EVALUATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICANT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

Kimberly Wastewater Collection System Improvement Project

City of Kimberly
Twin Falls County, Idaho

October 2016

I. Introduction and Background Information

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District (Corps) proposes to assist the city of Kimberly, Idaho (City) with its Wastewater Collection System Improvements Project under the authority of Section 595 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1999. The City owns and operates wastewater collection facilities that include distribution, transmission, lift stations, metering, and monitoring systems to serve the community. Currently, the City waste collection system sends waste for treatment to the City of Twin Falls via a transmission line. However, the City's Waste Water Treatment Contract with the City of Twin Falls has met contractual capacity limits several times recently because of significant growth in the community. Twin Falls will not/cannot guarantee additional contract capacity to Kimberly, as they too, are experiencing similar demands from growth.

The proposed action consists of digging trenches (often referred to as "open-cut") and replacing 2,590 linear feet of deteriorating sewer pipe along Wilson Road, Monroe Street West, and in an alley between Main Street North and Chestnut Street North, perpendicular to Monroe Street East, all within the City of Kimberly.

Specifically, the Corps would provide funding to assist with preliminary and final design, environmental documentation, construction administration, and construction costs to replace the damaged sewer lines. Section 595 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 Public Law (PL) 106-53 authorized the Corps to participate in environmental infrastructure projects in rural Nevada and Montana. In 2003, PL 108-7, Section 126, amended PL 106-53 to include rural Idaho. As a result, the Corps is able to provide assistance under Section 595 for the Kimberly Wastewater Collection System Improvement Project.

II. Applicant Prepared Environmental Assessment

In accordance with 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1506.5(b), the Corps is authorized to permit applicants to prepare an environmental assessment, as long as the agency performs its own evaluation of the environmental issues and makes its own findings on potential impacts. The City submitted the *City of Kimberly Wastewater*

Collection System Improvements Project, Environmental Information Document (EID) prepared by J-U-B Engineers, Inc. (J-U-B). The Corps had no role in the preparation of the EID, but did undertake an independent review of the document and determined the information contained therein is accurate and satisfies the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations, except as supplemented or explained below. The EID is, therefore, incorporated (in its entirety) herein by reference and made a part hereof.

III. Purpose and Need

The purpose of the proposed action is to upgrade the City's deteriorating wastewater collection system. The proposed action is needed because the City can no longer send waste for treatment to the City of Twin Falls. As a result, the City determined that they must upgrade their own system to treat wastewater. To examine their own system, in 2012, the City cleaned and video inspected approximately 3,966 feet (3.8%) of the existing concrete trunk lines greater than eight inches in diameter. Of the inspected pipe, 20% were given a high priority for required maintenance and repair. The City then authorized J-U-B to develop a Wastewater Facilities Plan which was completed in October of 2015. The Plan essentially identified four main action areas for analysis, and the Corps is providing funding for upgrading and replacing the collection system sewer lines.

IV. Alternatives

The following alternatives for the proposed action were identified and evaluated in the EID:

Alternative 1 (No Action): Under this alternative, no action would be taken to rehabilitate or repair the existing sewer mains. The pipes would be left in place and continue to operate under the existing conditions. Although this does not meet the stated purpose and need, this alternative was carried forward to serve as the baseline environmental condition for comparison with other alternatives, as required by NEPA.

Alternative 2 (In-Situ Methods of Rehabilitation): This method consists of rehabilitating the existing pipes in-place (in-situ) with new pipes. This can be accomplished through pipe bursting and with cured-in-place pipe liners (CIPP). Pipe bursting is accomplished by pulling a bursting device through an existing main, which by virtue of its size or radial expansion ability, shatters the existing pipe and forces the fragments into the surrounding soil. A new pipe is pulled behind the pipe bursting device, replacing the existing pipe. Excavation of small pits is required at the insertion and exit manholes to allow the pipe bursting equipment to be placed into and removed from the existing mains and at each existing service line to reconnect the service.

Alternative 3, Preferred Alternative (Open Cut Method of Rehabilitation): The open-cut method of replacing a collection line involves digging a trench along the existing line, temporarily blocking the line and/or by-pass pumping the wastewater flow

around the work area, removing the existing line, placing a new line in the same trench and reconnecting existing sewer services. The slope of the new line may be adjusted to improve the flow characteristics of the system. The trench is then back-filled and any existing surface is repaired (i.e., asphalt, gravel, etc.). Existing manholes between collection line replacement segments would be evaluated for proper elevation and for structural integrity and would be replaced as needed. This method of rehabilitation would fix even the most severely deteriorated pipes along with those lines that have grade and sag issues.

V. Environmental Effects

Environmental analysis and consequences (i.e. effects) of the alternatives were discussed in the EID. The analysis concluded there would be no significant impacts to the human environment resulting from implementation of the preferred alternative. Short-term impacts may occur during project construction that includes temporary disruption of the water and sewer service systems, increased noise, increased dust pollution, increased potential for stormwater runoff, and localized traffic and parking disruption.

Endangered Species Act. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) indicated in an email response that "given the location of the proposed construction, and that the proposed construction area is already highly disturbed and developed, the Fish and Wildlife Service does not anticipate significant impacts to occur to trust resources of conservation concern." The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) stated, "NMFS does not have any listed species in your project area." A Corps biologist reviewed the EID and made the following determination, "[T]here are no ESA-listed species in or near the project boundaries. The project will have no effects on ESA-listed species. In addition, there will be no effects on ESA-listed species habitat due to the lack of suitable habitat in the area." See Attachment A.

National Historic Preservation Act. The Corps reviewed the cultural resources work done in association with the proposed action and made a determination of "No Historic Properties Affected" (Attachment B). The determination was based on the fact that all of the proposed work would take place in previously disturbed areas and that consultation with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe is sufficient to meet the requirements of Section 106 of the NHPA and its implementing regulations 36 CFR Part 800. The Shoshone-Bannock Tribe was also contacted but did not provide any comments associated with the proposed action.

VI. Coordination

The project has been coordinated with the Shoshone-Paiute Tribe, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribe, USFWS, NMFS, Environmental Protection Agency, Regulatory Division Corps of Engineers, City of Kimberly Planning and Zoning and Public Works, U.S. Department of Agriculture – Rural Development, Idaho Department of Fish and Game,

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Idaho Department of Water Resources, Idaho State Parks, Idaho SHPO, and Idaho Department of Agriculture. Each agency or organization was contacted and provided information on the proposed improvements to the wastewater system. Project information was also disseminated through City Council meetings. In addition, flyers, articles and copies of the planned wastewater collection system upgrade project were delivered or made available to the public. This draft FONSI was made available for a two week public and agency review and comment period from September 28 through October 12, 2016. One comment letter from USDA-NRCS was received in regards to the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA). USDA-NRCS reviewed the proposed action and determined that it is not subject to the FPPA.

VII. Conclusion/Finding

Having reviewed the EID, I find that the actions covered by the EID are substantially the same actions that the Corps is authorized and committed to participate in pursuant to Section 595 of WRDA of 1999. For this project, the Corps would provide funding to assist with preliminary and final design, environmental documentation, construction administration, and construction costs to replace the damaged sewer lines.

The EID provides sufficient discussions on the need for the proposal, alternatives to the proposal, the environmental impacts of the proposed action and the alternatives, and a listing of agencies and persons consulted. After an independent review of the EID, the Corps believes the document provides both sufficient evidence and analysis to meet its requirements pursuant to NEPA, except as supplemented or explained above.

I have taken into consideration the technical aspects of the project, best scientific information available, public comment, and the information contained in the EID. Based on this information, I have determined that the Corps proposed project would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment, and therefore an environmental impact statement is not required. The Corps will proceed to fund the proposed project under the authority of Section 595 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999, when funds are made available for that purpose.

Damon A. Delarosa
Lieutenant Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Commander

21 OCT 16
Date