ADDENDUM NO. 3
TO
CONTRACT DOCUMENTS &
SPECIFICATIONS

ISSUED 10/22/2025

Hays County
City of Dripping Springs

West Interceptor Segment 2

BIDS: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24th, 2025 at 10:00 AM

BURGESS & NIPLE, INC.
AUSTIN, TEXAS

TO ALL PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS AND OTHER CONCERNED PARTIES

This Addendum No. 3 is hereby made a part of the Contract Documents and Specifications (hereafter referred to as the Contract Documents) and shall be attached thereto. The requirements of this Addendum supersedes everything to the contrary in the original Contract Documents and any other previous addenda, if any; otherwise, all provisions of the original Contract Documents shall remain in full force and effect. Addendum No.3 to the Contract Documents shall include, but not necessarily be limited to the following items:

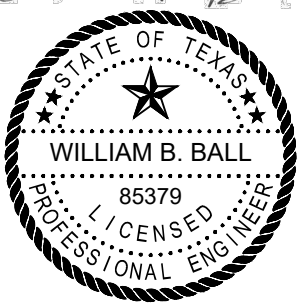
GENERAL ADDITIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

- A pre-bid was held on October 16, 2025. The pre-bid minutes are posted with this addendum as well as the pre-bid sign in sheet.
- A site visit was held on October 20, 2025. The visit minutes are posted with this addendum.
- Updated structural design sheets are provided to better clarify the fill materials used for the structure.
- The city has determined the contractor will have to haul treated effluent from the city's wastewater treatment plant located (23127 W 150, Driftwood, TX 78619). Vehicles shall enter using the dirt road and drive at a maximum of 10 mph while on the property.
- The bid form has been updated.
    - A new line item "Temporary access road improvements" has been added for the temporary access road.
    - The onion creek crossing reinforced structure has been moved to an alternate bid item.
    - A trench dewatering allowance of $250,000 will be provided. See line item #61
    - The bid item for 4' manhole extra depth has been removed. 5' manhole extra depth has been revised.
    - Item 21 has been revised to specify clay as the trench dam method.
    - Notes 4-5 have been added to Bid Item Notes.
    - Length of television testing and mandrel testing has been revised to exclude the Reinforced Creek Crossing Structure. The alternate bid items now have quantities of television testing and mandrel testing for the Reinforced Creek Crossing Structure.
    - Filtration socks will be required for dewatering and bypass pumping.

- An alternate bid item for connecting into existing manhole MH ‘W-10’ by reducer in lieu of coring the manhole is provided.
- Bid item note “Per specifications an optional bid item is provided for flowrates above 350 gpm” has been removed.
- Tree protection has been added as a bid item.

- TWDB DB-0154 form has been added to the bid package.
- Attached is the TWDB Environmental Information Document. The contractor will need to follow their responsibilities as listed in this document.

Please let me know if you have any questions.



William Ball, P.E.

END OF ADDENDUM NO. 3

10-22-2025

Please verify receipt of this Addendum by emailing to Juhmanie.alexander@burgessniple.com

BURGESS & NIPLE

235 Ledge Stone Drive | Austin, TX 78737 | 512.432.1000

CONSTRUCTION OF WEST INTERCEPTOR SEGMENT 2 FOR
CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS
PREBID-MINUTES
October 16, 2025, 10:00 A.M.

A. Introductions:
   a. Burgess and Niple –
      i. Max Zekos-Sierra, P.E.
      ii. Juhmanie Alexander, E.I.T.
      iii. Robby Callegari, P.E.
      iv. Tim Propes

B. Agenda
   a. Structural Engineer will oversee and be available to provide guidance / answer for the contractor for the construction of the Reinforced Creek Crossing
   b. Site Visit will begin at 9 A.M. on Monday October 20, 2025
   c. Contractor shall perform an independent quantity check.
   d. The expected cost of the project is $4.5 Million.
   e. The work will be substantially complete no later than 300 calendar days.
   f. Specifications will be in accordance with City of Austin and those added in the addendum.
   g. This project is funded through the TWDB. All TWDB procedures will need to be followed as listed in the bidding documents.
   h. All trees within the permanent easement will be removed unless flagged for protection by the owner. Only trees damaged that are flagged for protection will need to be replaced.
   i. Treated Effluent will be provided for site use.
   j. The PROJECT will consist of construction of approximately 7,996 linear feet of 12 to 24" gravity sewer line. The gravity main will cross Onion Creek going southeast. This project includes the removal of trees along the installation of gravity sewer and protection of existing trees along the same corridor.

C. Discussion Points
      i. Effluent water – The City will provide effluent water either at the 300k gallon fill station off Ranch Road 150 (23127 W 150, Driftwood, TX 78619), or the Caliterra pond at no cost. The City will decide which location. If the fill station is used, vehicles shall enter using the dirt road and drive at a maximum of 10 mph while on the property.
      ii. HDPE welded sections will need to be de-beaded.
      iii. The City is working to identify what will need to be protected within the temporary construction easements.

iv. Tree protection will be required in the DS10 and Caliterra properties and is shown in the plans.
v. Construction must commence by December 1st 2025.

D. Contractors' Questions

a. Will the temporary commercial driveway stay or be removed?
    i. Answer: *The temporary commercial driveway seen on sheet 22 of 26 will be removed as soon as it is no longer in use.*
b. For the property at the Onion Creek crossing, does the owner have a different access point?
    i. Answer: *Yes*.
c. What is the Onion Creek access road made of?
    i. Answer: *It was constructed by dumping large rocks and concrete. How you'd expect some old rancher would do it.*
d. Will there be any supports between cross section S2-0 and the manhole on the private property?
    i. Answer: *It is our understanding that pipe supports are not required in those areas as the pipe will be outside of the creek area and does not need to be elevated any longer / sit on the existing rock.*
e. Is there expected work and a line item for the gate at the Onion Creek crossing?
    i. Answer: *A line item has been added for the removal and replacement of the gate at the Onion Creek crossing.*
f. Is access to the site available?
    i. Answer: *A site visit will be coordinated for Monday, October 20th at 9 A.M. at the Creek road access point.*
g. Could there be consideration for a dewatering allowance?
    i. Answer: *There will be a dewatering allowance of $250k. Additionally, well point systems have been used in past projects along Onion Creek. Filtration socks should be used.*
h. Where are the access points to the site?
    i. Answer: *There are 3 access points to the project site. One at the Onion Creek crossing, the second is off Creek Rd. by means of a gate and dirt road and agreement with the owner, and the last is off Caliterra Parkway with a temporary access easement.*
i. Do trees within the temporary construction easements need to remain?
    i. Answer: *Tree protection will be required in the DS10 and Caliterra properties and is shown in the plans. The City is working to identify what will need to be protected within the temporary construction easements. See sheets 7, 13, and 14 of the set for trees that are to be protected in the TCE. We do not anticipate boring and jacking to save any trees.*
j. Will clay check dams be used?
    i. Answer: *Yes, see bid item 21.*
k. Are there any issues with PEC?

i. Answer: *No PEC transformer poles are located within either the permanent or temporary construction easements. B&N is coordinating with PEC.*

B&N Job# 39676
CONSTRUCTION OF WEST INTERCEPTOR SEGMENT 2 FOR
CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS
Pre-Bid Meeting 10:00 AM August 16, 2025

Name: Tim Leadley
Company: Ella Contracting
Address: 10536 FM 1560
City, State, Zip: SA, TX 78254
Off Phone: 210-688-9500
Fax:
Cell: 210-559-6746
Email: tleadley@ellasa.com

Name: Riley Helbert
Company: Liberty Civil Construction
Address:
City, State, Zip: Leander
Off Phone:
Fax:
Cell: (512) 550 4745
Email: Estimating@libertycivil.com

Name: John Fenley
Company: Austin Excavation Co. Inc.
Address:
City, State, Zip:
Off Phone: 512-327-1464
Fax:
Cell: 512-701-7000
Email: JFENLEY@AECOI.NET

Name:
Company:
Address:
City, State, Zip:
Off Phone:
Fax:
Cell:
Email:

Name: FERMIN MOLINA
Company: PACKSADDLE MGMT
Address:
City, State, Zip:
Off Phone: 512-525-3893
Fax:
Cell:
Email: ESTIMATING@PACKSADDLEMANAGEMENT.COM

Name:
Company:
Address:
City, State, Zip:
Off Phone:
Fax:
Cell:
Email:

Name: C.C Carlton Industries
Company: Cade Purcell
Address:
City, State, Zip:
Off Phone: 512-939-3331
Fax:
Cell:
Email: estimating@ccarlton.com

Name:
Company:
Address:
City, State, Zip:
Off Phone:
Fax:
Cell:
Email:

BURGESS & NIPLE

235 Ledge Stone Drive | Austin, TX 78737 | 512.432.1000

CONSTRUCTION OF WEST INTERCEPTOR SEGMENT 2 FOR CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS
Site Visit-MINUTES
October 20, 2025, 9:00 A.M.

A. Attendee:
   a. –Juhmanie Alexander, E.I.T.
   b. -Tim Propes, Field Rep.
   c. -John Garza, Field Rep.

Task/Questions

- B&N need to get answers regarding lack of pipe supports outside of the creek to the manholes.
  - Answer: *It is our understanding that pipe supports are not required in those areas as the pipe will be outside of the creek area and does not need to be elevated any longer / sit on the existing rock.*
- B&N needs to identify how we are handling the dewatering in the Bid Form.
  - Answer: *An allowance of $250k will be provided for the unknowns of trench dewatering.*
- Structural needs to identify if select fill will be utilized on the bank of the reinforced concrete crossing.
  - Answer: *Select fill will be utilized on the downstream side of the retaining wall.*
- Specification for creek bypass. Will bypass pumping discharge directly into the creek. Will bags need to be utilized. What are we doing with the sediment on the upstream side of the crossing.
  - Answer: *Bypass pumping discharge will be allowed on the downstream side of the crossing however filtration socks will need to be utilized.*
- How much control of the crossing does the contractor have in regard to cutting into the crossing.
  - Answer: *Minimum cutting should take place to the existing creek crossing structure.*
- Can contractors pump the creek from a downstream portion?
  - Answer: *This would come from downstream property owners' clearance which we do not have.*
- Is the construction start deadline is Nov. 30th or Dec. 1st ?
  - Answer: *The construction start deadline is Dec. 1st.*
- We need to identify how much of the top of the creek crossing is getting removed to construct structural.
  - Answer: *The 12' call out of the structural cross section does not indicate the amount of the crossing crest to be removed but the distance from retaining wall to crest tie. See structural sheets.*

Discussions

- Overall, there was a dislike for the alignment at the crossing with contractors suggesting that there should be consideration to straighten the line alignment at the creek crossing
- Contractors implied that 0.2% slope would be hard to accomplish on the bore and that increasing the slope would help keep the bore head stay on target.
- Overall, the contractors made it clear that the access points are not feasible.
    - Creek Rd: Too little space on Creek Rd and loading on crossing.
    - Temp Access: Would need to be graded, with a 20ft path being cleared and trees removed
    - Caliterra: Trees that would need to be protected are in the way. And bridge may not be able to handle loadings.
- The city demonstrated a commitment during the visit to keeping as many trees as possible and stated the contractor is to be responsible for any damages to property like trees, roads, and other infrastructure.

GENERAL NOTES

GENERAL

THESE GENERAL NOTES SHALL APPLY UNLESS SPECIFICALLY NOTED ON THE PLANS AND DETAILS. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL VERIFY ALL DIMENSIONS AND SHALL COORDINATE ALL STRUCTURAL PLANS AND DETAILS WITH THE ARCHITECTURAL DRAWINGS BEFORE STARTING WORK. THE ENGINEER SHALL BE NOTIFIED OF ANY DISCREPANCIES PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION. DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, WORKMANSHIP AND MATERIALS SHALL COMPLY WITH THE 2018 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE.

THE STRUCTURAL SYSTEM OF THIS BUILDING IS DESIGNED TO PERFORM AS A COMPLETED UNIT. PRIOR TO COMPLETION OF THE STRUCTURE, STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS MAY BE UNSTABLE AND IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CONTRACTOR TO PROVIDE TEMPORARY SHORING AND/OR BRACING AS REQUIRED FOR THE STABILITY OF THE INCOMPLETE STRUCTURE AND FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL ON-SITE PERSONNEL.

DESIGN CRITERIA

1. BUILDING CODE: 2018 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE

2. GRAVITY LOADS:

A. DEAD LOADS	
1) WATER	62.4 PCF
B. LIVE LOADS	
1) WALKWAYS	100 PSF

3. LATERAL LOADS:

A. WIND LOADS	
1) WIND SPEED	100 MPH
2) IMPORTANCE FACTOR, I	1.0
3) EXPOSURE	"B"
B. WATER	62.4 PCF
C. UNDRAINED EARTH	102 PCF
D. SEISMIC LOADS	
1) SEISMIC IMPORTANCE FACTOR	1.5
2) MAPPED SPECTRAL RESPONSE ACCELERATIONS	
A) Ss	0.070g
B) S1	0.032g
3) SEISMIC DESIGN CATEGORY	A

FOUNDATION DESIGN IS BASED ON THE GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATION AND REPORT PREPARED BY TERRACON CONSULTANTS, INC. DATED JUNE 10, 2020.

FOUNDATION NOTES

1. FOR A DISTANCE OF 5'-0" OUTSIDE THE BUILDING LINE, REMOVE AT LEAST 18" OF TOP SOIL, VEGETATION (TREE STUMPS AND MAJOR ROOT SYSTEMS SHOULD BE COMPLETELY REMOVED), DEBRIS, ETC., AND ANY ADDITIONAL AMOUNT REQUIRED TO ENSURE THAT THE FINAL GRADING WILL PROVIDE A MINIMUM OF 6" OF SELECT FILL BELOW THE BOTTOM OF THE SLAB. REMOVAL OF SURFICIAL SOIL CAN BE STOPPED IF LIMESTONE IS ENCOUNTERED.

2. REWORK AND COMPACT THE TOP 6" OF THE EXPOSED SUBGRADE TO 95% OF THE MAXIMUM DENSITY AT 2% TO 3% ABOVE OPTIMUM MOISTURE CONTENT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ASTM METHOD D 698 USING A COMPACTIVE EFFORT OF 7.16 FT-LB./CU.IN.. DO NOT ALLOW THE EXPOSED SUBGRADE TO DRY OUT PRIOR TO PLACING THE STRUCTURAL FILL.

3. FILL BACK TO REQUIRED GRADE WITH MATERIAL SELECTED AND COMPACTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS BELOW. FILL SHOULD EXTEND AT LEAST 3'-0" BEYOND THE FOUNDATION PERIMETER AND SLOPE DOWN AT NOT MORE THAN ONE TO TWO SLOPE TO NATURAL SOIL EXCEPT AT DEEP BEAM CONDITIONS.

4. SELECT FILL SHALL CONSIST OF CRUSHED LIMESTONE BASE MATERIAL MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE 2004 TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT) STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS ITEM 247, TYPE A, GRADE 3.

   NOTE: SANDY LOAM IS NOT ACCEPTABLE SELECT FILL MATERIAL OR ANY MATERIAL CONTAINING ORGANIC MATTER

5. SAMPLES OF PROPOSED SELECT FILL SHALL BE FURNISHED TO THE TESTING LABORATORY 7 DAYS PRIOR TO INSTALLATION TO PERMIT TIME FOR SPECIFICATION COMPLIANCE INSPECTION AND APPROVAL.

6. SELECT FILL SHALL BE COMPACTED IN THE FIELD IN LOOSE LIFTS NOT TO EXCEED 8" TO A MINIMUM OF 95% OF MAXIMUM LABORATORY DENSITY (FILL SHALL BE WITHIN 3% OF OPTIMUM MOISTURE CONTENT DURING COMPACTION) IN ACCORDANCE WITH TXDOT TEST METHOD TEX-113E. FIELD DENSITIES SHALL BE CHECKED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ASTM D-6938 (NUCLEAR GAUGE).

7. LABORATORY MOISTURE-DENSITY CURVE OR CURVES AS REQUIRED AND RESULTS OF AT LEAST 2 FIELD DENSITY CHECKS PER LIFT ARE TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE ARCHITECT OR ENGINEER.

8. BEAM TRENCHES SHALL BE CUT DIRECTLY INTO COMPACTED FILL TO PLAN DIMENSIONS AND SACKING OF TRENCHES WILL BE PERMITTED FOR INSIDE OF PERIMETER BEAMS. IN CASE SACKING IS USED, DENSITY TESTING WILL NOT BE PERFORMED CLOSER THAN 4'-0" FROM THE INSIDE OF THE PERIMETER BEAM FACE.

9. ALL FOUNDATION EXCAVATIONS SHALL BE EXTENDED TO FINAL GRADE AND THE FOOTINGS CONSTRUCTED AND POURED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO MINIMIZE POTENTIAL DAMAGE (DUE TO WETTING AND/OR DRYING) TO BEARING SOILS. FOUNDATION CONCRETE SHOULD NOT BE PLACED ON SOILS THAT HAVE BEEN DISTURBED BY RAINFALL OR SEEPAGE.

CONCRETE NOTES

1. ALL CONCRETE WORK SHALL CONFORM TO THE LATEST EDITION OF THE AMERICAN CONCRETE INSTITUTE (ACI) SPECIFICATION, ACI 301 AND THE BUILDING CODE REQUIREMENTS, ACI 318.

2. ALL DETAILING, FABRICATION AND ERECTION OF REINFORCING BARS, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, MUST FOLLOW THE "ACI DETAILING MANUAL", PUBLICATION SP-66, LATEST EDITION, ACI 315, LATEST EDITION, AND ACI 315R, LATEST EDITION.

3. CONCRETE SHALL HAVE A MINIMUM COMPRESSIVE STRENGTH AT 28 DAYS AS FOLLOWS:

ALL CONCRETE	4,000 PSI
MINIMUM CEMENT CONTENT	5.0 SACKS/CY
MAXIMUM WATER/CEMENT RATIO	0.55
SLUMP RANGE	3" MIN. - 5" MAX.

   TYPE F FLY ASH CAN BE SUBSTITUTED FOR CEMENT 20% TO 25% BY WEIGHT. CALCIUM CHLORIDE IS NOT ACCEPTABLE FOR USE IN MIX. FURNISH MIX DESIGNS FOR ALL CLASSES OF CONCRETE. RETAIN A QUALIFIED TESTING LABORATORY TO MAKE CONCRETE CYLINDERS AND PERFORM COMPRESSIVE TESTS. A MINIMUM OF THREE CYLINDERS SHALL BE TAKEN PER 50 CUBIC YARDS OF CONCRETE, WITH ONE TEST AT 7 DAYS AND TWO AT 28 DAYS. COARSE AND FINE AGGREGATES SHALL COME FROM SOURCES LISTED ON THE "CONCRETE RATED SOURCE QUALITY CATALOG" BY THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AS NON REACTIVE SOURCES LATEST EDITION. SOURCES OF RIVER GRAVEL AND SAND SHALL HAVE NO MARCASITE OR IRON PYRITE PRESENT AT THE PRODUCTION FACILITY.

4. REINFORCING BARS SHALL BE NEW BILLET STEEL CONFORMING TO ASTM A615, GRADE 60.

5. STANDARD PROTECTIVE COVER OF REINFORCING BARS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED SHALL BE:

SLABS ON GRADE (TOP)	2 IN.
GRADE BEAMS	
TOPS	2 IN.
SIDES	3 IN.
BOTTOMS	3 IN.
OTHER	2 IN.
WALLS	
TOPS	2 IN.
SIDES	2 IN.
BOTTOMS	2 IN.
OTHER	2 IN.

6. AT CORNERS AND "T" INTERSECTIONS OF ALL BEAMS EXTEND 4 CORNER BARS EQUAL TO THE SCHEDULED STEEL IN THE ADJACENT BEAMS 2'-0" EACH WAY, 2 BARS TOP AND 2 BARS BOTTOM. PROVIDE CORNER BARS AT ALL INTERMEDIATE REINFORCING BARS IN WALLS AND DEEP BEAMS.

7. ALL ACCESSORIES SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE "ACI DETAILING MANUAL", PUBLICATION SP-66, LATEST EDITION, ACI 315, LATEST EDITION, AND ACI 315R, LATEST EDITION. PROVIDE CONCRETE BRICK CHAIRS AT ALL BEAMS AND SLABS TO SUPPORT REINFORCING STEEL AT A SPACING NOT TO EXCEED 4'-0" O.C. IN ANY DIRECTION.

8. VERTICAL JOINTS IN FLOOR SLABS ARE TO BE SHOWN ON PLANS. NO HORIZONTAL JOINTS WILL BE PERMITTED IN SLABS OR BEAMS UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE.

9. INCLUDE AN ALLOWANCE FOR .5 TONS OF REINFORCING STEEL (ANY SIZE) TO BE USED AS DIRECTED IN THE FIELD FOR SPECIAL CONDITIONS (LABOR PLACING THE SAME TO BE INCLUDED). UPON COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT REBATE ANY AMOUNT REMAINING TO THE OWNER.

10. LAP LENGTHS FOR BARS SCHEDULED AND DETAILED "CONT." SHALL BE:

    FOR 4000 PSI CONCRETE

#4 BARS - 25 INCHES	#7 BARS - 54 INCHES
#5 BARS - 31 INCHES	#8 BARS - 62 INCHES
#6 BARS - 37 INCHES	#9 BARS - 70 INCHES

   LAP LENGTH FOR WELDED WIRE REINFORCEMENT SHALL BE EQUAL TO A DISTANCE OF TWO TIMES THE MESH SIZE OPENING.

11. CONCRETE PLACED BY PUMPING SHALL MEET THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS:

    A) COARSE AGGREGATE SHALL BE GRADED FROM A MAXIMUM OF 1" DOWN.
    B) MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE INCREASE IN CEMENT FACTOR SHALL BE 1/2 SACK PER CUBIC YARD OVER NORMAL MIX DESIGN.
    C) MAXIMUM WATER CEMENT RATIO SHALL CONFORM TO NOTE 3 OF THIS SECTION. IF MORE WORKABILITY IS REQUIRED, AN ADMIXTURE MAY BE USED.
    D) MAXIMUM WEIGHT RATIO OF FINE AGGREGATES TO COARSE AGGREGATES SHALL NOT EXCEED 2/3.
    E) REFER TO ACI 301-05, SECTION 800, FOR OTHER PUMPING REQUIREMENTS.

12. WELDING OR HEAT BENDING OF REINFORCING BARS SHALL NOT BE PERMITTED, UNLESS APPROVED BY THE ENGINEER.

13. PROVIDE 3 - 3'-0" LONG #4 DIAGONAL REINFORCING BARS AT ALL REENTRANT CORNERS.

14. DURING PLACEMENT OF CONCRETE, USE A TREMIE OR OTHER MEANS TO LIMIT FREE FALL OF CONCRETE TO 5'-0".

15. EXTEND ALL GRADE BEAMS A MINIMUM OF 2'-0" BELOW EXISTING GRADE.

16. CONCRETE SHALL BE CONTINUOUSLY CURED FOR A PERIOD OF 7 DAYS FOLLOWING PLACEMENT BY ANY OF THE FOLLOWING METHODS:
    A) FOGGING WITH WATER
    B) APPLYING AN APPROVED SPRAY ON CONCRETE CURING COMPOUND
    C) COVERING WITH A POLY MEMBRANE

17. HOT WEATHER CONCRETE:

    THE TEMPERATURE OF CONCRETE AS PLACED SHALL NOT EXCEED 90°F UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED OR PERMITTED. LOSS OF SLUMP, FLASH SET, OR COLD JOINTS DUE TO TEMPERATURE OF CONCRETE AS PLACED WILL NOT BE ACCEPTABLE. WHEN TEMPERATURE OF CONCRETE EXCEEDS 90°F, OBTAIN ACCEPTANCE, WHEN REQUIRED, OF PROPOSED PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES. WHEN TEMPERATURE OF STEEL REINFORCEMENT IS GREATER THAN 120°F, FOG STEEL REINFORCEMENT, EMBEDMENTS, SUBGRADE AND FORMS WITH WATER IMMEDIATELY BEFORE PLACING CONCRETE. REMOVE STANDING WATER BEFORE PLACING CONCRETE. REDUCE TIME BETWEEN PLACING AND START OF CURING BY AVOIDING DELAYS DURING CONSTRUCTION. IN THE EVENT OF ANY DELAY DURING CONSTRUCTION PROTECT CONCRETE WITH TEMPORARY COVERINGS, SUCH AS POLYETHYLENE SHEETING OR SPRAY APPLY AN EVAPORATION RETARDER IMMEDIATELY AFTER FINISHING TO MINIMIZE EVAPORATION. APPLY A SUITABLE CURING MATERIAL SUCH AS A CURING COMPOUND, WET BURLAP, OR CURING PAPER.

CONSTRUCTION JOINTS

1. WALL JOINTS ARE NOTED ON PLANS.

2. SLAB JOINTS ARE NOT PERMITTED UNLESS APPROVED BY ENGINEER.

3. HORIZONTAL JOINTS IN WALLS ARE NOT ALLOWED.

POST-INSTALLED ANCHORS BY SIMPSON

1. POST-INSTALLED ANCHORS SHALL ONLY BE USED WHERE SPECIFIED ON THE CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS.

   a. ADHESIVE ANCHORS SHALL HAVE BEEN TESTED AND QUALIFIED FOR USE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ICC-ES AC308 FOR CRACKED AND UNCRACKED CONCRETE RECOGNITION. PRE-APPROVED ADHESIVE ANCHORS INCLUDE:

      (1) SIMPSON STRONG-TIE "SET-XP" (ICC-ES ESR-2508)

2. REINFORCING BARS TO BE USED IN AN ADHESIVE ANCHOR ASSEMBLY SHALL CONFORM TO ASTM A615 GRADE 60.

REQUIRED SPECIAL INSPECTIONS

IN ADDITION TO THE REGULAR INSPECTIONS REQUIRED BY SECTION 109 OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE, THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ALSO REQUIRE SPECIAL INSPECTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 1704

ITEM	SECTION
SOILS COMPLIANCE PRIOR TO FOUNDATION INSPECTION	1704.7
STRUCTURAL CONCRETE OVER 2500 PSI	1704.4
ANCHOR BOLTS, EXPANSION ANCHORS, AND EPOXY ANCHORS IN CONCRETE	1704.4

DUTY OF CONTRACTOR WITH RESPECT TO SPECIAL INSPECTIONS

1. CONTRACTOR SHALL COMMUNICATE AND COORDINATE WORK SCHEDULE WITH ARCHITECT SO THAT SPECIAL INSPECTIONS CAN BE ARRANGED BY ARCHITECT/OWNER. CONTRACTOR SHALL NOTIFY ARCHITECT OF WORK REQUIRING SPECIAL INSPECTIONS 7 DAYS PRIOR TO THE WORK BEING EXECUTED.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SPECIAL INSPECTOR

1. THE SPECIAL INSPECTOR SHALL OBSERVE THE WORK ASSIGNED TO BE CERTAIN IT CONFORMS WITH THE APPROVED DESIGN DRAWINGS AND SPECIFICATION.

2. THE SPECIAL INSPECTOR SHALL FURNISH INSPECTION REPORTS TO THE REGISTERED DESIGN PROFESSIONAL IN CHARGE. ALL DISCREPANCIES SHALL BE BROUGHT TO THE IMMEDIATE ATTENTION OF THE CONTRACTOR FOR CORRECTION. THEN IF UNCORRECTED, TO THE DESIGN AUTHORITY AND THE BUILDING OFFICIAL.

3. UPON COMPLETION OF INSPECTIONS THE REGISTERED DESIGN PROFESSIONAL IN CHARGE SHALL COMPLETE AND SIGN THE APPROPRIATE FORMS CERTIFYING THAT TO THE BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE THE WORK IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE APPROVED PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND THE APPLICABLE WORKMANSHIP PROVISIONS OF THE CODE.

STATE OF TEXAS
KEVIN O'SANOVA
54926
LICENSED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER
09-18-25

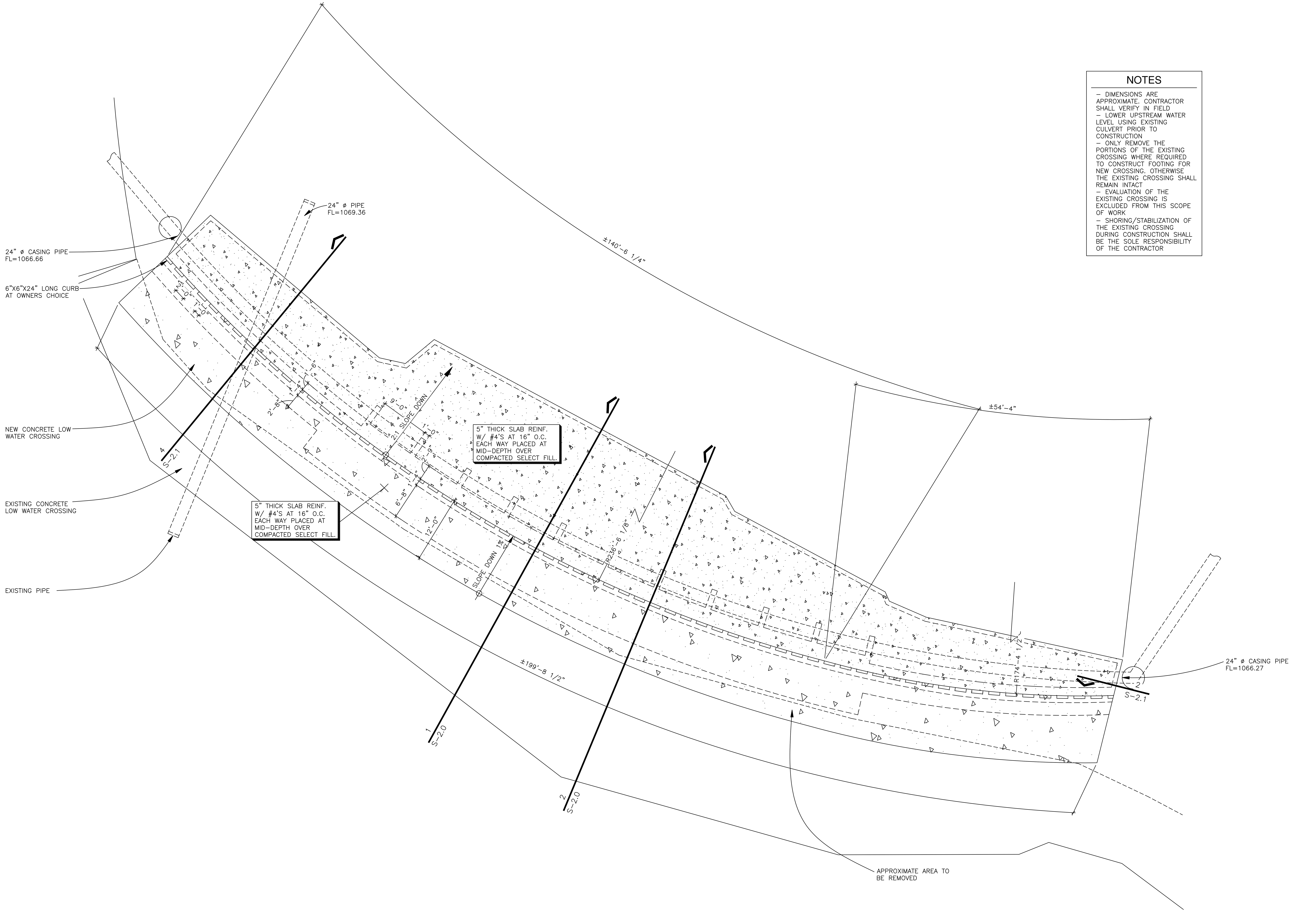
SMITH STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS
9701 BRODIE LN., SUITE A-204 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78748
PHONE: 512-478-5281 FAX: 512-381-0127 REG. #F-3907

CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS
DS 10 LOW WATER CROSSING
DRIPPING SPRINGS, TEXAS

DATE	09-18-25
PROJECT NUMBER	19080
REVISIONS	
1	10-20-25

GENERAL NOTES

S-0

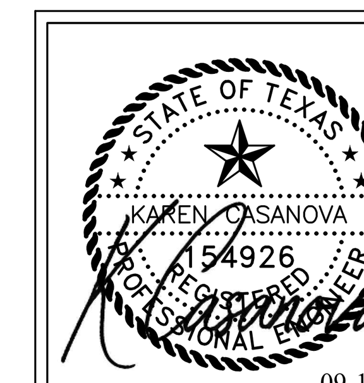


CREEK CROSSING PLAN

1/8" = 1'-0"

NOTES

- DIMENSIONS ARE APPROXIMATE. CONTRACTOR SHALL VERIFY IN FIELD
- LOWER UPSTREAM WATER LEVEL USING EXISTING CULVERT PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION
- ONLY REMOVE THE PORTIONS OF THE EXISTING CROSSING WHERE REQUIRED TO CONSTRUCT FOOTING FOR NEW CROSSING. OTHERWISE THE EXISTING CROSSING SHALL REMAIN INTACT
- EVALUATION OF THE EXISTING CROSSING IS EXCLUDED FROM THIS SCOPE OF WORK
- SHORING/STABILIZATION OF THE EXISTING CROSSING DURING CONSTRUCTION SHALL BE THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CONTRACTOR



09-18-25

SMITH STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS
9701 BRODIE LN., SUITE A-204 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78748
PHONE: 512-478-5281 FAX: 512-381-0127 REG. #F-3907

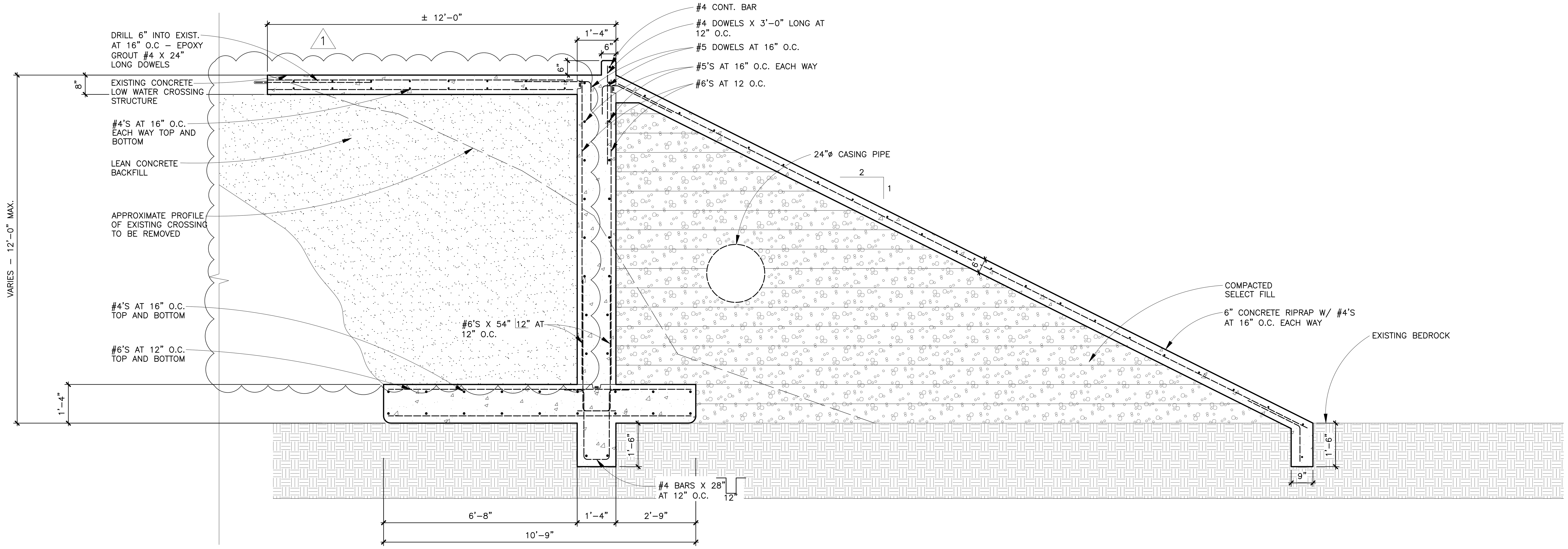
CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS
DS 10 LOW WATER CROSSING

DRIPPING SPRINGS, TEXAS

DATE	09-18-25
PROJECT NUMBER	19080
REVISIONS	
△1	10-20-25

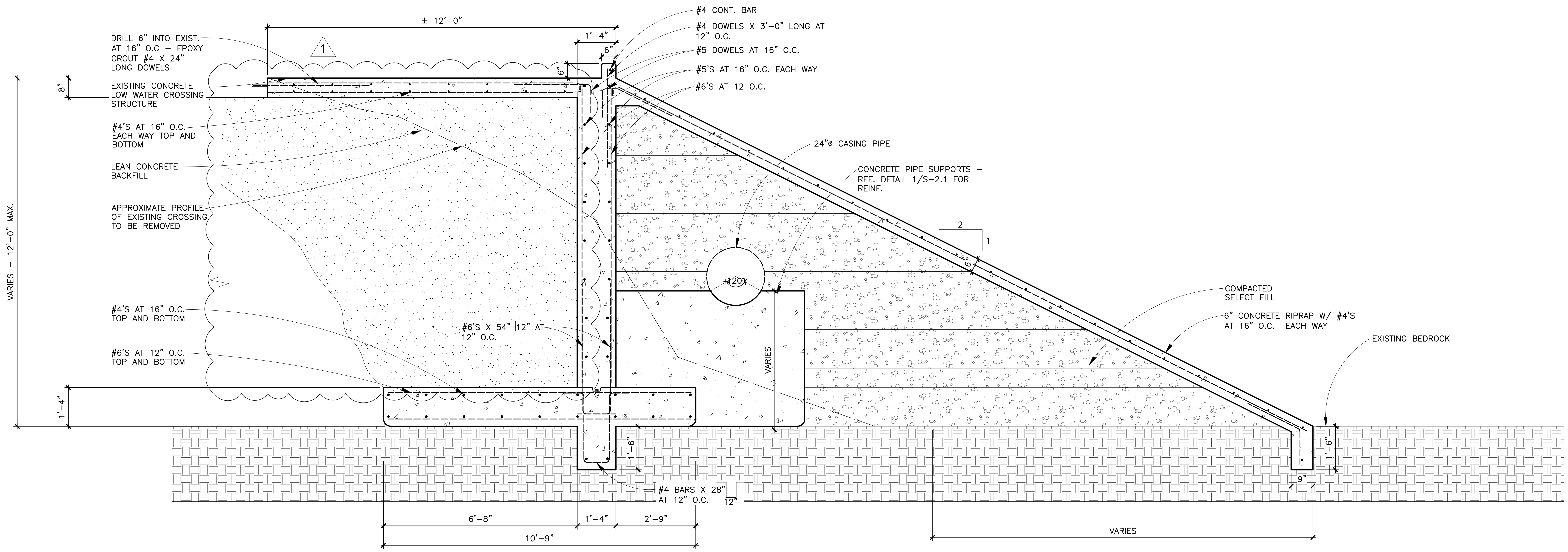
CREEK CROSSING PLAN

S-1



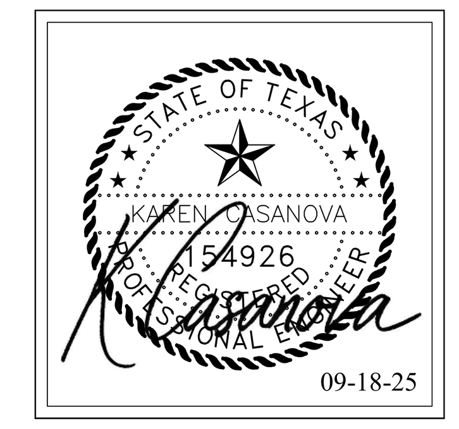
1. CROSSING SECTION

1/2" = 1'-0"



2. CROSSING SECTION THRU PIPE SUPPORT

1/2" = 1'-0"



SMITH STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS
9701 BRODIE LN, SUITE A-204 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78748
PHONE: 512-478-5281 FAX: 512-381-0127 REG. #F-3907

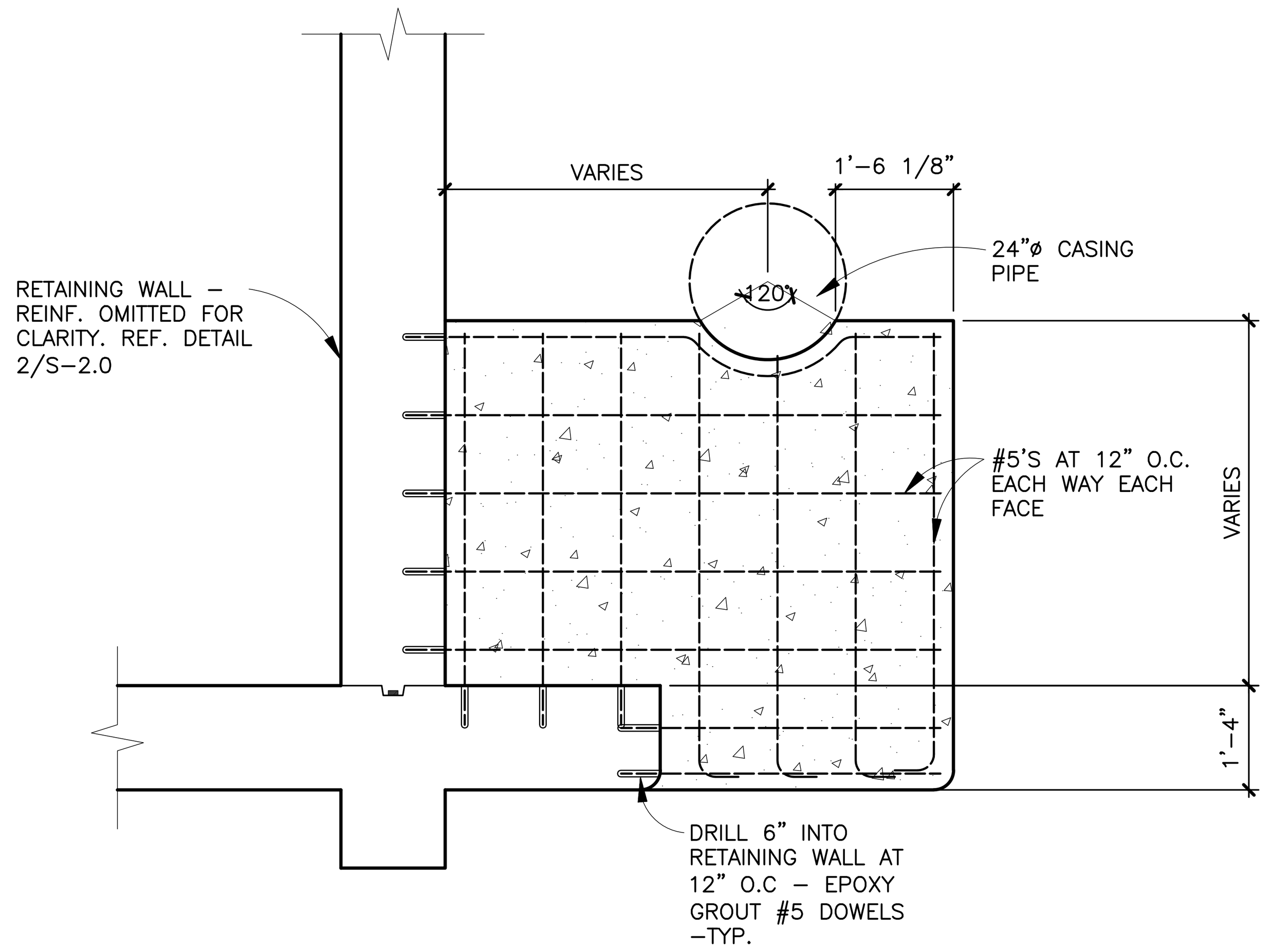
CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS
DS 10 LOW WATER CROSSING

DRIPPING SPRINGS, TEXAS

DATE	09-18-25
PROJECT NUMBER	19080
REVISIONS	
1	10-20-25

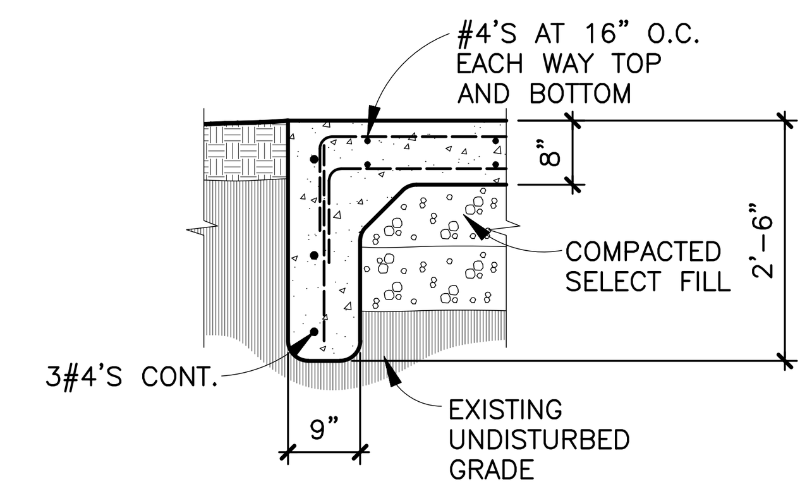
SECTIONS

S-2.0



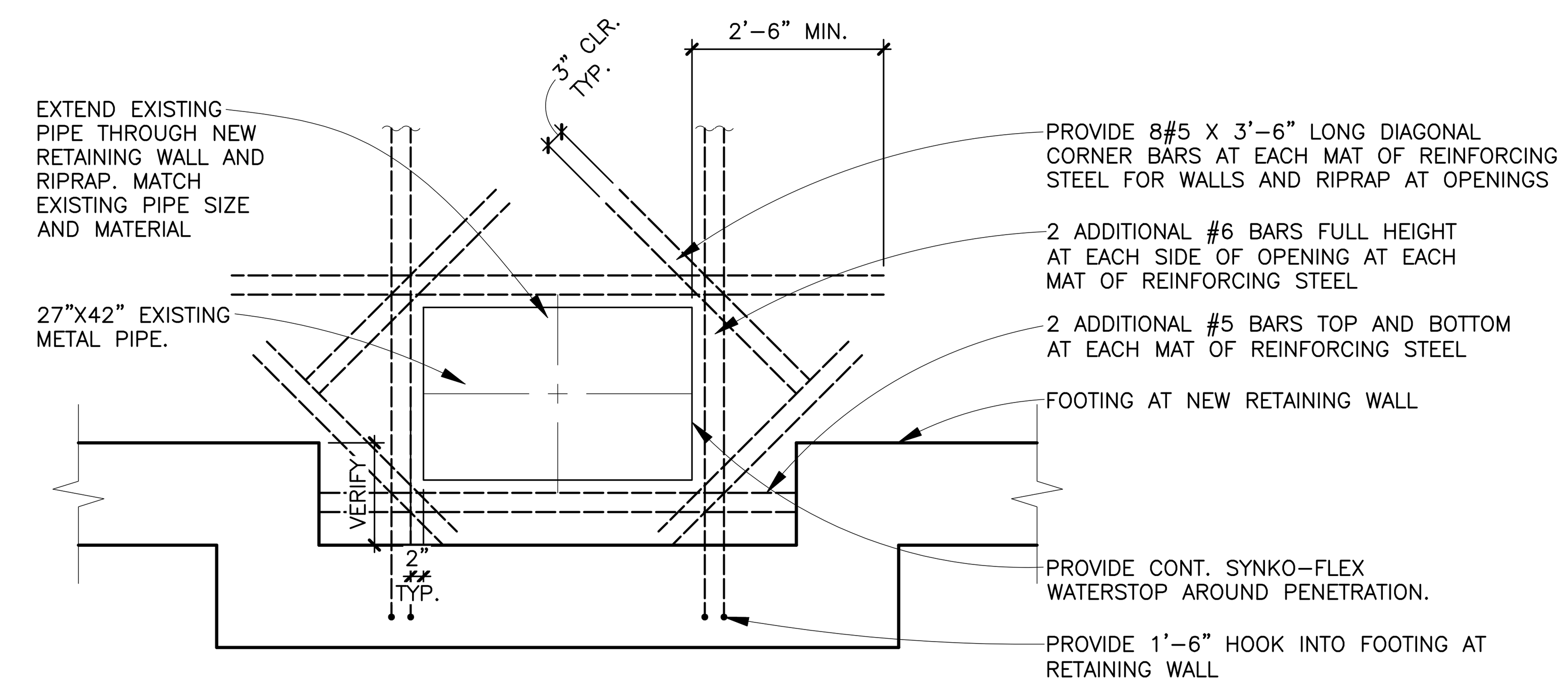
1. PIPE SUPPORT DETAIL

1/2" = 1'-0"



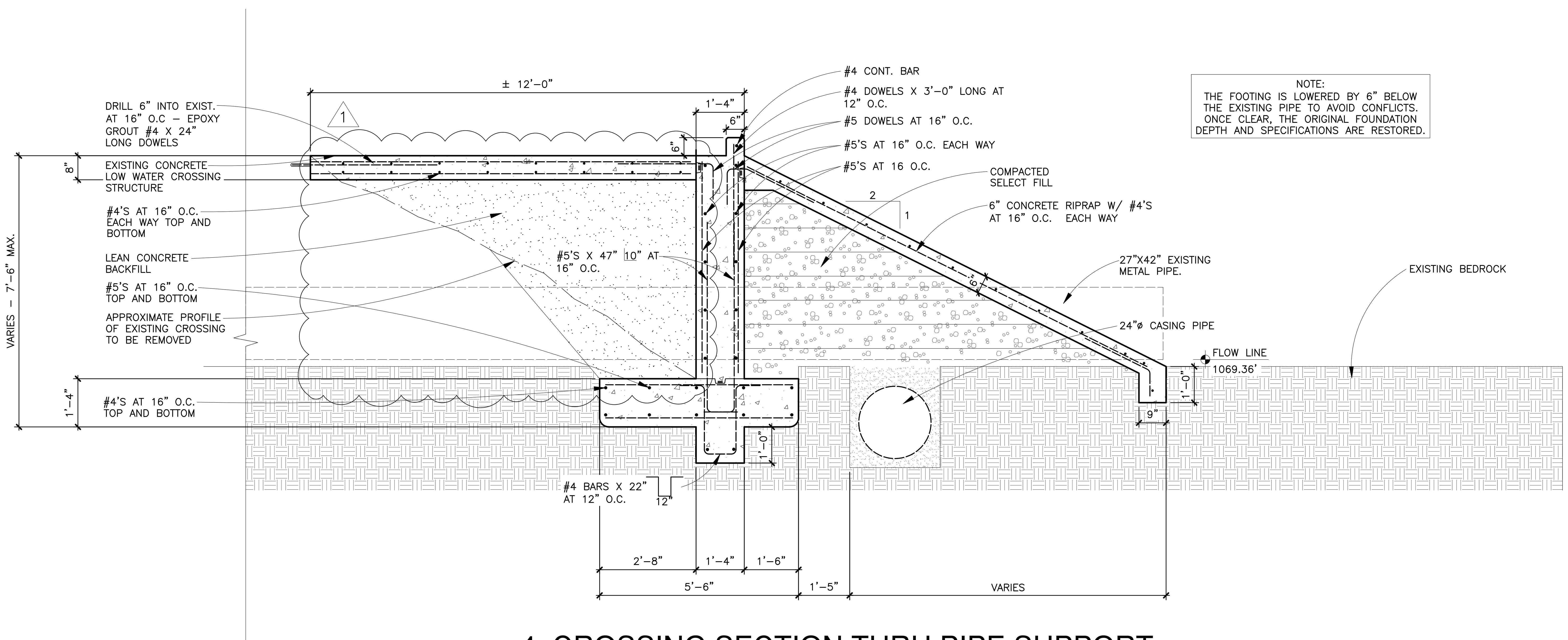
2. EXTERIOR BEAM

1/2" = 1'-0"



3. TYP. REINF. DETAIL AT EXIST. PIPE PENETRATIONS

NO SCALE



4. CROSSING SECTION THRU PIPE SUPPORT

1/2" = 1'-0"

STATE OF TEXAS
KAREN CASANOVA
154926
LICENSED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER
09-18-25

SMITH STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS
9701 BRODIE LN., SUITE A-204 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78748
PHONE: 512-478-5281 FAX: 512-381-0127 REG. #F-3907

CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS DS 10 LOW WATER CROSSING

DRIPPING SPRINGS, TEXAS

DATE	09-18-25
PROJECT NUMBER	19080
REVISIONS	
1	10-20-25

SECTIONS

S-2.1

This document has important legal consequences; consultation with an attorney is encouraged with respect to its use or modification. This document should be adapted to the particular circumstances of the contemplated Project and the controlling Laws and Regulations.

BID FORM FOR CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT

Prepared By

EJCDC®
ENGINEERS JOINT CONTRACT DOCUMENTS COMMITTEE

ACEC
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF ENGINEERING COMPANIES

ASCE
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

NSPE®
NATIONAL SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS

Endorsed By

CSI®
Building Knowledge
Improving Project Delivery

NUCA
We Dig America

National Society of Professional Engineers

1420 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314-2794

(703) 684-2882

www.nspe.org

American Council of Engineering Companies

1015 15th Street N.W., Washington, DC 20005

(202) 347-7474

www.acec.org

American Society of Civil Engineers

1801 Alexander Bell Drive, Reston, VA 20191-4400

(800) 548-2723

www.asce.org

NOTE: EJCDC publications may be purchased at www.ejcdc.org, or from any of the sponsoring organizations above.

BID FORM FOR CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT

The terms used in this Bid with initial capital letters have the meanings stated in the Instructions to Bidders, the General Conditions, and the Supplementary Conditions.

ARTICLE 1—OWNER AND BIDDER

1.01 Sealed bids in envelopes are due at the Office of the Engineer: Burgess & Niple, Inc. located at 235 Ledge Stone Drive, Austin, Texas 78737, (512) 432-1000 no later than 10:00 a.m. on Friday, October 24, 2025.

1.02 The undersigned Bidder proposes and agrees, if this Bid is accepted, to enter into an Agreement with Owner in the form included in the Bidding Documents to perform all Work as specified or indicated in the Bidding Documents for the prices and within the times indicated in this Bid and in accordance with the other terms and conditions of the Bidding Documents.

ARTICLE 2—ATTACHMENTS TO THIS BID

2.01 The following documents are submitted with and made a condition of this Bid:

A. Required Bid security;

B. List of Proposed Subcontractors;

C. List of Proposed Suppliers;

D. Evidence of authority to do business in the state of the Project; or a written covenant to obtain such authority within the time for acceptance of Bids; Notably, SAM authorization.

E. Contractor’s license number as evidence of Bidder’s State Contractor’s License or a covenant by Bidder to obtain said license within the time for acceptance of Bids;

F. Required Bidder Qualification Statement with supporting data; and

G. Proposer's Certifications (WRD-255) regarding Equal Employment Opportunity and Non-Segregated Facilities

H. Affirmative Steps Solicitation Report (TWDB-0216)

I. Participation Summary (TWDB-0373)

J. Prime Contractor Affirmative Steps Certification and Goals (TWDB-0217)

K. Vendor Compliance with Non-Resident Bidding Requirements (TWDB-0459)

L. Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension and Other Responsibility Matters, SRF-404

M. Certification Regarding Lobbying (WRD-213)

N. Disclosure Of Lobbying Activity (SF-LLL)

O. Certification Of Interested Parties (Texas Ethics Commission Form 1295) – completed online

P. Conflict of Interest Form

ARTICLE 3—BASIS OF BID—UNIT PRICES

3.01 *Unit Price Bids*

A. Bidder will perform the following Work at the indicated unit prices:

	Bid Items	**Unit**	**No.**	**Unit Price**	**Subtotal**
1.	Mobilization	LS	1		
	SITEWORK / EARTHWORK & CONTROLS				
2.	Stabilized Construction Entrance	EA	5		
3.	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan	LS	1		
4.	Clearing & Grubbing	AC	15		
5.	Subgrade Preparation	SY	251		
6.	8” Compacted Road Base	SY	251		
7.	Dry 6” Rock Rip Rap, on Filter Fabric	SY	23		
8.	Silt Fencing	LF	7,708		
9.	Rock Berm	LF	120		
10.	Barbed Wire and Woven Fence	LF	1,141		
11.	Barbed Wire and Woven Fence Gate	EA	4		
12.	Temporary Commercial Driveway Excavation and Embankment	LS	1		
13.	Drainage Crossings	EA	4		
14.	Concrete Washout Pit	EA	5		
15.	Traffic Control	LS	1		
16.	Hot Mix Asphaltic Concrete pavement, 2” Type D	SY	141		
17.	Tree Removal	LS	1		
18.	Tree Protection	LF	660		
19.	Remove & Replace Concrete drive as necessary for receiving pit	LS	1		
20.	Revegetation	AC	15		

21.	Revegetate Cypress Fork Ranch – Giant Coastal Bermuda	SY	365		
22.	Clay Trench Dam	EA	17		
23.	Temporary Access Road Improvements (Clearing/Grubbing, Revegetation/Restoration)	LS	1		
	COLLECTION SYSTEM				
24.	12” PVC Gravity Main (0’-6’)	LF	68		
25.	12” PVC Gravity Main (16’-18’)	LF	64		
26.	15” PVC Gravity Main (10’-12’)	LF	33		
27.	15” PVC Gravity Main (12’-14’)	LF	50		
28.	15” PVC Gravity Main (14’-16’)	LF	17		
29.	15” PVC Gravity Main (16’-18’)	LF	28		
30.	18” PVC Gravity Main (10’-12’)	LF	278		
31.	18” PVC Gravity Main (12’-14’)	LF	1,087		
32.	18” PVC Gravity Main (14’-16’)	LF	464		
33.	18” PVC Gravity Main (16’-18’)	LF	1,330		
34.	18” PVC Gravity Main (18’-20’)	LF	171		
35.	21” PVC Gravity Main (10’-12’)	LF	567		
36.	21” PVC Gravity Main (12’-14’)	LF	852		
37.	21” PVC Gravity Main (14’-16’)	LF	619		
38.	21” PVC Gravity Main (16’-18’)	LF	436		
39.	21” PVC Gravity Main (18’-20’)	LF	713		
40.	24" PVC Gravity Main (8'-10')	LF	379		
41.	24" PVC Gravity Main (10'-12')	LF	84		
42.	24" PVC Gravity Main (12'-14')	LF	107		
43.	24" PVC Gravity Main (14'-16')	LF	94		
44.	24" PVC Gravity Main (16'-18')	LF	234		

45.	24" PVC Gravity Main (18'-20')	LF	192		
46.	12” PVC Stub-Out (10’-12’) Connect to Manhole W-30	LF	10		
47.	Bore & Jack 30” Steel Casing/15” PVC Carrier w/ Joint Restraints	LF	92		
48.	Onion Creek Low Water Crossing Gate Remove & Replace	LS	1		
49.	35’ x 14’ Bore Pit	EA	1		
50.	10’ X 14’ Receiving Pit	EA	1		
51.	Standard Precast Manhole w/ Precast Base, 5’ Diameter	EA	16		
52.	Standard Precast Vented Manhole w/ Precast Base, 5’ Diameter	EA	6		
53.	External Drop Manhole, 5’ Diameter	EA	1		
54.	5’ Manhole (Extra Depth)	VF	183		
55.	Tie Into Existing (4’) Manhole	EA	1		
56.	Free Standing Livestock Fencing	LF	280		
57.	Trench Safety	LF	7,714		
58.	Television Testing	LF	7,602		
59.	Mandrel Testing	LF	7,517		
60.	Manhole Vacuum Testing	EA	23		
61.	Owner Contingency Allowance	LS	1	**$250,000**	**$250,000**
	ALTERNATE BID ITEMS				
62.	Reinforced Creek Crossing Structure (Including cofferdam, dewatering and/or bypass, concrete break testing, filtration sock, culvert extension and all related items)	LS	1		
63.	16” HDPE Gravity Main (0’-8’)	LF	197		
64.	24” HDPE Casing Pipe w/ Spacer	LF	197		
65.	Television Testing	LF	197		
66.	Mandrel Testing	LF	197		

67.	Concrete Polymer External Drop Manhole, 5' Diameter	EA	1		
68.	24" to 15" Reducer and Connection to Stub-Out in Lieu of Coring MH 'W-10'	LS	1		

Bid Items Notes

1. All excess material will be hauled offsite & disposed of - no separate pay.
2. Bypass pumping is based on an Onion Creek flow rate of 1 cfs.
3. Contractor to verify quantities during the bid process. No adjustments will be made for discrepancies between the plans and quantities.
4. An allowance for Trench Dewatering will be allocated in the amount of $250,000. The dewatering approach will need to be verified with the Engineer and/or City prior to installation. (This amount should cover all labor, equipment, discharge management, monitoring, compliance activities) Records for dewatering cost will need to be maintained by the contractor as well as dewatering logs.
5. Reinforced Creek Crossing Structure permit may not be secured until April 2026. Bidders shall base their proposals on constructing the remainder of the collection system as shown in the Contract Documents, excluding work associated with the creek crossing structure until such time as the permit is obtained. Bidders shall not include any costs for delays, remobilization, or standby time related to this alternate item in their base bid.

B. Bidder acknowledges that:

1. Each Bid Unit Price includes an amount considered by Bidder to be adequate to cover Contractor's overhead and profit for each separately identified item, and
2. Estimated quantities are not guaranteed and are solely for the purpose of comparison of Bids, and final payment for all Unit Price Work will be based on actual quantities, determined as provided in the Contract Documents.
3. Alternate work items are not part of the "Total Bid Price", but may be added to the work at the discretion of the owner

3.02 *Total Bid Price*

Total Bid Price (Total of all Unit Price Bids Items 1 – 61)	$

ARTICLE 4—TIME OF COMPLETION

4.01 Bidder agrees that the Work will be substantially complete and will be completed and ready for final payment in accordance with Paragraph 15.06 of the General Conditions on or before the dates or within the number of calendar days indicated in the Agreement.

4.02 Bidder accepts the provisions of the Agreement as to liquidated damages.

ARTICLE 5—BIDDER'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: ACCEPTANCE PERIOD, INSTRUCTIONS, AND RECEIPT OF ADDENDA

5.01 *Bid Acceptance Period*

A. This Bid will remain subject to acceptance for 60 days after the Bid opening, or for such longer period of time that Bidder may agree to in writing upon request of Owner.

5.02 *Instructions to Bidders*

A. Bidder accepts all of the terms and conditions of the Instructions to Bidders, including without limitation those dealing with the disposition of Bid security.

5.03 *Receipt of Addenda*

A. Bidder hereby acknowledges receipt of the following Addenda:

Addendum Number	Addendum Date

ARTICLE 6—BIDDER'S REPRESENTATIONS AND CERTIFICATIONS

6.01 *Bidder's Representations*

A. In submitting this Bid, Bidder represents the following:

1. Bidder has examined and carefully studied the Bidding Documents, including Addenda.
2. Bidder has visited the Site, conducted a thorough visual examination of the Site and adjacent areas, and become familiar with the general, local, and Site conditions that may affect cost, progress, and performance of the Work.
3. Bidder is familiar with all Laws and Regulations that may affect cost, progress, and performance of the Work.
4. Bidder has carefully studied the reports of explorations and tests of subsurface conditions at or adjacent to the Site and the drawings of physical conditions relating to existing surface or subsurface structures at the Site that have been identified in the

Supplementary Conditions, with respect to the Technical Data in such reports and drawings.

5. Bidder has carefully studied the reports and drawings relating to Hazardous Environmental Conditions, if any, at or adjacent to the Site that have been identified in the Supplementary Conditions, with respect to Technical Data in such reports and drawings.

6. Bidder has considered the information known to Bidder itself; information commonly known to contractors doing business in the locality of the Site; information and observations obtained from visits to the Site; the Bidding Documents; and the Technical Data identified in the Supplementary Conditions or by definition, with respect to the effect of such information, observations, and Technical Data on (a) the cost, progress, and performance of the Work; (b) the means, methods, techniques, sequences, and procedures of construction to be employed by Bidder, if selected as Contractor; and (c) Bidder's (Contractor's) safety precautions and programs.

7. Based on the information and observations referred to in the preceding paragraph, Bidder agrees that no further examinations, investigations, explorations, tests, studies, or data are necessary for the performance of the Work at the Contract Price, within the Contract Times, and in accordance with the other terms and conditions of the Contract.

8. Bidder is aware of the general nature of work to be performed by Owner and others at the Site that relates to the Work as indicated in the Bidding Documents.

9. Bidder has given Engineer written notice of all conflicts, errors, ambiguities, or discrepancies that Bidder has discovered in the Bidding Documents, and of discrepancies between Site conditions and the Contract Documents, and the written resolution thereof by Engineer is acceptable to Contractor.

10. The Bidding Documents are generally sufficient to indicate and convey understanding of all terms and conditions for performance and furnishing of the Work.

11. The submission of this Bid constitutes an incontrovertible representation by Bidder that without exception the Bid and all prices in the Bid are premised upon performing and furnishing the Work required by the Bidding Documents.

6.02 *Bidder's Certifications*

A. The Bidder certifies the following:

1. This Bid is genuine and not made in the interest of or on behalf of any undisclosed individual or entity and is not submitted in conformity with any collusive agreement or rules of any group, association, organization, or corporation.

2. Bidder has not directly or indirectly induced or solicited any other Bidder to submit a false or sham Bid.

3. Bidder has not solicited or induced any individual or entity to refrain from bidding.

4. Bidder has not engaged in corrupt, fraudulent, collusive, or coercive practices in competing for the Contract. For the purposes of this Paragraph 8.02.A:

a. Corrupt practice means the offering, giving, receiving, or soliciting of anything of value likely to influence the action of a public official in the bidding process.

b. Fraudulent practice means an intentional misrepresentation of facts made (a) to influence the bidding process to the detriment of Owner, (b) to establish bid prices at artificial non-competitive levels, or (c) to deprive Owner of the benefits of free and open competition.

c. Collusive practice means a scheme or arrangement between two or more Bidders, with or without the knowledge of Owner, a purpose of which is to establish bid prices at artificial, non-competitive levels.

d. Coercive practice means harming or threatening to harm, directly or indirectly, persons or their property to influence their participation in the bidding process or affect the execution of the Contract.

The remainder of this page has been left blank

BIDDER hereby submits this Bid as set forth above:

Bidder:

_____

(typed or printed name of organization)

By: _____

(individual's signature)

Name: _____

(typed or printed)

Title: _____

(typed or printed)

Date: _____

(typed or printed)

If Bidder is a corporation, a partnership, or a joint venture, attach evidence of authority to sign.

Attest: _____

(individual's signature)

Name: _____

(typed or printed)

Title: _____

(typed or printed)

Date: _____

(typed or printed)

Address for giving notices:

_____

_____

Bidder's Contact:

Name: _____

(typed or printed)

Title: _____

(typed or printed)

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Address:

_____

_____

_____

Bidder's Contractor License No.: (if applicable) _____

Monthly Davis-Bacon Wage Rate Certificate of Compliance Submittal by Owner (Subrecipient)

TWDB Project No. _____

Loan No. _____

This executed certificate must be submitted with each Outlay report for labor included within construction contracts.

I,_____, _____
(Name) (Title)
_____ hereby certify that periodic reviews of a
(Name of entity)
representative sample of the weekly payroll data, and contractor weekly payroll certifications, such as OMB No. 1235-0008, have been performed to verify that contractors and subcontractors are paying the appropriate wage rate for compliance with section 513 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1372) for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund or with section 1450(e) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C.300j-9(e)) for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. These laws require payment of prevailing wages in accordance with 40 U.S.C. §§ 3141–3144, 3146, and 3147 (contained within the Davis-Bacon Act, as amended).

I understand that a false statement herein may subject me to penalties under federal and state laws relating to filing false statements and other relevant statutes.

_____ _____
Signature Date

Texas Water Development Board

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

March 11, 2021

TO: ALL POTENTIALLY INTERESTED PARTIES

RE: City of Dripping Springs, Hays County, Texas
TWDB CWSRF Project No. 73819
South Regional Wastewater Facilities Expansion
West Interceptor Lift Station, Reclaimed Waterline, Holding Pond, Pump Station, and Water Reclamation Facility Upgrades

The attached document is being provided for your information. This is not a permit application. No action is required from your agency.

The attached document is an environmental determination issued by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for a proposed project to be funded through the TWDB. Pursuant to the environmental assessment requirements of 31 Texas Administrative Code § 375.61, the Executive Administrator of the TWDB has determined that the proposed action described in the attached documents is consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Coordination with the appropriate regulatory agencies and a public meeting were part of this determination.

Documentation supporting this decision is on file in the offices of the TWDB and is available for public review upon request. After evaluating the comments received, the Executive Administrator will make a final determination. However, no action regarding the provision of federal financial assistance for the project will be taken for at least thirty (30) calendar days after release of this Finding of No Significant Impact. Comments supporting or disagreeing with this preliminary environmental determination may be submitted to the Director, 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 .

Texas Water Development Board

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

March 11, 2021

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES AND PUBLIC GROUPS:

As required by the rules of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), 31 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) § 375.61, an environmental review consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 United States Code § 4321 *et seq*., has been performed on the project below. This project is proposed to be funded through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Equivalency Program which is administered by the TWDB.

City of Dripping Springs, Hays County, Texas
TWDB CWSRF Project No. 73819
South Regional Wastewater Facilities Expansion
West Interceptor Lift Station, Reclaimed Waterline, Holding Pond, Pump Station, and Water Reclamation Facility Upgrades
Total Financing Amount: $44,395,000
(LM19993, LM21993, LM20993, and LF1000993)

The City of Dripping Springs (City) is proposing to use $ 44,395,000 in financing from the CWSRF program for the South Regional Wastewater Facilities Expansion project for: (1) easement acquisition for all new wastewater lines and treated effluent lines; 2) easement acquisitions for a new effluent holding pond; 3) construction of a new 500,000-gallon-per-day biological nutrient removal wastewater treatment plant (WWTP; 4) increasing capacity at the current WWTP to a 500,000-gallon-per-day biological nutrient removal WWTP; 5) construction of an effluent holding pond with leak detection system and treated effluent pump station; 6) expanding the wastewater collection system and treated effluent distribution system; 7) extension of gravity west interceptor; 8) extension of 8-inch force main; 9) improvements to the existing West Regional Lift station; 10) construction of new South Collector Gravity Wastewater Line; 11) construction of new East Interception Gravity Wastewater Line; 12) abandonment of existing drip irrigation fields at City's existing WWTP; 13) construction of new surface irrigation at City's existing WWTP, and 14) Direct Potable Reuse project.

This Finding of No Significant Impact is completed for West Interceptor Lift Station; construction of a reclaimed waterline, reclaimed water holding pond, and pump station; abandonment of water well in the vicinity of the reclaimed water holding pond, and

expansion the existing water reclamation facility, is hereafter referred to as the proposed project. Because the proposed components are numerous and spread throughout a large area, subsequent portions of the project will be completed under separate environmental findings.

An environmental review of the proposed project consistent with NEPA has been completed following the guidelines provided in 31 TAC § 375.61. This environmental review is documented by the enclosed Environmental Assessment, which contains mitigative environmental conditions that will be applied to the project in order to avoid significant adverse environmental impacts on floodplains, cultural or historical resources, threatened or endangered species, and protected migratory bird species. The City has committed to the mitigation measures and has the ability and authority to do so. Based on a detailed environmental review of the planning information, Environmental Information Document, and other documentation, the proposed project is considered to be environmentally sound with the following conditions:

- To ensure compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, vegetation clearing will be not be performed, if possible, during the migratory bird nesting period from March 15 through September 15, to avoid adverse impacts to breeding birds. If clearing vegetation during the migratory bird nesting season is unavoidable, then a survey of the proposed project area will be conducted to ensure that no nests with eggs or young will be disturbed by operations. A minimum 150-foot buffer of vegetation remain around any nests that are observed prior to disturbance. Any vegetation (such as trees, shrubs, and grasses) or other open areas where occupied nests are located will not be disturbed until the eggs have hatched and the young have fledged;
- Compliance with the terms and conditions of United States Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit 12 for Utility Line Activities (USACE Project Number SWF-2020-00075);
- In order to comply with requirements of the Federal Emergency Management Agency regarding implementation of the Flood Insurance Act, Flood Disaster Protection Act, National Flood Insurance Reform Act, Federal Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, and to comply with related state statutes, proponents of construction projects in special flood hazard areas must coordinate in advance with the local floodplain administrator and obtain a floodplain development permit prior to construction;
- Standard emergency condition for the discovery of threatened and endangered species; and
- Standard emergency condition for the discovery of cultural resources.

Documentation supporting this decision is on file in the office of the Regional Water Project Development, TWDB, and is available for public review upon request. Comments

supporting or disagreeing with this preliminary environmental determination may be submitted to the Director, Regional Water Project Development, Texas Water Development Board, P.O. Box 13231, Austin, Texas 78711-3231. After evaluating the comments received, the Executive Administrator will make a final determination. However, no action regarding the provision of federal financial assistance for the project will be taken for at least thirty (30) calendar days after release of this Finding of No Significant Impact.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosure

Texas Water Development Board

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

City of Dripping Springs, Hays County, Texas
TWDB CWSRF Project No. 73819
South Regional Wastewater Facilities Expansion
West Interceptor Lift Station, Reclaimed Waterline, Holding Pond, Pump Station, and Water Reclamation Facility Upgrades

Environmental Assessment

BACKGROUND

The City of Dripping Springs (City) proposes to construct a new water reclamation facility, expand its collection system, expand its reclaimed water storage and distribution system, abandon the subsurface drip irrigation requirement for the existing permit, convert the subsurface irrigation system areas to surface irrigation areas, and discharge reclaimed water to Walnut Springs on an as needed basis. The Authority proposes to use $44,395,000 in financing from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Equivalency Program, which is administered by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). The Authority closed on its commitment [Commitment No. LM19993, LM21993, LM20993, and LF1000993] on April 19, 2019. The Environmental Assessment is based primarily on the Environmental Information Document (EID)[1] submitted to the TWDB by the City's consultant Horizon Environmental Services, Inc. (Horizon) and other available resources.

The current wastewater collecting system includes a 15-inch wastewater line, 12-inch wastewater line, 10-inch wastewater line, 8-inch wastewater line, and 6-inch wastewater line, an 8-inch force main, 4-inch force main, and a 2.5-inch force main, a 12-inch treated effluent line and a 6-inch treated effluent line. The current wastewater treatment facility consists of mechanical bar screens, a conventional activated sludge treatment process with coarse air bubble aeration, secondary clarification, gas chlorine disinfection, aerobic digesters/solids holding tanks, an effluent holding tank, and a drip irrigation system. Disinfected effluent is stored and applied through drip irrigation.

[1] *City of Dripping Springs* (May 2020). *Environmental Information Document (EID), South Regional Wastewater Facilities Expansion West Interceptor Lift Station, Reclaimed Waterline, Holding Pond, Pump Station, and Water Reclamation Facility Upgrade,* Prepared by Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Received by TWDB on May 21, 2020. The EID is complete with the supplementary materials regarding the abandonment of a water well submitted to the TWDB on August 24, 2020.

The City's existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) has a potential total treatment capacity of approximately 500,000 gallons per day (GPD). However, the existing equipment at the WWTP limits that plant capacity to 313,500 GPD. The average daily flow is approximately 100,000 GPD (February and March 2020).

Purpose and Need

The proposed project will result in increased capacity to accomplish the following critical goals:

- Adequately meet the needs of the existing residents and businesses within the area currently served by the System, particularly the businesses as they seek to expand; and
- Effectively and thoughtfully manage the commercial and residential growth that is occurring, regardless of whether the City expands the wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal facilities.

The City of Dripping Springs will expand the wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal facilities to keep up with the population growth occurring within the greater Dripping Springs area. The City will pursue Beneficial Reuse Authorization for its new permit through 30 TAC Chapter 210, for much of its reclaimed water which would allow the City to reuse reclaimed water for irrigation of city-owned park lands and athletic fields, and irrigation of some privately owned areas such as parks, golf courses, greenbelts, pasture lands, residential lawns, etc. in lieu of potable drinking water. The City has contracts in place for 100 percent of its reclaimed water for the permitted capacity of 822,500 GPD.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This Finding of No Significant Impact is completed for West Interceptor Lift Station; construction of a reclaimed waterline, reclaimed water holding pond, and pump station; abandonment of water well in the vicinity of the reclaimed water holding pond, and expansion of the existing water reclamation facility is hereafter referred to as the proposed project. Because the proposed components are numerous and spread throughout a large area, subsequent portions of the project will be completed under separate environmental findings.

The existing WWTP will be upgraded to a 500,000 GPD biological nutrient removal water reclamation facility. The wastewater will be disinfected prior to discharge. The reclaimed water will be disinfected using an ultraviolet (UV) system and chlorinated prior to reuse. Digesters will be used to stabilize sludge and dewatered in a sludge dewatering box prior to land fill disposal and/or transporting sludge to a sludge treatment and composting facility. A new 15,000,000-gallon effluent holding pond will be constructed.

The proposed project components included in this environmental assessment, include:

- Construct a new 399,000 GPD biological nutrient removal water reclamation facility;
- Upgrade the existing WWTP to 822,500 GPD biological nutrient removal water reclamation facility;
- Extend the existing gravity West Interceptor;
- Make improvements to the existing West Interceptor Lift Station;
- Construct a new 15,000,000-gallon effluent holding pond with a leak detection system;
- Construct a new reclaimed water pump station;
- Expand the reclaimed water distribution system; and
- Permit, pilot, and construct a new Direct Potable Reuse System.

EVALUATION OF ALTERNATIVES

In addition to the preferred action alternative, the City evaluated the no-action alternative and three alternative wastewater alignments. Each alternative was evaluated for its potential direct, secondary, and cumulative impacts on the existing environment.

No Action Alternative

The City could continue to allow the use of on-site sewage facilities (OSSFs) and other Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) permitted facilities for each development in and adjacent to the City's existing service area. However, the TCEQ prefers and encourages regional wastewater systems, not small individual systems for each development. The City also prefers a regional collection and treatment system. Additionally, nonresidential OSSFs less than 5,000 GPD will be permitted through Hays County. County permitted OSSFs would be limit to 350 GPD/acre. It is not prudent for municipal land planning to limit land use via County OSSF rules.

The No-Action Alternative will have no significant secondary and cumulative impacts to the proposed or future projects.

The No-Action Alternative was rejected because this alternative does not satisfy the stated purpose and need for the proposed project to provide adequate wastewater services to the existing and projected population growth in the Dripping Springs area.

West Interceptor Wastewater Alternative Alignments

The West Interceptor wastewater line had 3 alignment alternatives that were considered during the initial planning phases.

The first alternative consisted of the West Interceptor crossing Onion Creek three times. After field visits and evaluation of survey data, two out of three Onion Creek crossings were removed from consideration. This effectively removed two temporary impact locations along Onion Creek and minimized the impact to "waters of the US" (WOTUS).

The second alternative was redesigning the single crossing of Onion Creek. Initially, the creek crossing was proposed approximately 80 feet downstream from an existing private driveway and the preferred alignment. The initial alignment would cause a temporary impact to Onion Creek during construction.

The preferred alignment was to incorporate the wastewater line within a casing that would be attached to the existing concrete driveway. At this location, Onion Creek had already been disturbed by the existing driveway and the addition of the wastewater line would a minimal temporary impact to Onion Creek during construction.

The third modification to the alignment was the avoidance of the Feller's new private cemetery (platted, but not currently in use) and woody vegetation. The alignment was adjusted to avoid the cemetery and minimize the impact to woody vegetation along the banks of Onion Creek and private lands to the maximum extent possible.

The alternatives have been replaced with the preferred alternative that is less impactful to environmental features. The alternative not selected would have increased the impact to Onion Creek by 0.31 acres (270 linear feet) and the impact to woody vegetation by 0.20 acres.

The alternatives were not selected because the project was able to meet the stated purpose and need with the preferred alternative footprint that decreases the overall impact to the environment.

The City must expand its wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal facilities to keep up with population growth. The No Action Alternative cannot keep up with the future demands on the wastewater facility. The preferred alternative was chosen because it was the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative route, as agreed upon by participating landowners for ROW acquisition, cost efficiency, and construction feasibility.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Existing Conditions

The majority of the proposed West Interceptor wastewater line and reclaimed waterline will traverse previously cleared rangeland. Overall, a small percentage of the proposed utilities will necessity the removal or trimming of woody vegetation. The proposed Effluent Pond will be converted from upland rangeland to the pond.

The current land use within the proposed project consists of an existing WWTP, existing RR 12 ROW, and rangeland. The adjacent land use consists of single-family residences, RR 12, and rangeland.

The project consists of an extension of the West Interceptor wastewater line, expansion of the existing WWTP, and new construction of the Reclaimed Water Line and effluent pond.

Geology and Soils

The proposed project is located within the Edwards Plateau Physiographic Province of Texas. Geologically, the project is underlain by Quaternary alluvial floodplain deposits and Cretaceous upper Glen Rose limestone formation.

Alluvial floodplain deposits, including indistinct low terrace deposits consist of clay, silt, sand, and gravel; silt and clay, calcareous to surface, dark gray to dark brown; sand largely quartz; gravel, siliceous, mostly chert, quartzite, and limestone.

Glen Rose Formation consists of limestone, dolomite, and marl subdivided that is characterized by alternating resistant and recessive beds forming stairstep topography; limestone aphanitic to fine grained, hard to soft and marly, light gray to yellowish gray; dolomite, fine grained, porous, yellowish brown; marine megafossils include molluscan steinkerns, rudistids, oysters, and echinoids. The formation consists of two units that are divided by a *Corbula* fossil bed. The upper unit consists of a relatively thinner bedded, more dolomitic, and less fossiliferous than the lower part, thickness about 220 feet. The lower unit is more massive and about 160 feet thick, includes at top *Corbula* bed, with abundant steinkerns of *Corbula harveyi* in an interval up to 5 feet thick; thickness of Glen Rose Formation is approximately 380 feet.

There are no faults or other pertinent geologic features mapped in the proposed project area. The proposed project is not located in a karst or pseudo-karst zone. No direct impacts are expected as a result of the geologic setting.

Although the project footprint is located on some mapped soil units classified as Prime or Other Important Farmland this is a corridor subsurface project which is exempted and expansion of an existing facility that will not result in land use changes. Approximately 0.3 miles of the 1.8-mile-long West Interceptor are located within prime farmland and will be temporarily impacted during construction. No prime or important farmland will be permanently impacted by the proposed project.

Excess soils from the construction of the wastewater lines and effluent pond may be removed from the site and disposed of in an upland area and in an appropriate location at the discretion of the general contractor.

Water Resources

The proposed project is located in the Colorado River basin (Onion Creek-Colorado River). Aquifer located in the greater project area are Trinity Aquifer and Hickory Aquifer. There are no Environmental Protection Agency (EPA-designated) sole source aquifers in the project area.

The project involves abandonment of an existing water well. The effluent holding pond was initially designed to circumvent an existing water well, achieve balanced earthwork, and minimize the acreage of land to be acquired from the property owner. It was determined that the pond would have to be very deep to stay within the given parameters, so the decision was made to abandon the water well to allow for a shallower pond design with a larger footprint.

The on-site water well is not intended for future use and will be capped or properly abandoned according to the Administrative Rules of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, 16 TAC Chapter 76. TCEQ publication RG-347, “Landowner’s Guide to Plugging Abandoned Water Wells,” provides specific guidance.

The project includes new or relocated discharge site; however, will not require an amendment to an existing TCEQ discharge permit.

Topography and Floodplains

Elevation across the proposed project area ranges from approximately 1060 to 1140 feet above mean sea level. The topography of the project area is slightly sloping. The West Interceptor Wastewater Line is located adjacent to Onion Creek. The Reclaimed Water Line ends at an unnamed tributary of Onion Creek.

The project is partially located within the floodway and 100-year floodplain of Onion Creek. The City and Hays County participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

The West Interceptor Wastewater Line is located within the floodplain and floodway of Onion Creek. Temporary impacts to the floodplain will occur during construction due to disturbance on the land adjacent to Onion Creek. However, the floodplain of Onion Creek will not be permanently impacted as the West Interceptor Wastewater Line is a subsurface project.

Wetlands, Streams, and Waters of the United States

Onion Creek is located within (one crossing) and adjacent to the proposed West Interceptor Wastewater Line. The results of the jurisdictional delineation conducted by Horizon Environmental Services, Inc. indicate that Onion Creek is a jurisdictional waterway. The West Interceptor Wastewater Line runs parallel with and crosses Onion Creek once. The Reclaimed Water Line ends and discharges into an unnamed tributary of Onion Creek (no impact). Approximately 33 linear feet of the jurisdictional portion of Onion Creek will be temporarily impacted. No wetlands will be impacted by the proposed project.

Although the linework will cross Onion Creek that may qualify as waters of the United States, all work will be performed in compliance with Nationwide Permit 12 for Utility Line Activities. The proposed project does not trigger pre-construction notification (PCN) under Nationwide Permit (NWP) 12. However, at the request of the USACE Project Manager during the agency consultation period, Horizon submitted PCN documents. The NWP 12 was authorized on 2 April 2020. (USACE Project Number SWF-2020-00075).

Biological Elements

The proposed project area is located within the Edwards Plateau Ecological Region. A field survey was conducted on October 1 to 3, on November 4, and on November 22, 2019. The project area is dominated by upland grassland vegetation and small areas of upland woody vegetation. No parks, recreational areas, forest preserves, grassland preserves, wildlife refuges, wild or scenic rivers, karst faunal regions or zones, or nature preserves (federal, state or local; public or private) in or near the project area.

Natural vegetation and wildlife will be disrupted during construction. However, natural conditions will be returned at the completion of the construction of the West Interceptor Wastewater Line and the Reclaimed Water Line. The expansion of the wastewater treatment facility and the effluent pond will not impact wildlife and vegetation outside of the footprint of the expansion.

Thirteen federal candidate, threatened, and endangered species are listed for Hays County. No federal candidate, threatened, or endangered species were observed within the project area during the field survey. There was no designated critical habitat within the project area.

Twenty-three species are listed as state threatened or endangered in Hays County and an additional 101 species are listed as species of greatest conservation need (SGCN). Although no state rare, threatened, or endangered species were observed, potential habitat within and/or adjacent to the proposed water line easement exists for state listed species.

Databases of sensitive species maintained by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) were reviewed, to verify any state and/or federally listed threatened or endangered species that occur, or have historically occurred, in Hays County. Some of these listed species are migrants or wintering residents only or may be historic or considered extirpated. The following table from TPWD (March 2020), lists the federal or state-listed endangered, threatened, or rare species in Hays County.

Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species known to occur in Hays County

Taxon	Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	State Status
Amphibians	Barton Springs salamander	*Eurycea sosorum*	LE	E
Amphibians	Blanco blind salamander	*Eurycea robusta*		T
Amphibians	Blanco River Springs salamander	*Eurycea pterophila*		SGCN
Amphibians	San Marcos salamander	*Eurycea nana*	LT	T
Amphibians	Strecker's chorus frog	*Pseudacris streckeri*		SGCN
Amphibians	Texas blind salamander	*Eurycea rathbuni*	LE	E
Amphibians	Texas salamander	*Eurycea neotenes*		T
Amphibians	Woodhouse's toad	*Anaxyrus woodhousii*		SGCN
Arachnids	No accepted common name	*Tartarocreagris grubbsi*		SGCN
Arachnids	No accepted common name	*Texella diplospina*		SGCN

Taxon	Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	State Status
Arachnids	No accepted common name	*Texella grubbsi*		SGCN
Arachnids	No accepted common name	*Texella mulaiki*		SGCN
Arachnids	No accepted common name	*Texella renkesae*		SGCN
Arachnids	No accepted common name	*Cicurina ezelli*		SGCN
Arachnids	No accepted common name	*Cicurina russelli*		SGCN
Arachnids	No accepted common name	*Cicurina ubicki*		SGCN
Birds	Bald eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*		SGCN
Birds	Black-capped vireo	*Vireo atricapilla*		SGCN
Birds	Franklin's gull	*Leucophaeus pipixcan*		SGCN
Birds	Golden-cheeked warbler	*Setophaga chrysoparia*	LE	E
Birds	Interior least tern	*Sterna antillarum athalassos*	LE	E
Birds	Mountain plover	*Charadrius montanus*		SGCN
Birds	Piping plover	*Charadrius melodus*	LT	T
Birds	Tropical parula	*Setophaga pitiayumi*		T
Birds	Western burrowing owl	*Athene cunicularia hypugaea*		SGCN
Birds	White-faced ibis	*Plegadis chihi*		SGCN
Birds	Whooping crane	*Grus americana*	LE	E
Birds	Wood stork	*Mycteria americana*		T
Birds	Zone-tailed hawk	*Buteo albonotatus*		T
Crustaceans	Balcones Cave amphipod	*Stygobromus balconis*		SGCN
Crustaceans	Ezell's Cave amphipod	*Stygobromus flagellatus*		SGCN
Crustaceans	No accepted common name	*Artesia subterranea*		SGCN
Crustaceans	No accepted common name	*Texiweckelia texensis*		SGCN

Taxon	Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	State Status
Crustaceans	No accepted common name	*Palaemonetes texanus*		SGCN
Crustaceans	Purgatory Cave shrimp	*Calathaemon holthuisi*		SGCN
Crustaceans	Texas troglobitic water slater	*Lirceolus smithii*		SGCN
Fish	American eel	*Anguilla rostrata*		SGCN
Fish	Fountain darter	*Etheostoma fonticola*	LE	E
Fish	Guadalupe bass	*Micropterus treculii*		SGCN
Fish	Guadalupe darter	*Percina apristis*		T
Fish	Headwater catfish	*Ictalurus lupus*		T
Fish	Ironcolor shiner	*Notropis chalybaeus*		SGCN
Fish	Texas shiner	*Notropis amabilis*		SGCN
Insects	A caddisfly	*Ochrotrichia capitana*		SGCN
Insects	A caddisfly	*Neotrichia juani*		SGCN
Insects	A caddisfly	*Xiphocentron messapus*		SGCN
Insects	A cave obligate beetle	*Rhadine austinica*		SGCN
Insects	A mayfly	*Procloeon distinctum*		SGCN
Insects	American bumblebee	*Bombus pensylvanicus*		SGCN
Insects	Comal Springs diving beetle	*Comaldessus stygius*		SGCN
Insects	Comal Springs dryopid beetle	*Stygoparnus comalensis*	LE	E
Insects	Comal Springs riffle beetle	*Heterelmis comalensis*	LE	E
Insects	Edwards Aquifer diving beetle	*Haideoporus texanus*		SGCN
Insects	No accepted common name	*Rhadine insolita*		SGCN
Insects	No accepted common name	*Batrisodes grubbsi*		SGCN
Insects	No accepted common name	*Oxyelophila callista*		SGCN
Insects	No accepted common name	*Plauditus texanus*		SGCN

Taxon	Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	State Status
Insects	San Marcos saddle-case caddisfly	*Protoptila arca*		SGCN
Insects	Texas austrotinodes caddisfly	*Austrotinodes texensis*		SGCN
Mammals	American badger	*Taxidea taxus*		SGCN
Mammals	Big brown bat	*Eptesicus fuscus*		SGCN
Mammals	Big free-tailed bat	*Nyctinomops macrotis*		SGCN
Mammals	Cave myotis bat	*Myotis velifer*		SGCN
Mammals	Eastern red bat	*Lasiurus borealis*		SGCN
Mammals	Eastern spotted skunk	*Spilogale putorius*		SGCN
Mammals	Hoary bat	*Lasiurus cinereus*		SGCN
Mammals	Long-tailed weasel	*Mustela frenata*		SGCN
Mammals	Mexican free-tailed bat	*Tadarida brasiliensis*		SGCN
Mammals	Mexican long-tongued bat	*Choeronycteris mexicana*		SGCN
Mammals	Mink	*Neovison vison*		SGCN
Mammals	Mountain lion	*Puma concolor*		SGCN
Mammals	Plains spotted skunk	*Spilogale putorius interrupta*		SGCN
Mammals	Swamp rabbit	*Sylvilagus aquaticus*		SGCN
Mammals	Tricolored bat	*Perimyotis subflavus*		SGCN
Mammals	Western hog-nosed skunk	*Conepatus leuconotus*		SGCN
Mammals	Western spotted skunk	*Spilogale gracilis*		SGCN
Mammals	Woodland vole	*Microtus pinetorum*		SGCN
Mollusks	False spike mussel	*Fusconaia mitchelli*		SGCN
Mollusks	Glossy wolfsnail	*Euglandina texasiana*		SGCN
Mollusks	Golden orb	*Quadrula aurea*		T
Mollusks	Guadalupe orb	*Cyclonaias necki*		T
Mollusks	No accepted common name	*Holospira goldfussi*		SGCN
Mollusks	No accepted common name	*Millerelix gracilis*		SGCN

Taxon	Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	State Status
Mollusks	No accepted common name	*Elimia comalensis*		SGCN
Mollusks	No accepted common name	*Phreatodrobia conica*		SGCN
Mollusks	No accepted common name	*Phreatodrobia micra*		SGCN
Mollusks	No accepted common name	*Phreatodrobia plana*		SGCN
Mollusks	No accepted common name	*Phreatodrobia punctata*		SGCN
Mollusks	No accepted common name	*Phreatodrobia rotunda*		SGCN
Mollusks	Texas fatmucket	*Lampsilis bracteata*	C	T
Mollusks	Texas pimpleback	*Cyclonaias petrina*	C	T
Reptiles	Cagle's map turtle	*Graptemys caglei*		SGCN
Reptiles	Eastern box turtle	*Terrapene carolina*		SGCN
Reptiles	Keeled earless lizard	*Holbrookia propinqua*		SGCN
Reptiles	Plateau spot-tailed earless lizard	*Holbrookia lacerata*		SGCN
Reptiles	Slender glass lizard	*Ophisaurus attenuatus*		SGCN
Reptiles	Texas garter snake	*Thamnophis sirtalis annectens*		SGCN
Reptiles	Texas horned lizard	*Phrynosoma cornutum*		T
Reptiles	Texas map turtle	*Graptemys versa*		SGCN
Reptiles	Western box turtle	*Terrapene ornata*		SGCN
Reptiles	Western hognose snake	*Heterodon nasicus*		SGCN
Plants	Bigflower cornsalad	*Valerianella stenocarpa*		SGCN
Plants	Bracted twistflower	*Streptanthus bracteatus*		SGCN
Plants	Buckley tridens	*Tridens buckleyanus*		SGCN
Plants	Canyon mock-orange	*Philadelphus texensis var. ernestii*		SGCN
Plants	Engelmann's bladderpod	*Physaria engelmannii*		SGCN

Taxon	Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	State Status
Plants	Glass Mountains coral-root	*Hexalectris nitida*		SGCN
Plants	Gravelbar brickellbush	*Brickellia dentata*		SGCN
Plants	Hall's prairie clover	*Dalea hallii*		SGCN
Plants	Heller's marbleseed	*Onosmodium helleri*		SGCN
Plants	Hill Country wild-mercury	*Argythamnia aphoroides*		SGCN
Plants	Narrowleaf brickellbush	*Brickellia eupatorioides var. gracillima*		SGCN
Plants	Net-leaf bundleflower	*Desmanthus reticulatus*		SGCN
Plants	Osage Plains false foxglove	*Agalinis densiflora*		SGCN
Plants	Plateau loosestrife	*Lythrum ovalifolium*		SGCN
Plants	Plateau milkvine	*Matelea edwardsensis*		SGCN
Plants	Scarlet leather-flower	*Clematis texensis*		SGCN
Plants	Spreading leastdaisy	*Chaetopappa effusa*		SGCN
Plants	Sycamore-leaf snowbell	*Styrax platanifolius ssp. platanifolius*		SGCN
Plants	Texas amorpha	*Amorpha roemeriana*		SGCN
Plants	Texas barberry	*Berberis swaseyi*		SGCN
Plants	Texas claret-cup cactus	*Echinocereus coccineus var. paucispinus*		SGCN
Plants	Texas fescue	*Festuca versuta*		SGCN
Plants	Texas seymeria	*Seymeria texana*		SGCN
Plants	Texas wild-rice	*Zizania texana*	LE	E
Plants	Threeflower penstemon	*Penstemon triflorus ssp. triflorus*		SGCN
Plants	Tree dodder	*Cuscuta exaltata*		SGCN
Plants	Turnip-root scurfpea	*Pediomelum cyphocalyx*		SGCN

Taxon	Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	State Status
Plants	Warnock's coral-root	*Hexalectris warnockii*		SGCN

Status Key:
LE, LT - Federally Listed Endangered/Threatened
PE – Federally Proposed Endangered
PT, C - Federally Proposed Threatened, or Candidate Species
SA – Endangered due to similarity of appearance of other species.
DL, PDL - Federally Delisted/Proposed Delisted
E, T - State Endangered/Threatened
blank - Rare but with no regulatory listing status
*extirpated from the area
Data Sources: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, United States Fish and Wildlife Service

No state or national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, wild or scenic rivers, natural areas or similar preserves are located within the project area.

Cultural Resources

There are no previously recorded significant or potentially significant sites within or adjacent to the project footprint, according to Texas Historical Commission's Archeological Sites Atlas, nor is the proposed project within the protected area surrounding a historic cemetery, structure or district.

An archeological survey was performed under Texas Antiquities Permit No. 9114. The survey report[2] was reviewed by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act as well as the Antiquities Code of Texas.

One chert flake was recorded in a shovel test (ST AG30) at a depth of 0.0 to 30.0 centimeters (0.0 to 11.8 inches) below surface at the far northwestern end of the West Interceptor project segment. Supplemental delineation shovel tests excavated around this initial discovery failed to produce any additional evidence of prehistoric cultural activity at this location, so the chert flake was recorded as an isolated artifact occurrence but was not documented as an archeological site. No other cultural resources of prehistoric or historic age were recorded within
the project area during the pedestrian survey, shovel testing, or backhoe trenching.

[2] *Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed Dripping Springs Wastewater System Improvements Project (EID 1), Dripping Springs, Hays County, Texas, March 2020,* Antiquities Permit No. 9114 / Project Number SWF-2020-00075.

Based upon the results of the archaeological survey, the report recommended that further cultural resource investigations are unwarranted, and that the City should be allowed to construct the proposed water line route without further cultural resource investigations. The recommendation included the condition that if buried cultural materials are uncovered during construction, work should immediately stop in that area and the Archeology Division of the THC should be notified.

The THC concurred with these results, as described later in the 'Cross-Cutter Compliance and Agency Coordination' section. No direct impacts to cultural resources/historic properties are anticipated as a result of the project.

Hazardous Materials

Horizon reviewed reasonably ascertainable environmental and historical use information from corporate and/or governmental records related to the project area. Standard sources of information (e.g., various federal, state, local, and tribal governmental agencies) and search distances from the project area adhere to those specified in ASTM Practice E1527-13, as applicable. A site reconnaissance was performed on the project area, including observation of physical conditions of the land and any structures or improvements on the project area, and immediately adjacent properties as accessible or visible, for potential indicators of recognized environmental conditions. Representative photographs of the project area and immediately adjacent properties are taken to document conditions existing at the time of the site reconnaissance. Observed indications of current and past uses of the project area and adjoining properties, as accessible or visible, were noted.

Horizon commissioned Environmental Risk Information Services (ERIS) of Austin, Texas, to provide state and federal agency records required by ASTM Practice E1527-13. ERIS conducted its data search using minimum search distances outlined in the ASTM standard (ASTM, 2013).

The ERIS database indicated that one Closed Landfill Inventory (CLI) site was located 0.14 miles north of the West Interceptor, one spill was reported adjacent to the existing WWTP, and 2 Facility Registry Service/Facility Index (FINDS/FRS) records were noted adjacent to the project area.

The CLI record indicates that a landfill site may have been recorded at the following coordinates. However, there are limited data provided about the CLI, there is no evidence of a landfill in present day or historical aerial photography at the provided location, and City officials have no recollection of a landfill at the provided location. Furthermore, the recorded CLI site is across Onion Creek to the north of the proposed West Interceptor. The CLI record is not considered an environmental concern for the proposed project.

The reported spill consisted of two zones where the wastewater drip field released an unscheduled amount of treated effluent water. Since the spill consisted of treated effluent water, the spill is not considered an environmental concern for the proposed project area.

The two FINDS/FRS records relate to general construction activities for local businesses in the adjacent area and would not constitute environmental concerns for the proposed project area.

There are no Superfund Sites from the EPA National Priorities List located on the subject property or in areas associated with the proposed work for the water line.

Social Implications and Environmental Justice

In accordance with Executive Order 12898 pertaining to Environmental Justice (EJ), potential environmental impacts to low-income and minority communities have been assessed. The United States EPA defines environmental justice as conveyed by the Executive Order as the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. The goal of fair treatment is not to shift risks among populations, but to identify potential disproportionately high and adverse human health and environmental effects on minority populations and low-income populations and to identify alternatives to mitigate those impacts.

The United States Census Bureau characterizes “Hispanic Origin” as a minority group, but not a separate race. Racial groups include: White, African-American, Asian/Pacific Islander, American Indian, Other Race, and Multiracial. The calculation for “Percent Minority” includes all minority groups and races except non-Hispanic, white persons. The terms “Living below the Poverty Level” is equivalent to the term “Economically Distressed” and includes, according to the 2015 United States Census, a four-person family with an annual income at or below $24,250.

The proposed project was evaluated for EJ impacts using the Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (EJScreen), a mapping tool designed by the US EPA that allows users to create maps and generate reports on factors that may affect public and environmental health. Data include population, percentage of minority residents, per capita income, etc. for comparison with data for the county and state.

The EJ Analysis was performed in October 27, 2020 for the proposed project area, within a 0.5-mile area around the water line alignment. The results are listed below with data from the United States Census for the State and County included for comparison.

Area	Population	Percent Minority	Percent Below Poverty Level	Per Capita Income
State	28,995,881	58.8	13.6%	$30,143
Hays County	230,191	47.5	13.2%	$30,715
City of Dripping Springs	5.708	31.4	13.6%	$36,235
Project Area (0.5-mile buffer)	457	20	13%	$45,625

EJ Analyses were performed for a 0.5-mile area around the proposed project area (including all project components together). The EJ Analysis indicates that the residents within 0.5 mile of the project and the City have similar levels of minority or low-income populations; therefore, these communities would not be disproportionately impacted in a negative way. People or businesses will not be relocated as a result of the project.

An increase in the rates due to the proposed project is not anticipated. No new land will be acquired for the proposed project; therefore, the proposed project will not require the use of eminent domain. People or businesses will not be relocated as a result of the project. An increase in the rates due to the proposed project is not anticipated. Current rates are projected to meet debt service for the proposed project.

The entire population of this project area will be the recipients of benefits derived from the proposed improvements. The project will not disproportionately impact minority or low-income populations in a negative way.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATIVE MEASURES

Potential Impacts

The proposed project will have temporary impacts to rangeland during construction of the West Interceptor and the Reclaimed Water Line. Approximately 2.0 acres of rangeland will be permanently impacted and converted to the Effluent Pond.

The proposed project will have temporary impacts to rangeland during construction of the West Interceptor and the Reclaimed Water Line. Approximately 2.0 acres of rangeland will be permanently impacted and converted to the Effluent Pond.

Approximately 0.3 miles of the 1.8-mile-long West Interceptor are located within prime farmland and will be temporarily impacted during construction. No prime or important farmland will be permanently impacted by the proposed project.

Construction of the proposed West Interceptor will occur adjacent to Onion Creek. Appropriate best management practices (BMPs) will be installed and no temporary or permanent impacts are proposed.

The West Interceptor Wastewater Line is located within the floodplain and floodway of Onion Creek. Temporary impacts to the floodplain will occur during construction due to disturbance on the land adjacent to Onion Creek. However, the floodplain of Onion Creek will not be permanently impacted as the West Interceptor Wastewater Line is a subsurface project.

The West Interceptor Wastewater Line is located adjacent to Onion Creek. Impacts to Onion Creek will include one crossing (temporary impact) of Onion Creek. The Reclaimed Water Line ends and discharges into an unnamed tributary of Onion Creek (no impact). No wetlands will be impacted by the proposed project.

Standard Mitigative and Precautionary Measures

Impacts to water quality will be avoided as the City will reuse the reclaimed water for irrigation on City-owned park lands and athletic fields, and potential irrigation of other privately owned areas. Additionally, the reclaimed water will be disinfected before exiting the plant. Temporary impacts to surface water will occur during construction of the single crossing of the West Interceptor on Onion Creek at an existing driveway crossing. Construction of the proposed West Interceptor will occur adjacent to Onion Creek. Appropriate BMPs will be installed and no temporary or permanent impacts are proposed.

During construction of the water line, there will be temporary alterations to landforms and natural drainage patterns. After backfilling and grading, the landforms and natural drainage patterns will be returned to preconstruction contours. The proposed crossings of waters of the United States (all stream crossings) using open trench methods will cause temporary impacts. Following the water line installation, the areas will be returned to pre-construction contours.

The proposed project will comply with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), Water Quality. During construction, erosion control measures will be in place to reduce sedimentation into waterways. Post construction activities will comply with Section 401 total suspended solids requirements.

BMPs will be utilized to control erosion. A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan will be implemented during constructed and be left in place until re-vegetation is achieved. Re-vegetation will occur once construction is done.

Secondary and Cumulative Impacts

No Secondary and cumulative impacts are expected to occur. The proposed project is not anticipated to change the projected rate, density, or type of development in the vicinity of the project area. The land use in surrounding areas will generally remain in agricultural and residential uses following the construction of the project.

There are no population changes or land use changes anticipated in the project area as a result of the construction of the proposed project. The proposed project will not result in increased air emissions. Therefore, air quality would not be adversely impacted in the project vicinity after construction is complete.

Cross-Cutter Compliance and Agency Coordination

The proposed project has been reviewed for potential impacts to the quality of the environment following the procedures provided in 31 TAC § 375.61 in order to ensure compliance with CWSRF program requirements and federal and state regulations, including the federal cross-cutting environmental authorities from the EPA listed below.

(1) National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, PL 91-190
(2) Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974, PL 93-291
(3) Clean Air Act, 42 USC 7506(c)
(4) Coastal Barrier Resources Act, 16 USC 3501 *et seq*.
(5) Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, PL 92-583, as amended
(6) Endangered Species Act, 16 USC 1531, *et seq.*
(7) Executive Order 11593, Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment
(8) Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management
(9) Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands
(10) Farmland Protection Policy Act, 7 USC 4201, *et seq.*
(11) Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, PL 85-624, as amended
(12) National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, PL 89-665, as amended
(13) Safe Drinking Water Act, § 1424(e), PL 92-523, as amended
(14) Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, PL 90-542, as amended
(15) The Wilderness Act, 16 USC 1131, *et seq*.
(16) Environmental Justice, Executive Order 12898
(17) Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004, Public Law 108-264
(18) National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994, Public Law 103-325
(19) Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973, as amended, Public Law 93-234
(20) Clean Water Act, PL 92-500, as amended

This environmental review included coordination with various state and federal regulatory agencies and other interested parties including a 30-day public review period of the planning documents. The following section provides a summary of that coordination and provides a discussion of any concerns, recommendations, or conditions pertaining to methods for avoidance, minimization, or mitigation of potential impacts.

Texas Historical Commission

The THC reviewed the *Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed Dripping Springs Wastewater System Improvements Project (EID 1), Dripping Springs, Hays County, Texas dated March 2020* (Texas Antiquities Permit No. 9114). In a response dated April 2, 2020, concluded that the proposed project will not adversely affect sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places or State Antiquities Landmarks. The THC stated that the project may proceed without further consultation with the THC, provided that archeological deposits are not encountered during construction.

Pursuant to the conditions of this approval, if archeological sites are discovered during construction, work will cease immediately in that area and Contractor will notify the City, THC, and TWDB of the discovery. The City will then proceed in accordance with the regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (36 CFR Part 800) and Antiquities Code of Texas prior to taking any action which would affect the cultural resources. The City's Contractor will take reasonable steps to protect and preserve the discoveries until they have been inspected by the City's representative. The City 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 will not resume work in the area of the discovery until authorized to do so by the City.

United States Army Corps of Engineers

The USACE reviewed a jurisdictional determination[3] for the proposed project in accordance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. The USACE provided a response letter dated April 2, 2020 (Project Number SWF-2020-00075) stating that the project will involve activities subject to the requirements of Section 404 and that the project appears to qualify for a Nationwide Permit 12 for Utility Line Activities. Provided that the permittee complies with all the terms and conditions therein, the project may proceed. The Nationwide Permit is valid until March 18, 2022. Furthermore, activities that have commenced, or are under contract to commence, in reliance on a nationwide permit will remain authorized provided the activity is completed within 12 months of the date of the nationwide permit's expiration,

[3] *Jurisdictional Delineation for the South Regional Reclamation Facility, Dripping Springs, Hays County, Texas,* January 30, 2020, prepared by Horizon Environmental Services, Inc.

modification, or revocation, unless discretionary authority has been exercised on a case-by-case basis to modify, suspend, or revoke the authorization in accordance with 33 CFR 330.4(e) and 33 CFR 330.5(c) or (d).

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

The TPWD Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program reviewed the proposed project in accordance with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code (TPW Code), and provided a response dated March 5, 2020. A TPWD project number was not included. The TPWD made several recommendations and Horizon Environmental Services, Inc. on behalf of the City responded in a letter dated May 5, 2020, as described below.

General Construction Recommendations

Recommendation: TPWD recommends the judicious use and placement of sediment control fence to exclude wildlife from the construction area. In many cases, sediment control fence placement for the purposes of controlling erosion and protecting water quality can be modified minimally to also provide the benefit of excluding wildlife access to construction areas. The exclusion fence should be buried at least six inches and be at least 24 inches high. The exclusion fence should be maintained for the life of the project and only removed after the construction is completed and the disturbed site has been revegetated with site-specific native species. Construction personnel should be encouraged to examine the inside of the exclusion area daily to determine if any wildlife species have been trapped inside the area of impact and provide safe egress opportunities prior to initiation of construction activities. TPWD recommends that any open trenches or excavation areas be covered overnight and/or inspected every morning to ensure no wildlife species have been trapped. For open trenches and excavated pits, install escape ramps at an angle of less than 45 degrees (1:1) in areas left uncovered. Also, inspect excavation areas for trapped wildlife prior to refilling.

Response: The City will require in its construction contracts that open trenches and pits will be inspected every morning. When feasible, open trenches may be equipped with escape ramps as recommended, or temporary barrier fencing (i.e., orange plastic fencing or a similar option) may be installed around open trenches and pits at the end of each day. Erosion control blankets or mats are not expected to be used in this project.

Recommendation: For soil stabilization and/or revegetation of disturbed areas within the proposed project area, TPWD recommends erosion and seed/mulch stabilization materials that avoid entanglement hazards to snakes and other wildlife species. Because the mesh found in many erosion control blankets or mats pose an entanglement hazard to wildlife, TPWD recommends the use of no-till drilling, hydromulching and/or hydroseeding due to a reduced risk to wildlife. If erosion control blankets or mats will be used, the product should

not contain netting, but if it must contain netting it should contain loosely woven, natural fiber netting in which the mesh design allows the threads to move, therefore allowing expansion of the mesh openings. TPWD recommends avoiding the use of plastic mesh matting.

Impacts to Vegetation/Wildlife Habitat

Recommendation: TPWD recommends reducing the amount of vegetation proposed for clearing if possible and minimizing clearing of native vegetation, particularly riparian vegetation and mature native trees and shrubs to the greatest extent practicable. TPWD recommends in-kind on-site replacement/restoration of the native vegetation wherever practicable. Colonization by invasive species, particularly invasive grasses and weeds, should be actively prevented. Vegetation management should include removing invasive species early on while allowing the existing native plants to revegetate the disturbed areas. TPWD recommends referring to the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Native Plant Database for regionally adapted native species that would be appropriate for landscaping and revegetation.

Response: The proposed West Interceptor alignment has been adjusted several times to avoid canopy trees (specifically, riparian vegetation and mature trees along Onion Creek) to the maximum practicable extent, and the disturbed areas will be revegetated per TCEQ revegetation specifications. Where applicable, a native grass and wildflower seed mix will be included in the revegetation efforts after construction is completed.

Landscaping for Monarch Butterflies

Recommendation: The TPWD recommends strategies as part of the *Monarch Conservation Plan*, to address the decline in the monarch butterfly (*Danaus pleippus*), including planting or seeding native milkweed plant (*Asclepias* ssp.) and nectar plants and where appropriate landscaping plans that incorporate monarch-friendly plants and/or butterfly gardens.

Response: The proposed West Interceptor alignment has been adjusted several times to avoid canopy trees (specifically, riparian vegetation and mature trees along Onion Creek) to the maximum practicable extent, and the disturbed areas will be revegetated per TCEQ revegetation specifications. Where applicable, a native grass and wildflower seed mix will be included in the revegetation efforts after construction is completed.

Water Resources

Recommendation: TPWD recommends installing the West Interceptor along Onion Creek set back far enough so that it does not cause or exacerbate erosion of the banks, either from construction activities or post-construction maintenance activities.

Recommendation: In order to avoid streambed disturbance as well as disturbance of wildlife habitat within the project area, installing the West Interceptor using horizontal directional drilling (HDD) rather than open trench pipeline construction methods. If the project plans allow for the pipeline to be installed via HDD instead of trenching, TPWD has included the HDD recommendations below to assist in project planning.

Recommendation: As previously mentioned, TPWD recommends that construction of the West Interceptor across Onion Creek be installed by boring underneath the stream versus trenching through the stream substrate. If boring underneath Onion Creek is not feasible, TPWD recommends that trenching take place when the stream is dry. If there is water within Onion Creek at the time when trenching will take place and impacts to the stream bed are expected and/or dewatering is proposed, then TPWD recommends contacting this office as additional permits may be required.

Horizontal Directional Drilling

Recommendation: To reduce the potential of a frac-out impacting the streambed, TPWD recommends setting up the drilling equipment minimum of 250 feet from the edge of the stream bank if feasible. TPWD also recommends ensuring that only bentonite-based drilling mud is used without the use of any additives to the drilling mud. TPWD recommend installing suitable drilling mud tanks or sumps to prevent contamination of the stream as well as installing berms down slope from the drill entry and anticipated exit points to contain any release of the drilling mud. TPWD also recommends that a frac-out spill containment plan and HDD contingency plan be prepared prior to initiating work.

Ecologically Significant Stream Segment

Recommendation: TPWD recommends ensuring that precipitation runoff, which could potentially carry pollutants, is intercepted and treated before reaching Onion Creek by installing storm water BMPs. TPWD recommends installing erosion and sediment control BMPs that would aide in construction stabilization. Erosion and sediment control measures include temporary or permanent seeding (with native plants), mulching, earth dikes, silt fences, sediment traps, and sediment basins. Examples of post-construction BMPs include vegetation systems (biofilters) such as grass filter strips and vegetated swales as well as retention basins capable of treating any additional runoff. Please also refer to the General Construction Recommendations section of this letter for erosion and seed/mulch stabilization materials TPWD recommends utilizing and avoiding.

Water Resources Response: Careful consideration has been taken to avoid direct and indirect effects to Onion Creek. The proposed West Interceptor has been realigned several times. The realignments have resulted in removing 2 Onion Creek crossings, moving the

remaining single Onion Creek crossing to a location abutting an existing privately owned low water crossing/driveway that was damaged by heavy rains and flooding last year, and slight adjustment to avoid the majority of the canopy trees along the banks of Onion Creek. The City's contracted surveying company, Surveying and Mapping, LLC (SAM), surveyed the topography of the land and drip line of canopy trees along the right-of-way and provided this data to the project engineer, CMA Engineering, Inc. (CMA). CMA utilized the survey data to make several adjustments to avoid impacts to canopy trees to the maximum practicable extent and to support construction feasibility and operation of a gravity wastewater line. The City also adjusted the alignment based on landowner requests that ultimately minimized impacts to Onion Creek and native vegetation.

Horizontal directional drilling (HDD) of the West Interceptor across Onion Creek was considered during the design phase of the project. However, due to the existing topography of the area and because the proposed West Interceptor will function as a gravity wastewater line, HDD is not feasible for this project. The City, in conjunction with CMA, Horizon, SAM, and the landowners, determined that crossing Onion Creek with the West Interceptor at an existing privately owned low water crossing/driveway was the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative and was feasible for the gravity wastewater line. Wastewater line construction across Onion Creek will be performed as part of the low water crossing/driveway repair. Minimal excavation will take place within the banks of Onion Creek, as it is proposed that the line will be installed in the new concrete base of the crossing/driveway. Horizon also submitted for and received permit authorization (on April 2, 2020) from the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) under NWP 12 for the utility line (Attachment A).

The City will attempt to construct the single crossing of Onion Creek when the stream bed is dry. If the stream bed needs to be dewatered, the City will contact TPWD for additional permits that may be required.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be utilized to control erosion. A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan will be implemented during construction and will be left in place until revegetation is achieved. Revegetation (of native plants) will occur once construction is complete.

Federal Laws

Migratory Bird Treaty Act

Recommendation: If migratory bird species are found nesting on or adjacent to the project area, they must be dealt with in a manner consistent with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. TPWD recommends excluding vegetation clearing activities during the general bird nesting season, March 15 through September 15, to avoid adverse impacts to breeding

birds. If clearing vegetation during the migratory bird nesting season is unavoidable, TPWD recommends surveying the area proposed for disturbance to ensure that no nests with eggs or young will be disturbed by operations. TPWD recommends that a minimum 150-foot buffer of vegetation remain around any nests that are observed prior to disturbance. Any vegetation (such as trees, shrubs, and grasses) or other open areas where occupied nests are located should not be disturbed until the eggs have hatched and the young have fledged.

Response: Approximately 98% of the proposed project will be within open rangeland or previously cleared areas that are devoid of bird nesting habitat. For the small portions of the project that may necessitate clearing of potential nesting habitat, the City will attempt to clear these areas outside of the stated bird nesting season. If clearing is necessary between March 15 and September 15, site personnel will be alerted to watch for active nests and avoid them until fledglings have dispersed. Site personnel will be especially vigilant to identify and avoid raptor nests and colonial water bird rookeries. However, at the present time, no raptor nests or colonial water bird rookeries have been observed in the project area. The proposed project does not anticipate adverse impacts to breeding birds.

Golden-cheeked warbler (*Setophaga chrysoparia*)

Recommendation: Prior to any vegetation clearing, TPWD recommends surveying for suitable golden-cheeked warbler habitat within the project area according to USFWS guidelines, particularly within 300 feet of the project site. Even if habitat for this species would not be directly impacted by vegetation removal, if nesting pairs are present in the surrounding vegetation they could be disrupted by noise and activity during construction. Because the definition of take in the Endangered Species Act includes harming or harassing a listed species, this disturbance could constitute a violation of the Endangered Species Act. If suitable habitat for this species is present within the project area, TPWD recommends assuming presence for the species and conducting project activities outside of the breeding and nesting season in any area where suitable habitat may occur (with the appropriate authorization from the USFWS). TPWD recommends contacting the USFWS for species occurrence data, guidance, permitting, survey protocols, and mitigation for this federally-listed species, if coordination has not been initiated to date.

Response: Horizon conducted a habitat assessment and mussel survey for federally listed species that may occur in the project area or be affected by the proposed project. The habitat assessment was conducted by a US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)-permitted biologist for the golden-cheeked warbler (*Setophaga chrysoparia*). The habitat assessment concluded that the project area does not contain suitable habitat for the golden-cheeked warbler; therefore, a presence/absence protocol survey is not be warranted. The proposed project is not anticipated to have effect on the golden-cheeked warbler.

State Laws

Parks and Wildlife Code - Chapter 64, Birds

Recommendation: Please review the Migratory Bird Treaty Act section above for recommendations as they are also applicable for Chapter 64 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code compliance.

Parks and Wildlife Code, Section 68. OJ 5 - State-listed Species

Black-capped vireo (*Vireo atricapilla*)

Recommendation: Prior to any vegetation clearing, TPWD recommends surveying for suitable black-capped vireo habitat within the project area, particularly within 300 feet of the proposed construction area(s). Even if habitat for this species would not be directly impacted by vegetation removal, if nesting pairs are present in the surrounding vegetation they could be disrupted by noise and activity during construction. If suitable habitat for this species is present within the project area, TPWD recommends avoiding removal of suitable habitat, if feasible. If avoidance of suitable habitat removal is not feasible, TPWD recommends assuming presence for the black-capped vireo and conducting project activities outside of the breeding and nesting season in any area where suitable habitat may occur.

Response: Horizon conducted a habitat assessment and mussel survey for state-listed species that may occur in the project area or be affected by the proposed project. The habitat assessment was conducted by a USFWS-permitted biologist for the black-capped vireo (*Vireo atricapilla*). The habitat assessment concluded that the project area does not contain suitable habitat for the black-capped vireo; therefore, a presence/absence protocol survey was not be warranted. The proposed project is not anticipated to have an effect on the black-capped vireo.

Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Recommendation: TPWD recommends implementing the following BMPs to assist in minimizing potential impacts to the spot-tailed earless lizard (*Holbrookia lacerata*). TPWD notes that implementing the following BMPs could also help minimize impacts to a variety of native wildlife species that may inhabit the project area.

- A major threat to the spot-tailed earless lizard is road traffic, as this species has exhibited behavior indicating that they prefer roads and tend to crossroads often, potentially for thermoregulation. TPWD recommends reducing the

number of roads, both temporary and permanent, planned to be constructed for the proposed project. TPWD also recommends reducing speed limits in the project area to at least 15 mph to help prevent vehicle-induced mortality of this species.

- This species prefers a mixture of bare ground and sparse vegetation, including disturbed areas. TPWD recommends avoiding impacts to suitable habitat for this species. Areas disturbed by project-related construction activities within suitable habitat for the spot-tailed earless lizard should be revegetated with site-specific native, patchy vegetation rather than sod-forming grasses.
- The spot-tailed earless lizard utilizes burrows for shelter. TPWD recommends identifying locations of burrows on the project site and avoiding impacts to burrows if feasible.
- TPWD recommends providing contractor training for the identification, behavior, and habitat requirements of the spot-tailed earless lizard. It is important for construction personnel to be able to identify this species and to be on the lookout for them during construction and to avoid impacting them if encountered on-site.

Recommendation: TPWD recommends monitoring the listing status of the spot-tailed earless lizard throughout project planning and construction and perform required consultation, permitting, and mitigation with the USFWS if this species becomes listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Texas garter snake *(Thamnophis sirtalis annectens)*

Recommendation: Snakes are generally perceived as a threat and killed when encountered during clearing or construction. Therefore, TPWD recommends that personnel involved in clearing and construction be informed of the potential for the Texas garter snake to occur on the project site. Personnel should be advised to avoid impacts to this snake as it is non-venomous and poses no threat to humans. Contractors should avoid contact with this species if encountered and allow the snake to safely leave the premises.

Western box turtle (*Terrapene ornata*) and Eastern box turtle (*Terrapene carolina*)

Recommendation: TPWD recommends referring to the recommendations listed above for the STEL as those recommendations are applicable to the eastern and western box turtle as well. TPWD also recommends that any translocations of reptiles be the minimum distance possible no greater than one mile, preferably within l 00 to 200 yards from the initial encounter location.

Strecker's chorus frog (*Pseudacris streckeri*) and Woodhouse's toad (*Anaxyrus woodhoush*)

Recommendation: TPWD recommends the project proponent inform employees and contractors of the potential for the Strecker' s chorus frog and Woodhouse's toad to occur in the project area. TPWD recommends avoiding disturbance to wetlands and temporary and permanent open water features, including depressions.

Western hog-nosed skunk (*Conepatus leuconotus*)

Recommendation: If the western hog-nosed skunk is found during construction, TPWD recommends that precautions be taken to avoid direct or indirect impacts to them or their dens.

Response: The contractor will be notified of, trained to identify, and directed to avoid contact with any wildlife and Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN); any identified species will be allowed to leave the construction site if observed.

Evaluation of SGCN

Recommendation: Please review the TPWD county list for Hays County because species in addition to those discussed in this letter could be present within the project area depending upon habitat availability. TPWD recommends including a discussion and evaluation of potential impacts to SGCN (in addition to state-listed and federally-listed species) for all projects coordinated with this office. The USFWS should be contacted for species occurrence data, guidance, permitting, survey protocols, and mitigation for federally-listed species.

Determining the actual presence of a species in a given area depends on many variables including daily and seasonal activity cycles, environmental activity cues, preferred habitat, transiency and population density (both wildlife and human). The absence of a species can be demonstrated only with great difficulty and then only with repeated negative observations, considering all the variable factors contributing to the lack of detectable presence. If encountered during construction, measures should be taken to avoid impacting all wildlife, regardless of listing status.

Texas Natural Diversity Database

Recommendation: To aid in the scientific knowledge of a species' status and current range, TPWD encourages project proponents and their contractors report all encounters of SGCN, state-listed, and federally-listed species to the TXNDD according to the data submittal instructions found on the TXNDD website.

Response: The Texas Natural Diversity Database (TXNDD) was utilized and reviewed on two separate occasions. The first occasion was at the beginning of the project, before the field visit dated March 26, 2019; and, more recently, during the end of the environmental review, dated January 30, 2020. The City and project team agree to report all encounters with SGCN and federally and state-listed species to the TXNDD.

United States Fish and Wildlife Service

The USFWS, in accordance with the Endangered Species Act and statutes affecting other federally protected species, was given the opportunity to review the proposed project (Consultation Code: 02ETAU00-2020-SLI-0597, Event Code: 02ETAU00-2020-E-01270). In a letter dated January 24, 2020, the USFWS provided a list of endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the county of the proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the
requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

Pursuant to the conditions of this approval, if a threatened or endangered species is encountered during construction, the Contractor will immediately cease work in the area of the encounter and notify the City, who will immediately implement actions in accordance with the Endangered Species of Act and applicable State statutes. These actions will include reporting the encounter to the TWDB, USFWS, and TPWD, obtaining any necessary approvals or permits to enable the work to continue, or implement other mitigation actions. The Contractor will not resume construction in the area of the encounter until authorized to do so by the City.

United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Although some of the proposed project would be located on mapped soil units classified as Prime or Other Important Farmland, it is buried water line and does not involve land use conversion. Therefore, TWDB did not require coordination with the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Services (USDA, NRCS) in order to confirm compliance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act.

Bureau of Reclamation - Oklahoma-Texas Area Office

The Bureau of Reclamation was given the opportunity to review the proposed project. The review request was dated January 8, 2020. The letter noted that a response was not required. No formal response was received. The proposed project will not impact Bureau of Reclamation lands.

Bureau of Land Management

The Bureau of Land Management was given the opportunity to review the proposed project. The review request was dated January 8, 2020. No formal response was received.

Local Floodplain Administrator (National Flood Insurance Program)

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.

This environmental finding is conditioned to require that a floodplain development permit prior to clearing or construction activities within any 100-year floodplain or floodway in order to comply with requirements of the Federal Emergency Management Agency regarding implementation of the National Flood Insurance Act, Flood Disaster Protection Act, National Flood Insurance Reform Act, Federal Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, and to comply with related state statutes.

United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - Sole Source Aquifer Program

Horizon requested coordination with the EPA because the proposed project is located on part of the Edwards aquifer system (Contributing Zone), which has been designated as a sole source aquifer. Per a response dated February 18, 2020, the EPA determined that the proposed project should not have any adverse effect on the quality of the groundwater underlying the project site.

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

In a response dated November 8, 2018, the TCEQ stated that a review of the project for general conformity impact, in accordance with 40 CFR Part 93, indicates that Hays County is currently classified as an attainment/unclassified for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for all six criteria air pollutants. General conformity requirements do not apply. Significant long-term environmental impacts from this project as long as construction and waste disposal activities are completed in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal permits, statutes, and regulations.

Intergovernmental Review

In a letter dated January 8, 2020, the City of Dripping Springs Mayor was given the opportunity to review the EID for the proposed project. The letter noted that a response was not needed. No formal responses were received.

DOCUMENTATION, COORDINATION, AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The proposed project is consistent with local, regional, and statewide planning. Coordination with the appropriate governmental agencies has been made and no adverse comments were received.

Public participation conducted during facilities planning included a public meeting held on February 27, 2020, which was advertised in the Dripping Springs Century News and The Wimberley View, newspapers of general circulation in the service area on January 23, 2020. A notice was also published the News-Dispatch and Hays Free Press on January 23, 2020. The notice of public hearing contained information regarding availability of planning documents, including the EID, for public review at the City of Dripping Springs City Hall at 511 Mercer Street, Dripping Springs, Texas during normal business hours (8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.).

The public meeting was held at 5:30 p.m. on February 27, 2020 at the City of Dripping Springs City Hall. A total of 7 public citizens attended the meeting and 14 members of the project team. No adverse comments were received.

CONDITIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

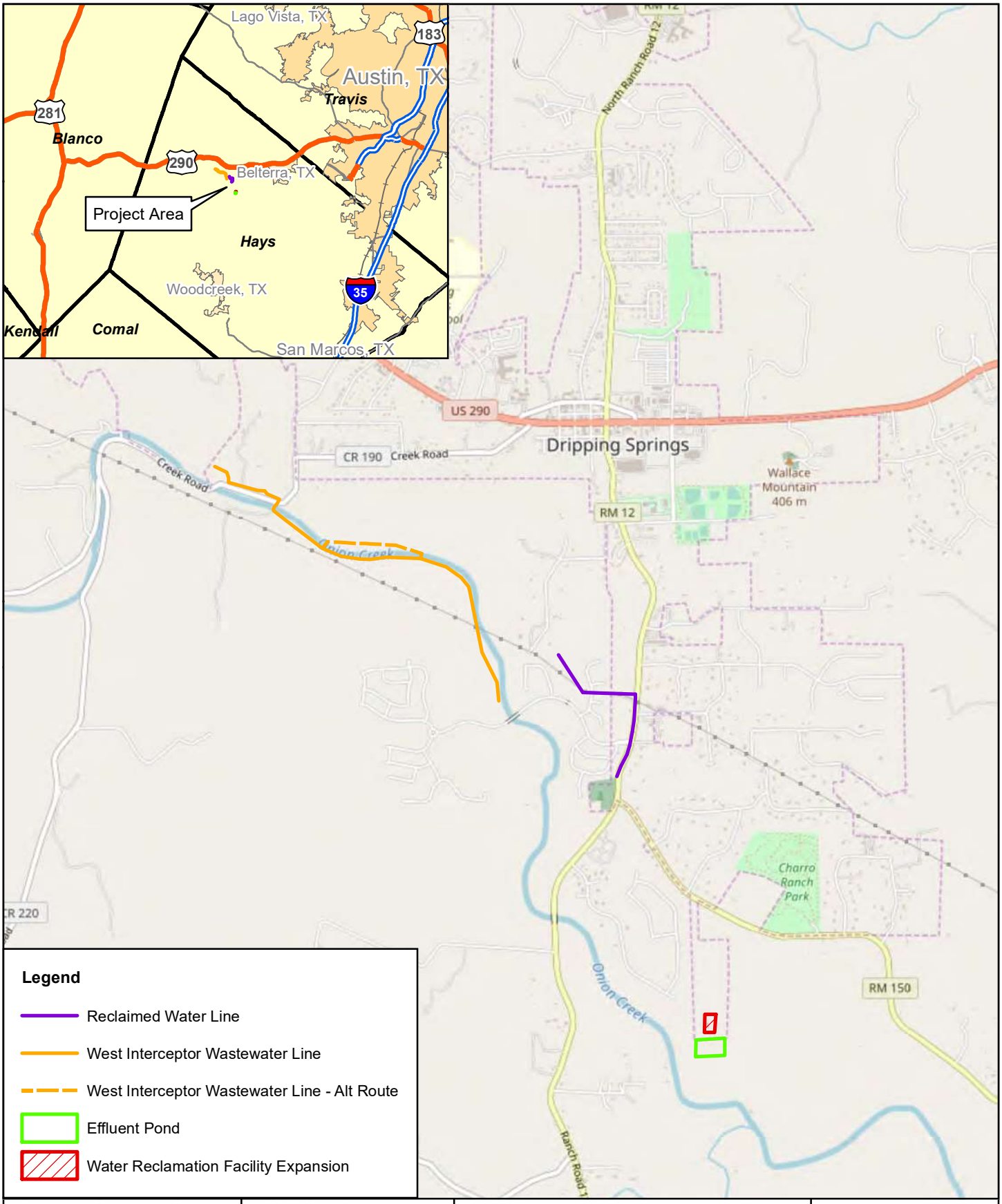
An environmental review of the proposed project consistent with NEPA has been completed following the guidelines provided in 31 TAC § 375.61. This environmental review is documented by the enclosed Environmental Assessment, which contains mitigative environmental conditions that will be applied to the project in order to avoid significant adverse environmental impacts on floodplains, cultural or historical resources, threatened or endangered species, and protected migratory bird species. The City has committed to the mitigation measures and has the ability and authority to do so. Based on a detailed environmental review of the planning information, EID, and other documentation, the proposed project is considered to be environmentally sound with the following conditions:

- To ensure compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, vegetation clearing will be not be performed, if possible, during the migratory bird nesting period from March 15 through September 15, to avoid adverse impacts to breeding birds. If clearing vegetation during the migratory bird nesting season is unavoidable, then a

survey of the proposed project area will be conducted to ensure that no nests with eggs or young will be disturbed by operations. A minimum 150-foot buffer of vegetation remain around any nests that are observed prior to disturbance. Any vegetation (such as trees, shrubs, and grasses) or other open areas where occupied nests are located will not be disturbed until the eggs have hatched and the young have fledged;

- Compliance with the terms and conditions of United States Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit 12 for Utility Line Activities (USACE Project Number SWF-2020-00075);
- In order to comply with requirements of the Federal Emergency Management Agency regarding implementation of the Flood Insurance Act, Flood Disaster Protection Act, National Flood Insurance Reform Act, Federal Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, and to comply with related state statutes, proponents of construction projects in special flood hazard areas must coordinate in advance with the local floodplain administrator and obtain a floodplain development permit prior to construction;
- Standard emergency condition for the discovery of threatened and endangered species; and
- Standard emergency condition for the discovery of cultural resources.

Therefore, it is recommended that a Finding of No Significant Impact be issued.



Horizon Environmental Services, Inc.

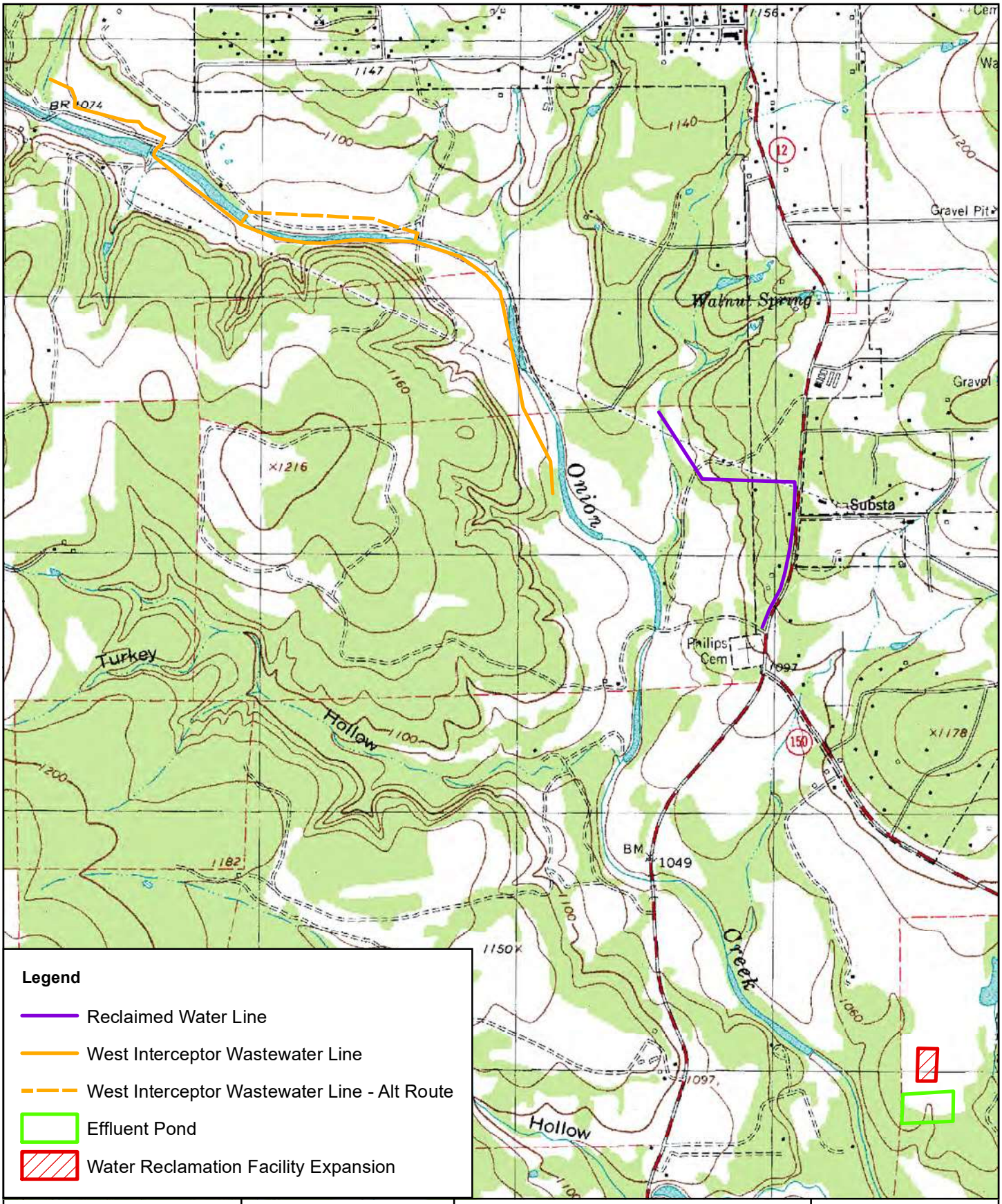
Date:	08/02/2019
Drawn:	TED
HJN NO:	190043.001 EA
Source:	OSM, 2019

Figure A-1
Regional Location Map
South Regional Water Reclamation Facility Expansion
Dripping Springs, Hays County, Texas

N

0 1,500 3,000
Feet

190043 - West Interceptor Wastewater Line\Graphics\190043-001EA_01A_Vic.mxd



Date:	08/02/2019
Drawn:	TED
HJN NO:	190043.001 EA
Source:	USGS, 1986

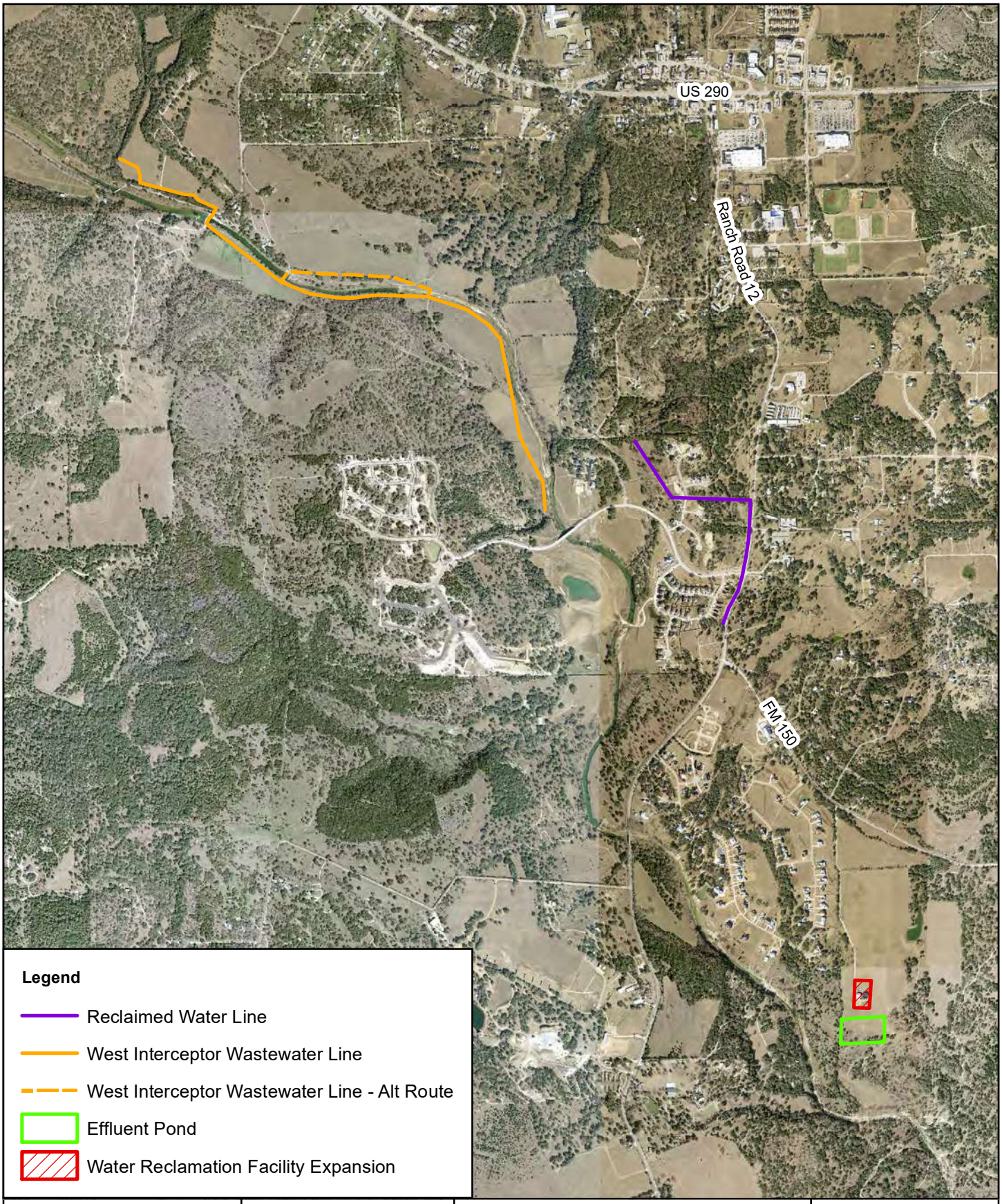
Horizon Environmental Services, Inc.

Figure A-2
USGS Topographic Map
South Regional Water Reclamation Facility Expansion
Dripping Springs, Hays County, Texas

N

0 850 1,700
Feet

190043 - West Interceptor Wastewater Line\Graphics\190043-001EA_02A_Topo.mxd



Horizon Environmental Services, Inc.

Date:	08/02/2019
Drawn:	TED
HJN NO:	190043.001 EA
Source:	StratMap, 2018

Figure A-3
Project Plans
South Regional Water Reclamation
Facility Expansion
Dripping Springs, Hays County, Texas

N

0 1,000 2,000
Feet

190043 - West Interceptor Wastewater Line\Graphics\190043-001EA_08A_2018.mxd