

DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Date: July 29, 2020
To: All Interested Government Agencies, Public Groups, and Individuals
Subject: Environmental determination for the City of Preston Wastewater Improvements Project

In accordance with the State Environmental Review Process (SERP), “Rules for Administration of Wastewater Treatment Facility Grants” (IDAPA 58.01.04), and “Rules for Administration of Water Pollution Control Loans” (IDAPA 58.01.12), an environmental review has been performed and a draft finding of no significant impact (FONSI) is hereby issued by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

Project:	City of Preston Wastewater Improvements Project
Location:	City of Preston, Franklin County, Idaho
DEQ Grant Number:	WWG-399-2019-2
DEQ Grant Costs:	\$65,000
DEQ Loan Number:	TBD
Total Project Cost:	\$40,933,000

PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF IMPACTS:

Purpose of Project: The purpose of the proposed project is to address wastewater treatment and collection system deficiencies.

Description of the Project: The proposed project involves:

- Decommissioning the existing treatment process;
- Constructing new headworks building and influent lift station;
- Adding a pressure sewer line from headworks to equalization storage;
- Adding new equalization storage basins or ponds;
- Constructing two new biological process basins (oxidation ditch);
- Adding two new secondary clarifiers;
- Constructing new tertiary filtration process building with new ultraviolet disinfection;
- Improving solids dewatering process;
- Adding stormwater storage;
- Re-routing of sewer lines within the treatment plant site; and
- Replacing approximately 3,000 feet of failing sewer collection lines within existing City of Preston right-of-way.

Direct and Indirect Impacts: An environmental information document (EID) was prepared by Keller Associates (Keller), consulting engineer for the City of Preston (City). Keller and DEQ consulted with the

appropriate state and federal agencies regarding relevant environmentally sensitive resources. Based on consultation with agency experts, Keller and DEQ evaluated the potential short-term and long-term impacts, and the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the wastewater improvement project. The evaluation emphasized site-specific components of the environment that are most likely to be impacted by the construction and operation of the proposed improvements. The results of the project evaluation indicate there will be environmental effects from the referenced project as described below.

Short-term impacts may occur during project construction that includes temporary disruption of the collection system, treatment system, increased noise, increased dust pollution, increased potential for stormwater runoff, and disruption of localized traffic conditions. The project contractor is responsible for managing the temporary disruptions of the system as follows:

- Air Quality: Temporary dust pollution impacts will be controlled as a condition of the construction specifications in accordance with the “Rules for the Control of Air Pollution in Idaho” (IDAPA 58.01.01.651). IDAPA 58.01.01.651 states that reasonable precautions shall be taken for dust control and suppression by using water or chemicals, applying dust suppressants, covering trucks, paving, and removing materials. In addition to the rule requirements, DEQ recommends that a dust prevention and control plan be implemented during construction of the project that includes best management practices (BMPs) to minimize dust pollution for fugitive dust control.
- Cultural Resources: If archeological artifacts (such as beads, arrow heads, pottery, fabric, grave goods, glass, metal fragments, or other human-made objects that appear to predate 1960) or human remains (such as bones, bone fragments, or teeth) are inadvertently discovered during construction, ground disturbing activities shall cease and the State Historical Preservation Officer (SHPO), Shoshone-Bannock Tribe, Shoshone-Paiute Tribe, Northwestern Band, Shoshone Tribe shall be notified. Mitigation measures will be implemented as directed by SHPO and the tribes, and work will not resume at the discovery site without their consent.
- Stormwater: Stormwater runoff shall be handled through an Environmental Protection Agency Stormwater Construction General permit and the development of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The SWPPP and stormwater BMPs will be implemented prior to, during, and after project construction to reduce the potential for erosion from runoff.
- Wetlands: A U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) consultation letter was sent on May 8, 2020. The ACOE advised that the proposed project would not involve an activity they regulate, namely the crossing of Worm Creek using the jack and bore method for the installation of pressures sewer line. Therefore, a Department of Army (DA) authorization is not required. An authorization may be required if the method, scope, or locations of the proposed work is altered.
- Noise impacts from the project construction will be reduced by restricting work hours to reasonable times identified in the construction specifications.
- Implement any other appropriate BMPs, wherever possible, to avoid or minimize impacts from other construction activities.

The following permits will be required for this project: Any other local, state, or federal permit required for activities taking place during project construction.

Beneficial Impacts: Overall, the completion of the proposed project will have long-term positive effects through significant improvement of effluent quality and reduction of phosphorus loading to Worm Creek and the Bear River Watershed.

Finding: The review process did not indicate significant environmental impacts would result from the proposed action. Consequently, a preliminary decision has been made that an environmental impact statement does not need to be prepared for the proposed project. Instead, a FONSI is hereby issued by DEQ. This decision is made following a careful review of the April 2020 *City of Preston Wastewater Facility Planning Study*, the July 2020 *City of Preston Environmental Information Document*, and supporting documentation.

AVAILABILITY OF COPIES:

The documentation to support this decision is on file and available for review by submitting a public records request, pursuant to Idaho Code § 74-101, et seq. A request may be submitted at <http://www.deq.idaho.gov/contact-us/public-records-request/online-prr-request-form/> or by contacting the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality's Records Officer, Marcella Mink, at Marcella.Mink@deq.idaho.gov or (208) 373-0149.

The records may also be available for public review by contacting:

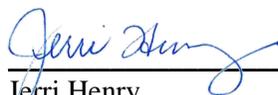
City of Preston
70 W. Oneida St.
Preston, Idaho 83263
Contact: Linda Acock, City Clerk, (208) 852-1817

The public will be informed about the proposed project and their opportunity for comment through the *Preston Citizen*, one time in the July 22, 2020 publication.

Public Comments: Comments supporting or disagreeing with this decision must be submitted on DEQ's website www.deq.idaho.gov/public-comment-opportunities or addressed to the following contact:

LaDonn Kaylor
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
Water Quality Division, Grant and Loan Program
1410 North Hilton
Boise, Idaho 83706

All comments must be postmarked or delivered on or before August 21, 2020. After an evaluation of public comment, DEQ will make a final decision. No administrative action will be taken on the project for at least 30 calendar days after publication of the draft FONSI notice.



Jerri Henry
Drinking Water Protection & Finance Division Administrator