



P.O. Box 13231, 1700 N. Congress Ave.  
Austin, TX 78711-3231, [www.twdb.texas.gov](http://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) § 375.61, for projects to be funded through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) 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 formal environmental review requirements:

Harlingen Water Works System, Cameron County, Texas  
TWDB CWSRF Project No. 73944  
Wastewater Treatment Plant and Interceptor System Improvements Project,  
Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Project  
Total Commitment Amount: \$10,000,000  
Commitment No. L1001698

The Harlingen Water Works System is proposing to use \$10,000,000 in funding from the CWSRF Program for planning, acquisition, and design of the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and interceptor system improvements project. The proposed project consists of improvements at the City of Harlingen's WWTP No. 2 and improvements to the wastewater collection system.

The environmental review for the proposed WWTP and interceptor system improvements project is being segmented because the proposed WWTP improvements project is a complete standalone project that is not dependent on any of the components in the proposed interceptor system improvements project, and the Harlingen Water Works System plans to start construction on the proposed WWTP improvements as soon as possible. This Categorical Exclusion (CE) is being completed for the proposed WWTP improvements project, hereafter referred to as the proposed project. A subsequent environmental review will be conducted for the proposed interceptor improvements project and a separate environmental finding will be issued for this project component by the TWDB.

The proposed project is required to address deficiencies in condition and performance. The existing headworks facility has exceeded its intended design life and must be replaced and improved. The proposed project includes the following components:

- The influent lift station will be replaced to affirm a new 33.0-million-gallon-per-day (MGD) firm capacity lift station, a 40.0 MGD WWTP headworks, and 2.0 million gallons of equalization storage to accommodate existing and future flows.

#### Our Mission

Leading the state's efforts  
in ensuring a secure  
water future for Texas

#### Board Members

L'Oreal Stepney, P.E., Chairwoman | Tonya R. Miller, Board Member  
Bryan McMath, Executive Administrator

## Categorical Exclusion

Harlingen Water Works System, Cameron County, Texas

TWDB CWSRF Project No. 73944

Wastewater Treatment Plant and Interceptor System Improvements Project,

Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Project

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- The headworks facility improvements involve replacing and improving the mechanical screening and grit removal facilities to keep up with existing and future flows. Other proposed replacements and improvements involve a mechanical screen, bypass channel, conveyance, grit pumps, grit classifier, and washer/compactor to effectively protect downstream units.
- The capacity of the flow equalization basin (FEB) will be improved to accommodate a peak flow of 40.0 MGD. Flow to the FEB will be accomplished downstream of the headworks facility and returned to the influent lift station after a wet weather event to allow flows to be screened and de-gritted prior to the FEB to limit trash and debris.
- A new septage receiving station facility will be installed to accommodate clients that are seeking a station to relieve septage tanks. The facility will be located within the perimeter of the area operated by the Harlingen Water Works System.
- A new odor control facility will be installed to help mitigate odors.

The proposed project does not involve changes in the WWTP's treatment capacity or discharge limits. In addition, the proposed project will not alter or make improvements to the biological treatment process.

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

Environmental impacts will be similar to rehabilitation of existing facilities and limited to the area within the existing WWTP. 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 is not located within a Special Flood Hazard Area; therefore, coordination with the local floodplain administrator was not required. In addition, the proposed project within the existing WWTP is not expected to impact threatened or endangered species or habitat.

The TWDB previously recommended the issuance of a 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 § 375.62; 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:

Standard Environmental Conditions

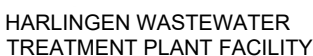
- Consistent with the TWDB Supplemental Construction Contract Conditions (TWDB-0550), the Harlingen Water Works System will abide by the standard emergency condition for the discovery of cultural resources.
- Consistent with the TWDB Supplemental Construction Contract Conditions (TWDB-0550), the Harlingen Water Works System 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](mailto:RWPD-Environmental@twdb.texas.gov).

Sincerely,

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

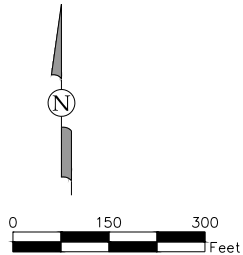
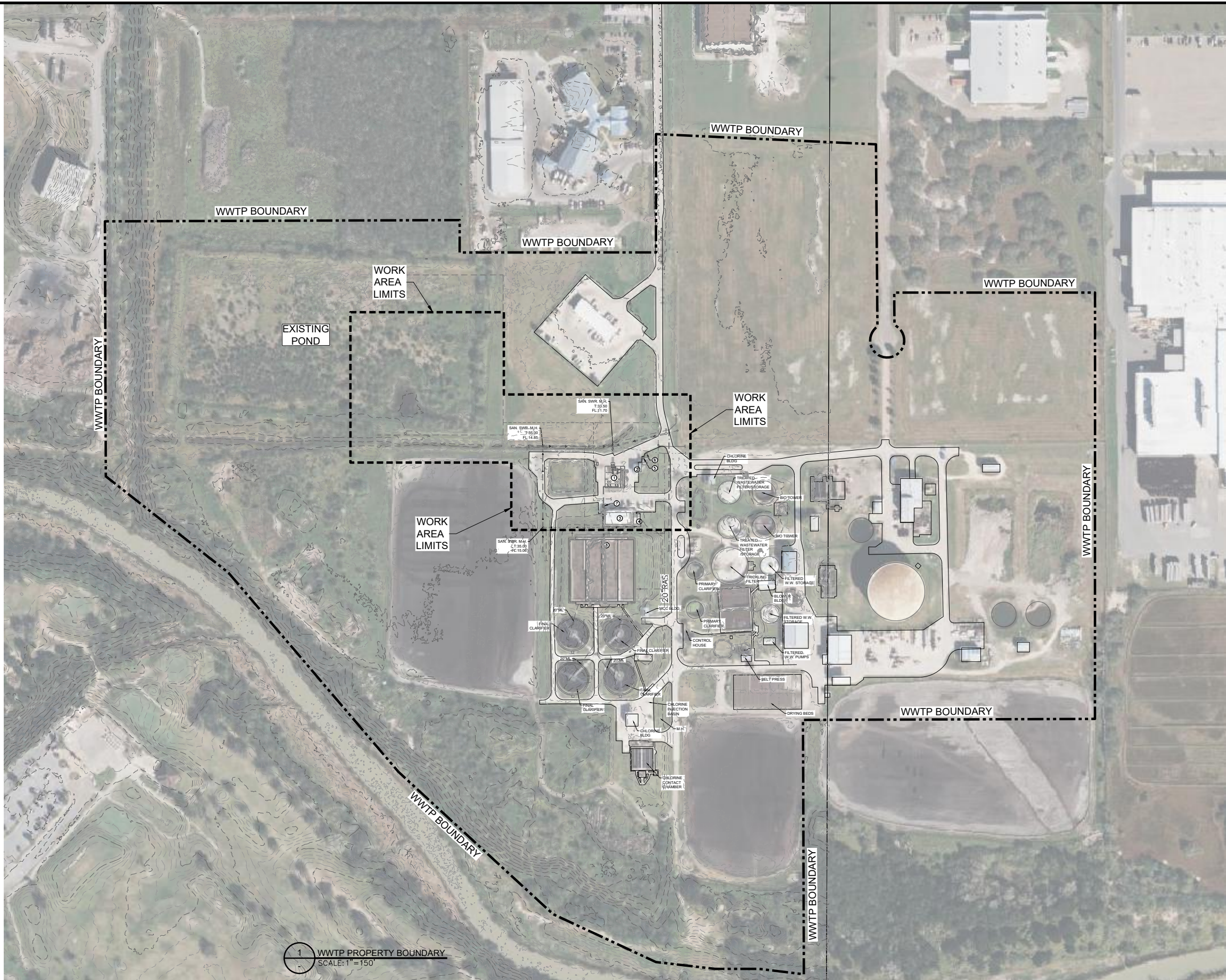
Enclosures



SN. 7643016396460  
GA REF NO. U S G S X 2 4 K 1 9 3 4 7



2/18/2025 L:\SHARE1\ENGINEERING\HWS\1092\_HWS HEADWORKS\14\_PRODUCTION\060 PHASE DRAWINGS\0100-C-01.DWG

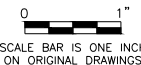


LEGEND

- SS SANITARY SEWER.  
FM FORCEMAIN.  
RS RAW SEWAGE.  
SRS SCREENED RAW SEWAGE.  
RAS RETURN ACTIVATED SLUDGE.  
NPW NON-POTABLE WATER.  
PD PLANT DRAIN.  
PE PLANT EFFLUENT.  
--- WWTP PROPERTY BOUNDARY  
--- WORK AREA LIMITS

EXISTING STRUCTURES IDENTIFICATION

1. INFLUENT LIFT STATION AND HEADWORKS FACILITY.  
2. MCC BUILDING.  
3. MCC/BLOWER BUILDING.  
4. GENERATOR.  
5. XFMR.  
6. METER VAULT.  
7. MAG METER.  
8. AERATION BASIN.



Designed: JG			
Drawn: H3			
Checked: EM			
Approved: JG			
File: 0100-C-01.DWG			
Revision	Date	Description	

PRELIMINARY  
**NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION**  
This document is released for  
**DESIGN REVIEW**  
only under the authority of  
JAVIER GARCIA, P.E., No. 83920  
on FEB 2025



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HARLINGEN  
WATERWORKS  
SYSTEM  
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Ph. (956) 430-6100

HARLINGEN WATERWORKS SYSTEM (HWS)  
WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

WWTP PROPERTY BOUNDARY

PROJ. NO. 1092

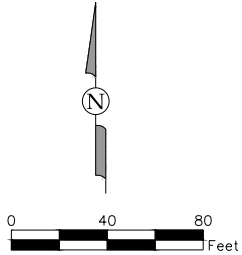
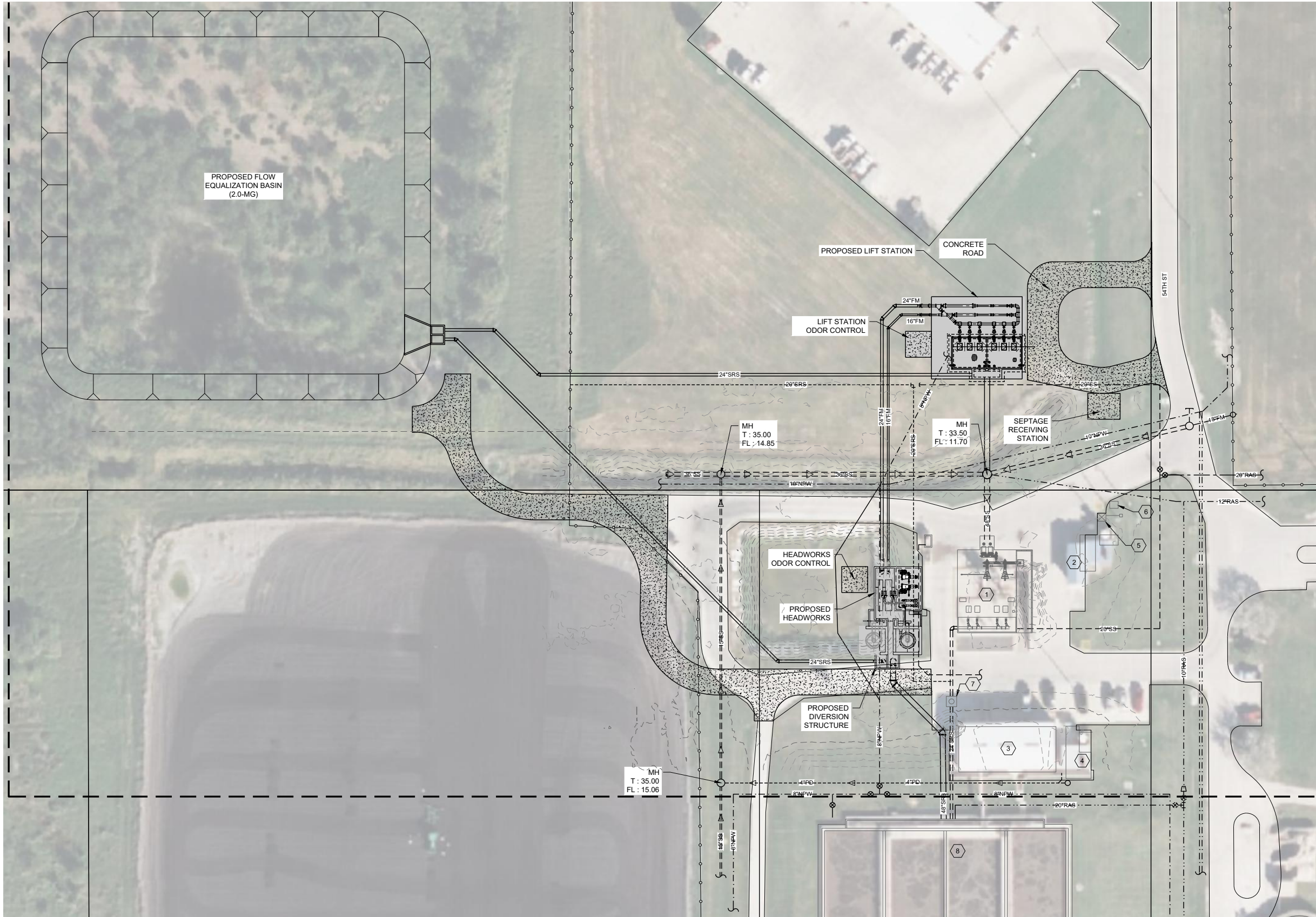
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SHT 14 OF 64

0 1 2 3 ORIGINAL SCALE IN INCHES FOR REDUCED PLANS



5/5/2025 L:\SHARE1\ENGINEERING\HWWS\1092\_HWWS\_HEADWORKS\14\_PRODUCTION\DWG PHASE DRAWINGS\SHEETS\0100-C-04.DWG

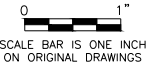


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  7. MAG METER.
  8. AERATION BASIN.

1 PROPOSED SITE PLAN  
SCALE: 1" = 40'



Designed: JG		
Drawn: H3		
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File: 0100-C-04.DWG		
Revision	Date	Description

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JAVIER GARCIA, P.E., No. 83920  
on MAY 5, 2025



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HARLINGEN WATERWORKS SYSTEM (HWWS)  
WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

PROPOSED SITE PLAN

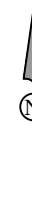
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SHT 17 OF 64

0 1 2 3 ORIGINAL SCALE IN INCHES FOR REDUCED PLANS





 FEMA 100 YEAR FLOODPLAIN

1 PROJECT LOCATION  
- SCALE: 1"=1000'

Date _____	File No. _____
Designed _____	Drawing No. _____
Drawn _____	
Checked _____	
Approved _____	
	Sheet _____



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Attachment D  
FEMA Floodplain Map