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**DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

**DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM  
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION**

**TO:** All Interested Citizens, Government Agencies and Public Groups

In accordance with the Nebraska 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 Environmental Quality encourages public input in this decision-making process.

**PROJECT NAME:** Pump Station Upgrade  
**APPLICANT:** Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District  
**COUNTY:** Washington  
**POPULATION:** 2,725 (Estimated)  
**DWSRF PROJECT NUMBER:** D311627  
**TOTAL PROJECT AMOUNT:** \$300,000

The Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District (NRD) has applied for funding, through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program jointly administered by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Department of Public Health (DHHS) and the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ), to upgrade the pump station, which serves to supply water from the Metropolitan Utilities District of Omaha to the Washington County Rural Water District No. 1 (RWD No. 1), which is owned by the NRD. The engineering assessment concluded that upgrades are needed to the controls, the generator needs to be replaced, and third pump added to meet current demands and provide redundancy. In recent years, the RWD No. 1 was interconnected with the RWD No. 2, also owned by the NRD, and thus serves as emergency supply to that system, the City of Blair, Lakeland Estates and City of Fort Calhoun. While the new pump is being reasonably sized for growth, this project is the next step in ensuring the sustainability of five public water systems. All are interconnected on either a permanent or an emergency basis throughout Washington County. The NRD 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.

Jim Macy, Director

**Department of Environmental Quality**

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According to the Priority Ranking System, this project is considered to be a low priority and it is included on the Planning List in the State Fiscal Year 2018 Intended Use Plan (IUP). The project can be funded in accordance with the IUPs listed bypass criteria, as the bypass date of January 1, 2018 has passed. Based on supporting documentation on file with the NDEQ, this project was determined to be eligible for a 20-year loan at an interest rate of 2.0 percent per the criteria listed in the IUP. In addition to principal and interest, an administrative fee of 0.5 percent of the loan balance will be assessed. For the residents of RWD, the current water rate is \$17.75 per month, with a usage rate of \$4.95 per every 1,000 gallons water consumed. The projected annual DWSRF Debt Service (including 10% coverage) is \$21,734. Based upon the 602 active service connections, residential water rates would typically need to be raised approximately \$3 per month to address the new debt service; however, the NRD is considering retiring other existing debt at higher interest rates, which may result in no water rate increase being needed to address the debt associated with this project.

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 solely an upgrade to the system's existing pump station. 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; and,
- 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.

The proposed project is determined by DHHS to help the public water system maintain compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. The infrastructure investment in replacing components of and upgrading the pump station is in line with the stated goals of the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency's Drinking Water Infrastructure Sustainability Policy. The system last underwent a routine sanitary survey by DHHS in October of 2017, wherein no deficiencies were noted. That completed survey is the first step of the Technical, Financial, and Managerial (TFM) program policy. The NRD 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, as of April 2018, Environmental Tracking Tool score for the RWD No. 1 is 0, which is below the allowable 11 per the issued U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidance.

The NDEQ 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 Steve McNulty, DHHS at 402 471-1006 or email [steve.mcnulty@nebraska.gov](mailto:steve.mcnulty@nebraska.gov), or David Lathrop, Water Division of NDEQ at 402 471-4252 or email [david.lathrop@nebraska.gov](mailto:david.lathrop@nebraska.gov).

Signed this 30<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2018.

Sincerely,  
  
Jim Macy  
Director

Attachments:     Distribution List  
                          Map

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DISTRIBUTION LIST  
PAPIO-MISSOURI RIVER NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
WASHINGTON COUNTY RURAL WATER DISTRICT NO. 1, NEBRASKA

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Omaha, NE 68102-1138

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

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APPLICANT

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Papio-Missouri River NRD  
8901 South 154<sup>th</sup> Street  
Omaha, NE 68138

# Washington County Rural Water District No. 1 - Pump Station Location Map - 11660 North 60th Street, Omaha, NE

Write a description for your map.

## Legend

 Washington County Rural Water District No. 1 - Pump Station

Washington County Rural Water District No. 1 - Pump Station

Google Earth

300 ft

