

## AGENDA ITEM MEMO

**BOARD MEETING DATE:** January 19, 2023

**TO:** Board Members

**THROUGH:** Jeff Walker, Executive Administrator  
Ashley Harden, General Counsel  
Rebecca Trevino, Chief Financial Officer

**FROM:** Richard A. Wade, Deputy Executive Administrator, Texas Natural Resources Information System

**SUBJECT:** Historical Imagery Georeferencing Project

### ACTION REQUESTED

Consider authorizing the Executive Administrator to execute multiple contracts in a total amount not to exceed \$500,000 through the Texas Strategic Mapping Program.

### BACKGROUND

The Historical Aerial Photography Archive maintained by the Texas Natural Resources Information System (TNRIS), a division of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), is one of the most utilized and important data collections at TNRIS. It is comprised of over one (1) million frames of hard copy and roll film aerial photography covering all parts of Texas from dates as far back as the 1920s. The archive houses unique collections that only reside within the TNRIS archive and serves as the central collection of historic aerial photography for the state of Texas.

After two separate bulk scanning projects, the photo positive, hard copy prints unique to TNRIS have been successfully scanned. In an effort to make these datasets more easily accessible through the TNRIS datahub and spatially enable them for geographic information system (GIS) work, they require a georeference. Georeferencing is the process of assigning an internal coordinate system to an aerial photo or map to relate it to a ground system of geographic coordinates. Georeferencing the historical imagery will allow us to represent the imagery locations accurately and compile indexes for the public to quickly and accurately identify which image covers their area of interest.

**KEY ISSUES**

Georeferencing is predominantly a manual process that can be arduous and time consuming. As such, only a small portion of the photo collections can be georeferenced during this first project due to funding and current georeferencing technology. Collections unique to the TNRIS archive over high priority areas will be prioritized for this georeferencing project.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Executive Administrator recommends the execution of multiple contracts in a total amount not to exceed \$500,000 through the Texas Strategic Mapping Program.