

MEMORANDUM

TO: File

FROM: Jessica Zuba, Director, Regional Water Planning and Development

DATE: October 28, 2015

SUBJECT: Riverbend Water Resources District, Bowie County
Environmental Determination
TexAmericas Center Water and Wastewater Facilities Acquisition
Water Development Fund
Project 21758 (L1000458)

The attached memorandum contains the staff's views regarding the environmental soundness of the proposed acquisition of TexAmericas Center's water and wastewater facilities in Bowie County as proposed by the Riverbend Water Resources District (District). The facilities are located approximately 12 miles southwest of the City of Texarkana (map attached). This project will utilize planning and acquisition funds from the Water Development Fund (WDF), Loan Number L1000458.

The District proposes to use funds from the TWDB loan to defease TexAmericas Center's outstanding bonds and accrued interest during the purchase of TexAmericas Center's aging and deteriorated water and wastewater facilities, and to develop planning that will identify and address deficiencies within the system. After the purchase, the District plans to maintain, operate, and expand the water and wastewater system to address the regional service needs. This environmental determination is limited to the acquisition and does not include design or construction (including modifications or demolition) of any facilities.

Based on staff's environmental review, I have determined that no significant adverse environmental impacts should result from the proposed project discussed in the attached Environmental Determination. Because the loan will not fund design, construction activities, including clearing, demolition or modifications, there are no additional mitigative conditions associated with this environmental determination.

The specified project elements above are environmentally sound and acquisition funds may be released once all other requirements are satisfied.

Enclosure

TO: Jessica Zuba, Director, Regional Water Planning and Development

THROUGH: Luis Farias, Manager, Team 3 – Northeast (Regions C and D)

FROM: Kathy Calnan, Environmental Reviewer

DATE: October 28, 2015

SUBJECT: Environmental Summary
Riverbend Water Resources District, Bowie County, Bowie County
TexAmericas Center Water and Wastewater Facilities Acquisition
Water Development Fund
Project 21758 (L1000458)

Pursuant to the environmental assessment requirements of Section §363.14 of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) rules, I have conducted a review of the proposed acquisition of TexAmericas Center Water and Wastewater Facilities as proposed by the Riverbend Water Resources District. The facilities are located in Bowie County approximately 12 miles southwest of the City of Texarkana (map attached). This project will utilize planning and acquisition funds from loan L1000458 from the Water Development Fund (WDF). It is anticipated that the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) will review the application for a commitment of funds on December 7, 2015.

The TexAmerica Center is a regional non-profit corporation that owns and operates aging and deteriorated water and wastewater infrastructure with a service area that includes Annona, Avery, Atlanta, DeKalb, Douglassville, Hooks, Linden, Maud, Naples, Nash, New Boston, Omaha, Queen City, Texarkana, Wake Village, Bloomburg, Bowie County, Cass County, Morris County, and Red River County.

The District proposes to use funds from a TWDB loan to defease TexAmericas Center's outstanding bonds and accrued interest during the purchase of TexAmericas Center's aging and deteriorated water and wastewater facilities, and to develop planning that will identify and address deficiencies within the system. After the purchase, the District plans to maintain, operate, and expand the water and wastewater system to address the regional service needs. This environmental determination is limited to the acquisition and does not include design or construction (including modifications or demolition) of any facilities.

This environmental determination is based primarily on a previous environmental finding by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The 2005 Base Closure and Realignment Commission Recommendations (BRAC Recommendations), made in conformance with the provisions of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990, Publ L. 101-510, 10 U.S. C. §2687 note, as amended (BRAC law), required the closure of the Lone Star Army Ammunitions Plant (LSAAP) and the realignment of the Red River Army Depot (RRAD). Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, the USACE prepared an environmental assessment to evaluate the environmental and socioeconomic impacts of the proposed realignment and closure, including repurposing

to civilian use, including industrial, commercial, and residential development. The USACE issued a Finding of No Significant Impact on April 21, 2010. In addition, the TWDB issued an Environmental Determination on February 13, 2012 (TWDB Project No. 21520) for the construction of one of the TexAmericas Center's facilities, the X-Plant, also known as the East Wastewater Treatment Plant, which replaced the Ronald R. Collins Water Reclamation Facility at the same site.

Conditions and Recommendation

Because the loan will not fund any design or construction activities, including clearing, demolition or modifications of existing facilities, there are no additional mitigative conditions associated with this environmental determination.

I recommend that the Executive Administrator find the specified project elements above to be environmentally sound and that acquisition funds be released once other requirements are satisfied.