



P.O. Box 13231, 1700 N. Congress Ave.
Austin, TX 78711-3231, www.twdb.texas.gov
Phone (512) 463-7847, Fax (512) 475-2053

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

TO: File
FROM: T. Clay Schultz, Ph.D., Director, Regional Water Project Development
SUBJECT: Bistone Municipal Water Supply District, Limestone County, Texas
TWDB SWIFT Project No. 51088
Carrizo Aquifer Development Project
Total Commitment Amount: \$16,000,000
Loan Nos. LM2401812, LM2501812, and LM2601812

The environmental review for the Bistone Municipal Water Supply District’s (District) proposed Carrizo Aquifer Development project has been completed consistent with 31 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 363.14. The District is proposing to use \$16,000,000 in financing from the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT) program to increase its raw-water supply by developing a new well field in the Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer by drilling and completing up to ten new groundwater wells; installing approximately 1.6 miles of new collection pipelines; and constructing approximately 6.3 miles of a new raw-water transmission main to convey water to its existing groundwater treatment facility in Personville, Texas. In addition, the District intends to add a new elevated storage tank to increase system pressure, but this project element is not included in the scope of the present project. The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) committed this financing on July 23, 2024. Closings will be spaced out through 2027, as the funds are needed.

This environmental review is documented by the enclosed Environmental Determination (ED), which contains mitigative environmental conditions that will be applied to the project to avoid significant adverse impact on waters of the U.S., floodplains, cultural or historical resources, threatened or endangered species, and protected migratory bird species.

Based on a detailed environmental review of the planning information, the Environmental Data Form received by the TWDB on September 16, 2025, with the supplementary materials submitted to the TWDB on January 30 and April 30, 2026, the project meets the requirements of 31 TAC § 363.14 with the following special and standard environmental conditions:

Special Environmental Conditions

- To avoid impacts to potential waters of the U.S., including wetlands, and aquatic habitat, the water line crossing of waterbodies, specifically Big Creek, will be performed by trenchless construction methods, with bore pits located outside riparian and/or aquatic habitat. Should project alignments or construction methods

Our Mission : **Board Members**
Leading the state’s efforts : L’Oreal Stepney, P.E., Chairwoman | W. Brady Franks, Board Member | Ashley Morgan, Board Member
in ensuring a secure :
water future for Texas : Bryan McMath, Executive Administrator

change, the TWDB will be notified and any necessary USACE coordination requirements completed.

- As per an agreement with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), Ecological & Environmental Planning Program (TPWD Project No. 59047), to ensure compliance with Chapter 57 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, 31 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapters 12, 64, 67, and 68, the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and applicable federal regulations pertaining to protected species, the following measures will be implemented:
 - Vegetation clearing must be excluded during tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*) winter torpor and pupping season for Zone 1, December 15 through February 15 and May 1 through July 15, to avoid adverse impacts.
 - Consistent with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code Chapter 64, vegetation clearing 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 vegetation buffer area of no less than 100 feet in diameter will remain around the nest until all young have fledged; however, the size of the buffer zone depends on various factors and can be coordinated with the local or regional USFWS office.
 - The project occurs near Lake Limestone where bald eagle nesting has been known to occur. In compliance with the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, if an eagle nest occurs in the vicinity of the project, construction activities will be avoided within 660 feet from an eagle nest during its breeding season of October through July. If construction needs to occur closer than 660 feet, the Bistone Municipal Water Supply District will coordinate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Eagle Management office to obtain the appropriate permit for disturbance.
 - The project will be designed to utilize the minimum amount of nighttime light needed for safety and security for lighted structures at the water treatment plant, elevated storage tank site, and pump stations. Lights will be focused downward with cutoff luminaries, be illuminated only when needed, be as bright as needed, and minimize blue light emissions.
 - Trenches or excavated holes left open and unattended will be inspected for trapped wildlife prior to backfilling.
 - For soil stabilization and revegetation, no-till drilling, hydromulching, and/or hydroseeding will be used rather than erosion control blankets or mats, which pose an entanglement hazard to wildlife. If erosion control blankets or mats cannot be avoided, products that contain no netting or loosely woven natural fiber netting will be used. Plastic mesh matting and hydromulch containing microplastics will be avoided.

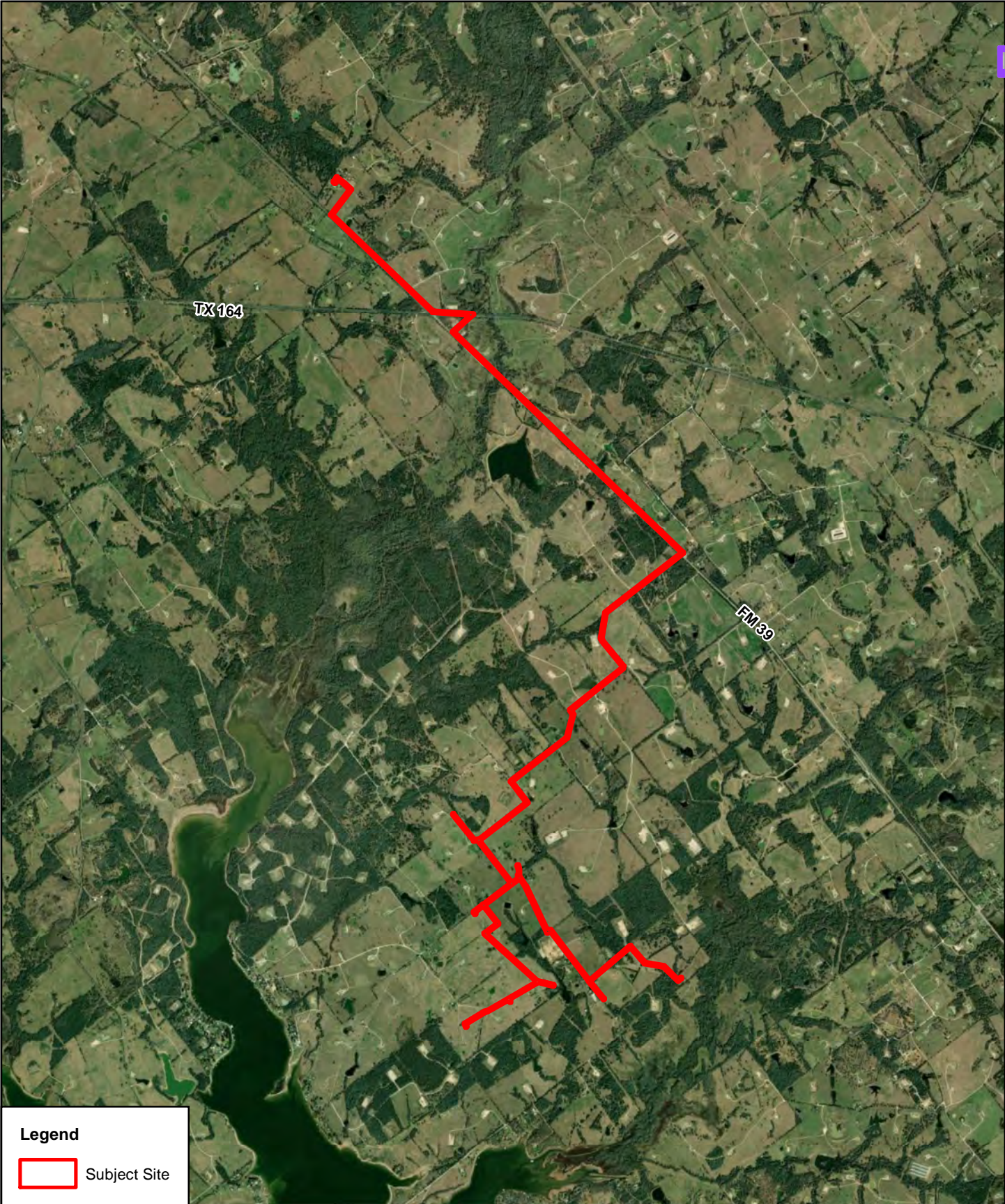
- Consistent with the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004, federal Executive Order 11988 as amended by EO 13690, Texas Water Code Section 16.315, and local floodplain development ordinances, a floodplain development permit will be obtained from the local floodplain administrator prior to construction in, across, or under a Special Flood Hazard Area and TWDB approval of plans and specifications, and any requirements contained therein will be adhered to.

Standard Environmental Conditions

- Consistent with the TWDB Supplemental Construction Contract Conditions (TWDB-0552), the Bistone Municipal Water Supply District will abide by the standard emergency condition for the discovery of cultural resources.
- Consistent with the TWDB Supplemental Construction Contract Conditions (TWDB-0552), the Bistone Municipal Water Supply District 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



Legend

 Subject Site



Date:	11/11/2025
Drawn:	TED
HJN NO:	25050.001HA
Source:	Esri, 2024

Figure 1
 Site-Specific Aerial Photograph
 Bistone MWSD
 Carrizo-Wilcox Aquifer Project
 Limestone County, Texas

