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Phone (512) 463-7847, Fax (512) 475-2053

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES AND PUBLIC GROUPS:

As provided by the environmental review process adopted in the rules of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), 31 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 375.61, for projects to be funded through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Program and consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 United States Code § 4321, *et seq.*, the TWDB has determined that the proposed action identified below may be exempted from comprehensive environmental review requirements:

City of Los Fresnos, Cameron County, Texas
TWDB CWSRF Project No. 72160
Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Project,
Wastewater Treatment Plant Equipment Replacements and Repairs Project
Total Financing Amount: \$4,975,000
Loan No. L070108

The City of Los Fresnos (City) has completed the originally proposed project consisting of the expansion of the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) from a capacity of 1.0 million gallons per day (MGD) to 1.3 MGD. The proposed project also involved improvements to the City’s collection system including upgrading the Laureles and Alamo lift stations, replacing existing force mains, and replacing aging gravity sewer lines and manholes. An Environmental Determination was issued on June 1, 2009, for the original project.

The City is currently proposing additional equipment replacements and repairs at the WWTP to use remaining project funding. Components in the north and south clarifiers are old and rusting, leading to a decrease in operability. In addition, one of the clarifiers is not operational due to lack of maintenance. The control center has been deemed unsafe for operators and old components need replacing. Sand and gravel in the sludge drying beds need to be replaced to keep them functional, as current material has led to the beds only being used as backup due to decreased efficiency.

The proposed project includes the following equipment replacements and repairs:

- Replacement of the motor and gearbox assembly, column drive, scraper mechanism, skirt, effluent weir, effluent pipe inside tank, inlet trough, race skimmer, mechanical overload device (shear pin), and stainless-steel anchor bolts on the south clarifier

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- Replacement of the scraper mechanism and skirt on the north clarifier
- Replacement of the master control center, located adjacent to the chemical distribution building
- Removal and replacement of the sand and gravel in the sludge drying beds

All proposed replacement and repair work is limited to the City's existing WWTP; no easements, permits, or acquisitions are required. The proposed project neither adds capacity nor changes the treatment process of the WWTP. Environmental impacts will be similar to equipment replacements and repairs within an existing facility.

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

There are no previously recorded significant or potentially significant historical or cultural sites within or adjacent to the proposed project, according to the Texas Historical Commission's Archeological Sites Atlas, nor is the proposed project within a protected area surrounding a historic cemetery, structure, or district. In addition, the proposed project will not impact waters of the United States, including wetlands, and is not expected to impact threatened or endangered species or habitat. A small portion of the WWTP, outside of the area proposed for replacements and repairs, is in a Special Flood Hazard Area (100-year floodplain, zones A and AH), as designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. No project work will take place within the 100-year floodplain; therefore, a floodplain development permit is not required.

The TWDB previously recommended the issuance of a Categorical Exclusion (CE) for the proposed project. The decision to grant a CE is allowed because the specified project elements will not cause significant adverse impacts to the quality of the human environment or protected natural resources. 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 § 375.62; or
- (3) the project may violate or has violated federal, state, local, or tribal laws.

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

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Standard Environmental Conditions

- Consistent with the Texas Water Development Board Supplemental Contract Conditions (TWDB-0551), the City of Los Fresnos will abide by the standard emergency condition for the discovery of cultural resources.
- Consistent with the Texas Water Development Board Supplemental Contract Conditions (TWDB-0551), the City of Los Fresnos 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.

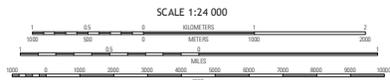
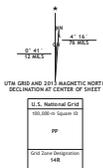
Sincerely,

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

Enclosures



Produced by the United States Geological Survey
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83)
World Geodetic System of 1984 (WGS84) - Projection and
1:250,000-meter grid; Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 16R
10,000-foot ticks; Texas Coordinate System of 1983 (south zone)



CONTOUR INTERVAL: 5 FEET
NORTH AMERICAN DATUM OF 1983
This map was produced to conform with the
National Geospatial Program US Topo Product Standard, 2011.
A metadata file associated with this product is draft; version 0.6.7



Geographic Location

Blue	Leguina	La
Orange	Arriola	Oliver
Green	Lin	Leguina
Yellow	Francisco	Villar
Red	West	Palacios
Black	Benavente	Benavente

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Interstate Route	State Route
US Route	Local Road
Ramp	4WD
Interstate Route	US Route
State Route	State Route

Los Fresnos Wastewater Plant Site Map

Legend

North Clarifier

Master Control Center

W 97°29'3.84"

South Clarifier

Old Sludge Drying Beds

911

Google Earth

Image © 2024 Airbus

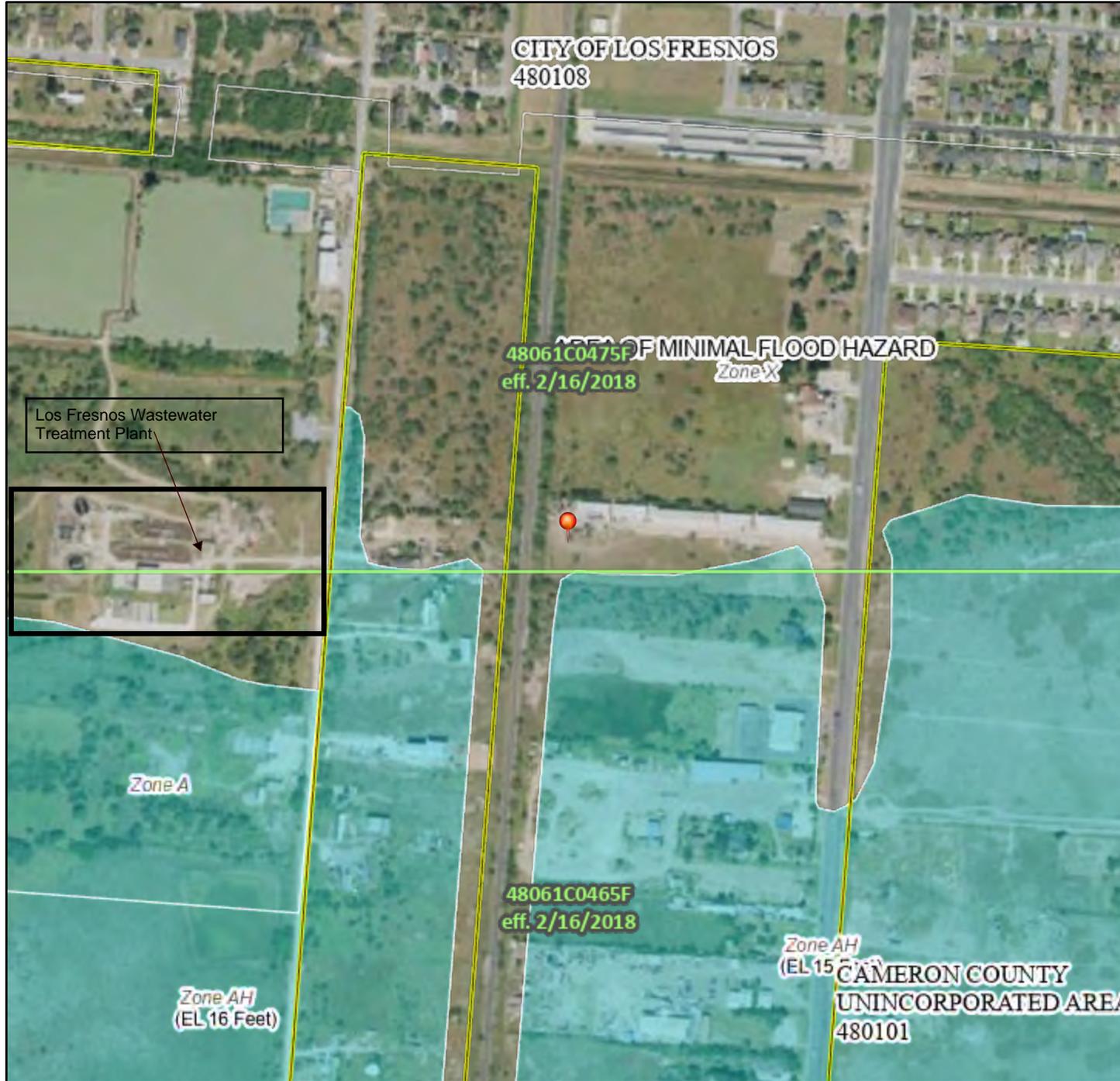


100 ft

National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMMette



97°29'6"W 26°4'2"N



Legend

SEE FIS REPORT FOR DETAILED LEGEND AND INDEX MAP FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS | | Without Base Flood Elevation (BFE)
<i>Zone A, V, A99</i> |
| | | With BFE or Depth <i>Zone AE, AO, AH, VE, AR</i> |
| | | Regulatory Floodway |
| OTHER AREAS OF FLOOD HAZARD | | 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard, Areas of 1% annual chance flood with average depth less than one foot or with drainage areas of less than one square mile <i>Zone X</i> |
| | | Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard <i>Zone X</i> |
| | | Area with Reduced Flood Risk due to Levee. See Notes. <i>Zone X</i> |
| | | Area with Flood Risk due to Levee <i>Zone D</i> |
| OTHER AREAS | | NO SCREEN Area of Minimal Flood Hazard <i>Zone X</i> |
| | | Effective LOMRs |
| | | Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard <i>Zone D</i> |
| GENERAL STRUCTURES | | Channel, Culvert, or Storm Sewer |
| | | Levee, Dike, or Floodwall |
| OTHER FEATURES | | 20.2 Cross Sections with 1% Annual Chance Water Surface Elevation |
| | | 17.5 |
| | | Coastal Transect |
| | | Base Flood Elevation Line (BFE) |
| | | Limit of Study |
| | | Jurisdiction Boundary |
| | | Coastal Transect Baseline |
| | | Profile Baseline |
| | | Hydrographic Feature |
| MAP PANELS | | Digital Data Available |
| | | No Digital Data Available |
| | | Unmapped |
| | | The pin displayed on the map is an approximate point selected by the user and does not represent an authoritative property location. |



This map complies with FEMA's standards for the use of digital flood maps if it is not void as described below. The basemap shown complies with FEMA's basemap accuracy standards

The flood hazard information is derived directly from the authoritative NFHL web services provided by FEMA. This map was exported on 9/16/2024 at 6:00 PM and does not reflect changes or amendments subsequent to this date and time. The NFHL and effective information may change or become superseded by new data over time.

This map image is void if the one or more of the following map elements do not appear: basemap imagery, flood zone labels, legend, scale bar, map creation date, community identifiers, FIRM panel number, and FIRM effective date. Map images for unmapped and unmodernized areas cannot be used for regulatory purposes.



1:6,000

97°28'28"W 26°3'30"N