

# NEW MEXICO FINANCE AUTHORITY

## Categorical Exclusion Determination Statement of Finding

**Date:** June 15, 2012

City of Tucumcari Water Project  
Tucumcari, Quay County, New Mexico  
**Project Number:** 2728-DW

The New Mexico Finance Authority (NMFA) has conducted a review of the proposed City of Tucumcari (City) water project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the New Mexico State Environmental Review Process (SERP) for the State Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund (DWRLF). The procedure is based on the implementing regulations for NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 6, 25, 35, and 1500) as followed by the Environmental Protection Agency, USDA Rural Utility Service Bulletin 1794A-602 and State regulations 20.7.7 NMAC. Parametrix has determined that this project is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion (CE). Accordingly, the project is exempted from further substantive environmental review requirements under 40 CFR Part 6.107(d)(1) and 6.505(b)(1).

Following is a description of the proposed action and a statement of how the action meets the criteria for a CE.

**Project Description and Background:** The City has applied for a Drinking Water Loan for the replacement of the deteriorating 220,000 gallon water storage tank at the Metropolitan Park Well Field. The current tank is over 70 years old and will be replaced by a 500,000 gallon ground-mounted tank, which will increase water storage capacity by less than 10-percent. The funds will also be used to upgrade approximately 2,600 existing city manual brass meters to radio-read meters with associated connections and lids. The new meters will be installed within the existing meter boxes. Radio equipment and software at City Hall will be updated to facilitate the advanced radio-read ability of this meter system. This project will include the furnishing and installation of all equipment to make a fully functional system. Existing City communication antenna support structures will be utilized to co-locate radio and antenna equipment for intercommunication purposes. All activities will take place within existing right-of-way and no new excavation or land clearing would be required.

**Project Costs:** The City is requesting \$1,594,790 from the DWRLF for the construction of the 500,000 gallon water tank and the purchase and installation of radio-read meters and associated software upgrades.

**Categorical Exclusion Determination:** Categorical Exclusions are identified categories of actions that do not individually, cumulatively over time, or in conjunction with other federal, state, local, or private actions, have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. For a project to be eligible for Categorical Exclusion under the DWRLF, it must meet the criteria described in 40 CFR Part 6.107 and 6.505.

NMFA has performed a review of the application materials and has determined that the proposed action fits within the category of actions described by the CE and that no extraordinary circumstances are involved. The proposed action fits within a category of actions which are solely directed toward minor rehabilitation of existing facilities, functional replacement of equipment, or toward the construction of new ancillary facilities adjacent or appurtenant to existing facilities.

Specifically, the proposed action includes the replacement of water meters within existing right-of-way and will not affect the degree of treatment or capacity of the existing facility.

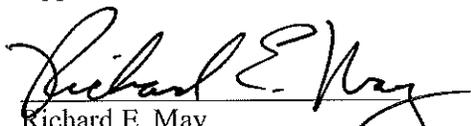
**Approval:** The conclusions presented here are based on the findings of an independent review of the application materials, including a CE checklist and supporting documentation for the proposed action. Based on the independent review, the proposed action qualifies as a CE and no extraordinary circumstances exist that would prevent the issuance of this CE Determination. Therefore, this documentation will serve as a record stating that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from the environmental review process because the action fits within an eligible category.

The responsible official shall revoke a categorical exclusion and shall require a full environmental review if, subsequent to the granting of an exclusion, the responsible official determines that (1) the proposed action no longer meets the requirements for a categorical exclusion due to changes in the proposed action; or (2) determines from new evidence that serious local or environmental issues exist; or (3) that Federal, State, local, or tribal laws are being or may be violated.

The documentation to support this decision will be on file at the NMFA, and is available for public review upon request. Comments concerning this decision may be addressed to: New Mexico Finance Authority, Attn: Ryan Helton, Sr. Program Administrator, 207 Shelby Street, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87501.

This documentation does not exempt the applicant from applicable local, state, or federal permitting requirements that may result from the proposed action.

Approved:

  
Richard E. May  
Chief Executive Officer, New Mexico Finance Authority

6/18/2012  
Date

**Copies Available:** The Documents that support this Categorical Exclusion are available for public review at the following locations:

1. New Mexico Finance Authority, Attn: Ryan Helton, Sr. Program Administrator, 207 Shelby Street, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87501.
2. City of Tucumcari, Attn: Yvette Fazekas, 518 South 8<sup>th</sup> Street, P.O. Box 1188, Tucumcari, NM 88401.