

March 8, 2016

## CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

### TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES AND PUBLIC GROUPS:

As provided by the state environmental review process adopted in the permanent rules of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) 31 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 371, subchapter E, for projects to be funded through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Program and consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S. Code §4321, et seq., the Executive Administrator of the Board has determined that the proposed action identified below may be exempted from formal environmental review requirements:

La Salle Landing Water Supply Corporation, Jackson County  
Arsenic Treatment and Distribution Rehabilitation Project  
DWSRF Project No. 62691  
Total Estimated TWDB Commitment: \$200,000

La Salle Landing Water Supply Corporation (Corporation) is proposing to use funding from the DWSRF Program to finance the construction of a water treatment improvement project to address high levels of arsenic. Specifically, the Corporation plans to (1) install arsenic removal filters and iron/manganese oxidation filters; (2) replace approximately 1,990 feet of 4-inch water line; (3) construct a 14,000-gallon ground storage tank and install two 50-gallon per-minute booster pumps; (4) construct an appropriately sized support building to house the proposed filters, pumps, compressors and controls; and (5) install approximately 40 water meters.

Currently, the Corporation is under an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrative Order due to its average arsenic levels of greater than ten parts per billion. In addition to the well water exceeding arsenic levels, the well supply contains iron and manganese that exceeds the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) standards.

It is the responsibility of the Corporation to determine if project elements are contaminated with lead-based paint. The TWDB does not fund the testing, remediation, removal, disposal, or related work for contaminated or potentially contaminated material.

No impacts to state or federally listed protected species or critical habitat, waters of the United States, including wetlands; or cultural resources are expected because the project would occur entirely within the footprint of the existing treatment system.

A desktop review of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) (48239C0525D) found that the existing water treatment facilities are located in Zone X, which are areas determined to be outside of the 100-year floodplain. The proposed water lines are located in the 100-year floodplain; however, no impacts to floodplains are expected from the project because it consists of replacement of existing waterlines in existing rights-of-way.

TWDB staff concurs that the project qualifies for a categorical exclusion because the work is functional replacement of the existing water treatment system in the existing service area. No permit modifications will be required for this project. All proposed work will be performed on previously disturbed sites. Therefore, environmental impacts should be similar to rehabilitation activities and limited to those associated with excavation and pipe installation.

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 shall be revoked if it is found that:

- (1) the project no longer meets the requirements for a CE as a result of changes in the project;
- (2) the project involves extraordinary circumstances as described in 31 TAC Chapter 371, Subchapter E; or
- (3) the project may violate or has violated 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 and 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.

