

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Date: August 27, 2012

To: All Interested Government Agencies, Public Groups, and Individuals

Subject: Environmental Determination for the Fernwood Water & Sewer District Collection System Improvements

In accordance with the Rules for Administration of Wastewater Treatment Facility Grants (IDAPA 58.01.04) and the Rules for Water Pollution Control Loans (IDAPA 58.01.12), an environmental review has been performed and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) has been issued by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) on the project described below:

Project:	Fernwood Water & Sewer District Collection System Improvements
Location:	Fernwood, Benewah County, Idaho
DEQ Grant Number:	WWG 333-2010-3
DEQ Grant Costs:	\$15,036.00
DEQ Loan Number:	WW1208
Total Loan Project Cost:	\$688,859.00

PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF IMPACTS:

Purpose of Project: The purpose of the proposed project is to protect water quality and public health and safety by addressing the deficiencies with respect to the Idaho Rules for Wastewater Systems and Water Quality.

Description of the Project: The proposed project involves the relocation of lift station #1 to Isaacson Street and the construction of a new lift station, lift station #3 at Depot Lane near the railroad. The District has identified needed improvements to existing manholes and replacement of approximately 1,000 lineal feet of collection lines. In addition, approximately 650 feet of 8 inch-gravity sewer main will be constructed to provide reliable sewer service to two existing sewer connections and empty lots that currently do not have access to sewer.

Direct and Indirect Impacts: An environmental information document (EID) was prepared by Welch, Comer & Associates, Inc. (Welch-Comer), consulting engineer for the District. Welch-Comer and DEQ consulted with a number of appropriate state and federal agencies regarding relevant environmentally sensitive resources. Based on the consultation with agency experts, Welch-Comer and DEQ evaluated the potential short and long-term impacts, and the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the proposed collection system improvements. The evaluation emphasized site-specific components of the environment that are most likely to be impacted by the construction and operation of the proposed project. 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, 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 Coeur d'Alene Tribe Historic Preservation Officer 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 construction to reduce the potential for erosion from runoff.
- **Floodplain:** Manholes shall be raised above the base flood elevation (BFE) or equipped with seals to prevent leakage. Pumping stations should have electrical panels elevated above the BFE.
- 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 District will also obtain the following permits:

- A floodplain development permit from Benewah County.
- A roadway encroachment permit from the Idaho Department of Transportation.
- 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 by improving water quality and public health through the relocation of lift station #1 and improvements to manholes and collection lines.

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 July 2012 *Environmental Information Document for Fernwood Sewer System*, the July 2012 *Preliminary Engineering Facility Plan for Fernwood Sewer Collection System*, and supporting documentation.

AVAILABILITY OF COPIES:

Copies of the notice of a FONSI, July 2012 *Environmental Information Document for Fernwood Sewer System*, the July 2012 *Preliminary Engineering Facility Plan for Fernwood Sewer Collection System*, and supporting documentation upon which it is based are available for public review on the DEQ web site at www.deq.idaho.gov/public-comment-opportunities or at the following locations:

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