

January 20, 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) Non-Equivalency 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:

City of Weatherford, Parker County, Texas
Wastewater Reuse System Improvements - Wastewater Treatment Plant Modifications including pump station construction (excluding outfall structure and associated pipeline)
CWSRF Project No. 73726
Anticipated TWDB Commitment: \$12,800,000

The City of Weatherford (City) is proposing to use funding from a \$12,800,000 CWSRF loan to finance acquisition, design and construction of a Wastewater Reuse System Improvements project. The proposed project components include improvements to the City's wastewater treatment plant (WWTP), construction of a reuse water pump station at the WWTP, the installation of approximately 35,505 linear feet of 16-inch and 18-inch diameter polyvinyl chloride reuse water pipeline and an outfall structure on a tributary to Lake Weatherford.

In order to allow the improvements at the WWTP, including construction of the pump station, to proceed without delay, the environmental review of the project will be handled in two parts. The project activities that qualify for a Categorical Exclusion (CE) from a full environmental review include the improvements at the WWTP and the pump station to be constructed on the WWTP site, as shown on the attached map. These are the only project components included in this CE. The rest of the project components, including the installation of reuse water pipeline and construction of an outfall structure, do not qualify for a CE and will require a full environmental review to be completed later. For those project components, the City will complete an Environmental Information Document (EID) and if suitable, the TWDB will issue a separate environmental determination (i.e., Finding of No Significant Impact).

The WWTP site is an active plant site, located within the City limits, approximately 1.9 miles east southeast of the center of the City. The WWTP site is leveed, cleared and developed. It is located in an area that was mapped by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) as being within the 100-year floodplain of Town Creek. In correspondence dated January 8, 2016, the NFIP Local Floodplain Administrator noted that the effective Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) has not been updated in this area to reflect work performed at the WWTP in the early 1990s. At

that time, Town Creek was realigned to accommodate those improvements. Based on the flood study for those improvements, the proposed pump station and wastewater plant improvements for the reuse system will not be within the 100-year floodplain, and, therefore a floodplain development permit is not required for the currently proposed project. Because the proposed project is located within the WWTP site, no impacts to threatened or endangered species, waters of the U.S., or cultural resources are anticipated. The project will require an amendment to the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) permit from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

The decision to issue a categorical exclusion from a full environmental review 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 Planning and Development, Texas Water Development Board, P.O. Box 13231, Austin, Texas 78711-3231.

