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DETERMINATION OF NO EFFECT

TO ALL POTENTIALLY INTERESTED AGENCIES:

Pursuant to the environmental assessment requirements of 31 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 363.14, the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) staff has determined that proposed action identified below may be exempted from formal environmental review requirements:

Cypress Forest Public Utility District, Harris County, Texas
TWDB DFUND Project No. 21831
Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation
Total Financing Amount: \$10,400,000
Loan No. L1001749

The Cypress Forest Public Utility District (District) is proposing to use \$10,400,000 in financing from the Water Development Fund (DFUND) Program to (1) perform television inspections of existing pipes; (2) rehabilitate and/or replace existing sanitary sewer pipes by utilizing slip-lining and cured-in-place methods or open trenching for replacements; (3) evaluate existing manholes for relining or replacement and address as needed; and (4) reconnect all residential sewer taps via remote tapping or open excavation. This Determination of No Effect (DNE) is completed for the Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation project, is hereafter referred to as the project.

Television inspections of the existing pipes will be conducted to assess pipe conditions and to determine the scope of repair or replacement needed. All pipes will be replaced or repaired in place, using trenchless technologies like slip-lining, cured-in-place lining, or pipe bursting technologies. All construction will occur within dedicated utility easements or within the street rights-of-way for existing sanitary sewer mains. Access will typically be made through existing manholes. When spot repairs are needed, access pits will be excavated to depths of up to 5 to 8 feet. Pipe bursting will be the primary rehabilitation method, with limited open trenching on an as-needed basis. The District plans to remove damaged pipes when replacement and open trenching is required. Additionally, all existing manholes will be evaluated for relining or replacement as needed. Any cleanouts at the terminus of sanitary sewer collection lines will be replaced by new manholes.

There are no previously recorded significant or potentially significant historic or cultural sites within or adjacent to the project footprint, according to the Texas Historical Commission's Archeological Sites Atlas, nor is the project within the protected area surrounding a historic cemetery, structure, or district. The project will not adversely impact waters of the United States, including wetlands. The project appears to be partially within a 100-year floodplain, as designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Projects involving construction in the 100-year floodplain, including replacement or borings, require a floodplain development permit from the local floodplain administrator prior to construction in the 100-year

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floodplain. In addition, construction within the existing right of way (ROW) and easements is not expected to impact threatened or endangered species or habitat.

The TWDB cannot fund testing, remediation, removal, disposal, or related works for contaminated or potentially contaminated materials. However, the project proponent should ensure that, if found, such materials are tested, removed, and disposed of in accordance with applicable state and federal laws.

The decision to grant a Determination of No Effect (DNE) is allowed because the specified project elements should not cause significant adverse impacts to the quality of the 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 categorical exclusion from full environmental review as a result of changes in the project;
- (2) the project involves extraordinary circumstances as described in 31 TAC § 363.14; or
- (3) the project may violate or has violated federal, state, local, or tribal laws.

The proposed project must comply with the following special and standard environmental conditions:

Special Environmental Condition

- Consistent with the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004, Texas Water Code Section 16.315, and local floodplain development ordinances, a floodplain development permit will be obtained from the local floodplain administrator prior to open trench construction in, across, or under a Special Flood Hazard Area, and any requirements contained therein will be adhered to.

Standard Environmental Conditions

- Consistent with the TWDB Supplemental Construction Contract Conditions (TWDB-0552), the Project will abide by the standard emergency condition for the discovery of cultural resources.
- Consistent with the TWDB Supplemental Construction Contract Conditions (TWDB-0552), the Project will abide by the 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 or via email at RWPD-Environmental@twdb.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

T. Clay Schultz, Ph.D., Director
Regional Water Project Development

Enclosures

USGS 2019 TOPO MAP

SCALE 1:24000



