



## 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: Gothenburg West Side Sanitary Sewer Improvements

APPLICANT: Gothenburg, Nebraska

COUNTY: Dawson

POPULATION: 3,574 (2010 census)

CWSRF PROJECT NUMBER: C317995

NDEQ IIS NUMBER: 8613

AWIN SUSTAINABILITY SCORE: 9 (low risk)

TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT: \$500,000

ESTIMATED CWSRF LOAN AMOUNT: \$500,000

The City of Gothenburg, Nebraska is planning to sewer an existing west side industrial area of town. An extension of approximately 3,200 feet of 8 inch sanitary sewer will be constructed. In addition, 4 and 6 inch service lines will be constructed along with a lift station and 400 feet of force main connecting to the existing collection system. The Lake Helen spillway canal will be crossed by directional drilling. Pipe would be bored and jacked under the canal. The City has applied for financial assistance through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan program to build the project.

The project will have a positive impact on the environment. The project will result in abandonment of septic tanks and drain fields in the west side industrial area. Sanitary sewer service will be provided to offices of the businesses found in this industrial area.

The project is eligible for financing through the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRF) and is currently listed on the CWSRF SFY2018 Intended Use Plan and ranked at 64 points on the CWSRF priority list. Gothenburg's median household income is \$51,726 and has an AWIN score of 9 which does not qualify Gothenburg for CWSRF loan forgiveness. Current CWSRF loan interest rate is 1.5% per annum for a 20-year loan. In addition to principal and interest payments, an administrative fee of 1.0% of the principal loan balance would be assessed each year.

Sewer use fees would be pledged to repay the loan. Current residential sewer use rates are a flat rate of \$32.80 per month. The City of Gothenburg has approximately 1,551 residential and commercial sewer connections. Sewer rates would only need to be raised by \$2.00 to cover CWSRF debt service and 10% coverage requirements. This would equate to residential sewer rate of \$34.80 per month.

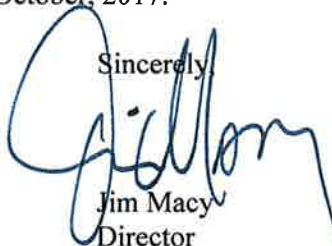
The proposed project was reviewed for eligibility for a categorical exclusion from National Environmental Policy Act review specified in 40 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) Part 6.204. The project meets all criteria described in the above reference and the Department has determined that this project 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 project as proposed is solely directed toward extending sanitary sewer service to existing west side industries. 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 (construction south of Hwy 30 lies in the 100 year floodplain and will require a permit to construct in the floodplain), 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 not 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 Tom Fuenning, Review Engineer, of the Technical Assistance Section of NDEQ, who can be reached at (402) 471-4989 or email: [tom.fuenning@nebraska.gov](mailto:tom.fuenning@nebraska.gov).

Signed this 12<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2017.

Sincerely,  
  
Jim Macy  
Director

JM/tsf

Attachments: Distribution List  
Map

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DISTRIBUTION LIST  
GOTHENBURG, NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Office of Public Affairs  
P.O. Box 98922  
Lincoln, NE 68509-8922

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN  
SERVICES - REGULATION AND LICENSURE  
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DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
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NEBRASKA GAME & PARKS COMMISSION  
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DIRECTOR, NEBRASKA STATE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
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Omaha, NE 68102-4226

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Grand Island, NE 68803

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
Ken Shaw  
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100 Centennial Mall North  
Lincoln, NE 68508

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
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Lenexa, KS 66219

STATE CONSERVATIONIST  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
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State Program Manager  
US Army corps of Engineers  
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Omaha, NE 68138-3621

APPLICANT:  
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Bruce Clymer, City Administrator  
409 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Gothenburg, NE 69138

CONSULTING ENGINEER:  
Gary Steele, P.E.  
Miller & Associates  
1111 Central Avenue  
Kearney, NE 68847

LOCAL NEWSPAPER  
Gothenburg Times  
406 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Gothenburg, NE 69138  
(Public Information Only not for Public Notice)

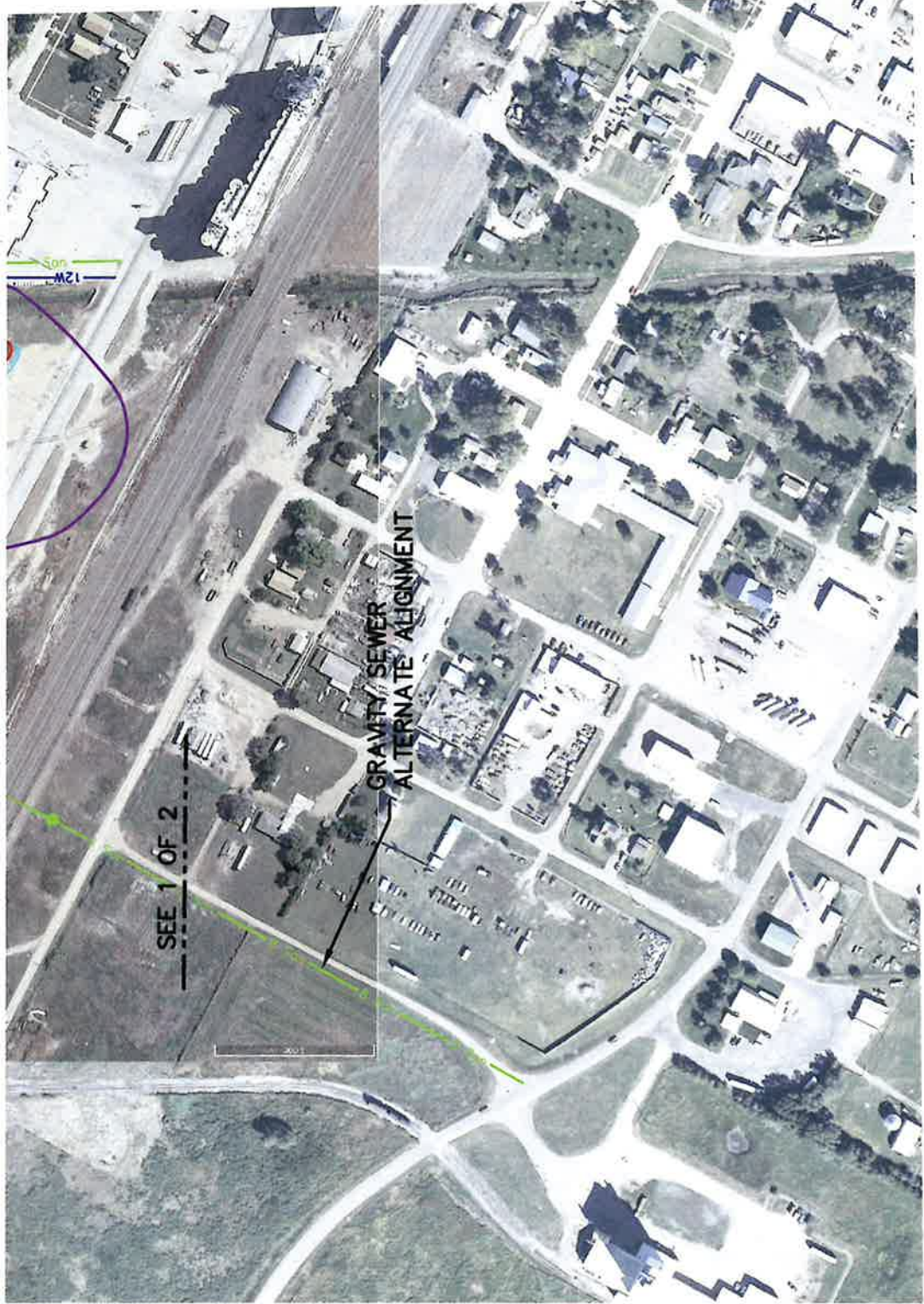




GOTHENBURG  
WEST SIDE WATER & SEWER IMPROVEMENTS  
1 OF 2

PREPARED BY:  
**M&A**  
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CONSULTING ENGINEERS, P.C.  
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KEARNEY, NE 68847





- AMMONIA & NITRATE 10 MG/L
- AMMONIA & NITRATE 1000 MG/L
- LNAPL