

## **LEGAL NOTICE OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR CITY OF MELBA DRINKING WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS**

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has determined that the City of Melba Drinking Water System Improvements, Canyon County, Idaho conforms to the Rules for Administration of Planning Grants for Drinking Water Facilities (IDAPA 58.01.22) and the *Drinking Water Loan Account Handbook*, by which the project is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion. Accordingly, the project is exempted from further substantive environmental review requirements.

The proposed project involves constructing a new storage tank and booster pump at the existing tank site and installing approximately 800 linear feet of related piping from the tanks and booster pump station to the intersection of Loomis Avenue and Fifth Street.

DEQ has determined that this project is consistent with criteria for issuing a Categorical Exclusion for the following reasons:

- The proposed facility improvements are solely directed toward minor rehabilitation of the existing facilities and construction of new ancillary facilities.
- The facility improvements will not provide the capacity to serve a population that is projected to grow at a rate 25% in excess of the 20-year population growth rate expectations for the state as a whole according to the Idaho Division of Financial Management projections, and be expected to change the current system's population by greater than 500 estimated residential units (ERUs).
- There will be no significant effect on the quality of the human environment either individually, cumulatively over time, or in conjunction with other federal, state, local or private actions as a result of this project.
- There will be no direct or indirect affects to (a) cultural resource sites; (b) endangered or threatened species or their habitats; (c) environmentally important natural resource areas such as floodplains, wetlands, important farmlands, aquifer recharge zones; or (d) other resource areas identified in DEQ's guidance.
- The alternative selected by the City of Melba for construction is cost-effective and has not caused significant public controversy.

Short term impacts may occur during project construction that includes temporary disruption of the distribution 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 DEQ Rules for the Control of Air Pollution in Idaho, IDAPA 58.01.01.651 (rule). The rule states that reasonable precautions for dust control and suppression include using water or chemicals, applying dust suppressants, covering trucks, paving, and removing materials. In addition to the rule requirements, it is recommended that a dust prevention and control plan be implemented during construction of the project that includes DEQ Best Management Practices (BMPs) to minimize dust pollution for fugitive dust control.

- **Cultural Resources:** If archeological artifacts and human remains are inadvertently discovered during construction, ground disturbing activities shall cease and the State Historical Preservation Officer, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe, Shoshone-Paiute Tribe and the Burns Paiute Tribe shall be notified.
- **Stormwater:** Stormwater shall be avoided by having equipment available to put appropriate containment systems into service in a timely manner. Examples of containment systems include silt fences, temporary berms, and vegetative or mulch cover, and installing drains to control surface runoff and to minimize soil loss.
- **Waste disposal:** Dispose of construction waste in accordance with IDAPA 58.01.06, Solid Waste.
- Noise impacts from the project construction will be reduced by restricting work hours to reasonable times identified in the construction specifications.
- Any other appropriate BMPs, wherever possible, to avoid or minimize impacts from other construction activities.

The City of Melba or its contractors will also obtain any other local, state or federal permit required for activities taking place during project construction.

Overall, completion of the proposed project will have long term positive effects by improving fire suppression capabilities and reducing risks to public health during emergency operations.

Copies of the full Categorical Exclusion and the Facility Plan upon which it is based are available for public review on the DEQ website at [www.deq.idaho.gov/water-quality/grants-loans/environmental-assessment.aspx](http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water-quality/grants-loans/environmental-assessment.aspx) and at:

Department of Environmental Quality State Office  
 Division of Water Quality  
 1410 North Hilton  
 Boise, Idaho 83706  
 Grant/Loan SERP Contact: Mike May – (208) 373-0406

Department of Environmental Quality Boise Regional Office  
 1445 North Orchard  
 Boise, Idaho 83706-2239  
 Regional Office Contact: Valerie Greear – (208) 373-0459

City of Melba  
 401 Carrie Rex Avenue  
 Melba, Idaho  
 Contact: Mayor Martin Luttrell – (208) 495-2722