

May 11, 2016

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 Castroville, Medina County
Wastewater Treatment Plant Capacity Expansion
TWDB Project Number 73707
Total CWSRF Loan Amount: \$9,050,000

The City of Castroville (City) is proposing to expand its wastewater treatment plant capacity from 0.35 million gallons per day (MGD) to 0.9 MGD to meet effluent water quality requirements for discharging into the Medina River. The City is seeking financial assistance for the planning, design, and construction phases of the proposed expansion. The plant will be designed to meet more stringent discharge limits as set forth in the new Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) discharge permit and will allow for modulation between the new and old facilities as necessary for the treating of flows and for the diversion of plant effluent to either reuse irrigation or river discharge.

The new capacity and effluent limits will be accomplished by constructing new facilities and upgrading and modifying existing facilities within the existing plant site. Specifically, the City plans to: 1) construct two new 0.45 MGD biological nutrient removal basins to convert the existing aeration basin to an aerobic digester; 2) add a new 14-foot deep clarifier, install new disc filters, and upgrade the disinfection system; 3) construct a new headworks facility screening structure, cloth media filters, and a small building to house chlorine storage, chlorine feed equipment, and a staff restroom; 4) construct a new sludge pump station, new mechanical dewatering building, electrical building, and upgrade the existing administration/maintenance building; 5) update inlet and outlet structures and increase size of outfall structure; and, 6) install additional yard piping to connect new to existing treatment processes, and miscellaneous site work and piping.

The project is located at the existing WWTP approximately 0.9 miles east-southeast of the intersection of U.S. Highway 90 and Farm to Market Road 1343, and approximately 800 feet southwest of the intersection of Alsace Avenue and Lisbon Street.

Total cost associated with the proposed project is estimated at \$9,050,000. All funding for the proposed project is expected to come from the CWSRF commitment.

An environmental review of the proposed project consistent with NEPA has been completed following the guidelines provided in 31 TAC Chapter 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; and,
- Standard emergency condition for the discovery of threatened and endangered species.

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 Castroville, Medina County
Clean Water State Revolving Fund Project #73707
City of Castroville Wastewater Treatment Plant Capacity Expansion Project
Environmental Assessment

INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

The City of Castroville (City), proposes to expand capacity of the existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). The City is proposing to finance the proposed project using funds from a \$9,050,000 loan from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) equivalency program, which is administered by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). The City received a commitment for the CWSRF loan from the TWDB on March 26, 2015.

Purpose and Need

The proposed project will address effluent water quality requirements for discharging into the Medina River. The WWTP capacity expansion will be designed to meet more stringent discharge limits as set forth in the new Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) discharge permit. The existing facilities have reached 75% of the permitted average daily flow. Per 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §305.126, once a treatment facility reaches 75% of the permitted average daily flow for three consecutive months, the permittee must initiate engineering and financial planning for expansion.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION¹

The project is located in the City of Castroville, Medina County at the existing WWTP facilities located approximately 0.9 miles east-southeast of the intersection of U.S. Highway 90 and Farm to Market Road 1343, and approximately 800 feet southwest of the intersection of Alsace Avenue and Lisbon Street. The City is proposing to expand its wastewater treatment plant capacity from 0.35 million gallons per day (MGD) to 0.9 MGD to meet effluent water quality requirements for discharging into the Medina River. The new capacity and effluent limits will be accomplished by constructing new facilities and upgrading and modifying existing facilities within the existing plant site. The City plans to: construct two new 0.45 MGD biological nutrient removal basins to convert the existing aeration basin to an aerobic digester; add a new 14-foot deep clarifier, install new disc filters, and upgrade the disinfection system; construct a new headworks facility screening structure, cloth media filters, and a small building to house chlorine storage, chlorine feed equipment, and a staff restroom; construct a new sludge pump station, new mechanical dewatering building, electrical building, and upgrade the existing administration/maintenance building; update inlet and outlet structures and increase size

¹ City of Castroville (July 2015). *Environmental Information Document: For the City of Castroville Wastewater Treatment Plant Capacity Expansion Project* (Prepared by Freese and Nichols, Inc.). Received by TWDB January 8, 2016. The EID is complete with the supplementary materials submitted to the TWDB on May 2, 2016.

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of outfall structure; and install additional yard piping to connect new to existing treatment processes, and miscellaneous site work and piping.

Total cost associated with the proposed project is estimated at \$9,050,000. All funding for the proposed project is expected to come from the CWSRF commitment.

EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVES

In addition to the proposed project, the City evaluated expanding the plant capacity in a single phase, a two phase expansion and the no-action alternative.

One alternative would be a single phase expansion consisting of minimal plant improvements including a mechanical bar screen, conversion of aeration basin to single stage nitrification, addition of an aerobic digester, and the addition of a sludge dewatering box. This alternative was rejected because it would not encompass the long-term planning to meet the final phase limits and would not meet the required future discharge capacity. Additionally, this alternative relies on the use of existing treatment basins and equipment that have been in service for 20 years decreasing the reliability of this option.

The City also evaluated a two-phase expansion for meeting all effluent limits of the permit. This expansion would consist of the addition of headworks, aeration basin conversion to single nitrification, new clarifier, filters, sludge holding tank, and sludge dewatering. The second phase would add an anaerobic/anoxic basin and a second 0.30 MGD. This would bring capacity to 0.70 MGD. This alternative was rejected because construction of a basin smaller than 0.30 MGD tends to be uneconomical. This alternative was rejected because it represented the highest cost of the evaluated alternatives and resulted in a lower flow capacity at the plant than the selected alternative.

Under the no action alternative, the City would be unable to meet effluent requirements of the wastewater discharge permit. The City would be unable to discharge to a natural drainage swale and the disposal of treated domestic wastewater effluent would continue to be via surface irrigation. Under this alternative the, WWTP is anticipated to exceed the permitted average flows. The no-action alternative was rejected because of the need for the WWTP to expand its capacity and be able to discharge into the drainage swale.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Location and Landforms

The project site is the existing site for the City of Castroville wastewater treatment plant. No property is being acquired for the project. The project site has been used as a wastewater treatment facility since 1988. Adjacent parcels include the Castroville Regional Park, including an RV park, hiking trails and a swimming pool, none of which would be precluded from continuing to function in their current capacities. Various plant yard piping will be demolished. Additional yard piping will be installed to connect the

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new and existing treatment processes. A small building will be constructed to house chlorine storage, chlorine feed equipment, and a staff restroom. The modifications and expansion of the WWTP will not impact the land use of the project site or adjacent facilities.

Population and Income

The City of Castroville is in Medina County, located in Central Texas. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the City's 2010 population was 44,894, with a median household income of \$27,261 (2010-2014).

Climate

The proposed project is located in the South Texas Plains and the Texas Blackland Prairies.² According to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) the South Texas Plains ecoregion has an annual rainfall that ranges from 20 to 32 inches, the Texas Blackland Prairies annual rainfall ranges from 28 to 40 inches with peaks in May. According to the Köppen climatic classification system, Castroville is classified within the humid subtropical climatic zone (Cfa). The area is characterized by hot, usually humid summers and mild to cool winters.

Geology and Soils

The proposed project is located in the Gulf Coast Plains. The Escondido Formation (Kes) occurs in the project's area, comprised primarily of shale, siltstone, and sandstone. Thickness ranges from 200-875 feet and thins westward. The major and minor lithologic constituent is sedimentary. No impacts to sensitive karst features are anticipated.

The project is located in the Balcones Fault Zone subsurface region. Construction will take place on previously disturbed sites. Ground construction activities involve the demolition of an existing racetrack aeration and miscellaneous piping work. The geology of the area does not present any construction constraints to the project. No impacts to faults are anticipated. Therefore, mitigation measures have not been proposed.

No conversion of prime farmland is anticipated. Soils series in the proposed project area consist of Kincheloe (KcF) and Atco (AtB). A Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Soil Survey review indicated that these soils are not considered hydric soils and are not classified as Prime Farmland. These soil types do not present any construction constraints to the project. All construction and installation activities would take place in areas that have previously been converted from agricultural uses. Therefore, mitigation measures have not been proposed.

² Gould, F. W., Hoffman, G. O., and Rechenhain, C. A. 1960. Vegetational areas of Texas, Map compiled by the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department Trans-Pecos Texas A & M University. Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Leaflet No. 492

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Water Resources

The expansion of the WWTP will allow the City to meet more stringent effluent water quality requirements for discharging into the Medina River. When daily flows are high, the plant will utilize discharging to the Medina River along with their current method of discharging to irrigation systems. No direct impacts are anticipated to surface water or groundwater quality or quantity due to the proposed project.

The Edwards Aquifer, which is a sole source aquifer for the region, is located approximately nine miles north of the project site. No direct impacts are anticipated because the project is not located within the contributing zone or recharge zone of the Aquifer. Therefore, mitigation measures have not been proposed.

Topography and Floodplains

Elevation across the proposed project area ranges from 740 to 790 feet above mean sea level (MSL). The project area gently slopes down from west to east. Drainage flows toward the northeast or southeast corner of the site, flowing toward the man-made ponds associated with the WWTP.

A portion of the proposed project is located in the 100-year floodplain. The communities of City of Castroville and Medina County in which the project will be constructed participate in the National Flood Insurance Program. Modifications to the existing energy dissipating outfall structure at the drainage swale will take place in the 100- year floodplain. The proposed construction to the concrete structure will be minor, so impacts to the floodplain are anticipated to be temporary. The local Floodplain Administrator reviewed the proposed project for compliance with the City of Castroville Ordinances and with FEMA regulations. The review indicated that the project is outside of the 500-year floodplain.

Wetlands, Streams and Waters of the United States

There are no wetlands located in the immediate project area. Two man-made freshwater ponds are adjacent to the project site and are associated with the WWTP. The City intends to meet effluent requirements of the wastewater discharge permit to discharge to a natural drainage swale located adjacent to the project site to the north that leads to one of the man-made ponds. This drainage swale where the discharge outfall is located does not display an ordinary high water mark identification. Based on field observation, potential wetland hydrology or vegetation indicators were not observed. The Medina River is located approximately 1,050 feet east of the project site. These streams are not located in the immediate project area and will not be impacted due to the proposed project. The project will not require any permits from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

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Biological Elements

The proposed project is located in the South Texas Plains and the Texas Blackland Prairies. A biological survey was performed, no threatened or endangered species or their preferred habitat were observed within the proposed project area. A review of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Endangered Species Act Species List was conducted. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Species List Report indicate that there are 17 threatened, endangered, or candidate species that have the potential to occur in Medina County. There is no critical habitat within the project area. The City does not anticipate impacts to any state or federally listed threatened or endangered species and critical habitat. Attached is the USFWS Species List Report of rare, candidate, threatened and endangered species.

Vegetation dominating the area in project site includes mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*), johnson grass (*Sorghum halepense*), bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*), prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia spp.*), texas frogfruit (*Phyla nodiflora*), straggler daisy (*Calyptocarpus via/is*), and dallisgrass (*Paspalum dilatatum*). Shrubs outside of the fenced area are whitebrush (*Aloysia gratissima*), rose mallow (*Hibiscus spp.*), and spiny hackberry (*Celtis ehrenbergiana*). Vegetation around the ponds associated with the WWTP includes black willow (*Salix nigra*), huisache (*Acacia farnesiana*), chinaberry (*Melia azedarach*), roosevelt weed (*Baccharis neg tecta*), and big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*).

Castroville Regional Park is located adjacent to the WWTP. The park may be affected by noise, wastewater odor, and possible dust from construction. The City is proposing to use Best Managements Practices (BMPs) to minimize these impacts. The Medina River flows adjacent to the WWTP. All project work will be performed on previously disturbed land within the existing plant site, so there will be minimal impacts to natural vegetation and wildlife. Ground cover may be disturbed during construction, but no trees are proposed to be removed. Therefore, the City does not anticipate impacts to trust resources.

Cultural Resources

The Applicant has notified the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) at the Texas Historical Commission (THC) that they intend to use the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. A summary of this coordination is provided in Cross-Cutter Compliance and Agency Coordination.

An archeological survey has not been conducted within the proposed project area. A review of the Texas Historic Sites Atlas, maintained by the Texas Historical Commission, for the Area of Potential Effect found a prehistoric site (41ME134) and four cemeteries; St. Louis (ME-C003), Zion Lutheran (ME-C007), Renken (ME-C092), and Ilnken (ME-C001). The National Register of Historic Places Castroville Historic District (70000758) is located approximately 0.33-miles northeast of the study area. A neighborhood survey of downtown Castroville documented two historic structures within the 0.5-mile records

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review search radius: NRS79-3658 and NRS79-3672. The proposed work will not impact any of these sites.

According to coordination with the SHPO, the proposed project does not have the potential to significantly affect cultural resources or historic properties. Therefore, mitigation measures have not been proposed.

Social Implications and 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.

Land acquisition is not required for the proposed project. Additionally, people or businesses will not be relocated, the project will not cause an increase in the resident's monthly service rates, and the project will not require an increase in taxes to finance the debt.

The proposed project was evaluated for impacts to environmental justice. EJView is a mapping tool, designed by the EPA, which allows users to create maps and generate reports on factors that may affect public and environmental health. Data include population, percentage of minority residents, per capita income, etc. for comparison with data for the county and state. Comparisons are described below.

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 2015 U.S. Census, a four-person family with an annual income at or below \$24,250.

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The EJ Analysis was performed in July, 2015 for the project area. The results are indicated below with data from the U.S. Census for the State and Medina County, included for comparison.

Area	Population (2010)	% Minority (2006-2010)	% Below Poverty Level / Per Capital Income (2007-2011)
State	25,145,561	54.7%	17.6% / \$26,019
County	46,006	53.5%	17.7% / \$22,413
Project Area (0.5 mile buffer)	303	27%	*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 2006-2010 was \$20,233*. According to the U.S. Census data for 2009-2013, the per capita income for the county was \$22,413. 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 WWTP expansion. 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.

Secondary and Cumulative Impacts

Long-term adverse impacts to air quality, geology, soils, water resources, floodplains, waters of the U.S., wildlife habitat, threatened and endangered species, cultural resources, and low-income and minority communities are not anticipated.

Standard Mitigation, Precautionary Measures and Best Management Practices

Potential construction-related impacts to the daily activities of the community are amenable to standard mitigative and precautionary measures. The project will not involve the use of herbicides, defoliant, blasting, or burning.

A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan will be completed by the contractor with necessary best management practices in place prior to construction. The BMP's will act to minimize dust, sedimentation, and pollution to nearby surface waters. Original grade will be established after construction.

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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 Chapter 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 provides 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-2015-00375), dated September 17, 2015, indicates that since the proposed project will not involve activities subject to the requirements of Section 404 or Section 10, Department of the Army

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authorization will not be required. The USACE further indicated that the decision is based on a preliminary jurisdictional determination (JD) that there are no waters of the United States within the project site. The JD was approved based on materials submitted to the USACE.

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

The TPWD Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program reviewed the proposed project and provided a response dated August 26, 2015. The TPWD response indicates that based on the project description, the Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program does not anticipate significant adverse impacts to rare, threatened or endangered species, or other fish and wildlife resources.

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 formal response was received.

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.

Texas Historical Commission

The Texas Historical Commission provided a review response dated September 11, 2015 indicating concurrence with the assessment that the project, as proposed, will not likely affect any cultural resources. 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 January 26, 2015, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) stated that segment 1903 of the Medina River is currently listed on the State's inventory of impaired and threatened waters, the 2012 Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list. The listing is for bacteria from 5 miles upstream of the San Antonio River to 1.5 miles upstream of Leon Creek (AU 1903_02). TCEQ reviewed the project effluent limits for consistency with the State of Texas Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP). The review indicates that both the existing and proposed limits are contained within the approved WQMP. The response also indicates that the project, as proposed, is consistent with the requirements of the WQMP.

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Federal Emergency Management Agency

The City of Castroville and Medina County participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and are not on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) sanctioned list.

FEMA Region 6 was given the opportunity to review the project. A response dated March 3, 2016, indicated that FEMA has no comments on the proposed project.

The Medina County Floodplain Administrator reviewed the project. In a response letter dated February 26, 2016, the Floodplain Administrator concurred with the City's consultant that there will be no adverse impacts to the floodplain from the proposed project.

The City's Floodplain Administrator was given the opportunity to review the project. In a response dated April 27, 2016, the Floodplain Administrator noted that since the project may have federal funding it is considered critical facilities. The review also indicated that the project is outside of the 500-year floodplain as regulated under the Executive Order 11988. Therefore, a Floodplain Development Permit is not required.

Local Council of Governments

The Alamo Area Council of Governments (AACOG) was notified and given the opportunity to review the proposed project. No response was received.

Bureau of Reclamation and Bureau of Land Management

The Bureau of Reclamation and the Bureau of Land Management were notified and given the opportunity to review the proposed project. No response was received.

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 meeting held on September 9, 2015, which was advertised in the *Castroville News Bulletin*, a newspaper of general circulation in the service area. The notice was published on August 6, 2015, and contained information regarding availability of planning documents, including the EID, for public review at the City Administrative Office at 1209 Fiorella Street 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 meeting was held at 1:00 P.M. on September 9, 2015, at the Castroville City Hall. No adverse comments were voiced at the public meeting or received during the 30-day public review period.

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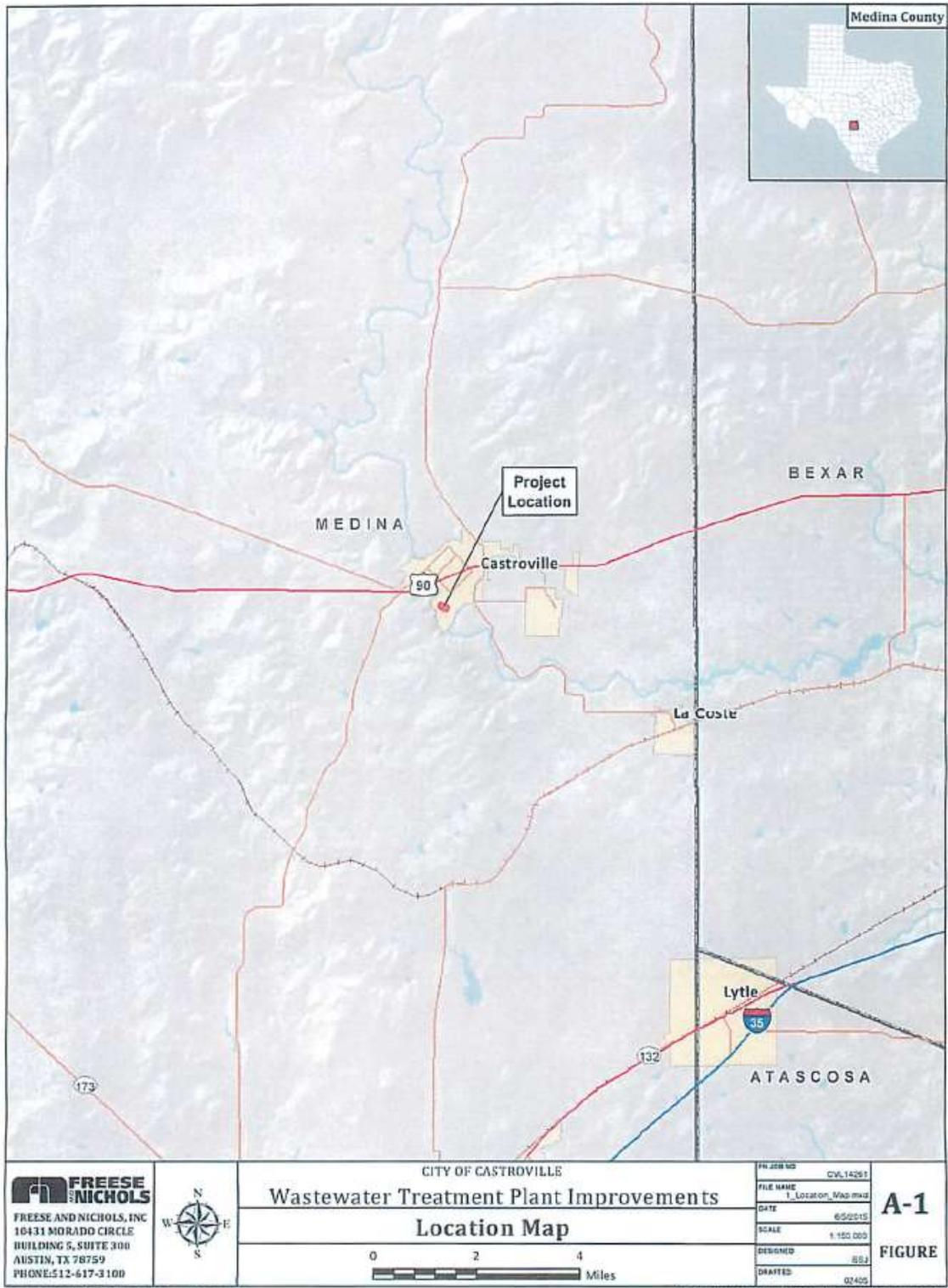
RECOMMENDATION

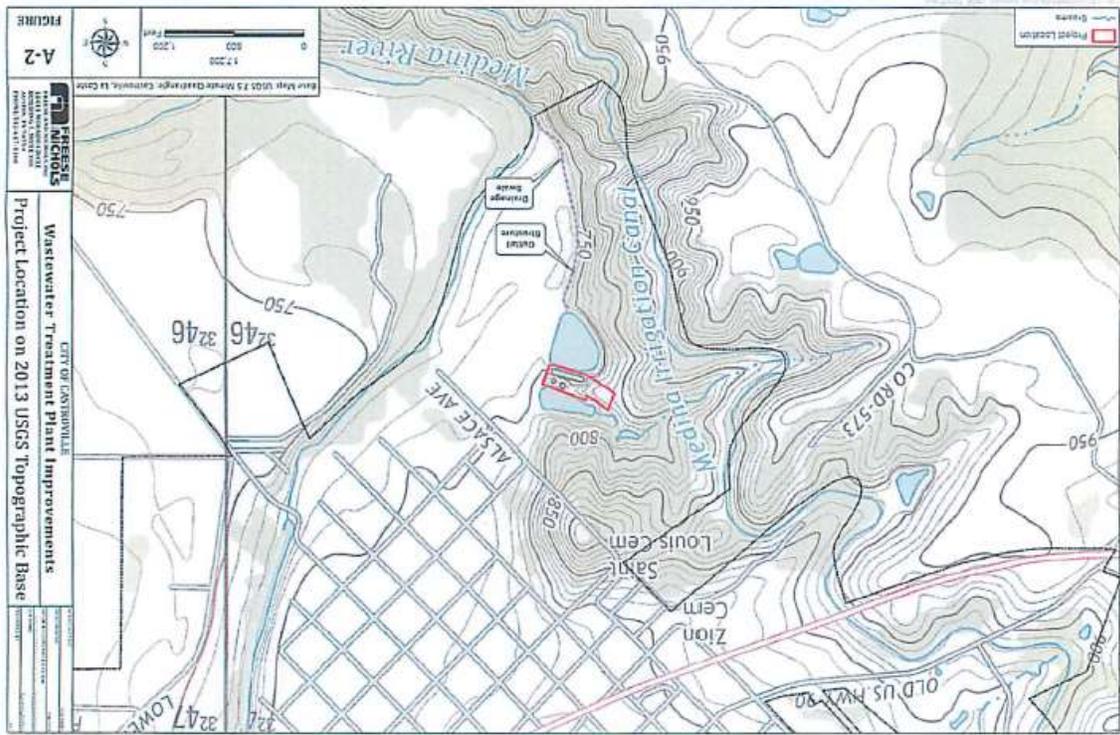
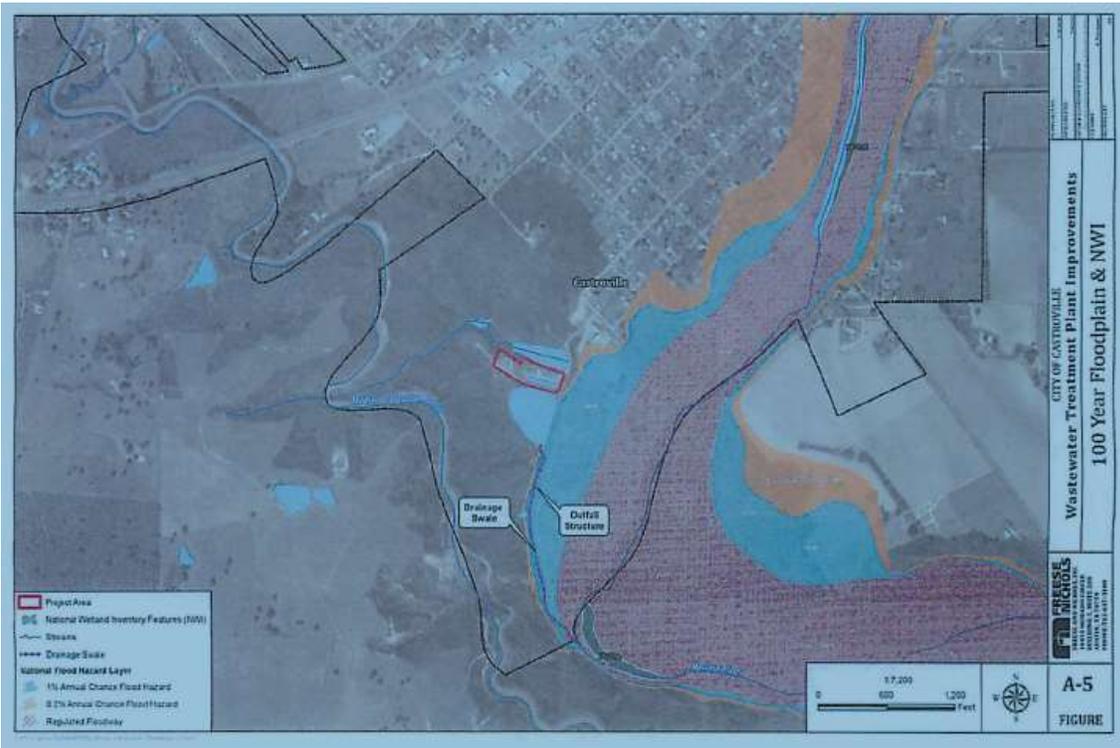
Based upon a detailed review of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund planning information, the Environmental Information Document, this Environmental Assessment, and other documentation, the wastewater system improvement project proposed by the City is considered to be environmentally sound with the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

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

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

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United States Department of Interior
 Fish and Wildlife Service

Project name: Castroville Wastewater Treatment Plant

Endangered Species Act Species List

There are a total of 17 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on your species list. Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species. Note that 3 of these species should be considered only under certain conditions. Critical habitats listed under the **Has Critical Habitat** column may or may not lie within your project area. See the **Critical habitats within your project area** section further below for critical habitat that lies within your project. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

Amphibians	Status	Has Critical Habitat	Condition(s)
San Marcos salamander (<i>Eurycea nana</i>) Population: Entire	Threatened	Final designated	
Texas Blind salamander (<i>Typhlomolge rathbuni</i>) Population: Entire	Endangered		
Birds			
Black-Capped Vireo (<i>Vireo atricapilla</i>) Population: Entire	Endangered		
golden-cheeked warbler (<i>Dendroica chrysoparia</i>) Population: Entire	Endangered		
Least tern (<i>Sterna antillarum</i>) Population: interior pop.	Endangered		Wind Energy Projects
Piping Plover (<i>Charadrius melodus</i>) Population: except Great Lakes watershed	Threatened	Final designated	Wind Energy Projects

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Red Knot (<i>Calidris canutus rufa</i>)	Threatened		Wind Energy Projects
Clams			
golden orb (<i>Quadrula aurea</i>)	Candidate		
Texas Fatmucket (<i>Lampsilis bracteata</i>)	Candidate		
Texas Pimpleback (<i>Quadrula petrina</i>)	Candidate		
Crustaceans			
Peck's Cave amphipod (<i>Stygobromus (=stygonectes) pecki</i>)	Endangered	Final designated	
Fishes			
Fountain darter (<i>Etheostoma fonticola</i>) Population: Entire	Endangered		
Flowering Plants			
Bracted twistflower (<i>Streptanthus bracteatus</i>)	Candidate		
Texas wild-rice (<i>Zizania texana</i>)	Endangered	Final designated	
Tobusch fishhook cactus (<i>Sclerocactus brevipalmatus</i> ssp. <i>tobuschii</i>)	Endangered		
Insects			
Comal Springs Dryopid beetle (<i>Syngonanus comalensis</i>)	Endangered	Final designated	
Comal Springs Riffle beetle (<i>Heterelmis comalensis</i>)	Endangered	Final designated	

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United States Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service

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Critical habitats that lie within your project area

There are no critical habitats within your project area.