proprietary interests of the following third parties: Sengineering, LLC; Ardurra Group, LLC; Carollo Engineers, Inc.; CDM Smith, Inc.; and Freese and Nichols, Inc. Accordingly, the city 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 any of the interested 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, the city may not withhold the submitted information on the basis of any proprietary interest any interested third party may have in the information. Accordingly, the city 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 <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/open-government/members-public/what-expect-after-ruling-issued> or call the OAG's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Public Information Act may be directed to the Cost Rules Administrator of the OAG, toll free, at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



James M. Graham  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

JMG/rm

Ref: ID# 800415

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)

5 Third Parties  
(w/o enclosures)