

June 10, 2016

TO: ALL POTENTIALLY INTERESTED PARTIES:

RE: City of Palestine (CWSRF Project No. 71717) – Collection System Rehabilitation II

The attached document is being provided for your information. This is not a permit application. No action is required from your agency.

The attached document is a Statement of Findings (SOF) issued by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for a project funded through the TWDB. Pursuant to the environmental assessment requirements of 31 Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Chapter 375, Subchapter E of the TWDB rules, the Executive Administrator of the TWDB has determined that the proposed action described in the attached documents is consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act.

Documentation supporting this decision is on file in the offices of the TWDB, and is available for public comment upon request. Comments supporting or disagreeing with this environmental determination may be submitted to the Director, Regional Water Planning and Development, Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), P.O. Box 13231, Austin, Texas 78711-3231.

June 10, 2016

STATEMENT OF FINDINGS

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES AND PUBLIC GROUPS:

As provided for by the permanent rules of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) 31 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 375, Subchapter E, for projects funded through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Equivalency Program and consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act 42 U.S. Code §4321, et seq., the Board's Executive Administrator issues this Statement of Findings (SOF) for the following project:

City of Palestine, Anderson County Texas
Collection System Rehabilitation II
CWSRF Project No. 71717
Total Estimated Project Cost: \$920,350
Total TWDB Loan Commitment: \$4,665,000

The City of Palestine owns and operates the Town Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). As part of the original process, the plant was constructed with a vortex-type grit removal system. However, the grit removal system and all of the associated components has reached the end of its useful life and has been abandoned in-place and out of service for many years. This results in a higher grit load to the biological process, requiring more frequent dredging and cleanup to restore volumes and processing capacities. It is the desire of the City to design and construct improvements to the obsolete grit removal system that will restore the WWTP's grit removal capabilities.

A Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) was issued on August 10, 2005 and included the Phase II rehabilitation of the City's existing sewer system in order to correct infiltration and inflow. The City proposed to perform a field survey of the deficient sanitary sewer lines unidentified in Basins 11, 12, and 14, and design and construct proposed improvements. The proposed improvements included point repair, line replacement, and manhole rehabilitation.

A subsequent FNSI Amendment was issued on April 20, 2006 to include the following additional project components: (1) conduct a GIS survey of the sewer system to provide a management tool for the collection system; (2) replace the liner on Wells Creek equalization

pond; and (3) evaluate and improve the hydraulics through the headworks screening process to accommodate for average daily flow and peak wet weather flows.

Since the FNSI and FNSI Amendment were issued more than five years ago, the project was reevaluated to determine if there were any environmental concerns that would necessitate additional agency coordination. All work will be conducted within the existing WWTP property and the proposed improvements will not change the permitted treatment capacity of the facility. Therefore, no additional coordination is required.

To fulfill CWSRF program requirements for environmental review, the TWDB is issuing this SOF to reaffirm the FNSI that was issued for the project on August 10, 2005 and FNSI Amendment that was issued for the project on April 20, 2006. Issuance of this SOF specifically satisfies the NEPA compliance requirements for project elements funded through the CWSRF program. The Collection System Rehabilitation II project is considered to be environmentally sound with the following conditions:

- Compliance with terms and conditions of USACE Nationwide Permit 12;
- 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.