June 13, 2022

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES AND PUBLIC GROUPS:

As provided by the state 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 staff has determined that the proposed action identified below may be exempted from formal environmental review requirements:

City of Rockdale, Milam County, Texas  
TWDB CWSRF Project No. 73841  
Wastewater System Improvements Project  
Total Financing Amount: $11,225,000  
(L1001042, L1001043, LF1001106)

The City of Rockdale (City) is proposing to use $11,225,000 in financing from the CWSRF to make improvements to their wastewater treatment system. The proposed improvements consist of installing a new equalization basin, an equalization basin return pump station, an aerobic digester, and a digested sludge pump station at the existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). UV lamps and equipment will be replaced, and the existing aerobic digester will be demolished.

Environmental impacts will be similar to rehabilitation activities and all construction will be within the existing fencing of the WWTP. There are no previously recorded significant or potentially significant historical or cultural sites within or adjacent to the project footprint, 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. The proposed project will not adversely impact waters of the United States, including wetlands. The proposed project is not located within the 100-year floodplain; therefore, coordination with the local floodplain administrator was not required. In addition, the proposed project is not expected to impact threatened or endangered species or habitat.
The decision to grant a Categorical Exclusion is allowed because the specified project elements will 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 a Categorical Exclusion 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 environmental conditions:

- Standard emergency condition for the discovery of cultural resources; and
- 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
Proposed improvements at WWTP to take place within the City of Rockdale WWTP property/site boundaries. (See proposed site plan)