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) § 371.41, for projects to be funded through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program and consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 United States Code § 4321, *et seq*., the TWDB has determined that the proposed action identified below may be exempted from comprehensive environmental review:

Sharyland Water Supply Corporation, Hidalgo County, Texas
TWDB DWSRF Project No. 63092
Test Wells Project
Total Financing Amount: $1,050,000
Commitment Nos. L1002238 and LF1002239

The Sharyland Water Supply Corporation (Corporation) is proposing to use $1,050,000 in funding from the DWSRF program to drill test wells at water treatment plant (WTP) 2 and WTP 3. The proposed project, which will occur entirely within the existing boundaries of the WTPs, is strictly a temporary testing arrangement that will utilize truck-mounted drilling equipment that will be removed from the sites once the testing is complete. Test holes are anticipated to extend through the Chicot and Evangeline aquifers to depths approaching approximately 1,500 feet below the ground surface. Temporary casing and drilling methods will be selected as appropriate to maintain test hole stability and allow for collection of representative geologic and groundwater information throughout the investigation. All test holes will be plugged and abandoned after the study is completed. No permanent structures will remain after abandonment, and the surface will be restored to pre-project conditions. The purpose of the proposed test wells is to evaluate groundwater quality, identify water yield zones, and assess the presence of contaminants. Data collected will be used to determine the optimal well locations and inform the design of a future treatment facility. This phase includes only planning efforts and will result in a technical memorandum summarizing the findings.

The study areas at both WTPs can easily be accessed by existing access roads at each site. Temporary construction entrances from access roads, as specified on the stormwater pollution prevention plan, may be constructed off existing access roads to transport vehicles and equipment onto each site. Surface disturbances will occur throughout the drill rig footprint at each hole location while drilling occurs. General soil disturbance and compaction

associated with temporary construction activities such as staging, storage of drill fluids, and operating vehicles/equipment in a work zone are also anticipated.

Vegetation on-site is extremely minimal; both WTP study areas have been previously disturbed and are regularly mowed and maintained. The only vegetation at each site consists of a single, small deciduous tree, which will be avoided. Vegetation impacts are therefore not anticipated by the project.

Depending on driller availability, the proposed project is anticipated to run for one month (estimating 2 weeks per well). The anticipated test well production capacity is 1,250 gallons per minute with assumptions based on available well data from nearby wells. The final test well production capacity will be determined via pumping tests during preliminary aquifer testing activities.

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

There are no previously recorded significant or potentially significant historical or cultural sites within or adjacent to the proposed 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 proposed project will not adversely impact waters of the United States, including wetlands. The proposed project at WTP 2 appears to be partially within a 100-year floodplain, as designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. 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. In addition, the proposed project is not expected to impact threatened or endangered species or habitat.

The TWDB previously recommended issuance of a Categorical Exclusion (CE) for the proposed 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
(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 Conditions

- Consistent with the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004, federal Executive Order 11988 as amended by EO 13690, 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, across, or under a Special Flood Hazard Area and Texas Water Development Board approval of plans and specifications, and any requirements contained therein will be adhered to.

Standard Environmental Conditions

- Consistent with Texas Water Development Board Supplemental Construction Contract Conditions (TWDB-0550), Sharyland Water Supply Corporation will abide by the standard emergency condition for the discovery of cultural resources.

- Consistent with Texas Water Development Board Supplemental Construction Contract Conditions (TWDB-0550), Sharyland Water Supply Corporation will abide by the standard emergency condition for the discovery of threatened and endangered species.

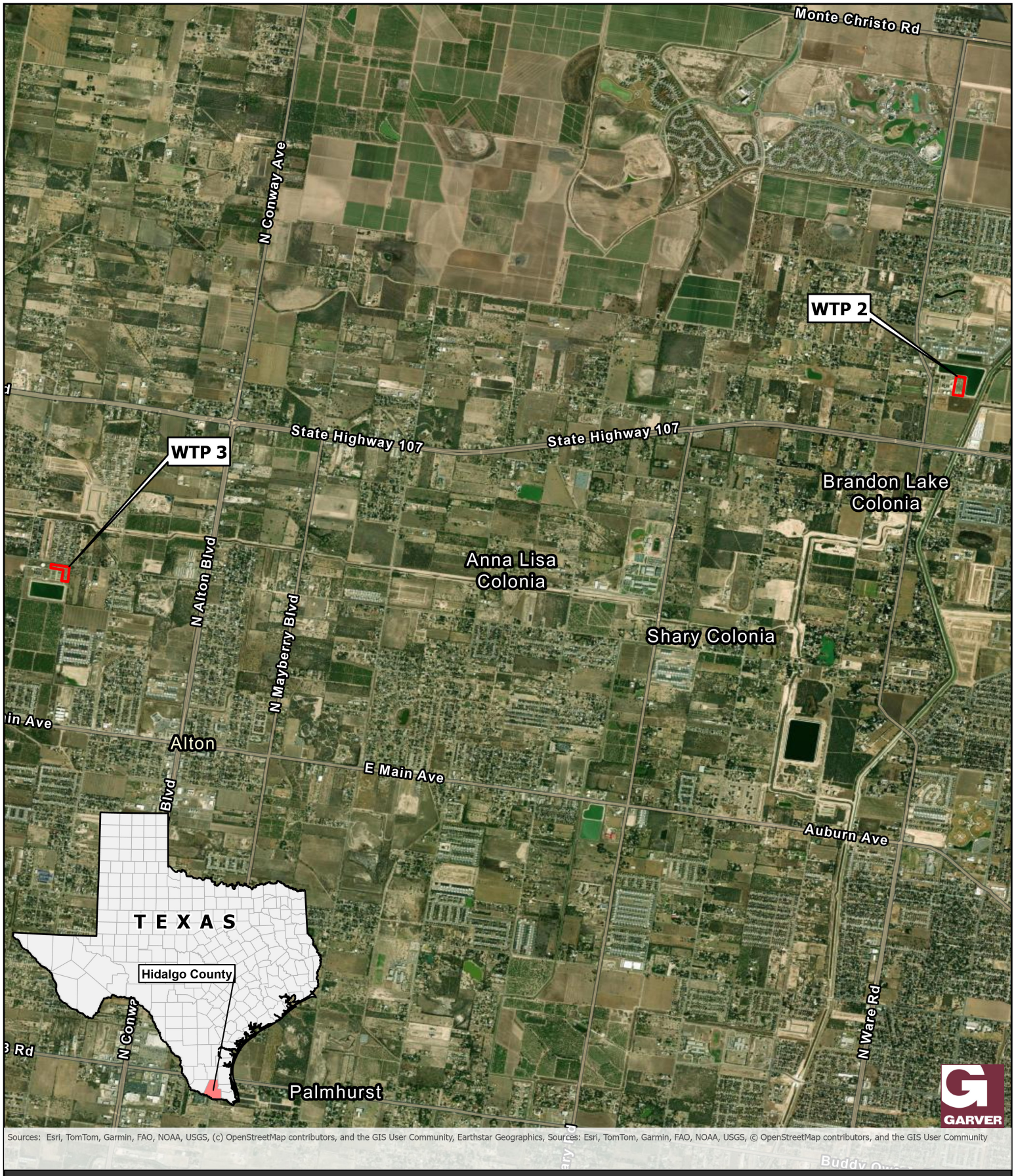
Comments regarding this determination may be submitted to the Director of Regional Water Project Development, Texas Water Development Board, P.O. Box 13231, Austin, Texas 78711-3231 or via email at rwpd-environmental@twdb.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

Clay Schultz
Digitally signed by Clay Schultz
Date: 2026.09.11 13:21:22 -05'00'

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

Enclosures



Test Hole Program Overview

Project Area

Hydrogeological Feasibility and Test Hole Program
Sharyland Water Supply Corporation

Hidalgo County, Texas

NORTH

0 2,000 4,000

Feet

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Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Vantor, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

WTP 2

Test Hole Study Area

Hydrogeological Feasibility and Test Hole Program
Sharyland Water Supply Corporation

Hidalgo County, Texas

NORTH

0 125 250

Feet

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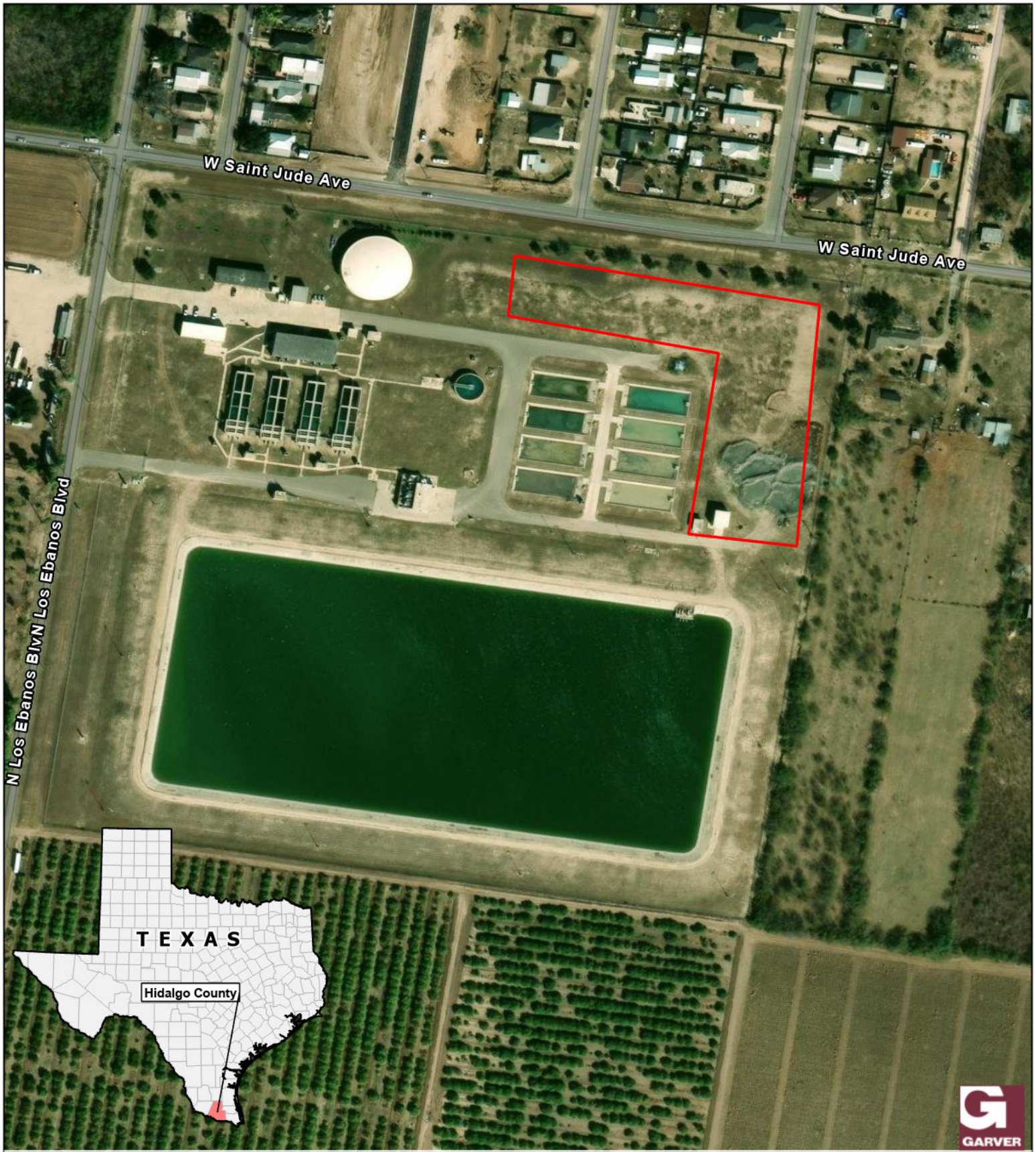

Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, Microsoft, Vantor, Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

GARVER

WTP 3

Test Hole Study Area

Hydrogeological Feasibility and Test Hole Program
Sharyland Water Supply Corporation

Hidalgo County, Texas

NORTH

0 125 250

Feet

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