

March 4, 2016

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES AND PUBLIC GROUPS:

As provided by the state environmental review process adopted in the permanent rules of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) 31 Texas Administrative Code chapter 375, subchapter E, for projects to be funded through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) 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 Sulphur Springs, Hopkins County, Texas
Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade
CWSRF Project No. 73725
Total Estimated TWDB Commitment: \$18,200,000 (Loan No. L1000505)

The City of Sulphur Springs (City) is proposing to use funding from a \$18,200,000 CWSRF loan to finance the design and construction of the rehabilitation of the City's wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). The proposed project will address recent Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) enforcement actions and maintain treatment standards. The flow capacity of the WWTP will remain at 5.4 million gallons per day (MGD), although the biological treatment capacity will increase.

The project includes the following components:

- Construction of a primary clarifier splitter box;
- Modifications of the aeration basin and construction of additional basins;
- Improvements to the secondary clarification system including the construction of new secondary clarifiers and a return activated sludge/waste activated sludge/effluent (RAS/WAS/Effluent) pump station;
- Electrical system improvements; and,
- Installation of a supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system.

If there are sufficient funds remaining, the City will also construct a new headworks facility.

All project construction activities will be located within the WWTP's existing facility site (33° 9'9.46"N Latitude; 95°33'20.66"W Longitude). Portions of the site that are not currently developed are cleared, maintained lawn. Therefore, no impacts to threatened or endangered species or habitat are anticipated. There is an apparent drainage within the southern part of the fenced area, but the footprint of the proposed project activities is not located in this area. Therefore, the project should not involve activities affecting waters of the U.S. under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The southeastern portion of the WWTP property, including part of the treatment facility, is located within a 100-year floodplain associated with a tributary to Rock Creek. Therefore, this determination is conditioned to read

that prior to construction within the floodplain, a floodplain permit or waiver must be obtained from the local Floodplain Administrator (National Flood Insurance Program). According to Texas Historical Commission's Archeological Sites Atlas, there are no previously-recorded significant or potentially significant sites on or adjacent to the project site, nor is the site within a protected area surrounding an historic cemetery, structure or district.

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);
- 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: Preliminary Design Facility Layout

