



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

June 29, 2022

Ms. Ingrid Gunter  
Paralegal  
Lewisville Independent School District  
P.O. Box 217  
Lewisville, Texas 75067

OR2022-18693

Dear Ms. Gunter:

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# 956802 (District ID 2122-354).

The Lewisville Independent School District (the "district") received a request for the last awarded contract and bid tabulation for a specified service. You state you have no information responsive to a portion of the request.<sup>1</sup> Although you take no position as to whether the submitted information is excepted under the Act, you state release of the submitted information may implicate the proprietary interests of ABM Education Services; American Landscape Systems, Inc.; Division 3x, LLC; Dyna-Mist Construction Company; Earthworks, Inc.; Marathon Resource Management Group, LLC; M.E.T. Lawn Care; SRH Landscapes, LLC; and Tischler Lawn Care, LLC. Accordingly, you state, and provide documentation showing, you notified these third parties of the request for information and of their right to submit arguments to this office as to why the submitted information should not be released. *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.

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<sup>1</sup> The Act does not require a governmental body that receives a request for information to create information that did not exist when the request was received. *See Econ. Opportunities Dev. Corp. v. Bustamante*, 562 S.W.2d 266 (Tex. Civ. App.—San Antonio 1978, writ dismissed); Open Records Decision Nos. 605 at 2 (1992), 563 at 8 (1990), 555 at 1-2 (1990), 452 at 3 (1986), 362 at 2 (1983).

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 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 of the notified third parties explaining why the submitted information should not be released. Therefore, we have no basis to conclude any of the notified third parties has a protected proprietary interest in the submitted information. *See, e.g., id.* § 552.110 (requiring the provision of specific factual evidence demonstrating the applicability of the exception). Accordingly, the district may not withhold the submitted information on the basis of any proprietary interest the notified third parties may have in the information. 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 <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,

Nick Ybarra  
Assistant Attorney General  
Open Records Division

NY/jm

Ref: ID# 956802

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor  
(w/o enclosures)

9 Third Parties  
(w/o enclosures)