

March 24, 2016

## **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION**

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

Consistent with the state environmental review process adopted in the permanent rules of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), 31 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 371, Subchapter E, for projects funded through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Program, and with the terms and conditions of the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S. Code § 4321, *et seq.*, the Executive Administrator of the TWDB has determined that the proposed action identified below has fulfilled all pre-design environmental review requirements:

City of Dell City, Hudspeth County, Texas  
Reverse Osmosis Treatment Plant Project  
DWSRF, TWDB Project Number 62554  
Total TWDB Commitment: \$244,450 (LF1000118)  
Total Amount of Loan Forgiveness: \$244,450

The City provides potable water for its 366 residents at approximately 169 connections. Currently, the City's sole source of raw water is a well producing from the Bone Spring-Victorio Peak Aquifer. This groundwater contains elevated levels of total dissolved solids (TDS) and fluoride. Until 2011, the City relied on an electro dialysis reversal system to reduce the TDS, but when this unit failed it was permanently bypassed. The current system provides disinfection, but does not reduce the TDS or fluoride concentrations. As a result, the City has been cited in enforcement orders from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for exceeding contaminant levels.

To address these excesses, the City sought and obtained DWSRF funding with 100% loan forgiveness from the TWDB on May 16, 2013, in the amount of \$244,450. These funds were for planning and designing an enhanced treatment system. After considering alternatives, the City selected a reverse osmosis (RO) system linked to an existing SCADA network. The RO unit would be installed on a 160 square feet skid in an existing building at the City's water treatment plant. Effluent from the RO unit would be blended with water used for irrigation within the City.

The TWDB staff reviewed the potential environmental impact of the proposed water system improvement project and determined that it would have minimal adverse effect, thus qualifying for Categorical Exclusion (CE) from full environmental review. Historically, the project area was cleared of natural vegetation and developed as a facility to provide water treatment. No new impact would occur at this facility and there are no peripheral construction sites. Effluent irrigation would occur at locations that are irrigated at present and there would be no substantive change in the volume or quality of the water at any given location. There are no streams, wetlands, or other Waters of the United States in the area under the administrative jurisdiction of the United States Army Corps of Engineers. Intense rainfall events do occur episodically, causing unchanneled runoff to inundate the community. The entire City is therefore designated a

Zone A Special Flood Hazard Area (100-year floodplain) as defined and administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the local floodplain administrator. Installation of water treatment equipment within an enclosed building would have no effect on surface-water drainage, whereas the equipment itself would be slightly less susceptible to flood damage than the existing infrastructure because it would be installed on a raised skid. The proposed installations are not expected to impact endangered, threatened, or rare species or their habitats as recognized by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service or the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Examination of the Texas Historical Commission's Archeological Sites Atlas indicates that there are no known archeological or historical sites in proximity to the project area. Moreover, equipment installations within the previously disturbed property are not likely to affect any significant or potentially significant cultural resources that are yet unknown. Based on these assessments, the TWDB staff has concluded that the proposed project should not entail significant adverse impact on the human environment or protected natural resources.

On the basis of this review, the Executive Administrator of the TWDB has issued this Categorical Exclusion. Documentation supporting this determination is on file at the TWDB.

This determination shall be revoked if it is found that:

- (1) the proposed improvements no longer meet the requirements for a Categorical Exclusion as a result of changes in the project;
- (2) the project involves or results in extraordinary circumstances as described in 31 TAC Chapter 371, Subchapter E; or
- (3) the project violates or may violate federal, state, local, or tribal laws.

The project also must comply with the following conditions:

- Standard emergency condition for the discovery of cultural resources; and
- Standard emergency condition for the discovery of threatened or endangered species.

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

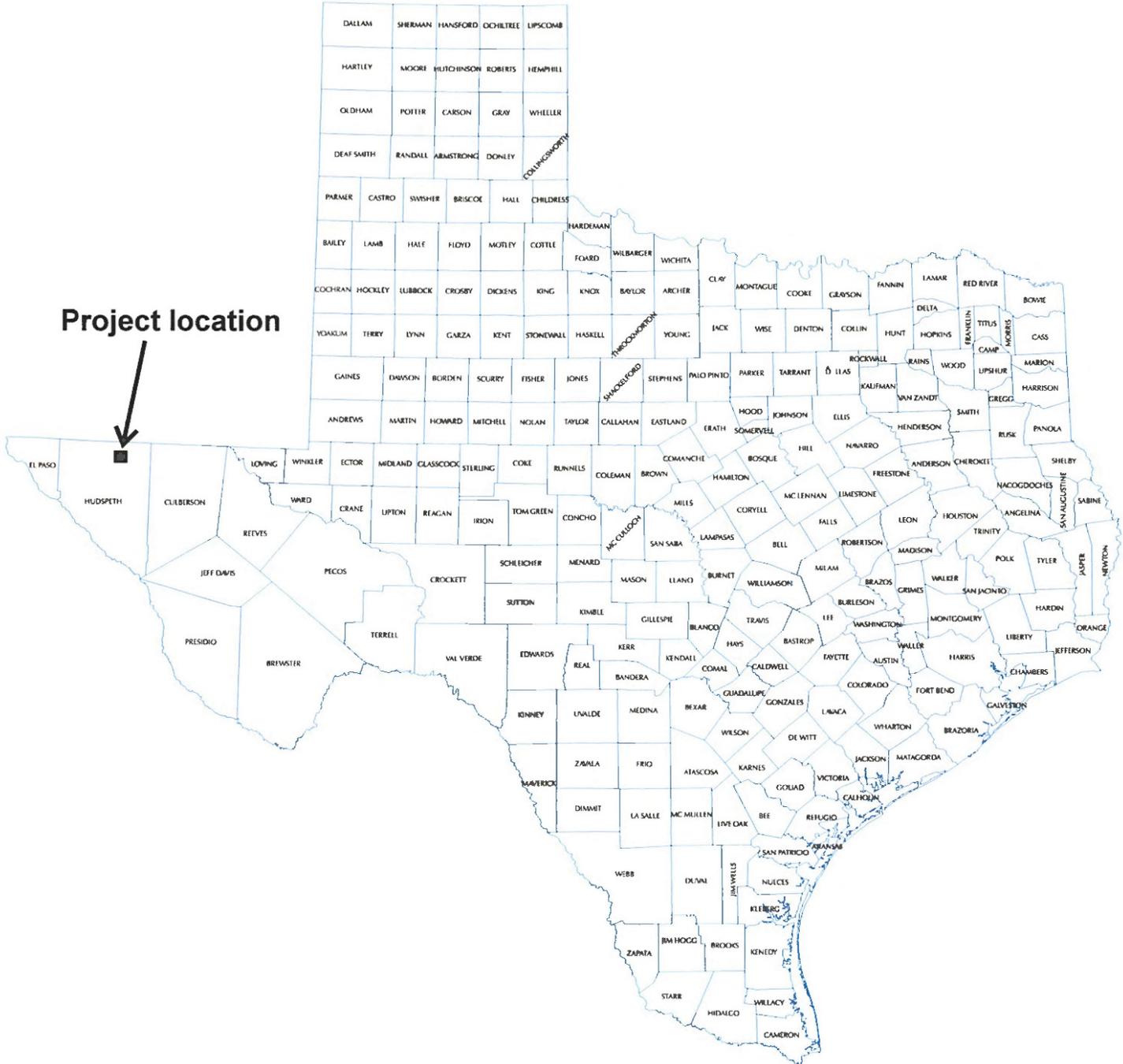
Sincerely,

Jessica Zuba, Director  
Regional Water Planning and Development

SCC/JZ:

Attachments

# Dell City, Texas Project Location





# Dell City Water Improvement Project

Dodson St

RO unit to be placed inside building

