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

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) Equivalency Program, which is administered by the TWDB. The Board's Executive Administrator issues this Statement of Findings (SOF) for the following project:

City of Breckenridge, Stephens County, Texas
TWDB CWSRF Project No. 73905
Wastewater System Improvements
Total Financing Amount: \$4,162,420
Loan No. L1001426
Loan No. L1001491
Loan No. LF1001492

The City of Breckenridge (City) is proposing to use \$4,162,420 in financing from the CWSRF program for the Wastewater System Improvements Project to rehabilitate the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) and three lift stations and to replace aging wastewater lines throughout the city. WWTP improvements include adding headworks screens, adding two aerators at the oxidation ditch, replacing the belt press with a new sludge dewatering system, and various electrical improvements including adding a SCADA system. Lift station improvements include pump replacement and electrical system upgrades. Manholes may be replaced in order to improve access for pipe-bursting wastewater line replacement methods. Wastewater line staging will occur along pipeline easements.

The TWDB committed this financing on March 3, 2022. The City closed the financing on July 13, 2022. On December 20, 2024, the TWDB issued a Categorical Exclusion (CE) for the proposed project.

On October 29, 2025, the City submitted a request to the TWDB to modify its original project scope to add the rehabilitation of Lift Station No. 5. These improvements will be constructed as part of construction contract (CID) 02. The revised project components are in the same general area and have the same nature and purpose as those covered by the CE. Therefore, no additional agency coordination was required regarding the proposed amendment to the change of scope.

<p>Our Mission</p> <p>Leading the state's efforts in ensuring a secure water future for Texas</p>	<p>Board Members</p> <p>L'Oreal Stepney, P.E., Chairwoman W. Brady Franks, Board Member Ashley Morgan, Board Member</p> <p>Bryan McMath, Executive Administrator</p>
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Work at the WWTP and Lift Station Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 5 will occur within the existing, developed site. All wastewater lines will be replaced using the pipe-bursting method; resultingly, no habitat, including waterways, will be affected. Existing manholes will be used for pipe access. Access sites will be identified during design. If access roadway construction is necessary to reach manholes, the width would be 15 feet. It is anticipated that, depending on the specific area, most access roads would be less than 500 feet in length except for the stretch between South Harding and Sunset Boulevard, which would be approximately 1,000 feet. This area includes forest and wetlands. The maximum estimated length of disturbance for potential access sites is 5,000 feet, with an area of approximately two acres. If manhole replacement is required, the anticipated construction footprint area is 25 square feet. If manhole access, repair, or replacement, including associated road construction, is found in design to affect terrestrial or aquatic habitat, additional environmental review may be required.

According to the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Archeological Sites Atlas, several recorded archeological sites occur near, but do not intersect, the project area. However, since wastewater line replacements will utilize the pipe-bursting method, which replaces the pipe in its existing underground footprint, no impacts to cultural artifacts are anticipated. The proposed project does not occur within or adjacent to a protected area surrounding a historic cemetery, structure, or district.

The proposed project, with mitigations described below, is not anticipated to adversely affect waters of the United States, including wetlands, or threatened or endangered species or habitat. Since vegetation clearing may be required for this project, a special condition is included to avoid impacts to migratory birds, in compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) reviewed the proposed project (TPWD Project No. 52724) and does not anticipate significant adverse impacts to rare, threatened, or endangered species, or other fish and wildlife resources. In order to ensure there would be no adverse impacts to federally protected species, the City coordinated with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) through the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) tool (Project Code 2023-0109446). Based on information provided by the City, IPaC determined there would be *No Effect* on five species potentially occurring in the project area. Based on proposed mitigations, USFWS determined the project *May Affect* but would be *Not Likely to Adversely Affect* the endangered whooping crane (*Grus americana*) due to potential stopover habitat within 1,000 feet of proposed project construction. These mitigation measures are incorporated into this finding as special conditions.

The WWTP, lift stations, and several wastewater lines appear to be within the 100-year floodplain, as designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Lift Station No. 5 appears to be in the floodway according to the City's Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM), effective January 2, 1991. Projects involving construction in, across, or underneath a Special Flood Hazard Area, including replacements and borings, require a floodplain development permit from the local floodplain administrator prior to construction.

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.

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 or protected natural resources. 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 from full environmental review 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.

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

Special Environmental Conditions

- To avoid impacts to terrestrial or aquatic habitat and cultural resources, including potential waters of the United States, the pipe-bursting method will be utilized for all wastewater line replacement. If another method is utilized, or if access to manholes, including but not limited to associated access road development, occurs within terrestrial or aquatic habitat and/or involves vegetation clearing (including grassland and farmland) and/or stream crossings, TWDB will be notified and will assess the proposed components for additional environmental review requirements.
- Consistent with the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004, federal Executive Order 11988, Texas Water Code Section 16.315, and local floodplain development ordinances, a floodplain development permit will be obtained from the local floodplain administrator prior to construction in, through, or under a Special Flood Hazard Area, including at the wastewater treatment plant, lift stations, and pipeline replacements.
- Consistent with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and Texas Parks and Wildlife Code Chapter 64, 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. State and federal regulations as currently interpreted do not permit incidental take.

- 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 will be performed outside of the whooping crane migration season, March 19 through April 30 and October 20 through November 2. If these activities cannot be avoided during spring and fall migration, 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 City of Breckenridge (City) 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 City of Breckenridge (City) will abide by the standard emergency condition for the discovery of cultural resources.
- Consistent with the TWDB Supplemental Construction Contract Conditions (TWDB-0550), the City 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.

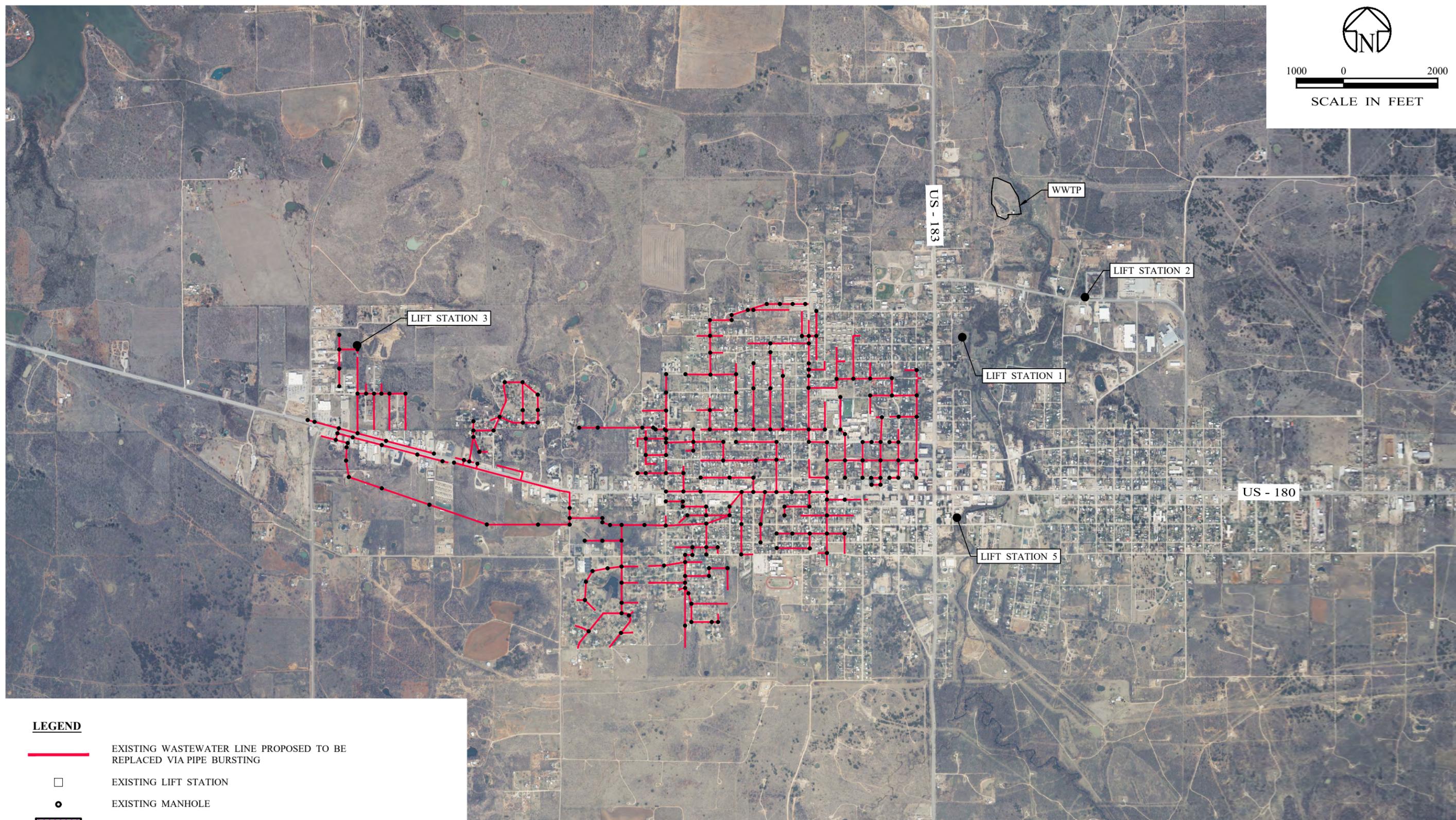
Sincerely,

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

Enclosure



1000 0 2000
SCALE IN FEET



LEGEND

-  EXISTING WASTEWATER LINE PROPOSED TO BE REPLACED VIA PIPE BURSTING
-  EXISTING LIFT STATION
-  EXISTING MANHOLE
-  WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM AREA WITH HIGHEST I & I (PROPOSED WASTEWATER LINE REPLACEMENT AREA)

**BRECKENRIDGE CWSRF
WWTP IMPROVEMENTS**

OVERALL LOCATION MAP
(AERIAL)

7902

10/29/2025

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100 0 200

SCALE IN FEET

65' x 75'
CONSTRUCTION FOOTPRINT

W - 7TH

US - 183

W - 5TH

US - 183

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**BRECKENRIDGE CWSRF
WWTP IMPROVEMENTS**

LIFT STATION 1

7902

10/29/2025



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SCALE IN FEET



40' x 55'
CONSTRUCTION FOOTPRINT

INDUSTRIAL LOOP

N BUTTE ST

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**BRECKENRIDGE CWSRF
WWTP IMPROVEMENTS**

LIFT STATION 2

7902

10/29/2025



100 0 200

SCALE IN FEET

NORTHGLEN RD

30' x 38'
CONSTRUCTION FOOTPRINT

NORTHGLEN RD

BRECKENRIDGE CWSRF
WWTP IMPROVEMENTS

LIFT STATION 3

7902

10/29/2025

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SCALE IN FEET



US HIGHWAY 180 E

35' x 35'
CONSTRUCTION FOOTPRINT

EAST HULLUM STREET

SOUTH BRECKENRIDGE AVE

**BRECKENRIDGE CWSRF
WWTP IMPROVEMENTS**

LIFT STATION 5

7902

10/29/2025

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SCALE IN FEET

NOTES INDICATED BY NUMBER IN # :

- 1. ADD SCREENS TO HEADWORKS
- 2. ADD 2 ADDITIONAL AERATORS
- 3. REPLACE BELT PRESS WITH NEW SLUDGE DEWATERING SYSTEM

NOTES

- 1. ELECTRICAL IMPROVEMENTS WILL BE MADE, INCLUDING THE SCADA SYSTEM.

**BRECKENRIDGE CWSRF
WWTP IMPROVEMENTS**

WWTP SITE PLAN

7902

04/12/2024



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