Request for Proposals - Qualified Wildlife Biologist

TxDOT Aviation is releasing a Request for Proposals to perform a Wildlife Hazard Assessment (WHA) by a qualified Wildlife Damage Management Biologist meeting the requirements established by FAA Advisory Circular AC 150/5200-36, latest edition. The assessment will include but is not limited to an analysis of the events prompting the assessment, identifying wildlife species observed and their numbers, locations, local movements, and daily and seasonal occurrences; identification and location of features on or near the airport that attract wildlife; a description of wildlife hazards to aircraft operations; and recommended actions for reducing wildlife hazards to aircraft operations. Proposal submission deadline is March 13, 2012 @ 4:00 pm. Additional information can be found in the following announcement from TxDOT Aviation.

Texas Register Notice Request for Proposals Addendum No. 1

Project Background and Description

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) recently clarified its requirements for reliever airports to conduct formal Wildlife Hazard Assessments. By 2015, all reliever airports must conduct a Wildlife Hazard Assessment in order to comply with federal grant assurances. Texas is a block grant state and TxDOT Aviation has offered a grant which provides funding to complete this requirement.

A Wildlife Hazard Assessment (WHA) is a comprehensive, detailed study and evaluation of factors contributing to wildlife hazards at and within a 5-mile radius of the airport environment. A qualified airport wildlife biologist (Advisory Circular 150/5200-36) collecting systematic, quantitative data using on-site observations and wildlife surveys accomplishes this process when combined with relevant information such as historical data and an evaluation of maintenance, patrol and wildlife mitigation procedures.

The City of Arlington has a population of 365,438, and The City of Arlington supports a diverse and strong economic base. The city is home to the Texas Rangers Major League Baseball franchise, Cowboys' Stadium (home to the Dallas Cowboys), Six Flags Over Texas, General Motors, and many other successful business enterprises. Additional information on the City may be found at http://www.arlingtontx.gov/planning/statistics.html .

Arlington Municipal Airport (GKY) is located midway between Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas. The Airport is located entirely within Arlington and is a public use airport owned by the City of Arlington. It serves as a reliever airport for Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport and Dallas Love Field and is currently used for general aviation purposes. The Airport is home to 22 businesses, including Van Bortel Aircraft, the largest Cessna dealer in the world. Bell Helicopter Textron and AgustaWestland also operate facilities on the airport for helicopter and tiltrotor development, certification and testing.

The Airport is situated on approximately 500 acres and is bordered by residential, office, retail, and major thoroughfares. The airport landscape is composed of relatively flat grassland with wooded areas bordering the north and west airport perimeter. Fish Creek is located south of the airport and bisects

the MALSR system south of Green Oaks Blvd. The wooded areas to the north and west of the airport both contain intermittent tributaries of Fish Creek. The tributaries contain small and medium sized ponds which create thick vegetative areas of aquatic and semi-aquatic plants. Eastern red cedar, hack berry, and mesquite trees are the most abundant trees species occurring on airport property. Clay is the predominant soil type on the airport property. During heavy rainfall, there are several areas located in the airfield operation area that will drain poorly due to the clay soil and produce standing water. The eastern side of the airport is mostly developed areas with the exception of the north and southeast perimeter which are vegetated by native grasses.

Located approximately 250 miles north of the Gulf of Mexico, Arlington experiences what can be characterized as a humid, subtropical climate with hot summers and mild winters. The average daily high temperature ranges from 54 degrees in January to 95 degrees in both July and August. Average low temperatures range between 34 degrees in January to 75 degrees F in July. Average annual precipitation in the Arlington area is 35 inches. A large portion of the annual precipitation results from thunderstorm activity, with occasional heavy rainfall over brief periods of time. Thunderstorms occur throughout the year, but are most frequent during the spring months. The area receives little snowfall, but can experience freezing rain and icy conditions during winter months. Winds in the area are generally from the south, averaging between 9 and 13 miles per hour (10 – 15 knots).

Runway 16/34 is 6,080 ft. x 100 ft. with medium intensity lighting and a full parallel taxiway. Construction on a west parallel taxiway is scheduled to begin in March, 2012. The Air traffic control tower is operational from 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. Two published instrument approaches are available to assist aircraft operations in inclement weather. Additional information can be found by accessing the Airport Master Plan at http://www.arlingtontx.gov/aviation/pdf/Arlington_MP_final.pdf .