



## 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 (NDEQ) encourages public input in this decision-making process.

PROJECT NAME: Emergency Sanitary Sewer Outfall Railroad Undercrossing Replacement  
APPLICANT: Sutherland, Nebraska  
COUNTY: Lincoln County  
POPULATION: 1,286 (2010 Census)  
CWSRF PROJECT NUMBER: C317994  
NDEQ ID No.: 58212  
AWIN SUSTAINABILITY SCORE: 5  
TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT: \$325,374  
ESTIMATED CWSRF LOAN AMOUNT: \$325,374

The Village of Sutherland is located in Lincoln County in western Nebraska. The 2010 census population was 1,286. Sutherland's wastewater collection system includes a 10 inch sanitary sewer undercrossing of Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) triple set of tracks crossing Prairie Trace Road. The 10 inch gravity sewer main was installed in 1958 and is made of cast iron material. The line was showing some blockage and an attempt to clean brought significant sized pieces of cast iron to the downstream manhole. The line was attempted to be televised but the camera could not pass through the pipe showing the line was in the process of failing. A replacement undercrossing is needed to prevent a total collapse of the main outfall to the Village wastewater lagoon system. The proposed project would replace the existing undercrossing with a new 12 inch carrier pipe and a 20 inch steel casing constructed to UPRR standards. The balance of the outfall line approximately 3,000 feet to the Village lagoons will be televised to analyze for the existing condition and to look for any infiltration and inflow in the remainder of the outfall line.

The proposed 12 inch sewer line replacement with 20 inch casing would be directionally bored under UPRR and Highway 30 for a distance of approximately 400 feet. Three new manholes will be constructed to connect the proposed undercrossing to the existing gravity outfall sewer. The existing undercrossing sanitary sewer line is at risk of total failure by railroad loading action and upon failure would make for sewer backups in town.

The project is eligible for financing through a Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan (CWSRF) and is listed on the planning list of the SFY2018 Intended Use Plan (IUP). Sutherland

qualifies for a 20-year loan at a current program interest rate of 1.5 percent. In addition to principal and interest payments, an administrative fee of 1.0 percent of the outstanding principal 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 \$20.00 per month. The City of Sutherland is estimated to have approximately 515 sewer connections. Sewer rates would need to be raised by \$3.94 per month to cover the debt service and 10 percent coverage requirement. This would equate to an average sewer rate of approximately \$24.00 per month.

The project will have a positive impact on the environment by preventing a raw sewage backup into the Village of Sutherland. The project will result in continued wastewater transmission and treatment of sewage flows from the Village lagoon system with a lowered risk of future failure of the new railroad undercrossing by the addition of a steel casing pipe.

The review did not indicate a significant environmental impact would result from the proposed action. It appears the two new manholes on the south end of the undercrossing are located inside the very edge of the 100 year flood plain of the South Platte River by FEMA maps. The project will apply for a permit to construct in the flood plain from the flood plain administrator of the Village of Sutherland. The sanitary sewer will be installed by directional boring and will not require a Section 404 COE Permit. The Village will seek to obtain an undercrossing permit from the UPRR. The project will monitor for nesting and migratory birds, which could be disturbed by construction. The project does not discriminate against any segment of the community's population nor suffers disproportionately from human health or environmental effects.

The 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 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 replacement of existing facilities.

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, prime farmland, floodplains, wild and scenic rivers, and significant fish or wildlife habitat. The existing sanitary sewer main on the south end of the undercrossing appears to be in the 100 year floodplain and should be flood proofed to 1 foot above the 100 year flood elevation for the manhole covers. As an alternate, manhole covers can be bolted down with a gasketed frame and solid cover if placed lower than 1 foot above the 100 year flood elevation.
- 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 about a potential environmental impact of the proposed action.

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  
SUTHERLAND, 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  
Steve McNulty  
P.O. Box 95026  
Lincoln, NE 68509-5026

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
Mitch Paine  
P.O. Box 94676  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4676

NEBRASKA GAME & PARKS COMMISSION  
Craig Wacker/Carey Grell  
P.O. Box 30370  
Lincoln, NE 68503-0370

DIRECTOR, NEBRASKA STATE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 82554  
Lincoln, NE 68508-2554

STATE OFFICE OF POLICY RESEARCH  
Policy Advisor  
Rm 1319, State Capitol  
P.O. Box 94601  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4601

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
Abigail Anderson  
P.O. Box 94666  
Lincoln, NE 68509

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Eliza Hines  
9325 South Alda Road  
Wood River, NE 68883

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Nick Chevance  
Environmental Coordinator  
Midwest Regional Office  
601 Riverfront Drive  
Omaha, NE 68102-4226

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
Ken Shaw  
Room 308, Federal Building  
100 Centennial Mall North  
Lincoln, NE 68508

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Chris Simmons/Kelly Beard-Tittone  
11201 Renner Blvd  
*Mail Code: WWPDWIMB*  
Lenexa, KS 66219

STATE CONSERVATIONIST  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Federal Building, Room 345  
100 Centennial Mall North  
Lincoln, NE 68508

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
John Moeschen  
State Program Manager  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
Nebraska State Office, Suite 1  
8901 South 154<sup>th</sup> Street  
Omaha, NE 68138-3621

APPLICANT:  
John Lutz, Chairman  
Village of Sutherland  
PO Box 277  
Sutherland, NE 69165










CONSULTING ENGINEER:  
Tom Werblow, P.E.  
TC Engineering  
One South Sycamore Street  
North Platte, NE 69101

LOCAL NEWSPAPER:  
Sutherland Courier-Times  
824 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Sutherland, NE 69165  
(Public Information Only not for Public Notice)

NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT:  
Twin Platte NRD  
PO Box 1347  
111 So. Dewey Street  
North Platte, NE 69103



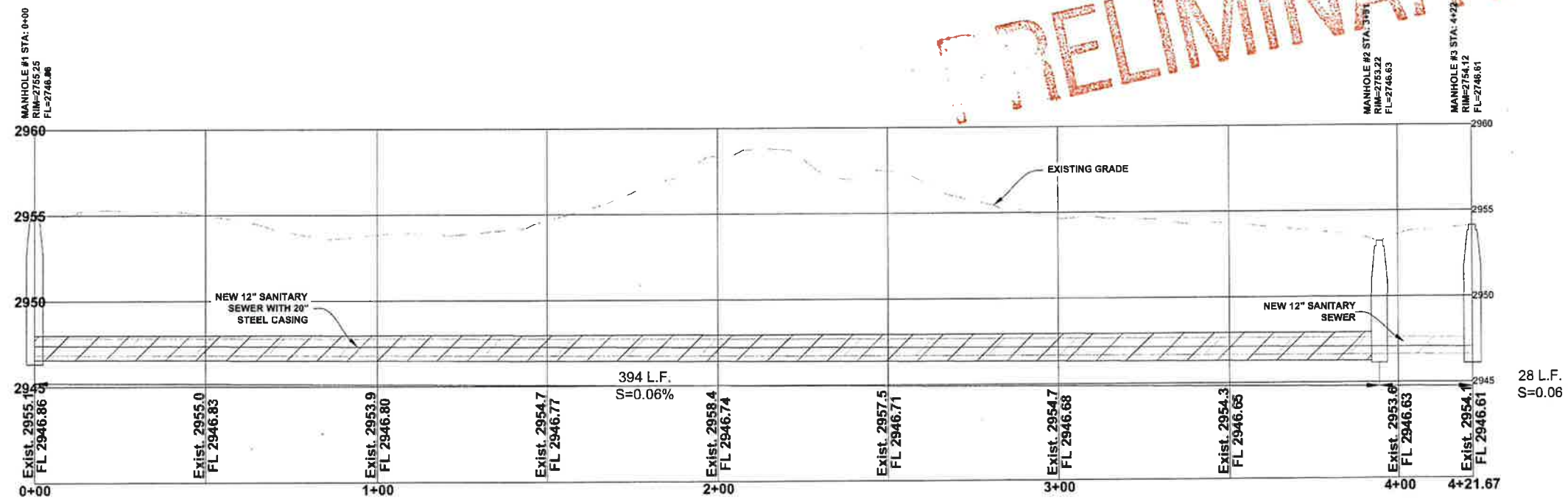
**LEGEND**

-  NEW SANITARY SEWER
-  EXISTING WATER VALVE / WATER LINE
-  EXISTING SANITARY SEWER
-  EXISTING POWER POLE
-  OVERHEAD ELECTRIC
-  UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC
-  GAS LINE
-  TELEPHONE LINE
-  FIBER OPTIC LINE



**SANITARY SEWER PLAN**

DELMININARY



**SANITARY SEWER PROFILE**

**NE-DIGGERS.COM**  
CONTRACTOR SHALL CONTACT DIGGERS HOTLINE OF NEBRASKA PRIOR TO ANY EXCAVATION.

CONTRACTOR SHALL EXERCISE EVERY PRECAUTION TO PREVENT DAMAGE TO ANY PUBLIC OR PRIVATE UTILITY LINE OR APPEARANCE AND SHALL BE LIABLE FOR ANY DAMAGE INCURRED AS A RESULT OF HIS OPERATIONS. ALL UTILITIES SHALL BE ADEQUATELY NOTIFIED PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR LOCATING ALL UTILITIES. SERVICE CONNECTIONS ARE NOT SHOWN EXCEPT AS NOTED. EXISTING UTILITIES SIZE AND LOCATION BOTH HORIZONTAL AND VERTICAL, ARE APPROXIMATE AND SHALL BE VERIFIED IN THE FIELD PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION BY THE CONTRACTOR.

**T.C. ENGINEERING INC.**  
 NORTH PLATTE, NEBRASKA  
**Sewer Improvements 2017-1**  
 Sutherland, Nebraska  
 PROJECT: \_\_\_\_\_  
 DRAWN BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
 DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 DWG: \_\_\_\_\_  
 SCALE: As Shown  
 SHEET: 1