



## AGENDA ITEM COMMENTARY

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| <b>MEETING NAME:</b>    | City Council Meeting   |
| <b>MEETING DATE:</b>    | 03/03/2025   |
| <b>ITEM TITLE:</b>      | Consider and take appropriate action on recommendation to withdraw TWDB sewer funding application. |
| <b>STAFF INITIATOR:</b> | Randy Criswell – City Manager  |

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### **BACKGROUND:**

In the spring of 2022, we made an application to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) for funding for a new wastewater treatment plant. At the time, we applied for \$26 million. Our project was ranked very high and we were invited to “apply” for funding. The funding we’d be eligible for would come from the State Clean Water Revolving Fund as a low interest loan. (Wolfforth’s demographics will most likely never allow us to be eligible for grants or forgivable loans). Over the next year or so, we continued in the direction of pursuing this funding, but our project concept changed from a wastewater treatment plant to an interconnect with Lubbock and getting “out of the business” of treating wastewater. There are a multitude of reasons for this that I’ll be happy to elaborate on if necessary.

The time that has been necessary to pivot that project and negotiate a contract with Lubbock has exceeded the time TWDB can allow. They’ve recommended that we withdraw our application, but also encouraged us to reapply at some future point.

I’ve visited with our Financial Advisor about this, and he tells me that for projects of this size - and our project specifically - the advantages of using TWDB for funding don’t outweigh the extra requirements and time needed to administer the project, plus the increased cost of the project that will be incurred.

Considering all this, I recommend we withdraw our TWDB application.

### **EXHIBITS:**

None

### **COUNCIL ACTION/STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends withdrawing TWDB funding application for wastewater improvements project