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TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

October 22, 2007

Mr. David B. Casteel, P.E., District Engineer
San Antonio District
Texas Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 29928
San Antonio, Texas 78229-0928

Re: Edwards Aquifer, Comal County

NAME OF PROJECT: SH 46 at RM 2722 Improvements (CSJ: 0215-02-049); Along State Highway (SH) 46 at the Intersection with RM 2722; Comal County, Texas

TYPE OF PLAN: Request for Approval of a Water Pollution Abatement Plan (WPAP); 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 213 Edwards Aquifer
Edwards Aquifer Protection Program ID No. 07081310

Dear Mr. Casteel:

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has completed its review of the WPAP application for the referenced project submitted to the Austin Regional Office on behalf of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) on August 13, 2007. Final review of the WPAP submittal was completed after additional material was received on October 19, 2007. As presented to the TCEQ, the Temporary and Permanent Best Management Practices (BMPs) and the construction plans were prepared by a Texas Licensed Professional Engineer to be in general compliance with the requirements of 30 TAC Chapter 213. These planning materials were sealed, signed, and dated by a Texas Licensed Professional Engineer. Therefore, based on the engineer's concurrence of compliance, the planning materials for construction of the proposed project and pollution abatement measures are hereby approved subject to applicable state rules and the conditions in this letter. The applicant or a person affected may file with the chief clerk a motion for reconsideration of the executive director's final action on this Edwards Aquifer protection plan. A motion for reconsideration must be filed no later than 23 days after the date of this approval letter. *This approval expires two (2) years from the date of this letter unless, prior to the expiration date, more than 10 percent of the construction has commenced on the project or an extension of time has been requested.*

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed roadway project will be constructed in two phases (interim and ultimate). This interim phase will occur within an area of approximately 39.2 acres of TxDOT right-of-way (ROW) and 3.2 acres of temporary construction easement. It will consist of replacing the existing at grade intersection at SH 46 and RM 2722 with a grade separated intersection.

The existing SH 46 has two lanes with shoulders (approximately 39 feet wide) that transitions to two travel lanes with a turn lanes and shoulders at RM 2722. This phase of the project will include:

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1. Widening SH 46 from the existing roadway configuration on either side of RM 2722 to a width wide enough for six lanes at the intersection of RM 2722.
2. Widening RM 2722 in the immediate vicinity of its intersection with SH 46 from the existing two lanes with shoulders to four lanes, an acceleration lane, and a right turn lane.
3. Constructing a bridge on SH 46 crossing RM 2722.
4. Adding eastbound and west bound connector roads to and from SH 46 and turnarounds.
5. Improving the stormwater drainage system by adding cross drainage culverts and a stormwater collection system.
6. Modifying the existing stormwater detention pond which is located in a temporary construction easement to the southwest of the intersection. The embankment will be moved outside of the ROW, the pond will be deepened, and a concrete trickle channel will be added.
7. Constructing seven permanent water quality structures which will also serve as hazardous material traps.
8. Adjusting utilities as necessary.
9. Reconnecting existing driveways and intersections
10. Overlaying and restriping SH 46 and RM 2722
11. Re-stabilizing the ROW.
12. Installing temporary best management practices and associated appurtenances.

The proposed impervious cover for this phase of the project is approximately 20.19 acres. This is an increase of 11.9 acres over the existing conditions (21.2 percent to 51.5 percent). No new wastewater will be generated by this project.

A second phase (ultimate) of this project will occur within 50.2 acres of TxDOT ROW. A WPAP for that phase of the project will be submitted at a later date.

PERMANENT POLLUTION ABATEMENT MEASURES

Permanent Best Management Practices will be constructed in the interim phase to provide treatment of the stormwater runoff from both phases of this project. The individual treatment measures will consist of seven Aqualogic™ Cartridge Filter Basins which will be located along the proposed roadway improvements. The filter basins are being designed to provide treatment for both the interim and

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ultimate phases of this project. The required total suspended solid load removal for the total project is approximately 12,584 pounds per year. The storage volume of the ponds are oversized to remove approximately 13,619 pounds per year, thus providing an additional removal of 1,035 pounds per year. The approved measures meet the required 80 percent removal of the increased load in total suspended solids resulting from both projects.

GEOLOGY

According to the geologic assessment included with the application, the overall potential for infiltration to the Edwards Aquifer for the site is low. The site is located within the outcrop areas of the Austin Chalk, Eagle Ford Group, Del Rio Clay, the Regional Dense member of the Person Formation, and the grainstone member of the Kainer Formation. Features identified in the assessment included five faults crossing the project, two non-karst closed depressions, and a manmade excavation. No sensitive features were identified. The Austin Regional Office site investigation of September 19, 2007, revealed that the site was generally as described in the assessment. No additional sensitive geologic features were noted during the investigation.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

- I. Since this is a roadway construction project, deed recordation of this approval letter is not required.
- II. Intentional discharges of sediment laden stormwater during construction are not allowed. If dewatering excavated areas and/or areas of accumulated stormwater becomes necessary during construction, the discharge shall be filtered through appropriately selected temporary best management practices. These may include vegetative filter strips, sediment traps, rock berms, silt fence rings, etc.
- III. A staging area was not proposed for this project. If the contractor desires a staging area, information indicating the proposed location and placement of appropriate temporary erosion and sedimentation controls must be submitted to the TCEQ for review and approved prior to its installation.
- IV. This approval does not authorize the installation of temporary aboveground storage tanks on this project. If the contractor desires to install a temporary aboveground storage tank for use during construction, an application to modify this approval must be submitted and approved prior to installation. The application must include information related to tank location and spill containment. Refer to Standard Condition No. 3 below.
- V. Since the proposed project crosses several faults, features may be encountered during the construction activities. Refer to Standard Condition 8 below.
- VI. The Edwards Aquifer Authority should be notified if a spill of a reportable quantity of any potential sources of contamination occurs during construction.

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STANDARD CONDITIONS

1. Pursuant to Chapter 7 Subchapter C of the Texas Water Code, any violations of the requirements in 30 TAC Chapter 213 may result in administrative penalties.

Prior to Commencement of Construction:

2. All contractors conducting regulated activities at the referenced project location shall be provided a copy of this notice of approval. At least one complete copy of the approved WPAP and this notice of approval shall be maintained at the project location until all regulated activities are completed.
3. Modification to the activities described in the referenced WPAP application following the date of approval may require the submittal of a plan to modify this approval, including all information necessary for its review and approval prior to initiating construction of the modifications.
4. The applicant must provide written notification of intent to commence construction, replacement, or rehabilitation of the referenced project. Notification must be submitted to the Austin Regional Office no later than 48 hours prior to commencement of the regulated activity. Written notification must include the date on which the regulated activity will commence, the name of the approved plan and ID number for the regulated activity, and the name of the prime contractor with the name and telephone number of the contact person. The executive director will use the notification to determine if the approved plan is eligible for an extension.
5. Temporary erosion and sedimentation (E&S) controls, i.e., silt fences, rock berms, stabilized construction entrances, or other controls described in the approved WPAP, must be installed prior to construction and maintained during construction. Temporary E&S controls may be removed when vegetation is established and the construction area is stabilized. The water quality ponds shall be used as sedimentation basins during construction. The TCEQ may monitor stormwater discharges from the site to evaluate the adequacy of temporary E&S control measures. Additional controls may be necessary if excessive solids are being discharged from the site.
6. All borings with depths greater than or equal to 20 feet must be plugged with non-shrink grout from the bottom of the hole to within three (3) feet of the surface. The remainder of the hole must be backfilled with cuttings from the boring. All borings less than 20 feet must be backfilled with cuttings from the boring. All borings must be backfilled or plugged within four (4) days of completion of the drilling operation. Voids may be filled with gravel.

During Construction:

7. During the course of regulated activities related to this project, the applicant or agent shall comply with all applicable provisions of 30 TAC Chapter 213, Edwards Aquifer. The applicant shall remain responsible for the provisions and conditions of this approval until such responsibility is legally transferred to another person or entity.

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8. If any sensitive feature (caves, solution cavities, sink holes, etc.) is discovered during construction, all regulated activities near the feature must be suspended immediately. The applicant or his agent must immediately notify the Austin Regional Office of the discovery of the feature. Regulated activities near the feature may not proceed until the executive director has reviewed and approved the methods proposed to protect the feature and the aquifer from potentially adverse impacts to water quality. The plan must be sealed, signed, and dated by a Texas Licensed Professional Engineer.
9. No well exists on the site. All water wells, including injection, dewatering, and monitoring wells must be in compliance with the requirements of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation under Title 16 TAC Chapter 76 (relating to Water Well Drillers and Pump Installers) and all other locally applicable rules, as appropriate.
10. If sediment escapes the construction site, the sediment must be removed at a frequency sufficient to minimize offsite impacts to water quality (e.g., fugitive sediment in street being washed into surface streams or sensitive features by the next rain). Sediment must be removed from sediment traps or sedimentation ponds not later than when design capacity has been reduced by 50 percent. Litter, construction debris, and construction chemicals shall be prevented from becoming stormwater discharge pollutants.
11. The following records shall be maintained and made available to the executive director upon request: the dates when major grading activities occur, the dates when construction activities temporarily or permanently cease on a portion of the site, and the dates when stabilization measures are initiated.
12. Stabilization measures shall be initiated as soon as practicable in portions of the site where construction activities have temporarily or permanently ceased, and construction activities will not resume within 21 days. When the initiation of stabilization measures by the 14th day is precluded by weather conditions, stabilization measures shall be initiated as soon as practicable.

After Completion of Construction:

13. Owners of permanent BMPs and measures must insure that the BMPs and measures are constructed and function as designed. A Texas Licensed Professional Engineer must certify in writing that the permanent BMPs or measures were constructed as designed. The certification letter must be submitted to the Austin Regional Office within 30 days of site completion.
14. The applicant shall be responsible for maintaining the permanent BMPs after construction until such time as the maintenance obligation is either assumed in writing by another entity having ownership or control of the property (such as without limitation, an owner's association, a new property owner or lessee, a district, or municipality) or the ownership of the property is transferred to the entity. Such entity shall then be responsible for maintenance until another entity assumes such obligations in writing or ownership is transferred. A copy of the transfer of responsibility

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must be filed with the executive director through the Austin Regional Office within 30 days of the transfer. A copy of the transfer form (TCEQ-10263) is enclosed.

15. Upon legal transfer of this property, the new owner(s) is required to comply with all terms of the approved Water Pollution Abatement Plan. If the new owner intends to commence any new regulated activity on the site, a new Water Pollution Abatement Plan that specifically addresses the new activity must be submitted to the executive director. Approval of the plan for the new regulated activity by the executive director is required prior to commencement of the new regulated activity.
16. A Contributing Zone Plan approval or extension will expire and no extension will be granted if more than 50% of the total construction has not been completed within ten years from the initial approval of a plan. A new Contributing Zone Plan must be submitted to the Austin Regional Office with the appropriate fees for review and approval by the executive director prior to commencing any additional regulated activities.
17. At project locations where construction is initiated and abandoned, or not completed, the site shall be returned to a condition such that the aquifer is protected from potential contamination.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Mr. James Bice, P.E. of the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program of the Austin Regional Office at (512) 339-2929.

Sincerely,



For
Glenn Shankle
Executive Director
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

GS/jeb

Enclosure: Change in Responsibility for Maintenance on Permanent BMPs-Form TCEQ-10263

cc: Mr. Richard L. De La Cruz, P.E., Texas Department of Transportation, San Antonio District
Mr. John Bryant, P.G., Texas Department of Transportation, San Antonio District
✓ The Honorable Danny Scheel, Comal County Judge, New Braunfels, Texas
Mr. Greg Ellis, General Manager, Edwards Aquifer Authority, San Antonio, Texas
Mr. Bobby Caldwell, Water Section Manager, San Antonio Regional Office
Central Records, TCEQ, Information Resources Division, Austin