

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
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January 31, 2020

Dear CHC Members,

Thank you for your patience as we worked through the process of finding a vendor to replace Southwell Company, which sold their firm in May. In August, an RFP was posted to find a new foundry. Two vendors, both proposing production outside of Texas, submitted proposals. After carefully and thoroughly evaluating the submissions and sample markers, staff determined that Eagle Sign & Design was the best value to the state of Texas. We're excited to begin work with our new partners, who have demonstrated a commitment to producing and shipping high-quality historical markers.

To resume the process, THC Commissioners voted on a work plan for this year's markers at its quarterly meeting on January 29th. They approved production of no more than 185 historical markers this cycle (including up to 15 undertolds), which is equivalent to the number authorized in previous work plans. Commissioners also approved a marker application cycle of April 1st through June 15th, 2020, and undertold marker application cycle from November 1st to December 15th of this year. These application cycle dates will likely remain similar for future years, coinciding with one-year contract increments with the new foundry. Costs to sponsors will not increase during this marker cycle, though prices may change when and if the THC agrees to renew the contact each year. Marker applications for 2020 will be available on the marker webpage beginning on February 3rd.

Also at the January Quarterly Meeting, Commissioners approved 2019 CHC-authorized marker inscriptions. Those markers, in addition to 2019 markers which already received Commission approval before Southwell went out of business, will be sent to the foundry for casting beginning next week. Based on responses from Eagle Sign & Design during the evaluation process, we estimate that all of these markers will be cast and shipped within the next eight months. While the cost of production has increased modestly, the agency will cover the difference in price.

Thank you once again for your patience and understanding. We are excited about our venture with Eagle Sign & Design, and look forward to again partnering with CHCs and marker sponsors in continuing work on the nation's leading historical marker program. If you have any questions, please direct them toward Charles Sadnick, Director of History Programs Division (charles.sadnick@thc.texas.gov).

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

Mark Wolfe, Executive Director

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Mark Wolfe

Executive Director

