



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 Environment and Energy encourages public input in this decision-making process.

PROJECT NAME: Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade and Lift Station Upgrade
APPLICANT: Cass County SID 5, Nebraska
COUNTY: Cass County
POPULATION: 1,330 Estimated
CWSRF PROJECT NUMBER: C318035
TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT: \$1,777,500
ESTIMATED CWSRF LOAN AMOUNT: \$1,777,500

SID 5, Cass County also known as Buccaneer Bay is located two miles west of U.S Highway 75 and is adjacent to the south side of the Platte River. The population is estimated to be 1,330 people.

The collection system that was installed in 1974 consists of vitrified clay pipe (VCP). An additional collection system installed since then consists of polyvinyl composite (PVC) pipe. The system also includes six lift stations. There are five satellite lift stations in the collection system and an additional influent lift station at the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF). All lift stations except lift station number 5, Sterling Lift Station, are in good condition. The condition of the collection system was evaluated in 2006 via closed circuit televising. A small portion of the collection system was repaired in 2007. Since then, the SID has budgeted \$5,000 per year to repair and maintain the collection system. The collection system is currently in acceptable condition.

The WWTF constructed in 2004, consists of the Fluidyne Sequencing Batch Reactor (SBR) facility a flow equalization tank and an ultraviolet (UV) disinfection facility. Sludge that is wasted is collected in two anaerobic storage tanks and is hauled away to the Omaha Papio WWTF. The headworks consists of an influent lift station, includes two 300 gallons per minute pumps, flow metering vault, and a manual bar screen. The lift station and the flow metering vault are in acceptable condition. The manual bar screen tends to clog up. The SBR tanks and piping are in acceptable condition.

The SID expects growth of about 50 dwellings in the foreseeable future. JEO Consulting determined that the existing WWTF is not capable of treating the current and projected maximum daily flows. The proposed project is designed for the year 2040 and a design population of 1600 people. In order to address the treatment of maximum daily flows, growth, and obsolete controls, the following upgrades are proposed at the existing WWTF.

A third SBR train identical to the existing system will be constructed adjacent to the existing tanks, which will result in treating an additional 33% of the flow. In order to automate and program the operation for a three tank Fluidyne system, the electrical controls and components will be replaced. Effluent pumps will be replaced in order to increase pumping capacity in the disinfection season. A grinder or an automated screening unit will replace the manual screen in the headworks building. The project also includes the upgrade of lift station No. 5. The proposed project will provide reliable treatment for the foreseeable future.

The SID has applied for financial assistance for the project through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan program. The project is listed on the planning list of the FY2021 Intended Use Plan and is eligible for CWSRF financing. SID 5 is eligible for a 20-year CWSRF loan at the current program interest rate of 0.00% and an administration fee of 0.00%.

Sewer use fees will be dedicated to service the proposed CWSRF loan and the operation and maintenance of the sewer utility. The current sewer user charge is \$26.90 per month. Revenues generated from the sewer use fees will be used to repay the CWSRF loan. Annual debt service on a \$1,777,500 loan is estimated to be \$88,875. The SID has 475 users. The sewer user fees will have to be raised by \$15.60/month/user in order to service the additional debt.

The proposed project was reviewed for eligibility for a categorical exclusion from the 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.

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 Environment and Energy 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 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, P.E, Environmental Engineer, of the Technical Assistance Section of NDEE, who can be reached at (402) 471-4207 or email: gautam.bhadbhade@nebraska.gov

Signed this 22nd day of March, 2021.

Sincerely,


Jim Macy
Director

Attachments: Distribution List
 Maps

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DISTRIBUTION LIST
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Cass County SID #5

Legend

- Bay Hills Golf Club
- Buccaneer Bay WWTF

