

**DECEMBER 10, 2014**

**DETERMINATION OF NO EFFECT**

**TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES AND PUBLIC GROUPS:**

Pursuant to the environmental assessment requirements of 31 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §363.14 of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) rules, the Executive Administrator of the TWDB has determined that the proposed action identified below may be exempted from formal environmental review requirements:

City of Bedford, Tarrant County, Texas  
Bedford Conservation Strategy Project  
SWIFT Project No. 51016  
Total TWDB Commitment: \$90,000,000

The City of Bedford (City) is proposing to use funding from a \$90,000,000 State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT) Program loan for the construction phase required to implement improvements to the City's water distribution system. Specifically, the City intends to replace approximately 150 miles of existing 8- to 12-inch distribution lines within the City's service area (map attached) and replace approximately 15,000 water meters with an updated automatic meter reading system. An assessment of the distribution system will be performed to identify the specific pipelines to be replaced. In general, the City plans to replace deteriorated pipelines with pipelines of the same size (diameter), except when the existing pipeline needs to be upsized to meet minimum sizing criteria. Replacement lines will be located in the same or proximate location as the existing lines. Installation will use open trenching methods or, if necessary, trenchless methods (boring/directional drilling). After replacement, the existing linework will be removed or abandoned in place. The project will also require adequate isolation valves, fittings and all necessary appurtenances, including pavement repairs. All work will be performed within public rights-of-way (ROW) and on previously disturbed sites, some of which are under pavement.

Environmental impacts should be similar to rehabilitation activities and limited to those associated with excavation, pipe installation, and road repair. The Old Bedford School, located at 2400 School Lane, is classified as a National Register Property. The proposed project will not impact this structure or property. Other than this, there are no significant or potentially significant sites within the project area, according to Texas Historical Commission's Archeological Sites Atlas, nor is it within the protected area surrounding an historic cemetery, structure or district. If any lines cross creeks that may potentially qualify as waters of the U.S., the method of crossing will be selected to avoid activities under the jurisdiction of the USACE (e.g., boring/directional drilling) or all work will be performed in compliance with the Nationwide Permit 12 for Utility Line Activities. If any project activities are located in a 100-year floodplain, a floodplain permit or documented waiver from the local Floodplain Administrator will be required prior to construction activities. Because construction activities will be limited to existing ROWs in urban and residential areas, no impacts to threatened or endangered species or their habitat are anticipated.

This decision is allowed because the specified project elements should not entail significant adverse impacts to the quality of the human environment. Documentation supporting this determination is on file at the TWDB.

This determination may be rescinded if it is found that:

- (1) because of changes in the project the proposed actions no longer correspond to the description provided above;
- (2) the project may have significant adverse environmental effects; or
- (3) Federal, State, or local laws are being or may be violated by implementation of this project.

The project also must comply with the following standard emergency conditions:

- If any linework occurs within areas that potentially qualify as waters of the U.S., the method of crossing will be selected to avoid activities under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or will be performed in compliance with the Nationwide Permit 12 for Utility Line Activities;
- If any project activities are located in a 100-year floodplain, then a floodplain permit or documented waiver from the local Floodplain Administrator (National Flood Insurance Program) will be required prior to construction activities;
- Standard emergency conditions for the discovery of cultural resources; and,
- Standard emergency conditions for the discovery of threatened and endangered species.

Comments regarding this determination may be submitted to the Director, Regional Water Planning & Development, Texas Water Development Board, P.O. Box 13231, Austin, Texas 78711-3231.

