

April 6, 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 Wellman, Terry County, Texas
Water System Improvement Project
DWSRF, TWDB Project Number 62689
Total TWDB Commitment: \$1,122,654 (L1000525, LF1000481)
Total Amount of Loan Forgiveness: \$982,654

The City provides potable water for its 205 residents at approximately 100 connections. Currently, the City obtains its raw water from five wells producing from the Ogallala Aquifer. Although the City disinfects this groundwater through chlorination at its existing facilities, the treated water contains elevated levels of arsenic, nitrate, and fluoride. As a result, the City's water system is operating under numerous administrative compliance orders issued by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and United States Environmental Protection Agency.

To address deficiencies of its existing treatment system, the City is seeking DWSRF funding with partial loan forgiveness from the TWDB in the amount of \$1,122,654. These funds are to be used for planning, acquisition, design, and construction of an enhanced treatment system utilizing reverse osmosis (RO). Other proposed improvements include a new ground storage tank, well houses and meters, enlargement of the treatment building, a 1,250-foot long pipeline to convey RO backwash water to the wastewater treatment facility, a backup generator, a SCADA system, meters at customer connections, and appurtenances. The increased level of treatment is intended to eliminate the excess contaminants, thereby enabling the City's water system to operate within permitted water quality limits.

The TWDB staff reviewed the potential environmental impact of the proposed water system 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 for tillage agriculture and then developed as a facility to provide water treatment. No new impact would occur at this facility and all other construction would occur in existing easements. Within the proposed construction footprint there are no streams, wetlands, or other Waters of the United States under the administrative jurisdiction of the United States Army Corps of Engineers or Special Flood Hazard Areas mapped by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. 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.

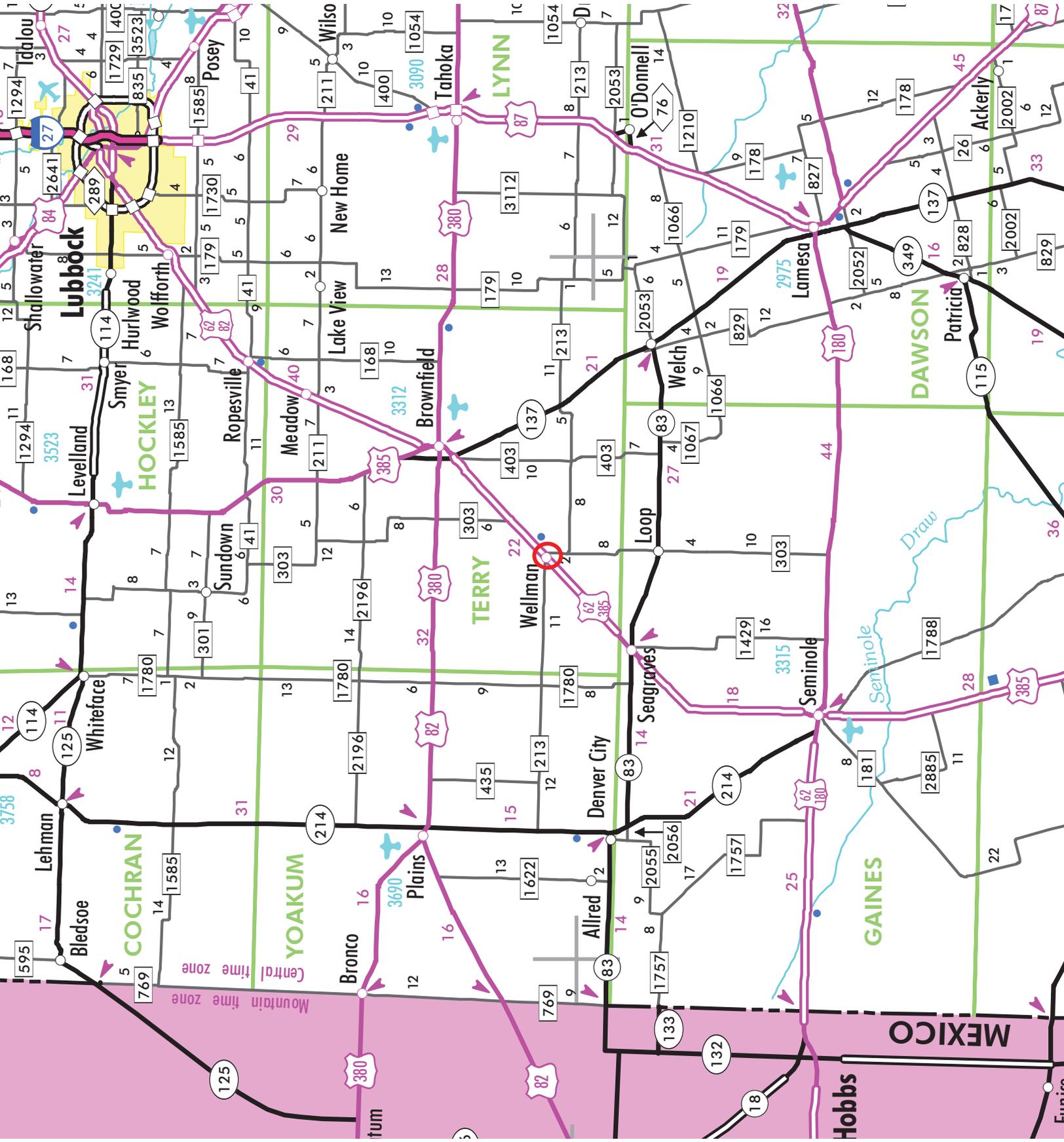
The project also must comply with the following conditions:

- 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



Wellman, TX

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Imagery Date: 12/28/2014 33°02'42.75" N 102°25'55.06" W elev 3339 ft eye alt 6218 ft