

November 18, 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) 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:

City of San Marcos, Hays County, Texas
Elevated Storage Tank and Pump Station Improvements
CWSRF Project No. 73696
Total Estimated TWDB Commitment: \$5,443,274

The City of San Marcos (City) is proposing to finance the construction of project components of the City's Reuse System Expansion (CRSE) project using funding from a \$5,443,274 CWSRF loan. The City used funds from previous TWDB loans (Loan Nos. L1000349 and LF1000351) to finance planning and design costs for some of the CRSE project components. On May 5, 2016, the TWDB issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) for those project components including: (1) approximately 8,000 linear feet of 16-inch transmission main; (2) eight gate valves and five air relief valves; (3) approximately 1,530 feet of bore and encase; (4) a 200-horsepower vertical turbine pump motor; (5) a meter vault; and (6) additional Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system programming. The City is requesting an additional loan to finance the construction of those project components, and two additional CRSE project components including the: 1) construction of a 500,000-gallon elevated storage tank (EST) with an associated pipeline connection to the reclaimed water system, and 2) the replacement of reclaimed water station pumps at the San Marcos Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP).

The proposed 500,000-gallon EST will be constructed on an approximately 0.5-acre parcel of City-owned land near the intersection of State Highway (SH) 123 and De Zavala Drive in southern San Marcos, Texas. This parcel of land was the location of a similar facility, the Crawford EST, which was demolished in approximately 2005. The proposed capacity of the new EST would be 500,000 gallons, but a 200,000-gallon structure may be considered in order to meet water quality and budget limitations. The proposed pipeline would have an 18-inch diameter and a total length of approximately 600 feet. The pipeline that connected the former EST to the potable water system, which is located within a waterline easement owned by the City, is still active. The proposed pipeline that would connect the proposed EST to the reclaimed water system would parallel that line within the same easement. The easement traverses a parcel of land owned by the San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District (SM CISD), and is approximately 20 feet wide by 0.06 mile (approximately 300 feet) long. While the proposed project would construct an EST at the site of a former EST, the proposed project is not intended

as a rehabilitation project. Instead, the proposed EST and pipeline would be a new minor ancillary facility adjacent to the proposed project.

The proposed pump station improvements would involve the replacement of three existing pumps and the installation of one new pump within the existing WWTP. The pump station improvements would aid in the distribution of reused water, and would be considered a minor upgrade to an existing facility. Because the proposed improvements would serve to pressurize a pass-through delivery system, they would not be intended to affect the system's storage capacity.

The proposed EST will be constructed on an upland maintained site that, in the recent past, was used as an EST site, and continues to be maintained as a cleared site; therefore, no impacts to threatened, endangered, or rare species, or their habitats, are anticipated. The proposed associated pipeline to connect the EST to the reclaimed water system would be located in an upland maintained setting, in an existing waterline easement owned by the City; therefore, no impacts to threatened, endangered, or rare species, or their habitats, are anticipated. The proposed pump station improvements will occur within the WWTP facility; therefore, no impacts to threatened, endangered, or rare species, or their habitats, are anticipated. No potential waters of the United States, including wetlands, will be impacted by the proposed project. The WWTP facility is located within the 100-year floodplain; however, because the proposed pump station improvements would occur within the existing facility, no floodplain impacts are expected to occur.

According to Texas Historical Commission's Archeological Sites Atlas, one previously recorded site is located on the WWTP property; however, according to the survey, treatment plant construction and agricultural activities have thoroughly disturbed the general site area. Several previously-recorded significant or potentially significant sites, a National Register of Historic Places district, and a historical marker are located adjacent to, or within close proximity to, the WWTP. Because the proposed pump station improvements will occur within the existing facility and no new ground disturbance will occur as a result of this proposed project element, impacts to sensitive cultural resources are not likely to occur. According to the Texas Historical Commission's Archeological Sites Atlas, there are not previously recorded significant or potentially significant sites on or immediately adjacent to the proposed EST and pipeline sites, nor are these proposed project elements within a protected area surrounding a historic cemetery, or district. Therefore, the proposed EST and pipeline are not likely to impact sensitive cultural resources.

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.

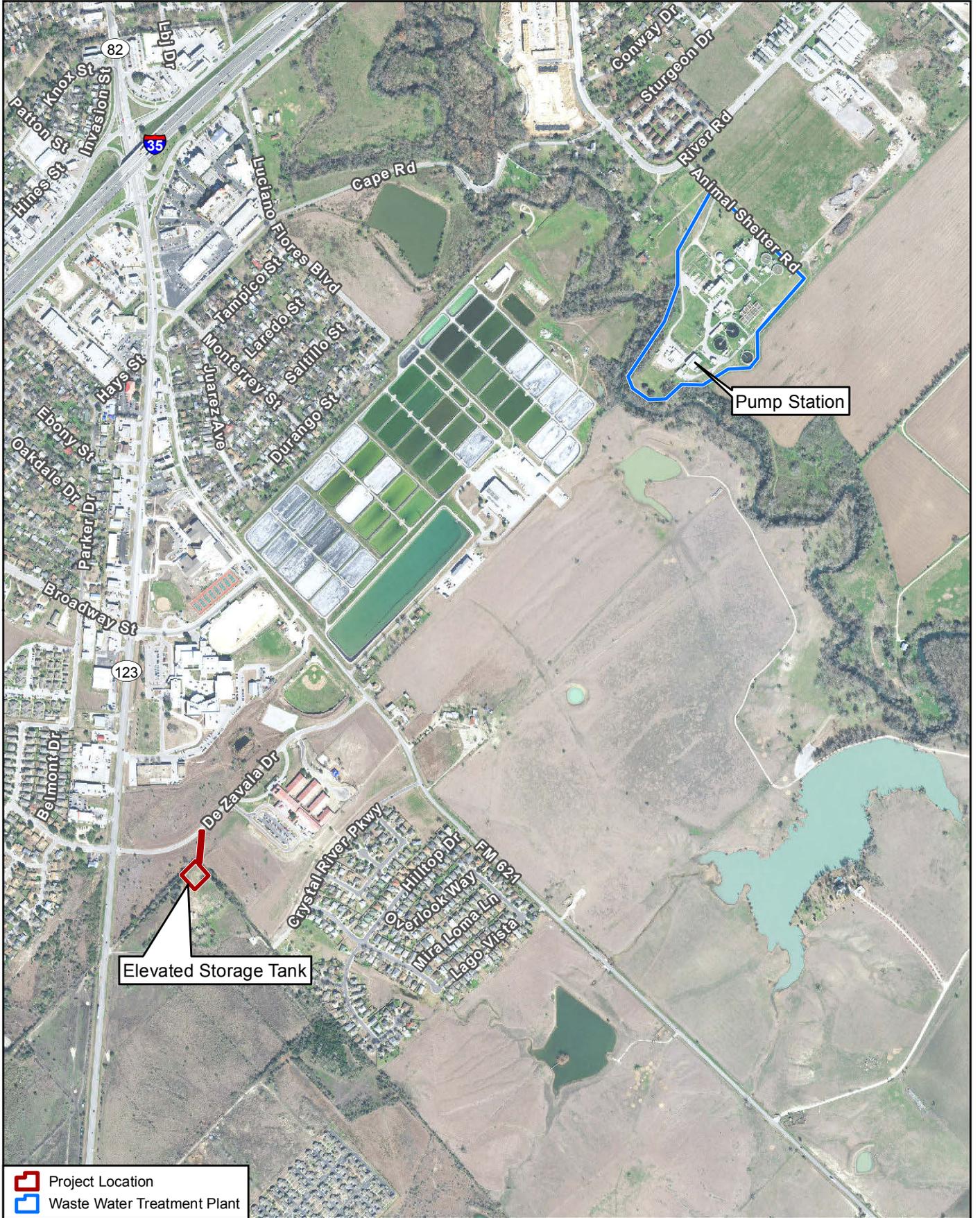
This determination shall be revoked if it is found that:

- (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:

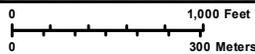
- Standard emergency condition for the discovery of cultural resources; and
- Standard emergency condition for the discovery of threatened and endangered species.

Comments regarding this determination may be submitted to the Director of Regional Water Project Development, Texas Water Development Board, P.O. Box 13231, Austin, Texas 78711-3231.



- Project Location
- Waste Water Treatment Plant

Project Component Locations
Elevated Storage Tank and Pump Station
Water Reuse System - Elevated Storage Tank



COX | McLAIN
 Environmental Consulting

Prepared for: City of San Marcos	1 in = 1,000 feet
Prepared by: SL	Scale: 1:12,000
	Date: 10/12/2016