

BUSINESS

# Tool to save polar bears dens is more miss than hit

By Henry Fountain  
NEW YORK TIMES

In the debate over the possibility of oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska, polar bears play an important, if silent, role.

At issue is whether oil development, especially seismic testing to find oil reserves that would be conducted long before any drilling occurred, can be undertaken without harming the animals, which have been hit hard by climate change.

A new study casts doubt on the effectiveness of what is considered a state-of-the-art tool to help industry avoid injuring or disturbing polar bears by detecting their dens in the snow. Over more than a decade on the North Slope of Alaska, the study found, oil companies located fewer than half of the known dens of maternal bears and their infant cubs using airborne instruments called forward-looking infrared, or FLIR, cameras.

“We wanted to make sure that we throw up a cautionary flag,” said Tom Smith, a wildlife ecologist at Brigham Young University and the lead author of the study, which was published last week in the journal PLOS One. The oil industry “needs to acknowledge that even with the best conditions, you’re going to miss bears, added Smith, who is also a scientific adviser to Polar Bears International, a conservation group that provided some of the funding for the study.

Pregnant polar bears dig dens in the snow late in the year and emerge with their cubs the following spring. Undetected dens could be disturbed or even crushed during a seismic survey, in which large trucks traverse the land in a grid pattern, accompanied by movable supply depots and camps for workers.

On the North Slope of Alaska, where oil drilling has been conducted since the 1970s, seismic surveys are only allowed in winter when there is enough snow to protect the delicate Arctic tundra.

FLIR cameras, which are carried by airplanes or helicopters, can detect heat under the snow. But Smith said weather conditions have to be just right – not much wind and little moisture – for the cameras to get good readings.

Other factors, like too much snow cover, can also cause the cameras to miss dens. “If the snow overlying a den is more than a meter thick, FLIR is not going to see it,” Smith said.

Detection is likely to become more difficult as the Arctic continues to warm under climate change, as warmer air contains more heat-scattering moisture, he said.

Using industry reports of FLIR surveys from 2004 to 2016 and comparing them with on-the-ground documentation of dens across the North Slope, the researchers found that only 45 percent of the 33 dens were located by FLIR cameras.

The surveys also produced a number of false positives, because sources like exposed soil and rocks or even discarded steel drums can radiate heat that might be interpreted as signs of a den.

The Arctic refuge is an important denning area for the Southern Beaufort Sea subpopulation of polar bears, one of the most threatened in the world. Reduction in sea ice coverage, a result of rapid warming in the Arctic, has led to a sharp decline in the population, as it has become more difficult for the bears to reach seals and other food at sea.

The potential harm to the bear population has become a major issue amid the Trump administration’s efforts to allow oil drilling in the Arctic refuge, an area the size of South Carolina that is largely untouched by human activities.

A tax bill passed by Congress in 2017 allowed the Interior Department to develop plans for oil development in a part of the refuge along its northern coast called the 1002 Area. The administration had hoped to begin selling leases last year, despite opposition from Democratic lawmakers, threats of legal action by environmental groups and uncertainty about how much oil underlies the area. A New York Times investigation uncovered evidence that the only oil well ever allowed in the refuge, one that was drilled in the mid 1980s to look for signs of oil reserves, had disappointing results.

Lease sales were never conducted and the administration’s plan remains stalled. An environmental-impact statement, required before sales can be held, has been prepared by the Interior Department but no final decision has been made.

If a seismic survey does take place in the refuge, another paper, by Interior Department scientists, has suggested ways it could reduce disturbances to polar bears.

The study, published in December in The Journal of Wildlife Management, used computer simulations of survey designs that varied in where and when the seismic trucks rolled, to avoid known denning areas or survey them only after bears have emerged, usually in early March. It found that a survey design with the most specific restrictions on locations and times reduced the number of dens disturbed by more than 90 percent compared with a survey with no restrictions.



Mike Lockhart / Associated Press

A study found that thermal imaging used by oil exploration firms to detect polar bears in dens works less than half of the time.

# Legal Notices

To place legal notices  
email [legals@chron.com](mailto:legals@chron.com)  
or call 713.224.6868.

## BIDS & PROPOSALS LEGAL NOTICES

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**For Galena Park ISD – High School Additions and Renovations – Phase 1**  
**GPISD #002-2017**

Competitive Proposals for the work identified below in accordance with Proposal Documents and addenda that may be issued prior to date of proposal opening will be received by the Construction Manager, Purcell Construction Inc. and the Board of Trustees of the Galena Park Independent School District, until proposal closing date and time, identified below.

**OWNER:** Galena Park Independent School District  
14705 Woodforest Blvd.  
Houston, Texas 77015

**ARCHITECT:** PBK Architects, Inc.  
11 Greenway Plaza, 22nd Floor  
Houston, Texas 77046  
Phone: (713) 965-0608 Fax: (713) 961-4571

**CONSTRUCTION MANAGER AT RISK (CMC):** Purcell Construction  
277 Dennis St.  
Humble, Texas 77338  
Phone: (281) 548-1000  
Fax: (281) 548-2998

**PROJECT SCOPE:** Phase 1 will include: an addition of a new classroom wing with 14 new classrooms plus a teacher workroom and the renovation of existing building to provide ADA Upgrades throughout the campus.

**PRE-PROPOSAL:** Thursday, March 12, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.  
Galena Park High School – Cafeteria  
1000 Keene St.  
Galena Park, Texas 77547

**PROPOSAL DUE DATE AND TIME:** Tuesday, March 31, 2020 at 2:00 PM

**LOCATION OF PROPOSAL OPENING:** Purcell Construction Inc.  
277 Dennis Street  
Humble, Texas 77338

**SUBMIT PROPOSALS TO:** Purcell Construction Inc.  
277 Dennis Street  
Humble, Texas 77338  
(Proposals may be submitted electronically to: [bids@purcellco.com](mailto:bids@purcellco.com))

Sub-Contractors may obtain two sets of drawings and specifications at locations listed. Subcontractors may obtain the Proposal Documents on March 4, 2020, at the following location during normal business hours:

Purcell Construction  
277 Dennis St  
Humble, Texas 77338  
Phone: (281) 548-1000  
Fax: (281) 548-2998

New Caney ISD Facilities/Planning  
**AA – Advertisement for Sealed Proposals**

**NEW CANEY ISD ADVERTISEMENT FOR SEALED PROPOSALS**  
**New Comprehensive High School #3 located at 180 Sorters McClellan Rd. Kingwood, TX. 77339. Project #008-2018. Proposals due: Thursday, April 2, 2020, before 2:00pm CDST/CST at the NCISD Facilities and Construction Office, located at 22784 Hwy 59S, Bldg. E, Porter, TX 77365,** at which time and place the Proposals will be opened publicly and read aloud. A Proposal Security in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the proposal amount is required. **Project is** a 3-story free standing 337,000 sq ft concrete tilt-up bldg. Site work includes retention system, field house, press-boxes, grandstands and athletic fields. The project includes off-site work related to utility extensions and public road widening to meet City of Houston requirements. A Pre-proposal Conference will be held at: **NCISD Facilities and Construction Office located at 22784 Hwy 59S, Bldg. E, Porter, TX 77365, on Wednesday, March 18th, 2020 at 9:30am CDST/CST.** Proposal Contract Documents will be available on Monday, March 9th, 2020 at Stantec Architects, Houston office by calling 713-548-5816, for a **(\$800.00)** refundable deposit. Contract Documents may be examined at the following virtual plan rooms: ARC Houston, <https://order.e-arc.com/arcEOC>, F.D. Dodge Company ([www.construction.com](http://www.construction.com)), I.S.Q.F.T. ([www.isqft.com](http://www.isqft.com)), and Virtual Builders Exchange ([www.virtualbex.com](http://www.virtualbex.com)). The Contract may be awarded to a proposer per the following criteria: **1.** The Offeror's submitted base proposal-**50%**; **2.** The Offeror's experience and reputation-**15%**; **3.** The quality of the Offeror's goods or services-**15%**; **4.** The Offeror's safety record-**2%**; **5.** The Offeror's proposed personnel- **5%**; **6.** Whether the Offeror's financial capability is appropriate to the size and scope of the project-**5%** **7.** Offeror's ability to complete project on time-**5%**; **8.** Offeror's performance in responding to warranty – **3%**. The District reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, and the right to negotiate with any proposers after submission of proposals. In addition, the District, at its discretion, may waive any formalities or minor irregularities regarding the proposals.

**Proposal Notice**

**2019 BASEBALL & SOFTBALL FIELD RENOVATIONS – CY FALLS, CY RANCH, CY RIDGE & CY WOODS HS**  
CFISD Project No. 19-11-5450R-RFP

**CYPRESS-FAIRBANKS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

The Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District will accept Competitive Sealed Proposals from qualified contractors until 2:00 PM on **Tuesday, March 24, 2020** for Base Proposals, and 3:00 P.M. for Alternates Proposals at the Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District Windfern Administrative Annex located at 12510 Windfern Road, Houston, Texas 77064. A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held **Monday, March 16, 2020** at 10:00 A.M. at the Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District Windfern Administrative Annex (address listed above). Proposal Evaluation Criteria are published in the “Instructions to Offerors” section of the proposal documents.

Plans and specifications will be available on/after March 02, 2020 and can be obtained from the following address for a refundable deposit of **\$250.00 per set.** Make checks payable to Texas-IBI Group Inc.  
Texas-IBI Group, Inc.  
455 E. Medical Center Blvd., Suite 500  
Webster, Texas 77598  
(281) 286-6605

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities and to reject any or all proposals.

**REQUEST FOR SEALED PROPOSALS WILL BE RECEIVED BY PROCUREMENT SERVICES, PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ATTN: BID/PROPOSAL RECEIPT DEPARTMENT, 111 EAST LOOP NORTH, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77029 UNTIL 11:00 A.M., ON MARCH 25, 2020 FOR THE FOLLOWING:**  
**PROMOTIONAL ITEMS ORDERING PROGRAM (RFP-1463).**  
**A PRELIMINARY MEETING WILL BE HELD FOR THIS PROCUREMENT AT EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUILDING, 111 E. LOOP NORTH, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77029 ON MARCH 16, 2020, AT 10:00AM. SO THAT PROSPECTIVE PROPOSERS MAY ASK QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE PROCUREMENT.** SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM PORT HOUSTON'S ePROCUREMENT WEBSITE <https://buyspeed.poha.com/bso/>. THE PORT AUTHORITY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS OR RESPONSES.

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

**The Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas (METRO) is planning to issue the procurement documents listed in this advertisement. RFB No. 4020000093:** Purchase and Delivery of Thermo King Parts for METRO's Transit Vehicle. Solicitations will be available on or about 03/09/2020.  
**IFB No. 4020000112:** Gentex Bus Top Scaffold System. Solicitation will be available on or about 03/09/2020.  
**RFQ No. 4020000116:** Bus Rapid Transit/Light Rail Transit (BRT/LRT) Engineering Services on an 'As Needed' Basis. Solicitation will be available on or about 03/08/2020.  
Prospective bidders/proposers can view and download these solicitations by visiting METRO's website at <https://www.ridemetroapp.org/procurement/>. If you are unable to download the documents or are having difficulty, please contact METRO Plan and Bid Room at (713) 739-4881.

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

**The Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, Texas (METRO) is planning to issue the procurement documents listed in this advertisement. RFO No. 4020000111: METRO PROGRAM MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT (PMC) SERVICES ON An 'As Needed' Basis.** Solicitation will be available on or about 03/9/2020.  
Prospective bidders/proposers can view and download this solicitation by visiting METRO's website at <https://www.ridemetroapp.org/procurement/>. If you are unable to download the document or are having difficulty, please contact METRO Plan and Bid Room at (713) 739-4881.

Gulf Coast Community Services Association, Inc. is seeking proposals from vendors for the lease of (1) 16' Box Truck for use in picking up commodity products and making food deliveries. The lease service provided will be for a one-year period with an option to renew for four additional one-year terms. Proposals can be downloaded at [www.gccsa.org](http://www.gccsa.org). Proposal submission deadline is **5:00 p.m. April 3, 2020.** This project is funded by the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

**Notice To Creditors**  
**Ad \$74.00\***  
Call the Legals Team  
713-224-6868  
Ext. 6435 or 4204  
\*\$74.00 includes first 36 lines and 1 Affidavit of Publication  
\*\$1.92 per line over 36 lines

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

FuelFix.com

**IF YOU THINK LEGAL NOTICES ARE PAINFUL, WAIT UNTIL YOU PLACE ONE IN THE WRONG PAPER.**

Stay legal and get noticed by emailing our team at [legals@chron.com](mailto:legals@chron.com) or calling 713.224.6868

**HOUSTON★CHRONICLE**  
HoustonChronicle.com

## Harris County Housing Authority Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCV) Notification for Opening of Waiting List

The Harris County Housing Authority (HCHA) is opening its Housing Choice Voucher (HCV), Waiting List.

**The HCV applications will be available online for a limited enrollment period from Monday, March 23, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. to Wednesday, March 25, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.**

Applicants may apply 24 hours a day at our website: [www.hchatexas.org](http://www.hchatexas.org). Paper applications will not be accepted at any of HCHA's properties or central office.

Applicants who need help completing the application due to a disability can make a reasonable accommodation request to HCHA at 713-578-2100 or [www.hchatexas.org](http://www.hchatexas.org).

All applicants will be entered into a lottery from which 5000 applicants will be selected for the HCV Waiting list. A computer-generated random lottery will be conducted on March 26, 2020. After March 25, 2020, applicants may go to [www.waitlistcheck.com](http://www.waitlistcheck.com) to determine if they were randomly selected for the HCV Waiting List.

## IRS AUCTION

**Sale Date: March 11, 2020**  
**Sale Time: 1:00PM (Registration starts at 12:30PM)**  
**Location: 6502 Arnot Street Houston, Texas.**  
**Property Offered for Sale:**  
Single family residence located at 50 East Bend Lane Houston, Texas 77007. Minimum Bid- \$653,457.56  
**For more information visit: [www.irsauctions.gov](http://www.irsauctions.gov) or call Sara Wright at 865-274-7349.**

## NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Mary Euton Deschensky, Deceased, were issued on February 12, 2020, in Cause No.482023, pending in the Probate Court at Law No. Two, Harris County, Texas, to: Gail Hanna. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them to the undersigned within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

**Catherine A. Palmore**  
**The Palmore Law Firm, PLLC**  
**2219 Sawdust Road, Ste. 1701**  
**The Woodlands, Texas 77301**  
**(281) 367-0111**

**DATED** the 7th day of March, 2020.

[/s/Catherine A. Palmore](mailto:/s/Catherine.A.Palmore)  
Catherine A. Palmore  
Attorney for Gail Hanna  
State Bar No.: 24037234  
2219 Sawdust Road, Suite 1701  
The Woodlands, Texas 77301  
Telephone: (281) 367-0111  
Facsimile: (281) 419-4444  
E-mail: [catherine@palmorelaw.com](mailto:catherine@palmorelaw.com)

## BIDS & PROPOSALS

Request for Proposal addressed to Spring Branch Independent School District, will be received in the SBISD Purchasing Office at 1031 Witte RD, BLDG T-1A, Houston, TX 77055-6016 until: **APRIL 1, 2020 @ 2:00 PM FOR: RFP FOR SMART SCHOOLS – PHYSICAL SAFETY INTEGRATION PILOT (14251)**  
**PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE ON MAR 10, 2020 @ 10:00 AM at the SBISD Purchasing Department, 1031 Witte Rd., Bldg. T-1A, Houston, TX 77055.**  
For information contact the SBISD Purchasing Department at (713) 251-1100  
Proposers should register on Ion Wave website at: <https://springbranchisd.ionwave.net/Login.aspx>

Request for Proposal addressed to Spring Branch Independent School District, will be received in the SBISD Purchasing Office at 1031 Witte RD, BLDG T-1A, Houston, TX 77055-6016 until: **APRIL 1, 2020 @ 3:00 PM FOR: RFP FOR TECHNOLOGY AUGMENTED STAFFING (14268)**  
**PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE ON MAR 10, 2020 @ 9:00 AM at the SBISD Purchasing Department, 1031 Witte Rd., Bldg. T-1A, Houston, TX 77055.**  
For information contact the SBISD Purchasing Department at (713) 251-1100  
Proposers should register on Ion Wave website at: <https://springbranchisd.ionwave.net/Login.aspx>

Request for Proposal addressed to Spring Branch Independent School District, will be received in the SBISD Purchasing Office at 1031 Witte RD, BLDG T-1A, Houston, TX 77055-6016 until: **MARCH 31, 2020 @ 2:00 PM FOR: RFP FOR AWARDS & TOPHIES (14263)**  
**PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE ON MARCH 11 @ 10:00 AM at the SBISD Purchasing Department, 1031 Witte Rd., Bldg. T-1A, Houston, TX 77055.**  
For information contact the SBISD Purchasing Department at (713) 251-1100  
Proposers should register on Ion Wave website at: <https://springbranchisd.ionwave.net/Login.aspx>

**FUEL RFP:**

**INVITATION TO BID**

Sealed bids and proposals will be received by IDEA Public Schools at 2115 W Pike Blvd., Weslaco, TX 78596 on or before 5 PM on March 30th, 2020 for the following goods: Fuel Card Program. Bids received after this time will not be accepted. Response forms and specifications for the above may be obtained at 2115 W Pike Blvd., Weslaco, TX 78596 or can be viewed at <https://ideapublicschools.org/contact-us>

**Sealed Proposal Solicitation #AV11-20**  
**Houston-Galveston Area Council Cooperative Purchasing Program**  
**Statewide Automated Vehicle Procurement**  
Pre-Proposal Conference: 4/9/20 @ 9am  
Response Deadline: 6/9/20 @ 1pm  
Public Opening: 6/9/20 @ 2pm  
3555 Timmons Lane, Houston, TX.  
Per ADA, reasonable accommodation provided with 24 hour prior notice.  
[713-499-6693](http://713-499-6693) or [www.hgacbuy.org](http://www.hgacbuy.org) for info.

## REQUEST FOR COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSALS

**2019 M. ROBINSON, A. ROBISON, SWENKE, TIPPES, & WARNER ES RENOVATIONS, HUCKABEE PROJECT NO. 1732-07-01; PROPOSAL NO. 19-08-5445R-RFP CYPRESS-FAIRBANKS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DIS-TRICT**

The Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District will accept Competitive Sealed Proposals until 2:00 P.M. and Alternate Competitive Sealed Proposals until 3:00 P.M. on Tuesday, April 07, 2020 at the Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District Purchasing Office, Windfern Administrative Annex, 12510 Windfern Road, Houston, Texas 77064. A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at 10:00 A.M. at the above location. Proposal Evaluation Criteria are published in the "Instructions to Proposers" section of the proposal documents. Plans and specifications will be released Monday, March 02, 2020, and will be available from Huckabee at [www.huckabee-inc.com/construction/](http://www.huckabee-inc.com/construction/) upon request. The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities and to reject any or all proposals.

**Sealed Proposal Solicitation #EP11-20**  
**Houston-Galveston Area Council Cooperative Purchasing Program**  
**Emergency Preparedness & Safety Equipment**  
Pre-Proposal Conference: 04/14/20 @ 9 am  
Response Deadline: 06/18/20 @ 1pm  
Public Opening: 06/18/20 @ 2pm  
3555 Timmons Lane, Houston, TX.  
Per ADA, reasonable accommodation provided with 24 hour prior notice.  
[713-993-2466](http://713-993-2466) or [www.hgacbuy.org](http://www.hgacbuy.org) for info.

Stay legal and get noticed by emailing our team at [legals@chron.com](mailto:legals@chron.com) or calling 713.224.6868

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