



# City of Austin

## Purchasing Office, Financial Services Department

P.O. Box 1088, Austin, TX 78767

August 17, 2017

Orion Research and Management Services, Inc.

John Cornelius

Vice President

21 Cedar Trails Drive

Belton, TX 76513

[orion\\_research@sbcglobal.net](mailto:orion_research@sbcglobal.net)

Dear Mr. Cornelius:

The City of Austin approved the execution of a contract with your company for Research of White Tail Deer and Feral Hogs.

Responsible Department:	Austin Water
Department Contact Person:	Nico Hauwert
Department Contact Email Address:	<a href="mailto:Nico.hauwert@austintexas.gov">Nico.hauwert@austintexas.gov</a>
Department Contact Telephone:	512-972-1661
Project Name:	Research of White Tail Deer and Feral Hogs
Contractor Name:	Orion Research and Management Services, Inc.
Contract Number:	MA 2200 NA170000208
Contract Period:	8/18/2017 – 8/17/2018
Dollar Amount	\$20,000
Requisition Number:	RQM 17072500654

Thank you for your interest in doing business with the City of Austin. If you have any questions regarding this contract, please contact the person referenced under Department Contact Person.

Sincerely,

Georgia Billela

Procurement Specialist III

City of Austin

Purchasing Office

cc: Darrell Richmond  
Andy Ramirez  
Nico Hauwert

**CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF AUSTIN  
AND  
Orion Research and Management Services, Inc.  
For  
Research of White Tail Deer and Feral Hogs  
MA 2200 NA170000208**

This Contract is made by and between the City of Austin ("City"), a home-rule municipality incorporated by the State of Texas, and Orion Research and Management ("Contractor"), having offices at Belton, TX 76513.

**SECTION 1. GRANT OF AUTHORITY, SERVICES AND DUTIES**

1.1 **Engagement of the Contractor.** Subject to the general supervision and control of the City and subject to the provisions of the Terms and Conditions contained herein, the Contractor is engaged to provide the services set forth in Section 2, Scope of Work.

1.2 **Responsibilities of the Contractor.** The Contractor shall provide all technical and professional expertise, knowledge, management, and other resources required for accomplishing all aspects of the tasks and associated activities identified in the Scope of Work. In the event that the need arises for the Contractor to perform services beyond those stated in the Scope of Work, the Contractor and the City shall negotiate mutually agreeable terms and compensation for completing the additional services.

1.3 **Responsibilities of the City.** The City's Contract Manager will be responsible for exercising general oversight of the Contractor's activities in completing the Scope of Work. Specifically, the Contract Manager will represent the City's interests in resolving day-to-day issues that may arise during the term of this Contract, shall participate regularly in conference calls or meetings for status reporting, shall promptly review any written reports submitted by the Contractor, and shall approve all invoices for payment, as appropriate. The City's Contract Manager shall give the Contractor timely feedback on the acceptability of progress and task reports.

1.4 **Designation of Key Personnel.** The Contractor's Contract Manager for this engagement shall be John Cornelius, Phone: 254-231-6068, Email Address: [Orion\\_research@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Orion_research@sbcglobal.net) . The City's Contract Manager for the engagement shall be Nico Hauwert, Phone: (512) 972-1661, Email Address: [Nico.hauwert@austintexas.gov](mailto:Nico.hauwert@austintexas.gov) .The City and the Contractor resolve to keep the same key personnel assigned to this engagement throughout its term. In the event that it becomes necessary for the Contractor to replace any key personnel, the replacement will be an individual having equivalent experience and competence in executing projects such as the one described herein. Additionally, the Contractor will promptly notify the City Contract Manager and obtain approval for the replacement. Such approval shall not be unreasonably withheld.

**SECTION 2. SCOPE OF WORK**

2.1 **Contractor's Obligations.** The Contractor shall fully and timely provide all deliverables described herein and in the Contractor's Offer in strict accordance with the terms, covenants, and conditions of the Contract and all applicable Federal, State, and local laws, rules, and regulations.

2.2 **Tasks.** In order to accomplish the work described herein, the Contractor shall perform each of the following tasks as outline in Exhibit A:

2.2.1 Provide personnel, materials, and equipment to preform turn-key operation, for initial evaluation of White Tail Deer and Feral hogs for research to conduct serologic surveillance. The surveillance will examine markers in blood samples taken from deer and hogs for exposure to diseases that can be transmitted from animals to humans.

2.2.2 Delivery of samples to outside research laboratories, laboratory analysis, and reporting of results. The data collection period will be October 1, 2017 through February 28, 2018.

2.2.3 Shall provide a database of morphometric data cataloguing each specimen included in the study, to include the types of data collected from each specimen, along with a narrative summary of observations.

**SECTION 3. COMPENSATION**

3.1 **Contract Amount.** The Contractor will be paid as indicated herein upon the successful completion of the Scope of Work. In consideration for the services to be performed under this Contract, the Contractor shall be paid an amount not-to-exceed \$20,000 for all fees and expenses.

### 3.2 **Invoices.**

3.2.1 **Invoices shall contain a unique invoice number, the purchase order or delivery order number and the master agreement number if applicable, the Department's Name, and the name of the point of contact for the Department.** Invoices shall be itemized. The Contractor's name and, if applicable, the tax identification number on the invoice must exactly match the information in the Contractor's registration with the City. Unless otherwise instructed in writing, the City may rely on the remittance address specified on the Contractor's invoice. Invoices received without all required information cannot be processed and will be returned to the Contractor. Invoices shall be mailed to the below address:

	City of Austin
Department	Austin Water Wildland Conservation/BCP Division
Attn:	Nico M. Hauwert
Address	3621 South FM 620 RD
City, State, Zip Code	Austin, TX 78738-6807

3.2.2 Invoices for labor shall include a copy of all time-sheets with trade labor rate and deliverables order number clearly identified. Invoices shall also include a tabulation of work-hours at the appropriate rates and grouped by work order number. Time billed for labor shall be limited to hours actually worked at the work site.

3.2.3 Unless otherwise expressly authorized in the Contract, the Contractor shall pass through all Subcontract and other authorized expenses at actual cost without markup.

3.2.4 Federal excise taxes, State taxes, or City sales taxes must not be included in the invoiced amount. The City will furnish a tax exemption certificate upon request.

### 3.3 **Payment.**

3.3.1 All proper invoices received by the City will be paid within thirty (30) calendar days of the City's receipt of the deliverables or of the invoice, whichever is later.

3.3.2 **If payment is not timely made, (per this paragraph), interest shall accrue on the unpaid balance at the lesser of the rate specified in Texas Government Code Section 2251.025 or the maximum lawful rate; except, if payment is not timely made for a reason for which the City may withhold payment hereunder, interest shall not accrue until ten (10) calendar days after the grounds for withholding payment have been resolved.**

3.3.3 The City may withhold or off set the entire payment or part of any payment otherwise due the Contractor to such extent as may be necessary on account of:

3.3.3.1 delivery of defective or non-conforming deliverables by the Contractor;

3.3.3.2 third party claims, which are not covered by the insurance which the Contractor is required to provide, are filed or reasonable evidence indicating probable filing of such claims;

3.3.3.3 failure of the Contractor to pay Subcontractors, or for labor, materials or equipment;

3.3.3.4 damage to the property of the City or the City's agents, employees or contractors, which is not covered by insurance required to be provided by the Contractor;

3.3.3.5 reasonable evidence that the Contractor's obligations will not be completed within the time specified in the Contract, and that the unpaid balance would not be adequate to cover actual or liquidated damages for the anticipated delay;

3.3.3.6 failure of the Contractor to submit proper invoices with all required attachments and supporting documentation; or

3.3.3.7 failure of the Contractor to comply with any material provision of the Contract Documents.

3.3.4 Notice is hereby given of Article VIII, Section 1 of the Austin City Charter which prohibits the payment of any money to any person, firm or corporation who is in arrears to the City for taxes, and of §2-8-3 of the Austin City Code concerning the right of the City to offset indebtedness owed the City.

3.3.5 Payment will be made by check unless the parties mutually agree to payment by credit card or electronic transfer of funds. The Contractor agrees that there shall be no additional charges, surcharges, or penalties to the City for payments made by credit card or electronic transfer of funds.

3.4 **Non-Appropriation.** The awarding or continuation of this Contract is dependent upon the availability of funding. The City's payment obligations are payable only and solely from funds Appropriated and available for this Contract. The absence of Appropriated or other lawfully available funds shall render the Contract null and void to the extent funds are not Appropriated or available and any deliverables delivered but unpaid shall be returned to the Contractor. The City shall provide the Contractor written notice of the failure of the City to make an adequate Appropriation for any fiscal year to pay the amounts due under the Contract, or the reduction of any Appropriation to an amount insufficient to permit the City to pay its obligations under the Contract. In the event of non or inadequate appropriation of funds, there will be no penalty nor removal fees charged to the City.

3.5 **Final Payment and Close-Out.**

3.5.1 The making and acceptance of final payment will constitute:

3.5.1.1 a waiver of all claims by the City against the Contractor, except claims (1) which have been previously asserted in writing and not yet settled, (2) arising from defective work appearing after final inspection, (3) arising from failure of the Contractor to comply with the Contract or the terms of any warranty specified herein, (4) arising from the Contractor's continuing obligations under the Contract, including but not limited to indemnity and warranty obligations, or (5) arising under the City's right to audit; and

3.5.1.2 a waiver of all claims by the Contractor against the City other than those previously asserted in writing and not yet settled.

**SECTION 4. TERM AND TERMINATION**

4.1 **Term of Contract.** The Contract shall be in effect for an initial term of twelve (12) months.

4.1.1 Upon expiration of the initial term or period of extension, the Contractor agrees to hold over under the terms and conditions of this Contract for such a period of time as is reasonably necessary to re-solicit and/or complete the project (not to exceed 120 calendar days unless mutually agreed on in writing).

4.1.2 This is a twelve (12) month Contract. Prices are firm for the first twelve (12) months.

4.2 **Right To Assurance.** Whenever one party to the Contract in good faith has reason to question the other party's intent to perform, demand may be made to the other party for written assurance of the intent to perform. In the event that no assurance is given within the time specified after demand is made, the demanding party may treat this failure as an anticipatory repudiation of the Contract.

4.3 **Default.** The Contractor shall be in default under the Contract if the Contractor (a) fails to fully, timely and faithfully perform any of its material obligations under the Contract, (b) fails to provide adequate assurance of performance under the "Right to Assurance paragraph herein, (c) becomes insolvent or seeks relief under the bankruptcy laws of the United States or (d) makes a material misrepresentation in Contractor's Offer, or in any report or deliverable required to be submitted by Contractor to the City.

4.4 **Termination For Cause.** In the event of a default by the Contractor, the City shall have the right to terminate the Contract for cause, by written notice effective ten (10) calendar days, unless otherwise specified, after the date of such notice, unless the Contractor, within such ten (10) day period, cures such default, or provides evidence sufficient to prove to the City's reasonable satisfaction that such default does not, in fact, exist. The City may place Contractor on probation for a specified period of time within which the Contractor must correct any non-compliance issues. Probation shall not normally be for a period of more than nine (9) months, however, it may be for a longer period, not to exceed one (1) year depending on the circumstances. If the City determines the Contractor has failed to perform satisfactorily during the probation period, the City may proceed with suspension. In the event of a default by the Contractor, the City may suspend or debar the Contractor in accordance with the "City of Austin Purchasing Office Probation, Suspension and Debarment Rules for Vendors" and remove the Contractor from the City's vendor list for up to five (5) years and any Offer submitted by the Contractor may be disqualified for up to five (5) years. In addition to any other remedy available under law or in equity, the City shall be entitled to recover all actual damages, costs, losses and expenses, incurred by the City as a result of the Contractor's default, including, without limitation, cost of cover, reasonable attorneys' fees, court costs, and prejudgment and post-judgment interest at the maximum lawful rate. All rights and remedies under the Contract are cumulative and are not exclusive of any other right or remedy provided by law.

4.5 **Termination Without Cause.** The City shall have the right to terminate the Contract, in whole or in part, without cause any time upon thirty (30) calendar days prior written notice. Upon receipt of a notice of termination, the Contractor shall promptly cease all further work pursuant to the Contract, with such exceptions, if any, specified in the notice of termination. The City shall pay the Contractor, to the extent of funds Appropriated or otherwise legally available for such purposes, for all goods delivered and services performed and obligations incurred prior to the date of termination in accordance with the terms hereof.

4.6 **Fraud.** Fraudulent statements by the Contractor on any Offer or in any report or deliverable required to be submitted by the Contractor to the City shall be grounds for the termination of the Contract for cause by the City and may result in legal action.

## **SECTION 5. OTHER DELIVERABLES**

5.1 **Insurance:** The following insurance requirements apply.

### **5.1.1 General Requirements.**

5.1.1.1 The Contractor shall at a minimum carry insurance in the types and amounts indicated herein for the duration of the Contract and during any warranty period.

5.1.1.2 The Contractor shall provide a Certificate of Insurance as verification of coverages required below to the City at the below address prior to Contract execution and within fourteen (14) calendar days after written request from the City.

5.1.1.3 The Contractor must also forward a Certificate of Insurance to the City whenever a previously identified policy period has expired, or an extension option or holdover period is exercised, as verification of continuing coverage.

5.1.1.4 The Contractor shall not commence work until the required insurance is obtained and has been reviewed by City. Approval of insurance by the City shall not relieve or decrease the liability of the Contractor hereunder and shall not be construed to be a limitation of liability on the part of the Contractor.

5.1.1.5 The City may request that the Contractor submit certificates of insurance to the City for all subcontractors prior to the subcontractors commencing work on the project.

5.1.1.6 The Contractor's and all subcontractors' insurance coverage shall be written by companies licensed to do business in the State of Texas at the time the policies are issued and shall be written by companies with A.M. Best ratings of B+VII or better.

5.1.1.7 All endorsements naming the City as additional insured, waivers, and notices of cancellation endorsements as well as the Certificate of Insurance shall be mailed to the following address:

City of Austin  
Purchasing Office  
P. O. Box 1088  
Austin, Texas 78767

5.1.1.8 The "other" insurance clause shall not apply to the City where the City is an additional insured shown on any policy. It is intended that policies required in the Contract, covering both the City and the Contractor, shall be considered primary coverage as applicable.

5.1.1.9 If insurance policies are not written for amounts specified in Paragraph 5.1.2, Specific Coverage Requirements, the Contractor shall carry Umbrella or Excess Liability Insurance for any differences in amounts specified. If Excess Liability Insurance is provided, it shall follow the form of the primary coverage.

5.1.1.10 The City shall be entitled, upon request, at an agreed upon location, and without expense, to review certified copies of policies and endorsements thereto and may make any reasonable

requests for deletion or revision or modification of particular policy terms, conditions, limitations, or exclusions except where policy provisions are established by law or regulations binding upon either of the parties hereto or the underwriter on any such policies.

5.1.1.11 The City reserves the right to review the insurance requirements set forth during the effective period of the Contract and to make reasonable adjustments to insurance coverage, limits, and exclusions when deemed necessary and prudent by the City based upon changes in statutory law, court decisions, the claims history of the industry or financial condition of the insurance company as well as the Contractor.

5.1.1.12 The Contractor shall not cause any insurance to be canceled nor permit any insurance to lapse during the term of the Contract or as required in the Contract.

5.1.1.13 The Contractor shall be responsible for premiums, deductibles and self-insured retentions, if any, stated in policies. All deductibles or self-insured retentions shall be disclosed on the Certificate of Insurance.

5.1.1.14 The Contractor shall endeavor to provide the City thirty (30) calendar days written notice of erosion of the aggregate limits below occurrence limits for all applicable coverages indicated within the Contract.

5.1.2 **Specific Coverage Requirements.** The Contractor shall at a minimum carry insurance in the types and amounts indicated below for the duration of the Contract, including extension options and hold over periods, and during any warranty period. These insurance coverages are required minimums and are not intended to limit the responsibility or liability of the Contractor.

5.1.2.1 **Commercial General Liability Insurance.** The minimum bodily injury and property damage per occurrence are \$500,000 for coverages A (Bodily Injury and Property Damage) and B (Personal and Advertising Injuries). The policy shall contain the following provisions and endorsements.

5.1.2.1.1 Contractual liability coverage for liability assumed under the Contract and all other Contracts related to the project.

5.1.2.1.2 Contractor/Subcontracted Work.

5.1.2.1.3 Products/Completed Operations Liability for the duration of the warranty period.

5.1.2.1.4 Waiver of Subrogation, Endorsement CG 2404, or equivalent coverage.

5.1.2.1.5 Thirty (30) calendar days Notice of Cancellation, Endorsement CG 0205, or equivalent coverage.

5.1.2.1.6 The City of Austin listed as an additional insured, Endorsement CG 2010, or equivalent coverage.

5.1.2.2 **Business Automobile Liability Insurance.** The Contractor shall provide coverage for all owned, non-owned and hired vehicles with a minimum combined single limit of \$500,000 per occurrence for bodily injury and property damage. Alternate acceptable limits are \$250,000 bodily injury per person, \$500,000 bodily injury per occurrence and at least \$100,000 property damage liability per accident. The policy shall contain the following endorsements:

5.1.2.2.1 Waiver of Subrogation, Endorsement CA0444, or equivalent coverage.

5.1.2.2.2 Thirty (30) calendar days Notice of Cancellation, Endorsement CA0244, or equivalent coverage.

5.1.2.2.3 The City of Austin listed as an additional insured, Endorsement CA2048, or equivalent coverage.

5.1.2.3 **Worker's Compensation and Employers' Liability Insurance.** Coverage shall be consistent with statutory benefits outlined in the Texas Worker's Compensation Act (Section 401). The minimum policy limits for Employer's Liability are \$100,000 bodily injury each accident, \$500,000 bodily injury by disease policy limit and \$100,000 bodily injury by disease each employee. The policy shall contain the following provisions and endorsements:

5.1.2.3.1 The Contractor's policy shall apply to the State of Texas.

5.1.2.3.2 Waiver of Subrogation, Form WC420304, or equivalent coverage.

5.1.2.3.3 Thirty (30) calendar days Notice of Cancellation, Form WC420601, or equivalent coverage.

5.1.2.4 **Endorsements.** The specific insurance coverage endorsements specified above, or their equivalents must be provided. In the event that endorsements, which are the equivalent of the required coverage, are proposed to be substituted for the required coverage, copies of the equivalent endorsements must be provided for the City's review and approval.

## 5.1 **Equal Opportunity.**

5.2.1 **Equal Employment Opportunity.** No Contractor, or Contractor's agent, shall engage in any discriminatory employment practice as defined in Chapter 5-4 of the City Code. No Offer submitted to the City shall be considered, nor any Purchase Order issued, or any Contract awarded by the City unless the Offeror has executed and filed with the City Purchasing Office a current Non-Discrimination Certification. Non-compliance with Chapter 5-4 of the City Code may result in sanctions, including termination of the contract and the Contractor's suspension or debarment from participation on future City contracts until deemed compliant with Chapter 5-4.

5.1.2 **Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance.** No Contractor, or Contractor's agent, shall engage in any discriminatory practice against individuals with disabilities as defined in the ADA, including but not limited to: employment, accessibility to goods and services, reasonable accommodations, and effective communications.

5.2 **Acceptance of Incomplete or Non-Conforming Deliverables.** If, instead of requiring immediate correction or removal and replacement of defective or non-conforming deliverables, the City prefers to accept it, the City may do so. The Contractor shall pay all claims, costs, losses and damages attributable to the City's evaluation of and determination to accept such defective or non-conforming deliverables. If any such acceptance occurs prior to final payment, the City may deduct such amounts as are necessary to compensate the City for the diminished value of the defective or non-conforming deliverables. If the acceptance occurs after final payment, such amount will be refunded to the City by the Contractor.

## 5.3 **Delays.**

5.4.1 The City may delay scheduled delivery or other due dates by written notice to the Contractor if the City deems it is in its best interest. If such delay causes an increase in the cost of the work under the Contract, the City and the Contractor shall negotiate an equitable adjustment for costs incurred by the Contractor in the Contract price and execute an amendment to the Contract. The Contractor must assert its right to an adjustment within thirty (30) calendar days from the date of receipt of the notice of delay. Failure to agree on any adjusted price shall be handled under the Dispute Resolution process specified herein. However, nothing in this provision shall excuse the Contractor from delaying the delivery as notified.

5.3.2 Neither party shall be liable for any default or delay in the performance of its obligations under this Contract if, while and to the extent such default or delay is caused by acts of God, fire, riots, civil commotion, labor disruptions, sabotage, sovereign conduct, or any other cause beyond the reasonable control of such Party. In the event of default or delay in Contract performance due to any of the foregoing causes, then the time for completion of the services will be extended; provided, however, in such an event, a conference will be held within three (3) business days to establish a mutually agreeable period of time reasonably necessary to overcome the effect of such failure to perform.

5.4 **Ownership And Use Of Deliverables.** The City shall own all rights, titles, and interests throughout the world in and to the deliverables.

5.4.1 **Patents.** As to any patentable subject matter contained in the deliverables, the Contractor agrees to disclose such patentable subject matter to the City. Further, if requested by the City, the Contractor agrees to assign and, if necessary, cause each of its employees to assign the entire right, title, and interest to specific inventions under such patentable subject matter to the City and to execute, acknowledge, and deliver and, if necessary, cause each of its employees to execute, acknowledge, and deliver an assignment of letters patent, in a form to be reasonably approved by the City, to the City upon request by the City.

5.4.2 **Copyrights.** As to any deliverables containing copyrightable subject matter, the Contractor agrees that upon their creation, such deliverables shall be considered as work made-for-hire by the Contractor for the City and the City shall own all copyrights in and to such deliverables, provided however, that nothing in this paragraph shall negate the City's sole or joint ownership of any such deliverables arising by virtue of the City's sole or joint authorship of such deliverables. Should by operation of law, such deliverables not be considered works made-for-hire, the Contractor hereby assigns to the City (and agrees to cause each of its employees providing services to the City hereunder to execute, acknowledge, and deliver an assignment to the City of) all worldwide right, title, and interest in and to such deliverables. With respect to such work made-for-hire, the Contractor agrees to execute, acknowledge, and deliver and cause each of its employees providing services to the City hereunder to execute, acknowledge, and deliver a work-made-for-hire agreement, in a form to be reasonably approved by the City, to the City upon delivery of such deliverables to the City or at such other time as the City may request.

5.4.3 **Additional Assignments.** The Contractor further agrees to, and if applicable, cause each of its employees to, execute, acknowledge, and deliver all applications, specifications, oaths, assignments, and all other instruments which the City might reasonably deem necessary in order to apply for and obtain copyright protection, mask work registration, trademark registration and/or protection, letters patent, or any similar rights in any and all countries and in order to assign and convey to the City, its successors, assigns and nominees, the sole and exclusive right, title, and interest in and to the deliverables. The Contractor's obligation to execute, acknowledge, and deliver (or cause to be executed, acknowledged, and delivered) instruments or papers such as those described in this paragraph shall continue after the termination of this Contract with respect to such deliverables. In the event the City should not seek to obtain copyright protection, mask work registration or patent protection for any of the deliverables, but should desire to keep the same secret, the Contractor agrees to treat the same as Confidential Information under the terms herein.

5.5 **Rights to Proposal and Contractual Material.** All material submitted by the Contractor to the City shall become property of the City upon receipt. Any portions of such material claimed by the Contractor to be proprietary must be clearly marked as such. Determination of the public nature of the material is subject to the Texas Public Information Act, Chapter 552, Texas Government Code.

5.6 **Publications.** All published material and written reports submitted under the Contract must be originally developed material unless otherwise specifically provided in the Contract. When material not originally developed is included in a report in any form, the source shall be identified.

## **SECTION 6. WARRANTIES**

6.1 **Warranty – Services.** The Contractor warrants and represents that all services to be provided to the City under the Contract will be fully and timely performed in a good and workmanlike manner in accordance with generally accepted industry standards and practices, the terms, conditions, and covenants of the Contract, and all applicable Federal, State and local laws, rules or regulations.

6.1.1 The Contractor may not limit, exclude or disclaim the foregoing warranty or any warranty implied by law, and any attempt to do so shall be without force or effect.

6.1.2 Unless otherwise specified in the Contract, the warranty period shall be at least one year from the acceptance date. If during the warranty period, one or more of the warranties are breached, the Contractor shall promptly upon receipt of demand perform the services again in accordance with above standard at no additional cost to the City. All costs incidental to such additional performance shall be borne by the Contractor. The City shall endeavor to give the Contractor written notice of the breach of warranty within thirty (30) calendar days of discovery of the breach of warranty, but failure to give timely notice shall not impair the City's rights under this section.



6.1.3 If the Contractor is unable or unwilling to perform its services in accordance with the above standard as required by the City, then in addition to any other available remedy, the City may reduce the amount of services it may be required to purchase under the Contract from the Contractor, and purchase conforming services from other sources. In such event, the Contractor shall pay to the City upon demand the increased cost, if any, incurred by the City to procure such services from another source.

## **SECTION 7. MISCELLANEOUS**

7.1 **Place and Condition of Work.** The City shall provide the Contractor access to the sites where the Contractor is to perform the services as required in order for the Contractor to perform the services in a timely and efficient manner in accordance with and subject to the applicable security laws, rules, and regulations. The Contractor acknowledges that it has satisfied itself as to the nature of the City's service requirements and specifications, the location and essential characteristics of the work sites, the quality and quantity of materials, equipment, labor and facilities necessary to perform the services, and any other condition or state of fact which could in any way affect performance of the Contractor's obligations under the Contract. The Contractor hereby releases and holds the City harmless from and against any liability or claim for damages of any kind or nature if the actual site or service conditions differ from expected conditions.

### **7.2 Workforce.**

7.2.1 The Contractor shall employ only orderly and competent workers, skilled in the performance of the services which they will perform under the Contract.

7.2.2 The Contractor, its employees, subcontractors, and subcontractor's employees may not while engaged in participating or responding to a solicitation or while in the course and scope of delivering goods or services under a City of Austin contract or on the City's property:

7.2.2.1 use or possess a firearm, including a concealed handgun that is licensed under state law, except as required by the terms of the Contract; and

7.2.2.2 use or possess alcoholic or other intoxicating beverages, illegal drugs or controlled substances, nor may such workers be intoxicated, or under the influence of alcohol or drugs, on the job.

7.2.3 If the City or the City's representative notifies the Contractor that any worker is incompetent, disorderly or disobedient, has knowingly or repeatedly violated safety regulations, has possessed any firearms, or has possessed or was under the influence of alcohol or drugs on the job, the Contractor shall immediately remove such worker from Contract services, and may not employ such worker again on Contract services without the City's prior written consent.

7.3 **Compliance with Health, Safety, and Environmental Regulations.** The Contractor, its Subcontractors, and their respective employees, shall comply fully with all applicable federal, state, and local health, safety, and environmental laws, ordinances, rules and regulations in the performance of the services, including but not limited to those promulgated by the City and by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). In case of conflict, the most stringent safety requirement shall govern. The Contractor shall indemnify and hold the City harmless from and against all claims, demands, suits, actions, judgments, fines, penalties and liability of every kind arising from the breach of the Contractor's obligations under this paragraph.

7.4 **Significant Event.** The Contractor shall immediately notify the City's Contract Manager of any current or prospective "significant event" on an ongoing basis. All notifications shall be submitted in writing to the Contract Manager. As used in this provision, a "significant event" is any occurrence or anticipated occurrence which might reasonably be expected to have a material effect upon the Contractor's ability to meet its contractual obligations. Significant events may include but not be limited to the following:

7.4.1 disposal of major assets;

7.4.2 any major computer software conversion, enhancement or modification to the operating systems, security systems, and application software, used in the performance of this Contract;

7.4.3 any significant termination or addition of provider contracts;

7.4.4 the Contractor's insolvency or the imposition of, or notice of the intent to impose, a receivership, conservatorship or special regulatory monitoring, or any bankruptcy proceedings, voluntary or involuntary, or reorganization proceedings;

7.4.5 strikes, slow-downs or substantial impairment of the Contractor's facilities or of other facilities used by the Contractor in the performance of this Contract;

7.4.6 reorganization, reduction and/or relocation in key personnel;

7.4.7 known or anticipated sale, merger, or acquisition;

7.4.8 known, planned or anticipated stock sales;

7.4.9 any litigation against the Contractor; or

7.4.10 significant change in market share or product focus.

## 7.5 **Audits and Records.**

7.5.1 The Contractor agrees that the representatives of the Office of the City Auditor or other authorized representatives of the City shall have access to, and the right to audit, examine, or reproduce, any and all records of the Contractor related to the performance under this Contract. The Contractor shall retain all such records for a period of three (3) years after final payment on this Contract or until all audit and litigation matters that the City has brought to the attention of the Contractor are resolved, whichever is longer. The Contractor agrees to refund to the City any overpayments disclosed by any such audit.

### 7.5.2 Records Retention:

7.5.2.1 Contractor is subject to City Code chapter 2-11 (Records Management), and as it may subsequently be amended. For purposes of this subsection, a Record means all books, accounts, reports, files, and other data recorded or created by a Contractor in fulfillment of the Contract whether in digital or physical format, except a record specifically relating to the Contractor's internal administration.

7.5.2.2 All Records are the property of the City. The Contractor may not dispose of or destroy a Record without City authorization and shall deliver the Records, in all requested formats and media, along with all finding aids and metadata, to the City at no cost when requested by the City.

7.5.3 The Contractor shall include sections 7.5.1 and 7.5.2 above in all subcontractor agreements entered into in connection with this Contract.

7.6 **Stop Work Notice.** The City may issue an immediate Stop Work Notice in the event the Contractor is observed performing in a manner that is in violation of Federal, State, or local guidelines, or in a manner that is determined by the City to be unsafe to either life or property. Upon notification, the Contractor will cease all work until notified by the City that the violation or unsafe condition has been corrected. The Contractor shall be liable for all costs incurred by the City as a result of the issuance of such Stop Work Notice.

## 7.7 **Indemnity.**

### 7.7.1 Definitions:

7.7.1.1 "Indemnified Claims" shall include any and all claims, demands, suits, causes of action, judgments and liability of every character, type or description, including all reasonable costs and expenses of litigation, mediation or other alternate dispute resolution mechanism, including attorney and other professional fees for:

7.7.1.1.1 damage to or loss of the property of any person (including, but not limited to the City, the Contractor, their respective agents, officers, employees and subcontractors; the officers, agents, and employees of such subcontractors; and third parties); and/or;

7.7.1.1.2 death, bodily injury, illness, disease, worker's compensation, loss of services, or loss of income or wages to any person (including but not limited to the agents, officers and employees of the City, the Contractor, the Contractor's subcontractors, and third parties),

7.7.1.2 "Fault" shall include the sale of defective or non-conforming deliverables, negligence, willful misconduct, or a breach of any legally imposed strict liability standard.

**7.7.2 THE CONTRACTOR SHALL DEFEND (AT THE OPTION OF THE CITY), INDEMNIFY, AND HOLD THE CITY, ITS SUCCESSORS, ASSIGNS, OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES AND ELECTED OFFICIALS HARMLESS FROM AND AGAINST ALL INDEMNIFIED CLAIMS DIRECTLY ARISING OUT OF, INCIDENT TO, CONCERNING OR RESULTING FROM THE FAULT OF THE CONTRACTOR, OR THE CONTRACTOR'S AGENTS, EMPLOYEES OR SUBCONTRACTORS, IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THE CONTRACTOR'S OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE CONTRACT. NOTHING HEREIN SHALL BE DEEMED TO LIMIT THE RIGHTS OF THE CITY OR THE CONTRACTOR (INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE RIGHT TO SEEK CONTRIBUTION) AGAINST ANY THIRD PARTY WHO MAY BE LIABLE FOR AN INDEMNIFIED CLAIM.**

**7.8 Claims.** If any claim, demand, suit, or other action is asserted against the Contractor which arises under or concerns the Contract, or which could have a material adverse effect on the Contractor's ability to perform thereunder, the Contractor shall give written notice thereof to the City within ten (10) calendar days after receipt of notice by the Contractor. Such notice to the City shall state the date of notification of any such claim, demand, suit, or other action; the names and addresses of the claimant(s); the basis thereof; and the name of each person against whom such claim is being asserted. Such notice shall be delivered personally or by mail and shall be sent to the City and to the Austin City Attorney. Personal delivery to the City Attorney shall be to City Hall, 301 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Austin, Texas 78701, and mail delivery shall be to P.O. Box 1088, Austin, Texas 78767.

**7.9 Notices.** Unless otherwise specified, all notices, requests, or other communications required or appropriate to be given under the Contract shall be in writing and shall be deemed delivered three (3) business days after postmarked if sent by U.S. Postal Service Certified or Registered Mail, Return Receipt Requested. Notices delivered by other means shall be deemed delivered upon receipt by the addressee. Routine communications may be made by first class mail, telefax, or other commercially accepted means. Notices to the City and the Contractor shall be addressed as follows:

To the City:

City of Austin, Purchasing Office

ATTN: Georgia Billela, Procurement Specialist  
III

P O Box 1088

Austin, TX 78767

To the Contractor:

Orion Research and Management Services, Inc.

ATTN: John Cornelius, Vice President

21 Cedar Trails Drive

Belton, TX 76513

**7.10 Confidentiality.** In order to provide the deliverables to the City, Contractor may require access to certain of the City's and/or its licensors' confidential information (including inventions, employee information, trade secrets, confidential know-how, confidential business information, and other information which the City or its licensors consider confidential) (collectively, "Confidential Information"). Contractor acknowledges and agrees that the Confidential Information is the valuable property of the City and/or its licensors and any unauthorized use, disclosure, dissemination, or other release of the Confidential Information will substantially injure the City and/or its licensors. The Contractor (including its employees, subcontractors, agents, or representatives) agrees that it will maintain the Confidential Information in strict confidence and shall not disclose, disseminate, copy, divulge, recreate, or otherwise use the Confidential Information without the prior written consent of the City or in a manner not expressly permitted under this Contract, unless the Confidential Information is required to be disclosed by law or an order of any court or other governmental authority with proper jurisdiction, provided the Contractor promptly notifies the City before disclosing such information so as to permit the City reasonable time to seek an appropriate protective order. The Contractor agrees to use protective measures no less stringent than the Contractor uses within its own business to protect its own most valuable information, which protective measures shall under all circumstances be at least reasonable measures to ensure the continued confidentiality of the Confidential Information.

**7.11 Advertising.** The Contractor shall not advertise or publish, without the City's prior consent, the fact that the City has entered into the Contract, except to the extent required by law.

7.12 **No Contingent Fees.** The Contractor warrants that no person or selling agency has been employed or retained to solicit or secure the Contract upon any agreement or understanding for commission, percentage, brokerage, or contingent fee, excepting bona fide employees of bona fide established commercial or selling agencies maintained by the Contractor for the purpose of securing business. For breach or violation of this warranty, the City shall have the right, in addition to any other remedy available, to cancel the Contract without liability and to deduct from any amounts owed to the Contractor, or otherwise recover, the full amount of such commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee.

7.13 **Gratuities.** The City may, by written notice to the Contractor, cancel the Contract without liability if it is determined by the City that gratuities were offered or given by the Contractor or any agent or representative of the Contractor to any officer or employee of the City with a view toward securing the Contract or securing favorable treatment with respect to the awarding or amending or the making of any determinations with respect to the performing of such contract. In the event the Contract is canceled by the City pursuant to this provision, the City shall be entitled, in addition to any other rights and remedies, to recover or withhold the amount of the cost incurred by the Contractor in providing such gratuities.

7.14 **Prohibition Against Personal Interest in Contracts.** No officer, employee, independent consultant, or elected official of the City who is involved in the development, evaluation, or decision-making process of the performance of any solicitation shall have a financial interest, direct or indirect, in the Contract resulting from that solicitation. Any willful violation of this section shall constitute impropriety in office, and any officer or employee guilty thereof shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including dismissal. Any violation of this provision, with the knowledge, expressed or implied, of the Contractor shall render the Contract voidable by the City.

7.15 **Independent Contractor.** The Contract shall not be construed as creating an employer/employee relationship, a partnership, or a joint venture. The Contractor's services shall be those of an independent contractor. The Contractor agrees and understands that the Contract does not grant any rights or privileges established for employees of the City.

7.16 **Assignment-Delegation.** The Contract shall be binding upon and enure to the benefit of the City and the Contractor and their respective successors and assigns, provided however, that no right or interest in the Contract shall be assigned and no obligation shall be delegated by the Contractor without the prior written consent of the City. Any attempted assignment or delegation by the Contractor shall be void unless made in conformity with this paragraph. The Contract is not intended to confer rights or benefits on any person, firm or entity not a party hereto; it being the intention of the parties that there be no third party beneficiaries to the Contract.

7.17 **Waiver.** No claim or right arising out of a breach of the Contract can be discharged in whole or in part by a waiver or renunciation of the claim or right unless the waiver or renunciation is supported by consideration and is in writing signed by the aggrieved party. No waiver by either the Contractor or the City of any one or more events of default by the other party shall operate as, or be construed to be, a permanent waiver of any rights or obligations under the Contract, or an express or implied acceptance of any other existing or future default or defaults, whether of a similar or different character.

7.18 **Modifications.** The Contract can be modified or amended only in writing signed by both parties. No pre-printed or similar terms on any Contractor invoice, order or other document shall have any force or effect to change the terms, covenants, and conditions of the Contract.

7.19 **Interpretation.** The Contract is intended by the parties as a final, complete and exclusive statement of the terms of their agreement. No course of prior dealing between the parties or course of performance or usage of the trade shall be relevant to supplement or explain any term used in the Contract. Although the Contract may have been substantially drafted by one party, it is the intent of the parties that all provisions be construed in a manner to be fair to both parties, reading no provisions more strictly against one party or the other. Whenever a term defined by the Uniform Commercial Code, as enacted by the State of Texas, is used in the Contract, the UCC definition shall control, unless otherwise defined in the Contract.

7.20 **Dispute Resolution.**

7.20.1 If a dispute arises out of or relates to the Contract, or the breach thereof, the parties agree to negotiate prior to prosecuting a suit for damages. However, this section does not prohibit the filing of a lawsuit to toll the running of a statute of limitations or to seek injunctive relief. Either party may make a written request for a meeting between representatives of each party within fourteen (14) calendar days after receipt of the request or such later period as agreed by the parties. Each party shall include, at a minimum, one (1) senior

level individual with decision-making authority regarding the dispute. The purpose of this and any subsequent meeting is to attempt in good faith to negotiate a resolution of the dispute. If, within thirty (30) calendar days after such meeting, the parties have not succeeded in negotiating a resolution of the dispute, they will proceed directly to mediation as described below. Negotiation may be waived by a written agreement signed by both parties, in which event the parties may proceed directly to mediation as described below.

7.20.2 If the efforts to resolve the dispute through negotiation fail, or the parties waive the negotiation process, the parties may select, within thirty (30) calendar days, a mediator trained in mediation skills to assist with resolution of the dispute. Should they choose this option, the City and the Contractor agree to act in good faith in the selection of the mediator and to give consideration to qualified individuals nominated to act as mediator. Nothing in the Contract prevents the parties from relying on the skills of a person who is trained in the subject matter of the dispute or a contract interpretation expert. If the parties fail to agree on a mediator within thirty (30) calendar days of initiation of the mediation process, the mediator shall be selected by the Travis County Dispute Resolution Center (DRC). The parties agree to participate in mediation in good faith for up to thirty (30) calendar days from the date of the first mediation session. The City and the Contractor will share the mediator's fees equally and the parties will bear their own costs of participation such as fees for any consultants or attorneys they may utilize to represent them or otherwise assist them in the mediation.

## 7.21 **Minority And Women Owned Business Enterprise (MBE/WBE) Procurement Program.**

7.21.1 All City procurements are subject to the City's Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program found at Chapters 2-9A, 2-9B, 2-9C and 2-9D of the City Code. The Program provides Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (MBEs/WBEs) full opportunity to participate in all City contracts.

7.21.2 The City of Austin has determined that no goals are appropriate for this Contract. **Even though no goals have been established for this Contract, the Contractor is required to comply with the City's MBE/WBE Procurement Program, Chapters 2-9A, 2-9B, 2-9C and 2-9D, of the City Code, as applicable, if areas of subcontracting are identified.**

7.21.3 If any service is needed to perform the Contract and the Contractor does not perform the service with its own workforce or if supplies or materials are required and the Contractor does not have the supplies or materials in its inventory, the Contractor shall contact the Department of Small and Minority Business Resources (DSMBR) at (512) 974-7600 to obtain a list of MBE and WBE firms available to perform the service or provide the supplies or materials. The Contractor must also make a Good Faith Effort to use available MBE and WBE firms. Good Faith Efforts include but are not limited to contacting the listed MBE and WBE firms to solicit their interest in performing on the Contract; using MBE and WBE firms that have shown an interest, meet qualifications, and are competitive in the market; and documenting the results of the contacts.

## 7.22 **Subcontractors.**

7.22.1 If the Contractor identified Subcontractors in an MBE/WBE Program Compliance Plan or a No Goals Utilization Plan, the Contractor shall comply with the provisions of Chapters 2-9A, 2-9B, 2-9C, and 2-9D, as applicable, of the Austin City Code and the terms of the Compliance Plan or Utilization Plan as approved by the City (the "Plan"). The Contractor shall not initially employ any Subcontractor except as provided in the Contractor's Plan. The Contractor shall not substitute any Subcontractor identified in the Plan, unless the substitute has been accepted by the City in writing in accordance with the provisions of Chapters 2-9A, 2-9B, 2-9C and 2-9D, as applicable. No acceptance by the City of any Subcontractor shall constitute a waiver of any rights or remedies of the City with respect to defective deliverables provided by a Subcontractor. If a Plan has been approved, the Contractor is additionally required to submit a monthly Subcontract Awards and Expenditures Report to the Contract Manager and the Purchasing Office Contract Compliance Manager no later than the tenth calendar day of each month.

7.22.2 Work performed for the Contractor by a Subcontractor shall be pursuant to a written contract between the Contractor and Subcontractor. The terms of the subcontract may not conflict with the terms of the Contract, and shall contain provisions that:

7.22.2.1 require that all deliverables to be provided by the Subcontractor be provided in strict accordance with the provisions, specifications and terms of the Contract.

7.22.2.2 prohibit the Subcontractor from further subcontracting any portion of the Contract without the prior written consent of the City and the Contractor. The City may require, as a condition to such further subcontracting, that the Subcontractor post a payment bond in form, substance and amount acceptable to the City;

7.22.2.3 require Subcontractors to submit all invoices and applications for payments, including any claims for additional payments, damages or otherwise, to the Contractor in sufficient time to enable the Contractor to include same with its invoice or application for payment to the City in accordance with the terms of the Contract;

7.22.2.4 require that all Subcontractors obtain and maintain, throughout the term of their contract, insurance in the type and amounts specified for the Contractor, with the City being a named insured as its interest shall appear; and

7.22.2.5 require that the Subcontractor indemnify and hold the City harmless to the same extent as the Contractor is required to indemnify the City.

7.22.3 The Contractor shall be fully responsible to the City for all acts and omissions of the Subcontractors just as the Contractor is responsible for the Contractor's own acts and omissions. Nothing in the Contract shall create for the benefit of any such Subcontractor any contractual relationship between the City and any such Subcontractor, nor shall it create any obligation on the part of the City to pay or to see to the payment of any moneys due any such Subcontractor except as may otherwise be required by law.

7.22.4 The Contractor shall pay each Subcontractor its appropriate share of payments made to the Contractor not later than ten (10) calendar days after receipt of payment from the City.

7.23 **Jurisdiction And Venue.** The Contract is made under and shall be governed by the laws of the State of Texas, including, when applicable, the Uniform Commercial Code as adopted in Texas, V.T.C.A., Bus. & Comm. Code, Chapter 1, excluding any rule or principle that would refer to and apply the substantive law of another state or jurisdiction. All issues arising from this Contract shall be resolved in the courts of Travis County, Texas and the parties agree to submit to the exclusive personal jurisdiction of such courts. The foregoing, however, shall not be construed or interpreted to limit or restrict the right or ability of the City to seek and secure injunctive relief from any competent authority as contemplated herein.

7.24 **Invalidity.** The invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability of any provision of the Contract shall in no way affect the validity or enforceability of any other portion or provision of the Contract. Any void provision shall be deemed severed from the Contract and the balance of the Contract shall be construed and enforced as if the Contract did not contain the particular portion or provision held to be void. The parties further agree to reform the Contract to replace any stricken provision with a valid provision that comes as close as possible to the intent of the stricken provision. The provisions of this section shall not prevent this entire Contract from being void should a provision which is the essence of the Contract be determined to be void.

7.25 **Holidays.** The following holidays are observed by the City:

<u>Holiday</u>	<u>Date Observed</u>
New Year's Day	January 1
Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday	Third Monday in January
President's Day	Third Monday in February
Memorial Day	Last Monday in May
Independence Day	July 4
Labor Day	First Monday in September
Veteran's Day	November 11
Thanksgiving Day	Fourth Thursday in November
Friday after Thanksgiving	Friday after Thanksgiving
Christmas Eve	December 24
Christmas Day	December 25

If a Legal Holiday falls on Saturday, it will be observed on the preceding Friday. If a Legal Holiday falls on Sunday, it will be observed on the following Monday.

7.26 **Survivability of Obligations.** All provisions of the Contract that impose continuing obligations on the parties, including but not limited to the warranty, indemnity, and confidentiality obligations of the parties, shall survive the expiration or termination of the Contract.

7.27 **Non-Suspension or Debarment Certification.** The City of Austin is prohibited from contracting with or making prime or sub-awards to parties that are suspended or debarred or whose principals are suspended or debarred from Federal, State, or City of Austin Contracts. By accepting a Contract with the City, the Vendor certifies that its firm and its principals are not currently suspended or debarred from doing business with the Federal Government, as indicated by the General Services Administration List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement and Non-Procurement Programs, the State of Texas, or the City of Austin.

7.28 **Incorporation of Documents.** Section 0100, **Standard Purchase Definitions**, is hereby incorporated into this Contract by reference, with the same force and effect as if they were incorporated in full text. The full text versions of this Section are available, on the Internet at the following online address:

[https://assets.austintexas.gov/purchase/downloads/standard\\_purchase\\_definitions.pdf](https://assets.austintexas.gov/purchase/downloads/standard_purchase_definitions.pdf)

In witness whereof, the parties have caused duly authorized representatives to execute this Contract on the dates set forth below.

**Orion Research and Management Services, Inc.**

**CITY OF AUSTIN**

By: John D. Cornelius  
Signature

By: Georgia Billela  
Signature

Name: John D. Cornelius  
Printed Name

Name: Georgia Billela  
Printed Name

Title: Vice President

Title: Procurement Specialist III

Date: August 4, 2017

Date: 8/17/17

## List of Exhibits

Exhibit A Orion Research & Management Services, Inc. Proposal dated 6/9/2017  
Exhibit B Non Discrimination Certification, Section 0800

**EXHIBIT A**

**Sampling for Disease Agents in White-tailed Deer and Feral Hog Populations  
On the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve**

**Research proposal submitted to the City of Austin**

**June 9, 2017**

**John Cornelius, Vice President**

**Orion Research and Management Services, Inc.**

**21 Cedar Trails Drive**

**Belton, Texas 76513**

**Phone: 254-231-6068**

**Email: [orion\\_research@sbcglobal.net](mailto:orion_research@sbcglobal.net)**



**Research Objectives:** The primary objective of this research is to conduct serologic surveillance and establish the prevalence, and variation over time, of antibodies to West Nile (WNV), St. Louis encephalitis (SLE), Lyme Disease (LD), and Zika viruses in white-tailed deer (WTD) and feral pigs. These disease agents are zoonotic in nature, meaning they can be transmitted from animals to humans. Serologic surveillance studies examine markers in blood samples taken from targeted wildlife species to determine whether the local population is experiencing exposure to the diseases in question. Presence of antibodies in a significant number of sampled individuals may suggest that wildlife populations are serving as reservoirs for the disease, increasing potential for human infection. All of the diseases included in this study have serious and sometimes permanent adverse medical impacts to infected humans. Secondary research objectives are to establish an archived serum bank of specimens from deer and pigs for future retrospective research projects by institutions and other interested parties with valid research objectives. Aliquots of serum and tissues will be available for worthy external research projects at no cost.

**Justification:** This research effort is part of a broader partnership between Orion Research and Management Services, Inc. (a charitable non-profit company), Dr. John Morrill DVM PhD, principal investigators at renowned research universities in Texas, and a select group of public and private land managers in Central Texas. Surveillance studies will be used to assess disease prevalence and the overall health status of animals within the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve. In areas where WTD are in close proximity to residential/commercial development, opportunities for transmission of zoonotic diseases are amplified. Serum provides a valuable source of data for the prevalence of zoonotic diseases and the potential for their transmission along the wildland/urban interface. Sera will be tested by a collaborating laboratory for HI or ELISA antibodies to WNV, and SLE. We are presently collaborating with an external laboratory to develop an experimental ELISA assay to detect antibodies to Zika virus in WTD, and a colleague at Texas A&M University has developed a species-independent ELISA assay for antibodies to *Borrelia burgdorferi* (LD) in WTD. Small aliquots of frozen sera will be sent to those laboratories for testing.

**Discussion:** Few studies have been done in WTD in Texas regarding zoonotic viral pathogens. Antibody prevalence to specific zoonotic viral pathogens has been studied to a limited extent in regions outside of Texas but we are unaware of current surveillance of zoonotic viral agents in Texas, especially introduced exotic viruses such as WNV and Zika<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>. The introduction of exotic zoonotic viruses such as West Nile and Zika poses a public health threat, and abundant WTD populations in Central Texas and their close proximity to residential and commercial development provide an opportunity for transmission of zoonotic diseases to the human population. The presence of antibodies to these agents in WTD indicates that they are susceptible to infection by those agents, but little is known about the role WTD play in maintaining and amplifying those agents. A determination that WTD can be infected will hopefully lead to more in-depth studies regarding amplification

and transmission of those agents. Lyme disease is the most prevalent arthropod-borne infection in the United States, and due to a significant increase in the number of reported cases in the past several years, has been classified by the CDC as a re-emerging infection. The number of confirmed human LD cases in Texas has been increasing considerably over the last 10 years (data provided by the Texas Department of State Health Services), but epidemiological information on the drivers behind that trend is missing. By conducting long-term serosurveillance in WTD we can determine the presence of circulating viruses and, through further more in-depth studies, determine if WTD are potential reservoirs for certain pathogens. As a routine measure, results of seroprevalence studies will be periodically shared with scientists of the Texas Animal Health Commission and Centers for Disease Control to help inform regional public health policy.

#### References:

1. Medrano C, Boadella M, Barrios H, Cantú A, García Z, de la Fuente J, et al. Zoonotic pathogens among white-tailed deer, northern Mexico, 2004–2009 [letter]. *Emerg Infect Dis* [serial on the Internet]. 2012 Aug [date cited]. <http://dx.doi.org/10.3201/eid1808.111902>  
DOI: 10.3201/eid1808.111902.
2. Sherrill BL, Snider AG, Kennedy-Stoskopf S, DePerno CS. 2012. Survey of Zoonotic Pathogens in White-tailed Deer on Bald Head Island, North Carolina. *Southeastern Naturalist*. 11(3):529–533.
3. Farajollahi A, Gates R, Crans W, Komar N. 2004. Serologic Evidence of West Nile Virus and St. Louis Encephalitis Virus Infections in White-Tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) from New Jersey, 2001 (Short Report). *Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases*. 4(4):379–383.
4. Santaella J, McLean R, Hall JS, Gill JS, Bowen RA, Hadow HH, Clark L. 2005. West Nile Virus Serosurveillance in Iowa White-Tailed Deer (1999–2003). *Am. J. Trop. Med. Hyg.* 73(6):1038–1042.
5. Campbell GL, Eldridge BF, Hardy JL, Reeves WC, Jessup DA, Presser SB. 1989. Prevalence of Neutralizing Antibodies Against California and Bunyamwera Serogroup Viruses in Deer From Mountainous Areas of California. *Am. J. Trop. Med. Hyg.* 40(4):428–437.

## Scope of Work

**Operations:** Field activities associated with the research project will be coordinated with COA personnel to ensure a safe and effective operation. Activities will comply with the provisions of Orion's State-issued Scientific Permit, and with established COA natural resource program health and safety protocols. All Orion personnel undergo periodic background screening and relevant safety education training. A list of research personnel and appropriate certifications will be provided prior to field operations. Orion holds Workers Compensation insurance as well as Commercial General Liability coverage, and elevated coverage limits on company vehicles. COA will be provided with copies of all insurance certificates and a waiver of subrogation within 30 days of contract award.

**Deliverables:** Orion will provide personnel, materials, and equipment necessary to ensure a turn-key operation, from initial evaluation and setup of study sites, to data collection, delivery of samples to outside research laboratories, laboratory analysis, and reporting of results. The data collection period will be October 1, 2017 through February 28, 2018; however, preplanning, coordination, and setup will begin around August 1, 2017, or as soon as the contract is executed. By March 31, 2018, Orion will provide a database of morphometric data cataloging each specimen included in the study, including the types of data collected from each specimen, along with a narrative summary of observations, and a final invoice. Laboratory samples will be delivered to respective principal investigators in a timely fashion after data collection ends. Laboratory schedules are crowded and analyses can be laborious, so the receipt of final results from various laboratories is beyond our control once the samples are submitted. In the past, we have received results within 6-12 months of delivery. When results are available, they will be turned over promptly to the Contract POC. Any resulting publications in the peer-reviewed literature will also be provided as they are available.

**Compensation:** Orion Research will be compensated at the rate of \$295 per sample set for each WTD involved in the study, up to a maximum of 65 sets of data. Feral hogs will be compensated at a rate of \$100 per sample set, up to a maximum of 100 sets. Total contract cost is not to exceed \$20,000. Billing will occur in late December 2017 for the August – December period and in March 2018 for the January – February period.





November 3, 2016

John C. Morrill  
Orion Research & Management Services, Inc.  
205 FM 107  
Gatesville, TX 76528

Dear Dr. Morrill:

Enclosed is your renewed Scientific Research Permit No. **SPR-0801-168**. Please review your permit for accuracy and make note of any restrictions. If additional authority is needed, you should request a permit amendment.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Regarding your interest in using rimfire ammunition, the Texas Administrative Code (31 TAC §65.11) makes it unlawful to use rimfire ammunition to hunt white-tailed deer. Therefore, use of rimfire ammunition to collect white-tailed deer will not be authorized on your permit. However, you may use centerfire ammunition to collect white-tailed deer.

Although the permit does not have to be renewed each year, annual reports are required for the permit to remain valid. Please note that all mortalities, retained and discarded, must be documented and reported on annual reports. **Your next annual report will be due on November 1, 2017.** The report form is now available online in a fill-able format: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/business/permits/land/wildlife/research/>.

Furthermore, it is necessary for you to carry this permit when conducting authorized activities. Sub-permittees may carry a copy in lieu of the original permit. It is also advisable to carry some additional corroborative identification such as a driver's license.

**Please be sure to notify the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Law Enforcement Office(s) in the region(s) of your field activities by telephone not less than 24 hours nor more than 72 hours prior to collection if collection techniques or devices being used are ordinarily classified as illegal (i.e. using gill nets or electro-shocking devices to collect fish, hunting/collecting along public roads and rights-of-way). A confirmed response from the local game warden is required prior to collection if the sampling activities being conducted involve methods of capture ordinarily classified as illegal.** To determine appropriate regional office location and/or telephone number, please see <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/warden/connect/offices>. If the regional office(s) or telephone number(s) is unknown, the number(s) may be obtained at any time by calling a Parks and Wildlife Communication Center: Austin - (512) 389-4848; Houston - (281) 842-8100.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Maldonado".

Christopher Maldonado  
Wildlife Permits Specialist

**SCIENTIFIC PERMIT NUMBER SPR-0801-168**  
IS HEREBY ISSUED TO:

**John C. Morrill**  
Orion Research & Management Services, Inc.

**UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF CHAPTER 43, SUBCHAPTER C OF THE  
TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE CODE**


The activities permitted by this document are to be carried out in accordance with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, the Rules and Regulations of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, and all of the following provisions:

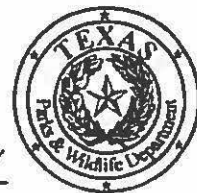
1. This permit may not be transferred, assigned or conveyed by the holder.
2. The issuance of this permit is not a guarantee that a subsequent permit or renewal of this permit will be granted.
3. Required information and data shall be maintained at the address of the permit holder and shall be available for inspection at the request of personnel of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department during the active life of the permit.
4. Acceptance of this permit constitutes an acknowledgment and agreement that the holder will comply with all Rules, Regulations, Orders and Proclamations of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission issued in accordance with the law and the conditions precedent to the granting of this permit. Failure to comply with any and all provisions of this permit may result in enforcement action, including any criminal penalties authorized by the Parks and Wildlife Code.
5. This permit does not relieve the holder of the responsibility to obey all other local, county, state and federal laws while carrying out the authorized activities.

- ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS FOLLOW ON ATTACHED PAGES. -

Issued by:

**November 3, 2016**  
Amended date

  
Chris Maldonado  
Wildlife Permits Specialist



6. This permit will expire at midnight, **August 12, 2019**
7. The following individuals may conduct the activities authorized by this permit under the guidance of the permittee:

**SUBPERMITTEES:** Beau Bush, Susan Bush, Kevin Cagle, John D. Cornelius, Jim Mobley, Bryan Rugh, James D. Ashley, James D. Grove.

**UNPERMITTED ASSISTANTS:** A permittee engaging unpermitted assistants shall maintain on file at their office and possess on their person in the field a signed and dated list of all unpermitted persons assisting in permitted activities (**Individuals under the direct on-site supervision of permit holder**).

8. The following wildlife species in the specified quantities are authorized by this permit to be:

**a. SEROEPIDEMIOLOGIC SURVEILLANCE FOR ZONOTIC AGENTS IN WHITE-TAILED DEER** – This permit gives authorization to take species native to Texas, obtain morphometric data, blood, and tissue samples for scientific research purposes. Activity will be conducted between October 1<sup>st</sup> and February 28<sup>th</sup> each permit year. Each carcass will be examined for human consumption and donated to charitable organizations, public hospitals, orphanages or indigent persons.

Common name	Scientific Name	Quantity
White-tailed deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	NTE 250 / year

9. The following means for taking or capture are authorized by this permit:

- a. Federally permitted sound-suppressed firearms, night-vision, and thermal imaging devices, spotlighting at night.
- b. Live-capture with prompt dispatch using traps, snares and other legal means and methods.

10. The following locations for taking or capture are authorized by this permit:

- a. Properties in Travis, Burnet, and Hays Counties - Permit holder is prohibited from collecting on private or public premises without prior written consent of the owner or manager of the premises.

11. If authorized above, all specimens taken or salvaged shall be deposited with an appropriate collection, or otherwise disposed of in accordance with paragraph 13d of this permit.

12. All collection gear left unattended shall be clearly marked with permittee's name and permit number.

13. **PERMIT HOLDER IS REQUIRED TO:**

**a. File a completed report form annually** (provided on issuance of this permit), and any reports or publications based on data collected under authority of this permit, with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Wildlife Permits Section, 4200 Smith School Rd., Austin, TX, 78744, **no later than fourteen days following the anniversary date of the permit** (or the expiration date if the permit is due for renewal).

**YOUR PERMIT WILL NOT BE VALID UNLESS YOUR REPORT HAS BEEN RECEIVED.**

**b. Carry a copy of this permit at all times** when exercising the provisions of this permit, which shall be subject to inspection by any authorized enforcement officer of the Department upon request.

**c. Notify the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Law Enforcement Office(s) in the region(s) of your field activities by telephone not less than 24 hours nor more than 72 hours prior to collection** if collection techniques or devices being used are ordinarily classified as illegal (i.e. using gill nets or electro-shocking devices to collect fish, hunting/collecting along public roads and rights-of-way). **A confirmed response from the local game warden is required prior to collection if the sampling activities being conducted involve methods of capture ordinarily classified as illegal.** To determine appropriate regional office location and/or telephone number, please see **<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/warden/connect/offices>**. If the regional office(s) or telephone number(s) is unknown, the number(s) may be obtained at any time by calling a Parks and Wildlife Communication Center: Austin - (512) 389-4848; Houston - (281) 842-8100.

**d. Dispose of protected wildlife taken under the authority of this permit in only one of the following ways:**



(1). Kill and utilize by examination, experimentation, necropsy or dispose of as waste in accordance with state law and city or county regulations (burning is suggested if not in conflict with city, county or state regulations).

(2). Hold permanently for scientific or educational purposes, or donate to another educational display, scientific, or zoological permit holder authorized to receive such specimens, **with required specimen donation form provided by the Department. A copy of the completed form must be submitted with the annual report.**

(3). Donate edible portions of game species to charitable organizations, public hospitals, orphanages or indigent persons. Arrangements for donations are the responsibility of the permit holder.

**14. PERMIT HOLDER IS PROHIBITED FROM:**

a. Selling or bartering specimens collected under the authority of this permit. Specimens may be donated to other permit holders by completing the receipt form enclosed with the permit.

b. Collecting on private premises without prior written consent of the owner or operator of the premises.

c. Collecting in a state park without a separate permit from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Natural Resource Program: email: [david.riskind@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:david.riskind@tpwd.texas.gov).

d. Collecting in a wildlife management area without prior written permission from the area manager.

e. Taking species listed by the department as threatened or endangered without express authority in paragraph 8 of this permit.

**15. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS:**

a. No hunting or fishing license is required for permit holders or individuals listed in paragraph 7 while conducting the activities expressly authorized by this permit. Each listed individual should carry a copy of this permit during collection activities, and a letter of permission from the permittee if working independently.

b. **This permit is subject to any applicable federal permit requirements.** Where a federal permit is required, the permit holder is cautioned to carry a copy of the federal as well as the state permit during collecting activity. For information on the federal permit contact: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, PO Box 709, Albuquerque, NM, 87103-0709; (505)248-7882.

**16. PERMIT HOLDER'S ADDRESS FOR RECORDKEEPING PURPOSES:**

John C. Morrill  
Orion Research & Management Services, Inc.  
205 FM 107  
Gatesville, TX 76528

-----

## Wildfire Prevention Plan

### Location of Work:

BCP: \_\_\_\_\_

WQPL: \_\_\_\_\_

Tract name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Nearest gate address: \_\_\_\_\_

GPS coordinates: \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Type of work: \_\_\_\_\_

Specifics of Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of personnel: \_\_\_\_\_

Fire prevention/suppression  
equipment on site: \_\_\_\_\_

Fire prevention preparation: \_\_\_\_\_

Fire department jurisdiction: \_\_\_\_\_

**Spotter:**

*During active high fire danger periods a member of the work group will be designated as a spotter to observe and report potential wildfire ignitions.*

*During hot work such as welding, or high risk activities such as operation of vehicles or power equipment in heavy fuels the spotter will be dedicated only to that responsibility.*

**Name of designated spotter:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency  
Contact:**

*An emergency contact will be the designated point of contact who will be available in the event Wildland Conservation Division Management needs to contact a project team in the field.*

**Name of emergency contact:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Best method of contact:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Personnel:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Supervisor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Manager:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Fire Manager:** Lucien M. Ball (Mobile 512-940-3452) (Office 512-972-1683)

**WQPL Manager:** Kevin A. Thuesen (cell 512-632-8064) (Office 512-972-1666)

**BCP Manager:** Nico Hauwert (Mobile 512-695-4597) (Office 512-972-1661)

**WCD Division Manager:** Sherri L. Kuhl (Mobile 512-299-6775) (Office 512-972-1664)



**EXHIBIT B**  
**City of Austin, Texas**  
**NON-DISCRIMINATION AND NON-RETALIATION CERTIFICATION**

**City of Austin, Texas**  
**Equal Employment/Fair Housing Office**

To: City of Austin, Texas,

I hereby certify that our firm complies with the Code of the City of Austin, Section 5-4-2 as reiterated below, and agrees:

- (1) Not to engage in any discriminatory employment practice defined in this chapter.
- (2) To take affirmative action to ensure that applicants are employed, and that employees are treated during employment, without discrimination being practiced against them as defined in this chapter, including affirmative action relative to employment, promotion, demotion or transfer, recruitment or recruitment advertising, layoff or termination, rate of pay or other forms of compensation, and selection for training or any other terms, conditions or privileges of employment.
- (3) To post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices to be provided by the Equal Employment/Fair Housing Office setting forth the provisions of this chapter.
- (4) To state in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the Contractor, that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, creed, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, sex or age.
- (5) To obtain a written statement from any labor union or labor organization furnishing labor or service to Contractors in which said union or organization has agreed not to engage in any discriminatory employment practices as defined in this chapter and to take affirmative action to implement policies and provisions of this chapter.
- (6) To cooperate fully with City and the Equal Employment/Fair Housing Office in connection with any investigation or conciliation effort of the Equal Employment/Fair Housing Office to ensure that the purpose of the provisions against discriminatory employment practices are being carried out.
- (7) To require of all subcontractors having 15 or more employees who hold any subcontract providing for the expenditure of \$2,000 or more in connection with any contract with the City subject to the terms of this chapter that they do not engage in any discriminatory employment practice as defined in this chapter

For the purposes of this Offer and any resulting Contract, Contractor adopts the provisions of the City's Minimum Standard Non-Discrimination and Non-Retaliation Policy set forth below.

**City of Austin**  
**Minimum Standard Non-Discrimination and Non-Retaliation in Employment Policy**

As an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) employer, the Contractor will conduct its personnel activities in accordance with established federal, state and local EEO laws and regulations.

The Contractor will not discriminate against any applicant or employee based on race, creed, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, veteran status, gender identity, disability, or sexual orientation. This policy covers all aspects of employment, including hiring, placement, upgrading, transfer, demotion, recruitment, recruitment advertising, selection for training and apprenticeship, rates of pay or other forms of compensation, and layoff or termination.

The Contractor agrees to prohibit retaliation, discharge or otherwise discrimination against any employee or applicant for employment who has inquired about, discussed or disclosed their compensation.

Further, employees who experience discrimination, sexual harassment, or another form of harassment should immediately report it to their supervisor. If this is not a suitable avenue for addressing their complaint, employees are advised to contact another member of management or their human resources representative. No employee shall be discriminated against, harassed, intimidated, nor suffer any reprisal as a result of reporting a violation of this policy. Furthermore, any employee, supervisor, or manager who becomes aware of any such discrimination or harassment should immediately report it to executive management or the human resources office to ensure that such conduct does not continue.

Contractor agrees that to the extent of any inconsistency, omission, or conflict with its current non-discrimination and non-retaliation employment policy, the Contractor has expressly adopted the provisions of the City's Minimum Non-Discrimination Policy contained in Section 5-4-2 of the City Code and set forth above, as the Contractor's Non-Discrimination Policy or as an amendment to such Policy and such provisions are intended to not only supplement the Contractor's policy, but will also supersede the Contractor's policy to the extent of any conflict.

UPON CONTRACT AWARD, THE CONTRACTOR SHALL PROVIDE THE CITY A COPY OF THE CONTRACTOR'S NON-DISCRIMINATION AND NON-RETALIATION POLICIES ON COMPANY LETTERHEAD, WHICH CONFORMS IN FORM, SCOPE, AND CONTENT TO THE CITY'S MINIMUM NON-DISCRIMINATION AND NON-RETALIATION POLICIES, AS SET FORTH HEREIN, **OR** THIS NON-DISCRIMINATION AND NON-RETALIATION POLICY, WHICH HAS BEEN ADOPTED BY THE CONTRACTOR FOR ALL PURPOSES WILL BE CONSIDERED THE CONTRACTOR'S NON-DISCRIMINATION AND NON-RETALIATION POLICY WITHOUT THE REQUIREMENT OF A SEPARATE SUBMITTAL.

**Sanctions:**

Our firm understands that non-compliance with Chapter 5-4 and the City's Non-Retaliation Policy may result in sanctions, including termination of the contract and suspension or debarment from participation in future City contracts until deemed compliant with the requirements of Chapter 5-4 and the Non-Retaliation Policy.

**Term:**

The Contractor agrees that this Section 0800 Non-Discrimination and Non-Retaliation Certificate of the Contractor's separate conforming policy, which the Contractor has executed and filed with the City, will remain in force and effect for one year from the date of filing. The Contractor further agrees that, in consideration of the receipt of continued Contract payment, the Contractor's Non-Discrimination and Non-Retaliation Policy will automatically renew from year-to-year for the term of the underlying Contract.

Dated this 4th day of August, 2017

CONTRACTOR  
Authorized  
Signature

*John D. Cornelius*  
John D. Cornelius

Title

Vice President



## City of Austin FSD Purchasing Office

### Certificate of Exemption

DATE: 06/09/2017

DEPT: AWU

TO: Purchasing Officer or Designee

FROM: Nico Hauwert, BCP Program Manager

BUYER:

PHONE: (512) 972-1661

Chapter 252 of the Local Government Code requires that municipalities comply with the procedures established for competitive sealed bids or proposals before entering into a contract requiring an expenditure of \$50,000 or more, unless the expenditure falls within an exemption listed in Section 252.022.

Senate Bill 7 amended Chapter 252 of the Local Government Code to exempt from the requirements of such Chapter expenditures made by a municipally owned electric utility for any purchases made by the municipally owned electric utility in accordance with procurement procedures adopted by a resolution of its governing body that sets out the public purpose to be achieved by those procedures. The Austin City Council has adopted Resolution No. 040610-02 to establish circumstances which could give rise to a finding of critical business need for Austin Energy.

This Certification of Exemption is executed and filed with the Purchasing Office as follows:

1. The undersigned is authorized to submit this certification.
2. The undersigned certifies that the following exemption is applicable to this purchase. (Please check which exemption you are certifying)
  - ☐ a procurement made because of a public calamity that requires the immediate appropriation of money to relieve the necessity of the municipality's residents or to preserve the property of the municipality
  - ☐ a procurement necessary to preserve or protect the public health or safety of municipality's residents
  - ☐ a procurement necessary because of unforeseen damage to public machinery, equipment, or other property
  - ☒ a procurement for personal, professional, or planning services
  - ☐ a procurement for work that is performed and paid for by the day as the work progresses
  - ☐ a purchase of land or right-of-way
  - ☐ a procurement of items available from only one source, including: items that are available from only one source because of patents, copyrights, secret processes, or natural monopolies; films, manuscripts, or books; gas, water, and other utility services; captive replacement parts or components for equipment; books, papers, and other library materials for a public library that are available only from the persons holding exclusive distribution rights to the materials; and management services provided by a nonprofit organization to a municipal museum, park, zoo, or other facility to which the organization has provided significant financial or other benefits
  - ☐ a purchase of rare books, papers, and other library materials for a public library
  - ☐ paving, drainage, street widening and other public improvements, or related matters, if at least one-third of the cost is to be paid by or through special assessments levied on property that will benefit from the improvements
  - ☐ a public improvement project, already in progress, authorized by voters of the municipality, for which there is a deficiency of funds for completing the project in accordance with the plans and purposes as authorized by the voters

- ☐ a payment under a contract by which a developer participates in the construction of a public improvement as provided by Subchapter C, Chapter 212
- ☐ personal property sold: at an auction by a state licensed auctioneer; at a going out of business sale held in compliance with Subchapter F, Chapter 17, Business & Commerce Code; by a political subdivision of this state, a state agency of this state, or an entity of the federal government; or under an interlocal contract for cooperative purchasing administered by a regional planning commission established under Chapter 391
- ☐ services performed by blind or severely disabled persons
- ☐ goods purchased by a municipality for subsequent retail sale by the municipality
- ☐ electricity
- ☐ advertising, other than legal notices
- ☐ Critical Business Need (Austin Energy Only)

3. The following facts as detailed below support an exemption according to Section 252.022 of the Local Government Code for this purchase. Please verify the steps taken to confirm these facts. If you are citing the following exemptions, please provide the additional information requested below. A more detailed explanation of these exemptions is attached.

- **Preserve and Protect the Public Health and Safety** – Describe how this purchase will preserve and protect the public safety of residents.
- **Sole Source** – Describe what patents, copyrights, secret processes, or natural monopolies exist. Attach a letter from vendor supporting the sole source. The letter must be on company letterhead and be signed by an authorized person in company management.
- **Personal Services** – Describe those services to be performed personally by the individual contracted to perform them.
- **Professional Services** – Describe what mainly mental or intellectual rather than physical or manual and/or disciplines requiring special knowledge or attainment and a high order of learning, skill, and intelligence are required to perform this service.
- **Planning Services** – Describe the services primarily intended to guide governmental policy to ensure the orderly and coordinated development of the state or of municipal, county, metropolitan, or regional land areas.
- **Critical Business Need** – Describe the procurement necessary to protect the competitive interests or position of Austin Energy.

We are requesting approval to proceed with a Professional Services Agreement with Orion Research & Management Services, Inc., to conduct long-term serosurveillance of white-tailed deer (WTD) and feral hogs within the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP). The purpose of this research is to better understand the role that white-tailed deer and feral hogs may play as possible reservoirs of certain pathogens, to assess disease prevalence within the BCP, and to avoid potential human health risks along with wildland-urban interface.



4. Please attach any documentation that supports this exemption.
5. Please provide any evaluation conducted to support the recommendation. Include the efforts taken to ensure the selected vendor is responsible and will provide the best value to the City (Ex: evaluation of other firms, knowledge of market, etc).

Orion Research & Management Services, Inc. is a charitable non-profit company. They have a Veterinary Virologist on staff and a Scientific Research Permit under the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to obtain morphometric data, serum, and tissue samples from white-tailed deer (copy of permit attached). We understand that Orion is the only entity in Texas who has this level of authorization. This research effort is part of a broader partnership between Orion Research and Management Services, Inc., Dr. John Morrill DVM PhD, principal investigators at renowned research universities in Texas, and a select group of public and private land managers in Central Texas.

6. Because the above facts and documentation support the requested exemption, the City of Austin intends to contract with Orion Research and Management Services, Inc. which will cost approximately \$ 20,000.00 (Provide estimate and/or breakdown of cost).

Recommended  
Certification

Chris M. Hammer 6/9/2017  
Originator Date

Approved  
Certification

DA M 6/20/2017  
Department Director or designee Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Assistant City Manager / General Manager Date  
or designee (if applicable)

Purchasing Review  
(if applicable)

AB 8/31/17  
Buyer Date Manager Initials

Exemption Authorized  
(if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Purchasing Officer or designee Date

02/26/2013

**Sampling for Disease Agents in White-tailed Deer and Feral Hog Populations  
On the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve**

**Research proposal submitted to the City of Austin**

**June 9, 2017**

**John Cornelius, Vice President**

**Orion Research and Management Services, Inc.**

**21 Cedar Trails Drive**

**Belton, Texas 76513**

**Phone: 254-231-6068**

**Email: [orion\\_research@sbcglobal.net](mailto:orion_research@sbcglobal.net)**

**Research Objectives:** The primary objective of this research is to conduct serologic surveillance and establish the prevalence, and variation over time, of antibodies to West Nile (WNV), St. Louis encephalitis (SLE), Lyme Disease (LD), and Zika viruses in white-tailed deer (WTD) and feral pigs. These disease agents are zoonotic in nature, meaning they can be transmitted from animals to humans. Serologic surveillance studies examine markers in blood samples taken from targeted wildlife species to determine whether the local population is experiencing exposure to the diseases in question. Presence of antibodies in a significant number of sampled individuals may suggest that wildlife populations are serving as reservoirs for the disease, increasing potential for human infection. All of the diseases included in this study have serious and sometimes permanent adverse medical impacts to infected humans. Secondary research objectives are to establish an archived serum bank of specimens from deer and pigs for future retrospective research projects by institutions and other interested parties with valid research objectives. Aliquots of serum and tissues will be available for worthy external research projects at no cost.

**Justification:** This research effort is part of a broader partnership between Orion Research and Management Services, Inc. (a charitable non-profit company), Dr. John Morrill DVM PhD, principal investigators at renowned research universities in Texas, and a select group of public and private land managers in Central Texas. Surveillance studies will be used to assess disease prevalence and the overall health status of animals within the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve. In areas where WTD are in close proximity to residential/commercial development, opportunities for transmission of zoonotic diseases are amplified. Serum provides a valuable source of data for the prevalence of zoonotic diseases and the potential for their transmission along the wildland/urban interface. Sera will be tested by a collaborating laboratory for HI or ELISA antibodies to WNV, and SLE. We are presently collaborating with an external laboratory to develop an experimental ELISA assay to detect antibodies to Zika virus in WTD, and a colleague at Texas A&M University has developed a species-independent ELISA assay for antibodies to *Borrelia burgdorferi* (LD) in WTD. Small aliquots of frozen sera will be sent to those laboratories for testing.

**Discussion:** Few studies have been done in WTD in Texas regarding zoonotic viral pathogens. Antibody prevalence to specific zoonotic viral pathogens has been studied to a limited extent in regions outside of Texas but we are unaware of current surveillance of zoonotic viral agents in Texas, especially introduced exotic viruses such as WNV and Zika<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>. The introduction of exotic zoonotic viruses such as West Nile and Zika poses a public health threat, and abundant WTD populations in Central Texas and their close proximity to residential and commercial development provide an opportunity for transmission of zoonotic diseases to the human population. The presence of antibodies to these agents in WTD indicates that they are susceptible to infection by those agents, but little is known about the role WTD play in maintaining and amplifying those agents. A determination that WTD can be infected will hopefully lead to more in-depth studies regarding amplification

and transmission of those agents. Lyme disease is the most prevalent arthropod-borne infection in the United States, and due to a significant increase in the number of reported cases in the past several years, has been classified by the CDC as a re-emerging infection. The number of confirmed human LD cases in Texas has been increasing considerably over the last 10 years (data provided by the Texas Department of State Health Services), but epidemiological information on the drivers behind that trend is missing. By conducting long-term serosurveillance in WTD we can determine the presence of circulating viruses and, through further more in-depth studies, determine if WTD are potential reservoirs for certain pathogens. As a routine measure, results of seroprevalence studies will be periodically shared with scientists of the Texas Animal Health Commission and Centers for Disease Control to help inform regional public health policy.

#### References:

1. Medrano C, Boadella M, Barrios H, Cantú A, García Z, de la Fuente J, et al. Zoonotic pathogens among white-tailed deer, northern Mexico, 2004–2009 [letter]. *Emerg Infect Dis* [serial on the Internet]. 2012 Aug [date cited]. <http://dx.doi.org/10.3201/eid1808.111902>  
DOI: 10.3201/eid1808.111902.
2. Sherrill BL, Snider AG, Kennedy-Stoskopf S, DePerno CS. 2012. Survey of Zoonotic Pathogens in White-tailed Deer on Bald Head Island, North Carolina. *Southeastern Naturalist*. 11(3):529–533.
3. Farajollahi A, Gates R, Crans W, Komar N. 2004. Serologic Evidence of West Nile Virus and St. Louis Encephalitis Virus Infections in White-Tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) from New Jersey, 2001 (Short Report). *Vector-Borne and Zoonotic Diseases*. 4(4):379–383.
4. Santaella J, McLean R, Hall JS, Gill JS, Bowen RA, Hadow HH, Clark L. 2005. West Nile Virus Serosurveillance in Iowa White-Tailed Deer (1999–2003). *Am. J. Trop. Med. Hyg.* 73(6):1038–1042.
5. Campbell GL, Eldridge BF, Hardy JL, Reeves WC, Jessup DA, Presser SB. 1989. Prevalence of Neutralizing Antibodies Against California and Bunyamwera Serogroup Viruses in Deer From Mountainous Areas of California. *Am. J. Trop. Med. Hyg.* 40(4):428–437.



## Scope of Work

**Operations:** Field activities associated with the research project will be coordinated with COA personnel to ensure a safe and effective operation. Activities will comply with the provisions of Orion's State-issued Scientific Permit, and with established COA natural resource program health and safety protocols. All Orion personnel undergo periodic background screening and relevant safety education training. A list of research personnel and appropriate certifications will be provided prior to field operations. Orion holds Workers Compensation insurance as well as Commercial General Liability coverage, and elevated coverage limits on company vehicles. COA will be provided with copies of all insurance certificates and a waiver of subrogation within 30 days of contract award.

**Deliverables:** Orion will provide personnel, materials, and equipment necessary to ensure a turn-key operation, from initial evaluation and setup of study sites, to data collection, delivery of samples to outside research laboratories, laboratory analysis, and reporting of results. The data collection period will be October 1, 2017 through February 28, 2018; however, preplanning, coordination, and setup will begin around August 1, 2017, or as soon as the contract is executed. By March 31, 2018, Orion will provide a database of morphometric data cataloging each specimen included in the study, including the types of data collected from each specimen, along with a narrative summary of observations, and a final invoice. Laboratory samples will be delivered to respective principal investigators in a timely fashion after data collection ends. Laboratory schedules are crowded and analyses can be laborious, so the receipt of final results from various laboratories is beyond our control once the samples are submitted. In the past, we have received results within 6-12 months of delivery. When results are available, they will be turned over promptly to the Contract POC. Any resulting publications in the peer-reviewed literature will also be provided as they are available.

**Compensation:** Orion Research will be compensated at the rate of \$295 per sample set for each WTD involved in the study, up to a maximum of 65 sets of data. Feral hogs will be compensated at a rate of \$100 per sample set, up to a maximum of 100 sets. Total contract cost is not to exceed \$20,000. Billing will occur in late December 2017 for the August – December period and in March 2018 for the January – February period.



November 3, 2016

John C. Morrill  
Orion Research & Management Services, Inc.  
205 FM 107  
Gatesville, TX 76528

Dear Dr. Morrill:

Enclosed is your renewed Scientific Research Permit No. **SPR-0801-168**. Please review your permit for accuracy and make note of any restrictions. If additional authority is needed, you should request a permit amendment.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Regarding your interest in using rimfire ammunition, the Texas Administrative Code (31 TAC §65.11) makes it unlawful to use rimfire ammunition to hunt white-tailed deer. Therefore, use of rimfire ammunition to collect white-tailed deer will not be authorized on your permit. However, you may use centerfire ammunition to collect white-tailed deer.

Although the permit does not have to be renewed each year, annual reports are required for the permit to remain valid. Please note that all mortalities, retained and discarded, must be documented and reported on annual reports. **Your next annual report will be due on November 1, 2017.** The report form is now available online in a fill-able format: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/business/permits/land/wildlife/research/>.

Furthermore, it is necessary for you to carry this permit when conducting authorized activities. Sub-permittees may carry a copy in lieu of the original permit. It is also advisable to carry some additional corroborative identification such as a driver's license.

**Please be sure to notify the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Law Enforcement Office(s) in the region(s) of your field activities by telephone not less than 24 hours nor more than 72 hours prior to collection if collection techniques or devices being used are ordinarily classified as illegal (i.e. using gill nets or electro-shocking devices to collect fish, hunting/collecting along public roads and rights-of-way). A confirmed response from the local game warden is required prior to collection if the sampling activities being conducted involve methods of capture ordinarily classified as illegal.** To determine appropriate regional office location and/or telephone number, please see <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/warden/connect/offices>. If the regional office(s) or telephone number(s) is unknown, the number(s) may be obtained at any time by calling a Parks and Wildlife Communication Center: Austin - (512) 389-4848; Houston - (281) 842-8100.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Maldonado".

Christopher Maldonado  
Wildlife Permits Specialist

**SCIENTIFIC PERMIT NUMBER SPR-0801-168**

IS HEREBY ISSUED TO:

**John C. Morrill**

Orion Research & Management Services, Inc.

**UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF CHAPTER 43, SUBCHAPTER C OF THE  
TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE CODE**

The activities permitted by this document are to be carried out in accordance with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, the Rules and Regulations of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission, and all of the following provisions:

1. This permit may not be transferred, assigned or conveyed by the holder.
2. The issuance of this permit is not a guarantee that a subsequent permit or renewal of this permit will be granted.
3. Required information and data shall be maintained at the address of the permit holder and shall be available for inspection at the request of personnel of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department during the active life of the permit.
4. Acceptance of this permit constitutes an acknowledgment and agreement that the holder will comply with all Rules, Regulations, Orders and Proclamations of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission issued in accordance with the law and the conditions precedent to the granting of this permit. Failure to comply with any and all provisions of this permit may result in enforcement action, including any criminal penalties authorized by the Parks and Wildlife Code.
5. This permit does not relieve the holder of the responsibility to obey all other local, county, state and federal laws while carrying out the authorized activities.

- ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS FOLLOW ON ATTACHED PAGES. -

Issued by:

**November 3, 2016**

Amended date



Chris Maldonado  
Wildlife Permits Specialist



6. This permit will expire at midnight, **August 12, 2019**
7. The following individuals may conduct the activities authorized by this permit under the guidance of the permittee:

**SUBPERMITTEES:** Beau Bush, Susan Bush, Kevin Cagle, John D. Cornelius, Jim Mobley, Bryan Rugh, James D. Ashley, James D. Grove.

**UNPERMITTED ASSISTANTS:** A permittee engaging unpermitted assistants shall maintain on file at their office and possess on their person in the field a signed and dated list of all unpermitted persons assisting in permitted activities (**Individuals under the direct on-site supervision of permit holder**).



8. The following wildlife species in the specified quantities are authorized by this permit to be:

**a. SEROEPIDEMIOLOGIC SURVEILLANCE FOR ZONOTIC AGENTS IN WHITE-TAILED DEER** – This permit gives authorization to take species native to Texas, obtain morphometric data, blood, and tissue samples for scientific research purposes. Activity will be conducted between October 1<sup>st</sup> and February 28<sup>th</sup> each permit year. Each carcass will be examined for human consumption and donated to charitable organizations, public hospitals, orphanages or indigent persons.

Common name	Scientific Name	Quantity
White-tailed deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>	NTE 250 / year

9. The following means for taking or capture are authorized by this permit:

- a. Federally permitted sound-suppressed firearms, night-vision, and thermal imaging devices, spotlighting at night.
- b. Live-capture with prompt dispatch using traps, snares and other legal means and methods.

10. The following locations for taking or capture are authorized by this permit:

- a. Properties in Travis, Burnet, and Hays Counties - Permit holder is prohibited from collecting on private or public premises without prior written consent of the owner or manager of the premises.

11. If authorized above, all specimens taken or salvaged shall be deposited with an appropriate collection, or otherwise disposed of in accordance with paragraph 13d of this permit.

12. All collection gear left unattended shall be clearly marked with permittee's name and permit number.

13. **PERMIT HOLDER IS REQUIRED TO:**

**a. File a completed report form annually** (provided on issuance of this permit), and any reports or publications based on data collected under authority of this permit, with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Wildlife Permits Section, 4200 Smith School Rd., Austin, TX, 78744, **no later than fourteen days following the anniversary date of the permit** (or the expiration date if the permit is due for renewal).

**YOUR PERMIT WILL NOT BE VALID UNLESS YOUR REPORT HAS BEEN RECEIVED.**

**b. Carry a copy of this permit at all times** when exercising the provisions of this permit, which shall be subject to inspection by any authorized enforcement officer of the Department upon request.

**c. Notify the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Law Enforcement Office(s) in the region(s) of your field activities by telephone not less than 24 hours nor more than 72 hours prior to collection** if collection techniques or devices being used are ordinarily classified as illegal (i.e. using gill nets or electro-shocking devices to collect fish, hunting/collecting along public roads and rights-of-way). **A confirmed response from the local game warden is required prior to collection if the sampling activities being conducted involve methods of capture ordinarily classified as illegal.** To determine appropriate regional office location and/or telephone number, please see <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/warden/connect/offices>. If the regional office(s) or telephone number(s) is unknown, the number(s) may be obtained at any time by calling a Parks and Wildlife Communication Center: Austin - (512) 389-4848; Houston - (281) 842-8100.

**d. Dispose of protected wildlife taken under the authority of this permit in only one of the following ways:**

(1). Kill and utilize by examination, experimentation, necropsy or dispose of as waste in accordance with state law and city or county regulations (burning is suggested if not in conflict with city, county or state regulations).

(2). Hold permanently for scientific or educational purposes, or donate to another educational display, scientific, or zoological permit holder authorized to receive such specimens, **with required specimen donation form provided by the Department. A copy of the completed form must be submitted with the annual report.**

(3). Donate edible portions of game species to charitable organizations, public hospitals, orphanages or indigent persons. Arrangements for donations are the responsibility of the permit holder.

**14. PERMIT HOLDER IS PROHIBITED FROM:**

a. Selling or bartering specimens collected under the authority of this permit. Specimens may be donated to other permit holders by completing the receipt form enclosed with the permit.

b. Collecting on private premises without prior written consent of the owner or operator of the premises.

c. Collecting in a state park without a separate permit from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Natural Resource Program: email: [david.riskind@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:david.riskind@tpwd.texas.gov).

d. Collecting in a wildlife management area without prior written permission from the area manager.

e. Taking species listed by the department as threatened or endangered without express authority in paragraph 8 of this permit.

**15. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS:**

a. No hunting or fishing license is required for permit holders or individuals listed in paragraph 7 while conducting the activities expressly authorized by this permit. Each listed individual should carry a copy of this permit during collection activities, and a letter of permission from the permittee if working independently.

b. **This permit is subject to any applicable federal permit requirements.** Where a federal permit is required, the permit holder is cautioned to carry a copy of the federal as well as the state permit during collecting activity. For information on the federal permit contact: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, PO Box 709, Albuquerque, NM, 87103-0709; (505)248-7882.

**16. PERMIT HOLDER'S ADDRESS FOR RECORDKEEPING PURPOSES:**

John C. Morrill  
Orion Research & Management Services, Inc.  
205 FM 107  
Gatesville, TX 76528

-----

## Wildfire Prevention Plan

### Location of Work:

BCP: \_\_\_\_\_

WQPL: \_\_\_\_\_

Tract name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Nearest gate address: \_\_\_\_\_

GPS coordinates: \_\_\_\_\_

Date(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Type of work: \_\_\_\_\_

Specifics of Work: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of personnel: \_\_\_\_\_

Fire prevention/suppression  
equipment on site: \_\_\_\_\_

Fire prevention preparation: \_\_\_\_\_

Fire department jurisdiction: \_\_\_\_\_

**Spotter:**

*During active high fire danger periods a member of the work group will be designated as a spotter to observe and report potential wildfire ignitions.*

*During hot work such as welding, or high risk activities such as operation of vehicles or power equipment in heavy fuels the spotter will be dedicated only to that responsibility.*

**Name of designated spotter:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency  
Contact:**

*An emergency contact will be the designated point of contact who will be available in the event Wildland Conservation Division Management needs to contact a project team in the field.*

**Name of emergency contact:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Best method of contact:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Personnel:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Supervisor:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Manager:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Fire Manager:** Lucien M. Ball (Mobile 512-940-3452) (Office 512-972-1683)

**WQPL Manager:** Kevin A. Thuesen (cell 512-632-8064) (Office 512-972-1666)

**BCP Manager:** Nico Hauwert (Mobile 512-695-4597) (Office 512-972-1661)

**WCD Division Manager:** Sherri L. Kuhl (Mobile 512-299-6775) (Office 512-972-1664)

## Texas Sales and Use Tax Exemption Certification

This certificate does not require a number to be valid.

Name of purchaser, firm or agency <b>City of Austin</b>	
Address (Street & number, P.O. Box or Route number) <b>P.O. BOX 1088</b>	Phone (Area code and number) <b>(512)974-2500</b>
City, State, ZIP code <b>Austin, TX 78767</b>	

I, the purchaser named above, claim an exemption from payment of sales and use taxes (for the purchase of taxable items described below or on the attached order or invoice) from:

Seller: Orion Research and Management Services, Inc.

Street address: 21 Cedar Trails Drive City, State, ZIP code: Belton, TX 76513

Description of items to be purchased or on the attached order or invoice:

Purchase Order/Contract Number, if applicable: MA 2200 NA170000208

Contractor Name, if applicable: John Cornelius

Description and Amount of Purchase: Research of Deer & Hog 20,000

Purchaser claims this exemption for the following reason:

Governmental Agency - City; See Title 2 - State Taxation; Chapter 151 - Limited Sales, Excise, and  
Use Tax; Section 309 - Governmental Entities of the State Tax Code

I understand that I will be liable for payment of all state and local sales or use taxes which may become due for failure to comply with the provisions of the Tax Code and/or all applicable law.

*I understand that it is a criminal offense to give an exemption certificate to the seller for taxable items that I know, at the time of purchase, will be used in a manner other than that expressed in this certificate, and depending on the amount of tax evaded, the offense may range from a Class C misdemeanor to a felony of the second degree.*

Employee Completing Form: <u>Georgia Billela</u>	Title: <u>Interim Chief Financial Officer</u>	Date: <u>8/18/17</u>
sign here <u>[Signature]</u>		<u>6-2-17</u>

NOTE: This certificate cannot be issued for the purchase, lease, or rental of a motor vehicle.

**THIS CERTIFICATE DOES NOT REQUIRE A NUMBER TO BE VALID.**

Sales and Use Tax "Exemption Numbers" or "Tax Exempt" Numbers do not exist.

**This certificate should be furnished to the supplier.**  
**Do not send the completed certificate to the Comptroller of Public Accounts.**