

# DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## Rural Development

Union Water Supply Corporation: Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment

**AGENCY:** Rural Utilities Service, USDA

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given that the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), as required by the National Environmental Policy Act, is issuing an environmental assessment (EA) in connection with possible impacts related to a project proposed by Union Water Supply Corporation. The proposal is for construction of the Proposed Water Treatment Plant Expansion and Rehabilitation, River Station Pump Rehabilitation, and Distribution System Upgrades in Starr County. Union Water Supply Corporation has submitted an application to RUS for funding of the proposal.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** To obtain copies of the EA, or for further information, contact: Michael Canales, Community Programs Director, 101 South Main Street, Temple, Texas 76501, at 254-742-9789 or michael.canales@usda.gov. The EA is also available for public review at Edinburg Area Office, 2514 S Veterans Blvd # 4, Edinburg, Texas 78539.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Union Water Supply Corporation proposes to construct the Proposed Water Treatment Plant Expansion and Rehabilitation, River Station Pump Rehabilitation, and Distribution System Upgrades around the communities of Graceville, La Casita, Santa Cruz, El Chaparral, El Refugio, and La Puerta areas of Southern Starr County, Texas. The proposed project consists of water plant expansion and rehabilitation, river station pump rehabilitation, and distribution system upgrades. 2.5 MGD will be added in capacity to the water treatment plant, along with upgrades to the outdated water distribution system in place. The massive distribution upgrade will decommission old and small diameter pipes and add new, proper sized pipes. The total length of rehabilitation to the pipelines will be approximately 129,229 L.F. 11.8 acres of land will be disturbed for pipeline installation and .25 acres will be disturbed for the water treatment plant expansion. 100 ac-ft of water rights will also be purchased with this project. RUS has chosen to apply the Programmatic Agreement among the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Programs, National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, Tribal Signatories, and The Advisory Council on historic Preservation for Sequencing Section 106 (NPA) for the Project(s).

SWG Engineering, LLC, an environmental consultant, prepared an environmental assessment for RUS that describes the project, assesses the proposed project's environmental impacts, and summarizes as applicable any mitigation measures used to minimize environmental effects.

RUS has conducted an independent evaluation of the environmental assessment and believes that it accurately assesses the impacts of the proposed project. No significant impacts are expected as a result of the construction of the project.

Questions and comments should be sent to RUS at the address provided. RUS will accept questions and comments on the environmental assessment for 14 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Any final action by RUS related to the proposed project will be subject to, and contingent upon, compliance with all relevant Federal environmental laws and regulations and completion of environmental review procedures as prescribed by 7 CFR Part 1970, Environmental Policies and Procedures.

A general location map of the proposal is shown below.

