



CLEAN AND DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO: All Interested Citizens, Government Agencies and Public Groups

In accordance with the Nebraska Drinking Water State Revolving Fund environmental review process, which is based on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 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: Talmadge and Patriot Sanitary Sewer and Water Distribution System Extension
APPLICANT: Kearney, NE
COUNTY: Buffalo
POPULATION: 33,385 (Estimated)
CWSRF PROJECT NUMBER: C318010
DWSRF PROJECT NUMBER: D311624
TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT: \$2,620,000
CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING LOAN AMOUNT: \$1,705,000
DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING LOAN AMOUNT: \$915,000

The City of Kearney is located in Buffalo County, in central Nebraska along Interstate 80. Kearney operates a trickling filter/solids contact wastewater treatment plant and two wellfields to supply a public water system. The City needs to expand their wastewater collection and water supply distribution systems in south central Kearney at the Talmadge subdivision to serve a proposed commercial expansion, and as the initial phase to providing a second crossing of the interstate. That crossing will provide a redundant feed to the south side of the highway. Without the phased extension, over 50 residences and numerous existing business are solely depending on a single line for their water supply. This first project phase will ultimately lead to a secondary loop, which will ensure a continuous supply of safe drinking water to the noted existing users. In addition, the City has also requested funding for the Patriot subdivision area in northeast Kearney, to provide for expansion and establish a loop of two dead end water lines.

Funding for the project will be provided through two loans from the State Revolving Fund Program with one from the Clean Water SRF (CWSRF) covering eligible costs associated with

wastewater portions of the project and the second loan from the Drinking Water SRF (DWSRF) covering eligible costs associated with the public water system. The project will have a positive impact on the environment, resulting in abandonment of multiple septic tanks/drain fields in the south central area. Sanitary sewer service will then be provided to offices of the businesses developed in these areas.

According to the Priority Ranking System, this project is considered to be a low priority and it is included on the Planning List in the State Fiscal Year 2019 Intended Use Plan (IUP). Based on the availability of funds, the project can be funded in accordance with the IUPs listed bypass criteria, once the bypass date of January 1, 2019 has passed. Based on supporting documentation on file with the NDEQ, a median household income of \$51,333, and an Assessing Wastewater Infrastructure Needs score of 3, this project was determined to be eligible for both CWSRF and DWSRF loans with criteria based upon the conditions set in the current IUP. Terms and conditions for the CWSRF loan include a 20 year loan term with a 1.5% principal interest charge and a 1% annual administrative fee. Terms and conditions for the DWSRF loan include a 20 year loan term, 2% principal interest charge and a 0.5% annual administrative fee. Water rates for the city and its residents are separated based on water usage. The current water rate (drinking water) is \$8.62 per month with an additional usage rate of \$1.55 for every 100 hundred cubic feet of water (ccf). The current sewer charge (wastewater) is \$3.73 per month with an additional \$2.06 for every 100 ccf. The projected annual combined debt service (CWSRF + DWSRF), including 10% coverage, is \$193,733. Based upon the 10,290 active service connections, it is estimated that monthly residential water utility rates would need to be increased by a total of \$1.57 per month (\$0.54 increase for water rates and \$1.03 increase for sewer charge).

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 an upgrade to the system's existing pump station. 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, wild and scenic rivers, and significant fish or wildlife habitat;

- Based on a review of the available mapping, the entire south central portion, as well as a section of the northeast portion of the project lies within the 100-year flood plain. Thus a permit to construct in the flood plain will be required from the local administrator; and,
- 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 project is determined by DHHS to help the public water system maintain compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act and the City has a permit to operate a public water system under the provisions of the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act and the Regulations Governing Public Water Supply Systems, Title 179. The system last underwent a routine sanitary survey by DHHS in February of 2017, wherein several deficiencies were noted and all were corrected that month. Also, as of July 2018, the Environmental Tracking Tool score for the City is 0, below the allowable 11 per the issued U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidance. That information satisfies the Technical, Financial, and Managerial program policy.

The NDEQ 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 Steve McNulty, DHHS at 402 471-1006 or email steve.mcnulty@nebraska.gov, or John Danforth, Water Permits Division of NDEQ at 402 471-3373 or email john.r.danforth@nebraska.gov.

Signed this 31st day of October, 2018.

Sincerely,

Jim Macy
Director

Attachments: Distribution List
 Maps

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DISTRIBUTION LIST
KEARNEY, NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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P.O. Box 98922
Lincoln, NE 68509-8922

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
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P.O. Box 82554
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DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Steve Charleston
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Lincoln, NE 68509

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Eliza Hines
9325 B South Alda Road
Wood River, NE 68883-9565

LOCAL NEWSPAPER (Public Information Only)

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Kearney, NE 68848-1988

CONSULTING ENGINEER

Chris Miller, P.E.
Miller & Associates
1111 Central Avenue
Kearney, NE 68847-6833

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Nick Chevance
Environmental Coordinator
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha, NE 68102-4226

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Ken Shaw
Room 308, Federal Building
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
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Omaha, NE 68138-3621

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

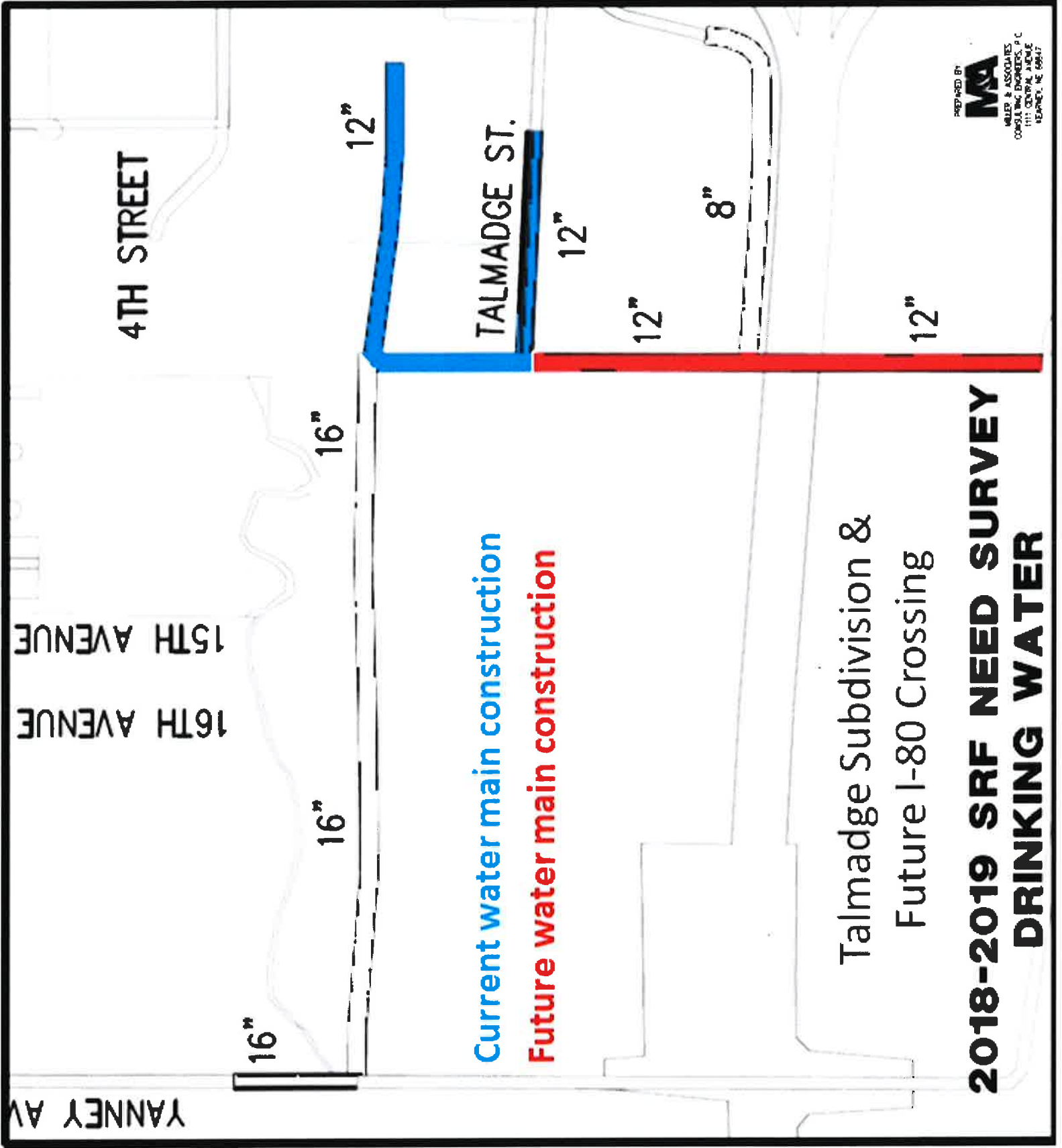
Chris Simmons/Kelly Beard-Tittone
11201 Renner Blvd
Mail Code: WWPDWIMB
Lenexa, KS 66219

STATE CONSERVATIONIST

Soil Conservation Service
Federal Building, Room 345
100 Centennial Mall North
Lincoln, NE 68508

APPLICANT

Anton Jelinek, Director of Utilities
City of Kearney
1220 East 26th Street
Kearney, NE 68847



Talmadge Subdivision &
 Future I-80 Crossing

**2018-2019 SRF NEED SURVEY
 DRINKING WATER**

INFRASTRUCTURE FEASIBILITY PLAN PATRIOT INDUSTRIAL PARK AN ADDITION TO THE CITY OF KEANNEY, BUFFALO COUNTY, NEBRASKA

NOTES

1. All dimensions are in feet and inches.
2. All lot areas are in square feet.
3. All street widths are in feet.
4. All street depths are in feet.
5. All street grades are in percent.
6. All street centerlines are in feet.
7. All street right-of-ways are in feet.
8. All street easements are in feet.
9. All street setbacks are in feet.
10. All street medians are in feet.
11. All street shoulders are in feet.
12. All street curbs are in feet.
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24. All street curbs are in feet.
25. All street sidewalks are in feet.



- ### LEGEND
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|----|-----------------------------|
| 1 | PROPOSED 24" CONC. PAVEMENT |
| 2 | PROPOSED 36" RCP |
| 3 | PROPOSED 8" SAN. |
| 4 | PROPOSED 12" WAT. |
| 5 | PROPOSED 15" SAN. |
| 6 | PROPOSED 10" WAT. |
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