

## 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's Clean and 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 Environment and Energy (NDEE) encourages public input in this decision-making process.

PROJECT NAME: Sanitary Sewer and Water Main Replacement with Storm Sewer Improvements  
APPLICANT: City of Valentine  
COUNTY: Cherry  
POPULATION: 2,737  
CWSRF PROJECT NUMBER: C318040  
TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT: \$3,791,254  
U.S. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
ADMINISTRATION GRANT: \$1,875,655  
DWSRF PROJECT NUMBER: D311664  
TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT: \$668,148  
DWSRF LOAN FORGIVENESS AMOUNT: \$133,630

The City of Valentine has applied for funding, through both the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) programs jointly administered by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services-Division of Public Health (DHHS) and the NDEE, to replace sanitary sewers and water mains along Main Street from 5<sup>th</sup> Street to Highway 20, along with storm sewer improvements along B, South Haley, South Hallo and South Wood Streets. The latter are needed to prevent flooding on the south side of the City during heavy rain events, and will be jointly funded with a U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant. The sanitary sewer and water main replacements are being done in conjunction with the Nebraska Department of Transportation improvements to U.S. Highway 83 as it passes through Valentine.

According to the Priority Ranking Systems these projects are considered to be a low priority and were included on the Planning Lists in the State Fiscal Year 2021 Intended Use Plan (IUP). These projects can be funded in accordance with the IUP's listed bypass criteria, as the bypass date of January 1, 2021 has passed. Based on supporting documentation, on file with the NDEE, the drinking water phase of the project was determined to be eligible for a 30-year loan at an interest rate of 0% on 80% of the estimated project costs (i.e., 20% will be forgiven) per the listed IUP criteria. In addition, an administrative fee of 0% of the loan balance will be assessed. The current residential water rate is \$7.72 per month, with an added consumption charge of \$0.78 for every 748 gallons of water used. The long-term annual DWSRF Debt Service (including 10% coverage) would be \$19,599. Based upon the 1,494 active service connections, residential water rates may need to be raised just over \$1 per month to address the new debt service. Valentine is also eligible for the same loan rate and term for the sanitary and storm sewer phases of the project, with no forgiveness assistance. The current residential sewer rate is \$12.74 per month, with an added use charge of \$1.28 for every 748 gallons of water consumed. The long-term annual CWSRF Debt Service (including 10% coverage) would be \$105,358. Based upon the number of services, residential sewer rates may need to be raised \$3.92 per month to address the debt service.

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 the replacement of existing infrastructure, or are new storm sewers in areas already disturbed through construction of the City. 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, no portion of the project lies within the 100-year flood plain;
- 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; and,

- For the storm sewer phase, the documentation assembled for the U.S. EDA required environmental narrative assessment.

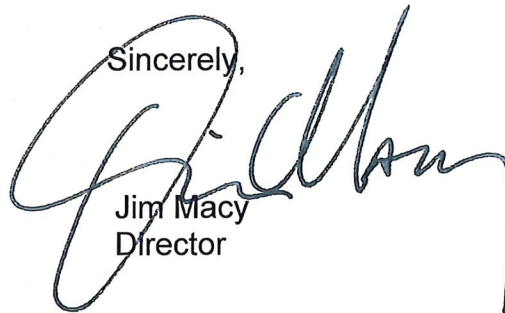
The City has a permit to operate a public water system under the provisions of the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act and the Regulations Governing Public Water Supply Systems, Title 179. The proposed project is determined by DHHS to help the public water system maintain compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. The system last underwent a routine sanitary survey by DHHS in April of 2019, wherein ten deficiencies were noted and addressed by the City in March of 2020. That completed survey is the first step of the Technical, Financial, and Managerial (TFM) program policy. Valentine will still be required to undergo an Initial, and if necessary, a Final TFM Assessment by the DHHS, to ensure that their capabilities meet the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Also, their current Environmental Tracking Tool score is 0, well below the allowable 11 per issued U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidance.

The NDEE 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 Steve McNulty, DHHS at 402 471-1006 or email [steve.mcnulty@nebraska.gov](mailto:steve.mcnulty@nebraska.gov), or John R. Danforth, Planning and Aid Division, NDEE at 402 471-3373 or email [john.r.danforth@nebraska.gov](mailto:john.r.danforth@nebraska.gov).

Signed this 19<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2021.

Sincerely,



Jim Macy  
Director

Attachments: Distribution List  
Maps

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DISTRIBUTION LIST  
CITY OF VALENTINE

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this FNSI has been distributed to this list electronically via email instead of physically via a mailed document.

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Lincoln, NE 68508

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
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11201 Renner Blvd  
*Mail Code: WWPDWIMB*  
Lenexa, KS 66219

STATE CONSERVATIONIST  
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Soil Conservation Service  
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APPLICANT  
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Valentine, NE 69201

CONSULTING ENGINEER  
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Douglas Loudon, P.E.  
6415 Second Avenue, Suite 1  
Kearney, NE 68847

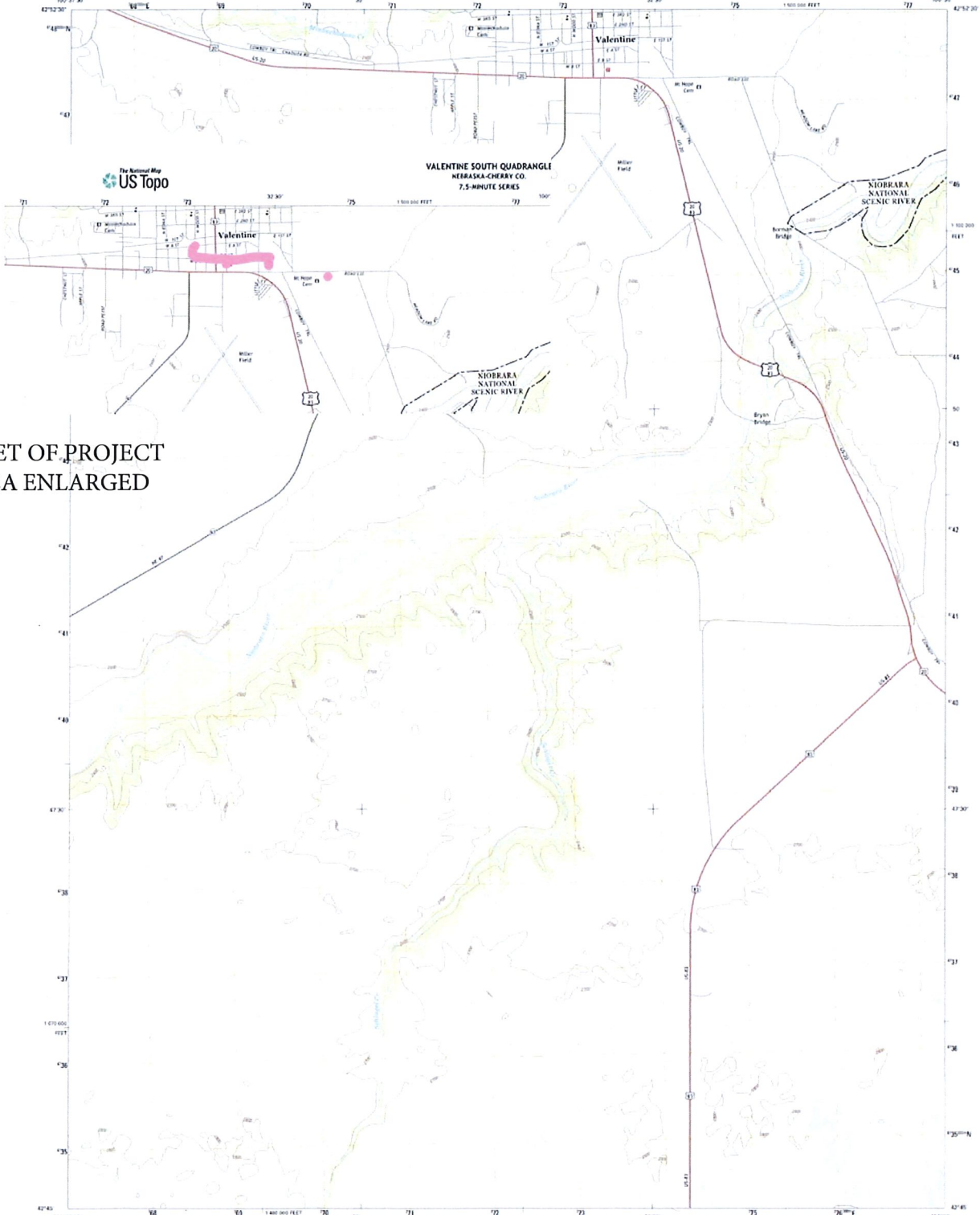
LOCAL NEWSPAPER (Public Information Only)  
Valentine Midland News  
PO Box 448  
Valentine, NE 69201



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



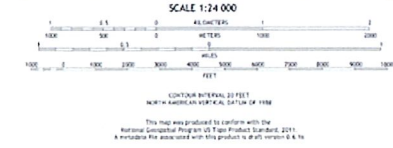
VALENTINE SOUTH QUADRANGLE  
NEBRASKA-CHERRY CO.  
7.5-MINUTE SERIES



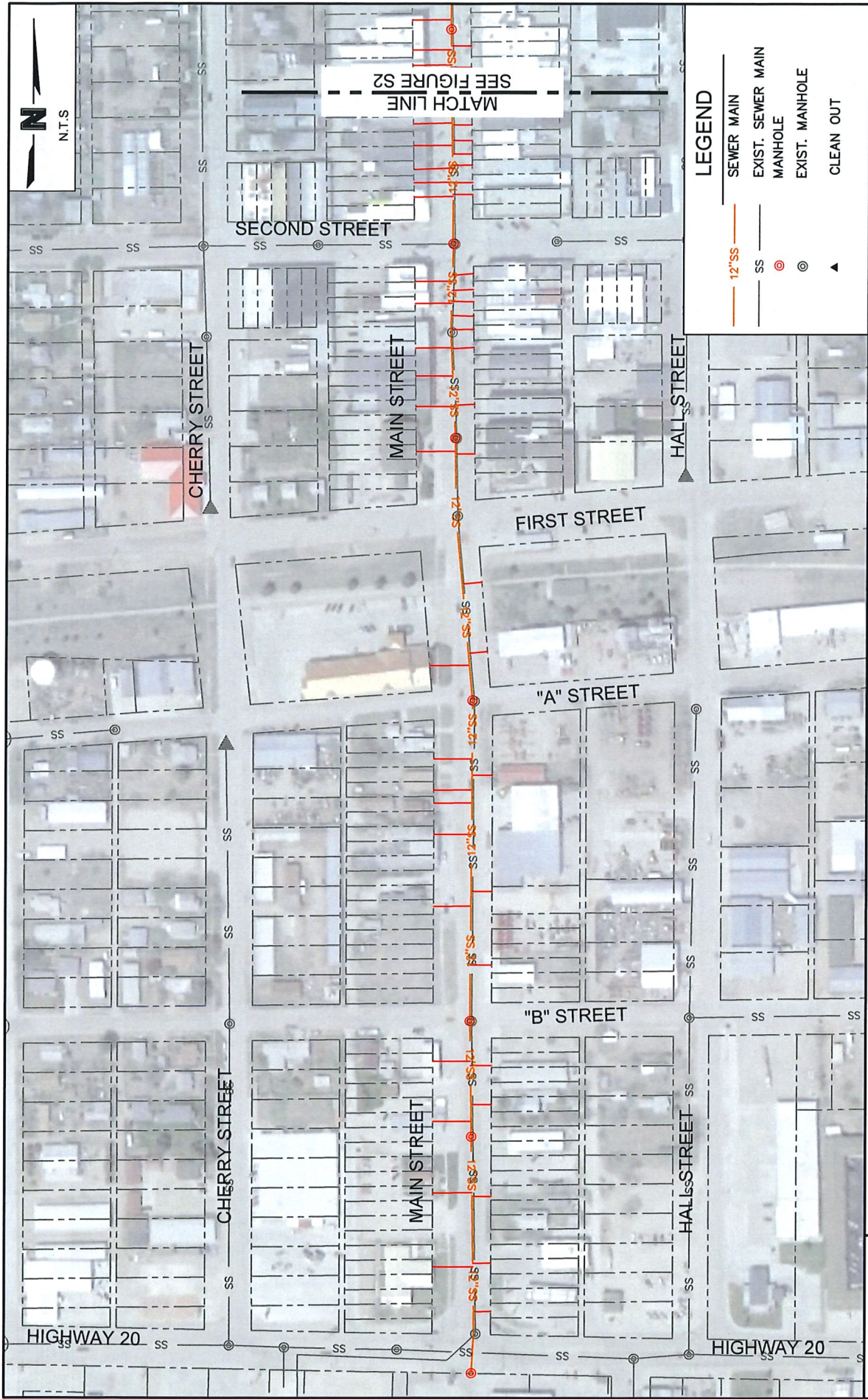
INSET OF PROJECT  
AREA ENLARGED

Produced by the United States Geological Survey  
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83)  
World Geodetic System of 1984 (WGS84) - Projection and  
1:500 meter grid: Quasi-Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 14T  
10 000 foot scale, NAD83/ WGS84 datum  
This map is not a legal document. Boundaries may be  
generalized for this map scale. Owners and other government  
agencies may not be shown. Obtain permission before  
reproducing these data.

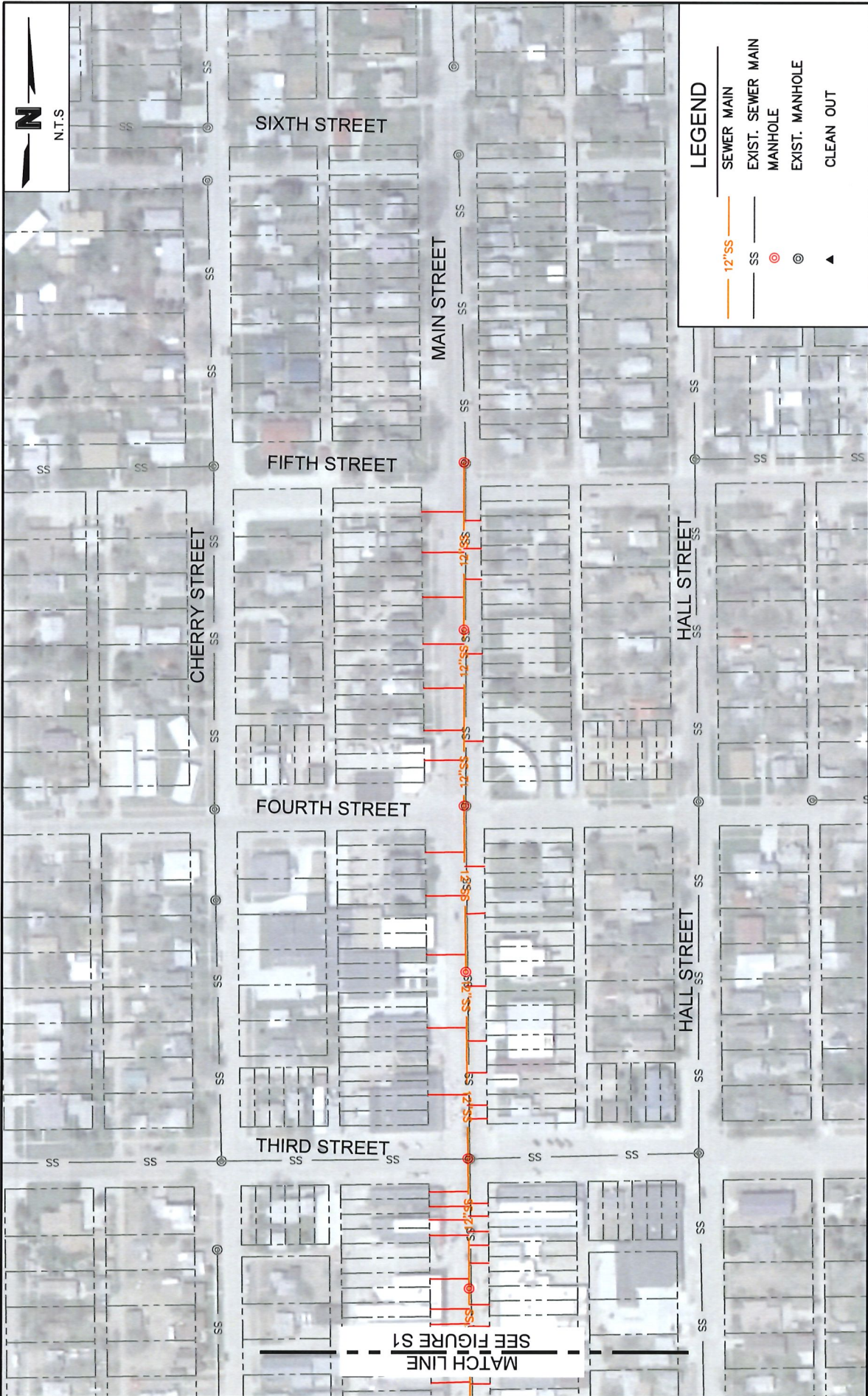
Imagery	NAIP	July	2012
Base	DEM	2010	
Names	GNL	2010	
Hydrography	National Hydrography Dataset	2010	
Contours	National Elevation Dataset	2010	
Boundaries	Political Boundaries	1972	2014





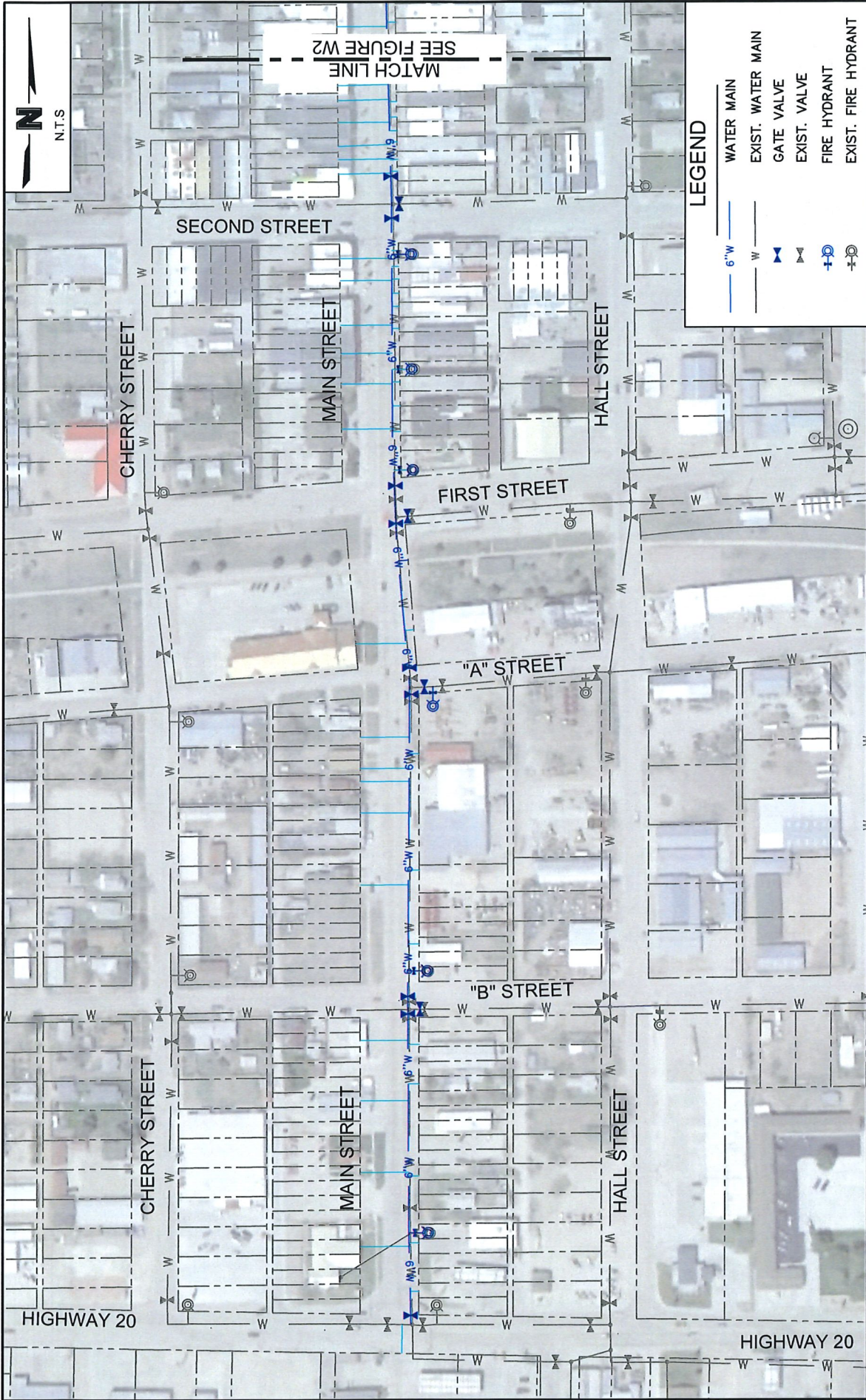


<p>PROJECT: 015-0866          DRAWN BY: FJS          DATE: 07/14/2015</p>	<p>NDOR UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS COST ESTIMATE - SEWER          VALENTINE, NE</p>
	
FIGURE S1	



PROJECT: 015-0866		NDOR UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS COST ESTIMATE - SEWER VALENTINE, NE	<b>MOLSSON</b> ASSOCIATES	FIGURE
DRAWN BY: FJS				S2
DATE: 07/14/2015				





PROJECT: 015-0866		FIGURE
DRAWN BY: FJS		W1
DATE: 07/14/2015		
NDOR UTILITY IMPROVEMENT COST ESTIMATE - WATER VALENTINE, NE		



**LEGEND**

	WATER MAIN
	EXIST. WATER MAIN
	GATE VALVE
	EXIST. VALVE
	FIRE HYDRANT
	EXIST. FIRE HYDRANT

	<b>NDOR UTILITY IMPROVEMENT COST ESTIMATE - WATER</b> VALENTINE, NE	FIGURE <b>W2</b>
	PROJECT: 015-0866 DRAWN BY: FJS DATE: 07/14/2015	

MATCH LINE  
SEE FIGURE W1