

PLUMMER WASTEWATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

City of Plummer BENEWAH COUNTY, IDAHO

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

1. Background

The Seattle District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) will assist the non-Federal sponsor, City of Plummer (City), Idaho on its Wastewater System Improvement Project (Project), under the authority of Section 595 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (WRDA), as amended. Specifically, the Corps will provide funding to assist with improvements to the City's wastewater collection system. Section 595 of WRDA, Public Law 106-53, as amended, authorizes the Corps to provide design and construction assistance on water-related environmental infrastructure and resource protection projects in rural counties of Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming.

The City owns and operates a community wide sewer collection system consisting primarily of 8-inch piping and 4-foot diameter manholes. The collection system was originally installed in 1963 and a major collection system expansion was completed in 1976 to serve the east side of town. In 1982 and 1993, two minor expansions were completed. Over the years, the sewer collection system has deteriorated and as a result, the City has struggled with excessive inflow and infiltration, which overwhelms the treatment process. The high inflow and infiltration makes it difficult for the City to meet the terms and conditions of its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

2. Location

The City is in northwestern Benewah County, Idaho and is on the Cœur d'Alene (CdA) Indian Reservation. The City is approximately 20 miles east of St. Maries, the county seat, and approximately 35 (road) miles south of Cœur d'Alene.

3. Non-Federal Sponsor (Sponsor) Prepared Environmental Review

In accordance with the Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) signed by the Corps and the City on September 8, 2014, the Corps will perform its own evaluation of the environmental issues and make its own findings on potential impacts, based on information developed by the Sponsor. The signed PPA required the City to obtain all permits necessary prior to construction. The City submitted an Environmental Review for *City of Plummer, Idaho, Sewer Collection System Improvements, January 2016* prepared by Mountain Waterworks, Inc., which is attached to the FONSI. This report pertains to the Project, even though a slightly different title was used. The Corps had no role in the preparation of the Environmental Review (ER), but did

undertake an independent review of the document and determined the information contained therein is accurate. The ER is incorporated in its entirety and made part of the record. In addition, the Corps performed additional environmental coordination to supplement the ER. The ER and the Corps' supplementation constitute the Environmental Assessment.

4. Proposed Action

The Corps proposes to construct improvements to the City's sewer collection system by replacing multiple manhole access points and sections of deteriorated pipelines.

The proposed improvements include:

- Seal Grade Rings, and Manhole Frame and Covers
- Pressure Grout Manholes
- Interior Manhole Polyurethane Liner
- New Manholes
- Sewer Main and Service Line Pipe Repair/Replacement

The no action alternative was rejected because it will not address any of the problems currently faced by the City.

5. Summary of Impacts

As the proposed work sites are highly localized within the developed areas of the City, in previously disturbed areas, without natural habitat, there would be no effect on the three listed species protected under the Endangered Species Act that could occur in the project vicinity: bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*), Spalding's catchfly (*Silene spaldingii*), and water howellia (*Howellia aquatilis*).

All the proposed improvements will be within the developed upland areas of the City, mainly on existing roadways. No in-water work will occur, nor will the work be conducted in or immediately adjacent to the floodplains of Plummer Creek. Proposed work will not involve discharge of fill material into waters of the United States; therefore, a Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit is not required. Use of best management practices (BMP) for stormwater and sediment control will avoid risk of excess sediments disturbed during construction and maintenance activities from reaching waterways. Repairing sources of infiltration and inflow will address the violation of the Environmental Protection Agency-issued NPDES permit.

In an e-mail dated March 9, 2016, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) deferred consultation under Section 106 to the Cd'A Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) and stated it was not aware of any documented historic properties that could be adversely effected by the undertaking. In a letter dated April 15, 2016, the THPO concurred that there are no known cultural/historic properties in the areas/depths noted for excavation. The THPO will not require monitoring if the construction crew completes a THPO provided cultural awareness training. In the case of inadvertent discovery, all work must cease and the contractor shall notify the

THPO. If human remains are encountered, the contractor shall notify THPO and law enforcement, with the closest being Plummer City Police and Cd'A Tribal Police.


6. Public Involvement

The proposed action has been coordinated with appropriate Federal, federally recognized Tribes, state, and local agencies, and businesses, organizations, and individuals through distribution of *Environmental Review, City of Plummer, Idaho Sewer Collection System Improvements* for their review and comment. The proposed work has been discussed in open City Council Meetings, and a 15-day public review comment period was provided from February 3 through 18, 2016. No comments for or against the proposed work were received.

7. Finding

Based on the analysis described above and provided in more detail in the Environmental Assessment, this project is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human or natural environment, and therefore, does not require preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

16 MAY 16
Date


JOHN G. BUCK
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
Commanding