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MEMORANDUM

TO: T. Clay Schultz, Ph.D., Regional Water Project Development Clay Schultz Digitally signed by Clay Schultz Date: 2026.09.23 09:18:56 -05'00'

THROUGH: Candice DeLello, Regional Water Project Development Candice DeLello Digitally signed by Candice DeLello Date: 2026.09.23 09:30:45 -05'00'

FROM: Kylie Beard, Environmental Protection Specialist Kylie Beard Digitally signed by Kylie Beard Date: 2026.09.14 15:51:44 -05'00'

SUBJECT: City of Evant, Hamilton and Coryell Counties, Texas
TWDB RWAF Project No. 21848
Water System Improvements
Total Commitment Amount: $1,263,000
Grant No. G1001972

As required by the rules of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), 31 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 363.14, an environmental review has been performed for the Water System Improvements Project proposed by the City of Evant (City) in Hamilton and Coryell counties, Texas. The City is proposing to use $1,263,000 in financing from the Rural Water Assistance Fund (RWAF) for planning, acquisition, design, and construction of the project. The Environmental Determination (ED) completed for the proposed project is based primarily on the Environmental Data Form (EDF)[1] received by the TWDB.

PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of the project is to address water loss and supply issues within the City. The aging system has to deliver well water from a considerable distance. Current well production does not meet the 0.6 gallon-per-minute requirement by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). Evant's approximately 41 percent water loss is due to untracked line flushing and deterioration of existing water distribution pipelines. An emergency well is generally kept offline due to its low production rate; rehabilitation of this well could increase its production rate and allow it to be used as a regular water source. Additionally, water produced from the City's wells exceeds the limits for secondary contaminants. The proposed new water well would help manage this issue by blending with existing water production for improved water quality.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project components covered by this environmental assessment include:

[1] City of Evant (August 4, 2026). Environmental Data Form (EDF), Water System Improvements, Prepared by Jacob Martin Engineering. Received by TWDB on February 10, 2026. The EDF is complete with the supplementary materials submitted to the TWDB on August 4, 2026.

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Bryan McMath, Executive Administrator

- Construct one new water source well with associated appurtenances including a flow meter and SCADA system at one of two locations:
    - U.S. Highway 84 near North Memory Lane
    - U.S. Highway 84 near Brooks Drive
- Rehabilitate well 15B (the emergency well) with associated appurtenances including a flow meter and SCADA system
- Rehabilitate the existing 0.169-million-gallon standpipe including repair of the base leak, upgrading the SCADA system, and installing tank level indicators and gauges
- Rehabilitate Main Pump Station including upgrading the SCADA system and installing tank level indicators and gauges
- Rehabilitate the Blue Well Pump Station including upgrading the SCADA system and installing tank level indicators and gauges
- Replace approximately 8,500 linear feet (LF) of waterlines
- Install approximately 20 flush valves on existing waterlines including dead end lines

Flush valve work will consist of excavation at the end of existing waterlines to install or replace flush valve assemblies. Ground disturbance for this component will be limited to the minimum area necessary for excavation, installation, and restoration, approximately 24 square feet per site. No new permanent access roads will be constructed for the flush valves. Existing public road rights-of-way, utility easements, and previously disturbed areas will be used to access each flush valve location. There will be no vegetation removal at any of these locations.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The project is consistent with local, regional, and statewide planning. Coordination with the appropriate governmental agencies has been made and no adverse comments have been received.

The project does not involve any known, significant socioeconomic or environmental impacts, or historical or cultural resource issues that may affect the evaluation of project alternatives or implementation of the project, such as rate increases, displacement of persons, disproportionate effects on minorities or those living beneath the poverty line, potential impacts to known cultural resources, waters of the U.S., or protected species, or similar public concerns. Therefore, no public meeting was required.

AGENCY COORDINATION

The City's environmental impact assessment included coordination with state and federal regulatory agencies, local authorities, and other stakeholders and interested parties regarding the project's potential impact. The City submitted notifications to and requests for input from all required parties. Some entities did not require a response. The respondents are listed below, and the results of coordination are summarized in the EDF and reflected in the environmental conditions listed below:

- Texas Historical Commission, in accordance with the Antiquities Code of Texas (THC Tracking No. 202307906), State Historic Preservation Officer, in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act

- United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Regulatory Branch, Fort Worth District, in accordance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (Project Number SWF-2025-00491)
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), Wildlife Division, Ecological & Environmental Planning Program, Austin, in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended; Migratory Bird Treaty Act; Texas Parks and Wildlife Code; and other applicable regulations (TPWD Project No. 50748)
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Austin Ecological Services Field Office, in accordance with the Endangered Species Act and statutes affecting other federally protected species (USFWS Project Code 2026-0047960)

Texas Historical Commission

The THC was given the opportunity to review the project. There are no previously recorded significant or potentially significant sites within or adjacent to the project footprint according to THC Archeological Sites Atlas. The project is not within the protected area surrounding a historic cemetery, structure, or district. The THC staff concurred that no historic properties, archeological sites, or other cultural resources would be affected by the project, in correspondence dated May 30, 2023 (THC Tracking No. 202307906).

United States Army Corps of Engineers

The USACE, Fort Worth District Office, Regulatory Branch staff was given the opportunity to review the project (USACE Project Number SWF-2025-00491). The USACE issued an approved jurisdictional determination (AJD) on January 7, 2026. An AJD identifies what waterbodies in the project area qualify as waters of the United States (WOTUS) according to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act. The USACE determined that there were no WOTUS at the project sites and issued a No Permit Required Letter on January 7, 2026.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

The TPWD Wildlife Division, Ecological & Environmental Planning Program staff reviewed the project in accordance with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, and provided a response dated June 1, 2023 (TPWD Project No. 50748). The TPWD made recommendations to prevent impacts to migratory birds and species of greatest conservation need (SGCN) that may occur in the project area.

In correspondence dated June 1, 2023, Jacob Martin Engineering, on behalf of the City, responded regarding their commitment to the recommendations. In order to mitigate or avoid potential impacts, TPWD recommendations are summarized as environmental special conditions in this ED.

United States Fish and Wildlife Service

The USFWS Austin Ecological Services Field Office, in accordance with the Endangered Species Act and statutes affecting other federally protected species, was given the opportunity to review the project through the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system (Project Code No. 2026-0047960). The USFWS consistency letter dated April 13, 2026, issued a

No Effect determination for the listed species in the project area and a formal Section 7 consultation was not required.

No known occurrences of or potential habitat for federally listed candidate, threatened, or endangered species were present within or adjacent to the project area during the field survey. There was no designated critical habitat within the project area.

Local Floodplain Administrator

The project is not located within the 100-year floodplain; therefore, coordination with the local floodplain administrator was not required.

CONDITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

An environmental review of the project has been completed consistent with the guidelines provided in 31 TAC § 363.14. The results of this environmental review are documented in this Memorandum, which includes environmental conditions that will be applied to the project to avoid significant adverse impact on floodplains, cultural or historical resources, threatened or endangered species, and protected migratory bird species.

The TWDB may not 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 and local ordinances.

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

Special Environmental Conditions

- As per an agreement with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), Ecological & Environmental Planning Program (TPWD Project No. 50748), to ensure compliance with Chapters 12, 57, 64, and 67, of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, and the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and applicable federal regulations pertaining to protected, the following measures will be implemented:
    - Vegetation clearing must be excluded during the general bird nesting season, March 15 through September 15, to avoid adverse impacts to breeding birds. If vegetation clearing during this time is unavoidable, the area proposed for disturbance will be surveyed by a qualified biologist to identify occupied nests, not more than five days prior to clearing activities. If occupied nests are observed during surveys, a vegetation buffer area of no less than 100 feet in diameter will remain around the nest until all young have fledged; however, the size of the buffer zone depends on various factors and can be coordinated with the local or regional USFWS office.
    - The length of trenches left open at any given time during construction will be minimized. Trenching and backfilling activities will be kept close together in time. Trenches and excavation areas will be covered overnight and/or inspected every morning or if left open longer than two daylight hours to ensure no wildlife species have been trapped. If trenches cannot be backfilled the day of initial

trenching, then escape ramps will be installed every 300 feet, in the form of short lateral trenches or wooden planks sloping to the surface at an angle of less than 45 degrees, at a ratio one horizontal foot for every one foot of depth.

- For soil stabilization and revegetation, no-till drilling, hydromulching (avoiding plastic ingredients), and/or hydroseeding will be used rather than erosion control blankets or mats, which pose an entanglement hazard to wildlife. If erosion control blankets or mats cannot be avoided, products that contain no netting or loosely woven natural fiber netting will be used, avoiding any type of plastic netting.
- The City of Evant (City) will minimize the removal of native vegetation to the extent feasible. Unavoidable removal of vegetation will be mitigated by revegetating disturbed areas with site-specific native plant species.
- The City will provide educational materials to construction contractors and crews detailing the potential for the occurrence of rare and protected species within the project area; the relevant rules and regulations that protect plants, fish and wildlife; and measures that will be taken to avoid impacting wildlife if encountered.

<u>Standard Environmental Conditions</u>

- Consistent with the TWDB Supplemental Construction Contract Conditions (TWDB-0552), the City will abide by the standard emergency condition for the discovery of cultural resources.

- Consistent with the TWDB Supplemental Construction Contract Conditions (TWDB-0552), the City will abide by the standard emergency condition for the discovery of threatened and endangered species.

Therefore, it is recommended that an Environmental Determination be issued.