



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

**Expansion of the City of Round Rock Reclaimed
Water Distribution System, Williamson County, Texas**

Oklahoma-Texas Area Office

Interior Region 6: Arkansas-Rio Grande-Texas-Gulf

24-33-TX-TXVI

Mission Statements

The U.S. Department of the Interior protects and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage; provides scientific and other information about those resources; honors its trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated Island Communities.

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

Introduction

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has prepared this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), supported by the attached Environmental Assessment (EA) 24-33-TX-TXVI, for the expansion of the City of Round Rock's (City) Reclaimed Water Distribution System in Williamson County, Texas. This EA evaluates the Proposed Action that would obligate Federal funds to a financial assistance agreement for the completion of facility improvements and install approximately five miles of reuse waterlines. Funding for the Proposed Action is authorized by the Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse Program (Title XVI) under P.L. 102-575, providing up to \$20 million, but not exceeding 25% of the total cost for planning, design, and/or construction. The proposed expansion will occur in two phases of work. Reclamation is providing the project funding and is designated as the lead agency to ensure compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, 43 CFR Part 46, and 516 DM 1 in relation to the Proposed Action. The EA has been developed in accordance with NEPA, as amended, and specifically addresses the potential impacts on the human environment resulting from the implementation of the Proposed Action.

Background

The City, operates a reclaimed water distribution system from the Brushy Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) to customers within the City. A portion of the project has been constructed and successfully operated since 2012. Additional phases are planned to distribute water to serve the City's rapidly growing population and developments. The subsequent stage, planned and included in the funding request, consists of a two-phase addition to the existing City reclaimed water distribution system and reuse ground storage tank. With the support from Reclamation, private-public partnerships, and independent projects, the City has constructed an extensive and fiscally sound reclaimed water system serving several customers. As water resources become scarce and droughts threaten to limit freshwater availability, recycling water ordinarily disposed of from the wastewater treatment plant provides a drought resistant and sustainable water supply for non-potable water uses, such as irrigation, toilet flushing, and cooling. The project is not on any federal facility or involving federal land.

Alternatives Considered

The EA 24-33-TX-TXVI analyzed the No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action Alternative to authorize and fund the implementation of the expansion of the City's Reclaimed Water Distribution System. The No Action Alternative reflects future conditions without the Proposed Action and serves as a basis of comparison for evaluating potential effects to the human environment.

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, Reclamation would not provide federal funding to assist in the expansion of the City's Reclaimed Water Distribution System. Under the No Action Alternative, the proposed water reuse projects would not be constructed and implemented into the City's

system. No additional reuse water lines or reuse ground storage tank would be constructed, and up to 12 MGD of reuse water would not be provided to customers within the City.

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action would involve facility improvements and the installation of two (2) reuse waterlines and a reuse ground storage tank in two phases as described below and shown on Exhibits A and B. The reuse water lines would primarily be installed via open cut trenching except for where the line will be bored under Brushy Creek, other streams and tributaries, and roadways as needed.

- Phase I: This phase of work includes facilities improvements at the Brushy Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant and installation of approximately two miles of reuse water line.
- Phase II: Installation of approximately three miles of 24-inch diameter reuse water pipeline from the southwest intersection of Forest Creek Drive and Kenney Fort Boulevard (tying into the western terminus of Phase I) to the northwest corner of Dell Technologies property adjacent to a City drainage channel. Impacts are anticipated to be similar to the Phase I water line, though the final alignment corridor is in design stages. A 100-foot corridor was evaluated for Phase II to account for any design variance along the anticipated alignment.

Environmental Commitments

Environmental commitments are environmental protection measures to avoid and/or mitigate potentially adverse effects of the Proposed Action. The commitments shall be implemented as specified in Chapter 4 of the EA, summarized in this FONSI, and are considered integral part of the Proposed Action. Chapter 4.1 of the EA is herein incorporated by reference in this FONSI document.

1. The City shall comply with all sections of the CWA, including NWP No. 58 conditions for construction of the Project. More information can be found at: <https://usace.contentdm.oclc.org/>.
2. The City shall obtain a stormwater construction permit for the State of Texas for all construction activities. The permit is required for disturbance of one acre or more of land or is part of a larger common plan. More information can be found at: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/stormwater/construction>.
3. Erosion Control, Dust Control, and surface restoration measures are a requirement of the Construction Contract they are included in the design documents and are required by the City. More information can be found: <https://www.roundrocktexas.gov>.
4. The City requires construction activities to comply with their noise ordinance. More information can be found at: https://library.municode.com/tx/round_rock/codes/code_of_ordinances.

5. In the unlikely event that federally threatened or endangered species are encountered during construction of the Project, the City shall halt all construction activities and notify Reclamation.
6. If any species currently proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act become officially listed, the appropriate evaluations and coordination will be conducted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in accordance with applicable regulations.
7. The City or its contractor shall seed and restore lands disturbed during construction consistent with negotiated easements and agreements.
8. The City or its contractor shall control noxious weeds within the 25-foot-wide construction footprint and all other disturbed lands for three years following construction.
9. In the unlikely event historic properties are encountered during construction activities, the City shall immediately suspend all work in the vicinity of the discovery and notify the Bureau of Reclamation. Construction shall not resume in the affected area until the Section 106 consultation process, as required under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), has been completed in coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and any necessary protective measures have been implemented.
10. Any significant changes in the scope of the Project will require notification to Reclamation and potential additional NEPA compliance.
11. The City shall comply with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712, as amended).

Findings

In compliance with the NEPA, Reclamation assessed the potential short-term and long-term effects of the Proposed Action, considering both beneficial and adverse effects. Table 3.1 of the EA presents a summary of resources that were dismissed from further analysis, along with the rationale for their exclusion. A detailed summary of these reasonably foreseeable effects is found in Table 4.1 of the EA, which provides justification for why the impacts related to the Proposed Action are deemed not significant concerning the affected environment and the magnitude of effects associated with the action. Key findings are summarized below.

Cultural Resources

The proposed action qualifies as an undertaking as defined by 36 CFR § 800.16(y) and represents an activity that may impact historic properties, necessitating compliance with Title 54 USC § 306108, commonly referred to as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended. The area of potential effects (APE) encompasses all construction, access, and staging activities required for the proposed action.

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) reviewed the proposed action and concurred that no additional evaluation of above-ground historic resources was warranted. THC also concurred with the recommendation to conduct an archaeological survey to assess potential impacts to subsurface cultural resources. This archeological survey was completed in February 2025, and

the results were documented in the archaeological survey report. On June 2, 2025, THC concurred, affirming that no historic properties are present within the Area of Potential Effects and that the proposed project will have no effect on historic properties pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA.

Threatened and Endangered Species

A habitat assessment field survey to evaluate potential impacts to federally protected species was conducted in December 2024. Following review of the survey results and in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), Reclamation has determined that the proposed action will have no effect on any currently listed federal species or their designated critical habitat. Therefore, no further consultation under Section 7 of the ESA is required.

Additionally, it was concluded that the project will have no effect on any designated Critical Habitat under the amended ESA of 1973 (16 U.S.C. § 1531 et seq.) and will result in no take of birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. § 703 et seq.).

Waters of the U.S.

A wetland delineation survey conducted and consolidated in a report dated March 2025, identified eight water features within the project area, including one palustrine emergent wetland and two streams. Of these, five are potentially jurisdictional, while three are likely non-jurisdictional.

Construction of the proposed action is not anticipated to result in significant adverse effects to wetland or stream resources. The anticipated impacts to these jurisdictional Water of the U.S (WOTUS) would be below 1/10-acre and would therefore not have a significant impact. The proposed expansion is anticipated to be authorized by NWP 58. Compensatory mitigation for the project is not anticipated.

Conclusion

Based on the EA and Reclamation's independent evaluation and verification of the environmental analysis, which meets bureau standards and complies with NEPA, including the methodologies, Reclamation finds that the Project is not a major Federal action that will significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required.

The EA describes the existing environmental resources at the location of the Project and evaluates the reasonably foreseeable effects of the No Action and Proposed Action alternatives. The EA was prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act, 43 CFR Part 46, and Department of the Interior Handbook (516 DM 1).

The following outlines the rationale for the assessment that the Proposed Action would not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment:

- i. The Proposed Action will not result in significant short-term and long-term effects (516 DM 1 Section 1.2(b)(2)(i)).
- ii. The Proposed Action will have beneficial effects, and the adverse effects are not significant (516 DM 1 Section 1.2(b)(2)(ii)).
- iii. The Proposed Action will not significantly affect public health and safety (516 DM 1 Section 1.2(b)(2)(iii)).
- iv. The Proposed Action will not result in significant economic effects (516 DM 1 Section 1.2(b)(2)(iv)).
- v. The Proposed Action will not result in significant effects on the quality of life of the American people (516 DM 1 Section 1.2(b)(2)(v)).

Approved by: JOHN BUTTELMAN Digitally signed by JOHN BUTTELMAN
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