



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: Lift Station Construction & Collection System Investigation & Repair

APPLICANT: Comstock, Nebraska

COUNTY: Custer County

POPULATION: 93

CWSRF PROJECT NUMBER: C317997

TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT: \$407,100

ESTIMATED CWSRF LOAN AMOUNT: \$203,550

LOAN FORGIVENESS: \$100,000

SMALL TOWN GRANT \$103,550

Comstock, Nebraska is located in Custer County. The 2010 census population of Comstock is 93. The Village of Comstock is served by a collection system, originally constructed in 1962, which consists of 4,890 feet of 6-inch VCP, 8,790 feet of 8-inch VCP sewer mains, 41 manholes, 4 clean-outs and one lift station. The collection system directs sewage flow via gravity to the lift station located south of town. The Village operates a one-cell lagoon system with a surface area of 1.66 acres. The lagoon was also constructed in 1962. The lagoon was designed and has always operated as a complete retention facility. The one cell lagoon system is well maintained and exhibits very little dike erosion and holds water. The primary concern for the Village is the condition of the collection system and the lift station. A portion of the collection system has to be flushed out on a monthly basis in order to clean sand that enters the

collection system. The preliminary engineering report included a video camera inspection of about 1,300 feet of the most suspect portion of the collection system. Along the route that was videoed several severe root intrusions were discovered. The lift station has surpassed its design life. One pump was replaced in 2009. The other pump, which operates as a back-up has to be manually operated. During power outages, the lift station does not have a generator to operate the lift station. The electrical wiring is obsolete and the conditions are unsafe. The operator climbs into the wet well once a week to remove debris that has collected over the previous week. Dialers or alarms are not built in the lift station and the operator has to inspect the lift station every day to make sure that the lift station is operational.

The proposed project consists of replacing a portion of the collection system and televising the rest of the collection system. The existing lift station will be replaced by a new lift station. The new lift station will include a wet well, submersible pumps, and a valve pit. The wet well will include two submersible pumps attached to two separate rail systems for ease of use and maintenance. Entry into the wet well will not be required under normal circumstances. The valve pit will contain gate valves, check valves and a magnetic flow meter that the operator could easily access and record actual lift station flows as opposed to relying on hour meters. Control panels will be located above ground and will be easily accessible and away from the wastewater environment. The project will also include a stand-by generator that will operate the lift station in the event of power outages. A dialer will be installed that will alert the operator when power outages occur. The pumps will be designed for a peaking factor of 4 times the average daily flow in order to pump high flows when presented.

The Village 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 FY2018 Intended Use Plan and is eligible for CWSRF financing. Comstock's median household income is \$39,250, and has an AWIN score of 29. Comstock 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. The Village of Comstock is eligible to receive \$100,000 in principal forgiveness funds and is also eligible to receive a small town grant of \$103,550 as per criteria described in the FY 2018 Intended Use Plan. Revenues generated from the sewer use fees will be used to repay the CWSRF loan.

Sewer use fees will be dedicated to service the proposed CWSRF loan, and the operation and maintenance of the sewer utility. The current sewer rate is \$15.00/month/user. Preliminary estimates indicate that the impact on the sewer rates as a result of servicing the loan is \$17.35/month/user. The estimated sewer rate is \$32.35/month/user.

The project will result in the repair or replacement of the collection system and the construction of a new lift station. Both the collection system and the lift station are 55 years old. The project will provide reliable transportation of wastewater.

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 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 28th day of November, 2017.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Macy", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Jim Macy
Director

Attachments: Distribution List
 Maps

CE DISTRIBUTION LIST

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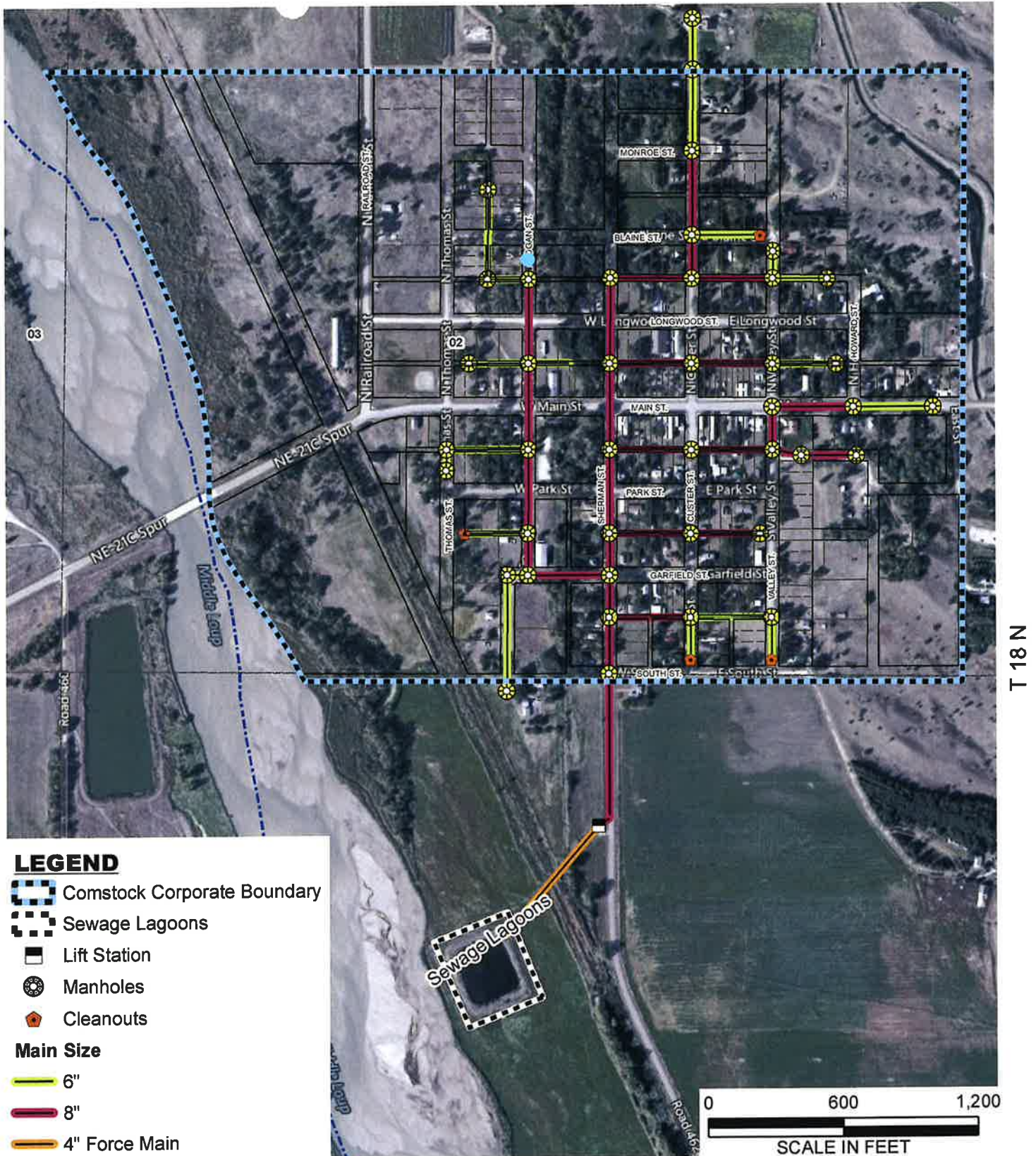
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(Public Information only, not for Public Notice)



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5/16/2017

Prepared By:



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Note:

1. Aerial Photography acquired from: ESRI, i-cubed, USDA FSA, USGS, AEX, GeoEye, Getmapping, Aerogrid, IGP

Figure 2.1
Existing
Collection System
Project 106-D1-001
Comstock, Nebraska