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ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

August 23, 2022

Counsel for Emerald Forest UD
Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP
3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2600
Houston, Texas 77027

OR2022-25166

Dear Counsel:

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# 968818.

You represent a municipal utility district (the "district") which received a request for records sufficient to identify the unique email address of district directors. Additionally, you state to the extent the district received a request for all engagement letters and contracts between the district and a specified law firm, the district has released such information. You also state to the extent the district provides and pays for individual e-mail addresses for their directors, the district has released such information. You claim the submitted information is excepted from disclosure under section 552.117 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and reviewed the submitted information.

Section 552.117 of the Government Code excepts from disclosure the home address and telephone number, emergency contact information, social security number, and information that reveals whether an individual has family members for current or former officials or employees of a governmental body who request this information be kept confidential under section 552.024 of the Government Code. Gov't Code § 552.117(a). You assert the submitted e-mail addresses are confidential under section 552.117(a)(1). However, upon review, we find section 552.117 of the Government Code is not applicable to the e-mail addresses at issue, and the district may not withhold the e-mail addresses at issue on this basis. As no other exceptions to disclosure have been 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 <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,

Britni Ramirez
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

BR/

Ref: ID# 968818

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)