

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

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES AND PUBLIC GROUPS:

As provided by the environmental review process adopted in the rules of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), 31 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 371.42, for projects funded through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Program, and consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S. Code § 4321, *et seq.*, the TWDB has determined that the proposed action identified below may be exempted from comprehensive environmental review requirements:

Millersview-Doole Water Supply Corporation Concho, McCulloch, Runnels, and Tom Green Counties, Texas TWDB DWSRF Project Number 62925 Water System and Well Water Blending Facilities Improvements Project Total Financing Amount: \$2,450,980 Loan Number LF1001731

(Note: This project is a continuation of two completed projects, 60748 and 61930, which closed on a combined total of \$36,592,000 in loan and grant financing from the TWDB.)

The Millersview-Doole Water Supply Corporation (Corporation) provides potable water to customers throughout its service area in Concho, McCulloch, Runnals, and Tom Green counties. The Corporation is proposing to use \$2,450,980 in financing from the DWSRF program for the Water System and Well Water Blending Facilities Improvements Project. Specifically, the Corporation will: 1) construct a chlorine dioxide disinfection facility and make related improvements to the existing treatment system at the surface water treatment plant near O. H. Ivie Reservoir, Concho County; and 2) construct a new groundwater treatment plant utilizing ion exchange, with a treatment building, piping, valves, pumps, disinfection equipment, and appurtenances, at the existing Melvin Pump Station near Melvin, McCulloch County. The Corporation is also proposing to make improvements at the Wall pump station in Tom Green County if adequate funds are available, such as replacing pumps, piping, valves, ground storage, and pressure tanks.

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

Categorical Exclusion
Millersview-Doole Water Supply Corporation
Concho, McCulloch, Runnels, and Tom Green Counties, Texas
TWDB DWSRF Project Number 62925
Water System and Well Water Blending Facilities Improvements Project
Page 2

There are no previously recorded significant or potentially significant historical or cultural sites within or adjacent to the project footprint, according to the Texas Historical Commission's Archeological Sites Atlas, nor is the proposed project within a protected area surrounding a historic cemetery, structure, or district. The Texas Historical Commission provided a determination dated June 4, 2024 (Tracking Number 202410181) that confirmed that no historic properties are present on or affected by the proposed project. On November 18, 2024, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Project Number SWF-2024-00546) concluded the proposed project will not adversely impact waters of the United States. including wetlands. Because most of the proposed project area lies outside of areas mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for flood risk, the Corporation used best available data to estimate the extent of floodplains. None of the proposed construction sites are located in flood prone areas, so no coordination with the local floodplain administrator was required. Some of the project area lies within areas with soils classified as prime farmland as defined in the Farmland Protection Policy Act. Therefore, the Corporation coordinated with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and received a letter dated November 12, 2024, stating that the project area did not meet the criteria for protection or was considered "land already in urban development" and is exempt from regulation. The NRCS strongly encouraged the use of accepted erosion control methods during construction. To assess potential impact to wildlife, plants, and their habitats, the Corporation also coordinated with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD). The USFWS responded on October 31, 2024 (Project Code 2025-0013559), providing information on protected species potentially present in the project area. On December 4, 2024, the TPWD stated that they do not "anticipate significant adverse effects to rare, threatened, or endangered species, or other fish and wildlife resources."

As originally defined, the project required a comprehensive environmental impact assessment. The Corporation completed that assessment but did not provide public notice of the availability of the assessment document for public review and comment, nor did it conduct a public meeting as required; however, the scope of the project was subsequently reduced and the potential environmental effects of the remaining project elements were determined to be *de minimis*. For this reason, the project as defined above is now eligible for Categorical Exclusion (CE) from comprehensive impact assessment and mitigation.

The TWDB has recommended issuance of a CE for this project. The decision to grant this CE is allowed because the specified project elements will not cause significant adverse impacts to cultural and natural resources. 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 §371.42; or

Categorical Exclusion
Millersview-Doole Water Supply Corporation
Concho, McCulloch, Runnels, and Tom Green Counties, Texas
TWDB DWSRF Project Number 62925
Water System and Well Water Blending Facilities Improvements Project
Page 3

(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:

Standard Environmental Conditions

- Consistent with the TWDB Supplemental Construction Contract Conditions (TWDB-0550, the Millersview-Doole Water Supply Corporation (Corporation) will abide by the standard emergency condition for the discovery of cultural resources.
- Consistent with the TWDB Supplemental Construction Contract Conditions (TWDB-0550), the Corporation 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 RWPD-Environmental@twdb.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosures

















