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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 Environmental Quality encourages public input in this decision-making process.

PROJECT NAME: 192nd Sub-Interceptor Sewer
APPLICANT: Gretna, Nebraska
COUNTY: Sarpy
POPULATION: 5387 (2012 estimate)
CWSRF PROJECT NUMBER: C317569
TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT: \$2,946,500
ESTIMATED CWSRF LOAN AMOUNT: \$2,864,000
Local Funds: \$82,000

The City of Gretna, Nebraska, is located in western Sarpy County, and has evolved from a small rural farming community into a growing and thriving suburban City. The Gretna area began experiencing significant growth in 1998, which continued strong over the past 15 years. This rapid growth placed a huge stress on the City's public utilities. In response to the need to replace the City's wastewater treatment facility, the City constructed a gravity municipal interceptor sewer system in 2002 to transport and convey its municipal sewage to the City of Omaha. The City's interceptor sewer connected to the Sarpy County interceptor at 146th Street just north of Giles Road. The Sarpy County system in turn connects to the Omaha interceptor sewer which conveys sewage to the Omaha Papillion Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. In response to continued growth within the basin, the capacity of the City's municipal interceptor sewer was further expanded in 2005-2006 to provide capacity for ultimate build-out to serve the 15,000 acre South Papillion Creek basin.

The Gretna city limits and adjacent Extra Territorial Jurisdiction area to the east and south are experiencing an increase in demand for single family housing and for commercial development. Several subdivisions, which will be located outside the area readily served by the City's gravity municipal sewer are planned. In order to serve these subdivisions two sub-interceptor sewer projects are proposed.

- A. **192 nd Street Sub-Interceptor Sewer** : This project consists of construction of a regional pumping station located one-quarter mile south of the intersection of N370 Highway and a future 186th street and the construction of 12-inch diameter forcemain approximately 1.5 miles in length to the 192th street and Lincoln Boulevard intersection. A new 15-inch gravity sub-interceptor sewer will be constructed to the north from this discharge point approximately 7000 feet, to access

the City's existing 24-inch municipal interceptor sewer. This project will serve 1100 acres and is designed for an average flow of 0.727mgd and a peak flow of 2.282 mgd.

- B. NW Sub-Interceptor Sewer (Phase 1A):** This project consists of a 24-inch gravity sewer which will be constructed along the South Papillion Creek extending west approximately 4100 feet from the City's municipal interceptor sewer. The sub-interceptor sewer will connect to the City's municipal interceptor sewer east of 192nd street. This project will serve 3280 acres and is designed for an average flow of 2.167 mgd and a peak flow of 5.787 mgd.

The City has applied for financial assistance to build the project through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan program. The project will likely result in stream crossings and will require the City of Gretna to obtain 404 permits from the Corp of Engineers. Construction techniques to minimize impacts will be employed. The construction corridor will be evaluated for wetland delineation by a qualified consultant during the design phase of the projects prior to the issuance of a construction permit by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. In case wetlands are identified, construction will include measures that will satisfy Corps of Engineers regulations and construction standards.

The project will have a positive impact on the environment. The project will allow for development in the stated area and will provide sewer service as an alternative to several hundred onsite wastewater treatment systems.

The project is eligible for financing through the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRF) and is listed on the FY2014 Intended Use Plan. Gretna is eligible for a 20-year CWSRF loan at the current program interest rate of 1.5 percent. In addition to principal and interest payments, an administrative fee of 1 percent of the outstanding principal balance would be assessed each year.

Combined Utility fees, which include revenues from sewer use fees will be pledged to repay the loan. Current residential sewer use rates are a metered base rate of \$5.85 plus \$2.164/1000 gallons/month. Increase in sewer use fees to support the proposed projects is not expected. The City of Gretna has approximately 2500 residential sewer connections. The City also has municipal interceptor capital fees and sub-basin interceptor fees in place to assist in financing the proposed project. The municipal interceptor capital fees are \$1689 per residential lot. The sub-basin interceptor fees for the 192nd street sub-interceptor are \$763 per acre and \$916 per acre for the NW sub-interceptor area. In addition to these fees, sewer use fees will generate additional revenue as each area develops.

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 projects as proposed will serve proposed subdivisions. 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 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 Gautam Bhadbhade, P.E, Environmental Engineer, of the Technical Assistance Section of NDEQ, who can be reached at (402) 471-4207 or email: gautam.bhadbhade@nebraska.gov

Signed this 4TH day of April, 2014.

Sincerely,



Patrick Rice
Acting Director

Attachments: Distribution List
Maps

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DISTRIBUTION LIST

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