



STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

1410 North Hillton • Boise, Idaho 83706 • (208) 373-0502
www.deq.idaho.gov

C.L. "Butch" Otter, Governor
John H. Tippetts, Director

March 24, 2016

Glenn Ross, President
Elk Bend Sewer District
111 Whitetail Drive
Salmon, Idaho 83467

RE: Draft finding of no significant impact for the Elk Bend Sewer District
Wastewater Improvements (WWG-329-2009-5)

Dear Mr. Ross:

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has completed a review of the environmental information document for the Elk Bend Sewer District Wastewater Improvements. The potential impacts on a number of environmentally sensitive resources were evaluated in the environmental review. The Elk Bend Sewer District's project engineer and DEQ consulted with a number of appropriate state and federal agencies regarding relevant issues. The project meets state and federal criteria for issuance of a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) since the environmental review process indicated no significant environmental impacts would result from the proposed project.

A FONSI legal notice will be published in the *Recorder-Herald*, newspaper of general circulation for the district. DEQ has requested the *Recorder-Herald* publish the legal notice one time, on one day, on April 7, 2016. The legal notice will explain how the public can obtain a copy of the full FONSI for review and will give instructions on how they can submit comments. A 30-day public comment period will follow the FONSI legal notice publication. If public comments and concerns arise related to the project or FONSI, DEQ may ask your help in preparing responses.

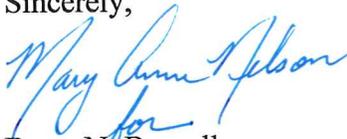
Following the 30-day public comment period, any significant comments or concerns will be considered and incorporated as appropriate into the final FONSI determination for the referenced project. After issuance of the final FONSI, and with approval of all technical considerations in the planning document, DEQ will close the DEQ planning grant.

William Teuscher at the DEQ Idaho Falls regional office, (208) 528-2666, is your local DEQ contact on the referenced project. Please keep him informed of progress on the project.

Glenn Ross, President
Elk Bend Sewer District
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Refer comments regarding the environmental review to Mike May in the State Office at Michael.May@deq.idaho.gov or via (208) 373-0406.

Sincerely,



Barry N. Burnell
Water Quality Division Administrator

BNB:MLM:dls

Enclosures

c: MaryAnna Peavey, DEQ State Office (TRIM)
Charlie Parkins, DEQ State Office (TRIM)
William Teuscher, P.E., DEQ Idaho Falls Regional Office (TRIM)
James Mullen, P.E., Keller Associates (jmullen@kellerassociates.com)
Paul H. Scoresby, P.E., Schiess & Associates (pscoresby@schuesseng.com)
Rick Miller, The Development Company (rick.miller@ecipda.net)
Noel LaRoque, P.E., USDA-RUS (Noel.LaRoque@id.usda.gov)
Jarryd Samples, Eastern Idaho PHD (jsamples@eiph.idaho.gov)

DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Date: March 24, 2016
To: All Interested Government Agencies, Public Groups, and Individuals
Subject: Environmental determination for the Elk Bend Sewer District Wastewater Improvements

In accordance with the State Environmental Review Process (SERP) and “Rules for Administration of Wastewater Treatment Facility Grants” (IDAPA 58.01.04), 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:	Elk Bend Sewer District Wastewater Improvements
Location:	Lemhi County, Idaho
DEQ Grant Number:	WWG-329-2009-5
DEQ Grant Costs:	\$43,725
DEQ Loan Number:	none
Total Loan Project Cost:	NA

PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF IMPACTS:

Purpose of Project: The purpose of the proposed project is to improve public health and the environment by improving the wastewater treatment facility and reducing the potential for sewage releases.

Description of the Project: The proposed improvements include:

- Construct a new recirculating gravel filter wastewater treatment facility and pressure sewer main at Elk Bend;
- Replace existing large soil absorption system (LSAS) with a new LSAS at Elk Bend; and
- Rehabilitate Steelhead Bend lift station and Elk Bend Lift Station #1 with new pumps and electrical equipment.

Direct and Indirect Impacts: An environmental information document (EID) was prepared by Keller Associates (Keller) and Schiess Associates (Schiess), consulting engineers for the Elk Bend Sewer District. 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, 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: Shoshone-Bannock Tribe and Shoshone-Paiute Tribes will be notified of excavation of undisturbed earth at least two weeks in advance and invited to provide archaeological monitors.

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 and Shoshone-Paiute 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.
- Surface Water and Wetlands: The revised large soil absorption system (LSAS) permit will include twice yearly groundwater quality monitoring for nitrate and total phosphorus to assure sewage treatment prevents contaminating the Salmon River. The National Marine Fisheries Service will be provided with a copy of the permit and notified if monitoring results indicate any form of contamination to Salmon River is occurring. More frequent monitoring is recommended during construction.
- Anadromous fisheries: All construction within 300 feet of Salmon River must follow the seventeen (17) conditions included in the November 24, 2015 concurrence letter from the National Marine Fisheries Service to DEQ, provided in the *EID NMFS Supplement*.

- **Bald Eagles:** To protect nesting, all construction activity will be conducted between August 15 and January 15.
- 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:

- Floodplain development permit from Lemhi County;
- Updated large soil absorption system permit from Eastern Idaho Public Health Department (see above); and
- 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 improved wastewater treatment and reduction of the potential for sewer overflows.

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 February 11, 2016 *Elk Bend Sewer District Environmental Information Document*, the November 24, 2015 *EID NMFS Supplement*, and August 24, 2012 *Elk Bend Sewer District Wastewater Facilities Planning Study*, with its June 25, 2015 and January 19, 2016 addenda.

AVAILABILITY OF COPIES:

Copies of the notice of a FONSI, the February 11, 2016 *Elk Bend Sewer District Environmental Information Document* and August 24, 2012 *Elk Bend Sewer District Wastewater Facilities Planning Study*, with its June 25, 2015 and January 19, 2016 addenda are available for public review on DEQ's website at www.deq.idaho.gov/public-comment-opportunities or at the following locations:

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
 Water Quality Division
 1410 North Hilton
 Boise, Idaho 83706
 Grant/loan SERP contact: Mike May (208) 373-0406

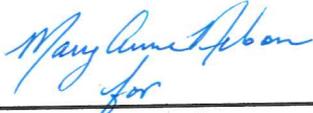
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
 Idaho Falls Regional Office
 900 North Skyline Drive, Suite B
 Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402
 Regional Office contact: William Teuscher, P.E., (208) 528-2666

The public will be informed about the proposed project and their opportunity for comment through the *Recorder-Herald*, one time in the April 7, 2016 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:

Mike May
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 May 9, 2016. 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.



Mary Anne Spohn
for

Barry N. Burnell
Water Quality Division Administrator

LEGAL NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Date: March 24, 2016

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

Subject: Environmental determination for the Elk Bend Sewer District Wastewater Improvements

In accordance with the State Environmental Review Process (SERP) and the “Rules for Administration of Wastewater Treatment Facility Grants” (IDAPA 58.01.04), an environmental review has been performed and a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) issued by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for the following project:

Elk Bend Sewer District Wastewater Improvements Lemhi County, Idaho

This environmental determination was made as a result of the review process indicating no significant environmental impacts would result from the proposed project. There may be several environmental effects from the referenced project as described below.

Short-term and long-term impacts may occur during project construction that include temporary disruption of the collection 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.
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- 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:

- Floodplain development permit from Lemhi County;
- Updated large soil absorption system permit from Eastern Idaho Public Health Department (see above); and
- 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 improved wastewater treatment and reduction of the potential for sewer overflows.

Description of the Project: The proposed improvements include:

- Construct a new recirculating gravel filter wastewater treatment facility and pressure sewer main at Elk Bend;
- Replace existing large soil absorption system (LSAS) with a new LSAS at Elk Bend; and
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Copies Available: Copies of the notice of a FONSI, the February 11, 2016 *Elk Bend Sewer District Environmental Information Document* and August 24, 2012 *Elk Bend Sewer District Wastewater Facilities Planning Study*, with its June 25, 2015 and January 19, 2016 addenda are available for public review on DEQ's website at www.deq.idaho.gov/public-comment-opportunities or at the following locations:

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 900 North Skyline Drive, Suite B
 Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402
 Regional Office contact: William Teuscher, P.E., (208) 528-2666

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

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

Such comments must be postmarked or delivered on or before May 9, 2016. Public comments will be considered in finalizing the planning phase of the project. No administrative action will be taken on the project for at least 30 calendar days from the date of publication.

Barry N. Burnell
Water Quality Division Administrator