

May 11, 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 Liberty, Texas (Liberty County)  
Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements  
CWSRF Project No. 72124  
Total Estimated Project Cost: \$3,800,000  
Total TWDB Loan Commitment: \$8,100,000

The City of Liberty (City) currently operates a single wastewater treatment plant (WWTP), originally constructed in 1979. The WWTP is permitted to treat 7.5 million gallons per day (MGD), however, due to its age and current condition, the WWTP has the capacity to treat only approximately 55% of that permitted amount. A Categorical Exclusion (CE) was issued on June 24, 2008 for proposed improvements to the existing WWTP. The proposed improvements to be funded through the CWSRF loan include the following:

- Upgrade influent bar screen mechanism;
- Upgrades to influent lift station;
- Upgrades to aeration system;
- Replace non-functional valves;
- Increase wall height of structure;
- Upgrades to disinfection system;
- Construct mechanical belt press for sludge dewatering;
- Re-piping of existing units to increase plant efficiency; and
- Upgrades to the electrical system to accommodate the proposed improvements.

Since the CE was 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 CE that was issued for the project on June 24, 2008. Issuance of this SOF specifically satisfies the NEPA compliance requirements for project elements funded through the

CWSRF program. The WWTP Improvements project is considered to be environmentally sound 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.