

July 9, 2007

## **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION**

### **TO ALL INTERESTED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND PUBLIC GROUPS:**

In accordance with the regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality at 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 1500, and the implementing procedures at 40 CFR Part 6 entitled "Procedures for Implementing the Requirements of the Council on Environmental Quality on the National Environmental Policy Act", the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that the following action is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion (CE) and exemption from further environmental review.

Wastewater Infrastructure Rehabilitation Project  
for the  
City of Hillsboro, Hill County, Texas

EPA Project Number: XP-966066-01

Estimated Total EPA Share: \$ 481,100

Estimated Local Share: \$ 393,628

### **BACKGROUND**

The City of Hillsboro (City) is located in Hill County, which is situated in the north central portion of the state approximately 65 miles south of the Dallas/Fort Worth area. The City was selected to receive Fiscal Year 2005 special Congressional funding support to assist in efforts to rehabilitate major components of their wastewater collection system. The City is experiencing excessive amounts of Infiltration and Inflow (I&I) of ground water into the collection system caused by deteriorating collection lines and lift stations. These large amounts of excess I&I ground water entering the collection system contribute to treatment inefficiencies throughout the City's entire system, and add unnecessary costs associated with the operation of the City's wastewater collection and treatment systems. The funding recipient will use the EPA funds along with local monies to finance the proposed rehabilitation and construction project. The funding recipient has requested that the project be granted a Categorical Exclusion, and be excluded from the full environmental review and assessment requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The City conducted a Sewer System Evaluation Survey (SSES) to determine the condition of the City's entire wastewater collection and treatment systems. The SSES identified

numerous locations within the entire collection system experiencing large amounts of I&I into the system, especially in locations where the collection system is experiencing excessive deterioration due to age and/or other natural occurrences. The City will conduct rehabilitation activities in necessary locations to improve the collection lines in order to eliminate or greatly reduce the amounts of excessive water entering the system. Rehabilitation and construction activities will include replacement or repair to collection lines, lift stations, and manholes. All project related activities will occur in previously disturbed areas already owned or controlled by the funding recipient.

### **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION**

The proposed project qualifies for a CE. The project is a small-scale, routine action solely directed toward minor rehabilitation of an existing facility and functional replacement of existing equipment. The proposed action will not individually, cumulatively over time, or in conjunction with any other federal, state, local, or private actions have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment and may be exempted from environmental review under NEPA. No adverse direct, indirect, or cumulative effects on cultural resources, endangered and threatened species and their critical habitat, floodplain, wetlands, prime farmlands or aquifer recharge zones were identified. There are no Environmental Justice concerns with the proposed project since all residents in the area will benefit equally from the infrastructure improvements.

### **APPROVAL**

\_\_\_\_\_The request for the issuance of a CE is approved. This approval will be revoked if at any time the project no longer meets the eligibility for a CE, new evidence determines that significant local or environmental issues exist, or that federal, state, local or tribal laws are being or may be violated by implementation of the project.

Responsible Official,

John Blevins  
Director  
Compliance Assurance and  
Enforcement Division

cc: John Erwin, Mayor  
City of Hillsboro

Kevin Ward, Executive Administrator  
Texas Water Development Board