

March 4, 2016

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES AND PUBLIC GROUPS:

In accordance with the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) environmental review process established at 31 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 375, Subchapter E, for projects to be funded through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Program and consistent with 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 may be exempted from formal environmental review requirements:

San Antonio Water System, Bexar County, Texas
Sanitary Sewer Water System Overflow Reduction Project
CWSRF Project No. 73672
Total TWDB Commitment: \$38,260,000

The San Antonio Water System (SAWS) is proposing to use funding from a \$38,260,000 CWSRF Program loan to continue improving its sewer system within its service area as part of an ongoing Sewer System Overflow (SSO) reduction program. Specifically, SAWS plans to 1) replace approximately 16,609 linear feet of existing 8-inch, 10-inch and 12-inch force main with approximately 20,000 linear feet of 33-inch, 36-inch and 42-inch of gravity sewer pipe; 2) decommission of two lift stations; and, 3) implement an odor control system. In addition, the project will abandon in place the existing force main and manholes system. These proposed replacements and improvements are part of a larger, ongoing, SSO Reduction project.

On June 6, 2014, a Determination of No Effect (DNE) was issued for the project for similar project components, including the rehabilitation of sanitary sewer and interceptor lines in similar locations of the service area. SAWS is proposing to use remaining funds of the CWSRF Program loan committed by the TWDB on March 17, 2014, for the construction phase of the proposed project. The estimated construction cost is \$17,328,174.

The project, identified by SAWS as W-31: I10 Boerne Stage to Old Fredericksburg Project, is located in northwest Bexar County, extends along Interstate Highway 10 (IH-10) from Rim Drive to approximately 2,500 feet south of Boerne Stage Road and intends to increase sewer capacity in the SAWS's service area. In order to replace the existing 16,609 linear feet of force main with a gravity sewer main, the main will be extended to 20,000 linear feet in order to gain the additional depth required to allow for the tie-in to work. The project will require three construction segments and anticipates three major bores. The major bores will be performed under IH-10 and Dominion Drive, Leon Creek Tributaries and under concrete water quality basins. In addition, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will require bores under

driveways and roadways within its right-of-ways. Sewer lines smaller than 12-inches will be abandoned in place and 15-inches or greater will be filled with grout.

SAWS does not anticipate adverse impacts to federally listed protected species. SAWS's consultant performed an assessment of the potential occurrence of federally listed threatened and endangered species in the project area. The assessment concluded that there are four protected species that have been known to occur within an approximately 2-miles radius of the project area. These species include the golden-cheeked warbler (*Setophaga chrysoparia*), the black-capped vireo (*Vireo atricapilla*), which are known to occur in and adjacent to Friedrich Park, and two ground beetles (*Rhadine exilis*) and (*Rhadine infernalis*). Potential habitat for the golden-cheeked warbler was identified in the general project vicinity, but occurs at least 470 feet from the proposed construction area. Therefore, construction of the proposed sewer line is not anticipated to result in impacts to the golden-cheeked warbler. Plant species typically associated with black-capped vireo habitat do not occur in or adjacent to the project alignment. Therefore, the regular occurrence of the black-capped vireo within or adjacent to the proposed sewer alignment is considered unlikely. The whooping crane (*Grus americana*), interior least tern (*Sterna antillarum athalasso*), and piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) could potentially fly over the area during migration, their presence within or adjacent to the proposed project area is considered unlikely. In addition, the SAWS's consultant performed an assessment for endangered karst invertebrates that are known to occur in the project area. A karst survey was performed in accordance with United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) guidelines. No karst features were observed during the field survey. Therefore, the occurrence of listed karst invertebrates or their habitat within the proposed project alignment is considered unlikely. Edwards Aquifer species are only known to occur in Comal and Hays counties. Therefore, the proposed alignment is not anticipated to affect Edwards Aquifer Species and their habitat.

The project does not anticipate adverse impacts to waters of the United States and wetlands. In 2010, SAWS's consultant performed an assessment to determine the existing conditions and potential environmental constraints for the proposed project. The assessment found three features identified on the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) map that occur within the project area. One of the features is defined as Palustrine/Unconsolidated Shore/Temporarily Flooded/Diked or Impounded (PUSAh), field observations indicated that this feature is a shallow depression likely fed by surface runoff during rain events. The other two features are defined as Palustrine/Unconsolidated Bottom/Permanently loaded/Diked or Impounded (PUBHh), these refer to impounded areas within Leon Creek without a bedrock bottom. SAWS anticipates performing bores under Leon Creek and unnamed streams and tributaries in order to eliminate any potential impact to these features. The replacement of sewer lines in the existing right-of-ways should not represent any potential impact to the identified features in the project area.

The proposed alignment is located within the Edward's Aquifer Contributing Zone. The project would not cause the removal of groundwater that could impact base-flows at the springs. The proposed project includes only the replacement of sewer lines and is not likely to impact the Edward's Aquifer. SAWS anticipates construction of the project will be conducted in compliance with the Edwards Aquifer Rules.

Most of the proposed alignment is located on the 100-year floodplain. SAWS anticipates obtaining and maintaining compliance with the City of San Antonio's Floodplain Development Permit. Prior to construction, SAWS shall obtain a Floodplain Development Permit. Obtaining this permit and adherence to its special provisions has been included as special conditions of this determination.

The project is not likely to impact cultural resources. SAWS's consultant performed an intensive cultural resources survey under the Texas Antiquities Permit 5759 for the initial proposed alignment for the project. No significant cultural resources were encountered and no further work was recommended. The Texas Historical Commission (THC) concurred with these results on November 24, 2010. An additional survey was performed due to proposed adjustments on the project alignment. Results of the survey indicated that the proposed reroute is unlikely to impact significant cultural resources. THC concurred with the results on December 17, 2014.

TWDB staff concurs that the project qualifies for a categorical exclusion because the work is functional replacement of sewer lines with a minor capacity increase 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 may be rescinded 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 defined in 31 TAC Section 375.61; or
- (3) The project may violate or has violated federal, state, local, or tribal laws.

The project must comply with the following condition:

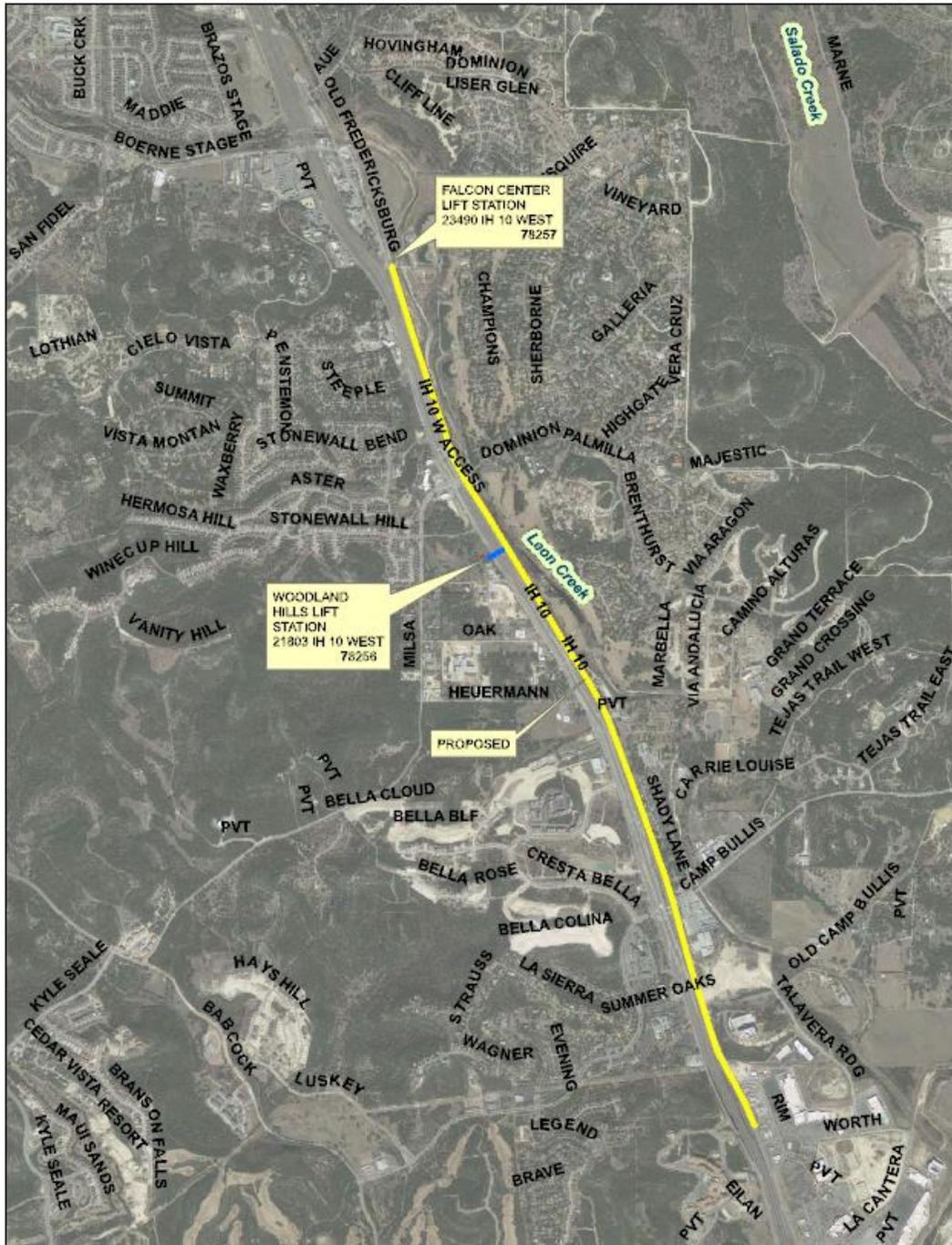
- Prior to construction activities, SAWS shall obtain a Floodplain Management Development Permit and maintain compliance with its special provisions regarding construction activities located in the 100-year floodplain zone.

The project also must comply with the following standard emergency 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.

W-31: IH 10 Boerne Stage to Old Fredericksburg Project



LEGEND

- CIP
- W-31: IH 10 Boerne Stage to Old Fredericksburg Project - 12"
 - W-31: IH 10 Boerne Stage to Old Fredericksburg Project
- BEXAR ALL ROADS



PREPARED BY AQ
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