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CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES AND PUBLIC GROUPS:

As provided by the 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 has determined that the proposed action identified below may be exempted from comprehensive environmental review:

City of Donna, Hidalgo County, Texas
TWDB CWSRF Project No. 73943
Wastewater Treatment Plant Rehabilitation and Capacity Upgrades Project
Total Anticipated Commitment Amount: \$25,385,000
Commitment Nos. L1001720 and LF1001743

The City of Donna (City) is proposing to use \$25,385,000 in funding from the CWSRF program to expand the existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) from a capacity of 1.8 million gallons per day (MGD) to 2.8 MGD, with a peak two-hour flow of 8.4 MGD, by rehabilitating, replacing, and constructing proposed project components within the existing WWTP site. The WWTP faces significant challenges due to aging infrastructure and equipment failures, which have reduced its operational capacity and efficiency. The proposed project will ensure regulatory compliance and serve the City’s projected needs.

The proposed project consists of the following improvements:

- Expansion and rehabilitation of the on-site influent lift station, including installing new submersible influent pumps and replacing the electrical control panel; recoating interior surfaces of the lift station; and repairing concrete cracks
- Installation of a new multi-rake bar screen, washer, and compactor in the existing headworks channels
- Installation of two new disc aerators in each of the three existing oxidation ditches, to replace the brush roller aerators
- Modifications to the secondary clarifiers, limited to either weir elevation adjustments or mechanism scraper arm repairs to address the partial submergence of the mechanism during high flow events
- Installation of a new chlorine contact basin channel and expansion of the splitter box
- Installation of new handling/storage of one-ton cylinders and gas chlorine feed equipment

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L’Oreal Stepney, P.E., Chairwoman | W. Brady Franks, Board Member | Ashley Morgan, Board Member
Bryan McMath, Executive Administrator

- Expansion of the return activated sludge/waste activated sludge (RAS/WAS) pump station and modifications to piping to create a direct suction from the existing clarifiers to the RAS/WAS pump station
- Construction of a new solids dewatering system with a belt filter press, sludge feed pump, and polymer feed system under a new canopy, with a floor drain to the plant drain pump station
- Construction of a 500,000-gallon, above-grade, welded steel aerated sludge holding tank with jet aeration
- Construction of a new sludge transfer pump station and electrical building
- Installation of a new standby generator

The proposed project will include miscellaneous demolition, including but not limited to the existing chlorine feed system, the drying beds, brush rotor aerators, grit removal equipment, and select electrical equipment for process equipment being abandoned, upgraded, or replaced; installation of yard piping as required to accommodate process modifications and alleviate hydraulic bottlenecks; upgrades to the electrical system and supervisory control and data acquisition monitoring; and necessary appurtenances. The proposed project does not require land or easement acquisition or a new WWTP permit.

Environmental impacts will be similar to activities associated with replacement and rehabilitation of existing facilities and minor upgrades or expansion of system capacity. Environmental impacts will be limited to activities associated with excavation and equipment upgrades, replacement, and relocation within an existing WWTP site.

The TWDB may not fund testing, remediation, removal, disposal, or related works for contaminated or potentially contaminated materials. However, the City should ensure that, if found, such materials are tested, removed, and disposed of in accordance with applicable state and federal laws.

There are no previously recorded significant or potentially significant historical or cultural sites within or adjacent to the proposed 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 a Special Flood Hazard Area; 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 TWDB previously recommended issuance of a Categorical Exclusion (CE) for the proposed project. The decision to grant this CE is allowed because the specified project elements will not cause significant adverse impacts to cultural and natural resources. 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 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 § 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 standard environmental conditions:

Standard Environmental Conditions

- Consistent with the Texas Water Development Board Supplemental Construction Contract Conditions (TWDB-0550), the City of Donna will abide by the standard emergency condition for the discovery of cultural resources.
- Consistent with the Texas Water Development Board Supplemental Construction Contract Conditions (TWDB-0550), the City of Donna 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

Enclosures

DONNA WWTP SITE

Legend

 DONNA WWTP



DONNA WWTP REHABILITATION & UPGRADES

