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STATE OF NEBRASKA

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CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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:

PROJECT NAME: Sanitary Sewer System Improvements
Grand Island, Nebraska

CWSRF PROJECT NUMBER: C317984

TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT: \$40,000,000

EXPECTED CWSRF LOAN: \$4,800,000

The city of Grand Island is proposing to provide sanitary sewer service to a residential area in the City, which is currently served by individual septic tanks and is also proposing to replace/repair the forcemain for Lift Station 20. The City has applied for a Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan to assist in funding improvements to their sanitary sewer system.

Grand Island is located in central Nebraska approximately three miles north of Interstate 80 and the Platte River. The 2012 census population of the City was 49,500. The project area is within the Right of Way of Sweetwood Drive, Greenwood Drive, and the utility easements of Westwood Road Subdivision located in the northwest corner of Greenwood Drive and North Road of Grand Island.

Grand Island collects and treats approximately 9.8 million gallons of wastewater each day from about 13,000 residences and 2,700 businesses. Their sanitary sewer collection system consists of about 226 miles of sewer mains and 18 lift stations. Their wastewater treatment facility is an activated sludge system that is performing well and is meeting the discharge permit limits. They have recently upgraded the plant headworks and are in the process of constructing several sanitary sewer improvement projects. The City has considerable treatment capacity available as their largest industrial customer recently installed a new pre-treatment facilities.

Effluent from the Grand Island wastewater treatment system is discharged to Wood River via the Grand Island Utilities Ditch, Segment MP2-10100 in the Middle Platte River Basin. This segment is protected for Class A warm water aquatic life, and Class A agricultural used and aesthetics.

One in three homes within Westwood Park Subdivision has failing septic tanks and or leach fields. These homes are not in compliance with State or local laws that protect public health and the environment. The proposed project consists of construction of 3500 lineal feet of 8-inch polyvinyl chloride (PVC) sanitary sewer, precast concrete manholes, asphalt removal, concrete pavement, earth excavation six to sixteen feet in depth, groundwater dewatering, and ancillary items. The project will provide sanitary service to 32 homes located in the Westwood Park Subdivision. It is estimated that the proposed project will result in contributing an additional 16,000 gallons per day to Grand Island's Wastewater Treatment Plant. The project also includes replacing and or repairing Lift Station No. 20's force main.

The project is eligible for financing through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) and is included in the FY2016 Intended Use Plan. The city of Grand Island is eligible for a 20-year loan at an interest rate of 1.50%. In addition to principal and interest payments, an administrative fee of 1.00% of the loan balance would be assessed each year.

Wastewater treatment revenues, including sewer tap fees and sewer use charges, will be dedicated to repay the loan. Grand Island's sewer rates have been adjusted annually and residential customers currently pay a service charge of \$8.24/month plus \$3.01/100 cubic feet (based on winter quarter water use), which equates to a monthly charge of \$28.35 for a residential customer who uses 5000 gallons per month in the winter quarter. Revenues generated by the sewer utility are expected to fund the system operation and maintenance, and the debt service on the existing and proposed loans. The users of the sewer extension to the Westwood Park Subdivision are expected to pay their share of project costs over time.

Multiple public hearings have taken place with the City and residents of Westwood Park Subdivision in an effort to create a sewer assessment district and provide sanitary sewer service to Westwood Park. As per the Westwood Park Subdivision Agreement dated August 25, 1979, filed with the Hall County Clerk under instrument 79-002913, the residents of the subdivision will be required to connect to the proposed sanitary sewer within three construction seasons after the City provides such sanitary sewer. A public hearing for the sanitary sewer improvement project was held on July 28, 2015. Appropriate State and Federal agencies were asked to comment on the project.

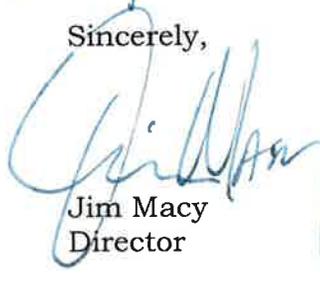
The project will have a positive impact on the environment. It will eliminate substandard septic tank systems, the associated leach fields and thereby potentially improve the quality of area groundwater. The project will also repair and or replace a substandard forcemain. Potential health hazards will be reduced.

The review did not indicate a significant environmental impact would result from the proposed action. No farmland is being taken out of production by construction, but the project will promote development and thus indirectly result in land use changes. No adverse impacts to critical habitats or floodplains are anticipated. Timing of construction will be addressed in the project specifications to minimize impacts to endangered species. No known historical or archaeological sites will be impacted. The projects will comply with Title 179 Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services regulations. The project was planned to ensure that no segment of the community's population is impacted disproportionately from related effects. Consequently, a preliminary decision has been made that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will not be prepared.

This action is taken on the basis of a careful review of the Collection System Master Plan and other engineering reports, agency comment letters, environmental assessment and other supporting data, which are on file in the office of the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ). These are available for public review upon request. A copy of the environmental assessment is attached. The NDEQ will not take any administrative action on the project for at least 30 calendar days from the date shown below. Persons disagreeing with the above environmental decision may submit comments to the NDEQ during this period.

Signed this 3rd day of August, 2015.

Sincerely,



Jim Macy
Director

JM/GB/gb

Attachments: Environmental Assessment
 Distribution List
 Maps