

# NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Resources.

**DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY**

## CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM

### CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

**TO:** All Interested Citizens, Government Agencies and Public Groups

In accordance with the Nebraska Drinking Water/Clean Water State Revolving Fund environmental review process, which is based on the National Environmental Policy Act, an environmental review has been performed on the proposed agency action below:

This information reviews the environmental impact likely from a project. This project is planned to be federally funded wholly or in part through your tax dollars; therefore, you are entitled to take part in its review. If you have concerns about the environmental impact of this project, please provide them at this time. The Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy encourages public input in this decision-making process.

**PROJECT NAME:** Emergency Wastewater Treatment Facility Repair  
**APPLICANT:** Crab Orchard, Nebraska  
**COUNTY:** Johnson  
**POPULATION:** 38 (2010 census)  
**NDEQID NO.:** 82644  
**AWIN SUSTAINABILITY SCORE:** 27 – High Risk  
**CWSRF PROJECT NUMBER:** C318018  
**ESTIMATED PROJECT COST TOTAL:** \$116,700  
**ESTIMATED CWSRF LOAN AMOUNT FOR LIFT STATION & A/E:** \$116,700

The Village of Crab Orchard is located in southeast Nebraska in Johnson County. The Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) at Crab Orchard consists of a lift station and a two-cell controlled discharge lagoon facility. The Village of Crab Orchard needs to make emergency repairs and/or replacements to their WWTF due to floodwaters in the creek (undesignated tributary of Yankee Creek, segment NE2-12580 of the Nemaha River Basin) adjacent to the lagoons as well as their lift station that was inundated by excessive infiltration/inflow. These events took place in the spring of 2019.

The lift station pumps were not able to keep up with the excessive flows due to infiltration/inflow caused by elevated ground water due to the wet weather conditions. The Village had to implement emergency pumping in order to avoid sewage back-ups in residences. The Village also proceeded to replace pumps and is currently working on completing the electrical work at the lift station. The outside dike of cell no. 2 (north cell) adjacent to the creek has eroded and has the potential of being totally washed away if the dike is not repaired as soon as possible. The Village has retained an Engineering Firm to design repairs to the outside dike of cell no. 2.

The Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is currently assessing flood damage caused due to the flooding that occurred in May, 2019 in Nebraska communities. Johnson County Emergency Management Agency has submitted the Request for Public Assistance in the FEMA/NEMA Grants Portal. The Village of Crab Orchard may get Federal Emergency Management

**Department of Environment and Energy**

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**Jim Macy, Director**

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Agency funds to repair the damage caused by flooding. While flood damage is being evaluated by NEMA, the Nebraska Department of Environment & Energy (NDEE) will provide interim loan assistance to the Village.

The project will have a positive impact on the environment. This project consists of preparing plans/specifications to repair/restore the lagoon dike. Repair of the lift station will provide reliable pumping of sewage to the lagoons and will thereby prevent back-up of sewage into residences. The CWSRF loan funds are limited to the design engineering costs for the lagoon and for lift station repair work.

The project is eligible for financing through the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRF) and is currently listed on the CWSRF SFY2020 B1-A list of the Intended Use Plan. Crab Orchard will be offered an interim CWSRF loan of \$116,700 for lift station repair and A/E costs. The loan will be at 0.0 percent interest and 0 percent administration fee for a 20/30 year term. Sewer use fees would be pledged to repay the CWSRF loan. Current residential sewer use rates are a flat rate of \$20.00 /user/month. The Village of Crab Orchard has 23 sewer connections. Sewer rates would need to be raised by \$24.00-\$28.00 per/user/month to cover the proposed CWSRF debt service due to a loan amount of \$116,700. This would equate to a projected residential sewer rate of \$44.00-\$48.00 per user per month. If FEMA grant funds are awarded for the repair of the WWTF then the CWSRF loan would be reduced to meet the FEMA city match amounts with a corresponding reduction in the final CWSRF debt service amount dependent on the actual FEMA funds received.

The proposed project is reviewed for eligibility for a categorical exclusion from National Environmental Policy Act review specified in 40 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) Part 6.204. The project meets all criteria described in the above reference and the Department has determined that the project is eligible for categorical exclusion. Consequently, a preliminary decision has been made that a Finding of No Significant Impact will not be prepared. The project as proposed is solely directed toward repair or replacement of the flood damaged WWTF.

Justification for categorical exclusion includes:

- The proposed action is not known or expected to have potentially significant environmental impacts on the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time;
- The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect federally listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat;
- The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect national natural landmarks or any property with nationally significant historic, architectural, prehistoric archeological or cultural value, including but not limited to, property listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places;
- The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect environmentally important natural resource areas as wetlands, floodplains (WWTF is currently found in the 100 year floodplain), prime farmland, wild and scenic rivers, and significant fish or wildlife habitat; a section 404 permit if required must be obtained by the Village from the Corps of Engineers due to construction on the creek bank.
- The proposed action is not known or expected to have a significant effect on the pattern and type of land use (industrial, commercial, agricultural, recreational,

residential) or growth and distribution of population including altering the character of existing residential areas, or may not be inconsistent with state or local government, or federally-recognized Indian tribe approved land use plans or federal land management plans.

- The proposed action is not known or expected to cause significant public controversy about a potential environmental impact of the proposed action.

The NDEE shall revoke the categorical exclusion and shall require a full environmental review if, subsequent to the granting of exclusion, the state determines that the proposed project no longer meets the requirements for a categorical exclusion due to changes in the proposed project; or new evidence reveals that serious local or environmental issues exist; or federal, state, local or tribal laws are being violated.

This action is taken under the emergency loan assistance provision of the SFY2020 Intended Use Plan for the CWSRF/DWSRF Funds and NDEE Title 131. In addition, this action is taken on the basis of careful review of the application and other supporting data, which are on file in the office of the NDEE. These are available for public review upon request. Persons having a comment on this categorical exclusion determination are encouraged to submit such comments directly to Gautam Bhadbhade, Review Engineer, of the Technical Assistance Section of NDEE, who can be reached at (402) 471-4207 or email: [Gautam.bhadbhade@nebraska.gov](mailto:Gautam.bhadbhade@nebraska.gov)

Signed this 30<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2019.

Sincerely,



Jim Macy  
Director

JM/gb

Attachments: Distribution List  
Map

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DISTRIBUTION LIST  
CRAB ORCHARD, NEBRASKA

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ENERGY  
Office of Public Affairs  
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Lenexa, KS

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Natural Resources Conservation Service  
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
John Moeschel  
State Program Manager  
US Army corps of Engineers  
Nebraska State Office, Suite 1  
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APPLICANT:  
Village of Crab Orchard  
Josh Wilkerson,  
Board Chairperson  
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Crab Orchard, NE 68332

CONSULTING ENGINEER:  
Mainelli Wagner & Associates  
6920 Van Dorn Street  
Lincoln, NE 68506

LOCAL NEWSPAPER  
(Public Information Only not for Public Notice)  
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241 Clay Street  
Tecumseh, NE 68450

NRD  
Nemaha NRD  
Robert Hilske, Manager  
62161 HWY 136  
Tecumseh, NE 68450





# Untitled Map

Write a description for your map.

Legend

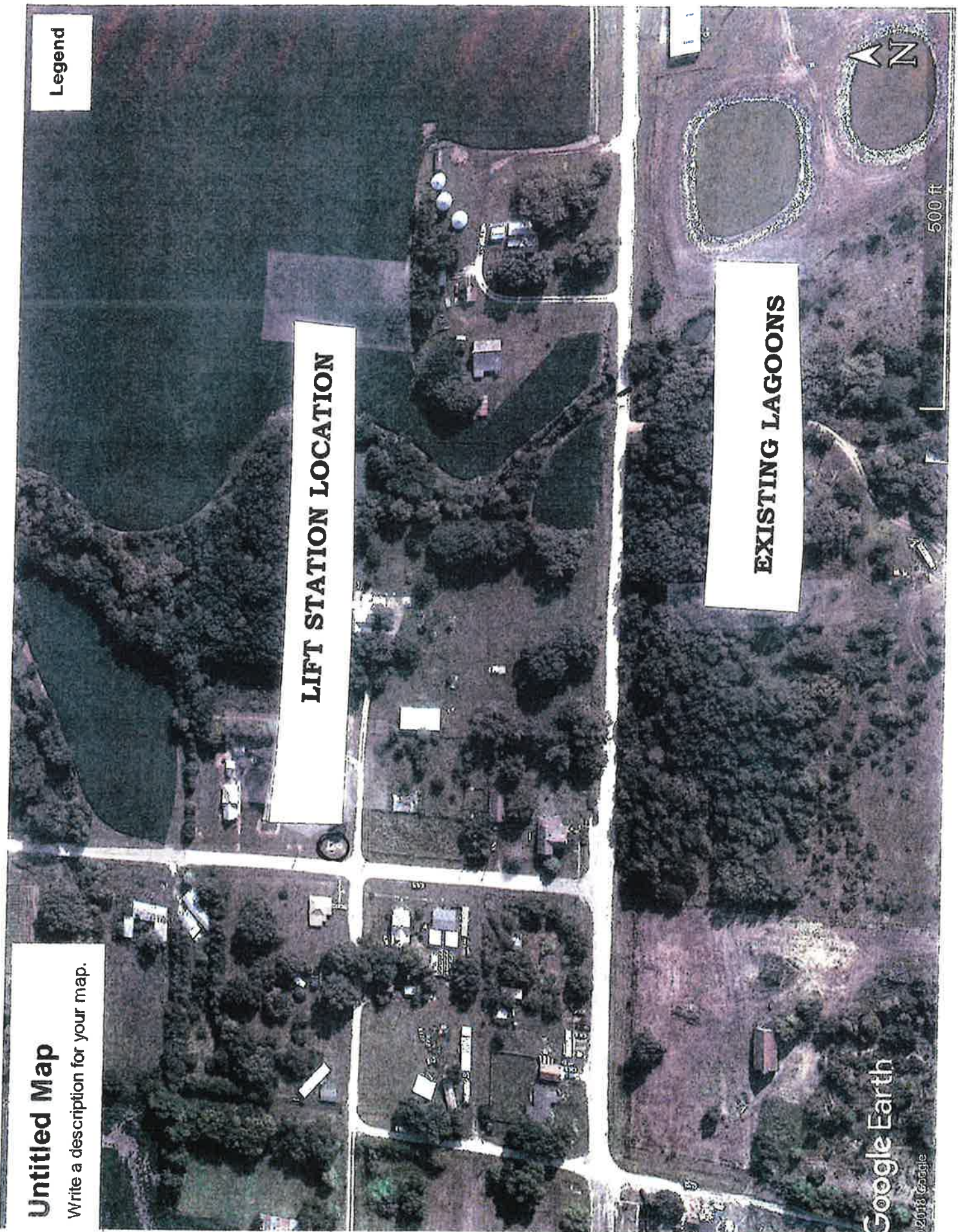
LIFT STATION LOCATION

EXISTING LAGOONS

Google Earth

© 2018 Google

500 ft







**OUTSIDE DIKE DAMAGE**



**TEMPORARY PUMPING AT LIFT STATION**

06/25/2019 09:28

