

February 15, 2017

## **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) Chapter 375, subchapter E, for projects to be funded through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Equivalency Program and consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S. Code § 4321, et seq., the Executive Administrator of the Board has determined that the proposed action identified below may be exempted from formal environmental review requirements:

City of Montgomery, Montgomery County  
Wastewater System Improvements Project  
CWSRF Project No. 73740  
Total Estimated TWDB Commitment: \$1,090,000

The City of Montgomery (City) is proposing to use funding from a \$1,090,000 CWSRF loan to conduct wastewater system improvements within the City's existing system. Specifically, the City proposes: (1) to replace existing lift station pumps that are currently undersized and operating above design capacity; and (2) to relocate an existing force main to accommodate the planned Texas Department of Transportation widening of Farm-to-Market 149 while upsizing the line to accommodate projected demand. In addition, the project will require adequate isolation valves, fittings, and all necessary appurtenances, including pavement repairs. This loan will fund the planning, design, and construction phases of this project.

Rerouting of the existing force main is considered a minor extension of the existing system and is therefore eligible for a Categorical Exclusion. The existing 4-inch force main along South Liberty Street will be abandoned in place. A 6-inch force main will then be installed along Flagship Boulevard to connect an existing 8-inch sanitary sewer line and 6-inch force main. All construction will be conducted within existing rights-of-ways or previously disturbed areas.

Environmental impacts should be similar to rehabilitation activities and limited to those associated with excavation, pipe installation, and road repair. According to the Texas Historical Commission's Archeological Sites Atlas, there are no previously-recorded significant or potentially significant sites on or adjacent to the project site, nor is the site within a protected area surrounding an historic cemetery, structure or district. According to a desktop analysis of the United States Geological Survey, National Hydrography Dataset and available topographic maps, no streams or potential wetland features were identified within the project area. Therefore, the 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. In addition, construction within existing rights-of-ways or previously disturbed areas is not expected to impact threatened or endangered species or habitat.

This decision is allowed because 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 shall be revoked 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 described in 31 TAC Chapter 375, Subchapter E; or
- (3) the project may violate or has violated federal, state, local, or tribal laws.

The project also must comply with the following conditions:

- 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.