



P.O. Box 13231, 1700 N. Congress Ave.
Austin, TX 78711-3231, www.twdb.texas.gov
Phone (512) 463-7847, Fax (512) 475-2053

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 Emerging Contaminants (CWSRF-EC) 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:

East Rio Hondo Water Supply Corporation, Cameron County, Texas
TWDB CWSRF-EC Project No. 74000
Martha Ann Simpson Water Treatment Plant Sludge Basins Improvements Project
Total Financing Amount: \$4,290,240
Commitment No. LF1002347

East Rio Hondo Water Supply Corporation (Corporation) is proposing to use \$4,290,240 in funding from the CWSRF-EC program to install concrete linings to the unlined earthen sludge drying and overflow basins at the Martha Ann Simpson water treatment plant (MASWTP) located on the south side of Farm-to-Market Road (FM) 510, approximately 0.30 miles west of the intersection of FM 510 and Adams Road, in Cameron County, Texas. Test results from the Corporation's MASWTP water treatment plant filter backwash sludge revealed the presence of emerging contaminants (Perfluoropentanoic acid and Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid, which are PFAS, and Lithium) exceeding the thresholds set by the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Act Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule. To comply with these environmental regulations, the Corporation needs to prevent the infiltration of these contaminants from the sludge disposal sites into the local groundwater and nearby water bodies. The proposed project includes removing the existing sludge from the sludge drying and overflow basins; installing concrete access ramps and impermeable liners; reconditioning and replacing the sludge thickener system, including piping and temporary bypass, with a gravity sludge thickener system; and transferring the removed sludge to a designated permitted sludge disposal site. The proposed project will be constructed entirely within the existing footprint of the MASWTP; therefore, no land or easement acquisition is required for the proposed project. Alternatives include using different lining systems (i.e., concrete, geosynthetics, geomembranes, clay, etc.) as well as potential revisions to the configurations of the sidewalls to facilitate excavation with machinery.

Proceeds of this commitment must not be used by the Corporation when sampling, testing, removing, or disposing of contaminated soils or media at the project site, except for an emerging contaminants project to address PFAS or any contaminant listed on Environmental

Our Mission

Leading the state's efforts
in ensuring a secure
water future for Texas

Board Members

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

Protection Agency's Contaminant Candidate Lists. The obligations must include an environmental indemnification wherein the Corporation agrees, and will require its construction contractors, to indemnify, hold harmless, and protect the TWDB from any and all claims, causes of action, or damages arising from activities performed by the Corporation or its construction contractors, including their officials and employees, in connection with the project, to the extent permitted by law.

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 MASWTP is partially in the 100-year floodplain; however, all proposed project construction will occur entirely outside of the 100-year floodplain; therefore, coordination with the local floodplain administrator was not required. A portion of the proposed project is on a soil mapping unit that is classified as prime farmland; however, the proposed project is limited to the existing footprint of the MASWTP; therefore, it is exempt from Farmland Protection Policy Act regulation. 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 special and standard environmental conditions:

Standard Environmental Conditions

- Consistent with the Texas Water Development Board Supplemental Construction Contract Conditions (TWDB-0550), East Rio Hondo Water Supply Corporation 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), East Rio Hondo Water Supply Corporation will abide by the standard emergency condition for the discovery of threatened and endangered species.

Categorical Exclusion

East Rio Hondo Water Supply Corporation, Cameron County, Texas

TWDB CWSRF-EC Project No. 74000

Martha Ann Simpson Water Treatment Plant Sludge Basins Improvements Project

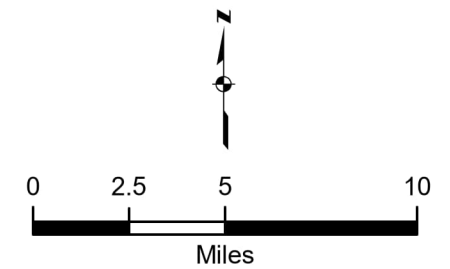
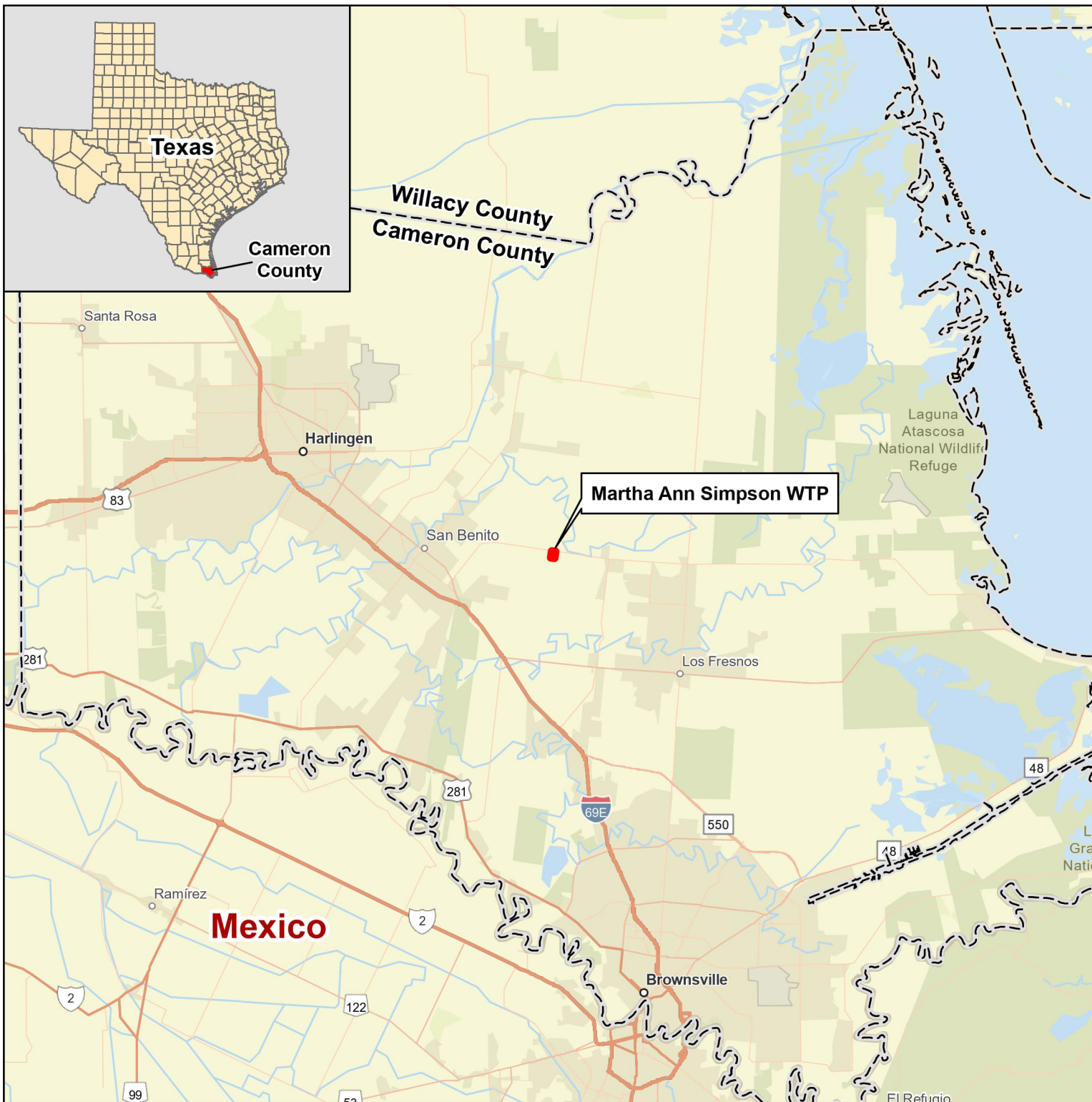
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Comments regarding this determination may be submitted to the Director of Regional Water Project Development, Texas Water Development Board, P.O. Box 13231, Austin, Texas 78711-3231 or via email at rwpd-environmental@twdb.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosures



Legend

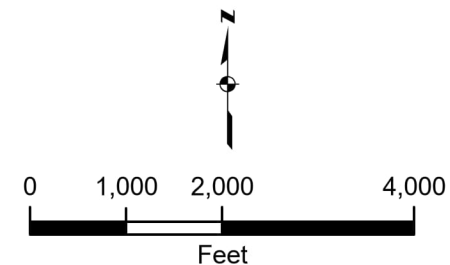
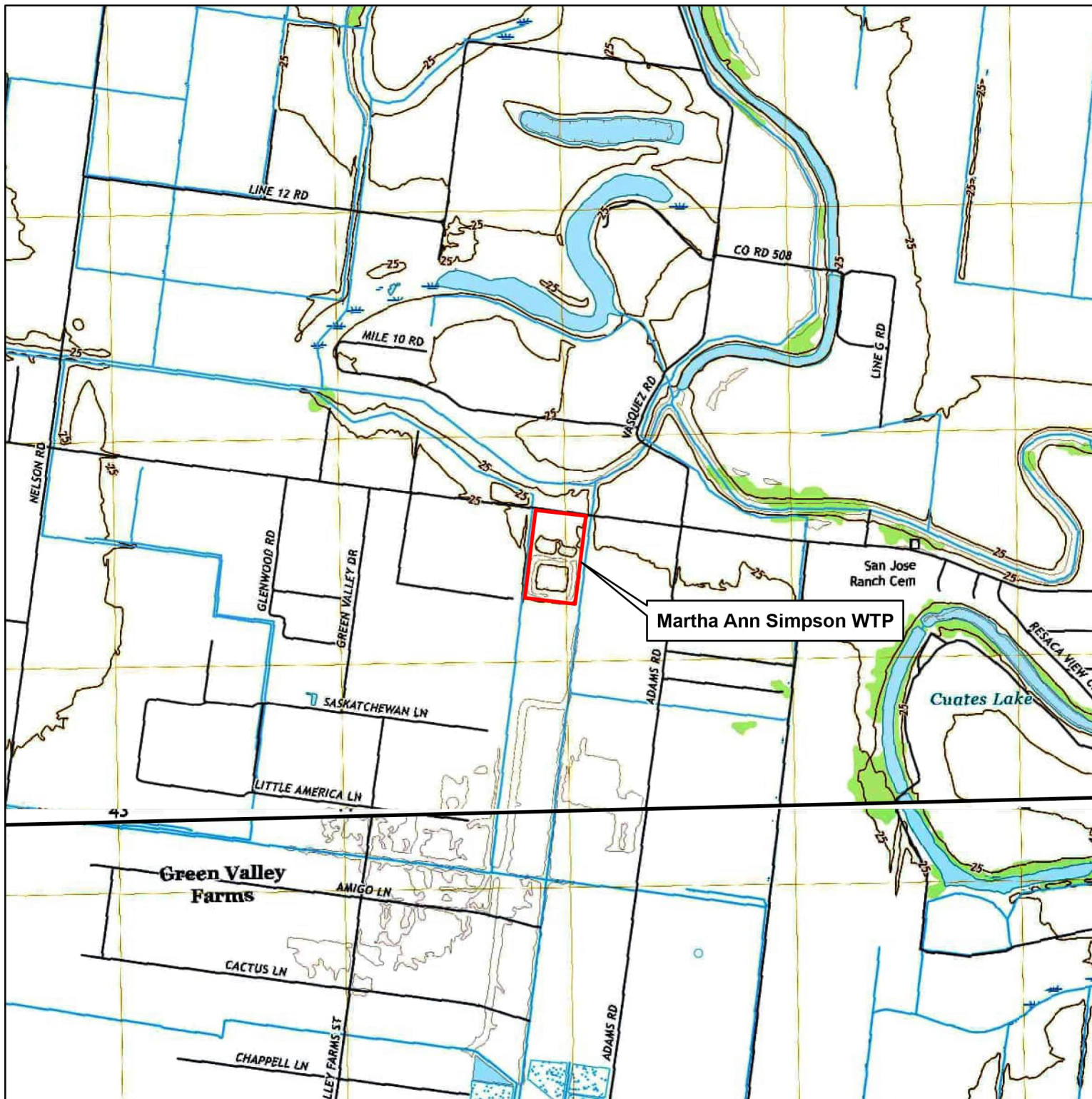
- WTP Property Limits
- County Boundary

Notes:

- Map Center: 97.54996°W 26.13524°N
- World Street Map: Texas Parks & Wildlife, CONANP, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, Foursquare, SafeGraph, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USFWS

Martha Ann Simpson WTP
Sludge Basin Improvements
Cameron County, Texas
Date: 8/20/2025

Figure 1
Regional Location Map



Legend

WTP Property Limits

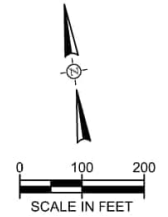
Notes:

1. Map Center: 97.55008°W 26.13533°N
2. World Topographic Map: Texas Parks & Wildlife, CONANP, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, Foursquare, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS
World Hillshade: Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA
3. USGS TopoView: "Rio Hondo, Texas", "Olmito, Texas", "Harlingen, Texas" 7.5-Minute Quadrangles (2022)

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Sludge Basin Improvements
Cameron County, Texas
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Figure 2.1
2022 USGS Topographic Map

FILE NAME: A:\62000s\62625\001\PWCCADD\WorkingFiles\WAS Aerial 62625.001.dwg DATE: August 21, 2025, TIME: 4:15 PM, USER: ah4509



PRELIMINARY
FOR INTERIM REVIEW ONLY

THESE DOCUMENTS ARE FOR INTERIM REVIEW
AND NOT INTENDED FOR REGULATORY
APPROVAL, PERMIT, BIDDING OR CONSTRUCTION
PURPOSES. THEY WERE PREPARED BY OR
UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF:

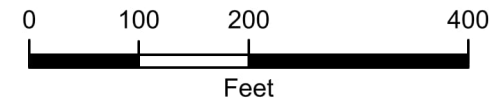
MICHAEL SALINAS	123342
NAME	PE LICENSE NO.
8/21/2025	
DATE	
312	TX
FIRM / BUSINESS NO.	STATE



1075 PAREDES LINE RD.
SUITE B
BROWNSVILLE, TX 78521
TEL. (956) 303-7100



PROJECT NO.: 62625.001
ISSUED: 8/21/2025
DRAWN BY: RA
CHECKED BY: MICHAEL SALINAS
SCALE: 1"=200'
SHEET TITLE:
EXISTING CONDITIONS



Legend

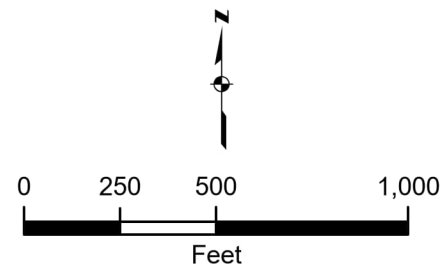
 WTP Property Limits

Notes:

1. Map Center: 97.55033°W 26.13529°N
2. Nearmap WMS Server: 2025

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Sludge Basin Improvements
Cameron County, Texas
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Figure 3
Project Footprint Map



Legend

 WTP Property Limits

USGS NHD

 Stream/River

FEMA Flood Zone

 Area of Minimal Flood Hazard

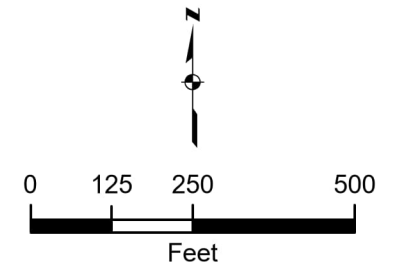
 100-Year Floodplain

Notes:

1. Map Center: 97.55008°W 26.13533°N
2. Nearmap WMS Server: 2025
3. USGS National Hydrography Dataset
4. FMEA National Flood Hazard Layer

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Figure 4
Floodplain Map



Legend

 WTP Property Limits

NHD

 Canal/Ditch

NWI

 Riverine

Notes:

1. Map Center: 97.54996°W 26.13567°N
Nearmap WMS Server Current: 2024
2. USFWS National Wetlands Inventory
3. USGS National Hydrography Dataset

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Figure 5
NWI and NHD Map