



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS
GREG ABBOTT

January 17, 2013

Mr. W. Montgomery Meitler
Assistant Counsel
Texas Education Agency
1701 North Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78701

OR2013-01040

Dear Mr. Meitler:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Public Information Act (the "Act"), chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 476472 (TEA PIR# 18594).

The Texas Education Agency (the "agency") received a request for the evaluation matrix score chart and evaluator feedback for RFP No. 701-13-004, and a copy of the awarded proposal submitted by Gibson Consulting Group, Inc. ("Gibson"). You state the agency will release the requested scoring and evaluation documents to the requestor. Although you take no position on the public availability of the remaining requested information, you state it may contain proprietary information subject to exception under the Act. Accordingly, you state the agency notified Gibson of the request for information and of its right to submit arguments to this office as to why the requested information should not be released. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d); *see also* Open Records Decision No. 542 (1990) (statutory predecessor to section 552.305 permits governmental body to rely on interested third party to raise and explain applicability of exception in the Act in certain circumstances). We have reviewed the submitted information.

An interested third party is allowed ten business days after the date of its receipt of the governmental body's notice under section 552.305(d) to submit its reasons, if any, as to why requested information relating to it should be withheld from disclosure. *See* Gov't Code § 552.305(d)(2)(B). As of the date of this letter, this office has not received comments from Gibson explaining why its information should not be released to the requestor. Thus, Gibson has not demonstrated that it has a protected proprietary interest in any of the submitted information. *See id.* § 552.110; Open Records Decision Nos. 661 at 5-6 (1999) (to prevent disclosure of commercial or financial information, party must show by specific factual evidence, not conclusory or generalized allegations, that release of requested information

would cause that party substantial competitive harm), 552 at 5 (1990) (party must establish *prima facie* case that information is trade secret), 542 at 3. Furthermore, upon review of the submitted information, we note that Gibson indicated its proposal did not contain proprietary information. Accordingly, the agency may not withhold any of the submitted information on the basis of any proprietary interests Gibson may have in the information. As no exceptions to disclosure have been raised, the agency must release the submitted information.

This letter ruling is limited to the particular information at issue in this request and limited to the facts as presented to us; therefore, this ruling must not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other information or any other circumstances.

This ruling triggers important deadlines regarding the rights and responsibilities of the governmental body and of the requestor. For more information concerning those rights and responsibilities, please visit our website at http://www.oag.state.tx.us/open/index_orl.php, or call the Office of the Attorney General's Open Government Hotline, toll free, at (877) 673-6839. Questions concerning the allowable charges for providing public information under the Act must be directed to the Cost Rules Administrator of the Office of the Attorney General, toll free at (888) 672-6787.

Sincerely,



Britni Fabian
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

BF/dls

Ref: ID# 476472

Enc. Submitted documents

c: Requestor
(w/o enclosures)

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