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CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES AND PUBLIC GROUPS:

As provided by the state 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 Emerging Contaminants (CWSRF-EC) Program and consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 United States Code § 4321, et seq., the TWDB staff has determined that the proposed action identified below may be exempted from formal environmental review requirements:

City of Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas TWDB CWSRF-EC Project No. 73967 PFAS Removal/Reduction Project Total Financing Amount: \$4,000,000 Loan Forgiveness No. LF1001907 Loan Forgiveness No. LF1002136

The City of Fort Worth (City) is proposing to use \$4,000,000 in financing from the CWSRF-EC Program for the PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) Removal/Reduction Project to treat wastewater from the City's landfill for emerging contaminants prior to reaching the wastewater treatment plant. Wastewater from the City-owned Fort Worth Southeast Landfill was identified as a point source of wastewater discharged into the collection system that contains PFAS. This project is intended to identify treatment options for the wastewater containing PFAS and then designing and ultimately constructing a facility to remove these harmful substances. This project will be located at the existing landfill site and will provide additional treatment of wastewater specifically to treat/remove PFAS. This proposed project would augment existing treatment to remove specifically targeted PFAS.

The proposed project will not result in an increased wastewater discharge, and it will not be designed or intended to remove anything other than PFAS. The proposed pad site dimensions for the relocated and augmented treatment system are approximately 200 feet by 150 square feet, located within the landfill boundaries and outside of the floodplain. There is no concern about soil contamination at the existing site or from the envisioned treatment processes. Anticipated benefits of this facility include the reduction of PFAS in wastewater treatment plant influent, effluent, and biosolids, as well as providing a demonstration facility that Fort Worth can showcase to other industries and utilities, both local and regional, that have high levels of PFAS in their wastewater as they evaluate PFAS reduction and removal options. Since the proposed PFAS removal system will be constructed at an existing, permitted, and active landfill site, no additional environmental permits, registrations, licenses or authorizations are anticipated for this project.

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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 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 is not expected to impact threatened or endangered species or habitat.

The staff of the TWDB previously recommended the issuance of a Categorical Exclusion (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 or 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 City of Fort Worth (City) will abide by the standard emergency condition for the discovery of cultural resources.
- Consistent with the TWDB Supplemental Construction Contract Conditions (TWDB-0550), the City 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







