May 6, 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 Huntington, Angelina County, Texas
TWDB CWSRF Project No. 73862
Sanitary Sewer Improvements
Total Financing Amount: $4,035,000
(L1001089 and LF1001112)

The City of Huntington (City) is proposing to use $4,035,000 in financing from the CWSRF for the Sanitary Sewer Improvements Project in order to rehabilitate the existing sanitary sewer collection system, including lines, lift stations, and manholes. The City’s existing collection system is experiencing infiltration/inflow problems believed to be due in part to the age and material of the original structures, including vitrified clay collection mains and brick manholes. In addition, the City’s lift stations are undersized and/or in poor condition, with electrical issues, inoperative or missing motors, and flooding during rain events. The City is not currently under any enforcement actions with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

The proposed project will include (1) replacement of approximately 27,000 linear feet (LF) of gravity sanitary sewer; (2) replacement of approximately 9,000 LF of force main sewer; (3) rehabilitation of four lift stations consisting of new wet wells, pumps and valve manifolding immediately adjacent to the existing lift stations; and (4) rehabilitation of approximately ninety manholes. In addition, the project will require adequate fittings and all necessary appurtenances, including pavement repairs.
Existing lines will be replaced by new lines in the same or proximate locations, typically within 5 to 10 feet. The existing lines will be abandoned in place. Environmental impacts should be similar to rehabilitation activities and limited to those associated with excavation, pipe installation, and road repair. In some cases, the depth of excavation may be greater than the existing pipe and the location of the replacement pipe may not be immediately adjacent to the existing line (e.g., opposite side of street).

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. Although the linework will cross drainages that may qualify as waters of the United States, all work will be performed in compliance with Nationwide Permit (NWP) 58 for Utility Line Activities for Water and Other Substances without requiring a preconstruction notification of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, or will be installed using trenchless technologies. The proposed work at the Hale Lift Station and several manholes is within a 100-year floodplain, as designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Projects involving construction in the 100-year floodplain, including replacement or borings, require a floodplain development permit from the local floodplain administrator prior to construction in the 100-year floodplain. 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 should 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 §375.61; or
3. the project may violate or has violated federal, state, local, or tribal laws.

The City has committed to the environmental conditions and has the ability and authority to do so. The proposed project must comply with the following environmental conditions:

- Compliance with the terms and conditions of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Nationwide Permit 58 for Utility Line Activities for Water and
Other Substances, with impacts to waters of the U.S., including wetlands, beneath the threshold to require a pre-construction notification (PCN) from the USACE;

- Coordination with the local floodplain administrator to obtain a floodplain development permit prior to construction as required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency regarding implementation of the Flood Insurance Act, Flood Disaster Protection Act, National Flood Insurance Reform Act, Federal Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, and to comply with related state statutes.
- 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 RWPDEnvironmental@twdb.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

T. Clay Schultz

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