



STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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

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

September 21, 2016

The Honorable Walter C. Nelson, Mayor
City of Gooding
308 Fifth Avenue West
Gooding, Idaho 83330

RE: Environmental determination for the City of Gooding Drinking Water Improvements
(DWG-126-2012-7)

Dear Mayor Nelson:

A draft finding of no significant impact (FONSI) was issued by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) on June 16, 2016 for the City of Gooding Drinking Water Improvements, based on a careful review of the environmental information document prepared by Keller Associates.

The draft FONSI was published on June 22, 2016 in the *Times-News*, newspaper of record for the name of City of Gooding. Comments were received during the 30-day public comment period following publication. The final FONSI has been revised to include the comments received and the agency's responses.

This completes the environmental review of this project. Brian Reed at the DEQ Twin Falls regional office (208) 737-3870, is your local DEQ contact on the referenced project. Please keep him informed of progress on the project. For questions regarding the environmental review, contact Mike May at (208) 373-0406 or via e-mail at Michael.May@deq.idaho.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barry N. Burnell".

Barry N. Burnell
Water Quality Division Administrator

BNB:MLM:dls

Enclosures

c: MaryAnna Peavey, DEQ State Office (TRIM)
Charlie Parkins, DEQ State Office (TRIM)
Todd Bunn, Gooding Public Works Director (tbunn@goodingidaho.org)
Brian Reed, P.E., DEQ Twin Falls Regional Office (TRIM)
James P. Mullen, P.E., Keller Associates (jmullen@kellerassociates.com)
Oksana N. Roth, Keller Associates (oroth@Kellerassociates.com)
Carol Garrison, USDA-RUS (Carol.Garrison@id.usda.gov)
Noel LaRoque, P.E., USDA_RUS (Noel.LaRoque@id.usda.gov)
Austin Hopkins, Idaho Conservation League, P.O. Box 844, Boise 83701

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Date: September 21, 2016
To: All Interested Government Agencies, Public Groups, and Individuals
Subject: Environmental determination for the City of Gooding Drinking Water Improvements

In accordance with the State Environmental Review Process (SERP), “Rules for Administration of Planning Grants for Drinking Water Facilities” (IDAPA 58.01.22), and “Rules for Administration of Drinking Water Loan Program” (IDAPA 58.01.20), an environmental review has been performed and a final finding of no significant impact (FONSI) is hereby issued by the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) on the project described below:

Project:	City of Gooding Drinking Water Improvements
Location:	Gooding, Gooding County, Idaho
DEQ Grant Number:	DWG-126-2012-7
DEQ Grant Costs:	\$20,000

PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF IMPACTS:

Purpose of Project: The purpose of the proposed project is to decommission the existing deteriorated irrigation system and provide for irrigation demand via the drinking water system, as well as increasing drinking water supply.

Description of the Project: The proposed project involves:

- Replacement of approximately 9,300 feet of water mains;
- Installation of 2 wells, with well houses and appurtenances, and
- Decommission existing gravity irrigation system and diversion of the existing surface water right to ground water recharge.

Direct and Indirect Impacts: An environmental information document (EID) was prepared by Keller Associates (Keller), consulting engineer for the City of Gooding. 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 drinking water 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 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 “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, 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.
- **Wetlands:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has identified two potential jurisdictional wetlands within the project area: the Clover Creek crossing on 4th Avenue W and a wetlands crossing on Arizona Street. USACE must be consulted regarding the crossing designs, and permit obtained, as determined by USACE.
- 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:

- Section 404 permit or Nationwide Permit 12 for encroachment of wetlands from USACE.
- 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 improving the reliability of the drinking water system and providing additional aquifer recharge.

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 May 6, 2016 *City of Gooding, Idaho Water Facilities Planning Study*, and May 24, 2016 *City of Gooding Water System Improvements Environmental Information Document*.

AVAILABILITY OF COPIES:

Copies of this final FONSI and supporting documentation upon which it is based are available on DEQ's website at www.deq.idaho.gov/water-quality/grants-loans/environmental-assessment.aspx 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
Twin Falls Regional Office
650 Addison Avenue West, Suite 110
Twin Falls, Idaho 83301
Regional Office contact: Brian Reed (208) 737-3870

The public was informed about the proposed project and their opportunity for comment through the *Times-News*, one time in the June 22, 2106 publication.

Public Comments: Comments were submitted to DEQ for consideration during the 30-day public comment period. DEQ reviewed the comments submitted and the agency's determination is to issue the final FONSI.



Barry N. Burnell
Water Quality Division Administrator