

## FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

TO ALL INTERESTED GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND PUBLIC GROUPS:

As required by guidelines for the preparation of environmental impact statements, an environmental review has been performed on the proposed action below:

Project: Wastewater Treatment Lagoon Improvements

Location: Center (Oliver County), North Dakota

SRF Project No.: 380915-02 & 03

Total Cost: \$5,430,000

The proposed project consists of improvements to the wastewater treatment lagoons, the force main to the lagoons, and the master lift station at the corner of Interstate Street and Klein Avenue. The master lift station is beyond its useful life with pumps and controls that are no longer reliable, resulting in increased operation and maintenance costs. The asbestos cement force main is over 45-years old and has likely degraded to a point that is no longer safe for use. Similarly, the nearly 45-year-old lagoons have not been adequately maintained and are showing signs of leakage. This has resulted in damage to the surrounding property and poses a risk to public health and the nearby Square Butte Creek. The proposed project will install a new master lift station with modern controls, replace the aging existing force main, and reconstruct the wastewater treatment lagoons. These improvements will reduce the city's operation and maintenance costs and ensure the consistent and safe handling of wastewater for years to come.

The City of Center has applied for a Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan of \$5,430,000 to finance the project. The city has the legal authority and financial and administrative capability to construct the proposed improvements.

Agricultural lands, wetlands, area flood plains, threatened or endangered species habitat, or archeological sites will not be adversely impacted. The North Dakota State Historic Preservation Office has concurred with the determination of "No Historic Properties Affected" for this project provided it takes place in the location and in the manner described in the documentation and provided all borrow comes from an approved source. (ND SHPO Ref.: 21-6176).

The review process did not indicate significant environmental impacts would result from the proposed action. Consequently, a preliminary decision not to prepare an environmental impact statement has been made. This action is taken on the basis of a

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careful review of the engineering report, environmental information document, and other supporting data that are on file in the Municipal Facilities Division of the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality.

Comments concerning this decision may be addressed to Evan Wahl, Environmental Engineer II, Division of Municipal Facilities, North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, 4201 Normandy Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Bismarck, ND, 58503.

After evaluating the comments received, the agency will make a final decision; however, no administrative action will be taken on the project for at least 30 calendar days after release of the Finding of No Significant Impact.

Dated the 8<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2023.

David J. Bruschwein, P.E.  
Director  
Division of Municipal Facilities