

October 13, 2015

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES AND PUBLIC GROUPS:**

As required by the permanent rules of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), 31 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §375.61, an environmental review consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S. Code §4321 et seq., has been performed on the project below. This project is proposed to be funded through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Equivalency Program, which is administered by the TWDB.

City of Olney, Archer and Young Counties  
Lake Olney Reuse Project  
TWDB Project Number 73684  
Total CWSRF Loan Amount: \$2,843,425

The City of Olney (City) is proposing to transfer water that normally discharges from the Olney Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) to Lake Olney for reservoir augmentation, which will aid in alleviating the strain on the City due to drought conditions. The project includes a new pump station at the existing WWTP as well as approximately 32,000 linear feet (lf) of 10-inch pipeline from the WWTP to Lake Olney. A small polishing pond will also be constructed at the end of the pipeline prior to discharge into Lake Olney in order to provide an environmental buffer. No other modifications to the existing WWTP are proposed; therefore, the effluent quality is not expected to change.

An environmental review of the proposed project consistent with NEPA has been completed following the guidelines provided in 31 TAC §375, Subchapter E. This environmental review is documented by the enclosed Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA contains mitigative conditions that will be applied to the project and are structured so that no significant adverse environmental impacts will result from the proposed project. The Executive Administrator of the TWDB has made a preliminary decision not to require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. In order to ensure that the proposed project will not have a significant impact on floodplains, cultural resources, threatened or endangered species, and protected migratory bird species, loan conditions have been developed which are described in detail in the attached EA. These conditions include the following:

- Standard emergency condition for the discovery of cultural resources;
- Standard emergency condition for the discovery of threatened and endangered species;
- Vegetation-clearing activities shall be avoided during the general bird nesting season, March through August, when possible. When clearing vegetation during the migratory bird nesting season is necessary, the City shall survey the area

- proposed for disturbance to ensure that no nests with eggs or young will be disturbed by operations. Any vegetation where occupied nests are located shall not be disturbed until the eggs have hatched and the young have fledged;
- Trenching or other disturbance to state navigable streambeds and removal of streambed materials may require a permit from TPWD under Chapter 86 of the Parks and Wildlife Code. If applicable, contact the TPWD Wetlands Conservation Program to acquire permits; and
  - Compliance with Nationwide Permit 12 terms and conditions is required.

Documentation supporting this decision is on file in the office of the Regional Water Planning and Development Division, TWDB, and is available for public scrutiny upon request. Comments supporting or disagreeing with this preliminary environmental determination may be submitted to the Director, Regional Water Planning and Development, Texas Water Development Board, P.O. Box 13231, Austin, Texas 78711-3231. After evaluating the comments received, the Executive Administrator will make a final determination. However, no action regarding the provision of federal financial assistance for the project will be taken for at least thirty (30) calendar days after release of this Finding of No Significant Impact.

**City of Olney, Archer and Young Counties  
Clean Water State Revolving Fund Project #73684  
Lake Olney Reuse Project  
Environmental Assessment**

## **INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND<sup>1</sup>**

The City of Olney (City) is proposing to transfer water that normally discharges from the Olney Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) to Lake Olney for reservoir augmentation, which will aid in alleviating the strain on the City due to drought conditions. The City is proposing to finance the proposed project using \$2,843,425 in loans and loan forgiveness from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Equivalency program, which is administered by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). The City received commitments for the CWSRF loans from the TWDB on February 24, 2014 for the amount of \$403,425 and January 31, 2015 for the amount of \$2,440,000, respectively.

### **Purpose and Need**

The proposed project will aid in reservoir augmentation by transporting water that normally discharges in Salt Creek to Lake Olney at a new discharge location, which will help alleviate the strain on the City during stage 5 drought conditions.

The City obtains its water supply from Lake Cooper, which is downstream of Lake Olney. It is anticipated that the augmentation of Lake Olney with wastewater will provide an environmental buffer and provide adequate water within Lake Olney to allow water to overflow into Lake Cooper more often than occurs now.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The project includes a new pump station at the existing WWTP as well as approximately 32,000 linear feet (lf) of 10-inch pipeline from the WWTP to Lake Olney. A small polishing pond will also be constructed at the end of the pipeline prior to discharge into Lake Olney in order to provide an environmental buffer.

No other modifications to the existing WWTP are proposed; therefore, the effluent quality is not expected to change. The current effluent limitations and monitoring requirements of the existing Texas Pollutant Discharge Eliminations System (TPDES) permit will continue to apply.

---

<sup>1</sup> City of Olney (July 2015). *Wastewater Reuse System: Environmental Information Document* (Prepared by Corlett, Probst & Boyd, PLLC). Received by TWDB July 13, 2015. The EID is complete with supplementary materials submitted to the TWDB on September 22, 2015.

Total project cost associated with the proposed project, including planning, design and construction phases, is estimated at \$2,843,425. All funding for the proposed project is expected to come from the CWSRF program.

## **EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVES**

In addition to the proposed project, the City evaluated purchasing treated water, building a new dam and reservoir, purchasing raw water, and the no-action alternative.

Purchasing treated water would require a larger pump station, a longer pipeline, additional right-of-way acquisition, and the additional cost of purchasing water each year after the project was completed. This alternative was rejected for the following reasons:

- Pipeline construction would require additional right-of-way acquisition.
- Pipeline construction would require construction in areas that have not previously been disturbed.
- This alternative was not as cost effective as the chosen alternative.

Building a new dam and reservoir was rejected for the following reasons:

- It would have taken an extremely long time to obtain the required permit(s) and build a new dam while the City's only source of water is purchasing water from the City of Wichita Falls, who is also currently experiencing drought conditions.
- A new dam and reservoir would require construction in areas that have not previously been disturbed.

Purchasing raw water from Whiskey Creek Reservoir at the City of Newcastle was rejected for the following reasons:

- Pipeline construction would require additional right-of-way acquisition.
- Pipeline construction would require construction in areas that have not previously been disturbed.
- A location for an additional water treatment plant and an additional discharge permit would be required.
- This alternative was not as cost effective as the chosen alternative.

If the no-action alternative was chosen, there would be no additional reservoir augmentation outside of natural means. The City is experiencing severe drought, and without reservoir augmentation, the local community's water supply would diminish or run out completely at a much quicker rate.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING**

### **Location and Landforms**

The project site is the existing City of Olney's WWTP. Approximately 32,000 lf of 10-inch pipeline will be installed running northwest through Archer and Young Counties from the WWTP to a new discharge location at Lake Olney (see attached map).

## Population and Income

The City provides water and wastewater services to customers inside and outside the city limits. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the median annual household income for the City was \$42,008 in 2012. The City's population from the 2010 U.S. Census was 3,285; population projections for the City can be seen in the table below. Design of the facility will be for the maximum population anticipated during the projection period.

2020	2030	2040	2050	2060	2070
3,370	3,485	3,568	3,655	3,740	3,822

## Climate

The average annual precipitation, high temperature, and low temperature for 1951-1980 and 1971-2000 for the City are shown in the table below.

Year	Average Annual Precipitation	Average Annual High Temp.	Average Annual Low Temp.
1951-1980	26 inches	77 °F	49-50 °F
1971-2000	31-35 inches	76-78 °F	50-52 °F

## Geology and Soils

### *Young County*

Topography at the WWTP is nearly level to gently sloping. Soils within the WWTP are generally Grandfield-Gowan fine loam with 0-5% slopes. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service Young County Soil Survey, Grandfield-Gowan fine loam soil is well drained with moderate permeability.

Soils along the pipeline route from the WWTP to just northwest of the City are generally Tillman-Vernon soils, which range from 1-30% slopes. According to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Young County Soil Survey, Tillman-Vernon soils are well drained and slowly permeable. Soils along the pipeline route from the City to the Young-Archer County line are generally Sagerton soils, which range from 0-3% slopes. According to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Young County Soil Survey, Sagerton soils are well drained and moderately slowly permeable.

### *Archer County*

Soils along the pipeline route from the Young-Archer County Line to the City's existing water treatment plant are generally Rotan-Tillman soils, which range from 0-3% slopes. According to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Archer County Soil Survey, Rotan-Tillman soils are well drained with slow to moderate permeability.

Soils within the water treatment plant are generally Bluegrove-Jolly-Weswind fine sandy loam, which range from 1-12% slopes. According to the USDA Natural Resources

Conservation Service Archer County Soil Survey, Bluegrove-Jolly-Weswind soil is well drained with moderately slow to moderate permeability.

### **Drainage, Wetlands, and Floodplain**

#### *Young County*

The WWTP is located in designated Zone AE, an area within 100-year floodplain. The plant is located between base flood elevation 1174 and 1176. The proposed pipeline will be located in designated Zone A areas, which do not have a base flood elevation determined, and Zone AE areas.

#### *Archer County*

The proposed pipeline from the Archer-Young County line to Lake Olney and the existing water treatment plant is located in an area with no special flood hazard areas.

Treatment wastewater from the WWTP is currently being discharged at a design flow not to exceed 0.79 MGD into Salt Creek then to Lake Graham in segment no. 1231 of the Brazos River Basin. After the project is complete, the wastewater will discharge into Lake Olney, which overflows into Lake Cooper. No other surface water bodies, groundwater resources, or aquifer recharge zones will be altered by the modifications at the WWTP.

### **Flora and Fauna**

#### *Young County*

The table below includes a list of federally and state-listed endangered, threatened, or rare species in Young County.

Taxon	Common Name	Scientific Name	Status	
			Federal	State
Bird	Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	DL	T
Bird	Arctic peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus tundrius</i>	DL	
Bird	American peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	DL	T
Bird	Peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	DL	T
Bird	Whooping crane	<i>Grus americana</i>	E	E
Bird	Interior least tern	<i>Sterna antillarum athalassos</i>	E	E
Bird	Sprague's pipit	<i>Anthus spragueii</i>	C	
Bird	Golden-cheeked warbler	<i>Setophaga chrysoparia</i>	E	E
Fish	Smalleye shiner	<i>Notropis buccula</i>	E	
Fish	Sharpnose shiner	<i>Notropis oxyrinchus</i>	E	
Mammal	Texas kangaroo rat	<i>Dipodomys elator</i>		T
Mammal	Red wolf	<i>Canis rufus</i>	E	E
Mammal	Gray wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>	E	E
Reptile	Texas horned lizard	<i>Phrynosoma cornutum</i>		T
Reptile	Brazos water snake	<i>Nerodia harteri</i>		T
Mollusk	Texas fawnsfoot	<i>Truncilla macrodon</i>	C	T

E = Endangered  
T = Threatened  
DL = Delisted  
C = Candidate for listing  
Blank = Rare but with no regulatory listing status

### Archer County

The table below includes a list of federally and state-listed endangered, threatened, or rare species in Archer County.

Taxon	Common Name	Scientific Name	Status	
			Federal	State
Bird	Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	DL	T
Bird	Arctic peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus tundrius</i>	DL	
Bird	American peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	DL	T
Bird	Peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	DL	T
Bird	Whooping crane	<i>Grus americana</i>	E	E
Bird	Interior least tern	<i>Sterna antillarum athalassos</i>	E	E
Bird	Sprague's pipit	<i>Anthus spragueii</i>	C	
Mammal	Texas kangaroo rat	<i>Dipodomys elator</i>		T
Mammal	Red wolf	<i>Canis rufus</i>	E	E
Mammal	Gray wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>	E	E
Reptile	Texas horned lizard	<i>Phrynosoma cornutum</i>		T

E = Endangered  
T = Threatened  
DL = Delisted  
C = Candidate for listing  
Blank = Rare but with no regulatory listing status

Vegetation-clearing activities will be avoided during the general bird nesting season, March through August, when possible. When clearing vegetation during the migratory

bird nesting season is necessary, the City will survey the area proposed for disturbance to ensure that no nests with eggs or young will be disturbed by operations. Any vegetation where occupied nests are located will not be disturbed until the eggs have hatched and the young have fledged.

The Texas horned lizard and Texas kangaroo rat (TKR) are the species most likely to be found in the project area. A pre-construction survey shall be conducted to determine if horned lizards are present in the project site or directly adjacent to the construction area. The survey will be performed during the warm months of the year when the horned lizards are active. If horned lizards are found on the site, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will be contacted to develop plans to relocate them.

The City will avoid disturbing suitable TKR habitat where possible. Individual TKRs on the project site will be allowed to safely leave the site or be relocated by a permitted individual to an area that would not be disturbed by construction. The City will monitor the listing status of the TKR during project planning, construction, and maintenance.

### **Historic Background**

A review of the Texas Historic Sites Atlas, maintained by the Texas Historical Commission, for the project area indicated that there are no National Register Properties or archaeological sites in the project area. There is an archaeological project area (object ID 10181), which was a survey conducted under the Environmental Protection Agency, near the existing WWTP; however, it is not anticipated that the proposed work will impact archaeological resources.

Proposed construction will be located within the boundaries of the existing treatment plants, within existing right-of-ways, adjacent to existing pipelines, and through abandoned reservoir sites that have all been disturbed by prior construction.

## **POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIVE MEASURES**

### **Standard Mitigation and Precautionary Measures**

Short-term impacts of the proposed project on the environment are limited mostly to ground disturbances during construction. Construction at the WWTP, water treatment plant, and along the pipeline route would consist of new equipment and utility lines, which will cause some disturbance of the ground surface during construction.

After construction, the ground will be returned to its original condition and reseeded. The only visible evidence of the project will be a new pump station, polishing pond, valves, and any manholes required to properly service the new lines.

The rate, density, and type of development in the service area is not expected to change as a result of this project. However, the water supply would be supplemented by as much as 0.79 MGD.

## **Cross-Cutter Compliance and Agency Coordination**

The proposed project has been reviewed for potential impacts to the quality of the human environment following the procedures provided in 31 Texas Administrative Code 375, Subchapter E, in order to ensure compliance with CWSRF Equivalency Program requirements and federal and state regulations, including the federal cross-cutting environmental authorities from the EPA listed below.

- (1) National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, PL 91-190;
- (2) Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974, PL 93-291;
- (3) Clean Air Act, 42 USC 7506(c);
- (4) Coastal Barrier Resources Act, 16 USC 3501 et seq;
- (5) Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, PL 92-583, as amended;
- (6) Endangered Species Act, 16 USC 1531, et seq;
- (7) Executive Order 11593, Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment;
- (8) Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management;
- (9) Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands;
- (10) Farmland Protection Policy Act, 7 USC 4201 et seq;
- (11) Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, PL 85-624, as amended;
- (12) National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, PL 89-665, as amended;
- (13) Safe Drinking Water Act, §1424(e), PL 92-523, as amended;
- (14) Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, PL 90-542, as amended;
- (15) The Wilderness Act, 16 USC 1131 et seq.;
- (16) Environmental Justice, Executive Order 12898;
- (17) Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004, Public Law 108-264;
- (18) National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994, Public Law 103-325;
- (19) Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973, as amended, Public Law 93-234; and;
- (20) Clean Water Act, PL 92-500, as amended.

This environmental review included coordination with various state and federal regulatory agencies and other interested parties, including a 30-day public review period of the planning documents. The following section provides a summary of that coordination and a discussion of any concerns, recommendations, or conditions pertaining to methods for avoidance, minimization, or mitigation of potential impacts.

### U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) was given the opportunity to review the project in accordance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. Under Section 404 the USACE regulates the discharge of dredged and fill material in waters of the United States, including wetlands. USACE responsibility under Section 10 regards regulation of any work in, or affecting, navigable waters of the United States. A review response from the USACE (Project Number SWT-2014-00877), dated August 3, 2015, states that as long as the project complies with Nationwide Permit 12 terms and conditions, the project may proceed.

## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was given the opportunity to review the proposed project for compliance with the Endangered Species Act. No response was received.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program reviewed the proposed project and provided a response dated January 5, 2015 (no project no. provided) with the following recommendations.

### Migratory Bird Treaty Act

- If migratory bird species are found nesting on or adjacent to the project area, they must be dealt with in a manner consistent with the MBTA. TPWD recommends excluding vegetation-clearing activities during the general bird nesting season, March through August, to avoid adverse impacts to this group. If clearing vegetation during the migratory bird season is unavoidable, TPWD recommends the City survey the area proposed for disturbance to ensure that no nests with eggs or young will be disturbed by operations. Any vegetation (trees, shrubs, and grasses) where occupied nests are located should not be disturbed until the eggs have hatched and the young have fledged.

### Clean Water Act

- TPWD recommends boring under waterways and wetlands in the project area rather than trenching through these sensitive habitats. Staging areas for boring equipment should be located outside of the riparian corridors associated with water resources. If trenching would be required, TPWD recommends consulting with the USACE for potential impacts to waters of the US, including jurisdictional determinations, delineations, and mitigation. Measures to avoid and minimize impacts to isolated wetlands should also be incorporated into project plans.
- TPWD recommends that ground disturbance in the vicinity of creeks and wetlands be conducted in conjunction with a storm water pollution prevention plan to protect waterways from sedimentation and other pollution. Trenching should be conducted when intermittent waterways are dry.
- If not done to date, TPWD recommends the City assess potential adverse impacts to aquatic and riparian habitats in Salt Creek that may occur as a result of the proposed project. Measures to avoid and minimize downstream impacts should be implemented to the extent feasible.

### Parks and Wildlife Code, Chapter 86

- Trenching or other disturbance to state navigable streambeds and removal of streambed materials may require a permit from TPWD under Chapter 86 of the Parks and Wildlife Code. If applicable, please contact the TPWD Wetlands Conservation Program for additional information and permit application forms.

### Parks and Wildlife Code, Section 68.015

- TPWD recommends that a pre-construction survey be conducted to determine if Texas horned lizards are present on the project site or directly adjacent to the

construction area. The survey should be performed during the warm months of the year when the horned lizards are active. If horned lizards are found onsite, TPWD recommends contacting their office to develop plans to relocate them, particularly if there is likelihood that they would be harmed by project activities. To minimize impacts to the Texas horned lizard, TPWD recommends the use of the best management practices (BMPs) described in the *Texas Horned Lizard Watch – Management and Monitoring Packet*.

- TPWD recommends the City avoid disturbing suitable TKR habitat where possible. Individual TKRs on the project site should be allowed to safely leave the site or be relocated by a permitted individual to an area that would not be disturbed by construction. The TKR is highly nocturnal, and relocation may involve live trapping. TPWD recommends the City monitor the listing status of the TKR during project planning, construction, and maintenance. If this species becomes federally listed under the Endangered Species Act, coordination with the USFWS may be required.

#### Rare Species

- If during construction, the project area is found to contain rare species, natural plant communities, or special features, TPWD recommends that precautions be taken to avoid impacts to them.

Corlett, Probst & Boyd, PLLC, on behalf of the City, responded to TPWD in a letter dated July 25, 2015, concurring with the agency's recommendations.

The CWSRF loan is conditioned to read that if threatened or endangered species happen to be encountered during construction, work will cease immediately and the City will notify TWDB staff, TPWD, and the USFWS. Subsequent to notification, mitigation measures will be taken in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

#### Federal Emergency Management Agency and Local Floodplain Administrator

The City of Olney participates in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and is not on the Federal Emergency Management Agency sanctioned list. The City of Olney floodplain administrator reviewed the project and stated in correspondence that no issues with the proposed project or detrimental effects regarding the floodplain/floodway are foreseen since all pipeline construction will be buried.

Due to prohibitions in the TWDB State Revolving Funds Floodplain Policy, the TWDB will not provide financial assistance for any project element that is proposed to be constructed in a floodplain when that project element is eligible for flood insurance and the applicant's community is sanctioned by FEMA in its administration of the NFIP, pursuant to the requirements of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973, Public Law 93-234.

#### Texas Historical Commission

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) provided a review response dated September 1, 2015 (no tracking no. provided), indicating that no survey would be required for the

project. The proposed project is in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act as well as the Antiquities Code of Texas.

The CWSRF loan is conditioned to read that if archeological sites are discovered during construction, work will cease immediately in that area and the City will notify the THC and the TWDB of the discovery. The THC and the TWDB will then proceed in accordance with the regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (36 CFR Part 800) prior to taking any action which would affect the cultural resources.

#### Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

In a response dated April 5, 2012, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) stated that the agency certifies that the activities authorized in Nationwide Permits 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 20, 23, 24, 28, 34, 35, and 48 should not result in a violation of established Texas Surface Water Quality Standards as required by Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act and pursuant to Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 279. Additionally, TCEQ conditionally certifies that the activities authorized in Nationwide Permits 3, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 25, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 49, 50, 51, and 52 should not result in a violation of established Texas Surface Water Quality Standards as required by Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act and pursuant to Title 30, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 279.

#### **Environmental Justice**

In accordance with Executive Order 12898 pertaining to Environmental Justice (EJ), potential environmental impacts to low-income and minority communities have been assessed. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines environmental justice as conveyed by the Executive Order as the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. The goal of fair treatment is not to shift risks among populations, but to identify potential disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects on minority populations and low-income populations and to identify alternatives to mitigate those impacts.

NEPAssist (<http://www.nepassist.net/>) is a Geographic Information System (GIS) application, devised by the EPA to facilitate the collection and coordination of information relevant to the environmental review process mandated by the NEPA. NEPAssist includes an 'Environmental Justice Analysis' tool that provides user-defined, site-specific U.S. Census demographic data compiled on U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (ACS) for 2006 – 2010. Data include population, percentage of minority residents, per capita income, etc. for comparison with data for the county and state. However, the data no longer includes median household income or percent of households living below the poverty level; therefore, direct comparisons are not possible.

The U.S. Census Bureau characterizes 'Hispanic Origin' as a minority group, but not a separate race. Racial groups include: White, African-American, Asian/Pacific Islander,

American Indian, Other Race, and Multiracial. The calculation for ‘Percent Minority’ includes all minority groups and races except non-Hispanic, white persons. The terms ‘Living Below the Poverty Level’ is equivalent to the term ‘Economically Stressed’ and includes, according to the 2014 U.S. Census, a four-person family with an annual income at or below \$23,850.

The EJ Analysis was performed on September 30, 2015 for the project area. The results are indicated below with data from the U.S. Census for the State, Archer, and Young Counties included for comparison.

Area	Population (2010)	% Minority (2008-2012)	% Below Poverty Level / Median Household Income (2009-2013)
State	25,145,561	56.5%	17.6% / \$51,900
Archer County	9,054	11.5%	11.3% / \$56,452
Young County	18,550	21.3%	16.0% / \$44,429
Project Area (0.5 mile buffer)	878	36.0%	*see below

According to the EJ Analysis, the annual per capita income of the project area (a 0.5 mile buffer around the proposed footprint) from 2008-2012 was \$22,187\*. According to the U.S. Census data for 2009-2013, the per capita income for Archer and Young Counties was \$27,800 and \$26,979, respectively. The State-wide average was \$26,019. These results show that there is a measurable effect on low-income populations within relatively close proximity to the proposed project elements. However, these levels are similar to the county, and the proposed work does not pose a disproportionate risk for impacts to low-income or minority residents. The entire population of this project area would be the recipients of benefits derived from the proposed improvements, primarily through improved quantity and reliability of drinking water supplied to residents throughout the service area. Because the project will not result in the relocation of households or significant changes in land uses or land values and because the project area income and demography are consistent with this portion of the region, the project will not disproportionately impact low-income populations.

## **DOCUMENTATION, COORDINATION, AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The proposed project is consistent with local, regional, and statewide planning. Coordination with the appropriate governmental agencies has been made and no adverse comments have been received.

Public participation conducted during facilities planning included a public hearing held on May 27, 2015, which was advertised in the *Olney Enterprise*, a newspaper of general circulation in the service area. The notice was published on April 23, 2015 and contained information regarding availability of planning documents, including the EID, for public review at Olney City Hall during normal business hours. State and federal agencies were sent written notice of the hearing and the availability of the document for review.

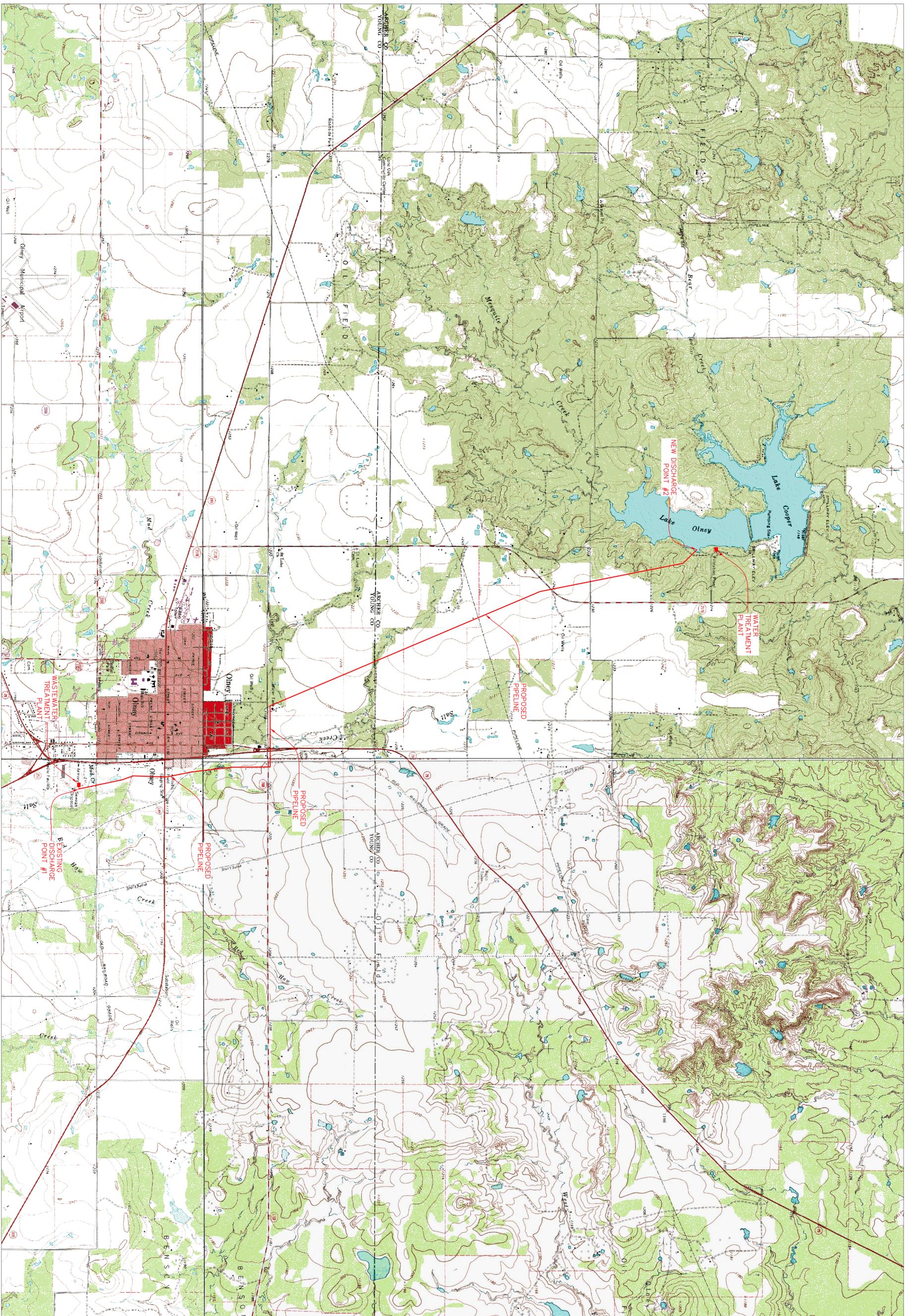
The public hearing was held at 12:00 PM on May 27, 2015 in the council chambers at Olney City Hall. No adverse comments were voiced at the public hearing or received during the 30-day public review period.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Based upon a detailed review of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund planning information, the Environmental Information Document, this Environmental Assessment, and other documentation, the wastewater system improvement project proposed by the City is considered to be environmentally sound with the following conditions:

- Standard emergency condition for threatened and endangered species;
- Standard emergency condition for cultural resources;
- Vegetation-clearing activities shall be avoided during the general bird nesting season, March through August, when possible. When clearing vegetation during the migratory bird nesting season is necessary, the City shall survey the area proposed for disturbance to ensure that no nests with eggs or young will be disturbed by operations. Any vegetation where occupied nests are located shall not be disturbed until the eggs have hatched and the young have fledged;
- Trenching or other disturbance to state navigable streambeds and removal of streambed materials may require a permit from TPWD under Chapter 86 of the Parks and Wildlife Code. If applicable, the City must contact the TPWD Wetlands Conservation Program to acquire permits; and
- Compliance with Nationwide Permit 12 terms and conditions is required.

Therefore, it is recommended that a Finding of No Significant Impact be issued.



**PROJECT MAP**  
**WASTEWATER REUSE SYSTEM**  
**CITY OF OLNEY, TEXAS**

SHEET  
 1

DRAWN BY:	EMM
CHECKED BY:	EMM
APPROVED BY:	TDH
PROJECT NO.:	
DATE:	SEPTEMBER 2014
SCALE:	NONE



**CORLETT,  
 PROBST &  
 BOYD, P.L.L.C.**

4605 Old Jacksboro Highway Telephone (940) 723-1455  
 Wichita Falls, Texas 76302 Fax (940) 397-0549  
 Texas Registered Engineering Firm F-279