

March 24, 2016

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES AND PUBLIC GROUPS:

As provided by the state environmental review process adopted in the rules of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) 31 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 375, subchapter E, for projects to be funded through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Non-Equivalency 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:

Trinity River Authority, Ellis and Dallas Counties, Texas
Bear Creek Lift Station Rehabilitation, Replacement of Force Main and Gravity
Interceptor (Outfall) Pipeline to Red Oak Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant
CWSRF Project No. 72321 (Loans L100040 and L100033)

The Trinity River Authority (Authority) is proposing to use funding from a CWSRF loan to finance the design of the rehabilitation of the Bear Creek Lift Station, the replacement of approximately 13,800 linear feet (LF) of force main and 13,220 LF of gravity interceptor (outfall) pipeline to the Red Oak Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) project as shown on the attached map. Methods of pipeline installation will include open trenching and trenchless technologies. Boring/tunneling will likely be used at the crossing of State Highway 342. In general, the pipelines will be replaced at proximate locations within the same road rights-of-way (ROW) or easement; however, additional easement width may be required in some shared public utility easement areas. Depending on site conditions, the existing lines may be abandoned in place, removed or repurposed.

Environmental impacts should be similar to rehabilitation activities and limited to those associated with excavation, pipe installation, and road repair. The project activities at the lift station and the WWTP will not be located within a floodplain; however, the linework will cross 100-year floodplains associated with Bear Creek and Brushy Creek. Therefore, prior to construction within a floodplain, a floodplain permit or waiver must be obtained from the local Floodplain Administrator, National Flood Insurance Program. The linework also crosses streams that are potentially waters of the U.S. At creek crossings, pipeline installation will be performed by boring or open cut. The Authority anticipates that all work within these areas will be authorized under Nationwide Permit 12 for Utility Line Activities without requiring pre-construction notification of the U.S. Army of Engineers. Construction within existing maintained utility easements and road ROW is not expected to impact threatened or endangered species or habitat.

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 375, 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:

- Prior to construction within any given floodplain, a floodplain permit or waiver must be obtained from the local Floodplain Administrator, National Flood Insurance Program;
- Project activities within potential waters of the U.S. under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, must be conducted in compliance with the terms and conditions of Nationwide Permit 12 –Utility Line Activities;
- 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.

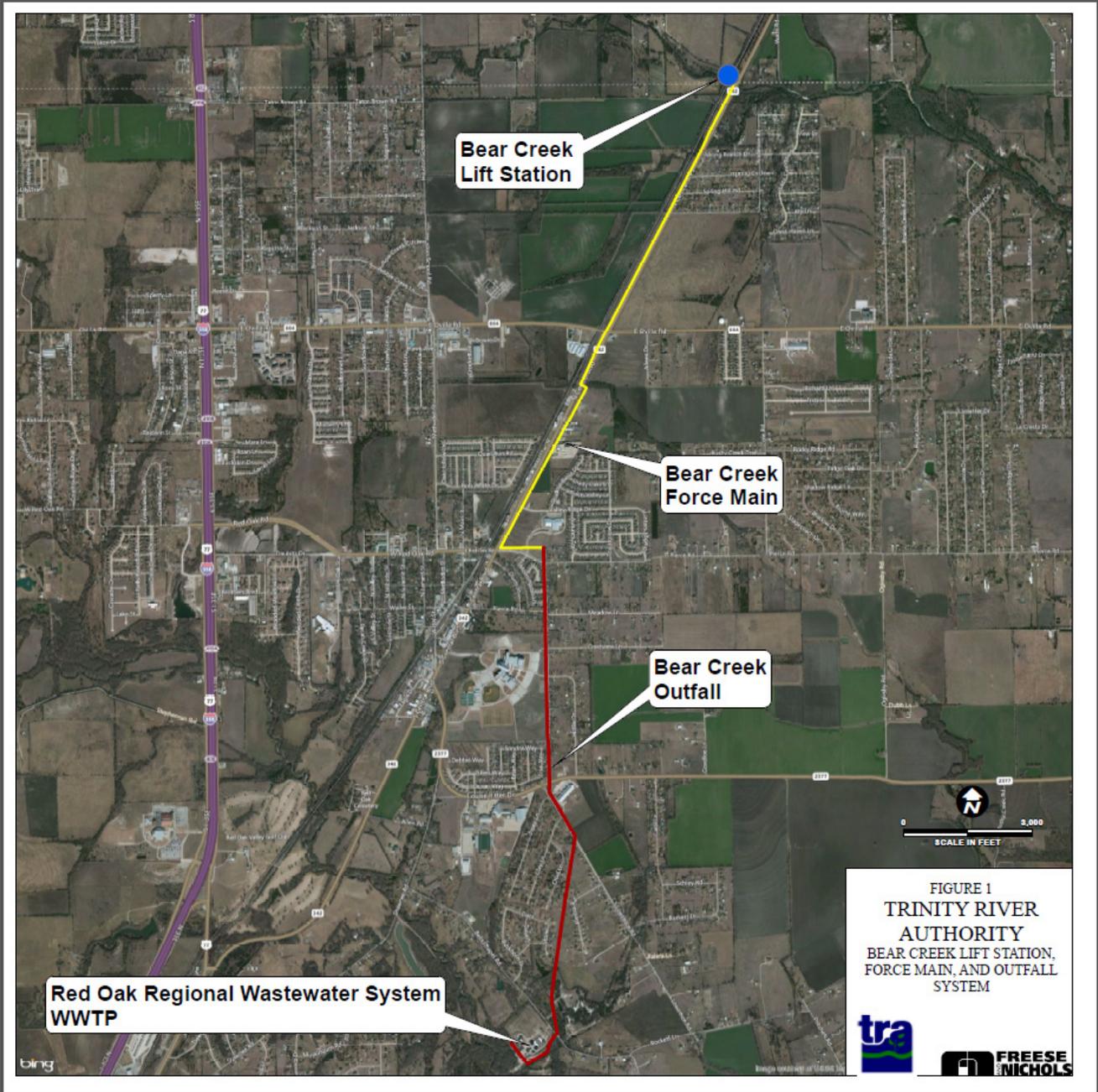


FIGURE 1
TRINITY RIVER
AUTHORITY
BEAR CREEK LIFT STATION,
FORCE MAIN, AND OUTFALL
SYSTEM

