



March 2, 2021

Mayor and Members of the City Council City of Breckenridge 105 North Rose Ave. Breckenridge, TX 76424

Re: Request for Financial Assistance from the Texas Water Development Board for the purpose of financing utility system improvements

# Ladies and Gentlemen:

This letter is submitted to state our fees and describe the legal services of the undersigned law firm to be performed for the City of Breckenridge, Texas (the "City") with reference to the City's request for financial assistance from the Texas Water Development Board ("TWDB"), which financial assistance may include the sale of debt obligations (the "Obligations") to the TWDB and/or the receipt of grant or principal forgiveness funding ("Principal Forgiveness") by the City from TWDB. We understand that the City is requesting such financial assistance from the TWDB for the purpose of planning, acquiring, designing and constructing improvements to the City's waterworks and sewer system (the "Project").

## SCOPE OF ENGAGEMENT

- (1) In this engagement, if the Project financing involves the issuance of Obligations, we expect to perform the following duties as bond counsel with respect to the Obligations:
- (a) Prepare all resolutions, ordinances, orders and other instruments pursuant to which the Obligations will be authorized, issued, delivered and secured, in cooperation and upon consultation with the City Council, its financial advisors and other consultants of the City.
- (b) Attend meetings of the City Council with reference to the authorization and issuance of the Obligations to the extent required or requested.
- (c) Cooperate with the City Council and all other interested parties in the sale of the Obligations to the TWDB.
- (d) Supervise the execution of the Obligations, their approval by the Attorney General of Texas and registration by the Comptroller of Public Accounts of Texas, and the delivery thereof to the purchaser, the TWDB.
- (e) When so delivered, give our objective approving opinion (our "Legal Opinion") covering the validity of the Obligations and, if applicable, the exemption of interest thereon from federal income taxes, it being understood that the approving opinion will be fully acceptable nationally in regular commercial investment banking bond marketing channels.



Our Legal Opinion will be delivered by us on the date the Obligations are exchanged for their purchase price (the "Closing"). The City will be entitled to rely on our Legal Opinion.

The Legal Opinion will be based on facts and law existing as of its date. In rendering our Legal Opinion, we will rely upon the certified proceedings and other certifications of public officials and other persons furnished to us without undertaking to verify the same by independent investigation, and we will assume continuing compliance by the City with applicable laws relating to the Obligations. During the course of this engagement, we will rely on you to provide us with complete and timely information on all developments pertaining to any aspect of the Obligations and their security. We understand that you will direct members of your staff and other employees of the City to cooperate with us in this regard.

- (2) In this engagement, if the Project financing involves the receipt of Principal Forgiveness by the City from the TWDB, we expect to perform the following duties:
- (a) Prepare all resolutions, ordinances and other instruments pursuant to which Principal Forgiveness will be authorized, executed and delivered, in cooperation and upon consultation with the City Council, its financial advisors and other consultants of the City.
- (b) Review the grant or Principal Forgiveness agreement and provide comments as necessary or appropriate.
- (c) Prepare an escrow agreement and other documentation regarding the escrow of Principal Forgiveness funds and assist the City in engaging a qualified escrow agent.
- (d) Coordinate the execution and delivery of various Principal Forgiveness documents and the delivery thereof to the TWDB.
- (3) Our duties in this engagement are limited to those expressly set forth above. Unless we are separately engaged in writing to perform other services, our duties do not include any other services, including the following:
- (a) Preparing requests for tax rulings from the Internal Revenue Service, or no action letters from the Securities and Exchange Commission.
  - (b) Drafting state constitutional or legislative amendments.
  - (c) Pursuing test cases or other litigation.
- (d) Making an investigation or expressing any view as to the creditworthiness of the City or the Obligations.
- (e) Representing the City in Internal Revenue Service examinations or inquiries, or Securities and Exchange Commission investigations.



- (f) Except as described in subsection (1)(a) above, assisting in the preparation of, or opining on, a continuing disclosure undertaking pertaining to the Obligations or, after Closing, providing advice concerning any actions necessary to assure compliance with any continuing disclosure undertaking.
- (g) After Closing, providing continuing advice to the City or any other party concerning any actions necessary to assure that interest paid on the Obligations will continue to be excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes (e.g., our engagement does not include rebate calculations for the Obligations).
- (h) Addressing any other matter not specifically set forth above that is not required to render our Legal Opinion.
- (i) Issuing any legal opinion or assurance letter with respect to Principal Forgiveness funding.

### ATTORNEY-CLIENT RELATIONSHIP

Upon execution of this engagement letter, the City will be our client and an attorney-client relationship will exist between us. We further assume that all other parties in this transaction understand that we represent only the City in this transaction, we are not counsel to any other party, and we are not acting as an intermediary among the parties. Our services as bond counsel are limited to those contracted for in this letter; the City's execution of this engagement letter will constitute an acknowledgment of those limitations. Our representation of the City will not affect, however, our responsibility to render an objective Legal Opinion.

Our representation of the City and the attorney-client relationship created by this engagement letter will be concluded upon issuance of the Obligations. Nevertheless, subsequent to Closing, we will mail the appropriate Internal Revenue Service Form 8038, prepare and distribute to the participants in the transaction a transcript of the proceedings pertaining to the Obligations.

## NO BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL

The firm hereby represents that during the term of this agreement we do not, nor will we, boycott Israel, in compliance with and within the meaning of 50 U.S.C. Section 4607 and Section 2271.002, of the Texas Government Code.

### CONFLICTS

As you are aware, our firm represents many political subdivisions and investment banking firms, among others, who do business with political subdivisions. Our firm also represents the TWDB in the capacity as bond counsel. It is possible that during the time that we are representing the City, one or more of our present or future clients will have transactions with



the City. It is also possible that we may be asked to represent, in an unrelated matter, one or more of the entities involved in the issuance of the Obligations. We do not believe such representation, if it occurs, will adversely affect our ability to represent you as provided in this letter, either because such matters will be sufficiently different from the issuance of the Obligations and/or Principal Forgiveness so as to make such representations not adverse to our representation of you, or because the potential for such adversity is remote or minor and outweighed by the consideration that it is unlikely that advice given to the other client will be relevant to any aspect of the issuance of the Obligations and/or Principal Forgiveness. Execution of this letter will signify the City's consent to our representation of others consistent with the circumstances described in this paragraph.

# FIRM NOT A MUNICIPAL ADVISOR

As a consequence of the adoption of Rule 15Ba1-1 pursuant to the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Municipal Advisor Rule"), which has been promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission as a result of the enactment of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the "Dodd-Frank Act"), we hereby inform the City that we are not a "Municipal Advisor" within the meaning of the Municipal Advisor Rule or the Dodd-Frank Act (collectively, the "MA Rule"). In the course of performing our services as Bond Counsel in this transaction, we may engage in analysis, discussion, negotiation, and advice to the City regarding the legal ramifications of the structure, timing, terms, and other provisions of the financial transaction that culminates with the planned issuance of the Obligations, and such services and advice may be essential to the development of the plan of finance for the issuance of the Obligations. In turn, these services become, among other things, the basis for the transaction's basic legal documents, the preparation and delivery of the official statement or any other disclosure document that describes the material terms and provisions of the transaction, if an offering document is used in the offering of the Obligations, the preparation of the various closing certificates that embody the terms and provisions of this transaction and the preparation and delivery of our Legal Opinion. Moreover, legal advice and services of a traditional legal nature in the area of municipal finance inherently involve a financial advice component; but we hereby advise the City that while we have expertise with respect to the legal aspects relating to the issuance of municipal securities, we are not "financial advisors" or "financial experts" in a manner that would subject us to the provisions of the MA Rule. As Bond Counsel, we provide only legal advice, not purely financial advice that is not inherent in our legal advice to the City. The City should seek the advice of its financial advisor with respect to the financial aspects of the issuance of the Obligations. By signing this engagement letter, the City acknowledges receipt of this information, and evidences its understanding of the limitations of our role to the City as Bond Counsel with respect to the MA Rule, as discussed in this paragraph.

# **ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION AND STORAGE**

In the interest of facilitating our services to you, we may send documents, information or data electronically or via the Internet or store electronic documents or data via computer software applications hosted remotely or utilize cloud-based storage. Your confidential electronic documents or data may be transmitted or stored using these methods. We may use third party



service providers to store or transmit these documents or data. In using these electronic communication and storage methods, we employ reasonable efforts to keep such communications, documents and data secure in accordance with our obligations under applicable laws, regulations, and professional standards; however, you recognize and accept that we have no control over the unauthorized interception or breach of any communications, documents or data once it has been transmitted or if it has been subject to unauthorized access while stored, notwithstanding all reasonable security measures employed by us or by our third party vendors. By your acceptance of this letter, you consent to our use of these electronic devices and applications and submission of confidential client information to or through third party service providers during this engagement.

### **FEES**

Based upon: (i) our current understanding of the terms, structure, size and schedule of the financing represented by the Obligations; (ii) the duties we will undertake pursuant to this engagement letter with respect to the Obligations; (iii) the time we anticipate devoting to the financing represented by the Obligations; and (iv) the responsibilities we will assume in connection therewith, our fee for serving in the capacity of bond counsel with respect to each series of Obligations sold to the TWDB will be \$12,500 for the first \$1,000,000 in principal amount of Obligations issued, plus \$5 per \$1,000 for the next \$4,000,000 in principal amount of obligations issued, plus \$2 per \$1,000 for principal amounts of Obligations issued in excess of \$5,000,000; provided that there shall be a minimum fee of \$20,000 for each series of Obligations issued.

In addition to the foregoing, we will be reimbursed for our out-of-pocket expenses reasonably and necessarily incurred in connection with the issuance of Obligations (e.g., electronic research, photocopying, shipping, telecommunication, travel, and other similar expenses), and said fee and expenses will be payable at the time of the delivery of and payment for the Obligations. Fees for litigation and any other special services not normally included in the legal services performed by bond counsel will be negotiated between the City and the undersigned. Our fee will be billed after the Closing.

In the event that the resolution of the TWDB granting the City's request for financial assistance provides for 100% Principal Forgiveness funding for the Project, we will charge a separate, hourly fee (calculated in ¼-hour increments) for any legal work done in connection with any Principal Forgiveness received by the City from the TWDB. The City shall pay our firm for each hour of work performed with respect to Principal Forgiveness according to the following schedule:

Partners:

\$450 per hour \$350 per hour

Associates:

In addition to such hourly fees, we will be reimbursed for our out-of-pocket expenses reasonably and necessarily incurred in connection with any Principal Forgiveness (e.g., electronic research, photocopying, shipping, telecommunication, travel, and other similar expenses), and said fees



and expenses will be payable at the time of the initial delivery of such Principal Forgiveness funds to the City; provided, however, that so long as Obligations are actually delivered and our fees and expenses with respect to our services performed as bond counsel are paid, we will not invoice the City for our fees or expenses incurred in connection with Principal Forgiveness funding.

### RECORDS

After the transaction has closed, you will receive from us a transcript of proceedings that contain the primary financing and closing documents related to the transaction. At your request, papers and property furnished by you, and work product belonging to you and to which you are entitled, will be returned promptly. We may have copies of any and all documents made for our files at our sole cost and expense, to be retained by us. For various reasons, including the minimization of unnecessary storage expenses, we reserve the right to dispose of any documents or other materials retained by us after the closing of the transaction.

### ACCEPTANCE OF TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT

If the foregoing terms are acceptable to you, please so indicate by returning the enclosed copy of this engagement letter dated and signed by an authorized officer, retaining the original for your files. We look forward to working with you. With best wishes, I am

	Very truly yours,
	McCall, Parkhurst & Horton L.L.P.
	By: Dan S. Culver
	Accepted this March 2, 2021
	City of Breckenridge, Texas
By:	Bob Sims, Mayor