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March 6, 2024

STATEMENT OF FINDINGS

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES AND PUBLIC GROUPS:

As required by the rules of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) 31 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 375.61, an environmental review consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 United States, Code § 4321, *et seq.* has been performed on the project below. This project is proposed to be funded through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), which is administered by the TWDB. The Board's Executive Administrator issues this Statement of Findings (SOF) for the following project:

Greater Texoma Utility Authority, Grayson County, Texas
TWDB CWSRF Project No. 73846
City of Sherman 2020 Wastewater System Improvements
Laboratory Services Building Addition & Remodel
Total Financing Amount: \$13,595,000
(L1001059)

The Greater Texoma Utility Authority (GTUA), on behalf of the City of Sherman, proposed to use \$13,595,000 in funding from the CWSRF program for the City of Sherman 2020 Wastewater System Improvements project to improve the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and construct a brine line. The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) committed this financing on November 21, 2019. GTUA closed the financing on February 26, 2020. On July 25, 2019, the TWDB issued a Categorical Exclusion (CE) for the rehabilitation of the WWTP.

On September 2, 2022, GTUA submitted a request to the TWDB to modify its original project scope to reallocate funds for the brine line to remodel and expand the laboratory services building at the WWTP site. These laboratory building improvements will be constructed under a Remaining Unused Funds Use Request, which was approved on December 7, 2022. The revised project components are in the same general area and have the same nature and purpose as those covered by the CE dated July 25, 2019, with some additional small-scale development of prime farmland (0.72 acres).

To ensure that the proposed project modifications will not have significant adverse environmental impacts to prime farmland, GTUA coordinated with United States

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Department of Agriculture – Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS). GTUA submitted a request for review on January 16, 2024, and on the same date, USDA-NRCS responded that no additional evaluation was necessary. Accepted erosion control methods during construction were recommended.

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. Two state-protected and federally proposed threatened or endangered species are known to inhabit the region, but adequate habitat is not located at the project site.

The decision to grant an SOF is allowed because the specified project elements should not cause significant adverse impacts to the quality of the human environment. Documentation supporting this determination is on file at the TWDB.

This determination will 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 §371.41; or
- (3) the project may violate or has violated federal, state, local, or tribal laws.

Based upon a detailed review of the CWSRF planning information for the proposed change of scope, the CE dated July 25, 2019, and updated agency coordination documentation, this SOF and the GTUA's proposed change to the project scope is considered environmentally sound with the following conditions:

Standard Environmental Conditions

- No activity which may affect properties listed or properties eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or eligible for designation as a State Archeological Landmark is authorized until the Greater Texoma Utility Authority (GTUA) has complied with the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Antiquities Code of Texas.

If archeological sites or historic structures which may qualify for designation as a State Archeological Landmark according to the criteria in 13 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 26, or that may be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800, are discovered after construction operations are begun, the Contractor shall immediately cease operations in that particular area and notify the GTUA, the TWDB, and the Texas Historical Commission. The Contractor shall take reasonable steps to protect and preserve the discoveries until they have been inspected by the GTUA's representative and the TWDB. The GTUA will promptly coordinate with the State Historic Preservation Officer and any other appropriate agencies to obtain any necessary approvals or permits to enable the work to continue. The Contractor shall not resume work in the area of the discovery until authorized to do so by the GTUA.

- No activity is authorized that is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a threatened or endangered species as listed or proposed for listing under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), and/or the State of Texas Parks and Wildlife Code on Endangered Species, or to destroy or adversely modify the habitat of such species.

If a threatened or endangered species is encountered during construction, the Contractor shall immediately cease work in the area of the encounter and notify the GTUA, who will immediately implement actions in accordance with the ESA and applicable State statutes. These actions shall include reporting the encounter to the TWDB, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, obtaining any necessary approvals or permits to enable the work to continue, or implement other mitigation actions. The Contractor shall not resume construction in the encounter area until authorized by the GTUA.

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.


Sincerely,

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

Enclosure



Legend

 Sherman Lab Expansion

Google Earth

Image © 2024 Airbus

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