



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 (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 Environment and Energy (NDEE) encourages public input in this decision-making process.

PROJECT NAME:	City of Auburn Sewer Rehabilitation Project
APPLICANT:	City of Auburn, Nebraska
COUNTY:	Nemaha
POPULATION:	3,470 (2020 Census)
CWSRF PROJECT NUMBER:	C318056
PROPOSED CWSRF LOAN AMOUNT:	\$1,089,340

The City of Auburn has a population of approximately 3,470, according to the 2020 Census. It is located in the center of Nemaha County in southeastern Nebraska. The City of Auburn has sections of sanitary sewer main and manholes that need rehabilitated. To address these concerns, approximately 10,100 linear feet of sewer rehabilitation via pipe bursting or the installation of Cast-in-Place-Pipe (CIPP) lining has been proposed. Sanitary sewer point repairs will be completed, as needed, and numerous manhole rings and covers will be replaced. Water main relocation at a sewer crossing will also be required as part of this project.

The City of Auburn has applied for funding for the above-referenced project through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program. This project is included on the CWSRF Project Priority Funding List in the State Fiscal Year 2023 Intended Use Plan. The City is eligible for a 20-year CWSRF loan at an interest rate of 0.0 percent. In addition to principal and interest payments, an administrative fee of 0.0 percent of the outstanding principal balance will be assessed each year.

The City of Auburn has experienced issues with infiltration into their sanitary sewer system. This project will address sections of sanitary sewer that contribute to infiltration issues.

Therefore, this project is Green Project Reserve (GPR) eligible since it is expected to reduce infiltration and, thus, will also reduce energy usage associated with pumping and treating excess water from infiltration.

The projected annual CWSRF Debt Service (including 10% coverage) is \$59,914. For a typical residential sewer connection, the current rate is \$25.00 per month, with an added charge of \$3.40 per 1000 gallons of flow, resulting in an average monthly sewer bill of \$42.00 for a typical 5,000-gallon monthly household water use. Based upon the 1,722 active service connections, residential sewer rates may need to be raised by an additional \$2.90 per month, to address the new debt service.

The proposed project was reviewed for eligibility for a categorical exclusion from a NEPA review specified in 40 CFR 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 to serve existing users in previously developed areas. 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, properties 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 such 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 floodplain. In addition, this project meets the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard for federally funded projects set by Executive Order (EO) 14030, Climate-Related Financial Risk, reinstating EO 13690, Establishing a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard and a Process for Further Soliciting and Considering Stakeholder Input (January 30, 2015);
- 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. Moreover, it is not known to be inconsistent with state or local government, or federally recognized Indian tribe approved land use plans or federal land management plans;
- Based on review there are no new/relocated surface or groundwater discharges; the project is not being developed to provide capacity to service a population greater than 30% of that existing for the community; and it is supported by a State growth strategy. In addition, there will not be a substantial increase in volume/loading of pollutants to receiving streams; and
- The proposed action is not known or expected to cause significant public controversy.

The NDEE 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 NDEE. 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 the NDEE State Revolving Fund Program at ndee.srf@nebraska.gov, or at 402-471-4200.

Signed this 3rd day of January, 2023.

Sincerely,



Sarah Starostka, Administrator
Planning and Aid Division

Attachments: Distribution List
 Map

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DISTRIBUTION LIST
CITY OF AUBURN, NEBRASKA

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LOCAL NEWSPAPER

(Public Information Only not for Public Notice)
Nemaha County Herald
P.O. Box 250
Auburn, NE 68305

Map



(From preliminary plans provided by HDR, dated April 13, 2022)