

October 18, 2016

TO: ALL POTENTIALLY INTERESTED PARTIES:

RE: Barton Water Supply Corporation (DWSRF Project No. 62708) – Water System Improvements Project

The attached document is being provided for your information. This is not a permit application. No action is being requested from your agency and no response is required.

The attached document is an environmental determination issued by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for a proposed project to be funded through the TWDB. Pursuant to the environmental assessment requirements of 31 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 371, Subchapter E, the Executive Administrator of the TWDB has determined that the proposed action described in the attached documents may be exempted from formal environmental review requirements. A review by TWDB staff included a consideration of potential environmental impacts and permitting requirements. If there were any concerns about particular regulations or permits, the appropriate regulatory agency would have been contacted for clarification, and this would be described in the attached environmental determination.

Comments regarding this determination may be submitted to the Director of Regional Water Project Development, TWDB, P.O. Box 13231, Austin, Texas 78711-3231.

October 18, 2016

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES AND PUBLIC GROUPS:

In accordance with the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) environmental review process established at 31 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 371, Subchapter E, for projects to be funded through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Program and consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S. Code §4321, et seq., the Executive Administrator of the TWDB has determined that the proposed action identified below may be exempted from formal environmental review requirements:

Barton Water Supply Corporation, Palo Pinto and Erath Counties
Water System Improvements Project
DWSRF Project No. 62708
Total Estimated TWDB Commitment: \$2,500,000

Barton Water Supply Corporation (Corporation) is proposing to use a portion of funding from a \$2,500,000 DWSRF Program loan for the planning, design, and construction of water improvement projects in Palo Pinto and Erath Counties. Specifically, the Corporation plans: (1) to rehabilitate four pump stations; (2) to replace existing water distribution lines within highway or county road right-of-ways; (3) to install radio read meters, and; (4) to install a new supervisory control and data acquisition system. In addition, the project will require adequate valves, fittings, and all necessary appurtenances, including pavement repairs.

A full environmental review for the construction of a 4-inch diameter water line to bypass a major elevation change and a 2-inch diameter water line to connect water lines along County Road 114 and County Road 446 will be required. Pursuant to the requirements of 31 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §375, all financial assistance shall be conditioned to read that funding for design and construction costs for the construction of the aforementioned new lines will not be released until the environmental review has been completed and a favorable environmental determination has been issued.

Existing lines will be replaced by new lines in the same locations. Environmental impacts should be similar to rehabilitation activities and limited to those associated with excavation, pipe installation, and road repair. This work will be performed within existing right-of-ways and on previously disturbed sites.

According to the Texas Historical Commission's Archeological Sites Atlas, there are no previously recorded significant or potentially significant sites on or immediately adjacent to the project site, nor is the project site within a protected area surrounding a historic cemetery, structure, or district. The proposed project is not likely to impact sensitive cultural resources.

According to a review of the United States Geological Survey, National Hydrography Dataset, no wetlands were identified within the project area. Barton Creek and several unnamed

tributaries intersect the project area. The Corporation is proposing to use directional boring to avoid impacts to streams during construction. Therefore, the proposed project is not likely to adversely impact wetlands or waters of the U.S. that are under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

TWDB staff conducted a desktop review of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Natural Diversity Dataset. According to this analysis, no elemental occurrences (EO) intersect the project area. The nearest EO (ID #6069) is a Colonial Wading Bird Colony located north of Interstate-20 and east of North Main Street in Palo Pinto County. Vegetation within existing right-of-ways and existing facility sites has been extremely disturbed and is not likely to contain suitable habitat for threatened and endangered species. Construction within existing right-of-ways and previously disturbed areas is not likely to impact threatened or endangered species or habitat.

The specified project elements should not entail significant adverse impacts to the quality of the human environment. Documentation supporting this determination is on file at the TWDB.

This determination may be rescinded if it is found that:

- (1) The project no longer meets the requirements for a CE as a result of changes in the project;
- (2) The project involves extraordinary circumstances as defined in 31 TAC Section 371.41; or
- (3) The project may violate or has violated federal, state, local, or tribal laws.

The project also must comply with the following conditions:

- Use of directional boring to avoid waters of the United States, including wetlands;
- 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.

