

P.O. Box 13231, 1700 N. Congress Ave. Austin, TX 78711-3231, www.twdb.texas.gov Phone (512) 463-7847, Fax (512) 475-2053

## **DETERMINATION OF NO EFFECT**

## TO ALL POTENTIALLY INTERESTED AGENCIES:

Pursuant to the environmental assessment requirements of 31 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 363.14, the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) staff has determined that proposed action identified below may be exempted from formal environmental review requirements:

Harris County Water Control and Improvement District No. 91, Harris County, Texas TWDB DFUND Project No. 21824 WCID 91 Waterline Pipe Bursting Total Financing Amount: \$5,550,000 Loan No. L1001741

The Harris County Water Control and Improvement District No. 91 (District) is proposing to use \$5,550,000 in financing from the Texas Water Development Fund (DFund) program to rehabilitate existing waterlines throughout the District in order to reduce water loss and repair costs. The current waterlines were installed nearly sixty years ago and are past their useful life. The aging system requires frequent repairs, as evidenced by at least twelve major line breaks in the span of a year. After evaluating several options, the District is proposing replacement of the existing waterlines via pipe bursting methods along several streets in the District, comprising approximately 25,000 linear feet (LF) of waterline repairs. This project will be performed over the course of approximately three years. The District also plans to prepare an asset management plan as part of this project. Project components include:

- Mobilization
- Pipe bursting of existing 2-, 6- and 8-inch water lines, approximately:
  - o 10,000 LF of 8-inch lines
  - 5,100 LF of 6-inch lines
  - o 10,050 LF of 2-inch lines
- Flushing valve assembly
- Service leads
- Site restoration
- Traffic control and regulation
- Preparation of an Asset Management Plan

The project is limited to replacing existing waterlines only. No pipeline extensions are included as part of this project. All construction will occur within existing easements and

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road rights-of-way (ROW), accessed by approximately 30 bore pits measuring 10 feet by 20 feet each. The proposed waterlines will be laid within the existing waterlines. Service lines will be placed adjacent to existing service lines not to exceed 25-feet spacing. The pipe bursting method leaves the existing waterlines in place after bursting, existing materials will remain. Service lines will be abandoned in place.

This Determination of No Effect (DNE) is completed for the WCID 91 Waterline Pipe Bursting.

There are no previously recorded significant or potentially significant historic or cultural sites within or adjacent to the project footprint, according to the Texas Historical Commission's Archeological Sites Atlas, nor is the project within the protected area surrounding a historic cemetery, structure, or district. The project will not adversely impact waters of the United States, including wetlands. Construction within the existing ROW and easements is not expected to impact threatened or endangered species or habitat.

The project does appear to be partially within a 100-year floodplain, as designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Projects involving construction in the 100-year floodplain, including replacement or borings, require a floodplain development permit from the local floodplain administrator prior to construction in the 100-year floodplain.

The TWDB cannot fund testing, remediation, removal, disposal, or related works for contaminated or potentially contaminated materials. However, the project proponent should ensure that, if found, such materials are tested, removed, and disposed of in accordance with applicable state and federal laws.

The decision to grant a Determination of No Effect (DNE) is allowed because the specified project elements should not cause significant adverse impacts to the quality of the environment. Documentation supporting this determination is on file at the TWDB.

This determination shall be revoked if it is found that

- (1) the project no longer meets the requirements for categorical exclusion from full environmental review as a result of changes in the project;
- (2) the project involves extraordinary circumstances as described in 31 TAC § 363.14; or
- (3) the project may violate or has violated federal, state, local, or tribal laws.

The proposed project must comply with the following special and standard environmental conditions:

## **Special Environmental Condition**

• Consistent with the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004, federal Executive Order 11988, Texas Water Code Section 16.315, and local floodplain development ordinances, a floodplain development permit will be obtained from the local floodplain administrator prior to construction in a Special Flood Hazard Area.

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Standard Environmental Conditions

- Consistent with the TWDB Supplemental Construction Contract Conditions (TWDB-0552), the Harris County Water Control and Improvement District No. 91 (and associated contracts) will abide by the standard emergency condition for the discovery of cultural resources.
- Consistent with the TWDB Supplemental Construction Contract Conditions (TWDB-0552), the Harris County Water Control and Improvement District No. 91 (and associated contracts) will abide by the standard emergency condition for the discovery of threatened and endangered species.

Comments regarding this determination may be submitted to the Director of Regional Water Project Development, Texas Water Development Board, P.O. Box 13231, Austin, Texas 78711-3231 or via email at <u>RWPD-Environmental@twdb.texas.gov</u>.

Sincerely,

T. Clay Schultz, Ph.D., Director Regional Water Project Development

Enclosures



