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ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

TO: File

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

Clay Schultz Digitally signed by Clay Schultz Date: 2026.05.22 14:33:18 -05'00'

SUBJECT: Harlingen Waterworks System, Cameron County, Texas
TWDB Water Loan Assistance Fund Project No. 21885
Jefferson Street Raw Water Pipeline Upgrade Project
Total Commitment Amount: $8,260,000
Commitment Nos. L1002170 and G1002171

The environmental review for Harlingen Waterworks System's proposed Jefferson Street Raw Water Pipeline Upgrade project has been completed, consistent with 31 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 363.14. Harlingen Waterworks System is proposing to use $8,260,000 in funding from the Water Loan Assistance Fund program to implement the proposed project, which consists of installing approximately 3,000 linear feet of new 48-inch raw water line, using both open cut and trenchless construction methods, to replace the existing raw water line. Part of the proposed raw water line replacement is at the same location as the existing raw water line, but the portion along the northern edge of the railroad right-of-way (ROW) is replacement at a different location that is north of and parallel to the existing raw water line. At the eastern project limit, the proposed raw water line connects to the system at the existing 5- by 5-foot box located southeast of the intersection of North 13th Street and East Jefferson Avenue. From there, the proposed raw water line extends west and then north across Jefferson Avenue, to the north side of the existing railroad ROW north of Jefferson Avenue. The proposed raw water line then continues west, following the north edge of the existing railroad ROW to North 8th Street, where it turns north to follow the existing raw water line alignment until it reaches Lake Harlingen, which is the downtown reservoir. The proposed project also includes installing a new 7- by 7-foot junction box with sluice gate at eastern project limit; plugging and abandoning the existing junction box at the eastern project limit; removing the existing outfall structure and sub-aqueous pipe in Lake Harlingen; constructing a new outfall structure that will be easier to access for maintenance than the existing outfall structure; and removing some of the existing 30- and 42-inch raw water line to facilitate the installation of the proposed 48-inch water line. The proposed project will tunnel under East Jefferson Avenue, the railroad track, the neighborhood alley where the proposed raw water line turns north along North 8th Street, and 76 Drive. The remaining areas will be installed by open-cut trenching. The proposed project will also include the removal and replacement of sidewalks, driveways, curbs, asphalt, parking lot, and wood privacy fences. The proposed project will increase the flow of water to Lake Harlingen from 15 to 20 million gallons per day. The Texas Water

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Development Board (TWDB) committed this funding on August 21, 2025. Harlingen Waterworks System closed the funding on February 27, 2026.

Results of this environmental review are documented by the accompanying Memorandum, which contains mitigative environmental conditions that will be applied to the project to avoid significant adverse impact on waters of the United States, floodplains, cultural or historical resources, threatened or endangered species, and protected migratory bird species.

Based on a detailed environmental review of the planning information, particularly the Environmental Data Form received by the TWDB on March 13, 2026, the proposed project meets the requirements of 31 TAC § 363.14 with the following special and standard environmental conditions:

Special Environmental Conditions

- In accordance with an agreement with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), Ecological and Environmental Planning Program (TPWD Project No. 57013) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, to ensure compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, vegetation clearing or disturbance must be excluded during the general bird nesting season, March 15 through September 15, to avoid adverse impacts to breeding birds. If vegetation clearing during this time is unavoidable, the area proposed for disturbance will be surveyed by a qualified biologist to identify occupied nests, not more than five days prior to clearing activities. If occupied nests are observed during surveys, a buffer of vegetation of 150 feet in diameter will remain around the nest until all young have fledged or the nest is abandoned.

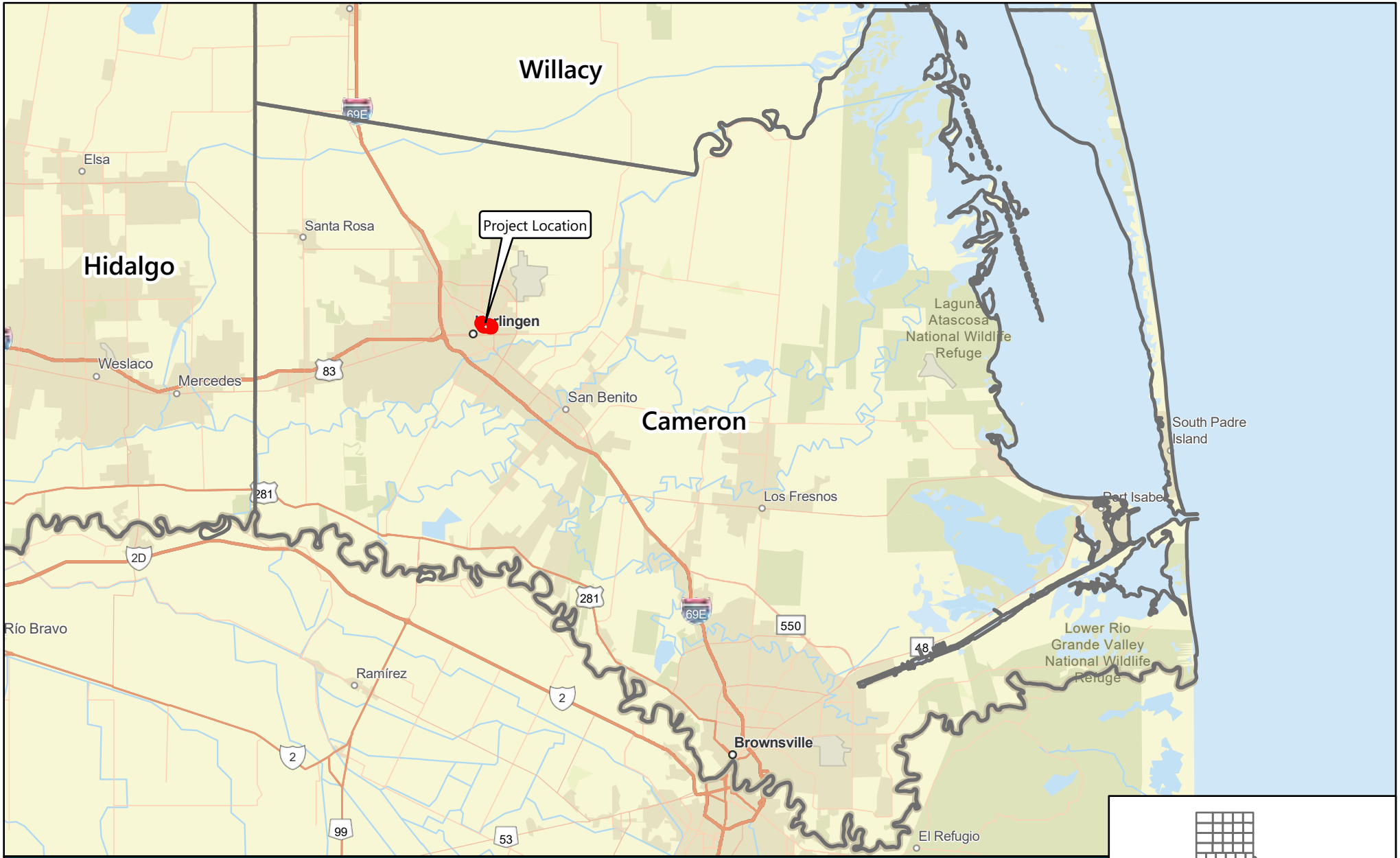
Standard Environmental Conditions

- Consistent with the Texas Water Development Board Supplemental Construction Contract Conditions (TWDB-0552), Harlingen Waterworks System will abide by the standard emergency condition for the discovery of cultural resources.

- Consistent with the Texas Water Development Board Supplemental Construction Contract Conditions (TWDB-0552), Harlingen Waterworks System will abide by the standard emergency condition for the discovery of threatened and endangered species.

With the addition of these requirements, design funds may be released once all other requirements are satisfied.

Enclosures



Project Location Map

Jefferson Street Raw Water Line Upgrade

Harlingen, Cameron County, Texas

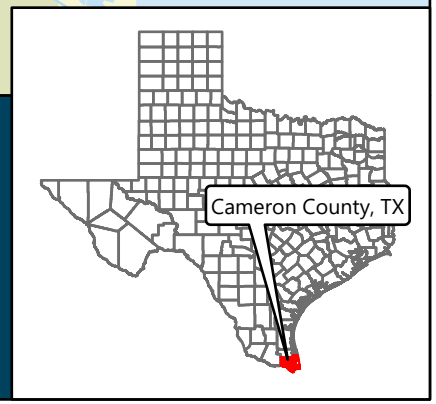
County Boundary

Subject Property

N

0 5 10

Miles



Sources: ESRI Streets Base Map, 2025

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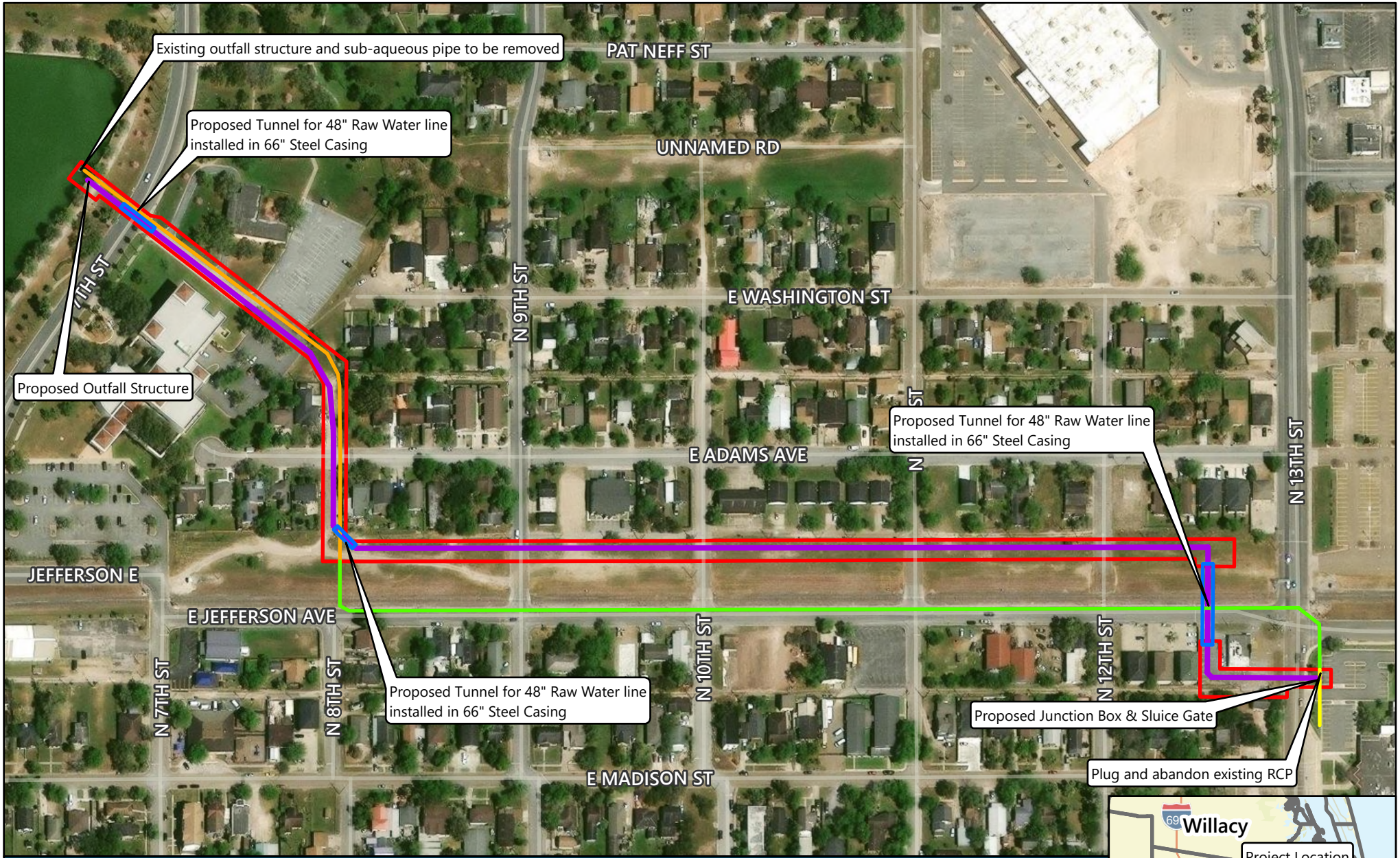

Figure 2: Aerial Map

Jefferson Street Raw Water Line Upgrade

Harlingen, Cameron County, Texas

Limits of Construction
Proposed Alignment
Tunnel
Existing 42" RCP to be Removed
Existing 42" RCP to be Abandoned in Place
Existing 5' x 5' Box to Remain

N

0 200 400
Feet

Sources: Google Imagery, 2025

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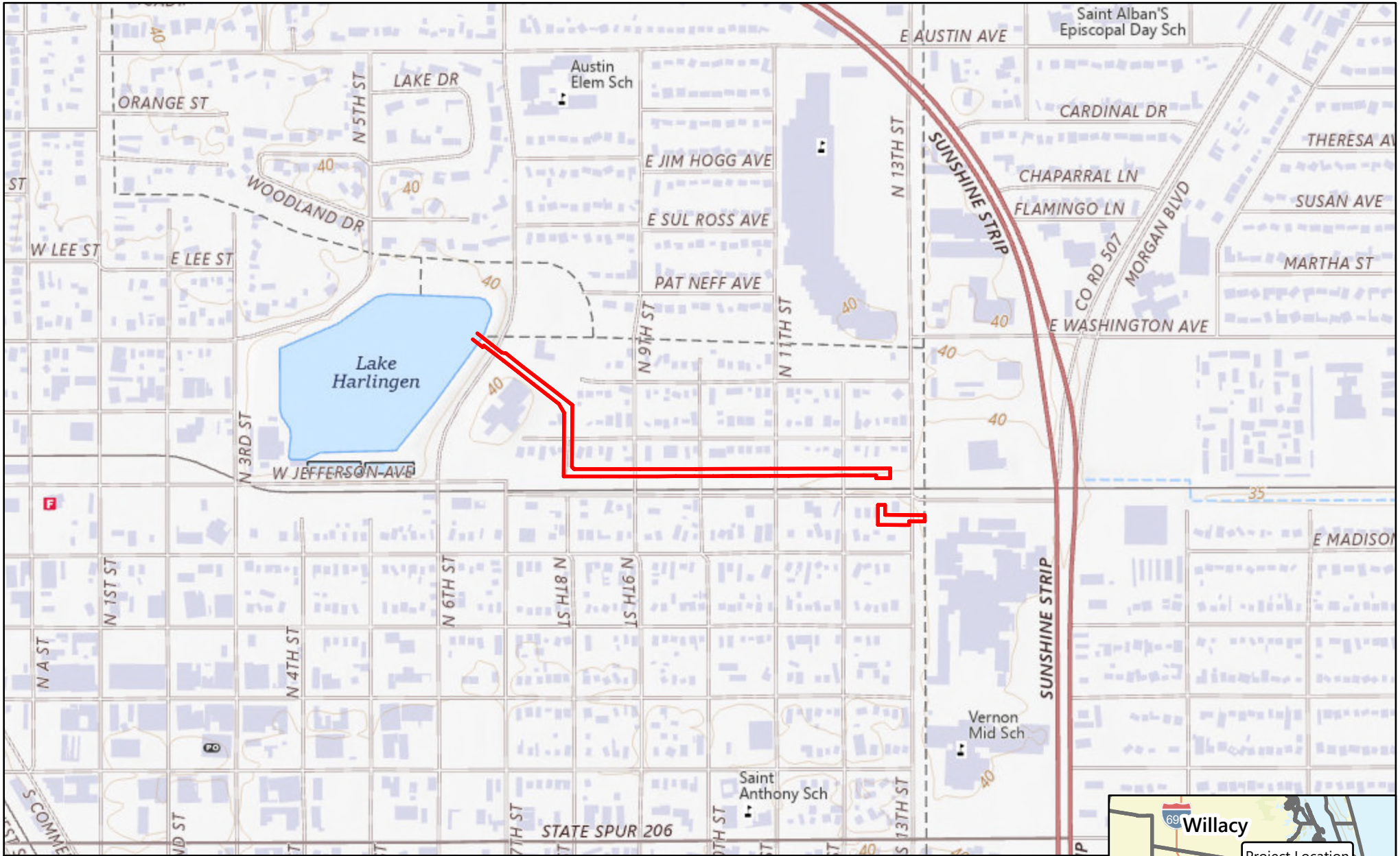


USGS Topographic Map

Jefferson Street Raw Water Line Upgrade

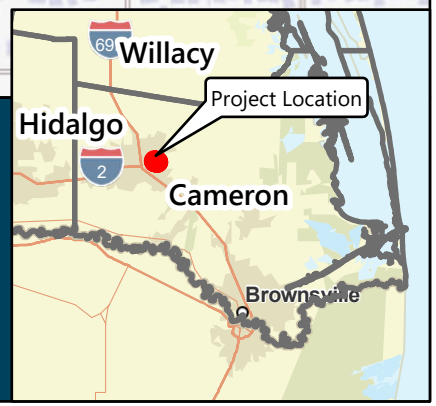
Harlingen, Cameron County, Texas

Subject Property

N

0 500 1,000

Feet



Sources: ESRI USGS Topo, 2024; Quad Index: Harlingen, 2022

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