

APPENDIX B

Description of Texas A&M University System Service Agencies

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Texas Agricultural Experiment Station (TAES) - The Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, established in 1887, conducts research programs that support the state's agricultural and natural resource industries and ultimately Texas consumers. Research resources are invested in scientific investigations that maintain and enhance our state's natural resources, ensure the safety and affordability of our food supply, and contribute to the state's economic vitality.

Texas Agricultural Extension Service (TAEX) - The Texas Agricultural Extension Service communicates research-based information to the people of Texas through educational programs, information services and development activities. County-based educators, as well as district and campus-based specialists, offer programs in agriculture and natural resources, family and consumer sciences, 4-H and youth development, community economic development, leadership development and county government. The Agricultural Extension Service is part of the nationwide Cooperative Extension System established in 1914.

Texas Engineering Experiment Station (TEES) - The Texas Engineering Experiment Station is dedicated to one simple goal: solving problems for Texas with engineering technology and research. Established in 1914, the agency provides support for research to strengthen the economic base of Texas through engineering and technology by: promoting alliances between industry and academia; fostering research and technology development; and transferring technology from the laboratory to industry for commercialization. TEES has created a statewide network of 13 regional divisions in universities across Texas to share resources and leverage capabilities. The result is a unique capacity to create expert action teams that successfully address the needs of the state.

Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) - The Texas Transportation Institute, established in 1950, is one of the largest transportation research organizations in the country. Established during the early years of the ambitious state highway program, TTI played a major role in the successful development of the federal and state road systems. Today, TTI's research agenda has broadened to include all transportation -- air, water, rail, pipeline and surface -- as well as both rural and urban transit. Research at TTI is funded through the Texas Department of Transportation Cooperative Research Program, the Federal Highway Administration, the U.S. Departments of Transportation, Energy and Defense, departments of transportation from other states, and private industry.

Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) - Since 1919, the Texas Engineering Extension Service has worked to fulfill its mission of developing highly skilled and educated workers and enhancing public safety, health and the economic growth of the state through training, continuing education, and technical assistance. TEEX designs its training -- whether it's firefighting or wastewater management -- to increase the skills and knowledge of Texas workers. TEEX also plays a role in assisting Texas communities in expanding their tax base through the recruitment of high-tech industries.

Texas Forest Service (TFS) - The Texas Forest Service, established in 1915, provides statewide leadership and professional assistance to ensure that the state's forest, tree, and related natural resources are wisely used, nurtured, protected and perpetuated for the benefit of all Texans. The Texas Forest Service provides outstanding leadership programs in forest and rural land protection and forest resource development, resulting in a forest industry with an annual economic impact of \$14.6 billion while providing over 60,000 jobs. TFS serves all of the state in various fields, including rural fire protection and training, urban forestry, tree improvement, professional forest management assistance to landowners, wood use technology, reforestation, and forest insect and disease control.

Texas Animal Damage Control Service (since renamed Texas Wildlife Damage Management Service) - The Texas Wildlife Damage Control Service, which was established in 1929, protects the agricultural and natural resources, property, and well-being of urban and rural Texans from damages caused by or related to wildlife activities. The agency uses an integrated wildlife damage management approach to reduce the state's estimated annual losses of \$75 million from wildlife damage. Headquartered in San Antonio, the agency's activities are conducted in cooperation with federal, state and private entities.

Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) - The Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory consists of full-service labs in College Station and Amarillo and poultry diagnostic labs in Center and Gonzales. The agency, established in 1969, serves the animal industry by providing rapid disease identification and testing to reduce the incidence of animal diseases and helping prevent potential epidemics. Laboratory technicians also facilitate livestock commerce by administering tests for interstate transfer and international export.