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

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES AND PUBLIC GROUPS:

As required by the rules of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), 31 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 371.41, an environmental review consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 United States Code § 4321 *et seq.*, has been performed on the project below. This project is proposed to be funded through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Equivalency Program, which is administered by the TWDB.

West Wise Special Utility District, Wise County, Texas
TWDB DWSRF Project No. 62730
Water System Improvements
Elevated Storage Tank
Total Financing Amount: $13,430,000
Loan No. L1000579

The West Wise Special Utility District (District) has proposed to use $13,430,000 in financing from the DWSRF Program to complete the Water System Improvements Project. A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was issued on December 14, 2017, to replace the existing surface water treatment plant (WTP) by constructing a new WTP approximately 0.25 mile to the north of the existing WTP, including the construction of 1) a raw water booster pump station; 2) approximately 1,700 linear feet of raw water pipelines; 3) a rapid chemical mixing, tapered flocculation, and high-rate clarification complex; 4) mixed media filtration; 5) disinfection in a clear well; 6) a high service pump station; 7) approximately 1,700 linear feet of treated water pipelines; and 8) utility and storage buildings. A Statement of Findings (SOF) was issued on July 12, 2018, to add an automatic meter reading system as a project component. It was later determined that a new elevated storage tank (EST) would be required due to the supply and pressure issues the distribution system has been experiencing. The design and construction of the new EST will be completed before the WTP improvements begin. This FONSI assesses the EST site as well as the site of an associated control valve and is hereafter referred to as the proposed project.

An environmental review of the project consistent with NEPA has been completed following the guidelines provided in 31 TAC § 371.41. This environmental review is documented by the enclosed Environmental Assessment, which contains mitigative environmental conditions that will be applied to the project to avoid significant adverse environmental impacts on waters of the United States, wetlands, floodplains, cultural and historical resources, threatened and endangered species, and protected migratory bird species. Based on a detailed environmental review of the planning information, the Environmental

Information Document, and other documentation, the project is environmentally sound with the following special and standard environmental conditions:

Special Environmental Conditions

- As per an agreement with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), Ecological & Environmental Planning Program (TPWD Project No. 62730), to ensure compliance with Texas Parks and Wildlife Code 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 including the Texas horned lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*), eastern box turtle (*Terrapene carolina*), western box turtle (*Terrapene ornata*), Strecker's chorus frog (*Pseudacris streckeri*), and Woodhouse's toad (*Anaxyrus woodhousii*), the following measures will be implemented:
    - 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.
    - A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be prepared and implemented to eliminate sediment in stormwater runoff from the construction areas, to include best management practices (BMPs) such as silt fences, hay bales, fiber logs, and berms.
    - Construction site staff will be provided with education materials on the Texas horned lizard, Strecker's chorus frog, Woodhouse's toad, eastern box turtle, and western box turtle. Contractors will be advised not to attempt to catch, relocate, or kill any animals. If any of these species are seen during construction, all construction activities shall be halted until the animal is able to leave the project area on their own to preserve the species and for the safety of the workers. Only persons with authorization through the TPWD may handle these state-listed species.
- To ensure compliance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, per an agreement with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), construction or vegetation clearing activities within 1,000 feet of potential whooping crane (*Grus americana*) habitat, the following mitigation measures will be implemented:
    - Construction site staff will be provided with educational materials on the appearance and status of the whooping crane in order to identify individuals.
    - A representative of the District who is familiar with the whooping crane will monitor for the whooping crane near suitable habitat and halt construction if

an individual is detected within 1,000 feet of a work site. Work will cease until the crane has moved outside of the 1,000-foot buffer zone.

- If a whooping crane is observed for any length of time in the project area, the USFWS Arlington Ecological Services Field Office will be notified as soon as possible.

Standard Environmental Conditions

- Consistent with the TWDB Supplemental Construction Contract Conditions (TWDB-0550), the West Wise Special Utility District (District) will abide by the standard emergency condition for the discovery of cultural resources.
- Consistent with the TWDB Supplemental Construction Contract Conditions (TWDB-0550), the District will abide by the standard emergency condition for the discovery of threatened and endangered species.

Therefore, it is recommended that a Finding of No Significant Impact be issued.

Documentation supporting this decision is on file in the office of the Regional Water Project Development, TWDB, and is available for public review upon request. Comments supporting or disagreeing with this preliminary environmental determination may be submitted to the Director, 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. After evaluating the comments received, the Executive Administrator will make a final determination. However, no action regarding the provision of federal financial assistance for the project will be taken for at least thirty (30) calendar days after the release of this Finding of No Significant Impact.

Sincerely,

Clay Schultz Digitally signed by Clay Schultz
Date: 2025.12.09 11:09:41 -06'00'

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

Enclosure

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

West Wise Special Utility District, Wise County
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Project No. 62730
Water System Improvements
Elevated Storage Tank
Environmental Assessment

REVIEW PROCESS

As described below, Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) staff has performed a review consistent with the 31 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 371.41 and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S. Code § 4321 *et seq.* Consistent with 31 TAC § 371.45, the Environmental Information Document (EID)[1] for the Water System Improvements Project, Elevated Storage Tank (EST) proposed by the West Wise Special Utility District (District) was reviewed by TWDB staff for the development of this Environmental Assessment (EA). This project is financed through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Equivalency Program, which is administered by the TWDB.

PURPOSE AND NEED

The proposed project addresses increasing water demand and pressure issues in the southern portion of the District's distribution system. Currently, the area is served by three existing ESTs, but growth has stretched the system beyond its capacity. This project will add a fourth 200,000-gallon EST. The new EST will improve pressure management and enhance system reliability in the southern distribution area. An EST control valve will be installed in an existing vault or adjacent to it to regulate its fill and control pressure.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed fourth EST site is generally located in the southwest quadrant formed by the intersection of County Road (CR) 3424 and CR 3420 in southwestern Wise County, Texas. The project components addressed in this EA include:

- The construction of a new 200,000-gallon elevated storage tank with access road, fence installation, and other appurtenances.
- The installation of an EST pressure-reducing valve with associated SCADA system.

[1] West Wise Special Utility District (August 19, 2025). Environmental Information Document (EID) (TWDB Form 0801), Prepared by Enprotec/Hibbs & Todd, Inc. Received by TWDB on March 4, 2025, the EID is complete with the supplementary materials submitted to the TWDB on August 19, 2025.

The proposed project would involve the construction of an EST and related pressure-reducing valve. Construction for the EST will take place within the tract of land bounded on the north by County Road (CR) 3424 and on the east by CR 3420, in Wise County, Texas. The EST would be located in the southwest corner of the property, with its construction area and fence line covering roughly one acre. The foundation of the EST would be 85 square feet with a maximum depth of 15 feet. The EST occurs within a private development which has previously constructed associated utilities including the fill line for the EST.

The EST control valve would be located on the east side of N Main Street (Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 1658) in the city of Lake Bridgeport and will either be located in an existing vault or adjacent to it if there is insufficient room for its installation.

PROJECT FUNDING

To address these issues, the District applied to the TWDB for financing through the DWSRF Program for planning, design, and construction. On February 10, 2017, the TWDB committed $13,430,000 for the project. The District closed the financing on January 10, 2018. Some of the planning funds were used to assess the potential environmental impact of the project and prepare an Environmental Information Document (EID). Preparation of the EID involved consultation with state and federal regulatory agencies and additional public participation.

The TWDB may not 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.

EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVES

In addition to the Preferred Alternative, the District evaluated the No-Action Alternative and one additional alternative. Each alternative was evaluated for its potential direct, secondary, and cumulative impacts on the existing environment.

No-Action Alternative

The No-Action Alternative would have less impact than the Preferred Alternative; however, if the No-Action Alternative were selected, the water distribution system would continue to have pressure management problems and have reliability issues in the southern distribution system.

Soil disturbances and possible temporary impacts to the environment from construction activities would be negated if the No-Action Alternative is selected, as compared to the Preferred Alternative. Assuming best management practices (BMPs) are appropriately implemented during construction of the Preferred Alternative, in comparison to the No-Action Alternative, the impacts to wildlife and endangered species habitats would be the same in both scenarios since construction is not likely to adversely affect either. However,

the No-Action Alternative would have less impact on the native vegetation since minimal vegetation clearing may be required with this alternative. Temporary impacts on air quality would be less in the No-Action Alternative since temporary emissions or noise would be generated with the Preferred Alternative.

Alternative Not Selected

A hydropneumatic tank instead of the EST was explored as an alternative but ultimately not selected. A hydropneumatic tank could be considered an alternative to an EST to provide additional pressure in the distribution system. This Alternative Not Selected would have been located at the same site as the proposed EST.

Hydropneumatic tanks are more compact and suited for smaller systems or as pressure boosters in specific zones rather than as the primary storage for a system with large elevation differences, such as that of the district. These tanks store water and air under pressure, often in conjunction with booster pumps, providing energy efficiency and quick response to demand fluctuations. However, hydropneumatic tanks have limited capacity and require regular maintenance to ensure proper air pressure, which can be a drawback for larger systems. Additionally, hydropneumatic tanks may require frequent pump cycling to maintain pressure across varied elevations, potentially increasing energy costs and maintenance needs.

Soil disturbances and other possible temporary impacts to the environment from construction activities would be the same in the Alternative Not Selected as in the Preferred Alternative. Land use and land cover changes and impacts to native vegetation would occur for both the Alternative Not Selected and the Preferred Alternative. Assuming BMPs would be implemented during construction of the Alternative Not Selected as with the Preferred Alternative, the impacts to wildlife and endangered species habitats would be the same in both scenarios since construction is not likely to adversely affect either. Temporary impacts on air quality due to temporary construction machinery emissions or noise would be generated in both the Alternative Not Selected and the Preferred Alternative.

Preferred Alternative

The Preferred Alternative is described above under the Project Description. The purpose of the preferred alternative is to provide a more reliable and sustainable water distribution system for the District, which the No-Action Alternative would not provide.

There were no other properties available to the District which had sufficient elevation in this portion of the distribution system. The EST site was selected due to land availability and elevation. The proposed location of the EST is at the higher end of the distribution system in an area that has pressure issues due to elevation.

Due to the nature of the improvements needed within the District, few alternatives were considered outside of the proposed improvements presented herein. Cost, maintenance requirements, and dependability were factors in the selection process.

While hydropneumatic tanks offer benefits such as compact design and quick response to demand fluctuations, they are not well-suited for the District's specific needs. The District's storage requirements exceed the practical capacity of hydropneumatic tanks. ESTs, on the other hand, can provide significantly greater storage capacity and maintain consistent pressure across varied elevations without relying on frequent pump cycling. This reduces energy costs and maintenance needs associated with constant pump operation. Moreover, ESTs offer superior reliability during power outages and peak demand periods, as they can continue to supply water by gravity flow. The limited capacity of hydropneumatic tanks would necessitate multiple units or frequent refilling, increasing complexity and operational costs. Additionally, the regular maintenance required for hydropneumatic tanks to maintain proper air pressure would be more challenging and costly at the scale required for the District. Given these considerations, the Preferred Alternative emerges as the more suitable and cost-effective long-term solution for the District's water storage and distribution needs.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Consistent with the requirements of the federally funded DWSRF Program, the District defined the social and environmental contexts of the project and assessed its potential impact. This information was presented in the EID and was made available to the community, regulatory agencies, and other interested parties.

Adverse effects on social and natural resources fall under the authority of various agencies. These regulatory agencies and participating area residents had the opportunity to address potential issues concerning construction practices, possible adverse effects within the project area, and the environmental conditions to be implemented during construction. The staff of the TWDB reviewed the EID, comments and other data and prepared the present EA.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Existing Conditions

The proposed project is located in the western portion of Wise County to the west and southwest of the City of Bridgeport. The project would be constructed within the District's service area and would serve the population of the service area.

Current and past land use associated with the EST site has been for agricultural purposes. Approximately 0.40 acres of agricultural land would be converted for the EST site and access road. The area will be fenced in to restrict access in accordance with TCEQ regulations regarding an EST. The associated pressure-reducing valve would be installed either in an existing vault or immediately adjacent to the vault structure in disturbed land, with an estimated maximum area of disturbance of 2,500 square feet. The SCADA components would be installed within electrical cabinets on racks located within the EST and directly beside the valve vault.

Geology and Soils

The project is located within the North Central Plains Physiographic Province of Texas, which is described as, “an erosional surface that developed on upper Paleozoic formations forms the North-Central Plains. Where shale bedrock prevails, meandering rivers traverse stretches of local prairie. In areas of harder bedrock, hills and rolling plains dominate. Local areas of hard sandstones and limestones cap steep slopes severely dissected near rivers. Lengthy dip slopes of strongly fractured limestones display extensive rectangular patterns. Western rocks and soils are oxidized red or gray where gypsum dominates, whereas eastern rocks and soils weather tan to buff. Live oak–ashe juniper parks grade westward into mesquite–lotebush brush.”[2] Geologically, the project is underlain by Chico Ridge Limestone at the valve site and the Twin Mountains formation at the EST site. Chico Ridge Limestone is mapped on Sherman Sheet of the Geologic Atlas of Texas as a member of the Graford Formation from the Missourian epoch of the Pennsylvanian period. The Twin Mountains Formation, which belongs to the Trinity Group from the Comanchean series of the Cretaceous period, is also shown on the Sherman sheet.

There are no faults or other pertinent geologic features mapped in the project area. There is carbonate karst located just beyond the northwest corner of the EST site and under the valve site. However, this should not impact the construction of these features. No direct impacts to geology are anticipated.

Approximately one acre of prime farmland, as designated by the United States Department of Agriculture – Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS), would be converted to developed land for the EST site. Soil will not be moved off site and will not be contaminated as a result of the project.

Water Resources

The project is located in the United States Geological Survey (USGS) hydrologic unit Code (HUC) 06 Upper Trinity River Basin. The source of the District’s water supply is from surface water, Lake Bridgeport on the West Fork Trinity River. The project sites are underlain by the Cross Timbers minor aquifer. There are no Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) designated sole source aquifers in the project area. This project would not increase the capacity of the District’s water systems or permanently impact the availability or safety of the local water supply.

The project does not involve significant impacts on water quality. Both project sites are in uplands and do not intersect or occur adjacent to a waterbody.

[2] Wermund, E.G. (1996). “Physiography of Texas.” Bureau of Economic Geology, the University of Texas at Austin.

Topography and Floodplains

Elevation at the EST site ranges from approximately 832 to 851 feet above mean sea level (AMSL), while the valve site is at 931 feet AMSL. The topography of the project area is characterized by a gently rolling to nearly flat landscape, with drainage generally flowing to the north and northeast towards an unnamed riverine of the West Fork Trinity River below Lake Bridgeport

No permanent impact to the floodplain or floodway are anticipated to occur because of the project because the project is not within a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA).

Wetlands, Streams, and Waters of the United States

The project area is located within the Lake Bridgeport-West Fork Trinity River HUC 10 watershed. A pond is located approximately 75 feet north of the access road and 250 feet northeast of the EST that may have once been the headwaters of a second order tributary to the West Fork Trinity River. The pond is not mapped on the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) dataset and will not be affected by the proposed project.

Based on an Approved Jurisdictional Determination (AJD) that found no aquatic features at the project site, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) issued a No Permit Required on January 17, 2025 (Project No. SWF-2025-00037).

Biological Elements

The project area is located within the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Level III Cross Timbers Ecological Region. The Cross Timbers ecoregion in Wise County, Texas, near Bridgeport, features post oak and blackjack oak woodlands interspersed with prairie grasslands, supporting wildlife such as white-tailed deer, coyotes, wild turkeys, and various bird species. The EST site is an open field consisting of native grasses, recently converted from historic agricultural tillage. There is a patch of trees east of the project site as well as several trees north and south of the project site. The proposed project is not anticipated to require tree clearing.

Databases of sensitive species maintained by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) were reviewed to verify any state and/or federally listed threatened or endangered species that occur, or have historically occurred, in Wise County.

No known occurrences of or potential habitat for federally listed candidate, threatened, or endangered species were present within or adjacent to the project area. There was no designated critical habitat within the project area. The alligator snapping turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*; proposed threatened), tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*; proposed endangered), and monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*; proposed threatened) may be found in the project area. If these species are listed prior to or during construction, activities

will cease, and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will be consulted to assess for potential impacts.

A *Not Likely to Adversely Affect* (NLAA) determination was made for the whooping crane due to a nearby pond that may provide stopover habitat for the crane during migration season. A *May Affect* determination was avoided because the District agreed to a set of mitigation measures that are incorporated into this finding as special environmental conditions.

The Texas horned lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*), a state-listed threatened species, may find habitat in the open grassland areas with sparse vegetation on and adjacent to the project sites. In addition, multiple Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) may find habitat in agricultural fields including the eastern box turtle (*Terrapene carolina*), western box turtle (*Terrapene ornata*), Strecker's chorus frog (*Pseudacris streckeri*), and Woodhouse's toad (*Anaxyrus woodhousii*). The Texas Natural Diversity Database (NDD) indicates that both the western box turtle and Woodhouse's toad have been observed within 1,000 feet of the EST site within the past decade. Special environmental conditions are incorporated into this finding to avoid impacts to state-listed and SGCN species in project design and construction.

No state or national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, wild or scenic rivers, or natural areas or similar preserves are located within the project area.

Cultural Resources

The Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Archeological Sites Atlas was reviewed to identify historic properties, archeological sites, and cultural resources near the project area. There are no previously recorded significant or potentially significant sites within or adjacent to the project footprint, nor is the project within the protected area surrounding a historic cemetery, structure, or district. Coordination with the THC and State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), discussed below, found that no historic properties were present or would be affected.

Hazardous Materials

There are no Superfund Sites from the EPA National Priorities List located on the proposed subject property or in areas associated with the proposed project. A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment has not been conducted. The TWDB does not fund the testing, remediation, removal, disposal, or related work for contaminated or potentially contaminated materials.

Demographics

A demographic analysis was performed on July 2, 2024, within a 0.5-mile radius of the project area using data from the United States Census. Data include the population,

percentage of minority residents, percent low income, and per capita income for the project area, for comparison with data for the county and state.

Area	Population	Percent Minority	Percent Below Poverty Level	Per Capita Income
State of Texas	30,503,301	60.4	14	$37,514
Wise County	78,097	26.5	8.2	$36,614
City of Bridgeport	6,514	46.3	5.4	$32,215
Project Area (0.5-mile buffer)	110	6	9	$30,116

The demographic analysis indicates that the area within 0.5 miles of the project does not have a portion of the population greater than the city, county or state average, who are members of a racial/ethnic minority category. The project area does have a portion of residents below the poverty level that is greater than the Wise County and City of Bridgeport populations. The per capita income for the project area is less than that of the state, county, and city.

The larger Water System Improvements Project including the construction of a new WTP necessitated an increase in monthly service rates of approximately 64 percent and did not require an increase in taxes to finance the debt. The average monthly user rate in February 2017 prior to the Water System Improvements Project was $74.20. The District increased rates on March 1, 2017, resulting in an average monthly user rate of $123.16 (an increase of $48.96 per month). Then the District determined that the initial rate increase was too high, and rates were lowered on February 1, 2019, resulting in an average monthly user rate of $116.58 (resulting in a decrease of $6.58 as compared to the March 1, 2017, rates). Overall, from February 2017 rates to current 2019 rates, the Water System Improvements Project resulted in an increase in the average monthly user rate of $42.38 per month. No additional adjustments appear to be required to support the Project.

People or businesses will not be relocated as a result of the project and eminent domain will not be required. The project will be constructed within the District’s boundaries and the population of the District will be the recipients of benefits derived from the proposed improvements. Therefore, the project will not disproportionately, adversely impact minority or low-income populations.

Secondary and Cumulative Impacts

The proposed project serves existing and anticipated development within the District’s service area. The land use in surrounding areas will generally remain in agricultural and residential uses following the construction of the project, though the project and the development it serves does represent a cumulative effect of farmland conversion in the region. Past projects including the construction of the existing WTP, sewer and/or water line construction, and road construction projects may have impacted the same resources.

Future projects including the construction of a new WTP, water/sewer line construction projects, and road construction projects also may impact the same resources.

Temporary increases in air emissions and noise will occur from construction machinery; however, air quality will not be adversely impacted in the project vicinity after construction is complete.

AGENCY COORDINATION AND COMPLIANCE

To ensure due consideration of the project's potential impact, the District prepared an EID describing the results of that investigation, held an open meeting to familiarize the community with the project and solicit public comment, and coordinated with all required regulatory agencies and other interested parties to define and avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects. The District has provided assurance that environmental conditions will be implemented in a manner consistent with the requirements of state and federal regulatory agencies and rules of the TWDB.

"Cross-Cutter" Compliance

The project has been reviewed for potential impacts to the quality of the environment following the procedures provided in 31 Texas Administrative Code § 371.41, to ensure compliance with DWSRF program requirements and federal and state regulations, including the federal cross-cutting environmental authorities from the EPA listed below.

(1) National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, Public Law (PL) 91-190
(2) Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974, PL 93-291
(3) Clean Air Act, 42 USC 7506(c)
(4) Coastal Barrier Resources Act, 16 USC 3501 *et seq*.
(5) Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, PL 92-583, as amended
(6) Endangered Species Act, 16 USC 1531, *et seq.*
(7) Executive Order 11593, Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment
(8) Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, as amended by Executive Order 12148
(9) Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands
(10) Farmland Protection Policy Act, 7 USC 4201, *et seq.*
(11) Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, PL 85-624, as amended
(12) National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, PL 89-665, as amended
(13) Safe Drinking Water Act, § 1424(e), PL 92-523, as amended
(14) Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, PL 90-542, as amended
(15) The Wilderness Act, 16 USC 1131, *et seq*.
(17) Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004, PL 108-264
(18) National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994, PL 103-325
(19) Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973, as amended, PL 93-234
(20) Clean Water Act, PL 92-500, as amended

Agency Coordination

This environmental review included coordination with various state and federal regulatory agencies, local authorities, and other stakeholders and interested parties regarding the project's potential impact. The District submitted notifications to and requests for input from all required parties. Some entities did not require a response. The respondents are listed below, and the results of coordination are summarized in the EID and reflected in the environmental conditions.

- Texas Historical Commission, State Historic Preservation Officer, Austin in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act; Antiquities Code of Texas; and other applicable regulations (THC Tracking No. 202504964)
- United States Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch, Fort Worth District, in accordance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act; and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (Project No. SWF-2025-00037)
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Wildlife Division, Ecological & Environmental Planning Program, Austin, in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended; Migratory Bird Treaty Act; Texas Parks and Wildlife Code; and other applicable regulations (TPWD Project No. 62730)
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Arlington Ecological Services Field Office, in accordance with the Endangered Species Act and statutes affecting other federally protected species (USFWS Project Code 2024-0111741)
- United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service pursuant to the Farmland Protection Policy Act
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality in accordance with 40 CFR Part 93 and National Ambient Air Quality Standards (TCEQ NEPA Request No. 2026-77)
- Local Floodplain Administrator pursuant to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004, federal Executive Order 11988, Texas Water Code Section 16.315, and local floodplain development ordinances

No response was required from the following entities:

- Bureau of Reclamation, Oklahoma-Texas Area Office
- Bureau of Land Management
- Local government (County Judge)

Texas Historical Commission

The proposed project was reviewed by the THC staff in accordance with Section 106 of the NHPA and the Antiquities Code of Texas. The THC staff concurred with the District in correspondence dated February 12, 2025, that no direct impacts to cultural resources or historic properties are anticipated as a result of the project (THC Tracking No. 202504964). The THC recommended that if historic properties or cultural materials are uncovered during construction, work should immediately cease in that area, and the Archeology Division of the THC should be notified.

United States Army Corps of Engineers

The USACE, Fort Worth District Office, Regulatory Branch staff were given the opportunity to review the project (USACE Project No. SWF-2025-00037). The USACE issued a No Permit Required Letter on January 17, 2025, based on an approved dryland jurisdictional determination that indicated there are no waters of the United States at the project sites. A jurisdictional determination identifies what waterbodies in the project area qualify as waters of the United States (WOTUS) according to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

The TPWD Wildlife Division, Ecological & Environmental Planning Program staff reviewed the project in accordance with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, and provided a response dated March 27, 2025 (TPWD Project No. 62730). TPWD staff indicated that with the implementation of the mitigation measures described in the project description, significant adverse impacts to rare, threatened, or endangered species or other fish and wildlife resources were not anticipated. These proposed mitigation measures are reflected in the environmental conditions of this environmental finding.

United States Fish and Wildlife Service

The USFWS Arlington Ecological Services Field Office, in accordance with the Endangered Species Act and statutes affecting other federally protected species, was given the opportunity to review the project through the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system (USFWS Project Code 2024-0111741). The USFWS consistency letter dated December 13, 2024, issued a *No Effect* determination for the piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*) and rufa red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*). A *Not Likely to Adversely Affect* (NLAA) determination was made for the whooping crane (*Grus americana*) due to a nearby pond that may provide stopover habitat for the crane during migration season. A *May Affect* determination was avoided because the District agreed to a set of mitigation measures that are incorporated into this finding as special environmental conditions.

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

In a response dated November 19, 2025, the TCEQ stated that a review of the proposed project for general conformity impact, in accordance with 40 CFR Part 93 and Title 30, TAC § 101.30, indicates that Wise County is currently designated nonattainment for the 2008 eight-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) with a classification of severe, and is designated nonattainment for the 2015 eight-hour ozone NAAQS with a classification of serious; therefore, federal Clean Air Act, §176(c) general conformity requirements apply (TCEQ NEPA Request No 2025-305). Per federal general conformity regulations at 40 CFR §93.153, a conformity demonstration may be required when the total projected direct and indirect VOC and NOx emissions—precursor pollutants that lead to the formation of ozone—from an applicable federal action are equal to or exceed the *de minimis* emissions level of 50 tons per year (tpy) for ozone NAAQS serious nonattainment areas

and 25 tpy for severe nonattainment areas. The TCEQ further noted that significant long-term environmental impacts are not anticipated as a result of the project as proposed, provided construction and waste disposal activities associated with it are completed in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal environmental permits, statutes, and regulations. The TCEQ recommended that the District take necessary steps to ensure that best management practices are used to control runoff from construction sites to prevent detrimental impact to surface and ground water.

United States Department of Agriculture – Natural Resource Conservation Service

As required by the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA), the United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) reviewed the proposed project. In a response dated January 14, 2025, the USDA-NRCS provided a Farmland Conversion Impact Rating (form AD-1006).

Although the proposed WTP site contains Prime Farmland, the combined rating for the project is 120. The FPPA states that sites with a rating less than 160 will not need further consideration for protection and no additional evaluation is necessary. In addition, the project qualifies for the water storage project exemption.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The project is consistent with local, regional, and statewide planning. Coordination with the appropriate governmental agencies has been made and no adverse comments have been received.

Public participation conducted during facilities planning included a public meeting which was advertised in the *Wise County Messenger*, a newspaper of general circulation in the service area. The notice was published on January 23, 2025, and contained information regarding availability of planning documents, including the EID, for public review at the District's Office at 3412 FM 2952, Bridgeport, Texas, during normal business hours (8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.).

The public meeting was held at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at the District's office. A total of three people attended the meeting, none of whom were members of the public and not part of the project team.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

An environmental review of the project consistent with NEPA has been completed following the guidelines provided in 31 TAC § 371.45. Mitigation measures were defined through the agency coordination process and public participation and are listed below as applicable environmental conditions. These conditions will pertain to the project throughout construction and beyond as warranted. Based on information provided by the District, the proposed Water System Improvements Project, Elevated Storage Tank project is considered environmentally sound with the following special and standard environmental conditions:

Special Environmental Conditions

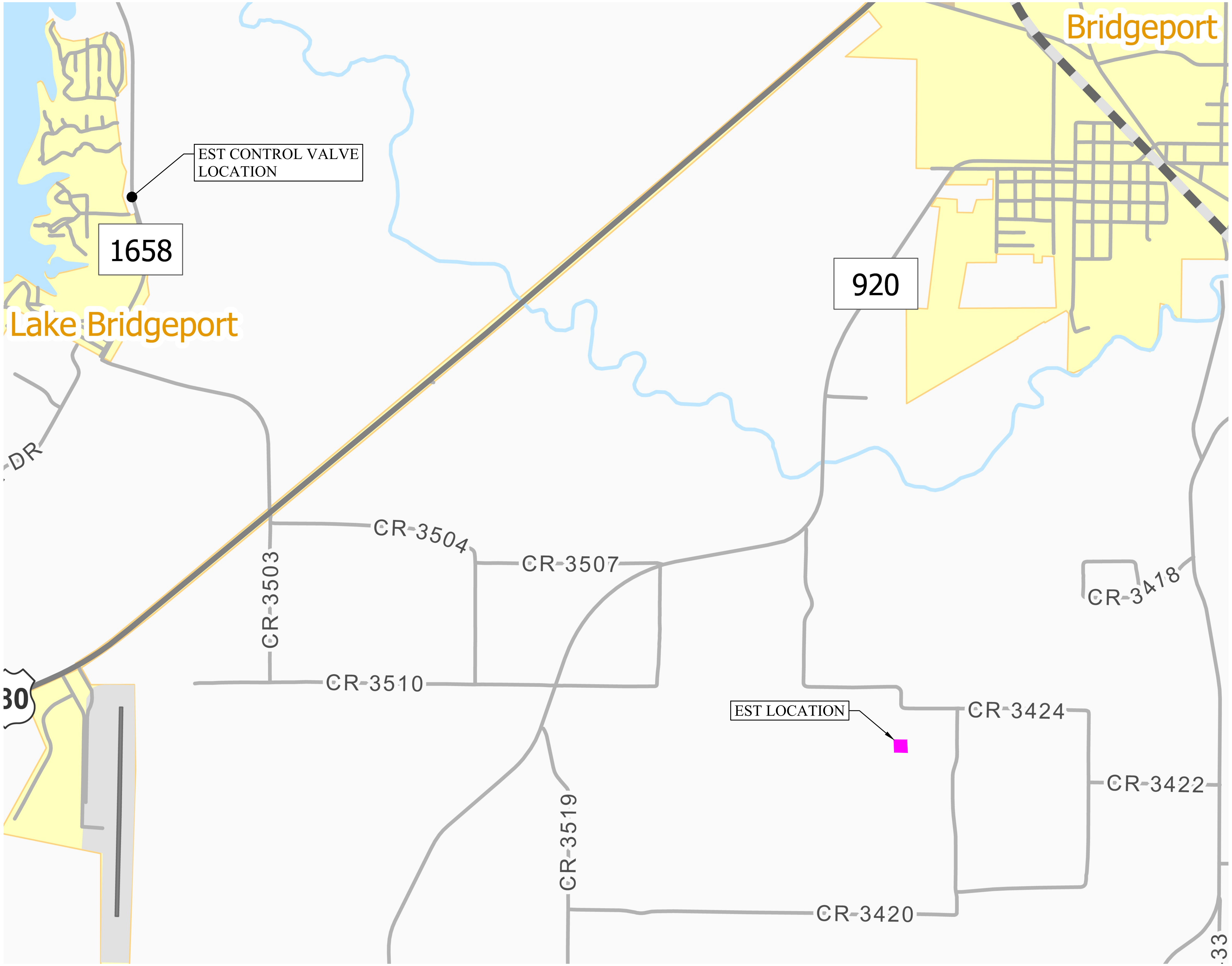
- As per an agreement with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), Ecological & Environmental Planning Program (TPWD Project No. 62730), to ensure compliance with Texas Parks and Wildlife Code Chapters 12, 64, 67, and 68, the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and applicable federal regulations pertaining to protected species including the Texas horned lizard (*Phrynosoma cornutum*), eastern box turtle (*Terrapene carolina*), western box turtle (*Terrapene ornata*), Strecker's chorus frog (*Pseudacris streckeri*), and Woodhouse's toad (*Anaxyrus woodhousii*), the following measures will be implemented:
    - 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.
    - A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be prepared and implemented to eliminate sediment in stormwater runoff from the construction areas, to include best management practices (BMPs) such as silt fences, hay bales, fiber logs, and berms.
    - Construction site staff will be provided with education materials on the Texas horned lizard, Strecker's chorus frog, Woodhouse's toad, eastern box turtle, and western box turtle. Contractors will be advised not to attempt to catch, relocate, or kill any animals. If any of these species are seen during construction, all construction activities shall be halted until the animal is able to leave the project area on their own to preserve the species and for the safety of the workers. Only persons with authorization through the TPWD may handle these state-listed species.
- To ensure compliance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, per an agreement with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), construction or vegetation clearing activities within 1,000 feet of potential whooping crane (*Grus americana*) habitat, the following mitigation measures will be implemented:
    - Construction site staff will be provided with educational materials on the appearance and status of the whooping crane in order to identify individuals.
    - A representative of the District who is familiar with the whooping crane will monitor for the whooping crane near suitable habitat and halt construction if an individual is detected within 1,000 feet of a work site. Work will cease until the crane has moved outside of the 1,000-foot buffer zone.

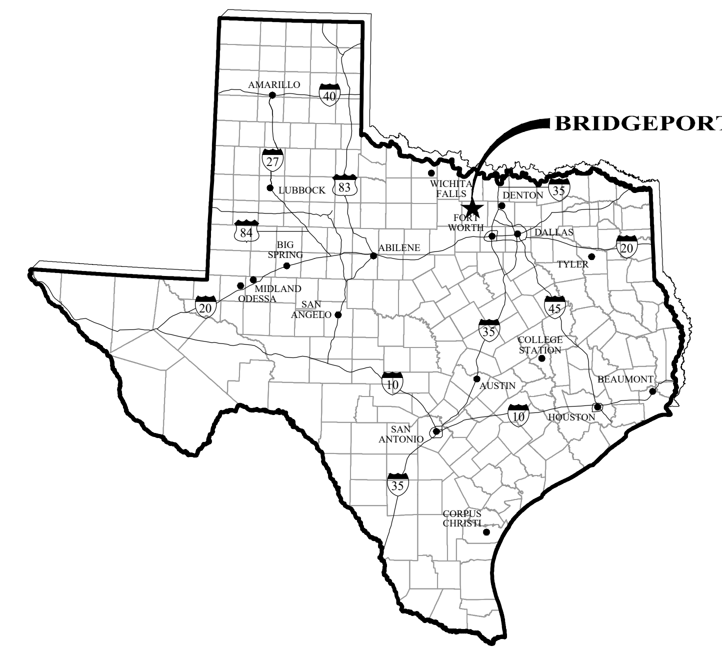
- If a whooping crane is observed for any length of time in the project area, the USFWS Arlington Ecological Services Field Office will be notified as soon as possible.

Standard Environmental Conditions

- Consistent with the TWDB Supplemental Construction Contract Conditions (TWDB-0550), the West Wise Special Utility District (District) will abide by the standard emergency condition for the discovery of cultural resources.
- Consistent with the TWDB Supplemental Construction Contract Conditions (TWDB-0550), the District will abide by the standard emergency condition for the discovery of threatened and endangered species.

Therefore, it is recommended that a Finding of No Significant Impact be issued.





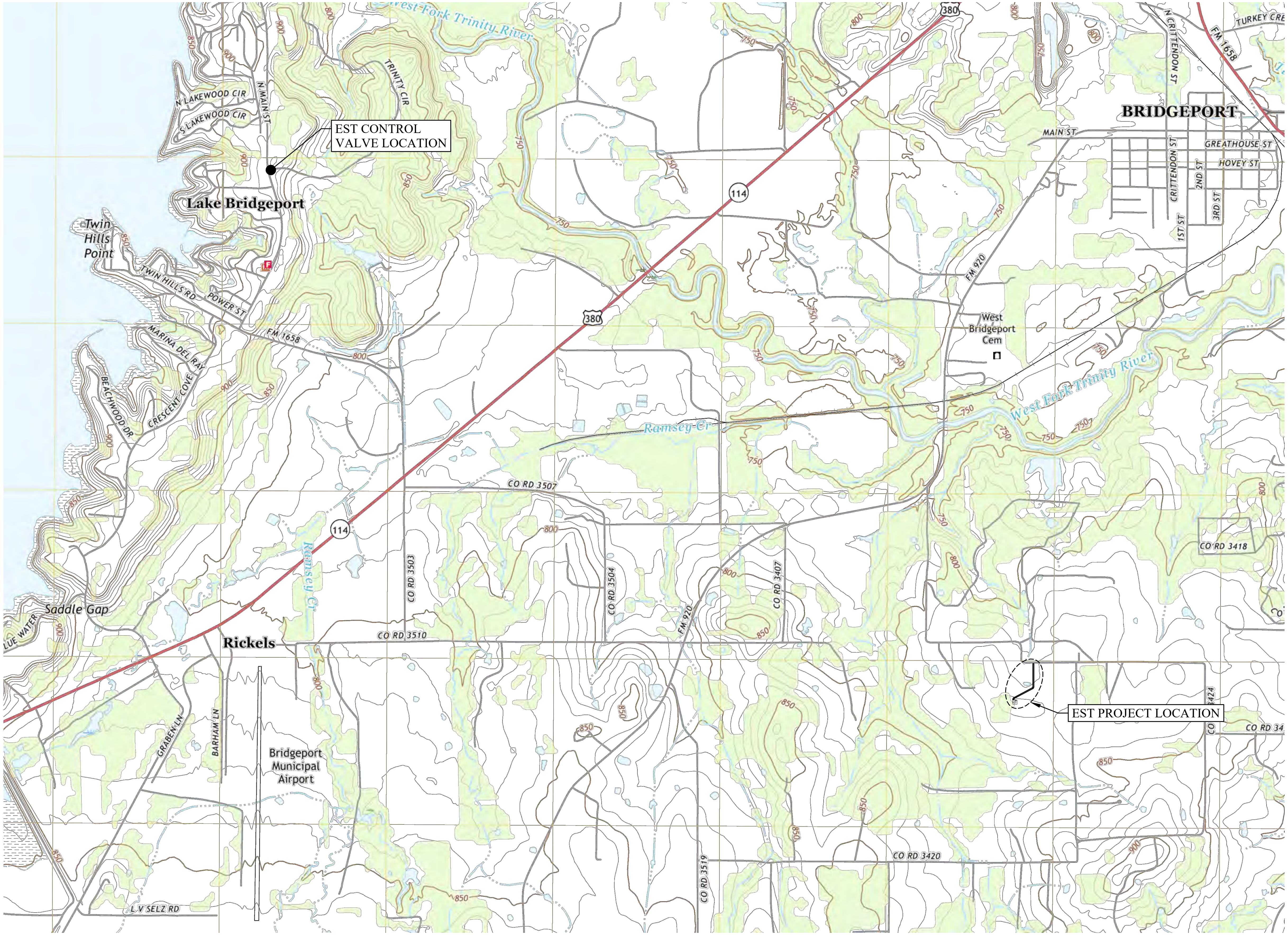
VICINITY MAP
NO SCALE

WEST WISE SUD
WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS
ELEVATED STORAGE TANK
WISE COUNTY

REGIONAL LOCATION MAP

8487
01/07/2025

Enprotec | Hibbs & Todd
402 Cedar Street • Abilene, Texas 79601 • T: (325) 698-5560 • F: (325) 690-3240 • www.e-ht.com
PE Firm Registration No. 1151 • PG Firm Registration No. 50103 • RPLS Firm Registration No. 10011900



N

1000 0 2000

SCALE IN FEET

P:\Projects\West Wise SUD\8487 Water System Improvements\WO #2 Elevated Storage Tank Imp\10. CAD\3. ENVIR - GEO\2. PERMIT\APPENDIX A MAPS\8487 APP - USGS MAP.dwg

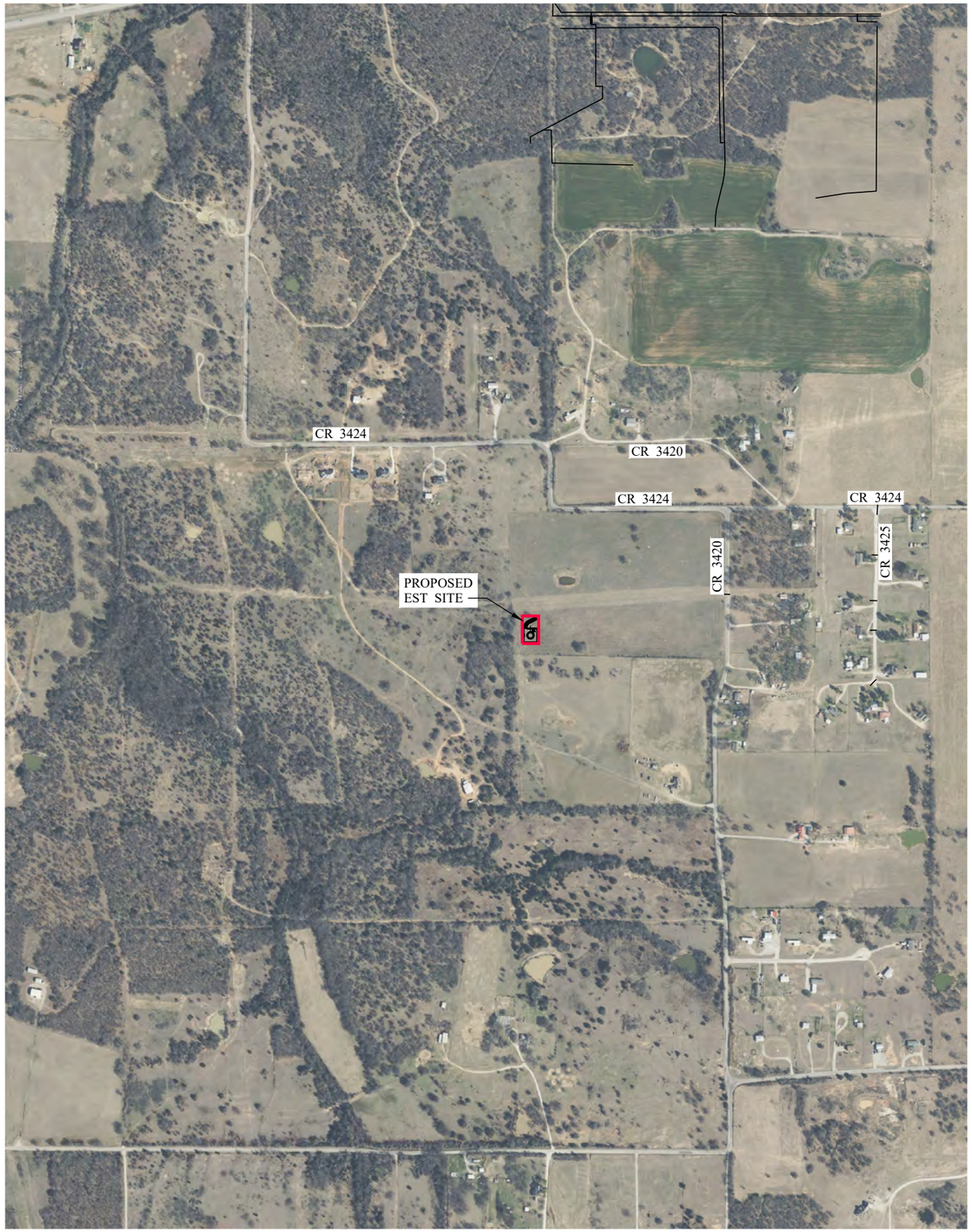
Enprotec | Hibbs & Todd

402 Cedar Street • Abilene, Texas 79601 • T: (325) 698-5560 • F: (325) 690-3240 • www.e-ht.com
PE Firm Registration No. 1151 • PG Firm Registration No. 50103 • RPLS Firm Registration No. 10011900

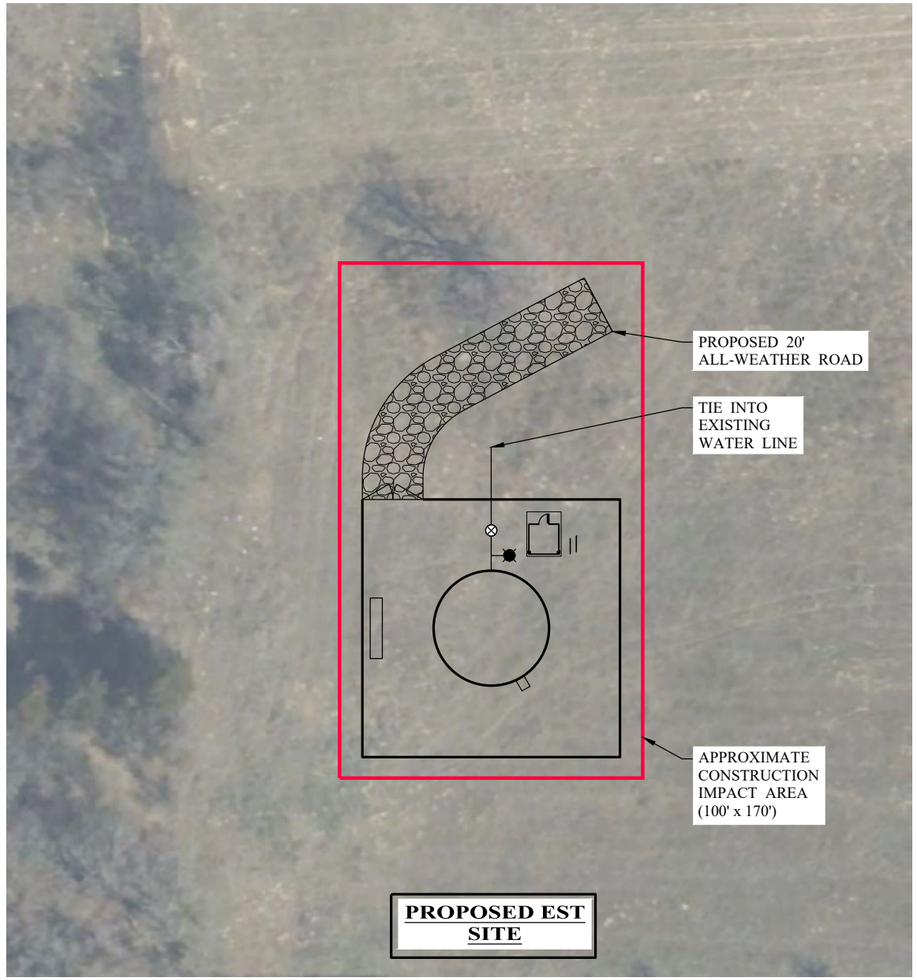
8487
08/19/2025

WEST WISE SUD
WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS
ELEVATED STORAGE TANK
WISE COUNTY

USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP



AERIAL MAP
SCALE: 1" = 800'



ENLARGED AERIAL VIEW
SCALE: 1" = 50'

NOTES:

1. PROPOSED 20' WIDE ALL-WEATHER ROAD TIES INTO EXISTING ALL-WEATHER ROAD TO PROVIDE ACCESS ONTO EST SITE.
2. EST TIES INTO EXISTING WATER LINE.

Enprotec | Hibbs & Todd
402 Cedar Street • Abilene, Texas 79601 • T: (325) 698-5560 • F: (325) 696-3240 • www.e-ht.com
PE Firm Registration No. 1151 • PG Firm Registration No. 50103 • RPLS Firm Registration No. 10011900

TWDB DWSRF WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS
WORK ORDER No. 2
CID 02: ELEVATED STORAGE TANK IMPROVEMENTS
WEST WISE SPECIAL UTILITY DISTRICT

EST SITE AERIAL MAPS

8487
10/27/2025

P:\Projects\West Wise SUD\8487 Water System Improvements\WO #2 Elevated Storage Tank Imp\10. CAD\3. ENVIR - GEO\EID updates\8487 - EST SITE AERIAL MAPS.dwg

AERIAL MAP

SCALE: 1" = 800'

ENLARGED AERIAL VIEW

SCALE: 1" = 50'

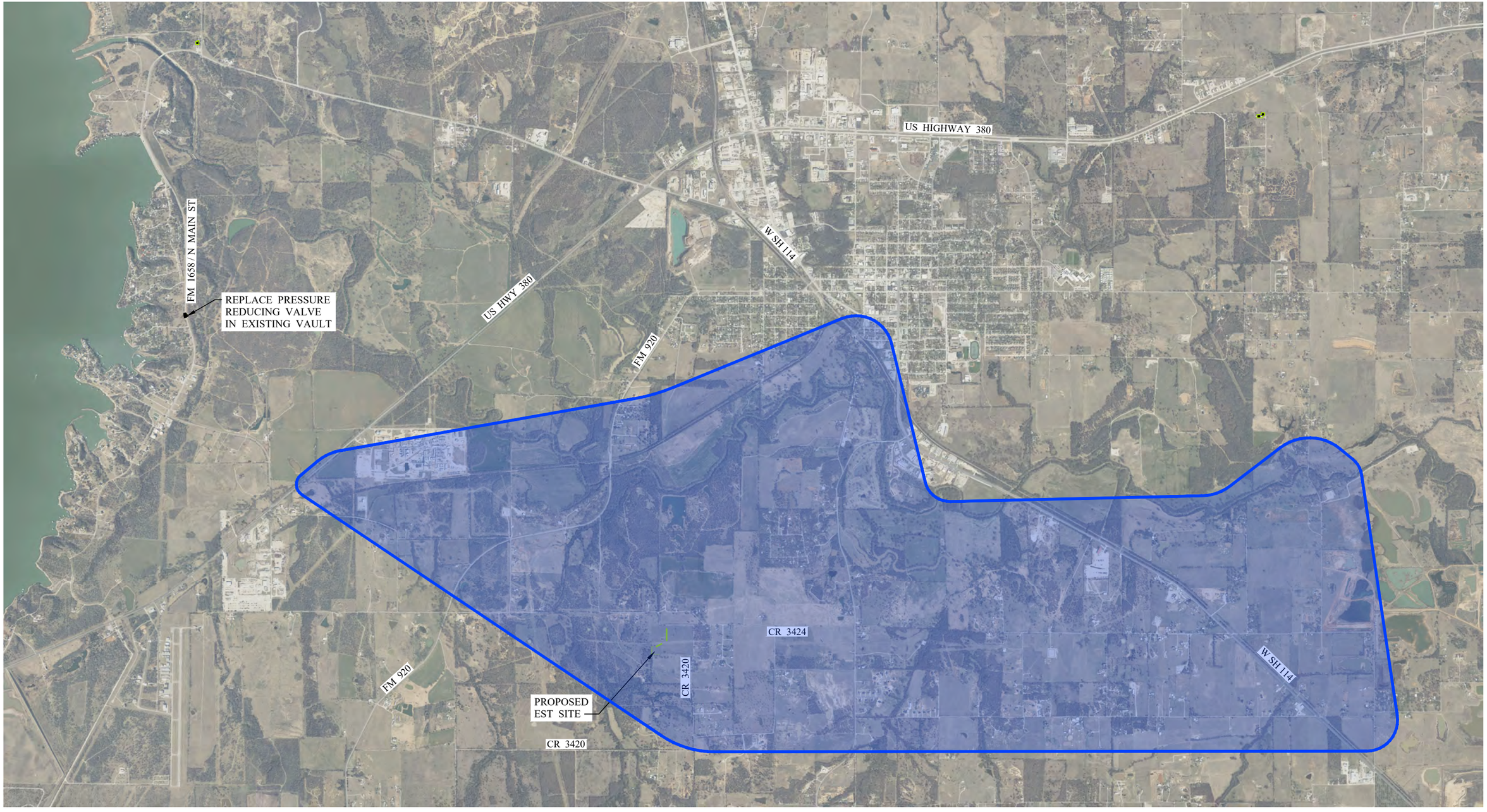
Enprotec | Hibbs & Todd
402 Cedar Street • Abilene, Texas 79601 • T: (325) 698-5560 • F: (325) 690-3240 • www.e-ht.com
PE Firm Registration No. 1151 • PG Firm Registration No. 50103 • RPLS Firm Registration No. 10011900

TWDB DWSRF WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS
WORK ORDER No. 2
CID 02: ELEVATED STORAGE TANK IMPROVEMENTS
WEST WISE SPECIAL UTILITY DISTRICT

PRESSURE REDUCING VALVE

8487
10/27/2025

P:\Projects\West Wise SUD\8487 Water System Improvements\WO #2 Elevated Storage Tank Imp\10. CAD\3. ENVIR - GEO\EID updates\8487 - PRESSURE REDUCING VALVE.dwg



LEGEND

EST PRESSURE PLANE BOUNDARY

N

1000 0 3000

SCALE IN FEET

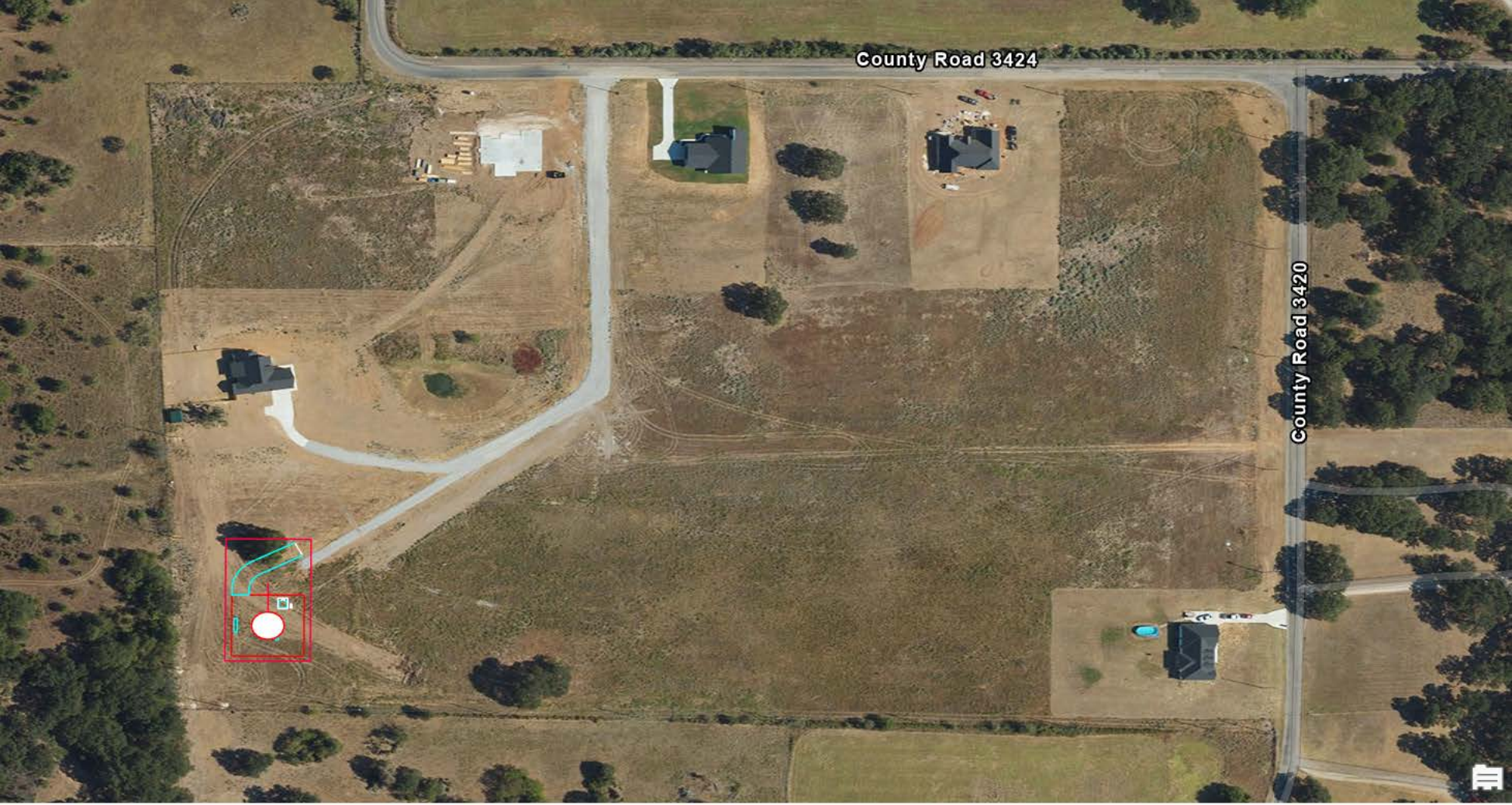
8487
10/27/2025

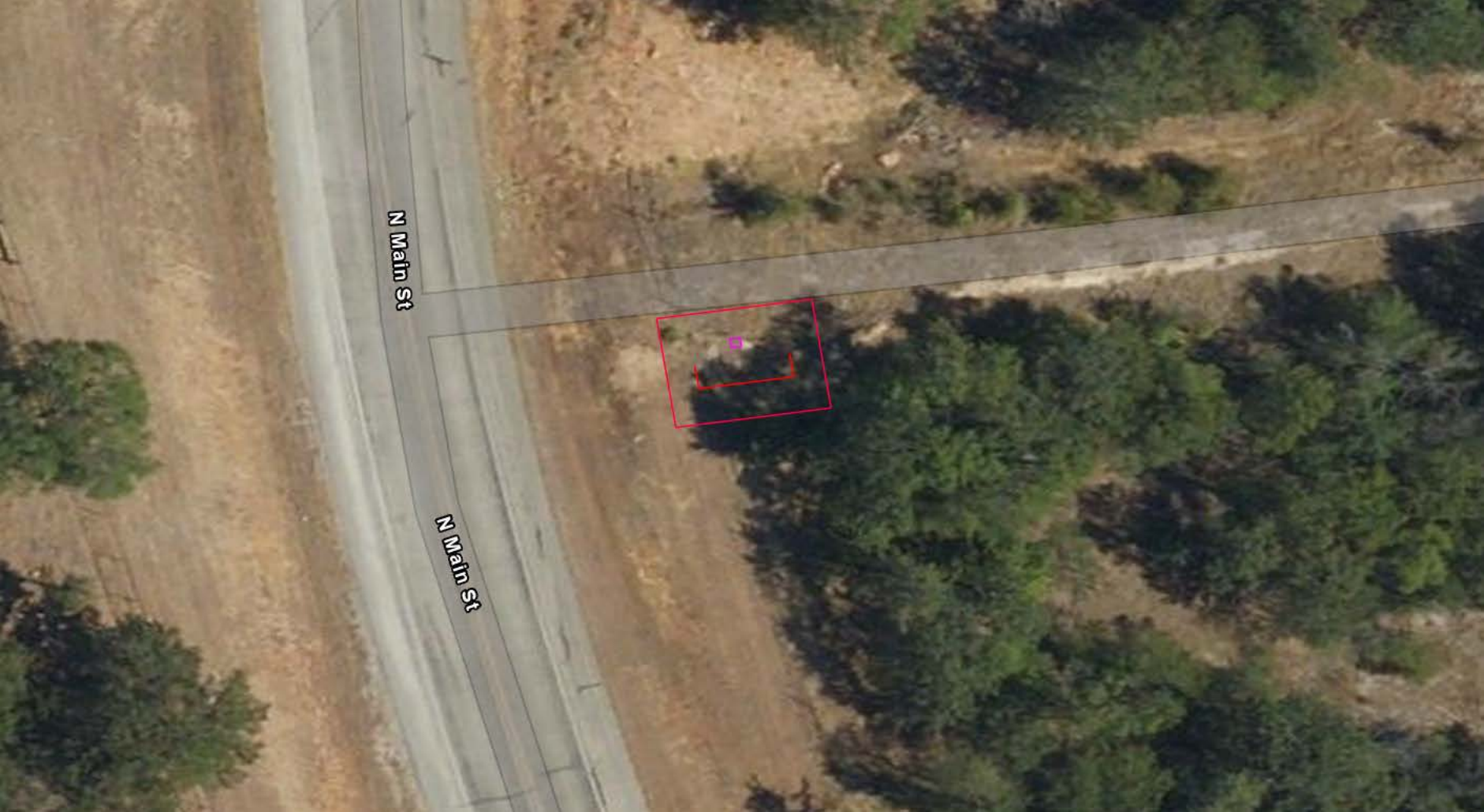
Enprotec | Hibbs & Todd
402 Cedar Street • Abilene, Texas 79601 • T: (325) 698-5560 • F: (325) 690-3240 • www.e-ht.com
PE Firm Registration No. 1151 • PG Firm Registration No. 50103 • RPLS Firm Registration No. 10011900

TWDB DWSRF WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS
WORK ORDER No. 2
CID 02: ELEVATED STORAGE TANK IMPROVEMENTS
WEST WISE SPECIAL UTILITY DISTRICT

EST PRESSURE PLANE MAP

P:\Projects\West Wise SUD\8487 Water System Improvements\WO #2 Elevated Storage Tank Imp\10. CAD\3. ENVIR - GEO\EID updates\8487 - PRESSURE PLANE.dwg


County Road 3424
County Road 3420


N Main St
N Main St