



STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

1410 North Hilton • Boise, Idaho 83706 • (208) 373-0502

C.L. "Butch" Otter, Governor
Curt Fransen, Director

November 20, 2012

The Honorable Diana Thomas
City of Weiser
55 West Idaho
Weiser, Idaho 83672

RE: Environmental Determination for the City of Weiser Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements

Dear Mayor Thomas:

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has completed a review of the Environmental Information Document for the City of Weiser Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements. The potential impacts on a number of environmentally sensitive resources were evaluated in the environmental review. The city's project engineer 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 *Weiser Signal-American*, newspaper of record for the City of Weiser. DEQ has requested the *Weiser Signal-American* publish the legal notice one (1) time, on one (1) day, on Wednesday, November 28, 2012. 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. Should there be public comments and concerns 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 facility plan, DEQ will be able to close the DEQ planning grant and to proceed with the State Revolving Fund loan.

Kevin Ryan, DEQ Boise Regional Office (208) 373-0184, is your local DEQ contact on the referenced project. Please keep him informed of progress on the project.

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
Kevin Ryan, P.E., DEQ Boise Regional Office, Kevin.Ryan@deq.idaho.gov
Nate Marvin, Director of Public Works Director, nathan@ruralnetwork.net

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Date: November 20, 2012
To: All Interested Government Agencies, Public Groups, and Individuals
Subject: Environmental Determination for the Weiser Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements

In accordance with the Rules for Administration of 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:	Weiser Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements
Location:	City of Weiser, Washington County, Idaho
DEQ Loan Number:	TBD
Total Project Cost:	\$9,776,000

PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF IMPACTS:

Purpose of Project: The purpose of the proposed project is to improve effluent quality to meet new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit requirements and extend the life of the treatment plant by upgrading or repairing aged equipment.

Description of the Project: The scope of the proposed project includes:

- Construction of a headworks building to enclose existing screens;
- Rehabilitation of aeration blower tanks;
- Installation of new aeration system and improved diffusion equipment;
- Installation of on-site chlorine generation and dechlorination equipment;
- Installation of chemical dosing equipment for phosphorus removal;
- Installation of SCADA improvements;
- Rehabilitation of the dissolved air flotation thickener (DAFT);
- Construction of a new up-flow sand filter for additional phosphorus removal; and
- Rehabilitation of digester #3.

Project activities are expected to be contained within the existing wastewater treatment plant boundaries, and will require minimal excavation, all in previously disturbed areas.

Direct and Indirect Impacts: No direct, long term, cumulative or indirect effects on sensitive environmental features are anticipated from construction of the proposed project. Overall completion of the project will have long-term positive effects through reduction of pollutant discharge to the Snake River.

Short term impacts may occur during project construction that include temporary disruption of the treatment system, increased noise, increased dust pollution and increased potential for stormwater runoff. 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-Paiute Tribe, Shoshone-Bannock Tribe, and Burns-Paiute General Council 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.
- 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 Weiser will also obtain 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 reduction of pollutant discharges to the Snake River.

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 2011 *Wastewater Treatment Plant & Main Lift Station Facilities Planning Study*, the November 2012 *City of Weiser Wastewater Improvements Project Environmental Information Document* and supporting documentation.

AVAILABILITY OF COPIES:

Copies of the notice of a FONSI, the July 2011 *Wastewater Treatment Plant & Main Lift Station Facilities Planning Study*, the November 2012 *City of Weiser Wastewater Improvements Project Environmental Information Document* 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:

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 Street
Boise, Idaho 83706
Regional Office Contact: Kevin Ryan, Engineer – (208) 373-0184

City of Weiser
55 West Idaho
Weiser, Idaho 83672
Contact: Nate Marvin, Public Works Director – (208) 414-1965

The public will be informed about the proposed project and their opportunity for comment through the *Weiser Signal-American*, one time in the Wednesday, November 28, 2012 publication.

Public Comments: Comments supporting or disagreeing with this decision must be submitted on the DEQ web site <www.deq.idaho.gov/public-comment-opportunities> or addressed to:

Department of Environmental Quality
Division of Water Quality
Grant and Loan Program
1410 North Hilton Street
Boise, Idaho 83706
Attention: Mike May, Grant/Loan SERP Staff

All comments must be postmarked or delivered on or before Monday, December 31, 2012. After an evaluation of public comment, DEQ will make a final decision. No administrative action will be taken on the project for at least thirty (30) calendar days after publication of the draft FONSI Notice.



Barry N. Burnell
Water Quality Division Administrator

LEGAL NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Date: November 20, 2012
To: All Interested Government Agencies, Public Groups, and Individuals
Subject: Environmental Determination for the Weiser Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements

In accordance with the Rules for Administration of 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) for the following project:

Weiser Wastewater Treatment Plan Improvements
Washington County
Weiser, 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 impacts may occur during project construction that include temporary disruption of the treatment system, increased noise, increased dust pollution and increased potential for stormwater runoff. 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-Paiute Tribe, Shoshone-Bannock Tribe, and Burns-Paiute General Council 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.
- 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 Weiser will also obtain 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 reduction of pollutant discharges to the Snake River.

Description of the Project: The scope of the proposed project includes:

- Construction of a headworks building to enclose existing screens;
- Rehabilitation of aeration blower tanks;
- Installation of new aeration system and improved diffusion equipment;
- Installation of on-site chlorine generation and dechlorination equipment;
- Installation of chemical dosing equipment for phosphorus removal;
- Installation of SCADA improvements;
- Rehabilitation of the dissolved air flotation thickener (DAFT);
- Construction of a new up-flow sand filter for additional phosphorus removal; and
- Rehabilitation of digester #3.

Project activities are expected to be contained within the existing wastewater treatment plant boundaries, and will require minimal excavation, all in previously disturbed areas.

Copies Available: Copies of the *full* FONSI, the facility plan, the Environmental Information Document 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:

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 Street
Boise, Idaho 83706
Regional Office Contact: Kevin Ryan, Engineer – (208) 373-0184

City of Weiser
55 West Idaho
Weiser, Idaho 83672
Contact: Nate Marvin, Public Works Director – (208) 414-1965

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

Mike May, Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Division, Loan Program,
1410 N. Hilton Street, Boise, Idaho 83706.

Such comments must be postmarked or delivered on or before Monday, December 31, 2012. 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 thirty (30) calendar days from the date of publication.

Barry N. Burnell
Water Quality Division Administrator



STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

1410 North Hilton • Boise, ID 83706-1255 • (208) 373-0502

C. L. "Butch" Otter, Governor
Toni Hardesty, Director

November 20, 2012

Sarah Boles, idahofiddler@yahoo.com
Weiser Signal American

RE: Legal Notice Publication: Notification of a Finding of No Significant Impact for the City of Weiser Wastewater Treatment Improvements

Dear Ms. Boles:

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality requests the enclosed legal notice be published in your newspaper. This request is to satisfy the state rule requirement that the notice of an environmental determination be given in advance of the intended action. To comply with the aforementioned legal requirements and the dates contained in the legal notice, we hereby request the legal notice be published one time, on one day, on Wednesday, November 28, 2012.

Please compress the legal notice by eliminating any unnecessary lines and spaces. A formatted legal notice is attached for your convenience. If you are unable to publish on the requested date, please call for further instructions.

Following publication, please send: one (1) affidavit; one (1) proof of publication; and the billing invoice to:

Dawn Shepherd
Department of Environmental Quality
1410 North Hilton
Boise, Idaho 83706

Failure to send the billing invoice to the address and contact person identified above could result in a delay in the processing of your invoice.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. Please call Mike May at 208-373-0406 if you have any questions.

MaryAnna Peavey, DEQ Loan Program Coordinator

Enclosure: Formatted Legal Notice