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September 17, 2021

## **STATEMENT OF FINDINGS**

## TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES AND PUBLIC GROUPS:

The staff of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) has conducted an environmental review consistent with the requirements of 31 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) 363.14 regarding the project described below. This project is funded through the Texas Water Development Fund (DFund), which is administered by the TWDB. The Director of Regional Water Project Development of the TWDB issues this Statement of Findings (SOF) for the following project.

City of Seagraves, Gaines County, Texas TWDB DFUND Project No. 21790 Water System Improvements Project Total TWDB Funding Commitment: \$6,084,000 (L1001203, G1001241)

The City of Seagraves (City), Gaines County, northwestern Texas, provides potable water service to 2,425 residents at 875 active connections throughout the community. The population is projected to remain essentially stable through 2040. The City is wholly reliant on groundwater supplies but its water infrastructure is aged and deteriorated and incapable of removing arsenic and fluoride. Concentrations of these naturally occurring elements in the City's treated water exceed permissible maximum contaminant levels. As a result, the system is operating under administrative orders issued by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 2012 and 2014 for violation of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

To address these issues, the City evaluated a number of alternatives and selected the following system improvements: 1) installing redundant low-shear pumps, chemical dosing pumps, automation, and remote monitoring capabilities to enhance the existing reverse osmosis/ceramic ultrafiltration system; 2) replacing approximately 17,000 feet of 2-, 4-, and 8-inch diameter water distribution lines; 3) replacing a 150,000-gallon elevated storage tank with a new 200,000-gallon elevated storage tank; 4) replacing an existing 500,000-gallon ground storage tank with a new 500,000-gallon ground storage tank; 5) installing a new 100,000-gallon ground storage tank; and repairing and recoating an existing 100,000-gallon ground storage tank; and 6) installing an additional chlorination delivery system in the new 100,000-gallon ground storage tank. These improvements are expected to bring the City into compliance with the EPA's arsenic and fluoride standards

## Our Mission

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

## Brooke T. Paup, Chairwoman | Kathleen Jackson, Board Member

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Jeff Walker, Executive Administrator

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and ensure the City's ability to provide safe, reliable drinking water to its residents.

The City applied to the TWDB for funding from the DFund Program for project planning, design, and construction, in the amount of \$2,738,000. The TWDB committed the funds on December 17, 2020, and the City closed the loan on June 9, 2021. Concurrently, the EPA provided a Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) grant in the amount of \$3,346,000 (EPA Project Number WIIN 2104), increasing the budget for the project as a whole to \$6,084,000.

Consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act (42 USC §4321 – 4370(f)), the EPA conducted an environmental impact assessment of the project and issued a Categorical Exclusion (CE) on June 25, 2021. That assessment disclosed no extraordinary circumstances that would make the project ineligible for this type of finding or required special permitting or other requirements.

The staff of the TWDB reviewed the CE and determined the impact assessment met all applicable state environmental regulations and procedures defined in 31 TAC 363.14. By issuing the present Statement of Findings (SOF), the TWDB adopts the EPA's CE for this project. The decision to issue an SOF is allowed because the specified project elements should not cause significant adverse impacts to the quality of the human environment or protected natural resources. Documentation supporting this determination is on file at the TWDB.

This Statement of Findings is considered environmentally sound 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, or electronically to rwpd-environmental@twdb.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

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

Attachments





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