



FEMA

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
CITY OF SEABROOK
WASTEWATER SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE RETROFIT
SEABROOK, HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS
HMGP-DR-4332-TX PROJECT #358**

BACKGROUND

In accordance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Instruction 108-1-1, an Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared pursuant to Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the regulations promulgated by the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ; 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508). The purpose of the proposed project is to create a resilient wastewater treatment system that remains operable during significant weather events, thus providing service to residents and businesses during and after a major storm. This EA informed FEMA's decision on whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

The City of Seabrook has applied for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding through the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) under HMGP-DR-4332-TX Project #358. Through HMGP, FEMA provides grants to states and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures. The purpose of HMGP is to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and to enable mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery from a disaster. HMGP is authorized under Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

Four project alternatives were considered in this EA: 1) No Action; 2) Proposed Action; 3) West Right-Of-Way; 4) East Right-of-Way. Two other alternatives were considered and dismissed prior to EA development: Storm Surge Resistant Wall and Alternative Force Main Right of Way. The wall did not solve the flooding problems and the force main crossed ecologically sensitive park and refuge lands.

Under the No Action Alternative, the project would not be developed, and the existing Main Street Waste Water Treatment Plant (MSWWTP) would remain in its present location and at its existing elevation.

Alternative 2, the Proposed Action, includes the construction of a new wastewater treatment facility located at Pine Gully next to the Seabrook Public Works Complex on the northside of Seabrook, the modification of three existing lift stations, installation of two new lift stations on City property, and installation of new force mains and gravity sewer lines primarily within existing road shoulders and utility corridors to redirect and pump flows to the new higher elevation facility location.

The new wastewater facility, the PGWWTP, would be located on a 6.3-acre site, with a 3.9-acre facility footprint, on land owned by the City, next to the Seabrook Public Works Complex on the northside of Seabrook. The PGWWTP would be built at an elevation that is higher than the existing facility and would be able to process 2.5 million gallons of wastewater per day, which is equivalent to the flow that is treated at the existing MSWWTP. An emergency generator would be provided to keep the plant running during an outage. Additionally, modifications of three of the City's existing Lift Stations No. 4, 20 and 23/M and construction of two new lift stations, No. 24 and 22 to pump wastewater directly to the proposed PGWWTP facility would occur.

Under Alternative 3, the West ROW Alternative, would include a utility corridor of approximately 16,800 LF of force main and traverse west from LS 23/M along Second Street, turn southwest along Staples Avenue, turn northwest along Third Street, turn north and travel approximately 1.6 miles along State Highway 146 South, before turning east at Bayview Drive, continuing east along Red Bluff Road before turning north to travel approximately 0.2 mile along Park Drive to the PGWWTP.

Under Alternative 4, the East ROW Alternative, would include a utility corridor of approximately 15,500 linear feet (LF) of force main and traverse east from LS 23/M, along Second Street, turn northeast along Todville Road for approximately 2.0 miles, before turning to the west at Red Bluff Road, to travel approximately 0.6 mile, and finally turn north to travel approximately 0.2 mile along Park Drive to the PGWWTP. Both of the above alternatives would have similar impacts as the Proposed Alternative.

A public notice was posted in the local newspaper of record and on FEMA's website. The draft EA was made available for public comment for 30 days on FEMA's website, at Seabrook City Hall, and upon request in hard or electronic copy from FEMA. No comments were received from the public during the comment period.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Proposed Action is expected to have no impact or minimal impact on geology, soils, subsidence, seismicity, air quality, climate change, water quality, wetlands, floodplains, coastal resources, vegetation, threatened and endangered species and critical habitat, wildlife and fish, historic properties, American Indian/Native Hawaiian/Native Alaskan cultural and religious resources, environmental justice, hazardous materials, noise, traffic and public services, utilities and health and safety during construction, with many beneficial impacts to these resources during operation. During construction, short-term, minor impacts to soils, noise, traffic and air quality are anticipated. With implementation of BMPs to protect soils, such as avoiding earthwork when soils are too wet or dry, stockpiling topsoil on-site, and restoring and retaining vegetation to the extent practicable, a significant adverse cumulative impact on soils would not be expected. All adverse impacts require conditions to minimize and mitigate impacts to the proposed project site and surrounding areas.

CONDITIONS

The following conditions must be met as part of this project. Failure to comply with these conditions may jeopardize the receipt of federal funding.

1. This review does not address all federal, state, and local requirements. Acceptance of federal funding requires recipient to comply with all federal, state and local laws. Failure to obtain all appropriate federal, state and local environmental permits and clearances may jeopardize federal funding.
2. Any change to the approved scope of work will require re-evaluation for compliance with NEPA and other Laws and Executive Orders.
3. Particulate matter emissions will be minimized by using dust control techniques such as covering or treating disturbed areas and water suppression, as appropriate. Emissions will be minimized by encouraging use of cleaner diesel fuels, mandating limits on idling, increasing use of cleaner burning diesel engines, and other emission limitation techniques, as appropriate.
4. Silt fencing, use of proper grading techniques, and/or other stormwater runoff best management practices (BMPs) will be utilized to minimize sedimentation and erosion during construction. Areas where vegetation was removed would be re-seeded with a native herbaceous vegetation seed mix.
5. The City of Seabrook must comply with the Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit issued for the Pine Gully Wastewater Treatment Plant.
6. Construction equipment staging areas would be located at least 50 feet away from all water sources and wetland areas. No construction or storage areas would be located within 100 feet of a perennial or intermittent stream.
7. The City of Seabrook is responsible for coordinating with and obtaining any required Section 404 Permit(s) from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) prior to initiating work. The applicant shall comply with all conditions of the required permit. All coordination pertaining to these activities should be retained as part of the project file in accordance with the respective grant program instructions.
8. The City of Seabrook must coordinate with the local floodplain administrator, obtain required permits prior to initiating work, and comply with any conditions of the permit to ensure harm to and from the floodplain is minimized. All coordination pertaining to these activities should be retained as part of the project file in accordance with the respective grant program instructions.

9. The City of Seabrook will limit vegetation management work during the peak migratory bird-nesting period of March through August as much as possible to avoid destruction of individuals, nests, or eggs. If vegetation removal activities must occur during the nesting season, applicant will deploy a qualified biological monitor with experience conducting breeding bird surveys to survey the vegetation management area for nests prior to conducting work. The biologist will determine the appropriate timing of surveys in advance of work activities. If an occupied migratory bird nest is found, work within a buffer zone around the nest will be postponed until the nest is vacated and juveniles have fledged. The biological monitor will determine an appropriate buffering radius based on species present, real-time site conditions, and proposed vegetation management methodology and equipment. For work near an occupied nest, the biological monitor would prepare a report documenting the migratory species present and the rationale for the buffer radius determination and submit that report to FEMA for inclusion in project files.
10. If ground disturbing activities occur during construction, applicant will monitor ground disturbance and if any potential archeological resources are discovered, will immediately cease construction in that area and notify the state and FEMA.
11. To prevent and minimize impacts from spills, a Spill Prevention and Response Plan would be developed and utilized. Fueling and maintenance must take place at least 100 feet from waterbodies and wetlands. Should a spill occur, it would be reported and cleaned-up in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations.
12. Local noise ordinances would be adhered to and construction equipment would not be run between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. or at any time on Sundays, unless otherwise required. If construction is needed on Sundays to meet schedule, work would only occur during daytime hours.
13. The City of Seabrook will coordinate with utility owners and with public services, including Seabrook Intermediate School and Evelyn Meador Library, located along the Utility ROW prior to construction.
14. All construction activities would be conducted in accordance with OSHA requirements.
15. Safety barriers and appropriate signage, alerting pedestrians and motorists of project activities, would be in place prior to construction activities.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the EA, coordination with the appropriate agencies, comments from the public, and adherence to the project conditions set forth in this FONSI, FEMA has determined that the proposed project qualifies as a major federal action that will not significantly affect the quality of the natural and human environment, nor does it have the potential for significant cumulative effects. As a result of this FONSI, an EIS will not be prepared (FEMA Instruction 108-1-1) and the proposed project as described in the attached EA may proceed.

APPROVAL AND ENDORSEMENT

KEVIN R JAYNES Digitally signed by KEVIN R
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Kevin Jaynes
Regional Environmental Officer
FEMA Region 6

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Brianne Schmidtke
Hazard Mitigation Assistance Branch Chief
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