FA00002453
Railroad Commission Invoice No.

STATE OF TEXAS
INTERAGENCY COOPERATION CONTRACT

This Interagency Cooperation Contract ("Contract") is entered into by and between the State agencies in Texas shown below as Contracting Agencies, pursuant to the authority granted and in compliance with the provisions of "The Interagency Cooperation Act," Texas Government Code, Ch.771.

I. CONTRACTING AGENCIES:

The Performing Agency: The University of Texas at Austin

Contact Person: Thomas Owens, CRA
Sr. Contracts Coordinator
Office of Sponsored Projects
3925 West Braker Lane
Building 156, Suite 3.340
Austin TX 78759-5316

The Receiving Agency: The Railroad Commission of Texas

Contact Person: Theresa Lopez, CTCD, CTCM
Director of Operations
HUB Coordinator
1701 N. Congress Ave. 10th floor, 170-J
Austin, Texas 78701

II. STATEMENT OF WORK TO BE PERFORMED:

As described in the Surface Casing Estimator Site/Web Database FY2024, attached to this Contract as Appendix A and incorporated into this Contract for all purposes.

III. BASIS FOR CALCULATING REIMBURSABLE COSTS:

Expenditures shall be reimbursed on a cost-reimbursable basis in accordance with the budget attached hereto as Appendix A- Budget and Appendix B: Budget Justification.

IV. CONTRACT AMOUNT:

The total of this Contract shall not exceed $200,000.

V. PAYMENT FOR SERVICES:

Payments shall be made by the Receiving Agency on a cost-reimbursable basis upon receipt of monthly invoice from Performing Agency for actual expenditures.

VI. WARRANITES:

Performing Agency warrants that (1) it has authority to perform the services under authority granted in Section 65.31, Texas Education Code and Chapter 771, Texas Government Code; and (2) the representative signing this Contract on its behalf is authorized by its governing body to sign this Contract.

Receiving Agency warrants that (1) it has the authority to contract for the services under authority granted in Chapter 91, Texas Natural Resources Code, and Chapter 771, Texas Government Code; and (2) the representative signing this Contract on its behalf is authorized by its governing body to sign this Contract.

VII. TERM OF CONTRACT:

This Contract is effective as of September 1, 2023, and shall terminate on August 31, 2024.

VIII. TERMINATION

In the event of a material failure by a Contracting Agency to perform its duties and obligations in accordance with the terms of this Contract, the other agency may terminate this Contract upon thirty (30) days' advance written notice of termination setting forth the nature of the material failure; provided that, the material failure is through no fault of the terminating agency. The termination will not be effective if the material failure is fully cured prior to the end of the thirty-day period.

A Contracting Agency may terminate this Contract without cause upon thirty (30) days' advance written notice of termination to the other Contracting agency.

IX. CERTIFICATIONS:

The Contracting Agencies certify that, (1) the services specified above are necessary and essential for activities that are properly within the statutory functions and programs of the affected State agencies, (2) the proposed arrangements serve the interest of efficient and economical administration of the State of Texas, and (3) the services, supplies or materials contracted for are not required by Section 21, Article 16 of the Texas Constitution to be supplied under contract given to the lowest responsible bidder.

X. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Performing Agency owns the entire right, title, and interest, including all patents, copyrights and other intellectual property rights, in and to all Inventions, discoveries and technology developed solely by Performing Agency in performance of the services under this Agreement.

The Receiving Agency owns the entire right, title, and interest, including all patents, copyrights and other intellectual property rights, in and to all inventions, discoveries and technology developed solely by Receiving Agency in performance of the services under this Agreement.

The Contracting Agencies Jointly own the entire right, title, and interest, including all patents, copyrights and other intellectual property rights, in and to all inventions, discoveries and technology developed jointly by Performing Agency and the Receiving Agency in performance this Agreement ("Joint Technology").

Performing Agency, as authorized by UT System, herby grants to the Receiving Agency an irrevocable, worldwide, royalty free, perpetual, non-exclusive license to use any invention made solely by Performing Agency or made jointly with the Receiving Agency during the performance of services related to this Agreement for the State's non-commercial purposes. Receiving Agency hereby grants to Performing Agency an irrevocable, worldwide, royalty free, perpetual, non-exclusive license to use any invention made solely by the Receiving Agency or made jointly with Performing Agency during the performance of services related to this Agreement for research and academic non-commercial purposes.

FA00002453
Railroad Commission Invoice No.

PERFORMING AGENCY	RECEIVING AGENCY
The University of Texas at Austin	Railroad Commission of Texas
By: DocuSigned by: Michelle Strickland 4FBB8702A61E41D...	By: DocuSigned by: Wei Wang A320E7878B01444...
Authorized Signature	Authorized Signature
Michelle Strickland	Wei Wang
Assoc. Dir. for Contracting	Executive Director
Date: 2023-08-16 | 15:32:45 PDT	Date: 8/12/2023

SURFACE CASING ESTIMATOR SITE AND WEB DATABASE, FY 2024 (9/1/2023 TO 8/31/2024)

A draft proposal for financial support from the Railroad Commission of Texas

July 21, 2023

Principal Investigator: Jeffrey G. Paine, Bureau of Economic Geology, Jackson School of Geosciences, The University of Texas at Austin; jeff.paine@beg.utexas.edu

SUMMARY

This project is a collaboration between the University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology ("the Bureau") and the Railroad Commission of Texas ("RRC") and is a continuation of previous work to construct and maintain a public, web-enabled Surface Casing Estimator (SCE) site. The project facilitates the use of public data sets to identify protected groundwater, drilling alerts, facilitate Areas of Review (AORs) for injection well permitting, and aid in the estimation of material costs for casing and cementing of wells permitted by the RRC. The project includes three general activities: (1) constructing, reviewing, and maintaining digital data sets, (2) aggregating and hosting information for deep artificial penetrations relevant to injection well AORs, (3) scanning RRC's repository of hardcopy geophysical logs ("Q-logs"), and (4) interpreting the geophysical data to assess the depth of fresh, Usable Quality Water (UQW), and Underground Sources of Drinking Water (USDW). The SCE site allows the public, oil and gas operators, and RRC staff to view public data sets from RRC, the Bureau, and other state agencies in support of surface-casing, well plugging, and other permitted regulatory activities with the goals of protecting fresh water, avoiding drilling hazards, estimating drilling costs, and facilitating injection well AORs.

This project began in 2004 with the development of spatial and tabular data sets for Brazos County, Texas. The project was renewed and expanded to include other counties in subsequent years. In each year since 2004, RRC (or TCEQ before 2012) and the Bureau have selected and prioritized counties and areas of the state for which Q-logs were scanned, the data were interpreted, and the information made available to the public. By the end of the FY23 project on 8/31/2023, Q logs will have been scanned for 165 of the 254 counties in Texas (fig. 1) and groundwater interpretations and SCE site data sets will have been completed for 119 counties (fig. 2).

In 2019, RRC and the Bureau began including drilling hazards and artificial penetrations public datasets to reflect current and evolving needs in the energy industry. By August 31, 2023, the site will have an updated user interface and back-end database architecture to increase performance

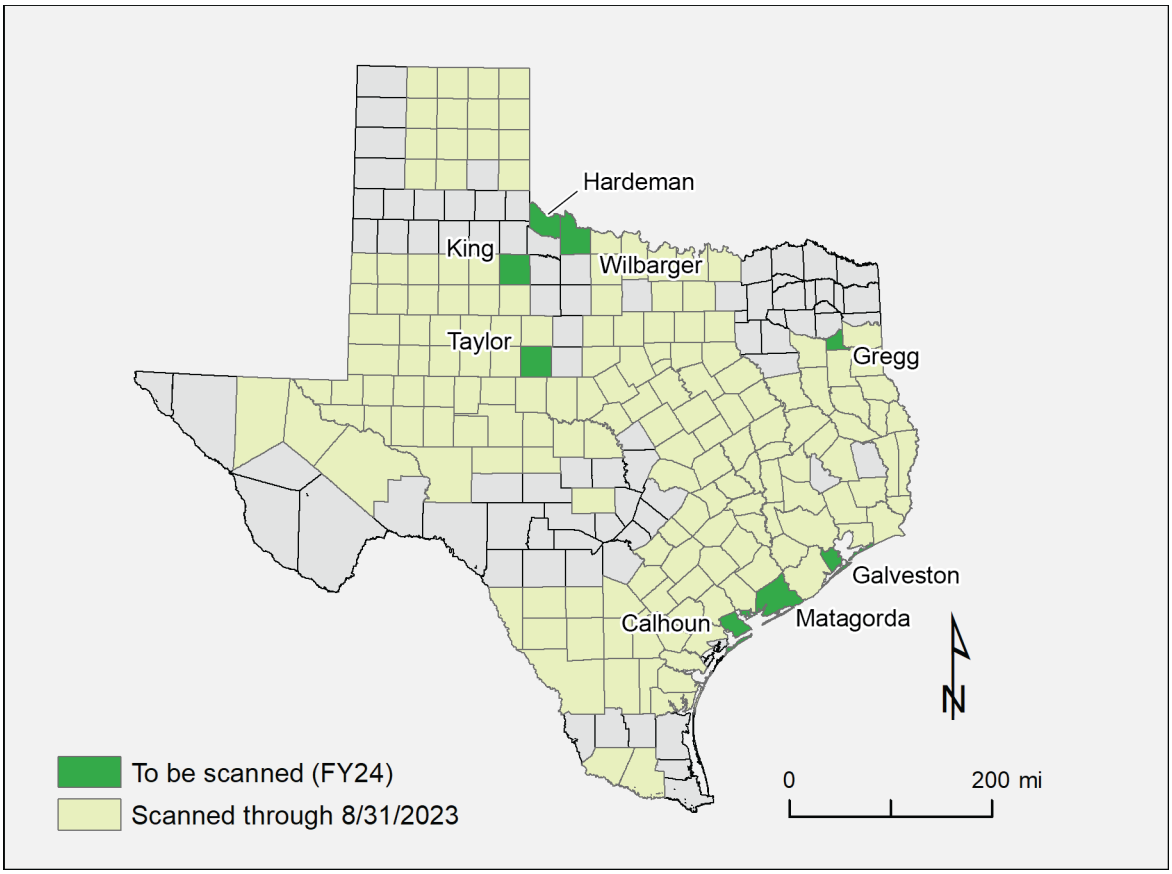

Figure 1. Counties for which Q-log scanning will have been completed through the end of FY23, and counties with Q logs that are proposed to be scanned in FY24.

and enhance functionality, including making adding and updating layers easier and making those layers accessible through an internet application programming interface. Drilling alert and artificial penetration layers may include information, especially location and depth, for any natural or manmade subsurface anomaly that could be consequential to subsurface activities, especially drilling of wells and operation of injection wells. Such layers and features may include any type of well, any class of injection well or any mining operations that may be consequential to subsurface activities. This includes public data sets created and maintained by the Bureau and other state agencies. Accordingly, all public data sets will have citations including description, proprietorship or ownership, and update frequency.

For fiscal year 2024 ("FY24"), RRC and the Bureau propose to: (1) scan RRC Q-logs for eight counties (fig. 1), (2) interpret four geographic areas that include eight counties (fig. 2), and (3) continue to make AOR-related improvements to the SCE site. The Bureau will close the FY24 project with a report documenting the progress made during the fiscal year. It is expected that this project will be renewed each fiscal year until otherwise directed by the RRC. To more

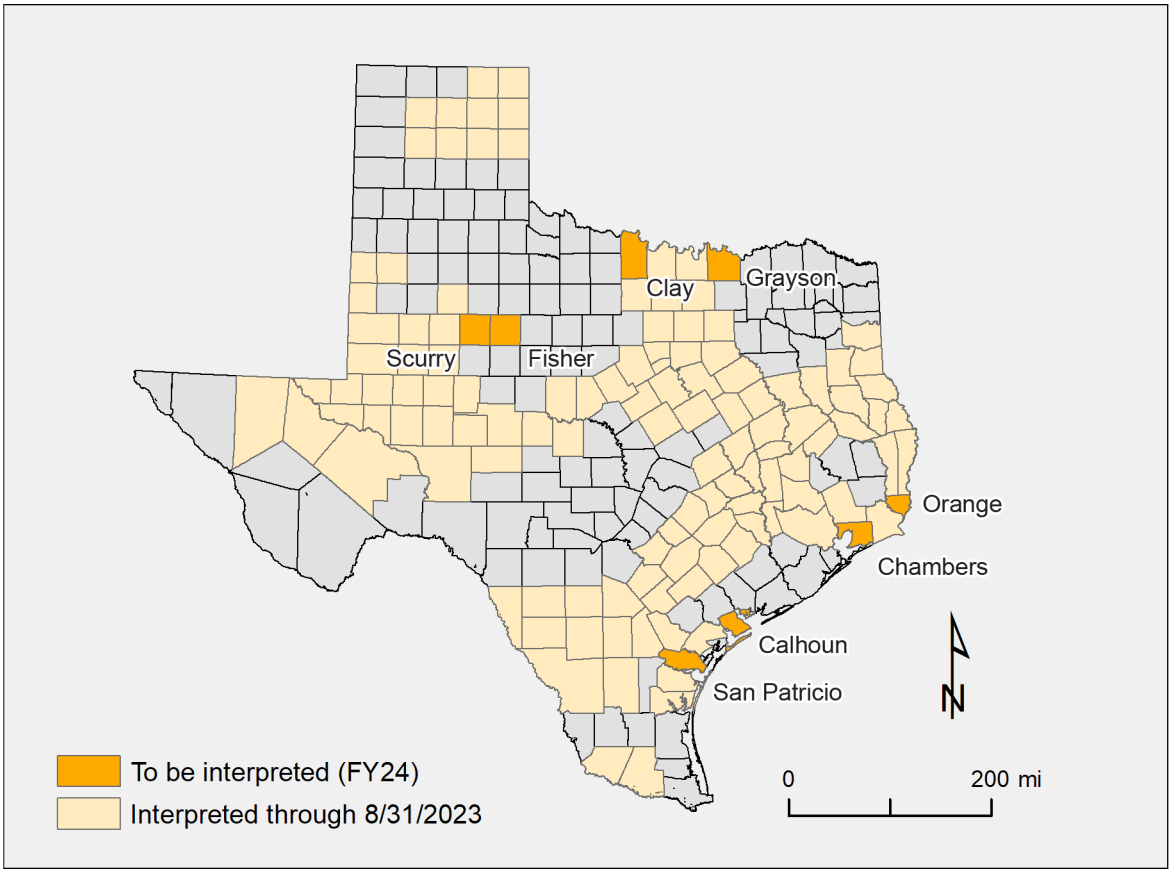

Figure 2. Counties for which interpretation will have been completed through the end of FY23, and counties that are proposed to be interpreted in FY24 in the coastal bend (Calhoun and San Patricio), the north-central plains (Fisher and Scurry), north-central Texas (Clay and Grayson), and southeastern coastal plain (Chambers and Orange).

closely reflect the expanded mission of the project, RRC and the Bureau will consider renaming the site. Names proposed by RRC for consideration include the Groundwater & Subsurface Hazard Information Program ("G-Ship") and Hydrogeologic and Drilling Alert Site ("HyDrAs").

SCOPE OF WORK

The Bureau research team will conduct investigations to scan geophysical logs from the GAU's Q-log files, to interpret key hydrogeological boundaries in RRC-selected counties and continue enhancing the drilling alert and artificial penetrations public data sets. The project includes four phases as follows:

Phase 1: Project Startup and Scanning of Q Logs

The initial tasks for the FY24 project consist of meeting with the RRC Technical Permitting staff to select the base set of drilling alert and artificial penetration layers and review protocols for public data set citation, maintenance, and update. Discussions will include methods and schedules for collecting and scanning of RRC Q logs in counties that are prioritized by the GAU. RRC staff have identified the following eight counties (with an estimated total well location folders containing Q logs) for scanning during FY24:

- King County (194 folders)
- Taylor County (1101 folders)
- Hardeman County (187 folders)
- Wilbarger County (539 folders)
- Galveston County (609 folders)
- Gregg County (195 folders)
- Matagorda County (1203 folders)
- Calhoun County (468 folders)

Each well location folder may contain multiple Q logs.

If the selected counties are completed before the end of the project year, GAU staff may provide the Bureau with a list of additional counties to scan. In addition, GAU staff may, in consultation with the Bureau, adjust the planned log scanning task during FY24 as needed to meet agency needs.

In addition to the planned county-focused Q-log scanning, the Bureau staff may also identify, locate, and scan additional Q logs to support the Bureau's ongoing interpretative work on this project. This may include logs in adjacent counties that have not yet been selected for scanning but may be of value to the Bureau's interpretive work.

To support the Q-log scanning and assembly of data sets, the Bureau will also conduct a preliminary study of existing GAU GIS data for the selected counties. Bureau staff will identify Q logs that have not been digitally located yet from the raster images of the GAU linen location maps or geophysical log headers and review them to determine whether they are suitable for inclusion in the database. If these Q logs are appropriate for the digital database, Bureau staff will determine locations and add these Q logs to the digital files for study.

Phase 2: Interpretation of Subsurface Geologic Data for the SCE Site

RRC staff have identified eight counties in four contiguous areas that will be interpreted for this project (fig. 2). These counties and areas include:

- Scurry County (north-central plains)
- Fisher County (north-central plains)
- Clay County (north-central Texas)
- Grayson County (north-central Texas)
- Chambers County (southeastern Texas coastal plain)
- Orange County (southeastern Texas coastal plain)
- San Patricio County (coastal bend)
- Calhoun County (coastal bend)

The study intervals or horizons will be determined by GAU staff and may be stratigraphic units or intervals, aquifers, top and base of fresh water (1,000 TDS), base of usable quality water (3,000 TDS), or base of underground source of drinking water (10,000 TDS), depending on the study county and region of Texas. Interpretation surfaces and county order will be determined in consultation with GAU staff.

Other information may also be used by the Bureau to interpret the data, including water-quality data from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), operator water-supply wells, and water-quality data provided by GAU.

The Bureau staff will develop GIS attribute tables (data spreadsheets) and conduct GIS-based structural gridding and analysis for needed horizons. The Bureau will construct digital layers used for the Web-enabled database and review results through evaluation of layer-overlap techniques and visual inspection. The Bureau will make necessary revisions and additions to the interpretive data set.

Phase 3: Construction of Web-Enabled Digital Database Accessible to the Public (SCE Site)

Bureau staff will assemble a web-enabled database for the SCE site study counties, review the database to ensure accuracy, and complete needed database additions and refinements including the approved base set of alert and artificial penetrations datasets and citations. The database will be provided on the Internet and will be accessible to the public. If necessary, the Bureau will

make minor modifications to the appearance and information portrayal of the site following GAU recommendations.

Phase 4: Final Report

The Bureau will prepare and submit a final report to the RRC project manager and the RRC contract manager no later than August 31, 2024. The report may be delivered electronically. The final report will provide an overview of activities undertaken and data collected and analyzed during the project, although the primary deliverables are the scanned log images and addition of county digital data sets to the web-based SCE site. The final report may also highlight major activities and key findings, provide pertinent analysis, and describe encountered problems and associated corrections.

The final report will document any variances in the scope of work identified in Phases 1, 2 and 3 from the work that was completed during the fiscal year (for example, if Q logs from one county were not completely scanned because interpretation of an area required additional effort).

SCHEDULE AND METHODS

Updating and providing citations for drilling alert and artificial penetration layers and the log scanning for the project will start at the beginning of the contract year (September 1, 2023) and will continue to August 31, 2024. Project start-up activities will also include receipt of data from GAU staff for the study areas. Work on the SCE site will be ongoing and will be completed by August 31, 2024. Interpretation of the geologic data will begin after the project start-up tasks are complete. Interpreted data layers will be entered into the data set for the SCE site after analysis and construction of data layers for the study areas. Additions to the SCE site will be available for RRC GAU review by August 15, 2024, and completed by August 31, 2024.

1. Begin project – September 1, 2023.
2. Review and update the inventory of alert and artificial penetration layers.
3. Scan Q logs – ongoing until project completion on August 31, 2024.
4. Interpret subsurface geologic data and conduct GIS analyses – ongoing until project completion on August 31, 2024.
5. Maintain SCE site and add new site study areas to the database accessible to the public – ongoing until project completion, August 31, 2024.

6. Completion of new study area updates to SCE site and final report – draft report and updated SCE site submitted to GAU staff by August 15, 2024. Final report due by August 31, 2024.

Work for this project uses data provided by the GAU and standard GIS ArcMap software (version 10.6 or higher) to prepare surfaces for the SCE website. Data to be used to prepare surfaces includes selected Q-log geophysical logs, RRC Surface Casing Recommendation files, RRC Salt Water Disposal files, RRC well location files and maps, and other RRC data that may be useful during the study. Data to be reviewed during the interpretation will also include water-quality data from TWDB and from water-quality samples acquired and analyzed by RRC. Periodic meetings with GAU staff will determine geologic aspects of the study areas that will be the focus of the SCE site. Data used in the surface determinations include raster images of geophysical logs and other sources of water-quality information that are organized and analyzed using Petra and ArcMap. After data layers are constructed and checked through individual layer evaluation, layers are checked by overlap comparisons. After data layers are entered into the estimator data set for ArcGIS Server, the SCE site is reviewed visually for consistency.

BUDGET

The total budget for this FY24 project is $200,000 (App. A and B).

DELIVERABLES

1. Web-enabled drilling alert and artificial penetration digital datasets including citations.

2. SCE Site read-only internet API, like the ESRI map service available for the BEG TexNet Catalog.

3. Scanned Q logs provided to GAU with an emphasis on counties on the selected list of counties to be scanned, in the order preferred by GAU (Due date: ongoing as Q logs are scanned, but no later than August 31, 2024).

4. Web-enabled digital database information for counties chosen by RRC: Scurry, Fisher, Clay, Grayson, Chambers, Orange, San Patricio, and Calhoun counties. Logs and water-quality data used by Bureau staff to supplement data provided by RRC for interpretations will also be provided to RRC (due date: ongoing, but no later than August 31, 2024).

5. Three quarterly status reports containing status of scanning and interpreting tasks and usage statistics for the SCE site (due on December 15, 2023, March 15, 2024, and June 15, 2024)

4. Contract Report (Due date: August 31, 2024).

BUREAU RESEARCH STAFF

Jeffrey Paine, Principal Investigator/Senior Research Scientist

Aaron Averett, Research Scientist Associate/GIS programmer and analyst

Jennifer Morris, Research Scientist Associate/Geologist

Ben Grunau, Research Scientist Associate/Geologist

William Piejko, Office Assistant

Jeff Paine will serve as Principal Investigator for the project and will coordinate tasks, review progress, perform limited analysis, review, and production of GIS data sets, and prepare reports. Jennifer Morris and Ben Grunau will make geologic and water-quality interpretations, provide information for GIS data sets, perform GIS analyses, and contribute to reports. Aaron Averett will assist with GIS needs, perform GIS analyses, assemble final GIS data sets, program data for addition of new study areas to the SCE site, curate SCE site data, and maintain the active SCE throughout the project duration. William Piejko will scan logs, assist with log data searches and locating wells, and assist with Petra and GIS-based log analysis and interpretation as needed.

APPENDIX A: PROPOSED BUDGET

Category	Amount
Salaries	$115,313
Fringe Benefits	$26,866
BEG Administrative Costs	$25,269
Materials and Services	$712
Computer Usage	$5,595
Travel	$158
UT Indirect Costs	$26,087
TOTAL	**$200,000**

APPENDIX B: BUDGET JUSTIFICATION

Salaries and Roles (Researchers)

All senior personnel are UT employees, employed through the Bureau of Economic Geology. Salary rates are based on currently approved salaries for FY23 and are derived from University approved pay plans for the job categories. Salary rates used in the budget are annual salaries, plus longevity pay for those employees who receive it, divided by 12 (months).

Total effort for the principal investigator and collaborating researchers is as follows:

Staff	Effort (months)	Amount
Jeffrey Paine (PI)	1.00	$16,481.93
Jennifer Morris (geologist)	5.00	$32,500.00
Ben Grunau (geologist)	5.00	$31,300.00
William Piejko (log scanner)	6.00	$22,495.20
Aaron Averett (researcher)	1.35	$11,077.81

Jeffrey Paine – Principal Investigator, Project Manager; coordinate tasks, review geologic interpretations, monitor progress, and prepare reports.

Jennifer Morris – Geologist; interpret geophysical logs, assemble GIS datasets for relevant stratigraphic and water-bearing horizons, communicate project progress and results with Bureau and RRC GAU staff, provide data for inclusion into Surface Casing Estimator Site, and provide updates and summaries for the monthly and final reports.

Ben Grunau – geologist; interpret geophysical logs, assemble GIS datasets for relevant stratigraphic and water-bearing horizons, communicate project progress and results with Bureau and RRC GAU staff, provide data for inclusion into Surface Casing Estimator Site, and provide updates and summaries for the monthly and final reports.

Aaron Averett – IT expert and web programmer; assemble and construct web-enabled GIS datasets, perform GIS analyses, and modify and update the Surface Casing Estimator Site as needed.

William Piejko – Office Assistant; participate in scanning logs, assist with log data searches, and locate wells.

Salaries (Other Staff)

Total effort for non-research staff employed on this project is as follows:

	Effort (months)	Amount
Graphics staff (TBD)	0.10	$500.00
Editor (TBD)	0.20	$958.33

Fringe Benefits, Vacation, and Sick Leave Benefits

Fringe benefits are a direct cost to a sponsored project. The University's fringe rates are negotiated with its cognizant agency (DHHS) and are part of the University's F&A Cost Rate Agreement. Rates beyond August 31, 2023 are estimates and are provided for budgeting purposes. If fringe rate straddles fiscal years, fringe rate will be averaged and will be charged at the applicable rate at the time the cost is incurred.

	Approved	Projections for Planning Purposes			
Benefits Eligibility	**FY23 9/1/22 - 8/31/23**	**FY24 9/1/23 - 8/31/24**	**FY25 9/1/24 - 8/31/25**	**FY26 9/1/25 - 8/31/26**	**FY27 9/1/26 - 8/31/27**
Full-time	30%	27.2%	27.7%	28.2%	28.7%
Ineligible	4.3%	7.2%	7.2%	7.2%	7.2%
GRA	30%	17.0%	17.5%	18.0%	18.5%

Additional fringe benefit rate information can be found at UT Austin Payroll.

Travel

Travel in this project only includes trips in the Austin area from BEG to RRC for project meetings, log pickup, and data transfer. Travel costs are determined by Federal and State rates that were approved at the time the budget was created for mileage, per diem, and airfare. Airfare, mileage, in-state and out of state per diem are based on FY23 approved reimbursement rate that can be found here: https://fmx.cpa.state.tx.us/fm/travel/travelrates.php

Administrative Costs

The Bureau's administrative cost rate is 17% of the total direct costs on projects with a reduced UT indirect cost rate.

Materials, Supplies, and Services

This category includes all expendable supplies for research activities as well as photocopying, report preparation expenses, long distance and cell telephone charges, and other standard office expenses related to this project's report production or office administration specific to this project. Estimates are based upon past experience and actual expenses as incurred will be charged.

Computer Expenses

Researchers utilize existing computer systems that include a variety of Windows and LINUX workstations, UNIX workstations, mass storage devices, printers and plotters. Separate rates approved by the University are charged for connect time, processing time, and printing. PC usage is based on fixed monthly rates of $300/month, approved by the University business office. Computer charges in the budget were computed by the total funded personnel effort months plus personnel effort contributed multiplied by $300 per month.

Indirect Costs

The indirect cost rate of 15% of modified total direct costs is based on the state-agreed rate at the time of the proposal that can be viewed at: https://research.utexas.edu/osp/resources/fa-memo/

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