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#### **DOCKET NO. 52696**

PETITION OF FIRMITAS	§	PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
INVESTMENTS, LLC TO AMEND	§	
GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER	§	OF TEXAS
<b>AUTHORITY'S CERTIFICATE OF</b>	§	
CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY IN	§	
COMAL COUNTY BY EXPEDITED	§	
RELEASE	§	

# NOTICE OF APPROVAL MAKING A DETERMINATION ON COMPENSATION

In this Notice of Approval, the Commission determines that, for the streamlined expedited release granted in this docket, Firmitas Investments LLC owes compensation to Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority under Texas Water Code (TWC) § 13.2541. The Commission previously granted streamlined expedited release and removed a tract of land from Guadalupe-Blanco's certificated service area under certificate of convenience and necessity (CCN) number 20892. The Commission's determination on compensation is based on an agreement between Firmitas Investments and Guadalupe-Blanco.

# I. Findings of Fact

The Commission makes the following findings of fact.

#### Petitioner

1. Firmitas is a Texas limited liability company registered with the Texas secretary of state under filing number 802199918.

# CCN Holder

- 2. Guadalupe-Blanco is a conservation and reclamation district organized under article 16, section 59 of the Texas Constitution.
- 3. Guadalupe-Blanco holds CCN number 20892 that obligates it to provide retail water service in its certificated service area in Comal County.

## Petition

4. On October 12, 2021, the petitioner filed a petition for streamlined expedited release of a tract of land from the CCN holder's service area under CCN number 20892.

- 5. On May 26, 2022, the Commission granted the petition and released the tract from the CCN holder's certificated service area.
- 6. Ordering paragraph seven of Order No. 4 stated that, if streamlined expedited release was granted, this docket would continue for the purpose of determining compensation.

# **Appraisers and Appraisals**

7. No appraisers are needed to determine compensation in this docket because of the agreement between the petitioner and the CCN holder

### Compensation

- 8. On January 27, 2022, the petitioner and the CCN holder filed a joint filing regarding compensation, in which they stipulated that compensation is owed to the CCN holder as a result of the streamlined expedited release.
- 9. In the agreement, the petitioner and the CCN holder have agreed on the sum of \$15,000 that is owed for the streamlined expedited release.

#### II. Conclusions of Law

The Commission makes the following conclusions of law.

- 1. The Commission has authority to determine the amount of compensation to be awarded after granting streamlined expedited release under TWC §§ 13.254 and 13.2541.
- 2. No notice is required to determine the amount of compensation.
- 3. No opportunity for a hearing to determine compensation for streamlined expedited release is provided under TWC § 13.2541 or 16 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 24.245(h)(7).
- 4. The determination on compensation under TWC § 13.2541 and 16 TAC § 24.245(i) is not a contested case.
- 5. Under 16 TAC § 24.245(i)(1), if the former CCN holder and landowner agree on the amount of compensation to be paid, they may forego the appraisal process and make a joint filing with the Commission stating the amount of the compensation to be paid.
- 6. Compensation is owed by the petitioner to the CCN holder for the release under TWC § 13.2541.

7. The Commission processed the petition in accordance with the TWC and Commission rules.

# III. Ordering Paragraphs

In accordance with these findings of fact and conclusions of law, the Commission issues the following orders.

- 1. The petitioner must pay to the CCN holder compensation in the amount of \$15,000 within 90 days from the date of this Notice of Approval.<sup>1</sup>
- 2. The Commission denies all other motions and any other requests for general or specific relief that have not been expressly granted.

Signed at Austin, Texas the 21st day of September 2022.

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS** 

GREGORY R. SIEMANKOWSKI ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This implements the payment deadline mandated by 16 TAC § 24.254(i)(6). The parties are free to agree, via contract, to a shorter payment deadline.