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March 6, 2024

**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) § 375.61, for projects to be funded through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Program and consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 United States Code § 4321, *et seq.*, the TWDB staff has determined that the proposed action identified below may be exempted from formal environmental review requirements:

San Jacinto River Authority, Montgomery County, Texas  
TWDB CWSRF Project No. 73764  
The Woodlands Wastewater System Improvements CID  
04: Southshore Sewer Renewal Project  
Total Financing Amount: \$42,895,000  
Loan No. L1000635

The San Jacinto River Authority (Authority) is proposing to use a portion of the \$42,895,000 in financing from the CWSRF program for the Southshore Sewer Renewal project to rehabilitate approximately 9,800 linear feet (LF) of existing sanitary sewer gravity main by cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) lining, as well as television inspection, bypass pumping to maintain sanitary sewer flows while the CIPP work is performed, rehabilitation of manholes along the sanitary sewer alignment (wall liner, regROUT frame, and/or replace of ring and cover), service reconnections by remote, and perform mechanical cleaning if needed and as approved by the Authority.

This proposed project is included within The Woodlands Wastewater System Improvements funding. This Categorical Exclusion is completed exclusively for the Southshore Sewer Renewal project portion, hereafter referred to as the proposed project. Other portions of The Woodlands Wastewater System Improvements project were completed under separate environmental findings.

The existing gravity mains will be rehabilitated by CIPP method, a trenchless method which typically does not require any excavations. The CIPP liner thickness varies according to pipe size and depth, and ranges between 8mm (0.31 inch) to 35mm (1.38 inch). The contractor will setup equipment around existing manholes to perform the CIPP work. An area of approximately 30 feet by 60 feet may be required for rehabilitating gravity mains 24-inch and smaller. Rehabilitating mains larger than 24-inch may require a larger area, approximately 50 feet by 200

<p><b>Our Mission</b></p> <p>Leading the state's efforts in ensuring a secure water future for Texas</p>	<p><b>Board Members</b></p> <p>Brooke T. Paup, Chairwoman   George B. Peyton V, Board Member   L'Oreal Stepney, P.E., Board Member</p> <p>Bryan McMath, Interim Executive Administrator</p>
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feet. Panther Creek channel (a 42-inch aerial sewer crossing) will not be affected by the CIPP work. Rehabilitation of the aerial crossing will be performed internally by accessing the upstream and downstream manholes on either side of the creek. The contractor will not be allowed to disturb areas along the creek.

The anticipated CIPP setups will consist of the following:

- Traditional Setup – The contractor will bring CIPP liner in a trailer ready to install. This setup requires a footprint area of approximately 30 feet by 60 feet to setup equipment and park equipment close to the manhole. The contractor will install temporary matting to minimize disturbance around the manholes.
- Over-the-Hole Setup – The contractor will bring CIPP liner and resin in a trailer and tanker and setup a temporary tent next to the CIPP setup manhole. This setup requires a footprint area of approximately 50 feet by 200 feet to set up equipment, such as tent, and have the trailer and tanker next to the tent. The contractor will “wet-out” the CIPP liner (impregnate liner with resin) under the tent and insert into the sewer via the existing manholes. The contractor will be able to rehabilitate multiple line segments from an Over-the-Hole setup.
- The setup manholes are very accessible, located in wide open areas in the street right of ways and a golf course. The contractor will be able to perform the CIPP work without performing any major land clearing.
- No excavations are anticipated for the project. For some manholes, the Contractor will be replacing poor ring and covers to grade, which only requires limited excavation around the existing manhole to remove the old ring and cover and install a new ring and cover. Areas will be restored to existing condition after rehabilitating the existing manholes.
- Due to equipment required for the CIPP work, the contractor will be required to install temporary matting to minimize disruptions to existing surface. The contractor will restore all ground surfaces to existing condition after CIPP work is complete.

The TWDB may not fund testing, remediation, removal, disposal, or related works for contaminated or potentially contaminated materials. However, the project proponent should ensure that, if found, such materials are tested, removed, and disposed of in accordance with applicable state and federal laws.

There are no previously recorded significant or potentially significant historical or cultural sites within or adjacent to the 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.

Though the project crosses at least two potentially jurisdictional water features (Panther Branch and Lake Woodlands, no impacts to potential waters of the United States, including wetlands, are expected since the existing lines will be rehabilitated using trenchless methods.

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The proposed project appears to be partially within a 100-year floodplain, as designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Projects involving construction in the 100-year floodplain, including replacement or borings, require a floodplain development permit from the local floodplain administrator prior to construction in the 100-year floodplain.

In addition, the proposed project is not expected to impact threatened or endangered species or habitat.

The staff of the TWDB recommended issuance of a Categorical Exclusion for this project. The decision to grant a Categorical Exclusion is allowed because the specified project elements will 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 determination shall be revoked if it is found that

- (1) the project no longer meets the requirements for a Categorical Exclusion 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:

#### Special Environmental Conditions

- Consistent with the Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004, federal Executive Order 11988, Texas Water Code Section 16.315, and local floodplain development ordinances, a floodplain development permit will be obtained from the local floodplain administrator prior to construction in a Special Flood Hazard Area.

#### Standard Environmental Conditions

- No activity which may affect properties listed or properties eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or eligible for designation as a State Archeological Landmark is authorized until the Owner has complied with the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Antiquities Code of Texas.

If archeological sites or historic structures which may qualify for designation as a State Archeological Landmark according to the criteria in 13 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 26, or that may be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800, are discovered after construction operations are begun, the Contractor shall immediately cease operations in that particular area and notify the Owner, the TWDB, and the Texas Historical Commission. The Contractor shall take reasonable steps to protect and preserve the discoveries until they have been

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inspected by the Owner's representative and the TWDB. The Owner will promptly coordinate with the State Historic Preservation Officer and any other appropriate agencies to obtain any necessary approvals or permits to enable the work to continue. The Contractor shall not resume work in the area of the discovery until authorized to do so by the Owner.

- No activity is authorized that is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a threatened or endangered species as listed or proposed for listing under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), and/or the State of Texas Parks and Wildlife Code on Endangered Species, or to destroy or adversely modify the habitat of such species.

If a threatened or endangered species is encountered during construction, the Contractor shall immediately cease work in the area of the encounter and notify the Owner, who will immediately implement actions in accordance with the ESA and applicable State statutes. These actions shall include reporting the encounter to the TWDB, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, obtaining any necessary approvals or permits to enable the work to continue, or implement other mitigation actions. The Contractor shall not resume construction in the encounter area until authorized by the Owner.

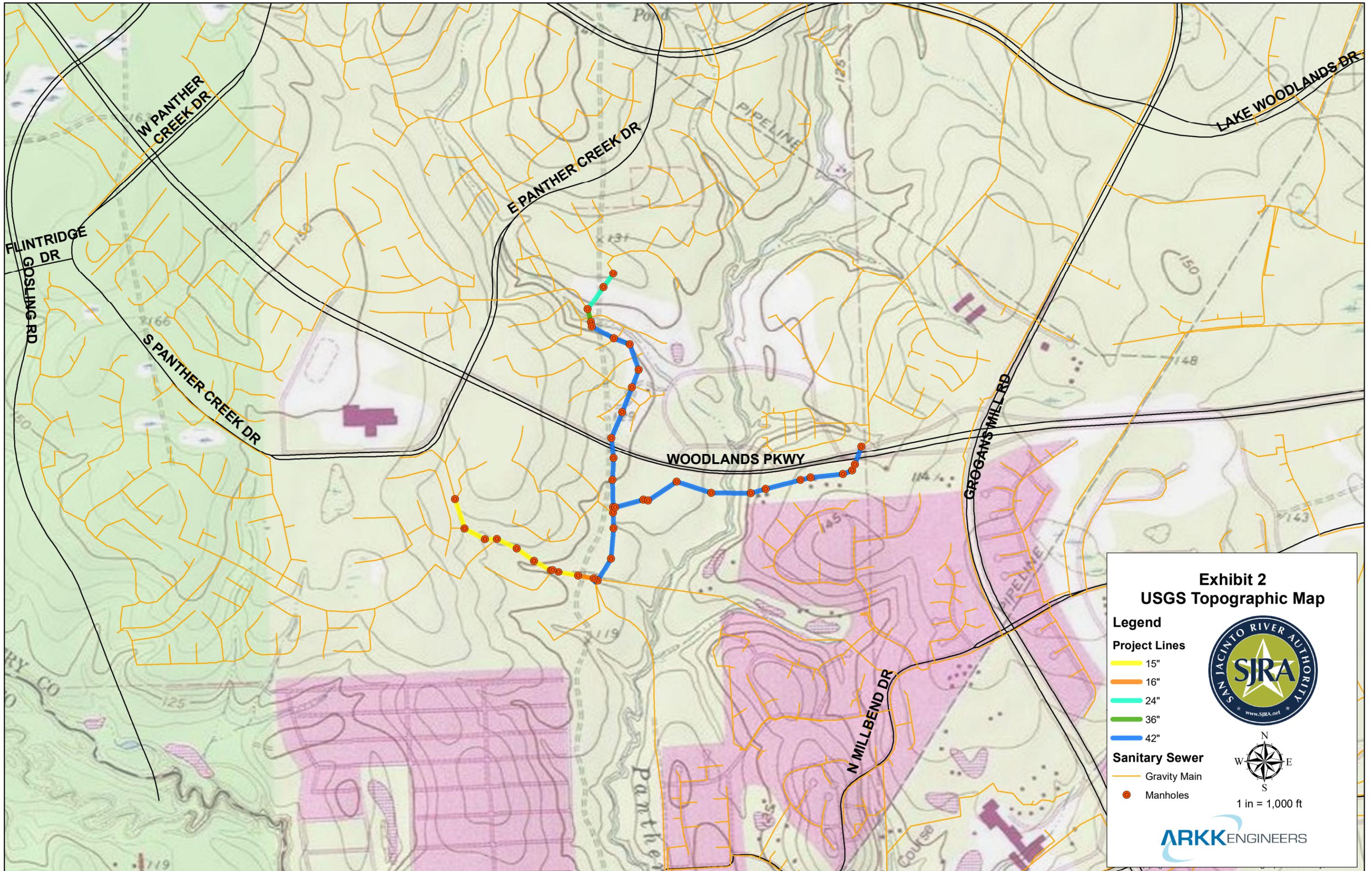
Comments regarding this determination may be submitted to the Director of Regional Water Project Development, Texas Water Development Board, P.O. Box 13231, Austin, Texas 78711-3231 or via email at [RWPD-Environmental@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:RWPD-Environmental@twdb.texas.gov).

Sincerely,

**T. Clay Schultz** Digitally signed by T. Clay Schultz  
Date: 2024.03.07 15:45:36 -06'00'

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

Enclosures



**Exhibit 2  
USGS Topographic Map**

**Legend**

**Project Lines**

-  15"
-  16"
-  24"
-  36"
-  42"

**Sanitary Sewer**

-  Gravity Main
-  Manholes



1 in = 1,000 ft



