

June 14, 2012

**Categorical Exclusion Determination for the Proposed
Moore Water & Sewer Association Wastewater Improvement Project
Butte County, Moore, Idaho**

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has conducted an environmental review and analysis of the June 2012 *Moore Water & Sewer Association Environmental Information Document* in accordance with state procedures for implementing an environmental review under the Rules for Water Pollution Control Loans (IDAPA 58.01.12). DEQ has determined that this project does not involve any extraordinary circumstances which require additional environmental analysis and documentation and is therefore eligible for a Categorical Exclusion. Accordingly, the project is exempted from further substantive environmental review requirements under the state environmental review procedures.

The wastewater treatment project improvements include: the rehabilitation and lining of the existing lagoons; rehabilitation of the lagoon headworks; and the construction of a new lined total containment lagoon at the existing site. The collection system project improvements include: the rehabilitation of the Main Street and Mulvill Street lift stations; collection line improvements to the pressure and gravity collection lines; and video inspection of the collection system to identify collection lines that will need to be replaced due to ex-filtration.

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

- The proposed facility improvements include minor rehabilitation of existing facilities and construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing 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 Moore Water & Sewer Association 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 treatment and collection systems, 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 and the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe shall be notified.
- **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, during, and after project constructions to reduce the potential for erosion from runoff.
- 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.

Overall, completion of the proposed project will have long term positive effects by improving water quality.

The documentation to support this decision is available for public review on the DEQ web site at www.deq.idaho.gov/public-comment-opportunities or at the following locations:

Department of Environmental Quality
Water Quality Division
1410 North Hilton Street
Boise, Idaho 83706
Grant/Loan SERP Coordinator: Ester Ceja
208-373-0585

Department of Environmental Quality
Idaho Falls Regional Office
900 N. Skyline Drive, Suite B
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402
Regional Office Contact: Willie Teuscher
208-528-2666

To comply with the Rules for Water Pollution Control Loans (IDAPA 58.01.12), a one time publication is required in the local newspaper with community wide circulation. DEQ has requested the *Arco Advertiser* newspaper publish the Categorical Exclusion legal notice for the Moore Water & Sewer Association wastewater improvement project one (1) time on Thursday, June 21, 2012. The legal notice will inform the public that the proposed project has received a Categorical Exclusion which excludes the project from further environmental review.

The Categorical Exclusion and published notice should be made part of the final facility plan/engineering report for this project.

 FOR BNB
Barry N. Burnell
Water Quality Division Administrator