May 23, 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 Raymondville, Willacy County, Texas
TWDB CWSRF Project No. 73924
Infiltration and Inflow Study and Lift Station Rehabilitation Project
Total Financing Amount: $4,925,486
(L1001496, L1001497, and LF1001498)

The City of Raymondville (City) is proposing to use $4,925,486 in financing from the CWSRF Program to conduct a sanitary sewer infiltration and inflow (I&I) study, sanitary sewer replacement/rehabilitation, and lift station rehabilitation project. First, the City proposes to conduct the I&I study to evaluate approximately 33,000 linear feet of damaged or aged clay pipes throughout the City, which will involve sewer cleaning and closed-circuit television inspections of the sanitary sewer pipelines. After the pipelines have been evaluated, the City anticipates all investigated pipelines will be replaced or rehabilitated using cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) or pipe bursting methods. In addition, approximately 270 manholes will be rehabilitated. The City also proposes to rehabilitate six lift stations, including wet wells and pumps, if necessary. The pipeline diameters will remain the same and the proposed project will be limited to the replacement/rehabilitation of existing pipelines under the pavement at their existing locations and lift stations at their existing locations. For pipe bursting, a maximum of 65 open pits will be placed approximately every 500 linear feet, at depths ranging from 4 to 10 feet. Each open pit will be approximately eight square yards, or 520 square yards in total.

Environmental impacts should be similar to replacement/rehabilitation activities at existing facilities. Existing pipelines will be pipe burst and abandoned in-place or will continue to be used with CIPP coating. To ensure that there will be no adverse environmental impacts associated with the construction, the City coordinated with the Texas Historical Commission (THC). According to the THC’s review (THC Tracking No. 202207959), dated March 31, 2022, no historic properties, archeological sites, or other cultural resources are present or affected by the project as proposed.
The proposed project will not adversely impact waters of the United States, including wetlands. In addition, the proposed project is not expected to impact threatened or endangered species or habitat. The proposed project is partially within the 100-year floodplain, as designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. 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.

The decision to issue 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 § 375.62; 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:

- To comply with the requirements of the Federal Emergency Management Agency regarding implementation of the National 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 and local floodplain development ordinances, proponents of construction projects in special flood hazard areas must coordinate in advance with the local floodplain administrator and obtain a floodplain development permit prior to design approval.

- Standard emergency condition for the discovery of cultural resources
- 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