Section 595 Rural Nevada and Montana Environmental Infrastructure Resource Protection and Development Program

Wastewater System Improvement Project

Belt, Montana

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

1. Background.

The existing wastewater system in Belt, Montana was originally constructed in 1964. Today, the system is outdated and discharges effluent directly into a nearby creek, violating permit limits set by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

2. Proposed Action.

The proposed action would include modifications to the wastewater treatment and disposal system. This action would eliminate effluent discharge to Belt Creek and, in turn, provide wastewater disposal via spray irrigation on lands adjacent to the city. The project consists of purchasing approximately 57 acres for the land-based irrigation, eliminating the Belt Creek discharge in favor of the land-base spray irrigation system, installation of the irrigation system, and expansion of treated wastewater holding pool for storage.

3. Impacts Summary.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Seattle District, U.S. Corps of Engineers (Corps) prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA evaluates the predicted environmental impacts associated with the proposed action and whether that action would cause significant impacts to the quality of the human environment as briefly summarized below.

a. The Corps does not issue permits for its own civil works activities. Nevertheless, the Corps has accepted responsibility for the compliance of its civil works projects with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), as well as the obligation to seek Water Quality Certification under Section 401. After examining the proposed project, the Corps concluded that the proposed project is not subject to regulation under Sections 401 and 404 of the CWA. No work is proposed within waterways or wetlands. Therefore, the proposed project does not require a Section 404 (b)(1) evaluation or Section 401 Water Quality Certification.

b. The Corps has determined that the project location is not located within the coastal zone and will therefore not require a Coastal Zone Management Consistency Determination.

c. No impacts to cultural resources would occur. The Corps consulted with the Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on the proposed action. The Corps determined that there will be no historic properties affected by the proposed project. The SHPO concurred with this determination in a letter dated 2 March 2018.

d. The project area does not contain habitat conditions favorable to support the presence of listed species due to the urban and agricultural setting in and around the town. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service in a letter dated 6 April 2012 stated that there are unlilkely to be any significant adverse effects to fish, wildlife, and habitat resources under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Corps reviewed the project impacts and concluded that there would be no effect to listed species under the ESA.

e. Letters were sent to Tribal entities with potential interest in the project on 14 November 2014. No responses were received.

f. Unavoidable adverse effects associated with this project include: (1) temporary and localized increases in noise, activity, and emissions, (2) temporary and localized disruption of local traffic by construction activity and vehicles, (3) irretrievable commitment of fuels and other materials for repairs, (4) and temporary removal of vegetation from areas where it would be affected.

4. Conclusion.

I find that the proposed action will not result in significant adverse environmental impacts and complies with all applicable laws, regulations, and agency consultations, including the CWA, ESA, National Historic Preservation Act, and NEPA, as well as applicable Executive Orders. Based on the analysis described above and provided in more detail in the accompanying EA, the repairs and improvements to wastewater system components in Belt, Montana is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, and therefore, does not require preparation of an environmental impact statement.

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DATE

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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

SECTION 595
RURAL NEVADA AND MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE RESOURCE PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

WASTEWATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
BELT, CASCADE COUNTY, MONTANA

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LIST OF ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

BGEPA - Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
BMPs – Best Management Practices
CEQ - Council on Environmental Quality
EA – Environmental Assessment
EIS – Environmental Impact Statement
EPA - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FONSI – Finding of No Significant Impact
MDEQ – Montana Department of Environmental Quality
MBTA - Migratory Bird Treaty Act
PER - Preliminary Engineering Report
USACE – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USFWS – U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

SECTION 595
RURAL NEVADA AND MONTANA ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE RESOURCE PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

WASTEWATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
BELT, CASCADE COUNTY, MONTANA

1.0 INTRODUCTION.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Northwest Division, Omaha District, has prepared this Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential impacts of rehabilitating components of the outdated wastewater system in the City of Belt, Cascade County, Montana. It was then provided to Seattle District in its efforts to implement and complete the proposed project in coordination with the local sponsor.

This EA has been prepared in accordance with the NEPA of 1969 and the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508).. This EA provides information on the potential adverse and beneficial environmental effects to allow the District Engineer to make an informed decision on the appropriateness of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The finding of the EA determines whether an EIS is required. If the EA indicates that no significant impact is likely, then the agency can release a FONSI and carry on with the proposed action.

1.1. Project Location

The City of Belt is located in Cascade County, Montana east of US Highway 3 and approximately 19 miles southeast of Great Falls, Montana. The City is located in Sections 23, 25, 26, 35, and 36, Township 19 North, and Range 6 East. The City of Belt has an approximate elevation of 3,510 feet above sea level, and Belt Creek runs through the center of the community See Figure 1 for a map showing the location of Belt, Montana and Figure 2 for a map showing the City limits.

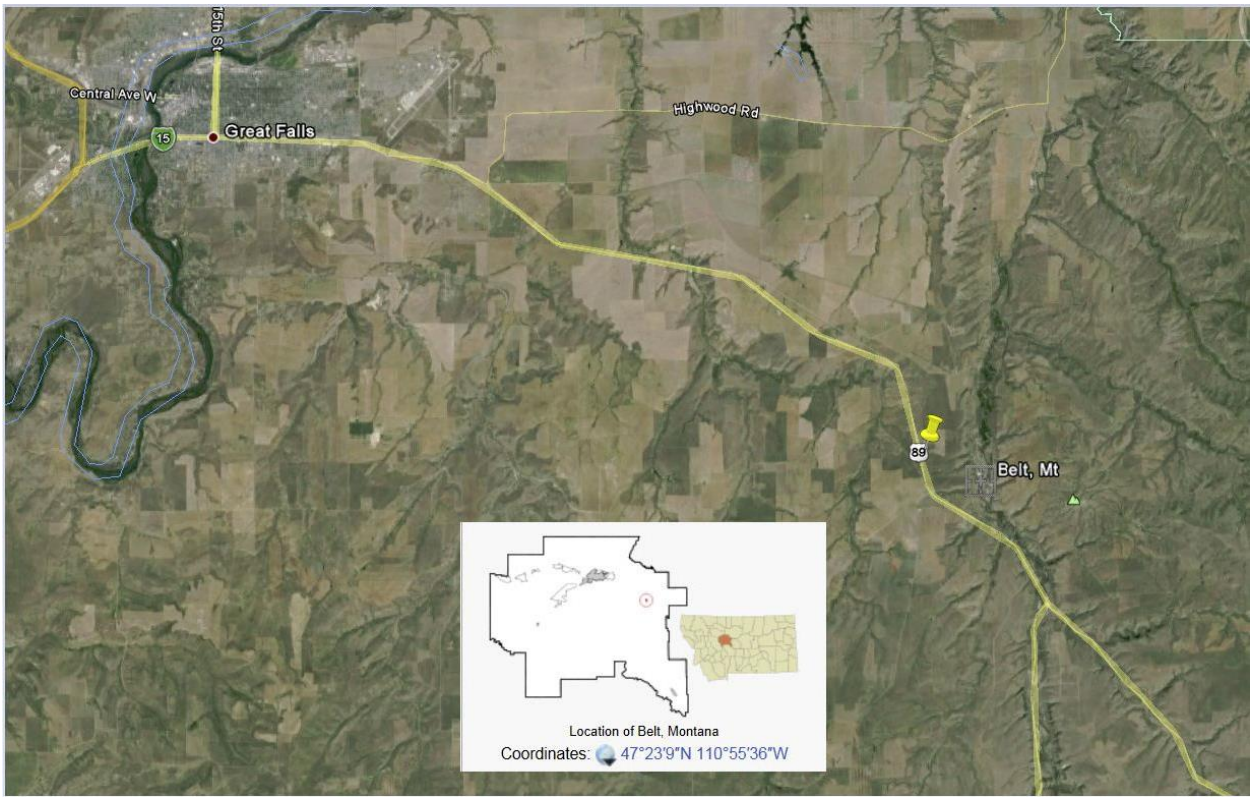

Figure 1. Location of Belt, Cascade County, Montana.

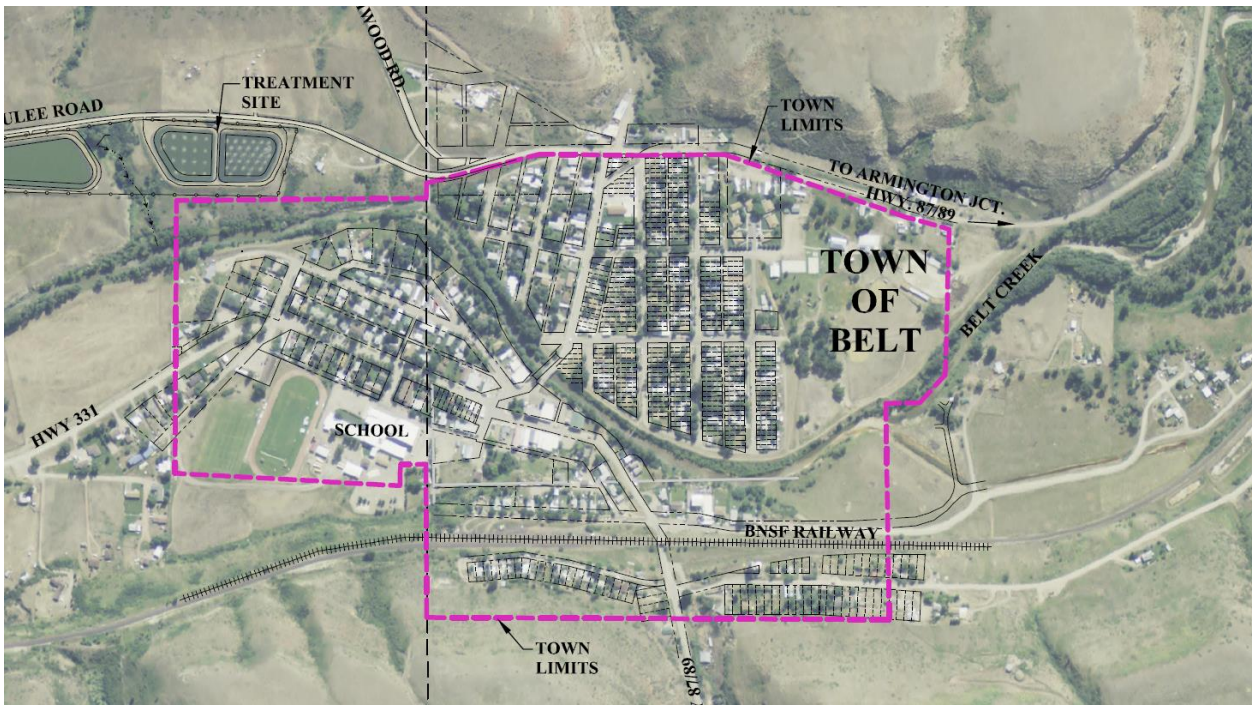

Figure 2. Map Showing the City Limits of Belt, Montana (Courtesy of NCI Engineering).

1.2. Project History

The existing wastewater system in Belt, Montana was originally constructed in 1964 and included collection mains, a single lift station and 6-inch force main, and a treatment system consisting of two continuous discharge facultative lagoons.

In 1978 a private developer subdivided a large parcel of land to the north of the City's Corporate Limits, with the intent of annexing the new subdivision to the City. Water distribution and sewage collection piping was constructed to serve a portion of the subdivision (seven home sites) on the west side of State Highway 331, and a second lift station with a 4-inch PVC force main to the treatment site was installed. In 1980 Belt Creek flooded, leaving the remaining portion of the subdivision on the east side of the highway under several feet of water and further development of the subdivision was abandoned. No portion of the subdivision was ever annexed to the City. However, the City agreed to supply sewer service to the seven homes in the subdivision. The sewer mains serving the seven homes are currently under the ownership of, and are maintained by, a loosely organized homeowners association. The City assumed ownership of, and responsibility for the second lift station and the force main between the lift station and treatment site.

In 1997, improvements to the system included modifications to the treatment system to create two aerated lagoons and a single facultative/quiescent lagoon, and a third lift station with an associated 6-inch PVC force main, which eliminated a historically troublesome gravity sewer crossing at Belt Creek.

In 2010, the City received an Administrative Order from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) relative to the City's Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit stating that violations in permit limit exceedances were occurring and was associated with a lack of disinfection facilities and a failure to meet the permit compliance schedule with respect to disinfection. The permit compliance schedule required a revised facility plan and completion of flow monitoring and disinfection at all discharge points. Special conditions of the permit also required that an analysis of inflow and infiltration be conducted.

In 2011, the City discovered that a 4-inch raw wastewater force main from the second lift station crossing Belt Creek had been exposed by erosion of the creek bed, and severed by the force of the rushing water. This resulted in raw wastewater being dumped into Belt Creek. To correct this, the four 4-inch PVC force main was re-routed from the west side of Belt Creek (ahead of the creek crossing) to a new manhole to the north of the first lift station. From the new manhole, a new eight inch gravity main was installed to discharge directly into the wet well of the first lift station, thereby eliminating the creek crossing. Figure 3 provides a plan view of the overall wastewater system layout.

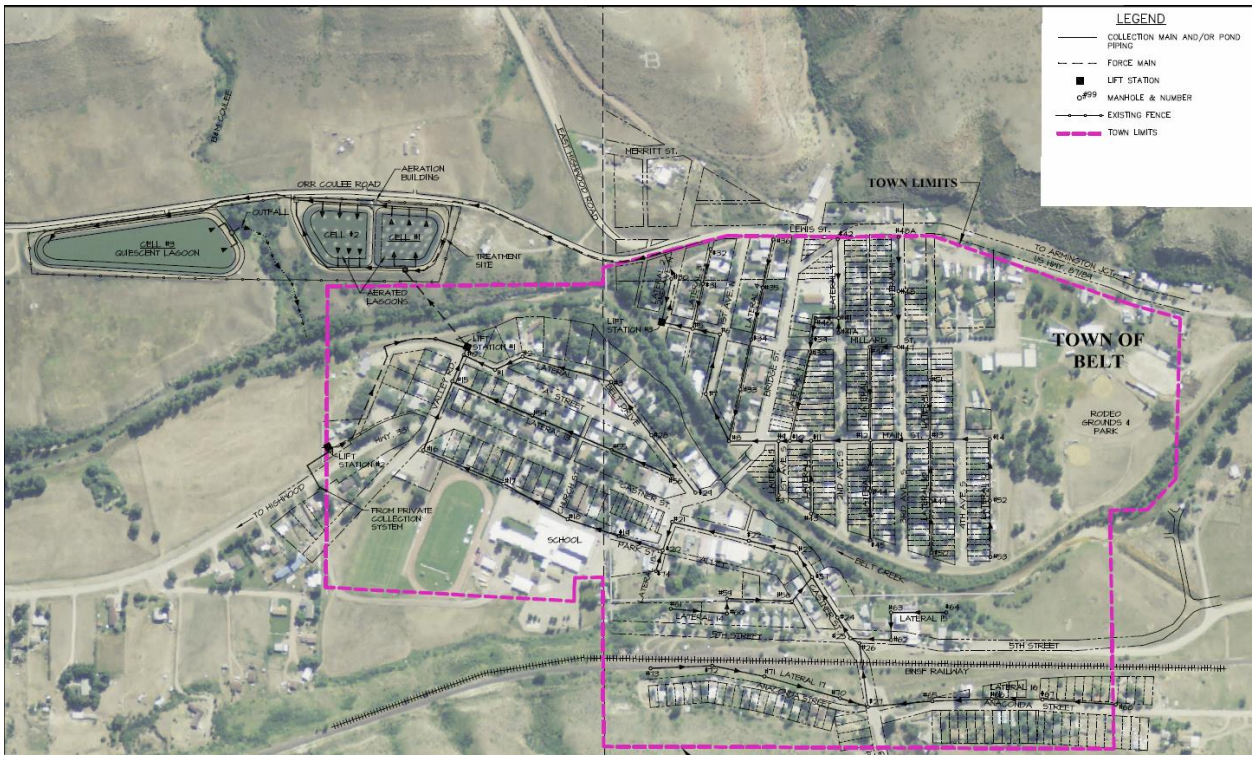

Figure 3. Plan View of the Overall Wastewater System in Belt (Courtesy of NCI Engineering).

1.3 Treatment System Layout

The treatment system consists of primary treatment in two aerated cells, and a third polishing cell. Primary Cell #1 has an operating depth of 10 feet, and 1.57 acre surface area, resulting in a treatment volume of 3.438 million gallons. Cell #1 is equipped with 30 Polcon Helixor ® coarse bubble diffusers distributed among six, three-inch aeration supply lines. Primary Cell #2 has an operating depth of 10 feet, and 1.62 acre surface area, resulting in a treatment volume of 3.558 million gallons. Cell #2 is equipped with 18 diffusers distributed among four, three-inch aeration supply lines. The polishing cell (Cell #3) has an operating depth of 6 feet, and 3.98 acre surface area, resulting in a treatment volume of 6.971 million gallons. All three cells are lined with a 36 millimeter polypropylene membrane. Aeration is provided by two Sutorbilt Legend ® 30 horsepower positive displacement blowers. The blowers, controls and associated equipment are housed in a wood framed, steel sided building located on the east side of the primary cells. Please refer to Figure 4 for a plan view of the Treatment System.

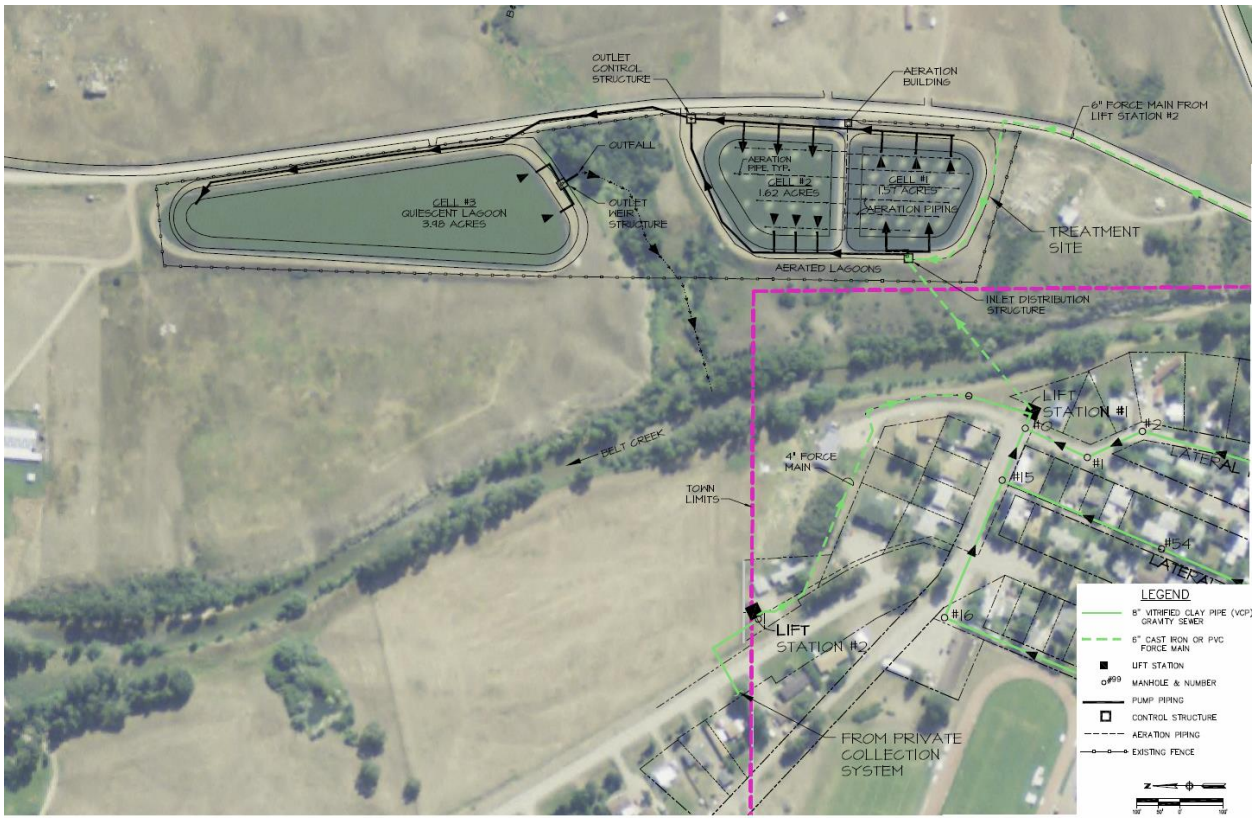

Figure 4. Plan View of the Treatment System (Courtesy of NCI Engineering).

1.4 Proposed Action

The proposed action contains modifications to the City's' wastewater treatment system. Modifications would include (1) a new spray irrigation system inclusive of pumps, piping and center pivot irrigation equipment to eliminate discharging into a stream, (2) expansion of the existing Cell #3 to accommodate winter storage of treated wastewater and future needs, (3) abandonment of the existing outfall used for Belt Creek discharge, and the purchase of an approximately 57 acre site for land-based irrigation for the new spray irrigation system (Figure 5).

Please refer to Section 2.0 for alternatives that were considered but not selected and the reasons for non-selection.

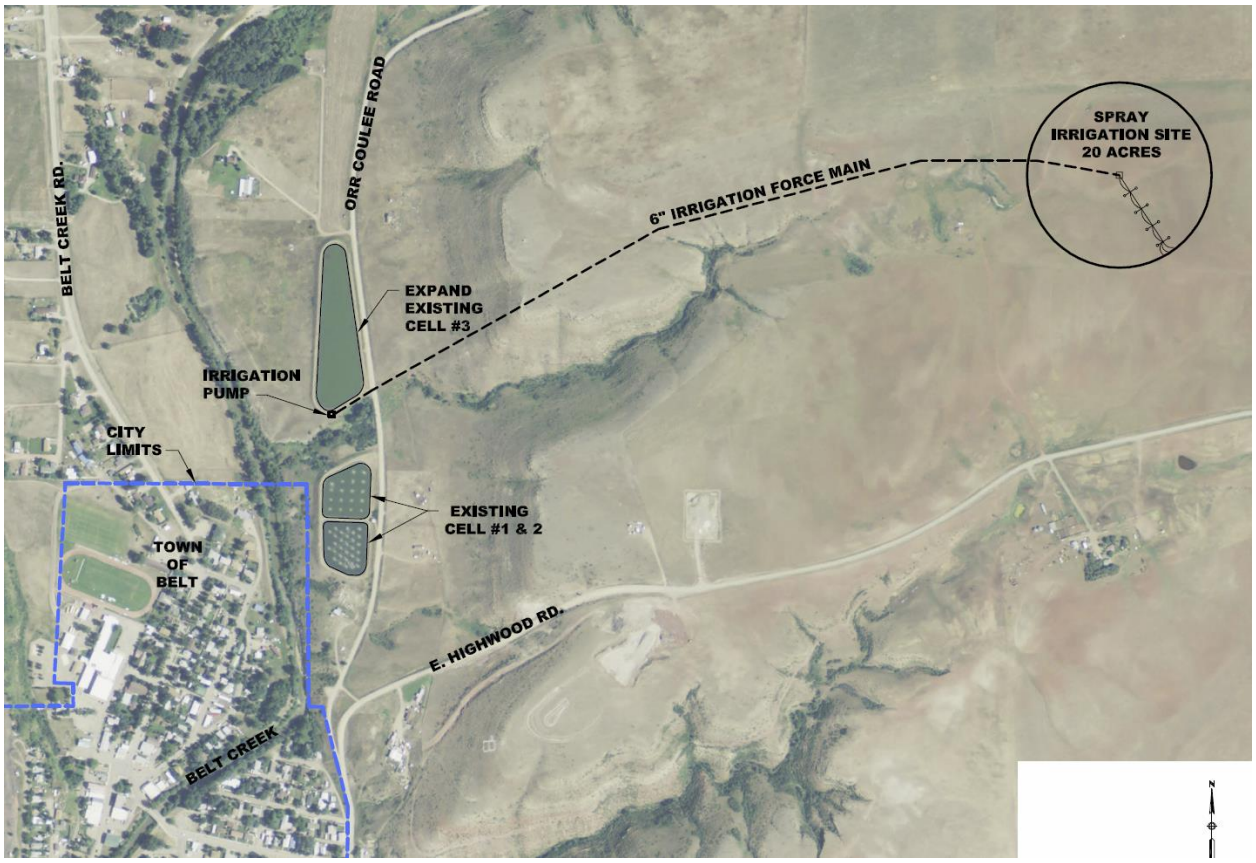

Figure 5. Plan View of the Proposed Land-based Spray Irrigation Alternative (Courtesy of NCI Engineering). Note, that the land acquired is incorrectly labeled as 20 when it should be 57 acres.

1.5 Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

The purpose of the Section 595 project is to address deficiencies in aging wastewater system components, eliminate effluent discharges and promote better water quality in Belt Creek, and comply with discharge standards established by MDEQ and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The need of the Section 595 project is based on multiple factors. The existing treatment system is incapable of meeting the *E. coli* effluent limit as there is no disinfection within the treatment/discharge system. Biological Oxygen Demand and Total Suspended Solids effluent limits have been exceeded on numerous occasions even though the aerated detention times appear to be adequate to treat these constituents to effluent limits. The existing treatment system does not have capacity to meet the design 20 year flows and falls short of supplying adequate detention time by more than 20 days. Finally, and most notable, the discharge into Belt Creek does not comply with discharge standards established by MDEQ and EPA.

1.6 Authority

Section 595 of the 1999 Water Resources Development Act, entitled the "Rural Nevada and Montana Environmental Infrastructure Resource Protection and Development Program", as amended provides authority to USACE to participate in wastewater treatment and water supply and related facilities in rural Nevada, Montana, Idaho, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. This authority provides Federal funds to reimburse the non-Federal Sponsor up to 75% of the total project costs.

1.7 Prior Reports

In April 2012, a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) was completed to address the planning and engineering required to comply with federal and state wastewater discharge standards for the City of Belt, Montana. The PER addressed the requirements contained in the final Federal Construction Grant Regulations under Section 35.917 as published in the Federal Register on July 1982. The EPA grant regulations pertaining to the construction of public treatment works originate from the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972 (PL 92-500) and the amendments of 1977 (PL 95-217) and 1981 (PL 97-117). The purpose of that act is to establish a comprehensive approach to maintain and enhance the quality of the nation's water resources. The PER also addresses the Montana Water Quality Act which is the state's companion legislation with goals comparable to the Federal Act. The PER is incorporated herein by reference.

1.8 Existing Concerns

The treatment system in the City of Belt, Montana is presently operating under an administrative order relative to permit effluent limit exceedances. The following is excerpt from the administrative order:

> "*…according to records maintained by the department, Belt exceeded effluent limits established in the permit on 59 occasions during the February 2007 through June 2011 monitoring periods. Of the 59 effluent limit exceedances, 42 exceeded the effluent limits by 40% or more for group 1 pollutants or by 20% or more for group II pollutants and are considered by the department to be significant non compliances*".

Addressing the effluent exceedances is the dominant feature of the proposed action and would be addressed in the proposed action in order to comply with established standards.

2.0 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT NOT SELECTED

For the Section 595 project in Belt, Montana, three alternatives were considered but not selected. These alternatives include: Alternative 1 - No Action, Alternative 2 – Collection System Rehabilitation below the Normal High Groundwater Elevation, and Alternative 5 – Increase

Aerated Detention Time in Cell #3, Install Ultraviolet Disinfection and Flow Monitoring Equipment to Existing Stream Discharge. These alternatives are discussed below.

Other alternatives were examined by the City which were related to updating lift stations. While these alternatives did address deficiencies in aging wastewater system components, they did not address effluent discharges or compliance with MDEQ and EPA standards. Thus they are not addressed in this EA but are being pursued by the City separately.

2.1 Alternative 1 – No Action

The No Action Alternative would involve no updates or modifications to the existing wastewater system facilities. The treatment system upgrades would not be made and the City would not have capacity to meet design flows and would continue to violate discharge standards. The No Action Alternative would not meet the project's purpose and need and; therefore, was not selected as the preferred alternative.

2.2 Alternative 2 – Collection System Rehabilitation below the Normal High Groundwater Elevation

The City's collection system is constructed primarily of vitrified clay pipe materials. Vitrified clay pipe materials typically develop problems with age, including defective joints which allow plant roots to intrude into the pipe in search of water. The City believes that the pipes are accepting flows from infiltration through defective pipe joints and possibly breaks or cracks in the pipe itself. The collection system is approximately 50 years old but currently appears to be performing adequately. For this component of the wastewater system, the City has decided that rather than rehabilitating the entire collection system at this time to increase capacity, it would be more fiscally prudent to evaluate the inflow and infiltration of water into the system; thus, the City would proceed with video inspections of the collection system to determine exact areas where fixes are required in its own time. For these reasons and the fact that it does not address the effluent discharge into Belt Creek, this alternative was not selected.

2.3 Alternative 5, Increase Aerated Detention Time in Cell #3, Install Ultraviolet Disinfection and Flow Monitoring Equipment to Existing Stream Discharge

Cell #3 is essentially a facultative lagoon with no mechanical aeration provided. It is theorized that during the warmer months, Cell #3 promotes algal production resulting in higher effluent Total Suspended Solid values which may partially account for the elevated Biological Oxygen Demand discharges resulting from eutrophication. Because the existing treatment system is incapable of meeting effluent limits, it was recommended that ultraviolet disinfection be added. However, it is anticipated that there would continue to be exceedances with respect to Total Suspended Solids and Biological Oxygen Demand as wastewater volumes increase in the future and the existing treatment cell sizing would not be adequate. Conversations with MDEQ revealed that the existing treatment facility would be incapable of meeting nutrient discharge

limits in addition to established limits for Total Suspended Solids, Biological Oxygen Demand, *E. coli*, and possibly for metals listed in their final permit. The Belt wastewater treatment system would have to undergo significant modification to meet the anticipated future effluent limits, and may have to eventually modify or supplement the existing discharging system to a non-discharging system even if ultraviolet disinfection was supplied to the current system. For these reasons, this alternative was not selected.

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This chapter presents an analysis of each resource topic that was identified as having a potential to be affected by implementation of the Proposed Action. Each section describes the environmental setting as it relates to that specific resource topic; the direct and indirect effects that could result from implementation of the Proposed Action; and mitigation measures that would avoid, reduce, or compensate for substantial adverse effects of the Proposed Action.

The relevant resources section of this chapter presents the adverse and beneficial environmental effects of the No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action. The section is organized by resource category and presents the existing conditions of the resource and effects of each of the alternatives on the resource. Impacts are quantified whenever possible. Qualitative descriptions of impacts are explained by accompanying text where used. See Table 1 for a summary of impacts to resources by alternative.

"Significance" has been analyzed in this document in terms of both context (sensitivity) and intensity (magnitude and duration):

- Magnitude
    - Minor – noticeable impacts to the resource in the project area, but the resource is still mostly functional
    - Moderate – the resource is impaired, so that it cannot function normally
    - Major – the resource is severely impaired so that it is no longer functional in the project area

- Duration
    - Short term – temporary effects caused by the construction and/or implementation of a selected alternative
    - Long term – caused by an alternative after the action has been completed and/or after the action is in full and complete operation

3.1 Environmental Setting

The community of Belt, Montana is physically divided by Belt Creek which originates in the Little Belt Mountains to the south, and flows generally from south to north through city. The area surrounding the City contains a mixture of creek bottom deciduous forest and rangeland.

Land uses in the project area are primarily residential, agricultural, and rangeland. Generally, the wastewater system is located within City limits with grades ranging from zero to quite steep at a 50 percent grade where the treatment lagoons are situated.

3.2 Description of the Watershed

Belt Creek is a major tributary of the Missouri River. It originates on the northwest side of the Little Belt Mountains and flows in a northerly direction for about 88 miles to its confluence with the Missouri, 14 miles downstream of Great Falls in Cascade County. Belt Creek drains approximately 800 square miles of the Little Belt and Highwood mountains. The basin contains approximately 186 named perennial streams, comprising a total length of about 442 miles of perennial stream habitat. Major tributaries to Belt Creek include Jefferson, Dry Fork, Tillinghast, Pilgrim, Logging, Big Otter, Little Belt and Big Willow creeks.

3.3 Climate

Temperatures in Cascade County range from January average lows of 13 degrees Fahrenheit (F) to July average highs of 81 degrees Fahrenheit. The county receives approximately 18 inches of rain and 77 inches of snowfall per year. On average, there are 185 sunny days per year. The comfort index, which is based on humidity during the hot months, is 69 out of 100, where higher numbers result in more comfortable conditions. The US average comfort index is 44.

3.4 Geology

The City of Belt lies near the center of Montana on the northern Great Plains. It lies next to the Montana Rocky Mountain Front and is about 100 miles south of the Canadian Border. The City of Belt lies atop the Great Falls Tectonic Zone, an intercontinental shear zone between two geologic provinces of basement rock of the Archean period. The City lies at the southern reach of the Laurentide ice sheet, a vast glacial sheet of ice which covered much of North America during the last glacial period.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) soil survey data defines the primary soils in the proposed project area as Bitton and Roy soils (15%), Straw loam (60%), Big Timber-Castner complex (17%), and some Fairfield clay loam (0.1%). Properties of the soils define the Bitton and Roy soils as well drained, stony loam and stony clay loam, and not considered prime farmland; the Straw loam as well drained, loam and silt loam, and considered prime farmlands; Big Timber-Castner complex as well drained, clay loam and gravelly clay loam, weathered bedrock, and not considered prime farmlands; and Fairfield Clay Loam as well drained, clay loam and silty loam, and considered farmland of statewide importance.

3.5 Subject Headings Eliminated From Environmental Consequences Analysis

The following resources have been considered and found not to be affected by the proposed alternatives. Where there were no potential effects identified, the resource itself has been eliminated from further evaluation and analysis. A summary of eliminated resources follows.

- Prime Farmland
  As stated previously, the major soil underlying the project areas where repairs would take place consists of Straw loam which is considered prime farmland. However, because the proposed project would result in upgrades to components of the City's existing wastewater system and no significant changes in land use are anticipated, no important farmland soils would be converted to a differing use.

- Environmental Justice
  Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, directs federal agencies to incorporate environmental justice in their decision making process. Federal agencies are directed to identify and address as appropriate, any disproportionately high and adverse environmental effects of their programs, policies, and activities on minority or low-income populations.

  No minority or low-income populations would be displaced or negatively affected by the proposed wastewater system upgrades. In fact, the upgrades would equally benefit people of all ethnic backgrounds and income levels residing and working in Belt, Montana; therefore, no environmental justice issues exist.

- Floodplains
  Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management Guidelines, May 24, 1977, outlines the responsibilities of federal agencies in the role of floodplain management. Each agency shall evaluate the potential effects of actions on floodplains and should avoid undertaking actions that directly or indirectly support floodplain development.

  Floodplains consist of the relatively flat land along one or both sides of a river channel. Floodplains serve critical roles if allowed to work without alteration. These roles consist of storing water when a river overflows its banks, slowing water velocity which reduces erosion, allowing groundwater recharge, creating fish and wildlife habitat, and reducing the overall power of the flood which better protects downstream areas from flooding. Much of the City of Belt is in the floodplain. However, the proposed improvements to the wastewater treatment facilities would occur above the floodplain elevation and, thus, would have no additional impact to the floodplain.

3.6 Relevant Resources

This section contains a description of relevant resources that could be impacted by each alternative. The important resources described in this section are those recognized by laws, executive orders, regulations, and other standards of National, state, or regional agencies and organizations; technical or scientific agencies, groups, or individuals; and the general public.

Table 1 represents a summary of the effects of implementing the No Action alternative and the Proposed Action. The other alternatives were not brought forward through the effects analysis as they fail to address the problems posed from effluent discharge into Belt Creek.

Table 1: Summary of Potential Effects

Resource	Alternative 1 – No-Action	Proposed Action
Air Quality	No Impacts	Minor increases in construction-related dust and exhaust & potential dust from stockpiled materials. Minimized with implementation of BMPs.
Water Quality	Adverse effects to water quality through the inability to meet state effluent limits on *E. coli*, Biological Oxygen Demand and Total Suspended Solids.	Beneficial impacts to water quality by avoiding creek discharge and eliminating *E. coli*, Biological Oxygen Demand and Total Suspended Solid discharges.
Noise	No Impacts.	Minor construction-related noise. BMPs would be implemented to minimize noise impacts.
Wetlands	No Impacts.	No wetlands within project area. Beneficial impacts through the elimination of effluent discharge to area surface waters.
Aquatic Resources/ Fisheries	Continued adverse impacts to fisheries from inputs of *E. coli*, Biological Oxygen Demand and Total Suspended Solids.	Immediate benefits to fisheries from eliminating inputs of *E. coli*, Biological Oxygen Demand and Total Suspended Solids.
Vegetation	No Impacts.	Minor construction-related impacts. Areas returned to existing conditions following construction. Germination of the existing seed base at the irrigated spray field location.
Wildlife	No Impacts	Construction-related disturbances causing temporary avoidance of the area. Species would return upon project completion. No impacts to migratory birds, bald eagles, or their nests.
Threatened and Endangered Species	No Impacts.	No Impacts.
Cultural Resources	No Impacts	No Impacts
Recreation Resources	Continued discharge of treated effluent to the creek resulting in a decrease to water quality, aquatic resources, and recreational activities.	Land based effluent spray irrigation resulting in benefits to water quality, aquatic habitat, and recreational use.

3.6.1 Air Quality

Existing Conditions

The Clean Air Act requires EPA to set National Ambient Air Quality Standards (40 CFR part 50) for pollutants considered harmful to public health and the environment. The Clean Air Act identifies two types of national ambient air quality standards. Primary standards provide public health protection, including protecting the health of "sensitive" populations such as asthmatics, children, and the elderly. Secondary standards provide public health welfare protection,

including protection against decreased visibility and damage to animals, vegetation, and buildings.

The EPA has set National Ambient Air Quality Standards for six principal pollutants, deemed "criteria pollutants". These include: ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, and lead. Cascade County is in attainment with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for all criteria pollutants. Attainment means that an area is meeting or is below a given safe standard set by the Environmental Protection Agency for the particular criteria pollutant.

The project area is located within and adjacent to the City limits where automobiles and farm machinery routinely operate. The operation of automobiles and farm machinery contributes to minor increases in particulate matter (dust) and sulfur dioxide (exhaust) on a continual basis, except in the winter months when farm machinery is not operating. These contributions in criteria pollutants have not resulted in non-attainment or exceedance of air quality standards set by the EPA.

Alternative 1 – No Action
Under the No Action Alternative, no construction would take place and no increases in dust or exhaust would occur. No short-term or long-term impacts to air quality would occur from implementation of the No Action Alternative.

Proposed Action
The Proposed Action would result in minor and short-term impacts to air quality. These impacts would arise from the operation of construction equipment and consist of increased dust and exhaust in the proposed project area. Best management practices (BMPs) such as not idling construction equipment when not immediately needed, and covering or wetting staging/working areas to keep dust down would minimize the minor, short-term air quality impacts. As such, the proposed project would not have significant impacts to air quality. No long-term impacts to air quality would result from implementation of the Proposed Action.

3.6.2 Water Quality

Existing Conditions
Under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act, states are required to submit a list of waters for which effluent limits will not be sufficient to meet all state water quality standards. The failure to meet water quality standards might be due to an individual pollutant, multiple pollutants, "pollution", or an unknown cause of impairment. The 303(d) listing process includes waters impaired by point sources and non-point sources of pollutants. States also must establish a priority ranking for the listed waters, taking into account the severity of pollution and uses. MDEQ is the state agency responsible for implementing delegated components of the Clean Water Act for water under state jurisdiction.

The MDEQ has placed Belt Creek on the state's 303(d) list of impaired waters for alteration in stream-side vegetation or littoral vegetation covers; high levels of arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, iron, lead and zinc; substrate alterations; salinity; and siltation. The MDEQ has issued the City of Belt an administrative order relative to permit effluent limit exceedances at the wastewater treatment facilities. The cause of the administrative order is due to the City's inability to meet the *E. coli* effluent limit and its effluent limits on Biological Oxygen Demand and Total Suspended Solids.

Alternative 1 – No Action
Under the No Action Alternative, the City would be unable to comply with the conditions of the administrative order and would likely continue to exceed effluent limits for *E. coli*, Biological Oxygen Demand and Total Suspended Solids. Additionally, discussions with the permitting and compliance section of the MDEQ strongly indicate that the system would not meet effluent limits for total phosphorus and nitrogen. The No Action Alternative would have continued adverse effects on water quality.

Proposed Action
The primary reason for considering water treatment disposal by land application/spray irrigation is to eliminate stream discharge and the need for a discharge permit. Land application would ensure a discharge rate such that overland flow does not occur. This would avoid any impacts to water quality and would ensure the Belt Creek impairments are not exacerbated. The Proposed Action would benefit water quality in Belt Creek by eliminating creek effluent discharge.

3.6.3 Noise

Existing Conditions
Noise is defined as unwanted sound that interferes with normal activities or in some way reduces the quality of the environment. The proposed project area consists of residential and agricultural lands. Sources of noise in the proposed project area stem from activities such as traffic, construction, and lawn-mowing. Seasonally, there is noise produced from farming activities.

Alternative 1 – No Action
Under the No Action Alternative, no noise would be produced in the proposed project area. No significant noise impacts would be anticipated from the No Action Alternative.

Proposed Action
This alternative would result in minor, short-term construction related noise impacts. These impacts would result from the operation of heavy machinery during project construction. The noise generated would be in addition, but similar to, noise produced by urban or agricultural activities which routinely occur in the project area. BMPs, such as not idling machinery when not immediately needed, conducting work during normal business hours, etc., would be implemented to reduce noise. Some minor long-term noise would be generated through the operation of the center pivot. The noise would be similar to that conducted by agricultural

activities. As such, the noise produced by the Proposed Action would not be considered significant.

3.6.4 Wetlands

Existing Conditions
Wetlands are present in the area but not within the project area.

Alternative 1 – No Action
Under the No Action Alternative, no impacts to wetlands would occur.

Proposed Action
Because no wetlands occur in the proposed project area, none would be impacted by the proposed project. Elimination of the Belt Creek outfall would precipitously reduce Total Suspended Solids from entering surface waters, and this would have a beneficial impact.

3.6.5 Aquatic Resources/Fisheries

Existing Conditions
Channel substrates reflect the cascading nature of Belt Creek with boulders, large cobbles, and several outcroppings of bedrock typifying the stream bottom. Cobbles and gravel in the lower end show increased silt deposits due to heavy sediment loads entering from lowland tributaries. There has been extensive silver, lead, zinc and gold mining in the Little Belt Mountains in both the Carpenter-Snow Creek and Barker-Hughesville Mining districts. Along with the mining of various ore deposits, serious heavy metals pollution has occurred from mining tailings. The water quality of the Belt Creek drainage has been impaired as a result of runoff and groundwater.

Despite the unstable habitat conditions in Belt Creek due to road and railroad construction, agriculture, mining, and other land-use activities, the Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks website reports that brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), brown trout (*Salmo trutta*), common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*), goldeye (*Hiodon alosoides*), lake chub (*Couesius plumbeus*), longnose dace (*Rhinichthys cataractae*), longnose sucker (*Catostomus catostomus*), mottled sculpin (*Cottus bairdii*), mountain sucker (*Catostomus platyrhynchus*), mountain whitefish (*Prosopium williamsoni*), rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), sand shiner (*Notropis stramineus*), sauger (*Sander canadensis*), shorthead redhorse (*Moxostoma macroepidotum*), stonecat (*Noturus flavus*), and Westslope cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki lewisi*) occupy the Belt Creek drainage as year-round residents.

Near Belt, both coldwater and warmwater fisheries can be found. A marginal resident trout fishery exists within the proposed project area but is limited due to low stream flows, high water temperatures, excessive siltation, and in some areas, acid mine drainage effluent from old coal mines. Rainbow trout are the most common trout species found. Brown trout occur throughout the reach, but in far fewer numbers. To some extent, both rainbow and brown trout from the Missouri River migrate up Belt Creek during their spawning season. Mountain whitefish also

have been observed to migrate within the proposed project area of Belt Creek from the Missouri River to spawn. Historically, sauger migrated up Belt Creek during the late spring and resided in the stream until fall as long as flow conditions were adequate. No sauger have been observed in recent years in Belt Creek. Non-game fish found in the proposed project area include goldeye, longnose, mountain and white suckers, shorthead redhorse, carp and mottled sculpin.

Alternative 1 – No Action
Under the No Action Alternative, the City would be unable to meet the conditions of the administrative order and would likely continue to exceed effluent limits for *E. coli*, Biological Oxygen Demand and Total Suspended Solids. The No Action Alternative would have continued adverse effects on aquatic resources and fisheries as effluent is continually discharged into the creek.

Proposed Action
The primary reason for considering disposal by land application/spray irrigation is to eliminate stream discharge. This would have immediate benefits to the aquatic resources by eliminating inputs of *E. coli*, Biological Oxygen Demand and Total Suspended Solids.

3.6.6 Vegetation

Existing Conditions
The riparian vegetation in the proposed project area consists of a diverse woodland environment dominated by a cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*) overstory, with an undergrowth of willows (*Salix spp.*), chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*), rose (*Rosa spp.*) and snowberry (*Symphoricarpos spp.*). Nearly all of the land within the lower basin is managed for cattle ranching or farming. A substantial amount of livestock grazing occurs in this area and much rangeland exists.

Alternative 1 – No Action
Under the No Action Alternative, no construction would occur so impacts to vegetation would not be anticipated.

Proposed Action
Under the Proposed Action, minor impacts to approximately 57 acres of idle land would occur. These impacts would arise during expansion of Treatment Cell #3, the installation of a buried 6-inch irrigation force main, and the formation of the spray irrigation field. Following installation of the force main for the land based effluent spray, the lands would be re-graded and returned to existing conditions. The irrigated spray field would likely increase vegetation common to the area as nutrient rich water is applied to the land and the existing seed base germinates. The Proposed Action would have no significant adverse impacts to vegetation, and at the spray field, would have beneficial impacts.

3.6.7 Wildlife

Existing Conditions
Wildlife in Belt consists of animals adapted to the urban environment as well as those found in more rural settings. Mammals that likely exist on a year-round basis include bats, beaver (*Castor canadnesis*), deer (*Odocoileus spp.*), mice, nutria (*Myocastor coypus*), opossums (*Didelphis virginiana*), gophers, rabbits (*Sylvilagus spp.*), raccoons (*Procyon lotor*), shrews, skunks (*Mephitis mephitis*), squirrels (*Sciurus spp.*), and weasels.

Birds include summer visitors (e.g., avocet (*Recurvirostra spp.*), American bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*), bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*), Brewer's blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*), brown-headed cowbird, common grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*), western meadowlark (*Sturnella neglecta*), yellow-headed blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*), and sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*), wintering species (e.g., gyrfalcon (*Falco rusticolus*), common redpoll (*Carduelis flammea*), and gray-crown rosy finch (*Leucosticte tephrocotis*)), year-round residents (e.g., great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*), black-capped chickadee (*Poecile atricapillus*), brown creeper (*Certhia americana*), peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), and prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*)), and migratory species (e.g., black-necked stilts (*Himantopus mexicanus*), black-crowned night heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), snowy egret (*Egretta thula*), Baltimore oriole (*Icterus galbula*), and rusty blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*) to name just a few.

Some herpotaufauna species occurring year round include chorus frogs (*Pseudacris triseriata*), tiger salamanders (*Ambystoma tigrinum*), plains spadefoot (*Spea bombifrons*), northern leopard frog (*Rana pipiens*), great plains toad (*Bufo cognatus*), common gatersnake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*), eastern racer (*Coluber constrictor*), gopher snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus*), painted turtles (*Chrysemys picta*), and prairie rattlesnakes (*Crotalus viridis*). All these species use the area for breeding, feeding, and sheltering.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)
Although the provisions of MBTA are applicable year-round, most migratory bird nesting activity within the project area typically occurs between April 15 and July 15 although dates should be adjusted for the species and environmental conditions. During this period, trees or grasslands with nests containing eggs, young, or adult birds engaged in nesting activities would be considered active. Vegetation removal or tree clearing is generally deemed a disturbance if conducted during these times so clearing of vegetation should be scheduled to occur outside the primary nesting period. If construction of a project occurs during the primary nesting season or at any other time that may result in the 'take' of nesting migratory birds, a qualified biologist should first conduct a field survey of the affected habitats to determine the absence or presence of nesting migratory birds. Surveys should be conducted during the nesting season and immediately preceding the proposed construction activities. In the event an occupied nest of species protected by the MBTA is observed within the project area boundaries (or line of sight for bald eagle), construction should not be started and consultation with the USFWS should be initiated to ensure compliance with the MBTA. Measures and recommendations (buffer

distance, access restriction, and timing of construction) by the USFWS to avoid adverse impacts to nesting birds may need to be implemented.

Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA)
The bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) has been de-listed from the Endangered Species Act (ESA), but continues to be protected under the BGEPA, MBTA, and Lacey Act -16 U.S.C. § 701, May 25, 1900. The BGEPA prohibits anyone, without a permit issued by the Secretary of the Interior, from "taking" bald eagles, including their parts, nests, or eggs. The act defines "take" as "pursue, shoot, shoot at, poison, wound, kill, capture, trap, collect, molest or disturb." This definition also covers impacts that result from human induced alterations initiated around a previously used nest site during a time when eagles are not present; if, upon the eagle's return, such alterations agitate or bother an eagle to a degree that interferes with or interrupts normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering habits, and causes injury, death or nest abandonment. No eagle nests are known to occur within the project area.

Alternative 1 – No Action
Under the No Action Alternative, no wildlife, including migratory birds or bald eagles, would be impacted as no construction would take place.

Proposed Action
The Proposed Action would result in potentially minor construction related impacts (noise, dust, human presence) to wildlife and migratory birds if these species are found in the action area during construction. Any disturbed wildlife species would likely avoid the area during construction and could return to the area upon project completion. As such, the Proposed Action would result in no significant impacts to wildlife species or migratory birds. No long-term impacts to wildlife species or migratory birds are expected to occur from implementation of the proposed action.

3.6.8 Threatened and Endangered Species

Existing Conditions
No critical habitat is present in the work area. Threatened grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*) and the proposed threatened North American wolverine (*Gulo gulo luscus*) are listed in the area. There are no habitat conditions favorable for the Canada lynx in the City of Belt and due to the urban and agricultural setting; it is highly unlikely that these species would occur in the proposed project area.

The USFWS was contacted on April 3, 2012, provided with information concerning the proposed project, and asked to provide comments concerning the proposed project and impacts it may have to trust resources. On April 6, 2012, the USFWS responded stating that “any viable wastewater treatment options that improve the quality or limit the quantity of treated effluent that reaches waters in the state of Montana are likely to prove beneficial to fish, wildlife, and their habitats.” The USFWS went on to state that, “because most of the project-related construction impacts are temporary, and/or will occur in a previously-disturbed or semi-urban setting, there

are unlikely to be any significant adverse effects to fish, wildlife, and habitat resources under the purview of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service."

Alternative 1 – No Action
Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no impacts to listed species as none are found in the proposed project area.

Proposed Action
Under the Proposed Action, there would be no impacts to listed species as none are known to be found in the proposed project area. Additionally, no critical habitat is designated in the area.

3.3.9 Cultural Resources

Existing Conditions
The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89 80 655), as amended, and other applicable laws and regulations require federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertaking on significant cultural resources within the project area of the proposed undertaking, as well as its Area of Potential Effect (APE). Typically, these studies require archival searches and field surveys to identify any cultural resources. When significant sites are recorded, efforts are made to avoid the resource then minimize adverse effects and preserve the site(s) in place. If any significant sites cannot be avoided and would be adversely impacted, an appropriate mitigation plan would be implemented to recover data that would be otherwise lost due to the undertaking.

On April 3, 2012, a letter was sent to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in Helena, Montana describing the proposed project and requesting comments concerning cultural, historical, and archeological resources that might be affected by the proposed project.

On April 5, 2012, a response letter from the Montana Historical Society (MHS) stated that a cultural resource file search was performed for the proposed project location and a few previously recorded sites are within the locale. Additionally, MHS stated that it is SHPO's position that any structure over 50 years of age is considered historic and potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. If any structures are to be altered and are over 50 years old, those sites should be recorded and a determination of their eligibility be made.

On July 25, 2017 an updated APE was provided SHPO. A cultural resource survey was completed on October 1, 2017 and found no cultural resources within the APE. The Corps determined that due to the limited nature of the undertaking, as well as the high level of disturbance from the original construction within the APE, there is little to no likelihood for cultural resources to be present. Based on the results of the survey, the Corps found that there will be no historic properties affected by the proposed project. On March 2, 2018 the Corps received a letter from SHPO concurring with this determination.

Alternative 1 - No-Action
Under the No Action Alternative, no construction would take place so no impacts to cultural resources would occur.

Proposed Action
The Proposed Action would not adversely affect a structures 50 years in age or older. No significant impact to cultural resources would result from implementation of the proposed action.

3.6.10 Recreational Resources

Existing Conditions
The recreational resources in the vicinity of the proposed project consist mainly of hiking, nature viewing, and fishing.

Alternative 1 – No-Action
Under the No Action Alternative, no construction would take place, no land-based irrigation would occur, and stream discharge of treated effluent would continue. The ongoing stream discharge would continue to have an adverse effect on water quality and aquatic resources residing in the immediate area and for some distance downstream. This in turn would have an adverse effect on recreationalist in the area by limiting the potential for a better fishery.

Proposed Action
Under the Proposed Action, spray irrigation would eliminate treated effluent discharge to the creek. This, in turn, would provide higher water quality and better habitat for aquatic resources. Under the Proposed Action, benefits to recreationalist would result.

04.0 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The Council on Environmental Quality Regulations defines cumulative impacts as "the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time" (CEQ, 1997). These actions include on- or off-site projects conducted by government agencies, businesses, communities, or individuals that are within the spatial and temporal boundaries of the current action being considered. The geographical area of consideration is located within the City of Belt, Montana and for some distance downstream of the current treatment effluent discharge point in Belt Creek.

The geographic area around Belt, Montana has been altered by actions such as coal mining in the early 1870's, development of a mining town shortly thereafter, construction of copper and silver smelters in the 1880's, and expansion of agricultural and ranchland in the early 1900's. By 1905, many immigrants began to settle in Belt where farming and ranching became the main industries. These activities substantially altered the terrestrial and aquatic ecosystem within the

watershed. Wetland losses and the conversion of riparian and wooded habitats to agriculture, ranching, and urban development account for the biological changes in the area.

The Proposed Action would provide updated wastewater system components and eliminate the treated effluent discharge to Belt Creek through the implementation of a land-based spray irrigation system. The Proposed Action would not involve increased obstructions in the floodway. The work would result in minor short-term construction-related impacts to wildlife and the habitats upon which they depend. Potential adverse effects are construction-related (e.g., increased noise and dust) and are of a minor and temporary nature. The elimination of effluent discharge to Belt Creek would have an immediate and beneficial, long-term cumulative impact to water quality in the Belt Creek watershed.

5.0 COORDINATION

Wastewater system improvement projects conducted under the authority of Section 595 typically do not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement because they are generally upgrade outdated water system components. These projects often result in long-term social and economic benefits and the adverse environmental effects are minor/short-term construction related. The minor impacts associated with these projects are outweighed by the overall long-term social and economic benefits of these projects. The Proposed Action is consistent with this assessment. Coordination with the resource agencies was conducted to ensure compliance with NEPA regulations. Federal and state agency and tribal coordination/comment letters are included in Appendix A.

The following agencies were consulted with concerning the wastewater system improvements at Belt, Montana:

Montana State Historic Preservation Office
In a letter dated April 5, 2012, the SHPO stated that as long as there would be no disturbance or alteration to structures over 50 years of age, there is a low likelihood cultural properties would be impacted. On July 25, 2017 an updated APE was provided to SHPO. A cultural resource survey was completed on October 1, 2017 and found no cultural resources within the APE. The Corps determined that there will be no historic properties affected by the proposed project. On March 2, 2018 the Corps received a letter from SHPO concurring with this determination

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
In a letter dated April 6, 2012, the USFWS stated that "any viable wastewater treatment options that improve the quality or limit the quantity of treated effluent that reaches water in the State of Montana are likely to prove beneficial to fish, wildlife, and their habitat. Because most of the project-related construction impacts are temporary, and/or will occur in a previously-disturbed or semi-urban setting, there are unlikely to be any significant adverse effects to fish, wildlife, and habitat resources under the purview of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service." Seattle District staff reviewed the project and any updates to ESA listed species and habitat and determined that no significant changes have occurred since 2012 that would warrant Section 7 ESA consultation.

Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers (USACE) Regulatory Office
In a letter dated April 11, 2012, USACE stated, in part, "if the project does not involve installation of fill material in waters of the U.S., no DA permit is required for this project." No fill in waters of the U.S. is associated with this project.

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (MFWP)
In a letter dated April 12, 2012, the MFWP stated that they were "glad to hear that spray irrigation will be pursued in lieu of direct discharge to Belt Creek." The letter did not state that any adverse impacts to trust resources would occur.

Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)
In a letter dated April 17, 2012, the MDEQ stated that they were pleased Belt is planning for wastewater system improvements. MDEQ further stated that it will review environmental documents and engineering reports, plans, and specifications and its review of these documents would serve as MDEQ's comments.

Public Involvement
Wastewater improvements have been discussed regularly at monthly meetings within the City of Belt, Montana. The lead engineer and the City have discussed the project on various occasions since 2009. A public hearing was held April 24, 2012. No comments opposing the project were received.

Tribal
Coordination with the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Tribes of Fort Belknap, the Blackfeet Tribe, Apsaalooke (Crow) Nation, the Chippewa Cree Tribe of Rocky Boy's, and the Northern Cheyenne Tribe was conducted via letters dated November 14, 2014. No responses were received.

6.0 MITIGATION

BMPs (such as using silt trapping devices, noise reduction, and dust suppression) would be employed to avoid inadvertent environmental impacts. With implementation of these measures, no significant environmental impacts are anticipated and no mitigation for this project would be required. The impacts to fish and wildlife from construction-related activities would be self-mitigating once the construction ceases; the fish and wildlife would simply return to the area and be able to resume normal activities upon project completion.

7.0 COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668, 668 note, 669a-668d.
In compliance. This act prohibits the taking or possession of and commerce in bald and golden eagles, with limited exceptions for the scientific or exhibition purposes, for religious purposes of Indian Tribes, or for the protection of wildlife, agriculture or preservation of the species. No bald eagle nests occur within the proposed project area. No bald eagles or their nests would be impacted by the proposed project.

Clean Air Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 185711-7. et seq.
In compliance. Air quality is not expected to be significantly impacted to any measurable degree by construction or operation of the proposed project. No long-term impacts to air quality would result from the proposed project.

Clean Water Act, as amended. (Federal Water Pollution Control Act) 33 U.S.C. 1251. et seq.
In compliance. The objective of this act is to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters (33 USC 1251). The Corps regulates discharges of dredge or fill material into waters of the United States pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. This permitting authority applies to all waters of the United States including navigable waters and wetlands. The selection of disposal sites for dredged or fill material is done in accordance with the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines, which were developed by the EPA (see 40 CFR Part 230). The proposed project would involve no placement of fill in wetlands or Waters of the United States.

Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA).
In compliance. Typically CERCLA is triggered by (1) the release or substantial threat of a release of a hazardous substance into the environment; or (2) the release or substantial threat of a release of any pollutant or contaminant into the environment which presents an imminent threat to the public health and welfare. To the extent such knowledge is available, 40 CFR Part 373 requires notification of CERCLA hazardous substances in a land transfer. This project would not involve any real estate transactions and no hazardous substances are known to occur on site.

Endangered Species Act, as amended. 16 U.S.C. 1531, et seq.
In compliance. This project has been coordinated with USFWS. A letter, dated April 6, 2012, from the USFWS stated they any viable wastewater treatment options that improve the quality or limit the quantity of treated effluent that reaches waters in the state of Montana are likely to prove beneficial to fish, wildlife, and their habitat.

Environmental Justice (E.O. 12898).
In compliance. Federal agencies shall make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations in the United States. The project does not disproportionately impact minority or low-income populations.

Farmland Protection Policy Act (Subtitle I of Title XV of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981), effective August 6, 1984.
In compliance. Compliance with this act also will satisfy the requirements set forth in CEQ Memorandum of August 11, 1980, Analysis of Impacts on Prime or Unique Agricultural Lands in Implementing NEPA. No prime farmland would be converted to a different use as a result of the preferred action. As such, this project is not subject to the Farmland Protection Act.

Federal Water Project Recreation Act, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 460-1(12), et seq.
In compliance. The rehabilitation of the wastewater system would provide benefits to Belt Creek in terms of water quality and in turn, benefit recreational use.

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.
In compliance. The USFWS and MFWP were contacted concerning the proposed project. Both agencies stated that they were pleased with the elimination of the direct discharge of treated effluent to Belt Creek.

Floodplain Management (E.O. 11988).
In compliance. The Proposed Action would not result in additional development in the floodplain nor encourage additional occupancy and/or modify the base floodplain.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 as amended, 16 U.S.C. 703-711, et seq.
In compliance. The MBTA is the domestic law that affirms, or implements, the United States' commitment to four international conventions with Canada, Japan, Mexico and Russia for the protection of shared migratory bird resources. The MBTA governs the taking, killing, possession, transportation, and importation of migratory birds, their eggs, parts and nests. The take of all migratory birds is governed by the MBTA's regulation of taking migratory birds for educational, scientific, and recreational purposes and requiring harvest to be limited to levels that prevent over utilization. Executive Order 13186 (2001) directs executive agencies to take certain actions to implement the act. The Proposed Action would not impact migratory birds or their nests. If removal of any trees is required during the prime nesting season of migratory birds (April 15 through July 15), a pre-construction survey would be conducted. If nesting birds are discovered in trees slated to be removed, results of the survey would be shared with the USFWS along with a request on how best to proceed with construction. No tree removal is expected to occur.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as amended, 42 U.S.C. 4321, et seq.
In compliance. This environmental assessment has been prepared for the proposed action and to satisfy the NEPA requirement. Based on the above analyses the proposed project is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, and therefore do not require preparation of an environmental impact statement.

National Historic Preservation Act, as amended. 16 U.S.C. 470a, et seq.
In compliance. No structures over the age of 50 years would be impacted. However, there is always potential for an unanticipated discovery of cultural resources during construction

activities. In the event that historic resources are uncovered, work would be halted immediately and a District archeologist would be notified. The work would not be continued until the area is inspected by a staff archeologist. If he or she determines that the resources require further consultation, he or she will notify the Montana State Historic Preservation Office.

Noise Control Act of 1972, 42 U.S.C. 4901 et seq.
In compliance. While there will be an initial noise disturbance during construction, there will be no long-term noise disturbances associated with this project.

Protection of Wetlands (E.O.11990).
In compliance. No impacts to wetlands are anticipated.

Rivers and Harbors Act, 33 U.S.C. 401, et seq.
In compliance. A Section 10 permit is not required for Corps projects.

Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, 16 U.S.C. 1101, et seq.
In compliance. The contractor will prepare an erosion and sedimentation control plan prior to the start of construction. BMPs will be implemented to minimize erosion and sedimentation potential.

8.0 CONCLUSION

The proposed action consists of repairs to wastewater system components in Cascade County, Montana. The repairs would consist of refiguring the treatment system which would eliminate stream discharge and provide wastewater disposal via spray irrigation. This office has assessed the environmental impacts of the proposed action and has determined that the proposed action would have no impacts on threatened and endangered species or wetlands. The proposed action would not impact any known cultural resources. Minor, short-term, and construction-related impacts to air quality, water quality, vegetation, and wildlife would occur but would not be significant. There are beneficial cumulative impacts associated with the proposed action resulting from the elimination of direct discharge of treated effluent to Belt Creek.

9.0 PREPARED BY

This EA and the associated FONSI were prepared by Mr. Matthew Vandenberg, Environmental Resources Specialist. The address of the preparer is: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, 1616 Capitol Avenue, Omaha, Nebraska 68102. The EA was additionally reviewed by Rebecca Bozarth and approved by Erix Laux. Finally, this EA FONSI was reviewed and updated by Zachary Wilson of the Seattle District U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Prepared By: _____ Date: 1-14-15
Matthew Vandenberg
Environmental Resources Specialist

Reviewed By: _____ Date: 14 Jan 2015
Rebecca Bozarth
Environmental Resources Specialist

Approved By: _____ Date: 1/14/15
Eric Laux
Chief, Environmental Resources and Missouri
River Recovery Program Plan Formulation Section

Updated By: _____ Date: 5/30/18
Zachary Wilson
Biologist, Planning, Environmental
And Cultural Resources Section

APPENDIX A

Agency Coordination

Big Sky. Big Land. Big History.
Montana
Historical Society

Historic Preservation
Museum
Outreach & Interpretation
Publications
Research Center

April 5, 2012

Crystal Morgan
NCI Engineering
PO BOX 6350
Great Falls MT 59406

RE: CITY OF BELT-WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT. SHPO Project #: 2012040502

Dear Crystal:

I have conducted a cultural resource file search for the above-cited project located in Sections 23, 26, T19N R6E. According to our records there have been a few previously recorded sites within the designated search locale. In addition to the sites there have been a few previously conducted cultural resource inventories done in the area. I've attached a list of these sites and reports. If you would like any further information regarding these sites or reports you may contact me at the number listed below

It is SHPO's position that any structure over fifty years of age is considered historic and is potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. If any structures are to be altered and are over fifty years old we would recommend that they be recorded and a determination of their eligibility be made.

As long as there will be no disturbance or alteration to structures over fifty years of age we feel that there is a low likelihood cultural properties will be impacted. We, therefore, feel that a recommendation for a cultural resource inventory is unwarranted at this time. However, should structures need to be altered or if cultural materials be inadvertently discovered during this project we would ask that our office be contacted and the site investigated.

If you have any further questions or comments you may contact me at (406) 444-7767 or by e-mail at dmurdo@mt.gov. I have attached an invoice for the file search. Thank you for consulting with us.

Sincerely,

Damon Murdo
Cultural Records Manager
State Historic Preservation Office

File: DEQ/AIR&WATER WASTE MNG/2012

225 North Roberts Street
P.O. Box 201201
Helena, MT 59620-1201
(406) 444-2694
(406) 444-2696 FAX
montanahistoricalsociety.org

- STAN
- DOD/COE

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SEATTLE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 3755
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98124-3755

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Planning, Environmental, and Cultural Resources Branch

20180302 04 RECEIVED FEB 21 2018
MAR 02 2018
BY: SHPO

Mark Baumler, Ph.D.
State Historic Preservation Officer
Post Office Box 201201
Helena, Montana 59620-1201

SUBJECT: Town of Belt Wastewater Collection System Improvement Project, Phase 1: Cascade County, MT

Dear Dr. Baumler:

This letter is in response to the email dated August 2, 2017 from Damon Murdo of the Montana State Historic Preservation office requesting additional information on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District (Corps) Section 106 compliance for the Town of Belt Wastewater Collection System Improvement Project, Phase 1, located in Township 19 North, Range 6 East, Sections 23, 24, and 26 in Cascade County, Montana (Figures 1 and 2).

On October 1, 2017, David Ferguson of GCM Services, Inc. performed a cultural resources survey of the proposed area of potential effect (APE) as defined in our previous letter dated July 25, 2017. A 3.44 acre pedestrian inventory found no cultural resources within the APE (Ferguson 2017). The Corps has determined that due to the limited nature of the undertaking, as well as the high level of disturbance from the original construction of the sewer and road system and negative survey results, there is little to no likelihood for cultural resources to be present within the project APE. While archival research indicates that a portion of the wastewater treatment system was originally installed in the 1964 and meets the minimum age threshold of 50 years, it has been subject to routine maintenance and repair actions as the system was expanded. As the proposed repair does not alter the proposed alignment, the system infrastructure will remain intact. Based on this information, the Corps has found that there will be no historic properties affected by the proposed project.

The Corps requests your review and agreement with our finding that there will be no historic properties affected. If you have any questions or desire additional information, please contact the project Archaeologist, Ms. Ashley Dailide, at ashley.m.dailide@usace.army.mil or (206) 764-6942. I may be contacted at evan.r.lewis@usace.army.mil or (206) 764-6922.

Sincerely,

CONCUR
MONTANA SHPO
DATE 3/2/18 SIGNED

Evan R. Lewis, Deputy Chief
Planning, Environmental, and Cultural
Resources Branch

Enclosure

References:

Ferguson, David M. 2017. *A Class III Cultural Resources Inventory of the Town of Belt Wastewater Treatment Improvements 2017 Cascade County, Montana*. GCM Services Inc.

United States Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service

Ecological Services
Montana Field Office
585 Shepard Way
Helena, Montana 59601-6287

Phone: (406) 449-5225 Fax: (406) 449-5339

April 6, 2012

Ms. Crystal Morgan
NCI Engineering Company
P.O. Box 6350
Great Falls, MT 59406-6350

Dear Ms. Morgan:

We have examined the information and the aerial photomap provided in your April 3, 2012 letter, pertaining to the wastewater preliminary engineering report for the City of Belt, Montana. Our response comments are authorized under the authority of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et. seq.), and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (MBTA), as amended (16 U.S.C. 703 et. Seq.).

Any viable wastewater treatment options that improve the quality or limit the quantity (including agricultural land application) of treated effluent that reaches waters in the State of Montana are likely to prove beneficial to fish, wildlife, and their habitat. Because most of the project-related construction impacts are temporary, and/or will occur in a previously-disturbed or semi-urban setting, there are unlikely to be any significant adverse effects to fish, wildlife, and habitat resources under the purview of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Please telephone me at 406/449-5225, ext. 205, if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

R. Mark Wilson

R. Mark Wilson
Field Supervisor

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT
HELENA REGULATORY OFFICE
10 WEST 15TH STREET, SUITE 2200
HELENA, MONTANA 59626-9705

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

April 11, 2012

Regulatory Branch
Montana State Program
Corps No. **NWO-2010-00447-MTH**

Subject: City of Belt – Wastewater System Improvements- Cascade County

NCI Engineering
Attn: Crystal Morgan
Post Office Box 6350
Great Falls, Montana 59406-06350

Dear Ms. Morgan:

We have reviewed the pre-application consultation submitted on behalf of the City of Belt to improve the wastewater system in Belt, Montana. The proposed work is located in Sections 23 and 26, Township 19 North, Range 6 East, in Cascade County, Montana.

Under the authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, Department of the Army (DA) permits are required for the discharge of fill material into waters of the U.S. Waters of the U.S. including the area below the ordinary high water mark of stream channels and lakes or ponds connected to the tributary system, and wetlands adjacent to these waters. Isolated waters and wetlands, as well as man-made channels, may be waters of the U.S. in certain circumstances, which must be determined on a case-by-case basis. It is unclear if waters of the U.S. will be impacted by the project.

Based on the information provided, the project involves the installation of improvements to the wastewater collection system, lift station, treatment system, aeration, and the possible installation of an irrigation spray system.

Our comments for this project are:

a. If the project does not involve installation of fill material in waters of the U.S., no DA permit is required for this project.

b. If the project involves the installation of waterlines by boring beneath the creeks and wetlands, no DA permit is required for those crossings.

c. If the project involves the placement of fill material in waterways and wetlands including the wastewater discharge pipe, a DA permit is required for those sites. Structures and wastewater lines should be placed outside of wetlands and away

from waterways wherever possible. If the project involves work in a waterway or wetland, the work should be conducted in the dry as much as possible.

d. Based on a review of the National Wetland Inventory (NWI), it is unclear if wetlands are located at the project sites. An on-the-ground wetland delineation is required if wetlands of the U.S. will be affected. In order for a DA permit application to be considered complete, a wetland delineation will be required in accordance with the Corps of Engineers 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual and applicable Regional Supplements. While the NWI maps are informative for planning and pre-application reviews, the NWI maps are insufficient for our permit-level review of aquatic impacts.

e. The City of Belt may contain sites listed or qualified for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. If a DA permit is required, consultation with the Montana State Historical Society may be required under Section 106 of the National Historical Preservation Act. Impacts to historic sites should be avoided to the best extent possible.

A copy of this letter will be provided to the City of Belt, 70 Castner Street, Belt, Montana 59412. Please contact this office at (406) 441-1375 if you have questions and reference Corps File Number NWO-2010-00447-MTH. Information on the 2012 DA permits and applications are available at *http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/html/od-rmt/mthome.htm*.

Sincerely,

Todd N. Tillinger
Montana Program Manager

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

1420 East 6th Ave
P.O. Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701

Crystal Morgan
NCI Engineering
Great Falls, MT 59406

April 12, 2012

Dear Ms. Morgan,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed improvements project on the Belt wastewater improvement project.

I am glad to hear that spray irrigation will be pursued in lieu of direct discharge to Belt Creek. As you prepare your report, I would like to see the volume of water that would be land applied compared with the amount that was formally discharged. Given the close proximity of the land application site to Belt Creek, I would like to see calculations to ensure land application rates that will not result in over-land flow and that the spray from the irrigation system lands well before the Creek's riparian area.

I can be reached at (406) 444-5686 if you have questions about our comments or our evaluation of the benefits to fisheries and aquatic life.

Sincerely,

Trevor M. Selch

Fisheries Pollution Control Biologist
Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks

Montana Department of
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Brian Schweitzer, Governor

P.O. Box 200901 • Helena, MT 59620-0901 • (406) 444-2544 • www.deq.mt.gov

April 17, 2012

Idaho Trenberth
P.O. Box 6350
Great Falls, MT 59406

RE: Wastewater System Improvements – Request for Comments, City of Belt

Dear Idaho Trenberth:

In response to your April 3, 2012, letter, requesting input from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for your project planning and grant application cycle, we are pleased Belt is planning for wastewater system improvements.

Since DEQ will be reviewing environmental documents, an engineering report, plans, and specifications for the proposed project, those reviews will serve as DEQ's comments. The reviews will be performed by either the Public Water Supply Program or, if DEQ funding is secured, the Water Pollution Control State Revolving Fund Program. Please keep in mind that other DEQ permits associated with construction of the project may be required and if there is an associated discharge permit, the Water Protection Bureau will have input for your project upon submittal for review.

If you have any questions regarding DEQ's participation, please contact Rachel Clark in the Public Water Supply Program at (406) 444-6722 or rclark@mt.gov, or Paul LaVigne in the State Revolving Fund Program at (406) 444-5321 or plavigne@mt.gov.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Lovelace

Bonnie Lovelace
Regulatory Affairs Manager
Directors Office

c: Paul LaVigne, SRF Program
Rachel Clark, PWS Program

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT
1616 CAPITOL AVENUE
OMAHA NE 68102-4901

NOVEMBER 14, 2014

Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division

President Mark Azure
Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Tribes of Fort Belknap
656 Agency Main Street
Harlem, Montana 59526

Dear President Azure:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District (Corps) is currently in the process of planning and evaluating a wastewater system improvement project to replace Lift Station (LS) #1, rehabilitate LS #2, improve LS #3, and modify the treatment system to eliminate wastewater discharge to Belt Creek and provide wastewater disposal via spray irrigation to lands associated with the Town of Belt, Cascade County, Montana.

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Rehabilitation of LS #2 would include replacement of pumps and controls, installation of an auxiliary power receptacle, alterations to the level control devices, and application of new coatings on all interior surfaces of the wet well and dry pit structures and equipment.

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comments from your Tribe on any potential impacts that may arise from project construction. Enclosed are maps showing project location and general proposed project upgrades. Please provide us with any comments or concerns your Tribe has related to the proposed project at your earliest but no later than December 14, 2014.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Mr. Matthew D. Vandenberg at (402) 995-2694 or matthew.d.vandenberg@usace.army.mil, or Ms. Cathi Warren (Native American Consultations Specialist) at (402) 995-2684 or Catherine.J.Warren@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

for Eric Laux,
Acting Chief, Environmental Resources and Missouri River Recovery Program Plan Formulation Section

cc: Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Tribes of Fort Belknap THPO

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT
1616 CAPITOL AVENUE
OMAHA NE 68102-4901

NOVEMBER 14, 2014

Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division

Chaiman Harry Barnes
Blackfeet Tribe
P.O. Box 850, Blackfeet Tribe Agency Square
Browning, Montana 59417

Dear Chairman Barnes:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District (Corps) is currently in the process of planning and evaluating a wastewater system improvement project to replace Lift Station (LS) #1, rehabilitate LS #2, improve LS #3, and modify the treatment system to eliminate wastewater discharge to Belt Creek and provide wastewater disposal via spray irrigation to lands associated with the Town of Belt, Cascade County, Montana.

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Sincerely,

Randal P. Sellers

for Eric Laux,
Acting Chief, Environmental Resources and Missouri River Recovery Program Plan Formulation Section

cc: Blackfeet Tribe THPO

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT
1616 CAPITOL AVENUE
OMAHA NE 68102-4901

NOVEMBER 14, 2014

Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division

Mr. Morris E. Belgard
Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Tribes of Fort Belknap THPO
656 Agency Main Street
Harlem, Montana 59526

Dear Mr. Belgard:

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Sincerely,

Randal P. Sellers

for Eric Laux,
Acting Chief, Environmental Resources and Missouri River Recovery Program Plan Formulation Section

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT
1616 CAPITOL AVENUE
OMAHA NE 68102-4901

NOVEMBER 14, 2014

Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division

Mr. Emerson Bull Chief
Apsaalooke (Crow) Nation, THPO
P.O. Box 159
Crow Agency, Montana 59022

Dear Mr. Bull Chief:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District (Corps) is currently in the process of planning and evaluating a wastewater system improvement project to replace Lift Station (LS) #1, rehabilitate LS #2, improve LS #3, and modify the treatment system to eliminate wastewater discharge to Belt Creek and provide wastewater disposal via spray irrigation to lands associated with the Town of Belt, Cascade County, Montana.

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Sincerely,

for Eric Laux,
Acting Chief, Environmental Resources and Missouri River Recovery Program Plan Formulation Section

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT
1616 CAPITOL AVENUE
OMAHA NE 68102-4901

NOVEMBER 14, 2014

Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division

Mr. Conrad Fisher
Northern Cheyenne Tribe THPO
P.O. Box 128
Lame Deer, Montana 59043

Dear Mr. Fisher:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District (Corps) is currently in the process of planning and evaluating a wastewater system improvement project to replace Lift Station (LS) #1, rehabilitate LS #2, improve LS #3, and modify the treatment system to eliminate wastewater discharge to Belt Creek and provide wastewater disposal via spray irrigation to lands associated with the Town of Belt, Cascade County, Montana.

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Sincerely,

Randal P. Sellers

for Eric Laux,
Acting Chief, Environmental Resources and Missouri River Recovery Program Plan Formulation Section

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT
1616 CAPITOL AVENUE
OMAHA NE 68102-4901

NOVEMBER 14, 2014

Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division

President Llevando Fisher
Northern Cheyenne Tribe
P.O. Box 128, 600 S. Cheyenne Avenue
Lame Deer, Montana 59043

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Sincerely,

Randal P. Sellers

Eric Laux,
Acting Chief, Environmental Resources and Missouri River Recovery Program Plan Formulation Section

cc: Northern Cheyenne Tribe THPO

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT
1616 CAPITOL AVENUE
OMAHA NE 68102-4901

NOVEMBER 14, 2014

Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division

Chairman Richard Morsette
Chippewa Cree Tribe of Rocky Boy's
P.O. Box 544, 31 Agency Square
Box Elder, Montana 59521

Dear Chairman Morsette:

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Sincerely,

for Eric Laux,
Acting Chief, Environmental Resources and Missouri River Recovery Program Plan Formulation Section

cc: Chippewa Cree Tribe of Rocky Boy's THPO

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT
1616 CAPITOL AVENUE
OMAHA NE 68102-4901

NOVEMBER 14, 2014

Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division

Mr. John Murray
Blackfeet Tribe, THPO
P.O. Box 850, 620 All Chief Road
Browning, Montana 59417

Dear Mr. Murry:

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Sincerely,

Randal P. Sellers

for Eric Laux,
Acting Chief, Environmental Resources and Missouri River Recovery Program Plan Formulation Section

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT
1616 CAPITOL AVENUE
OMAHA NE 68102-4901

NOVEMBER 14, 2014

Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division

Chairman Darrin Old Coyote
Apsaalooke (Crow) Nation
P.O. Box 159, Bacheeitche Avenue
Crow Agency, Montana 59022

Dear Chairman Old Coyote:

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Treatment system modifications would include new pumps, piping and center pivot irrigation equipment, expansion of the existing Treatment Cell #3 to accommodate winter storage of treated wastewater, and abandonment of the existing outfall used to discharge treated water to Belt Creek in favor of a new land-based spray irrigation system to apply treated water to adjacent lands.

The proposed project is authorized under Section 595 (Rural Nevada and Montana Environmental Infrastructure Resource Protection and Development Program) of the 1999 Water Resources Development Act. This authority allows the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to participate in projects for wastewater treatment, water supply, and related facilities in rural Nevada, Montana, and Idaho. The proposed repairs would occur within Belt Town limits and adjacent lands as indicated on the attached enclosures.

The proposed project is intended to provide the City of Belt with an updated wastewater system and eliminate wastewater discharge to Belt Creek. The Corps is interested in soliciting comments from your Tribe on any potential impacts that may arise from project construction.

Enclosed are maps showing project location and general proposed project upgrades. Please provide us with any comments or concerns your Tribe has related to the proposed project at your earliest but no later than December 14, 2014.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Mr. Matthew D. Vandenberg at (402) 995-2694 or matthew.d.vandenberg@usace.army.mil, or Ms. Cathi Warren (Native American Consultations Specialist) at (402) 995-2684 or Catherine.J.Warren@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

Randal P. Sellers

for Eric Laux,
Acting Chief, Environmental Resources and Missouri River Recovery Program Plan Formulation Section

cc: Apsaalooke (Crow) Nation, THPO

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT
1616 CAPITOL AVENUE
OMAHA NE 68102-4901

NOVEMBER 14, 2014

Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division

Chairman AT Rusty Stafne
Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of Fort Peck
P.O. Box 1027, 501 Medicine Bear Road
Poplar, Montana 59255

Dear Chairman Stafne:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District (Corps) is currently in the process of planning and evaluating a wastewater system improvement project to replace Lift Station (LS) #1, rehabilitate LS #2, improve LS #3, and modify the treatment system to eliminate wastewater discharge to Belt Creek and provide wastewater disposal via spray irrigation to lands associated with the Town of Belt, Cascade County, Montana.

Replacement of LS #1 would include demolition of the existing structure, construction of a new structure, installation of a submersible pump station immediately adjacent to the new structure, connection of an influent gravity main and effluent force main, installation of an auxiliary power generator, and related site work including security fencing.

Rehabilitation of LS #2 would include replacement of pumps and controls, installation of an auxiliary power receptacle, alterations to the level control devices, and application of new coatings on all interior surfaces of the wet well and dry pit structures and equipment.

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Sincerely,

for Eric Laux,
Acting Chief, Environmental Resources and Missouri River Recovery Program Plan Formulation Section

cc: Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of Fort Peck THPO

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT
1616 CAPITOL AVENUE
OMAHA NE 68102-4901

NOVEMBER 14, 2014

Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division

Mr. Alvin Windy Boy, Sr.
Chippewa Cree Tribe of Rocky Boy's, THPO
P.O. Box 230
Box Elder, Montana 59521

Dear Mr. Windy Boy, Sr.:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District (Corps) is currently in the process of planning and evaluating a wastewater system improvement project to replace Lift Station (LS) #1, rehabilitate LS #2, improve LS #3, and modify the treatment system to eliminate wastewater discharge to Belt Creek and provide wastewater disposal via spray irrigation to lands associated with the Town of Belt, Cascade County, Montana.

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Sincerely,

for Eric Laux,
Acting Chief, Environmental Resources and Missouri River Recovery Program Plan Formulation Section

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT
1616 CAPITOL AVENUE
OMAHA NE 68102-4901

NOVEMBER 14, 2014

Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division

Mr. Darrell Youppe
Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of Fort Peck, THPO
P.O. Box 1027, 501 Medicine Bear Road
Poplar, Montana 59255

Dear Mr. Youppe:

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Sincerely,

for Eric Laux,
Acting Chief, Environmental Resources and Missouri River Recovery Program Plan Formulation Section

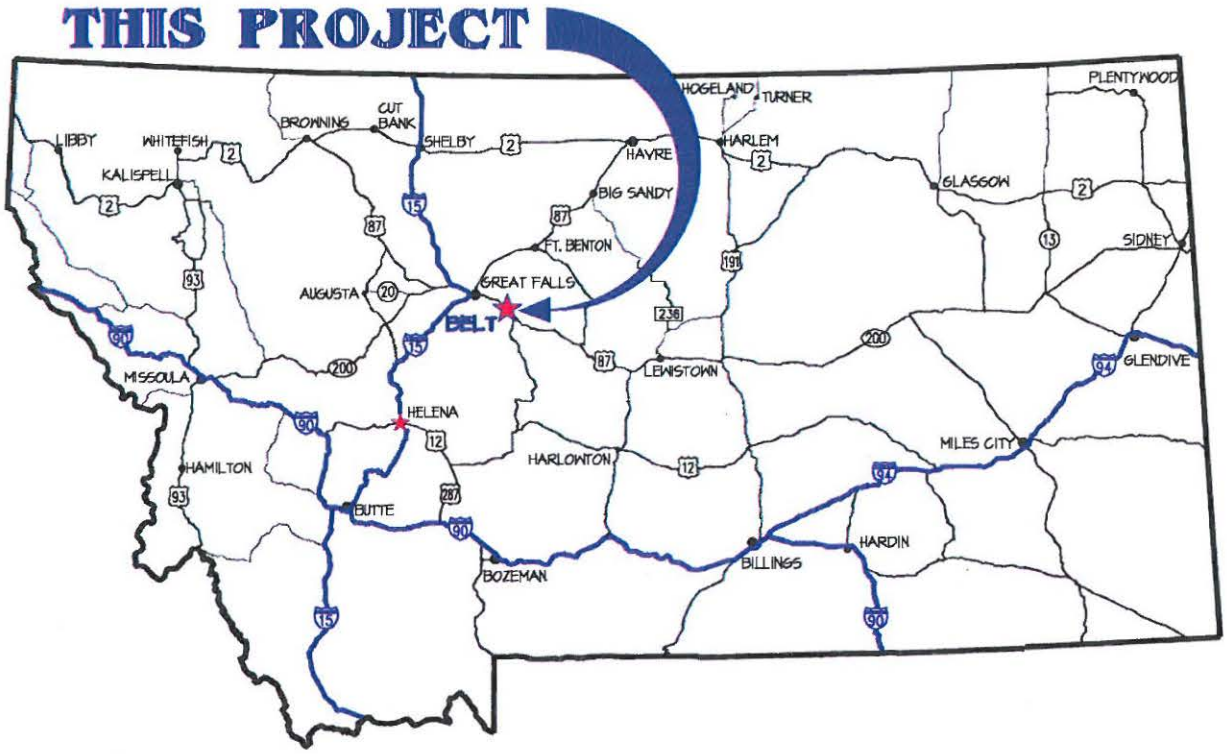


Figure 1. Map Showing the Location of Belt, Cascade County, Montana.

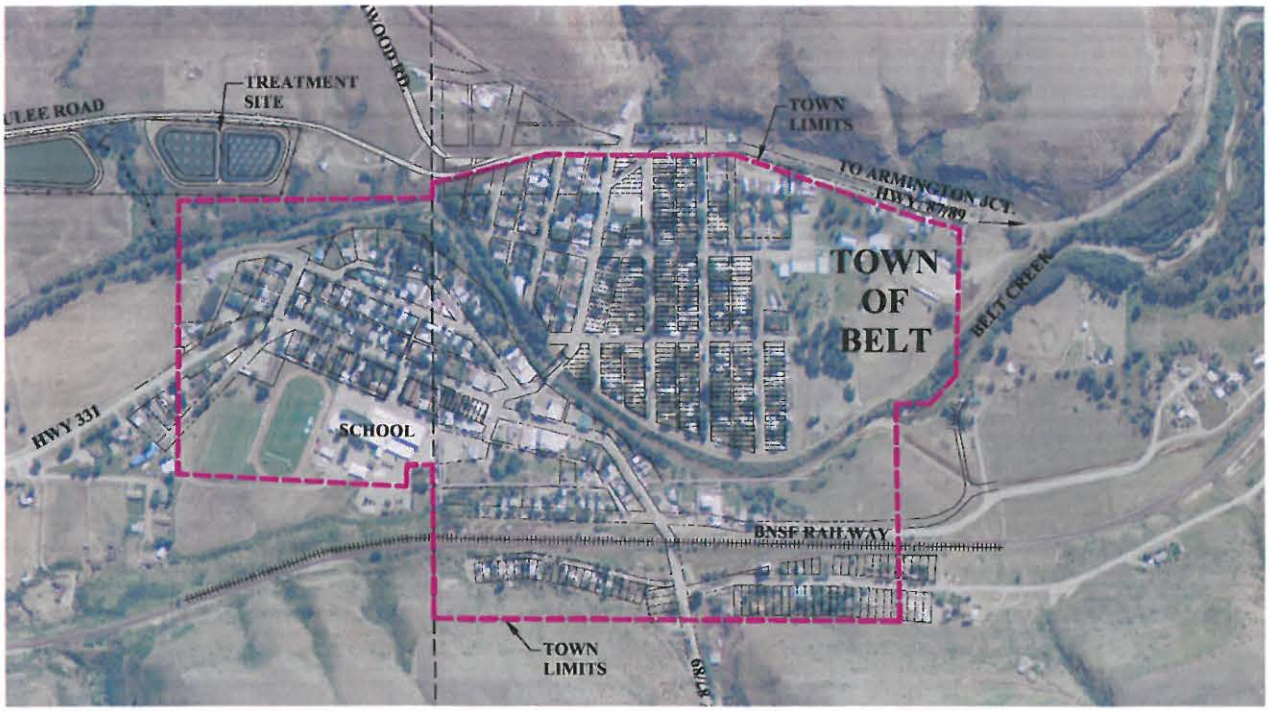
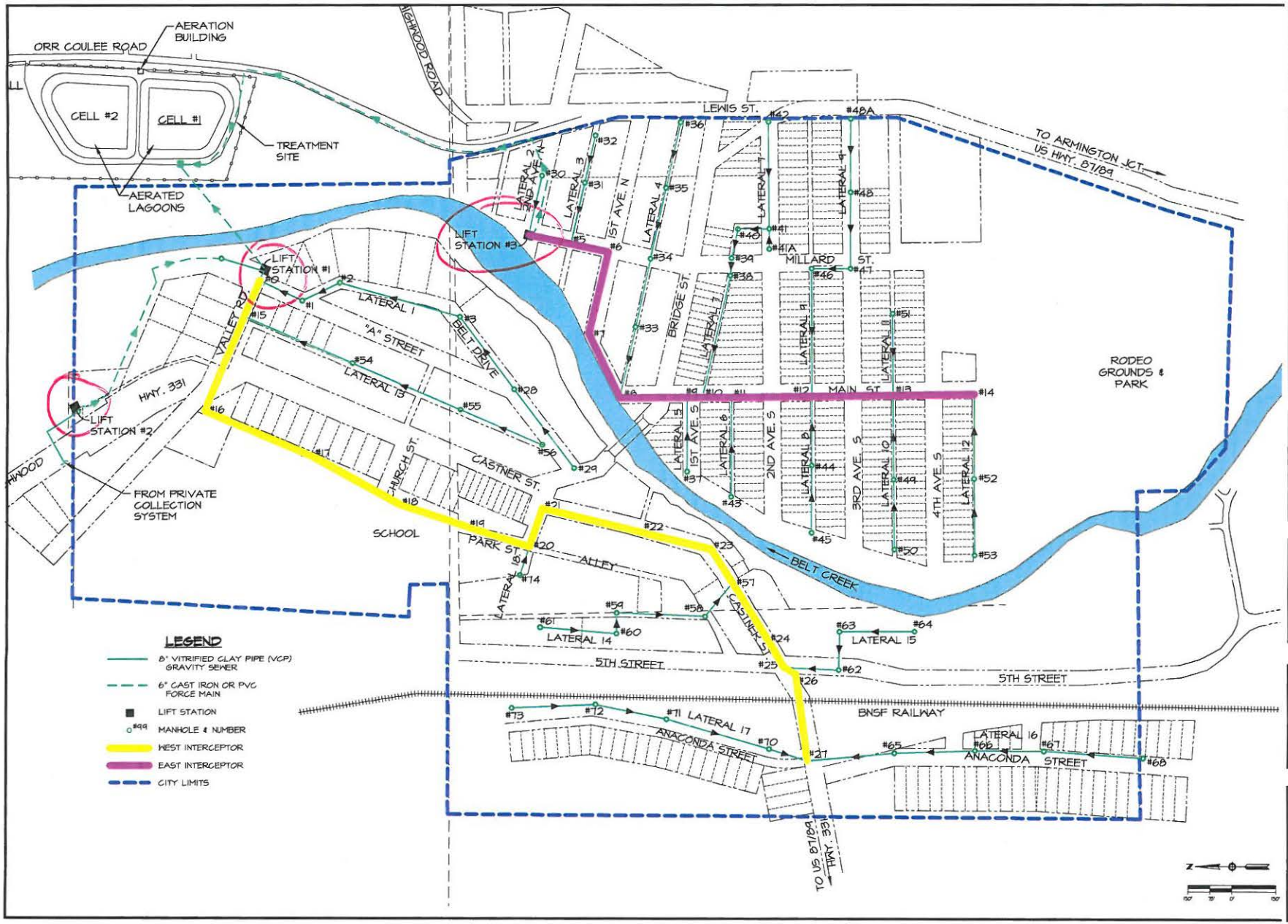


Figure 2. Map Showing the Town Limits of Belt, Montana (Courtesy of NCI Engineering).

Lift Stations



Revisions	By	Date

File No.	Job No.
22.06	1202 FIG II-3
Date	Scale
4/27/12	AS SHOWN

Professional Seal

Engineers
Environmental Specialists
Planners
Designers
Surveyors
NCI Engineering
4509 North Star Boulevard
P.O. Box 6359
Great Falls, MT 59406
Phone: 406-453-5478
Fax: 406-453-2099

Owner

TOWN OF BELT

Project Title

WASTEWATER PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT 2012

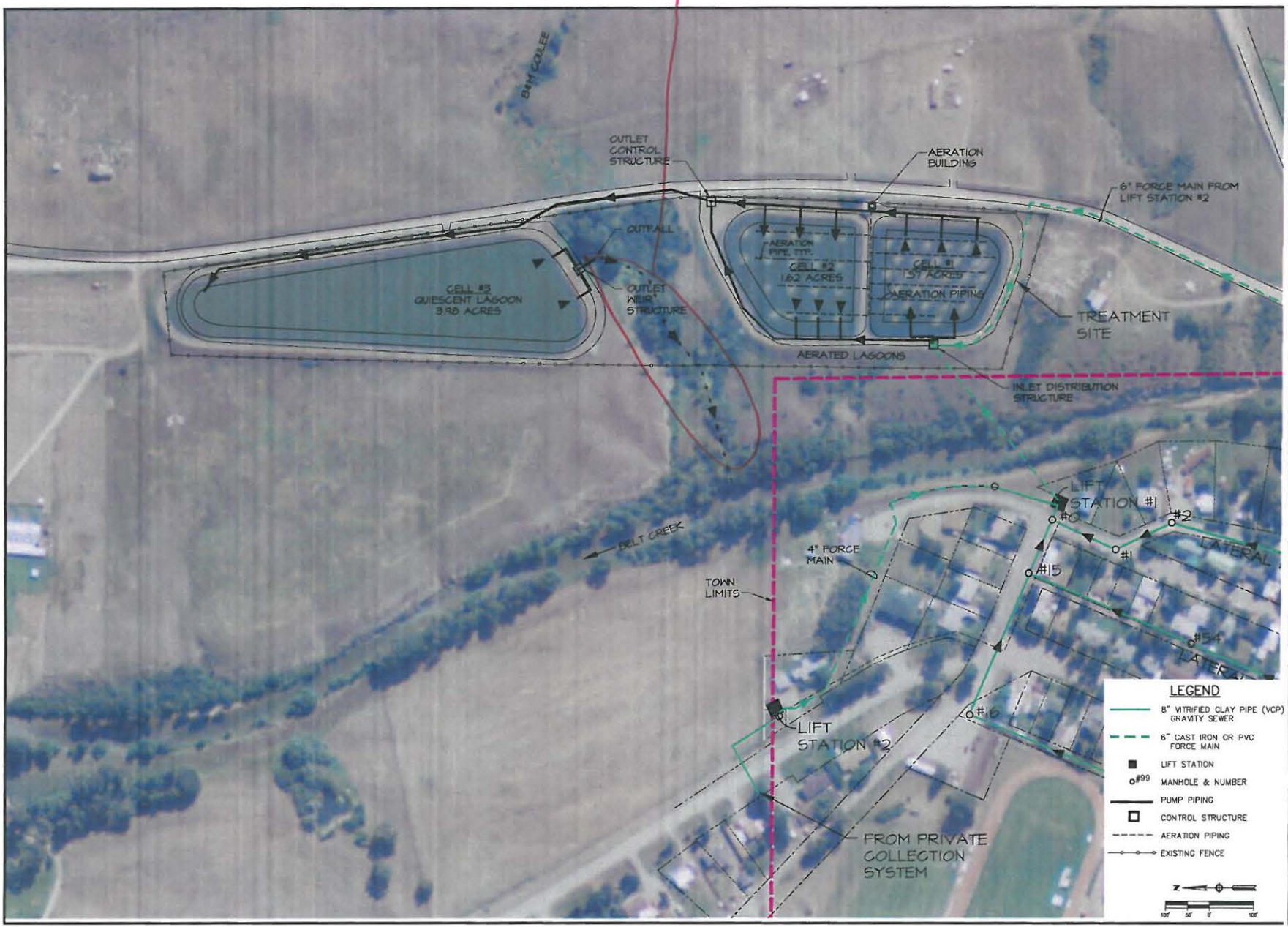
Sheet Title

WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM

FIG. II-3

File # 22.06

Outfall to be replaced



Revisions	By	Date

File No.	Job No.
22.06	1202 FIG II-4
Date	Scale
4/30/12	AS SHOWN

Professional Seal

Engineers
Environmental Specialists
Planners
Designers
Surveyors

NC Engineering

4509 North Star Boulevard
P.O. Box 6350
Great Falls, MT 59406
Phone 406-453-5478
Fax 406-453-2009

Owner

TOWN OF BELT

Project Title

WASTEWATER PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT 2012

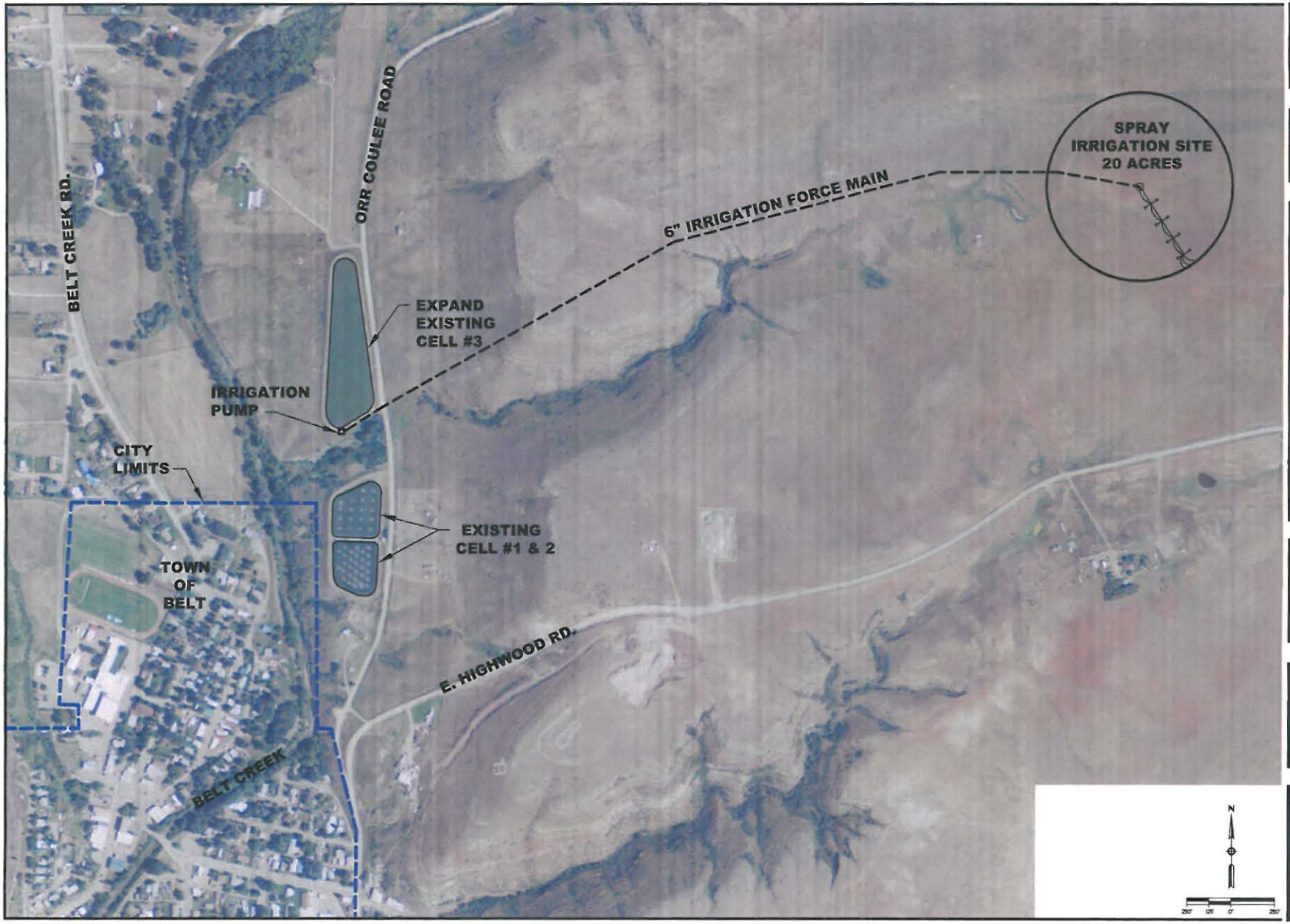
Sheet Title

LAGOONS AND TREATMENT SYSTEM

FIG. II-4

File # 22.06

proposed land-based irrigation



Revisions	By	Date

File No.	Job No.
22.06	1202 FIG IV-6
Date	Scale
4/30/12	AS SHOWN

Professional Seal

Engineers
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TOWN OF BELT

Project Title

WASTEWATER PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT 2012

Sheet Title

ALTERNATIVE 6 SPRAY IRRIGATION

FIG. IV-6

File # 22.06