

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY: DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Planning, Environmental and Cultural
Resources Branch
P.O. Box 3755
Seattle, WA 98124-3755

Public Notice Date: September 8, 2023
Last Day to Comment: September 22, 2023
Reference: PMP-23-06
Name: City of St. Maries Sewer Line Replacement Project

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District (Corps) has prepared, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), a draft Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact (EA/FONSI) for the City of St. Maries Sewer Line Replacement Project. The draft EA/FONSI presents the results of the Corps' evaluation of various alternatives to address failing wastewater system infrastructure in St. Maries, Idaho.

The Preferred Alternative is the Replacement of All Priority Infrastructure alternative. Implementation of this alternative would involve the replacement of approximately 1,302 feet of existing clay sewer line with 8-inch, 10-inch, and 12-inch diameter SDR-35 PVC sewer line and replacement of 6 pre-cast concrete manholes. The projects will be confined to the right of way on either side of the roadway in which they are located. These projects will include the excavation and removal of the old lines and manholes, replacement with new PVC lines and manholes, the update and reconnection of individual services, and backfill and restoration of the roadway surface. See the link below to the IFR/EA for more details.

COMMENT AND REVIEW PERIOD

The Corps invites submission of comments on the environmental impact of the proposed action. Comments will be considered in determining whether it would be in the best public interest to proceed with the proposed project. The Corps will consider all submissions received before the expiration date of this notice. The comment period is outlined below. The nature or scope of the proposal may be changed upon consideration of the comments received. If significant effects on the quality of the human environment are identified and cannot be mitigated for, the Corps would initiate an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and afford all the appropriate public participation opportunities attendant to an EIS.

COMMENT SUBMISSION

Submit comments to the email address identified below no later than September 22, 2023 to ensure consideration.

Zachary.M.Wilson@usace.army.mil

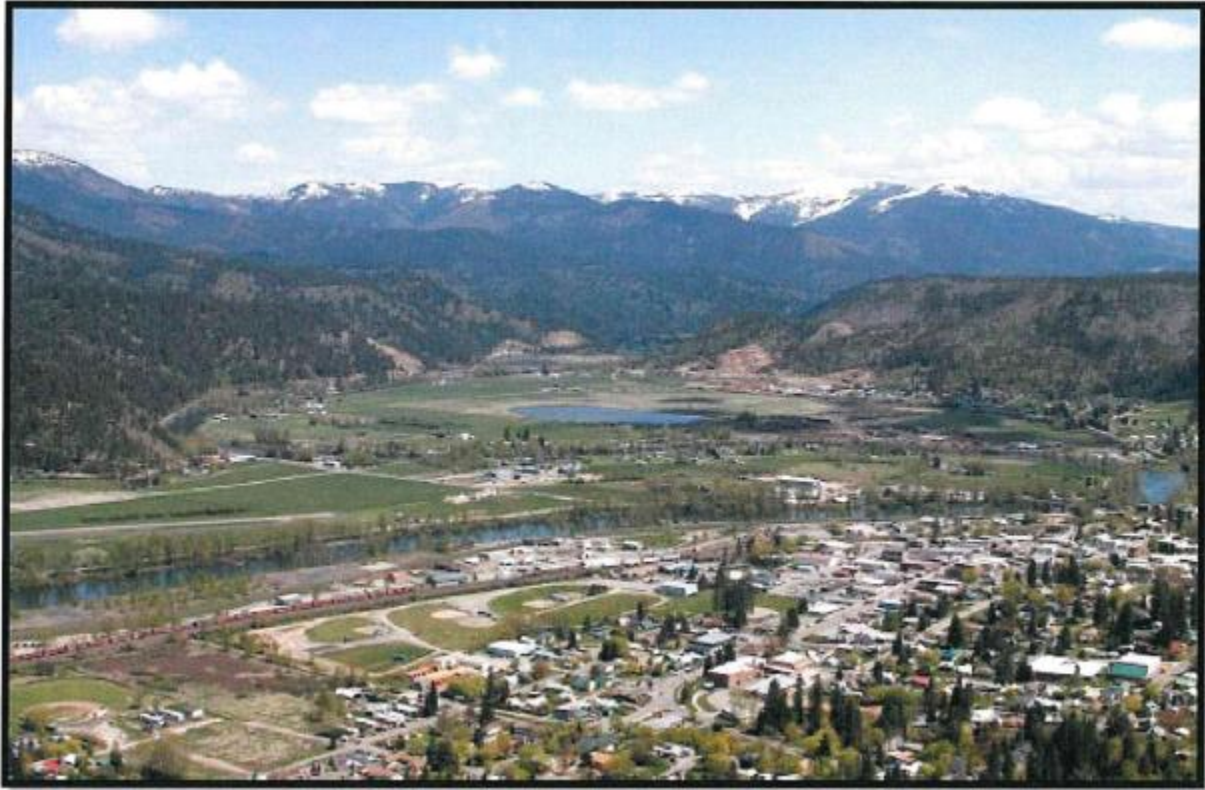
This Notice and the Draft EA/FONSI can be found online at the links below.

Project Name: City of St. Maries Sewer Line Replacement Project
<http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/Environmental-Documents/>

Posting Date: September 8, 2023

Submit Comments Before: September 23, 2023

DRAFT Environmental Assessment



City of St. Maries, Idaho

Title: City of St. Maries Sewer Line Replacement Project

Preparer: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Date: September 2023

Contents

Contents.....	i
1. INTRODUCTION.....	2
2. AUTHORITY.....	2
3. BACKGROUND AND LOCATION.....	2
4. PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT.....	2
5. ALTERNATIVES.....	3
6. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES.....	3
7. REGULATORY COMPLIANCE.....	4
7.1 National Environmental Protection Act.....	4
7.2 Endangered Species Act.....	4
7.3 Clean Air Act.....	5
7.4 Clean Water Act, as Amended.....	5
7.5 Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.....	5
7.6 National Historic Preservation Act.....	5
7.7 Tribal Interests and Federal Trust Responsibility.....	6
7.8 Executive Order 12898, Environmental Justice.....	6
7.9 Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management.....	7
8. CONCLUSION.....	7
9. APPENDICES.....	7
Appendix A – Final City of St. Maries Phase 3 Sewer Line Replacement Project Environmental Information Document (EID).....	8
Appendix B – National Historic Preservation Act Compliance.....	9
Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).....	12

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of an Environmental Assessment (EA), as reflected in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Sections 1500.1(a) and 1501.5(c)(1) of the Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) as amended, is to “*provide sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an environmental impact statement [EIS] or a finding of no significant impact [FONSI]*” on actions authorized, funded, or carried out by the Federal Government, and “*ensure Federal agencies consider the environmental impacts of their actions in the decision-making process.*” Pursuant to Section 102(C) of the NEPA, this assessment evaluates environmental consequences of the proposed action to be implemented by the City of St. Maries (City), to replace three sewer collection lines and numerous manholes along College Avenue, Main Avenue, and Washington Avenue within the City of St. Maries, Idaho. This ***draft*** EA was prepared by the Seattle District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) using information provided by the City including the Final *City of St. Maries Phase 3 Sewer Line Replacement Project Environmental Information Document (EID)* dated March 6, 2023 (Appendix A). The EID, incorporated herein by reference, evaluates various alternatives to address failing wastewater system infrastructure within the City.

2. AUTHORITY

USACE participation in this project is authorized under Section 595 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1999 [Public Law (PL) 106-53], as amended. Under Section 595, the USACE provides design and construction assistance to non-Federal sponsor (NFS) interests to carry out water-related environmental infrastructure, and resource protection and development projects in rural areas of certain states, including Idaho. Projects may include wastewater treatment and related facilities, water supply and related facilities, environmental restoration, and surface water resource protection and development. Section 595 is a cost-share program where 75 percent of the project cost is provided by the Federal government and 25 percent by the NFS. The USACE can engage in design, construction, or both for projects under this program. The NFS for the City of St. Maries Sewer Line Replacement Project is the City of St. Maries.

3. BACKGROUND AND LOCATION

The City is located at the intersection of State Highways 3 and 5, in Benewah County along the southern bank of the St. Joe River. The project footprint includes the roadway right-of-way along College Avenue, Main Avenue, and Washington Avenue within the City where the sewer lines are located. Additional details about the project location are summarized in section 1.0 and 2.0 of the EID and are hereby incorporated by reference.

4. PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The purpose of this project is to replace sewer lines and manholes in city limits, with USACE providing financial assistance in furtherance of WRDA, as amended, in order to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources. The project is needed because the existing wastewater system infrastructure, through a combination of age and material deterioration, are a threat to human health and safety and do not meet the City’s National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit limits. Additional information about the purpose and need for the proposed project is outlined in section 1.0 of the EID and is hereby incorporated by reference.

5. ALTERNATIVES

Alternatives considered under NEPA must include a reasonable range of alternatives, including the proposed action (Preferred Alternative) and the No Action Alternative. In addition to a “no action” plan, two alternatives were evaluated in Section 2.2 of the EID, incorporated herein by reference.

While the No Action Alternative is not recommended, it was carried forward for further evaluation to serve as a base condition for evaluation of other alternatives. The other two alternatives included the Replacement of Only High Priority Infrastructure and the Replacement of All Priority Infrastructure. The Replacement of Only High Priority Infrastructure alternative was considered but was not carried forward for further evaluation. The Replacement of All Priority Infrastructure alternative was identified as the Preferred Alternative compared to the other alternatives (No Action and Replacement of Only High Priority Infrastructure) because it meets the purpose and need of the proposed project.

The Preferred Alternative is the Replacement of All Priority Infrastructure alternative and is summarized in section 2.2 of the EID and are hereby incorporated by reference. Implementation of this alternative would involve the replacement of approximately 1,302 feet of existing clay sewer line with 8-inch, 10-inch, and 12-inch diameter SDR-35 PVC sewer line and replacement of 6 pre-cast concrete manholes. The projects will be confined to the right of way on either side of the roadway in which they are located. These projects will include the excavation and removal of the old lines and manholes, replacement with new PVC lines and manholes, the update and reconnection of individual services, and backfill and restoration of the roadway surface. The wastewater system infrastructure to be replaced are as follows:

- **College Avenue (2nd St to 1st St):** Replace 104 linear feet of 8-inch clay sewer line, 262 linear feet of 12-inch clay sewer line, and one manhole.
- **Main Avenue (14th St to 11th St):** Replace 480 linear feet of 8-inch clay sewer line, 330 linear feet of 10-inc clay sewer line, and three manholes.
- **Washington Avenue (Alley to 8th St):** Replace 126 linear feet of 6-inch clay sewer line and two manholes.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

The potential effects were evaluated for the No Action and the Replacement of All Priority Infrastructure alternatives. See section 2.2 of the EID for alternative formulation and selection. See section 3 of the EID for the analysis of alternatives against environmental criteria.

USACE had no role in the preparation of the EID but conducted its own independent evaluation of the environmental impacts therein and determined that the analysis for the proposed action sufficiently satisfies the requirements of the NEPA, with further supplementation and amplification of analysis to address NEPA provided below. Supplemental analysis for the No Action Alternative was required for the following resources and is detailed below: Wild and Scenic Rivers, Flora and Fauna, Surface Water, and Ground Water.

Wild and Scenic Rivers: Under the No Action Alternative, no construction activity would occur. The wastewater system conditions would remain in their current state of deterioration and threaten NPDES Permit non-compliance. Limited treatment capacity increases the likelihood of surcharging which can create sewer overflows. These sewer overflows have the potential to enter the St. Joe River, a Wild and Scenic River, located directly adjacent to the wastewater system. Untreated water entering the river

would have impacts to the St. Joe River through the introduction of potentially harmful contaminants and therefore impact the outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational value of the resource.

Flora and Fauna: Under the No Action Alternative, no construction activity would occur. The wastewater system conditions would remain in their current state of deterioration and threaten NPDES Permit non-compliance. Limited treatment capacity increases the likelihood of surcharging which can create sewer overflows. Sewer overflows have the potential to reach the St. Joe river and have impacts to water quality and impact Bull Trout, which is an Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed species.

Surface Water: Under the No Action Alternative, no construction activity would occur. The wastewater system conditions would remain in their current state of deterioration and threaten NPDES Permit non-compliance. Limited treatment capacity increases the likelihood of surcharging which can create sewer overflows. These sewer overflows have the potential to impact surface water by entering the St. Joe River. Untreated water entering the river would impact water quality through the introduction of potentially harmful contaminants (i.e., nitrogen, phosphorous, harmful micro-organisms, etc.).

Ground Water: Under the No Action Alternative, no construction activity would occur. The wastewater system conditions would remain in their current state of deterioration and threaten NPDES Permit non-compliance. Limited treatment capacity increases the likelihood of surcharging which can create sewer overflows. Ground water quality could be negatively impacted through the permeation of contaminated sewer water through the soil to ground water resources.

7. REGULATORY COMPLIANCE

7.1 National Environmental Protection Act

The NEPA (42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq.) commits Federal agencies to considering, documenting, and publicly disclosing the environmental effects of their actions. As required by NEPA, this **draft** EA describes the purpose and need of the proposed project, the proposed project and its alternatives, existing environmental conditions, and potential environmental effects of each alternative. The document discusses whether the proposed project would create any significant environmental impacts that call for preparing an Environmental Impact Statement or if a FONSI is appropriate.

This is a **draft** EA and will be finalized after public review and comment is completed. A **draft** FONSI is provided after Appendix B.

7.2 Endangered Species Act

The Endangered Species Act (ESA; 16 U.S.C. § 1531 et seq.) establishes a national program for the conservation of threatened and endangered species of fish, wildlife, and plants and the habitat upon which they depend. Section 7(a) of the ESA requires that Federal agencies consult with the USFWS and NMFS, as appropriate, to ensure that proposed actions are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of endangered or threatened species, or to adversely modify or destroy designated critical habitats.

The proposed project through the preferred alternative would have no effect to ESA-listed species while the no action alternative would maintain the City's current system, which is vulnerable to infiltration and inflow (I&I). If left uncorrected the I&I could compromise treatment efficiency and negatively impact water quality in the St. Joe River. Implementation of the preferred alternative would prevent I&I into the

City's system. The EID, through an USFWS IPAC report for Benewah County, Idaho, identified the North American Wolverine, Grizzly Bear, Bull Trout, Spalding's Catchfly, and Whitebark Pine as threatened species that could potentially exist within the proposed action area. USACE biologists performed an evaluation of potential effects to threatened and endangered species to comply with the ESA. Due to the nature of the project and the surrounding developed area, USACE concluded there would be no effect to listed species.

7.3 Clean Air Act

The Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. § 7401 et seq.) requires states to develop plans, called State Implementation Plans, for eliminating or reducing the severity and number of violations of National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) while achieving expeditious attainment of the NAAQS. The Act also requires Federal actions to conform to the appropriate State Implementation Plan. An action that conforms to a State Implementation Plan is an action that would not:

1. Cause or contribute to any new violation of any standard in any area;
2. Increase the frequency or severity of any existing violation of any standard in any area; or
3. Delay timely attainment of any standard or any required interim emission reductions or other milestones in any area.

Activities during the proposed project would have short-term effects to air quality. There would be a temporary increase in emissions during equipment operation; however, the effects would be minimal given the short duration of the action (not to exceed 150 days) and type of equipment needed. The pollutant production from equipment would contribute only a small fraction to global greenhouse gas emissions. The proposed alteration is not in an area of concern now or in the past for noncompliance with the NAAQS. Therefore, the proposed project is in compliance with this Act.

7.4 Clean Water Act, as Amended

The objective of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (CWA; 33 U.S.C. § 1252 et seq.), is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters. It does this by preventing point and nonpoint pollution sources, providing assistance to publicly owned treatment works for the improvement of wastewater treatment, and maintaining the integrity of wetlands through a series of regulatory permitting programs.

The USACE has determined that the proposed project does not include discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S. Therefore, project activities are not regulated under Section 404 of the CWA. Section 402 of the CWA is triggered when a construction site would have greater than 1 acre of ground disturbance. Proposed replacement activities do not exceed 1 acre of ground disturbance.

7.5 Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act

The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. § 668) prohibits the taking, possession or commerce of bald and golden eagles, except under certain circumstances. There are no known nests near the proposed project area. The proposed project would have no effect on bald or golden eagles.

7.6 National Historic Preservation Act

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. § 470) requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of proposed Federal undertakings on historic properties included or eligible for the NRHP. The implementing regulations for Section 106 (36 CFR § 800) require Federal agencies to consult

with various parties, including the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Indian tribes, and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, to identify and evaluate historic properties, and to assess and resolve effects to historic properties.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, USACE determined that implementation of the Proposed Action has no potential to cause effects on historic properties. HMM Engineering, through the National Register of Historic Places and SHPO, identified four historic sites within St. Maries City Limits: the Benewah County Courthouse, Kootenai Inn, St. Maries Masonic Temple No. 63, and St. Maries 1910 Fire Memorial. USACE determined that while these sites are within the vicinity of the proposed action, none are on the same road section, and therefore would not be impacted by the City's proposed action. The USACE cultural resources review of the proposed action determined that there would be a No Adverse Effects to Historic Properties. USACE received a concurrence letter from the Idaho SHPO, dated May 8, 2023, which concurs with the No Adverse Effect determination to historic properties (Appendix B).

7.7 Tribal Interests and Federal Trust Responsibility

The United States recognizes the right of Tribal governments to self-govern and supports Tribal Sovereignty and self-determination. The Federal government also has a unique trust relationship with and responsibility to protect and support Tribal Nations. In recognition of this unique relationship, Executive Order 13175 of November 6, 2000 (Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments) requires all federal agencies to engage in meaningful consultation with Tribal officials in the development of federal policies that have tribal implications. Here, the Corps recognizes its obligation to engage in tribal consultation regarding the impacts of proposed federal actions on tribal interests, in accordance with applicable provisions of treaties, laws and Executive Orders, as well as principles lodged in the Constitution of the United States.

The Corps contacted the following Tribes about the proposed replacement activities on September 6, 2023: Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Nez Perce Tribe, and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. The USACE will continue to coordinate throughout the project to meet all USACE obligations to tribes. To date, no comments have been received from the contacted Tribe.

7.8 Executive Order 12898, Environmental Justice

Executive Order 12898 directs Federal agencies to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of agency programs and activities on minority and low-income populations. USACE queried the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool for disadvantaged communities as part of the environmental justice analysis. Communities are considered disadvantaged if they are in a census tract that meets the threshold for at least one of the tool's categories of burden and corresponding economic indicator or are on the lands of a federally recognized Tribe. Two such census tracts were identified in the project area, Tract 16009940000 and Tract 16009950100. These tracts were identified as disadvantaged due to low income, proximity to superfund sites, prevalence of heart disease, lack of indoor plumbing, and low high school education. The proposed action does not involve a facility siting decision and would not have a disproportionately high adverse human health impact to any environmental justice Community. The wastewater system provides sewage management to the City. Maintaining its operation benefits all members of the community. Therefore, the proposed alteration complies with this order.

7.9 Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management

Executive Order 11988 requires Federal agencies to avoid, to the extent possible, the long- and short-term adverse impacts associated with the occupancy of the floodplain, and to avoid direct and indirect support of floodplain development where there is a practicable alternative. In accomplishing this objective, “each agency shall provide leadership and shall take action to reduce the risk of flood loss, to minimize the effect of floods on human safety, health, and welfare, and to restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values served by flood plains.” The proposed project would not facilitate floodplain development.

8. CONCLUSION

The No Action Alternative does not meet the project's purpose and need. The Preferred Alternative fulfills the project's purpose and need. Based on the above analysis the proposed project would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, and therefore does not require preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

9. APPENDICES

DRAFT

Section 595
City of St. Maries Sewer Line Replacement Project

Appendix A – Final City of St. Maries Phase 3 Sewer Line Replacement Project
Environmental Information Document (EID)

Due to file size this appendix is provided separately and is located here:

<http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/Environmental-Documents/>

DRAFT

Appendix B – National Historic Preservation Act Compliance

DRAFT

Section 595
City of St. Maries Sewer Line Replacement Project



8 May 2023



Brad Little
Governor of Idaho

Janet Gallimore
Executive Director
State Historic
Preservation Officer

Administration:
2205 Old Penitentiary Rd.
Boise, Idaho 83712
208.334.2682
Fax: 208.334.2774

Idaho State Museum:
610 Julia Davis Dr.
Boise, Idaho 83702
208.334.2120

**Idaho State Archives
and State Records
Center:**
2205 Old Penitentiary Rd.
Boise, Idaho 83712
208.334.2620

**State Historic
Preservation Office:**
210 Main St.
Boise, Idaho 83702
208.334.3861

**Old Idaho Penitentiary
and Historic Sites:**
2445 Old Penitentiary Rd.
Boise, Idaho 83712
208.334.2844

HISTORY.IDAHO.GOV

Scott M. Hall
Supervisory Archaeologist
Walla Walla District, Corps of Engineers
Planning, Programs, and Project Management
201 North Third Ave.
Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

**Re: City of St. Maries Phase 3 Sewer Line Replacement Project,
Benewah County, Idaho / SHPO Rev. No. 2023-509**

Dear Mr. Hall:

Thank you for consulting with our office on the above-referenced project. The State Historic Preservation Office is providing comments to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR § 800. Consultation with the SHPO is not a substitution for consultation with Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, other Native American tribes, local governments, or the public.

We understand this historic property review has been initiated in response to a proposed grant provided by the USACE for the city of St Maries to replace an aging and degrading sewer line exhibiting high inflow and infiltration problems within the collection system. The city of St. Maries Wastewater Facility Plan identified priority sewer lines for replacement. The projects will be confined to the right of way on either side of the roadway on three streets in the City of St. Maries: Main Avenue, College Avenue, and Washington Street. Work will include the excavation and removal of the old lines and manholes, replacement with new PVC lines and manholes, update and reconnection of individual services, and backfill and restoration of the roadway surface. The undertaking will replace approximately 1,250 feet of existing clay sewer line with SDR-35 PVC sewer line and replace six pre-cast concrete manholes.

On 3 May 2023, our office received an inventory report prepared by AJ Conti and Zoe Scuderi of Bionomics Environmental, Inc. detailing the results of an intensive survey that documented two historic-period resources within the APE. Idaho State Highway 3 (IHSI No.: 09-15828) had been previously determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). One

Section 595
City of St. Maries Sewer Line Replacement Project

new resource segment was recorded during the inventory, the Idaho State Highway 5 (Field No.: SM-01). The segment was recommended eligible to the NRHP under Criterion A. In accordance with the recommendations of the documentation, the USACE determined that the proposed undertaking would not adversely affect any known historic properties. After careful consideration, our office concurs with these findings as presented.

Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.5, we have applied the criteria of effect to the proposed undertaking. Based on the limited information received 3 May 2023, we find the proposed project undertaking will have **no adverse effect** to historic properties.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please note that our response does not affect the review timelines afforded to other consulting parties. Additionally, the information provided by other consulting parties may cause us to revise our comments. In the event that cultural material is inadvertently encountered during the implementation of this project, work shall be halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed by the appropriate consulting parties. If you have any questions, or the scope of the work changes, please contact me at chris.shaver@ishs.idaho.gov or (208) 488-7467.

Sincerely,



Christopher L. Shaver
Compliance Archaeologist
Idaho State Historic Preservation Office

Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

DRAFT

**DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)
CITY OF ST. MARIES SEWER LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT
BENEWAH COUNTY, IDAHO**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District (USACE) has prepared a **draft** Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, for the City of St. Maries Sewer Line Replacement Project. The **draft** EA addresses the replacement of three sewer collection lines and numerous manholes along College Avenue, Main Avenue, and Washington Avenue within the City of St. Maries (City).

Proposed Action: The USACE proposes to assist the City with a sewer line replacement project under the authority of Section 595 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1999 [Public Law (PL) 106-53], as amended in 2003 by PL 108-137, Section 117 to include Idaho, Montana, rural Nevada, New Mexico, and rural Utah. Under this authority, the City and USACE intend to cost-share the replacement of three sewer collection lines and numerous manholes along College Avenue, Main Avenue, and Washington Avenue within City limits. USACE proposes to use Section 595 funding to provide supplemental financial assistance for the construction components of the City's wastewater system improvement project. This is the Federal contribution to the City's proposed action.

The preferred alternative, as outlined in the **draft** EA, is the Replacement of All Priority Infrastructure alternative. Implementation of this alternative would involve the replacement of approximately 1,302 feet of existing clay sewer line with 8-inch, 10-inch, and 12-inch diameter SDR-35 PVC sewer line and replacement of 6 pre-cast concrete manholes. The projects will be confined to the right of way on either side of the roadway in which they are located. These projects will include the excavation and removal of the old lines and manholes, replacement with new PVC lines and manholes, the update and reconnection of individual services, and backfill and restoration of the roadway surface. Replacement activities for this alternative are summarized in section 5 of the **draft** EA and are hereby incorporated by reference.

Alternatives: In addition to a "no action" plan, two alternatives were evaluated. These alternatives are discussed in section 5 of the **draft** EA and are incorporated herein by reference. While the No Action Alternative is not recommended, the value of a "no action" alternative is for purposes of clarifying the impacts and tradeoffs that are before a decision-maker when assessing a particular alternative and its ability to address the purpose and need under NEPA. . The other two alternatives included the Replacement of Only High Priority Infrastructure and the Replacement of All Priority Infrastructure. The Replacement of Only High Priority Infrastructure alternative was considered but was not carried forward for further evaluation as described in section 5 of the **draft** EA. The Replacement of All Priority Infrastructure alternative was identified as the preferred alternative compared to the other alternatives (No Action and Replacement of Only High Priority Infrastructure) because it meets the purpose and need of the proposed project, which is to replace sewer lines and manholes to address deficiencies within the City's wastewater collection system.

Environmental Consequences: The potential effects were evaluated for the No Action and the Replacement of All Priority Infrastructure alternatives. See section 6 of the **draft** EA for alternative formulation and selection. See section 7 of the **draft** EA for the analysis of alternatives against environmental criteria.

A summary assessment of the potential effects of the recommended plan appears in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of Potential Effects of the Proposed Action

	Insignificant effects	Insignificant effects as a result of mitigation*	Resource unaffected by action
Physical Aspects	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Population, Socio-Economics, and Environmental Justice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Floodplains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Wild and Scenic Rivers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Flora and Fauna	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Farmland	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Surface Water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ground Water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reuse/Land Application	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Air Quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Impact Minimization: All practicable and appropriate means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects were analyzed and incorporated into the recommended plan. A Storm Water Pollution and Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be developed, and best management practices will be implemented to mitigate sediment runoff during the construction process.

Mitigation: The recommended plan through the preferred alternative would have insignificant effects to Physical Aspects, Population, Socio-Economics, and Environmental Justice, and Air Quality. The resources unaffected by the recommended plan are Floodplains, Wetlands, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Cultural Resources, Flora and Fauna, Farmland, Surface Water, Ground Water, and Reuse/Land Application. No mitigative measures would be required for the resources analyzed.

Public Review: Public review and comment of the ***draft*** EA/FONSI started on September 8, 2023. Comments will be accepted through September 22, 2023. The ***draft*** EA/FONSI will be updated as necessary after the public review and comment period ends.

In addition, the City held a City Council meeting on July 9, 2018, and the recommended plan was decided upon at that time and the public was given an opportunity to comment. The City then discussed the project during the April 10, 2023, and the June 26, 2023, City Council meetings. These were open public forums, and the purpose was to inform the public of the environmental review and scope of the project and solicit any public comments. No comments were received from the public regarding the project.

Tribal Consultation and Coordination: The Corps contacted the following Tribes regarding the proposed replacement activities on September 6, 2023: Coeur d’Alene Tribe, Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, Nez Perce Tribe, and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. To date, no comments have been received from the contacted Tribes.

Compliance: Compliance with pertinent Federal laws and regulations are summarized in section 7 of the **draft** EA and are hereby incorporated by reference.

Determination:

a. Summary of Impacts and Compliance:

Impacts of the proposed work will be minor, short-term, and temporary. No effects to ESA-listed fish, their prey, or essential fish habitat will occur as a result of this project. Impacts will be further minimized by adhering to site-specific BMPs which will be determined by the contractor in addition to developing the required Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan. This project does not require a Section 404(b)(1) Evaluation or a Water Quality Certification under the Clean Water Act since the repair does not include the discharge of regulated fill into the waters of the U.S. The project complies with the National Historic Preservation Act and USACE has coordinated the work with the Idaho SHPO and affected Indian Tribe.

District Engineer's Conclusion: All applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, and local government plans were considered in evaluation of alternatives. Based on the analysis presented in the **draft** EA, which has incorporated or referenced the best information available; the reviews by other Federal, State, and local agencies, Tribes, input of the public, and the review by my staff, it is my preliminary determination that the recommended plan will not cause significant effects on the quality of the human environment and does not require preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Date

Kathryn P. Sanborn
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Commander