

DESIGN AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
AND
THE CITY OF BESSEMER, ALABAMA
FOR
DESIGN
FOR THE
VALLEY CREEK FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT,
BESSEMER AND BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA PROJECT

THIS AGREEMENT is entered into this 27th day of January, 2025, by and between the Department of the Army (hereinafter the “Government”), represented by the District Commander for Mobile District (hereinafter the “District Commander”) and the City of Bessemer, Alabama (hereinafter the “Non-Federal Sponsor”), represented by the Mayor.

WITNESSETH, THAT:

WHEREAS, Federal funds were provided in an out-of-cycle reprogramming of \$49,999, which was approved by ASA(CW) on April 7, 2023, to initiate design of two overbank detention areas located adjacent to Valley Creek and recreation features;

WHEREAS, Section 103 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, as amended (33 U.S.C. 2213), specifies the cost-sharing requirements applicable to construction of the Project, and Section 105(c) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2215(c)), provides that the costs of design shall be shared in the same percentages as construction of the Project;

WHEREAS, based on the Project’s primary purpose of flood risk management, the parties agree that the Non-Federal Sponsor shall contribute 35 percent of the design costs under this Agreement;

WHEREAS, the Non-Federal Sponsor proposes to accelerate its provision of funds (hereinafter “accelerated funds”) for the immediate use by the Government for the Design; and

WHEREAS, the Government and Non-Federal Sponsor have the full authority and capability to perform in accordance with the terms of this Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties agree as follows:

ARTICLE I - DEFINITIONS

A. The term “Project” means one overbank (off-channel) detention area located adjacent to Valley Creek at river mile 53.37, one overbank (off-channel) detention area

located adjacent to Valley Creek at river mile 52.62, and recreation features consisting of gravel trails around each detention area, benches, and signage, as generally described in the Valley Creek Feasibility Study, Bessemer and Birmingham, Alabama Final Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment, dated October 2021 and approved by the Chief of Engineers on October 29, 2021.

B. The term “Design” means perform detailed pre-construction engineering and design, up through preparation of plans and specifications for the initial construction contract only for the Project.

C. The term “design costs” means the sum of all costs that are directly related to the Design and cost shared in accordance with the terms of this Agreement. Subject to the provisions of this Agreement, the term shall include the Government’s costs for engineering and design, including economic, real estate, and environmental analyses, a safety assurance review, if required, and supervision and administration; and the Non-Federal Sponsor’s creditable costs for in-kind contributions, if any. The term does not include any costs for dispute resolution; participation by the Government and Non-Federal Sponsor in the Design Coordination Team to discuss significant issues and actions; audits; betterments; or the Non-Federal Sponsor’s cost of negotiating this Agreement.

D. The term “HTRW” means hazardous, toxic, and radioactive wastes, which includes any material listed as a “hazardous substance” (42 U.S.C. 9601(14)) regulated under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (hereinafter “CERCLA”) (42 U.S.C. 9601-9675) and any other regulated material in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

E. The term “in-kind contributions” means those creditable materials or services provided by the Non-Federal Sponsor that are identified as being integral to Design of the Project by the Division Commander for South Atlantic Division (hereinafter the “Division Commander”). To be integral, the material or service must be part of the work that the Government would otherwise have undertaken for Design of the Project. In-kind contributions also include any investigations performed by the Non-Federal Sponsor to identify the existence and extent of any HTRW as required for Design of the Project.

F. The term “betterment” means a difference in the Design of the Project that results from the application of standards that the Government determines exceed those that the Government would otherwise apply to Design of the Project.

G. The term “fiscal year” means one year beginning on October 1st and ending on September 30th of the following year.

H. The term “accelerated funds” means non-Federal funds out of proportion with Federal funds but within the ultimate non-Federal cash contribution.

ARTICLE II - OBLIGATIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR

A. In accordance with Federal laws, regulations, and policies, the Government shall conduct the Design using funds appropriated by the Congress and funds provided by the Non-Federal Sponsor. In carrying out its obligations under this Agreement, the Non-Federal Sponsor shall comply with all requirements of applicable Federal laws and implementing regulations, including but not limited to, if applicable, Section 601 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2000d), and Department of Defense Directive 5500.11 issued pursuant thereto; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 (42 U.S.C. 6102); and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. 794), and Army Regulation 600-7 issued pursuant thereto.

B. The Non-Federal Sponsor shall contribute 35 percent of design costs in accordance with the provisions of this paragraph.

1. The Non-Federal Sponsor shall be responsible for undertaking any investigations that the Government determines are required for Design of the Project to identify the existence and extent of any HTRW.

2. After considering the estimated amount of credit for in-kind contributions, if any, that will be afforded in accordance with paragraph C. of this Article, the Government shall provide the Non-Federal Sponsor with a written estimate of the amount of funds required from the Non-Federal Sponsor to meet its cost share for the initial fiscal year of the Design. No later than 60 calendar days after such notification, the Non-Federal Sponsor shall provide the full amount of such funds to the Government in accordance with Article III.C.

3. No later than August 1st prior to each subsequent fiscal year of the Design, the Government shall provide the Non-Federal Sponsor with a written estimate of the amount of funds required from the Non-Federal Sponsor during that fiscal year to meet its cost share. No later than September 1st prior to that fiscal year, the Non-Federal Sponsor shall provide the full amount of such required funds to the Government in accordance with Article III.C.

C. The Government shall include in design costs and credit towards the Non-Federal Sponsor's share of such costs, the cost of in-kind contributions performed by the Non-Federal Sponsor that are determined by the Government to be integral to Design of the Project. Creditable in-kind contributions may include costs for engineering, design, and supervision and administration, but shall not include any costs associated with betterments. Such costs shall be subject to audit in accordance with Article VII to determine reasonableness, allocability, and allowability, and crediting shall be in accordance with the following procedures, requirements, and limitations:

1. As in-kind contributions are completed and no later than 60 calendar days after such completion, the Non-Federal Sponsor shall provide the Government

appropriate documentation for the Government to determine the costs that are creditable to the Non-Federal Sponsor's share of design costs. Failure to provide such documentation in a timely manner may result in denial of credit. Appropriate documentation includes invoices and certification of specific payments to contractors, suppliers, and the Non-Federal Sponsor's employees.

2. No credit shall be afforded for the following: interest charges, or any adjustment to reflect changes in price levels between the time the in-kind contributions are completed and credit is afforded; the value of in-kind contributions obtained at no cost to the Non-Federal Sponsor; any items provided or performed prior to the effective date of this Agreement unless covered by an In-Kind Memorandum of Understanding; any items not identified as integral in the integral determination report; or costs that exceed the Government's estimate of the cost for such in-kind contributions.

3. No reimbursement will be provided for any in-kind contributions that exceed the Non-Federal Sponsor's share of the design costs under this Agreement.

D. To the extent practicable and in accordance with Federal laws, regulations, and policies, the Government shall afford the Non-Federal Sponsor the opportunity to review and comment on contract solicitations prior to the Government's issuance of such solicitations; proposed contract modifications, including change orders; and contract claims prior to resolution thereof. Ultimately, the contents of solicitations, award of contracts, execution of contract modifications, and resolution of contract claims shall be exclusively within the control of the Government.

E. The Non-Federal Sponsor shall not use Federal program funds to meet any of its obligations under this Agreement unless the Federal agency providing the funds verifies in writing that the funds are authorized to be used for the Project. Federal program funds are those funds provided by a Federal agency, plus any non-Federal contribution required as a matching share therefor.

F. In addition to the ongoing, regular discussions between the parties regarding Design delivery, the Government and the Non-Federal Sponsor may establish a Design Coordination Team to discuss significant issues or actions. Neither the Government's nor the Non-Federal Sponsor's costs for participation on the Design Coordination Team shall be included in the design costs. The Non-Federal Sponsor's costs for participation on the Design Coordination Team shall be paid solely by the Non-Federal Sponsor without reimbursement or credit.

G. The Non-Federal Sponsor may request in writing that the Government include betterments in the Design of the Project. Each request shall be subject to review and written approval by the Division Commander. If the Government agrees to such request, the Non-Federal Sponsor, in accordance with Article III.F., must provide funds to cover the difference in the costs for design of such work, as determined by the Government, in advance of the Government performing the work.

H. If the Government and Non-Federal Sponsor enter into a Project Partnership Agreement for construction of the Project, the Government shall include the design costs in the calculation of construction costs for the Project in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Project Partnership Agreement.

I. In addition to providing the funds required by paragraph B. of this Article, the Non-Federal Sponsor may provide accelerated funds for immediate use by the Government. The Non-Federal Sponsor understands that use of accelerated funds shall not constitute any commitment by the Government to budget, or the Congress to appropriate, funds for this Design or to match any accelerated funds provided by the Non-Federal Sponsor; that any accelerated funds will be credited toward the Non-Federal Sponsor's cost share only to the extent matching Federal funds are provided; and that the Non-Federal Sponsor is not entitled to any repayment for any accelerated funds obligated by the Government even if the Design ultimately is not completed.

ARTICLE III - PROVISION OF NON-FEDERAL COST SHARE

A. As of the effective date of this Agreement, design costs are projected to be \$2,421,000, with the Government's share of such costs projected to be \$1,556,000 and the Non-Federal Sponsor's share of such costs projected to be \$865,000, which includes creditable in-kind contributions projected to be \$15,000 and the amount of funds required to meet its cost share projected to be \$850,000. Costs for betterments are projected to be \$0. These amounts are estimates subject to adjustment by the Government, after consultation with the Non-Federal Sponsor, and are not to be construed as the total financial responsibilities of the Government and the Non-Federal Sponsor.

B. The Government shall provide the Non-Federal Sponsor with monthly reports setting forth the estimated design costs and the Government's and Non-Federal Sponsor's estimated shares of such costs; costs incurred by the Government, using both Federal and Non-Federal Sponsor funds, to date; the amount of funds provided by the Non-Federal Sponsor to date; the estimated amount of any creditable in-kind contributions; and the estimated remaining cost of the Design.

C. The Non-Federal Sponsor shall provide to the Government required funds by delivering a check payable to "FAO, USAED, Mobile (K5)" to the District Commander, or verifying to the satisfaction of the Government that the Non-Federal Sponsor has deposited such required funds in an escrow or other account acceptable to the Government, with interest accruing to the Non-Federal Sponsor, or by providing an Electronic Funds Transfer of such required funds in accordance with procedures established by the Government.

D. The Government shall draw from the funds provided by the Non-Federal Sponsor to cover the non-Federal share of the design costs as those costs are incurred. If the Government determines at any time that additional funds are needed from the Non-Federal Sponsor to cover the Non-Federal Sponsor's required share of the design costs,

the Government shall provide the Non-Federal Sponsor with written notice of the amount of additional funds required. Within 60 calendar days of such notice, the Non-Federal Sponsor shall provide the Government with the full amount of such additional funds.

E. Upon completion of the Design and resolution of all relevant claims and appeals, the Government shall conduct a final accounting and furnish the Non-Federal Sponsor with the written results of such final accounting. Should the final accounting determine that additional funds are required from the Non-Federal Sponsor, the Non-Federal Sponsor, within 60 calendar days of written notice from the Government, shall provide the Government with the full amount of such additional funds by delivering a check payable to "FAO, USAED, Mobile (K5)" to the District Commander, or by providing an Electronic Funds Transfer of such funds in accordance with procedures established by the Government. Should the final accounting determine that the Non-Federal Sponsor has provided funds in excess of its required amount, the Government shall refund the excess amount, subject to the availability of funds or if requested by the Non-Federal Sponsor, apply the excess amount towards the non-Federal share of the cost of construction of the Project in the event a Project Partnership Agreement is executed for the Project. Such final accounting does not limit the Non-Federal Sponsor's responsibility to pay its share of design costs, including contract claims or any other liability that may become known after the final accounting.

F. If the Government agrees to include betterments on the Non-Federal Sponsor's behalf, the Government shall provide written notice to the Non-Federal Sponsor of the amount of funds required to cover such costs. No later than 30 calendar days after receipt of such written notice, the Non-Federal Sponsor shall make the full amount of such required funds available to the Government through either payment method specified in Article III.E. If at any time the Government determines that additional funds are required to cover any such costs, as applicable, the Non-Federal Sponsor shall provide those funds within 30 calendar days from receipt of written notice from the Government. If the Government determines that funds provided by the Non-Federal Sponsor exceed the amount required for the Government to complete such work, the Government shall refund any remaining unobligated amount.

ARTICLE IV - TERMINATION OR SUSPENSION

A. If at any time the Non-Federal Sponsor fails to fulfill its obligations under this Agreement, the Government may suspend or terminate Design unless the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) determines that continuation of the Design is in the interest of the United States or is necessary in order to satisfy agreements with any other non-Federal interests in connection with the Project.

B. If the Government determines at any time that the Federal funds made available for the Design are not sufficient to complete such work, the Government shall so notify the Non-Federal Sponsor in writing within 30 calendar days, and upon exhaustion of such funds, the Government shall suspend Design until there are sufficient

Federal funds appropriated by the Congress and funds provided by the Non-Federal Sponsor to allow Design to resume.

C. In the event of termination, the parties shall conclude their activities relating to the Design and conduct an accounting in accordance with Article III.E. To provide for this eventuality, the Government may reserve a percentage of available funds as a contingency to pay costs of termination, including any costs of resolution of contract claims and contract modifications.

D. Any suspension or termination shall not relieve the parties of liability for any obligation incurred. Any delinquent payment owed by the Non-Federal Sponsor pursuant to this Agreement shall be charged interest at a rate, to be determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, equal to 150 per centum of the average bond equivalent rate of the 13 week Treasury bills auctioned immediately prior to the date on which such payment became delinquent, or auctioned immediately prior to the beginning of each additional 3 month period if the period of delinquency exceeds 3 months.

ARTICLE V - HOLD AND SAVE

The Non-Federal Sponsor shall hold and save the Government free from all damages arising from the Design, except for damages due to the fault or negligence of the Government or its contractors.

ARTICLE VI - DISPUTE RESOLUTION

As a condition precedent to a party bringing any suit for breach of this Agreement, that party must first notify the other party in writing of the nature of the purported breach and seek in good faith to resolve the dispute through negotiation. If the parties cannot resolve the dispute through negotiation, they may agree to a mutually acceptable method of non-binding alternative dispute resolution with a qualified third party acceptable to the parties. Each party shall pay an equal share of any costs for the services provided by such a third party as such costs are incurred. The existence of a dispute shall not excuse the parties from performance pursuant to this Agreement.

ARTICLE VII - MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS AND AUDIT

A. The parties shall develop procedures for the maintenance by the Non-Federal Sponsor of books, records, documents, or other evidence pertaining to costs and expenses for a minimum of three years after the final accounting. The Non-Federal Sponsor shall assure that such materials are reasonably available for examination, audit, or reproduction by the Government.

B. The Government may conduct, or arrange for the conduct of, audits of the Design. Government audits shall be conducted in accordance with applicable Government cost principles and regulations. The Government's costs of audits for the Design shall not be included in design costs.

C. To the extent permitted under applicable Federal laws and regulations, the Government shall allow the Non-Federal Sponsor to inspect books, records, documents, or other evidence pertaining to costs and expenses maintained by the Government, or at the Non-Federal Sponsor's request, provide to the Non-Federal Sponsor or independent auditors any such information necessary to enable an audit of the Non-Federal Sponsor's activities under this Agreement. The Non-Federal Sponsor shall pay the costs of non-Federal audits without reimbursement or credit by the Government.

ARTICLE VIII - RELATIONSHIP OF PARTIES

In the exercise of their respective rights and obligations under this Agreement, the Government and the Non-Federal Sponsor each act in an independent capacity, and neither is to be considered the officer, agent, or employee of the other. Neither party shall provide, without the consent of the other party, any contractor with a release that waives or purports to waive any rights a party may have to seek relief or redress against that contractor.

ARTICLE IX - NOTICES

A. Any notice, request, demand, or other communication required or permitted to be given under this Agreement shall be deemed to have been duly given if in writing and delivered personally or mailed by registered or certified mail, with return receipt, as follows:

If to the Non-Federal Sponsor:

Mayor
City of Bessemer
1700 3rd Ave North
Bessemer, Alabama 35020

If to the Government:

District Commander
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District
P.O. Box 2288
Mobile, Alabama 36628

B. A party may change the recipient or address to which such communications are to be directed by giving written notice to the other party in the manner provided in this Article.

ARTICLE X - CONFIDENTIALITY

To the extent permitted by the laws governing each party, the parties agree to maintain the confidentiality of exchanged information when requested to do so by the providing party.


ARTICLE XI - THIRD PARTY RIGHTS, BENEFITS, OR LIABILITIES


Nothing in this Agreement is intended, nor may be construed, to create any rights, confer any benefits, or relieve any liability, of any kind whatsoever in any third person not party to this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement, which shall become effective upon the date it is signed by the District Commander.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

CITY OF BESSEMER, ALABAMA

BY: 
Jeremy J. Chapman
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Commander

BY: 
Kenneth E. Gulley
Mayor

DATE: 27 Jan 2025

DATE: 12/17/24