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Governor

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CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO: All Interested Citizens, Government Agencies and Public Groups

In accordance with the Nebraska 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 Environmental Quality encourages public input in this decision-making process.

PROJECT NAME: Fairground Lift Station and Sewer Extension
APPLICANT: Broken Bow, Nebraska
COUNTY: Custer County
POPULATION: 3559
CWSRF PROJECT NUMBER: C317747
TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT: \$850,000
ESTIMATED CWSRF LOAN AMOUNT: \$845,000
Principal Forgiveness: \$100,000

Broken Bow, Nebraska is the county seat of Custer County. The 2010 census population of Broken Bow is 3559.

Sargent Pipe Company, Plains Equipment Group and the Custer County Fairgrounds are located in Broken Bow along and in the proximity of East Highway 2. The existing lift station that serves Sargent Pipe Company has reached the end of its useful life. The on-site wastewater systems at the fair grounds are old and little is known about their condition. Plains Equipment Group is currently served by two separate on-site systems and the business wants to be connected to the City collection system.

The proposed project consists of the construction of a new lift station that will replace an existing lift station and the construction of 3,300 linear feet of 12-inch gravity sewer main and ten manholes. A portion of the service area which is on the south side of the BNSF railroad and Nebraska Highway 2, will require drilling and casing. The City of Broken Bow constructed a new Wastewater Treatment Plant in 2011 and has the capacity to treat additional wastewater as a result of this project.

The lift station and majority of the gravity sewer will be located within a new permanent easement on the Custer County Fairgrounds property. The railroad and highway crossings require permits, which are in the process of being approved. Direct and indirect impacts to floodplains, wetland, prime farmland, endangered species and historic resources are not anticipated.

The project will have a positive impact on the environment. The project will result in the elimination of several old septic tanks and thereby eliminate several point source discharges. The project

also includes replacement of an old failing lift station. The new sewer main and the lift station are designed to provide opportunity for future development. The City has applied for financial assistance to build the project through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan program. The project is eligible for financing through the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRF) and is listed on the Appendix B1a list of the FY2015 Intended Use Plan. Broken Bow is eligible for a 20-year CWSRF loan at the current program interest rate of 1.5 percent. In addition to principal and interest payments, an administrative fee of 1 percent of the outstanding principal balance would be assessed each year. Revenues from the current sewer use fees will be used to repay the CWSRF loan. Broken Bow's median household income is \$38,043, which qualifies Broken Bow for 50 percent CWSRF loan forgiveness capped at \$100,000. Forgiveness funds are dependent on availability at the time of loan closing.

The current sewer use fees are \$20.62 per month plus \$2.50/1,000 gallons of water used during December, January and February, unless the sewer customer is not on City water whereby the rate will be based upon 4,000 gallons per month. An estimated rate increase of \$3.00/month/user will pay for the debt service as a result of this project.

The proposed project was 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 this project is eligible for a categorical exclusion. Consequently, a preliminary decision has been made that a Finding of No Significant Impact will not be prepared. The projects as proposed will serve proposed subdivisions. 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 floodplains, prime farmland, wild and scenic rivers, and significant fish or wildlife habitat;
- 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 be consistent 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.

The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality 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 on the basis of careful review of the application and other supporting data, which are on file in the office of the NDEQ. 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, P.E, Environmental Engineer, of the Technical Assistance Section of NDEQ, who can be reached at (402) 471-4207 or email: gautam.bhadbhade@nebraska.gov

Signed this 6TH day of October, 2014.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patrick W. Rice".

Patrick Rice
Acting Director

Attachments: Distribution List
Maps

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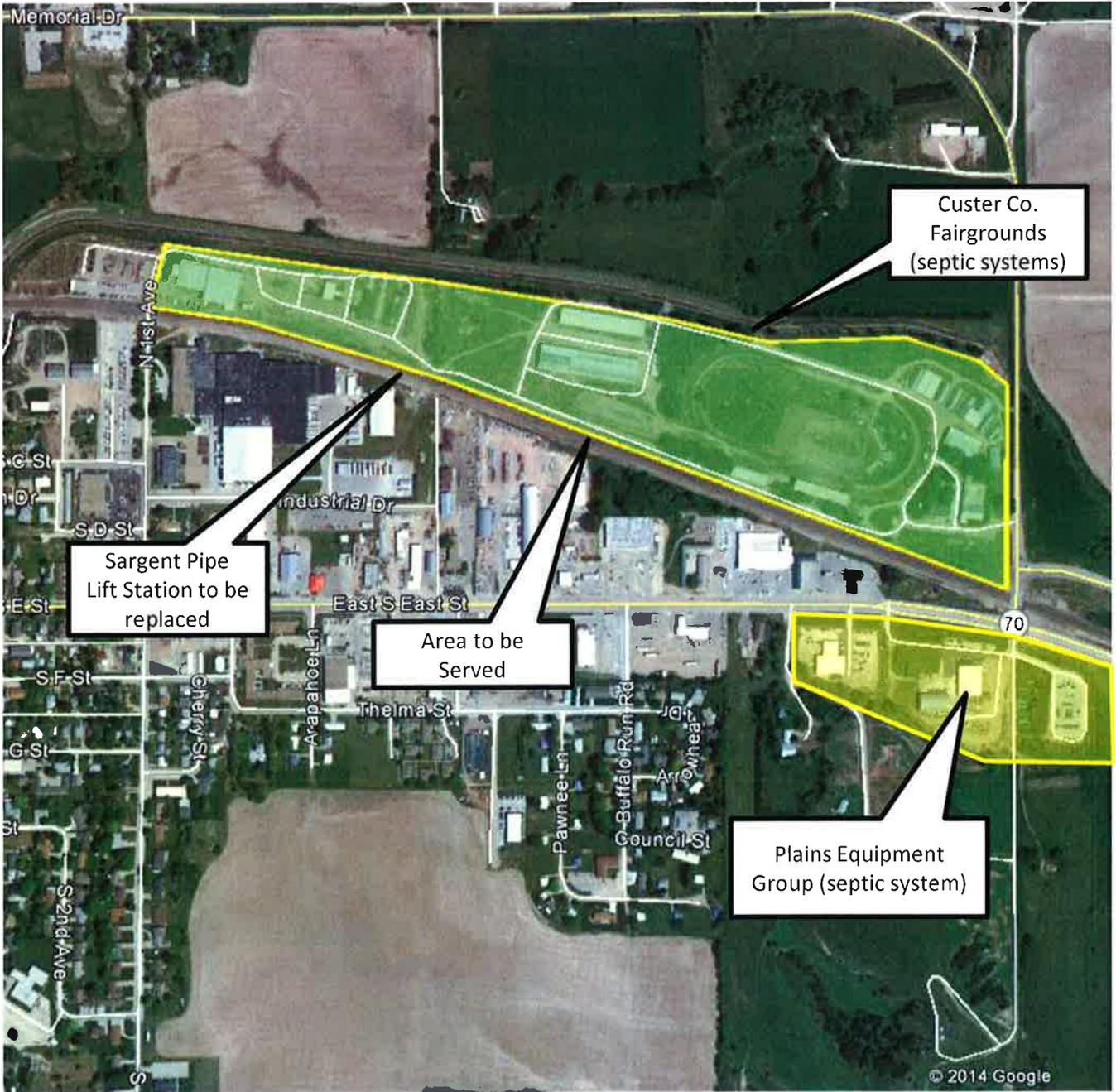
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Legend

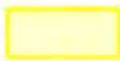
 Area to be Served

Figure 1
Area to be Served
 Broken Bow, Nebraska