



P.O. Box 13231, 1700 N. Congress Ave.
Austin, TX 78711-3231, www.twdb.texas.gov
Phone (512) 463-7847, Fax (512) 475-2053

July 16, 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 05: WWTP No. 2 Tertiary Filters Improvements
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 Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) No. 2 Tertiary Filters Improvements project to replace two (2) of the existing tertiary sand filters with two (2) new cloth media filters utilizing the existing filter structures. WWTP No. 2 utilizes tertiary filters to treat effluent before disinfection. Existing Filters 1 and 2 are sand filters, while the existing Filter 3 has a cloth media filter. The existing Filters 1 and 2 are rated for 2.0 million gallons per day (MGD) of flow each, with Filter 3 rated for 7.8 MGD of flow. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) discharge permit allows for 15.6 MGD of flow during a rain event (2-hour peak flow), but the current filter setup can only treat 11.8 MGD. The proposed project will replace filter media within the existing Filters 1 and 2 with cloth media filters, each with a capacity of 7.8 MGD, allowing WWTP No. 2 to filter at the permitted capacity with two units in service. The proposed project actions will occur entirely within the existing Authority facility, with no new land disturbed. Primary construction actions will include retrofitting the existing filter structure with the new cloth media filter and relevant equipment. Project Components will consist of:

- Two (2) Tertiary Cloth Media Filters Retrofit; and
- Ancillary work necessary to perform the retrofit in the existing filter basins.

This proposed project is included within The Woodlands Wastewater System Improvements funding. This Categorical Exclusion is completed exclusively for the WWTP No. 2 Tertiary Filters Improvements, hereafter referred to as the proposed project. Other portions of The Woodlands

Our Mission	:	Board Members
Leading the state's efforts	:	Brooke T. Paup, Chairwoman George B. Peyton V, Board Member L'Oreal Stepney, P.E., Board Member
in ensuring a secure	:	
water future for Texas	:	Bryan McMath, Interim Executive Administrator

Wastewater System Improvements project were completed under separate environmental findings.

The proposed improvements primarily involve upgrades to existing infrastructure within the confines of the WWTP No. 2, with no anticipated adverse effects on sensitive habitats, endangered species, or cultural resources. The proposed project area consists of existing WWTP structures and maintained uplands. No tree clearing will be necessary and no water features will be impacted.

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. The proposed project will not adversely impact waters of the United States, including wetlands. The proposed project is not located within the 100-year floodplain; therefore, coordination with the local floodplain administrator was not required. In addition, the proposed project is not expected to impact threatened or endangered species or habitat since the site is an existing development with no water features or forested areas to impact.

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.

The staff of the TWDB recommended issuance of a Categorical Exclusion (CE) for this project. The decision to grant a CE 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 from full environmental review 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 standard environmental conditions:

Standard Environmental Conditions¹

- 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 San Jacinto River Authority (Authority) has complied

¹ Texas Water Development Board, Supplemental Contract Conditions and Instructions for Construction Services (Document Nos. [TWDB-0550](#), [TWDB-0551](#), or [TWDB-0552](#)).

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 Authority, the TWDB, and the Texas Historical Commission. The Contractor shall take reasonable steps to protect and preserve the discoveries until they have been inspected by the Authority's representative and the TWDB. The Authority 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 Authority.

- 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 Authority, 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 Authority.

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.

Sincerely,

T. Clay Schultz Digitally signed by T. Clay Schultz
Date: 2024.07.24 08:43:16 -05'00'

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

Enclosure

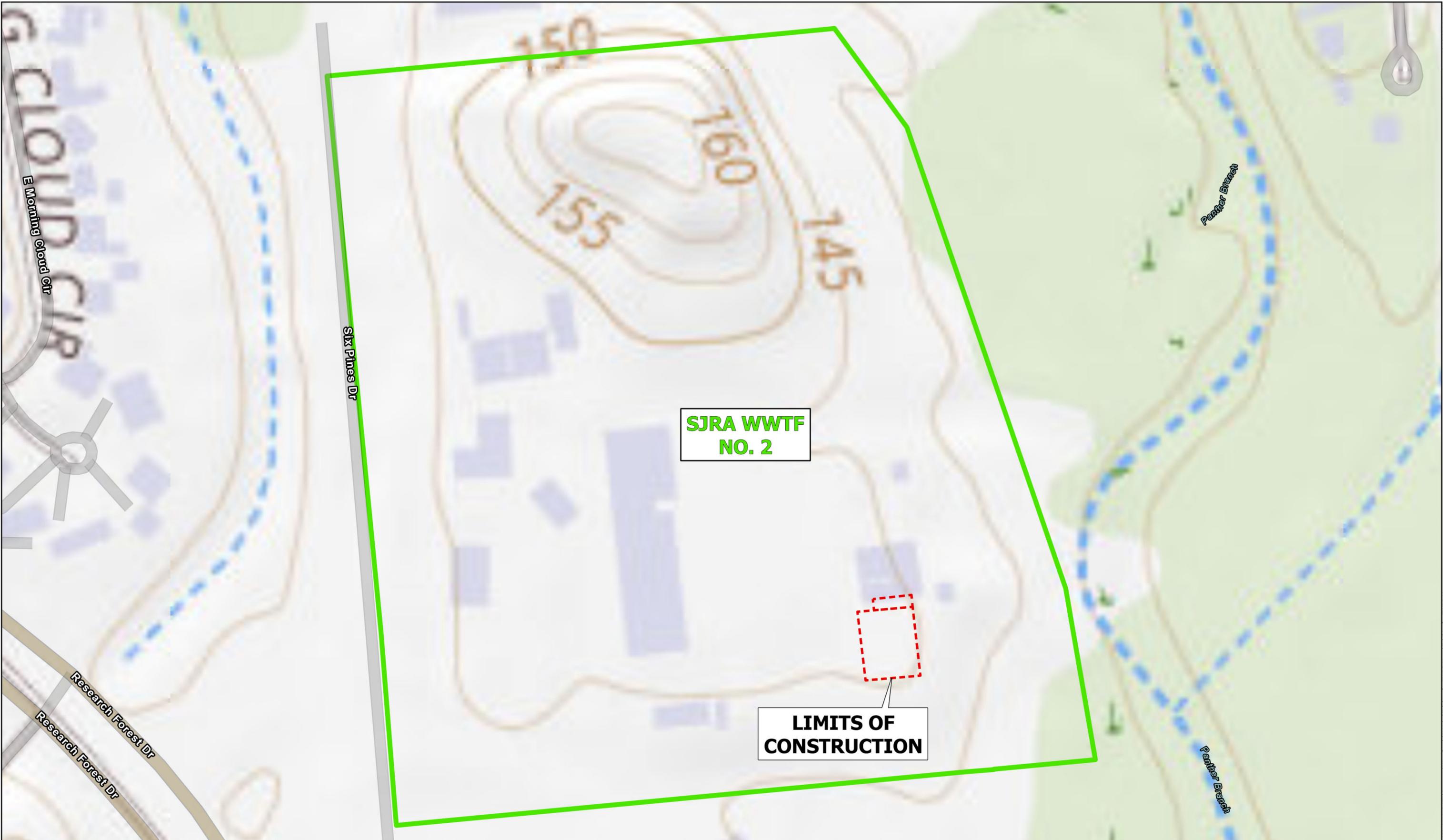


**SJRA WWTf
NO. 2**

**LIMITS OF
CONSTRUCTION**

Exhibit 1
Project Area Map





**SJRA WWTF
NO. 2**

**LIMITS OF
CONSTRUCTION**

Exhibit 2
USGS Topographic Map

