



**US Army Corps
of Engineers** ®

Walla Walla District
BUILDING STRONG®

CITY OF KIMBERLY WASTEWATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

SECTION 595 OF THE WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1999

KIMBERLY, TWIN FALLS COUNTY, IDAHO

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**In compliance with the
National Environmental Policy Act of 1970**

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD – DO NOT DESTROY

PROJECT FILE NUMBER: PM-EC-2024-0054

September 2024

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1 Project Description

1.1 Project Name

City of Kimberly Wastewater System Improvements Project, Kimberly, Idaho.

1.2 References

- a. ER 200-2-2 (33 CFR 230) Procedures for Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act
- b. 40 CFR 1500-1508 National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Regulations (42 U.S.C. 4321, *et seq.*)
- c. Section 595 of Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1999, Public Law (PL) 106-53, as amended

1.3 Project Location

The City of Kimberly (City) is located in Twin Falls County, which occupies the south-central region of Idaho state (Figure 1). Situated in the fertile Snake River Plain, Kimberly lies approximately 5 miles southeast of Twin Falls, one of the larger cities in the area. It is also about 130 miles southeast of Boise, the state capitol. The closest significant body of water is the Snake River which lies just a short distance to the north and provides both recreational and agricultural benefits to the region. Approximately 4,696 people reside in Kimberly. The proposed action is located at Township 10 South, Range 18 East, Section 31, Boise Meridian.

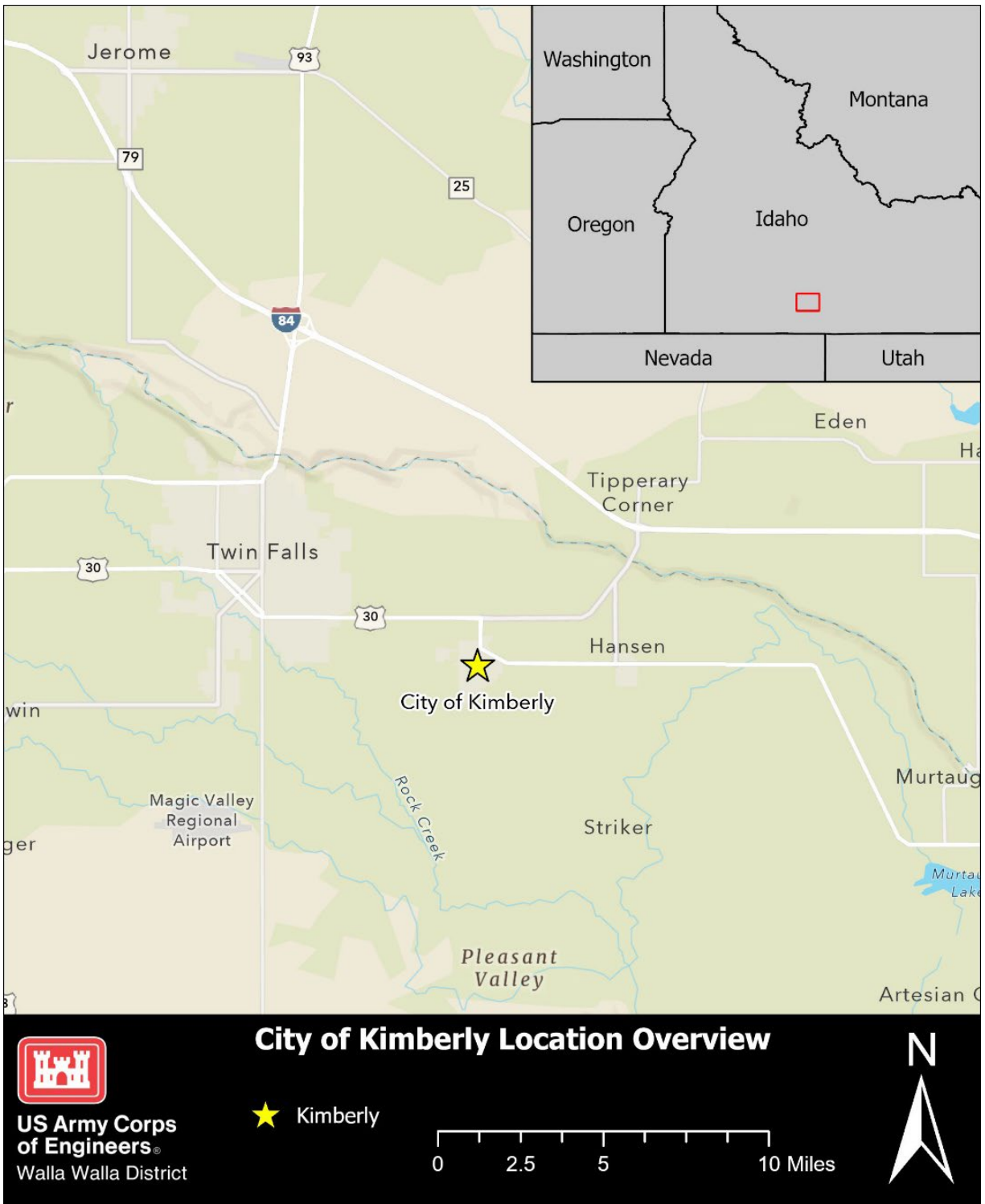


Figure 1. City of Kimberly Area Overview

1.4 Project Description

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District (USACE) proposes to assist the city of Kimberly, Idaho (City) with its Wastewater System Improvement Project under the authority of Section 595 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1999

to cost-share rehabilitation of the remaining concrete sewer pipelines (mains) classified as being in a deteriorated condition. The City owns and operates wastewater collection facilities that include distribution, transmission, lift stations, metering, and monitoring systems to serve the community. In 2016, under the same authority, the City entered a similar cost-share agreement with USACE, which resulted in the replacement of approximately 2,590 linear feet of deteriorated sewer pipeline. The sections replaced were largely along Wilson Road, Monroe Street West, and in an alley between Main Street North and Chestnut Street North, perpendicular to Monroe Street East. All construction work was conducted within Kimberly city limits.

The City now requests Section 595 construction assistance from USACE to cost-share rehabilitation of the remaining concrete sewer pipelines (mains) classified as being in the deterioration condition categories “A” and “B”. These two categories comprise approximately 7,500 linear feet of 8 inch to 12-inch sewer main pipelines, outlined by Figure 2 (Sections A – E). Figures 3 - 7 provide more detailed overviews for each Section.

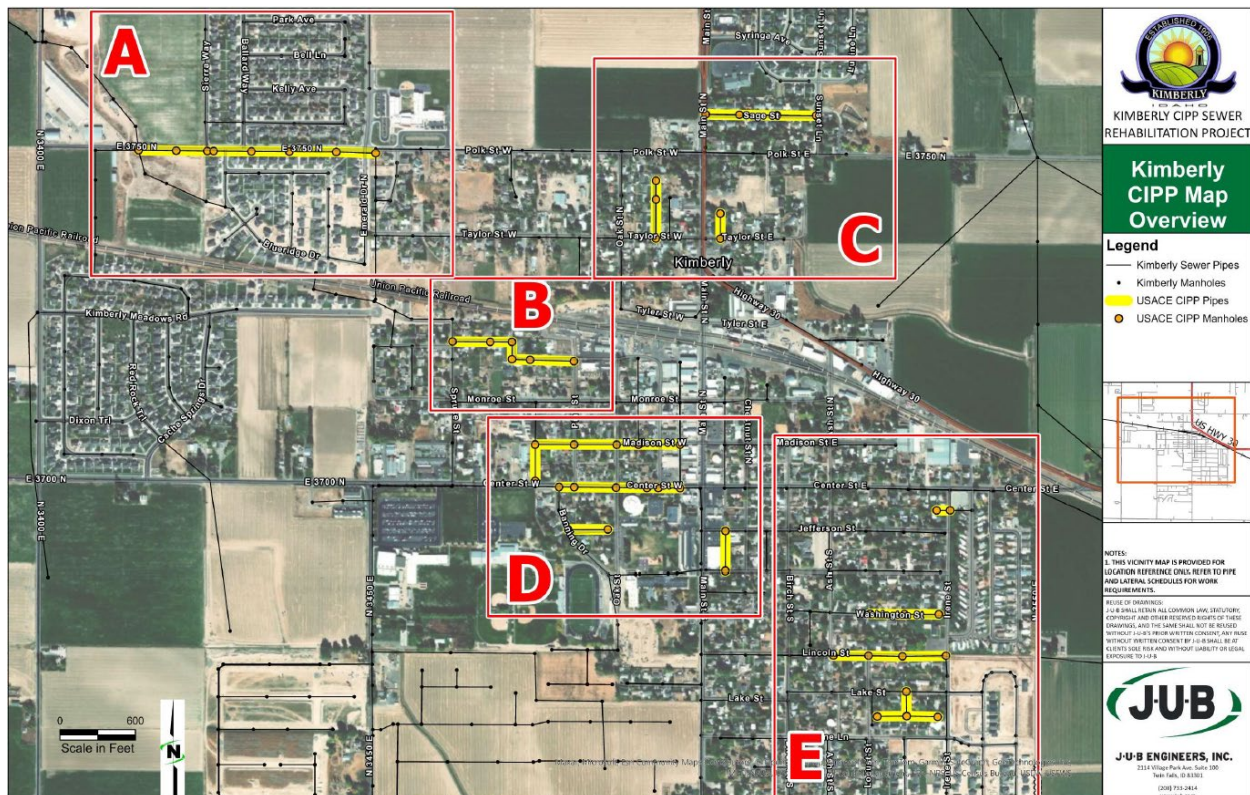


Figure 2. Proposed USACE Funded Sewer Main Repairs (YELLOW) and Manholes (ORANGE) Sections A – E.



Figure 3. Section A Sewer Mains (YELLOW), Manholes (ORANGE), and Repair Points (PINK).

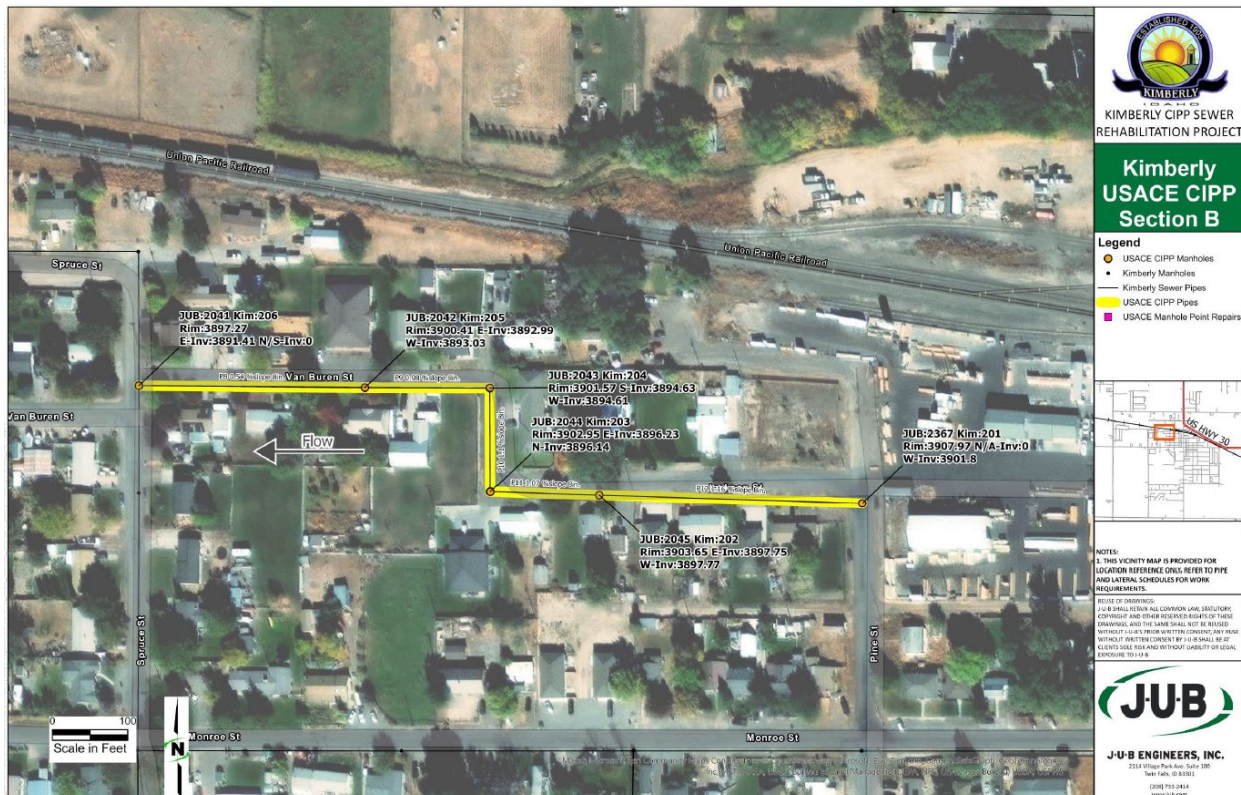


Figure 4. Section B Sewer Mains (YELLOW), Manholes (ORANGE), and Repair Points (PINK).

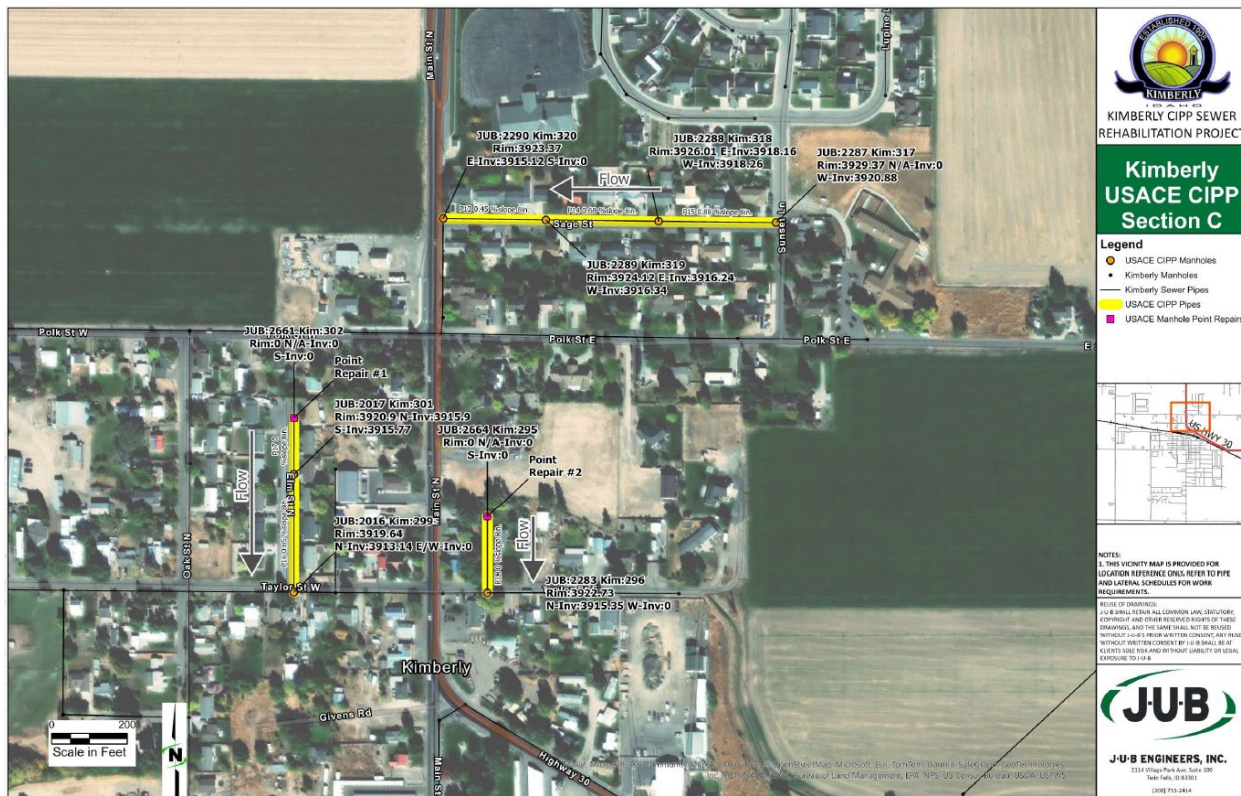


Figure 5. Section C Sewer Mains (YELLOW), Manholes (ORANGE), and Repair Points (PINK).

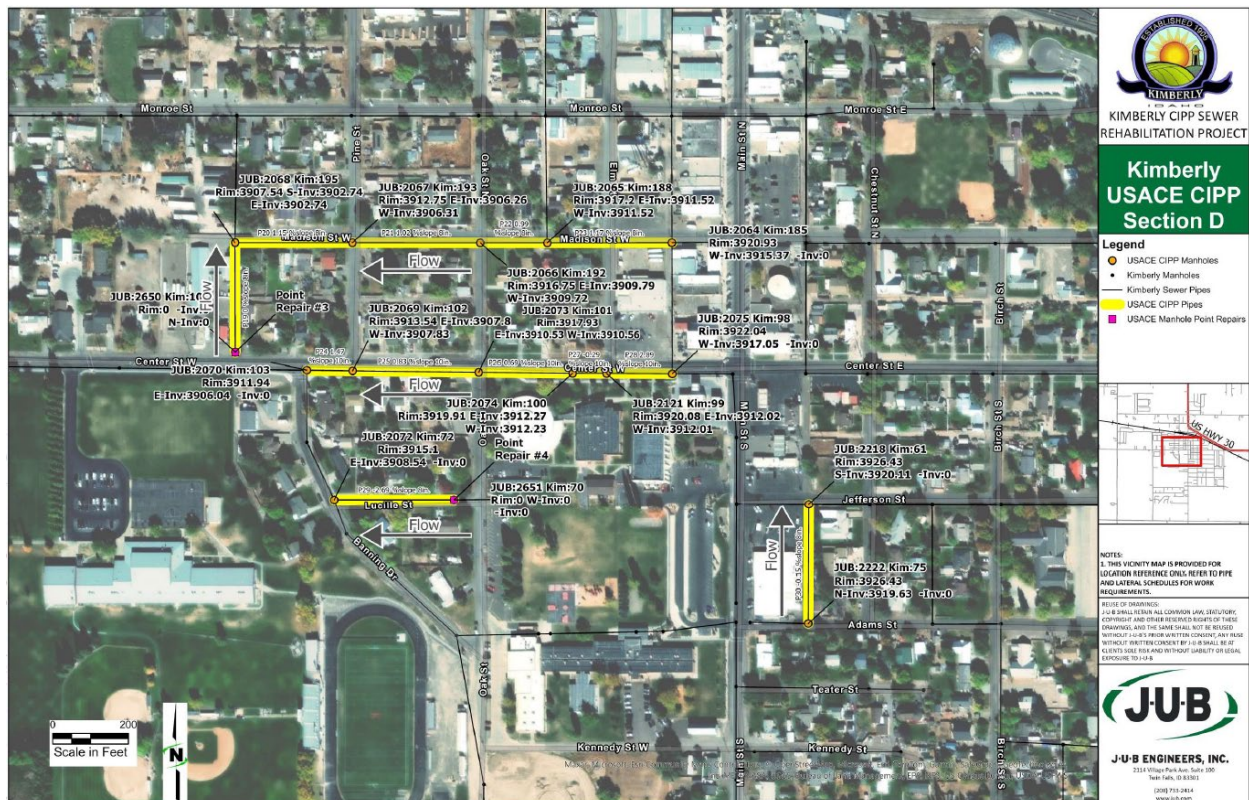


Figure 6. Section D Sewer Mains (YELLOW), Manholes (ORANGE) and Repair Points (PINK).

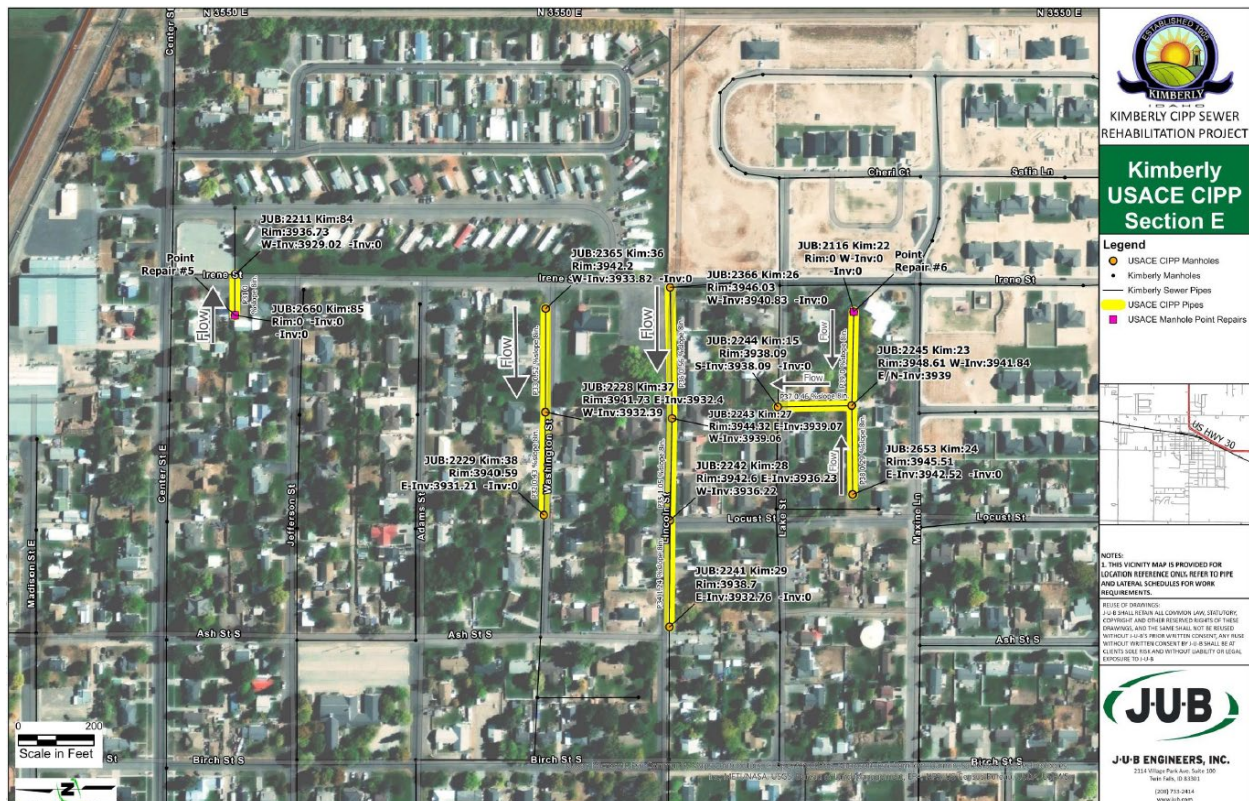


Figure 7. Section E Sewer Mains (YELLOW), Manholes (ORANGE) and Repair Points (PINK).

The City proposes to utilize the cured-in-place process (CIPP) for sewer main rehabilitation. This process is considered an “In-Situ” method, as it is intended to rehabilitate the pipelines without the need for heavy ground disturbing activity (I.e., the need to trench city streets, to remove and replace existing deteriorated lines, and repave once completed).

Typically, the pipelines would be cleaned and inspected utilizing CCTV prior to implementation of the CIPP. This would be to identify any potential obstructions, defects, or structural issues. Once cleared, a resin saturated composite material would be inserted into a totally contained tubular liner. The liner is impregnated with a vacuum and/ or roller system, allowing full saturation of the tube with resin. The impregnated liner is inserted into the host pipe through an existing manhole. The liner is inverted against the host pipe by circulating water within the liner or using an inflation bladder. Once positioned, the liner is cured in place by modifying the water circulation temperature or by using steam. This creates a bond with the host pipe, forming a rigid and structural pipe section. Existing manholes can typically be used as access points to insert the liner, eliminating the need for excavation pits. Existing service connections create dimples in the new pipe wall, allowing identification by video inspection after the conduit is cured. This service may be drilled out through conventional excavation techniques, or by a remote-control cutting machine that is inserted into the pipe.

This method does not correct the pipes with structural, grade, alignment and/ or depth problems. Channeling of infiltration/ inflow (I/I) between the old pipe and the new liner may occur, allowing excess water to enter the sewer main through poorly sealed service

connections or manholes. Protruding taps, blockages, roots, sags or other structural problems may prohibit the use of in-situ linings unless corrected prior to installation.

Other construction related activities would be required. This would include the establishment of staging areas for equipment and safety barriers to ensure the safety of workers and the public. Typical equipment required, but not limited to, would be hydro jetting trucks (for cleaning the existing pipelines), CCTV camera equipment, inversion drums (used for inserting the liner into the pipeline), a winch system (used for the pull-in method to draw the liner through the existing pipe), a steam truck, UV curing equipment, air compressors and generators, bypass pumping systems, and safety barrier and signage.

The sewer mains are classified based on level of deterioration and need for rehabilitation. Category “A” sewer lines are in the worst condition and prioritized for rehabilitation. Category “C” lines exist in the best condition but are still in need for repair. The City proposes to cost share with USACE the rehabilitation of the Category “A” and “B” lines, utilizing the cured-in-place method. This contribution to the City’s overall proposed project comprises the USACE Project.

Apart from the USACE Project, the City would fund and rehabilitate category “C” sewer mains and install approximately 45 manholes for the rehabilitated lines. There is a total of 6 repair points, identified in Figures 2 – 7, that would require exploratory excavations to physically locate ends of the pipes and obtain rim and invert elevations. These 6 repair points would then become additional manholes. These activities would be completed by the City and occur separate from the USACE Project. See the *City of Kimberly Wastewater Collection System Environmental Information* Document dated May 2016, which is incorporated to the extent relevant for the USACE Project as Attachment A to this EA.

1.4.1 Background Information

Prior to 1974, the City owned and operated its own wastewater treatment facility. In 1974, the City eliminated its treatment facilities, and an interceptor line was built to convey sewage flow to Twin Falls for treatment. In 2001 and 2002, approximately 30,000 feet of existing system was rehabilitated and replaced with HDPE plastic pipe to provide corrosion resistance and prolong the life of the sewer. In 2000, the size was expanded from 13.7 miles to 19.8 miles.

In 2017, under Section 595 authority, USACE and the City entered a cost-share agreement which resulted in the replacement of approximately 2,590 linear feet of deteriorated sewer pipeline. The sections replaced were largely along Wilson Road, Monroe Street West, and in an alley between Main Street North and Chestnut Street North, perpendicular to Monroe Street East. All construction work was conducted within Kimberly city limits.

Following completion of construction in 2018, the City proceeded to rank and categorize the remaining concrete sewer pipelines based on overall condition and signs of deterioration. Categories fall within one of 3 classifications: “A”, “B” and “C”. The categories are based on level of deterioration. Category “A” lines being the most

deteriorated, and prioritized for repair, and Category “C” lines being the lowest level of deterioration, but still in need of repair. Now, the City proposes a similar cost share agreement with USACE, under the same authority, to rehabilitate the remaining sewer lines in categories “A” and “B”. Apart from this cost-share agreement with USACE, the City plans to rehabilitate the Category “C” lines.

This Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) *Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)*, Engineer Regulation (ER) 200-2-2, *Procedures for Implementing NEPA*, and Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 1500-1508. The objective of the EA is to evaluate potential environmental effects of the proposed action and determine if significant effects could result. If effects are relatively minor, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) would be issued, and USACE would proceed with the proposed action of assisting the Tribes with its wastewater system improvements project. If the environmental effects are determined to be significant, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) would be prepared before a decision is reached on whether to implement the proposed action. Applicable laws under which these effects are evaluated in this EA include but are not limited to, NEPA, the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act.

NEPA is a full disclosure law, providing for public involvement in the NEPA process. All persons and organizations that have a potential interest in this proposed action – including the public, other federal agencies, state and local agencies, Native American Tribes, and interested stakeholders – are encouraged to participate in the NEPA process.

1.4.2 Authority

Section 595 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (Public Law [PL] 106-53), authorized USACE to participate in water-related environmental infrastructure, resource protection, and development projects in rural Nevada and Montana. Section 595 was amended in 2003 by PL 108-137, Section 117, to include Idaho, Montana, rural Nevada, New Mexico, and rural Utah.

1.5 Purpose and Need

Despite past improvements to the City’s wastewater system conveyance system, there remains key sections of the City’s sewer mains that are in a deteriorated condition. These remaining sewer mains are at risk for failure due to numerous issues identified from past video inspections and consultation with engineering professionals. The purpose of USACE Project is to rehabilitate the remaining sewer collection lines so that the City’s wastewater treatment system remains capable of conveying wastewater to the City of Twin Falls for treatment.

The USACE Project is needed to ensure a functional wastewater treatment collection system is in place that would reduce the risk of exposing the community to potentially harmful public health risks (i.e., harmful pathogens and contaminants). The USACE

project would also reduce the cost of routine operation and maintenance, ensuring the system remains in compliance with state and federal environmental laws and regulations, minimizes the potential for leakage of pollutants into the environment, and prevents reduction in conveyance capacity due to excessive infiltration. Based on population projections, the City is expected to continue to grow due to the relatively low land costs in the area and the proximity to the City of Twin Falls. It is anticipated that increases in population would induce more strain on an already deteriorated wastewater conveyance system.

1.6 Construction Timeline

There are no environmental constraints on the work window. Construction would likely begin soon after receipt of cost-share funding and a contract is awarded, which would continue until the failing collection lines (categories A and B) are rehabilitated.

2 Alternatives

Two alternatives are evaluated in this EA: the No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action Alternative. The No Action Alternative does not satisfy the project's purpose and need, but NEPA requires analysis of the No Action Alternative to set the baseline from which to compare other alternatives. However, No Action does not mean there would be no environmental impacts from this alternative. Additionally, the reasonable range of alternatives considered in an EA is not as exacting as required in an environmental impact statement (EIS) and is generally guided by the statutory objectives/scheme (in this case Section 595 of WRDA 1999) supporting the federal action. Consequently, only the No Action and Proposed Action Alternatives are analyzed further.

2.1 Alternative 1: No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, USACE would not cost share the rehabilitation of the remaining class "A" and "B" concrete sewer main lines. These lines have been designated by the City as being high priority for rehabilitation based on their level of deterioration. The City's sewer collection lines would continue to remain a point of concern for the City due to their level of deterioration. The sewer mains would continue to you require consistent maintenance by the City to prevent additional line collapses and blockages in the future.

2.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action – In-Situ Method Rehabilitation (CIPP)

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, USACE would cost-share rehabilitation of the Category "A" and "B" concrete sewer pipelines using the cured – in – place process (CIPP). These would entail the rehabilitation of approximately 7,500 linear feet of 8 -inch through 12-inch sewer pipeline (Figures 2 - 7).

In addition to the activities required for implementation of the CIPP, this alternative would also involve other construction related activities. This would include the establishment of staging areas for equipment and safety barriers to ensure the safety of workers and the public. Anticipated equipment to complete such pipeline rehabilitation

would be hydro jetting trucks (for cleaning the existing pipelines), CCTV camera equipment, inversion drums (used for inserting the liner into the pipeline), a winch system (used for the pull-in method to draw the liner through the existing pipe), a steam truck, UV curing equipment, air compressors and generators, bypass pumping systems, and safety barrier and signage.

3 Affected Environment and Environmental Effects

This section describes the existing affected environment (existing condition of resources) and evaluates potential environmental effects on those resources for each alternative. Although only relevant resource areas are specifically evaluated for impacts, USACE did consider all resources in the proposed project area when deciding which ones to evaluate. The following resource areas were evaluated in further detail: Air Quality, Noise, Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change, Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice, and Cumulative Impacts.

USACE determined it was not necessary to further evaluate Water Quality, Soils, Noise, Aquatic Resources, Vegetation, Terrestrial Wildlife Species including Threatened and Endangered Species, Aesthetic Resources, Cultural Resources, and Recreation as implementation of the proposed action would not be expected to affect these resources (Table 1).

Table 1. Environmental Resources Not Evaluated Further.

Environmental Component	Explanation
Water Quality	The closest waterbody to the proposed action area is the Snake River which is approximately 3 miles to the north. The proposed action would have no effect on Water Quality.
Soils	The in-situ method of rehabilitation for the proposed action would not require ground disturbing activity and therefore would not impact surrounding soils or induce erosion.
Aquatic Resources	See above in Water Quality. The proposed action would have no effect on Aquatic Resources.
Vegetation	The proposed action is in a developed area and activities associated with the action would not involve the removal or disturbance of vegetation. Therefore, there would be no effect on vegetation in the proposed action area.
Terrestrial Wildlife Species including Threatened and Endangered Species	The proposed action is in a developed area and would have no impacts on listed terrestrial wildlife species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system showed no threatened or endangered species were present, nor critical habitat, in the project area (Consultation Code: 2024-0112877) (Attachment B). Monarch Butterflies (<i>Danaus plexippus</i>) were listed as candidate species, but the Proposed Action Alternative would have no effect on monarch butterflies or their habitat.
Aesthetic Resources	The proposed action would occur subsurface, and therefore would not impact the aesthetics that are readily accessible to the public. Therefore, the proposed action would have no impacts to aesthetic resources.
Historic/Cultural Resources	The project area is spatially distant from the resources identified as having historic significance and the CIPP method of rehabilitation would have minimal construction related impacts. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative would have no direct or indirect impact to cultural resources.
Recreation	There are no State or Federal recreation open spaces, parks or areas of recognized scenic or recreational value within the Project Area. The City owns several parks and recreation areas in or nearby the City, but these areas would not be impacted by the Proposed Action.

The following descriptors are used in this chapter for consistency in describing impact intensity in relation to significance. The term “effect” is considered synonymous with “impact” and includes both beneficial and adverse impacts.

- No or Negligible Impact: The proposed action would result in no effect, or the effect would not change the resource condition in a perceptible way. Negligible is defined as of such little consequence as to not require additional consideration or mitigation.
- Minor Impact: The effect to the resource would be perceptible; however, the effect would not be major and unlikely to result in an overall change in resource character.
- Moderate Impact: The effect to the resource would be perceptible and may result in an overall change in resource character, but less than significant.
- Significant Impact: The effect to the resource would be perceptible and may be severe. The effect would likely result in an overall change in resource character. The determination of significant impacts to any resource would require the completion of an Environmental Impact Statement.
- Where important, the descriptors of direct v. indirect effects is also noted. Direct impacts are those effects that are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place. They are immediate and closely linked to the action. Indirect impacts are those effects that are caused by the action, but are later in time or farther removed in distance but are still reasonably foreseeable.

3.1 Air Quality

3.1.1 Affected Environment

Idaho is among the states that has United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) delegated authority to issue air quality permits and enforce air quality regulations. The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality's (IDEQ) is responsible for implementing, monitoring, and enforcing the air quality standards within Idaho, and their protection efforts are designed to assure compliance with federal and state health-based air quality regulations. An area that exceeds the air quality standards is a "non-attainment area" (NAA) for a particular component, or total air quality. There are currently four NAAs in Idaho, the closest being the Northern Ada Count and Portneuf Valley NAA's. The City of Kimberly is currently not located within an NAA (Figure 8).

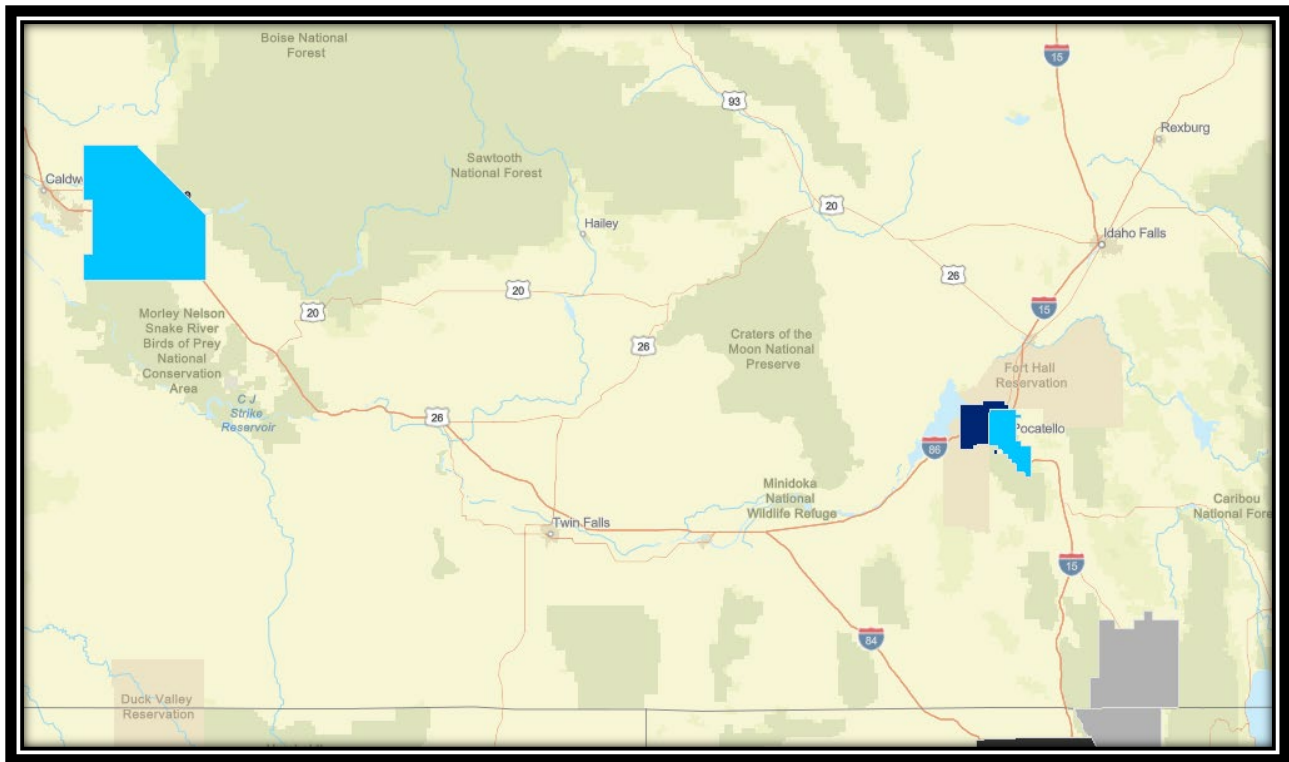


Figure 8). Non-Attainment Areas Near the City of Kimberly (PM 2.5 grey and PM 10 in Dark Blue / Teal)

Kimberly is well removed from any major urbanized areas, and there are very few sources of pollution in the immediate vicinity. Local automobile emissions, agricultural activities, and light commercial are the primary contributors to air quality degradation. Additionally, high levels of particulate matter may be experienced during certain weather events, during certain times of the agricultural season due to farming practices, or during certain periods from the airport.

3.1.2 Environmental Consequences

3.1.2.1 Alternative 1: No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no effects to air quality in the proposed action area. USACE would not cost share the rehabilitation of the remaining sewer main lines, and the system would continue to operate in a deteriorated state. However, the lines do not currently pose a threat to air quality and are unlikely to impact air quality should they fail. Therefore, in-action would not alter the current state of air quality within the community or surrounding area. Therefore, implementation of the No Action Alternative would have no impacts to the air quality of the surrounding area.

3.1.2.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action – In-Situ Method Rehabilitation (CIPP)

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, there would be negligible to minor direct impacts to air quality through the release of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and other chemical emissions primarily during curing of the resin liner. VOCs are of concern

because they can contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone and pose health risks. Styrene is a component commonly used in resins, and which can be released during curing. Styrene has a noticeable odor and can cause irritation and health effects at higher concentrations.

The CIPP is one of the most common methods of sewer pipeline rehabilitation, and the likelihood of exposure to these hazards is low under the typical implementation processes. Any emissions from the USACE Project, including emission from other construction activities, would be minor, localized, and not likely to alter air quality to any meaningful level beyond what is considered baseline. Any impacts to air quality would be temporary and conditions would return to normal upon completion of the proposed action.

Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative would have negligible to minor direct impacts to air quality through the release of hazardous gases during the curing process for the resin liners. These impacts would be localized and temporary in duration. The Alternative would have no indirect impacts to air quality, as conditions are anticipated to return to baseline upon completion of construction activities.

3.2 Noise Impacts

3.2.1 Affected Environment

The ambient noise within the City of Kimberly is consistent with that of a small municipality in south central Idaho. This would include noise generated from normal residential activities. Noise in the City of Kimberly is generally limited to normal residential activities, traffic flow, and commercial activities. Due to the size of the City, many of the residents do not typically experience the noise levels consistent with larger cities.

3.2.2 Environmental Consequences

3.2.2.1 Alternative 1: No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no effects to noise in the proposed action area. USACE would not cost share the rehabilitation of the remaining sewer main lines, and the system would continue to operate in a deteriorated state. The No Action Alternative would have no direct effects on the baseline noise levels of the City and surrounding area. However, without action, the City would indirect minor adverse impacts from the required maintenance and clean out activities. These impacts would be temporary and localized and would not constitute anything more than periodic minor disturbances to the surrounding community.

3.2.2.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action – In-Situ Method Rehabilitation (CIPP)

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, there would be minor adverse direct impacts to baseline noise conditions through activities associated with the CIPP rehabilitation, road closures, and other construction activities. These impacts would originate from the

equipment required to implement the CIPP and would be temporary and short in duration. Noise conditions would return to baseline upon completion of the proposed action. The Proposed Action Alternative would not result in any indirect effects to baseline noise conditions.

3.3 Transportation Resources

3.3.1 Affected Environment

Residents of Kimberly, Idaho, have access to a variety of transportation resources that ensure connectivity within the city and to surrounding areas. The primary roadways include U.S. Route 30, which runs through the city, providing direct access to nearby Twin Falls and connecting to Interstate 84. This interstate is a critical link for residents traveling to larger cities like Boise and Salt Lake City. Additionally, State Highway 50 offers further access to regional destinations and intersects with major highways like US-93.

For air travel, residents can utilize the Twin Falls Airport (Joslin Field - Magic Valley Regional Airport), located about 10 miles west of Kimberly, which provides both passenger flights and cargo services. This proximity to an airport is convenient for those needing to travel domestically or for businesses requiring air freight services.

The local road network in Kimberly is well-maintained, offering residents easy navigation within the city and to nearby rural areas. While public transportation options may be limited, the city's road infrastructure supports private vehicle use, ensuring residents can access essential services, workplaces, and recreational areas. Additionally, the presence of rail lines nearby, though primarily used for freight, contributes to the region's overall connectivity, indirectly benefiting residents by supporting local industries and economic activity.

3.3.2 Environmental Consequences

3.3.2.1 Alternative 1: No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no direct impacts in the baseline transportation resources. However, without action, deterioration of the identified sewer main lines would reasonably progress into the future until rehabilitation is no longer an option. Indirect impacts could include the eventual replacement of these lines which would require extensive trenching of City streets and present adverse indirect impacts to transportation resources. These impacts would likely range from minor to moderate and persist for the duration of construction.

3.3.2.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action – In-Situ Method Rehabilitation (CIPP)

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, there would be minor adverse direct impacts to transportation resources. Implementation of this alternative would restrict roadway usage during period of work. During these periods of time, residents would make use of

alternative routes to navigate to their desired destinations. The incorporation of signage directing detour routes would be implemented. Once line rehabilitation is complete, there would be no anticipated indirect impacts to transportation resources.

3.4 Greenhouse Gas and Climate Change

3.4.1 Affected Environment

Greenhouse Gases (GHGs)

Greenhouse gases (GHGs) are atmospheric gases that trap heat from the sun, preventing it from escaping back into space and thereby warming the Earth's surface. This natural process, known as the greenhouse effect, is essential for maintaining the Earth's temperature and supporting life. However, human activities have significantly increased the concentration of these gases, intensifying the greenhouse effect and leading to global warming and climate change.

The major sources of GHG production can be categorized into several key sectors. These sectors include energy production and use, transportation, industry, agriculture, forestry and land use, waste management, residential and commercial, and chemical / product use. As a small rural community, the City of Kimberly would primarily produce GHGs from transportation, residential, agricultural, food processing, and light manufacturing industry.

The U.S Environmental Protection Agency requires facilities that emit 25,000 metric tons of GHG per year to report their emissions under the EPA's Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program (GHGRP). The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) works in conjunction with the EPA to ensure compliance with federal reporting requirements but does not have a standalone GHG reporting program aside from GHG emissions being a factor for compliance with state issued air quality permits. According to the EPA's Facility Level GHG Emissions Data tool, there are three facilities that produce greater than 25,000 metric tons within Twin Falls County. Those facilities are a part of the wastewater treatment, food processing, and lime manufacturing sectors and produce collectively approximately 341,000 metric tons of CO₂ equivalent annually.

Climate Change

The Climate of the study area is generally semi-arid in character with an annual precipitation of 10-12 inches. The average temperature during the summer months (June to August) are lows between 50 to 60 deg F, and highs between 80 to 95 deg F. The winter months (December to February) are lows in the negatives to low teens, and highs between 25 deg F and 40 deg F. The prevailing winds blow from the west to southwest at 8 to 12 mph on average. Winds in the area are common and exert a drying effect upon the landscape.

Future forecasts of temperature, precipitation, and hydrologic response in the Pacific Northwest are uncertain and variable, but in general can be characterized as wet regions and seasons becoming wetter, dry regions and seasons becoming drier, and

reduced snow depth, density, and extent. Regional temperatures of the inland northwest are projected to increase by varying amounts, on the order of 3.5–9° F over the next century (USACE 2023).

3.4.2 Environmental Consequences

3.4.2.1 Alternative 1: No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no change in the baseline emissions of GHGs in the project area. Deterioration of the identified sewer main lines would continue and are not likely to impact GHG production, aside from the negligible emissions produced from operation and maintenance activities. These emissions would not meaningfully or measurably impact climate change. However, changes in climate, more specifically projected increases in average annual temperatures, could impact the sewer conveyance system by accelerating the deterioration rate through increased thermal expansion and contraction of materials. This is especially true for pipes made of concrete or older materials. Overall, the No Action Alternative would have no effect to baseline GHG emissions and would not reasonably have any direct or indirect impacts to regional or global climate change.

3.4.2.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action – In-Situ Method Rehabilitation (CIPP)

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, there would be the direct production of GHGs through construction activities. These emissions would come from the equipment required to implement the CIPP method of sewer rehabilitation and would be well under the reporting threshold. Furthermore, these emissions would be miniscule in comparison to facility emitters within the area. Overall, the emissions produced from construction activities would present negligible impacts to GHG emissions and would be localized and temporary in duration. These emissions would pose no discernable or measurable impact to regional or global climate change.

3.5 Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice

3.5.1 Affected Environment

Socioeconomics

According to the U.S Census Bureau, the City has a population of approximately 4,696 people as of 2022 (Data USA 2022). Since 2012, the population in Kimberly has increased by approximately 1,439 individuals, which would equate to an annual population increase of approximately 4.23%. By comparison, annual population growth in Twin Falls County and the State of Idaho was 1.89% and 1.93%, respectively, for the same period (Table 2).

Table 2. Population Increase Comparison.

	Annual Percent Increase in Population
City of Kimberly	4.23%
Twin Falls County	1.89%
State of Idaho	1.93%

For the population that is 25 years old and over, which is the largest population subgroup, about 86.3% possess at least a high school education and about 20.6% possess a bachelor's degree or higher (Data USA 2022). The median household income for Kimberly is \$72,063, which is on par with the State of Idaho (\$72,785), but higher than Twin Falls County (\$63,560) (USA Census Data 2022).

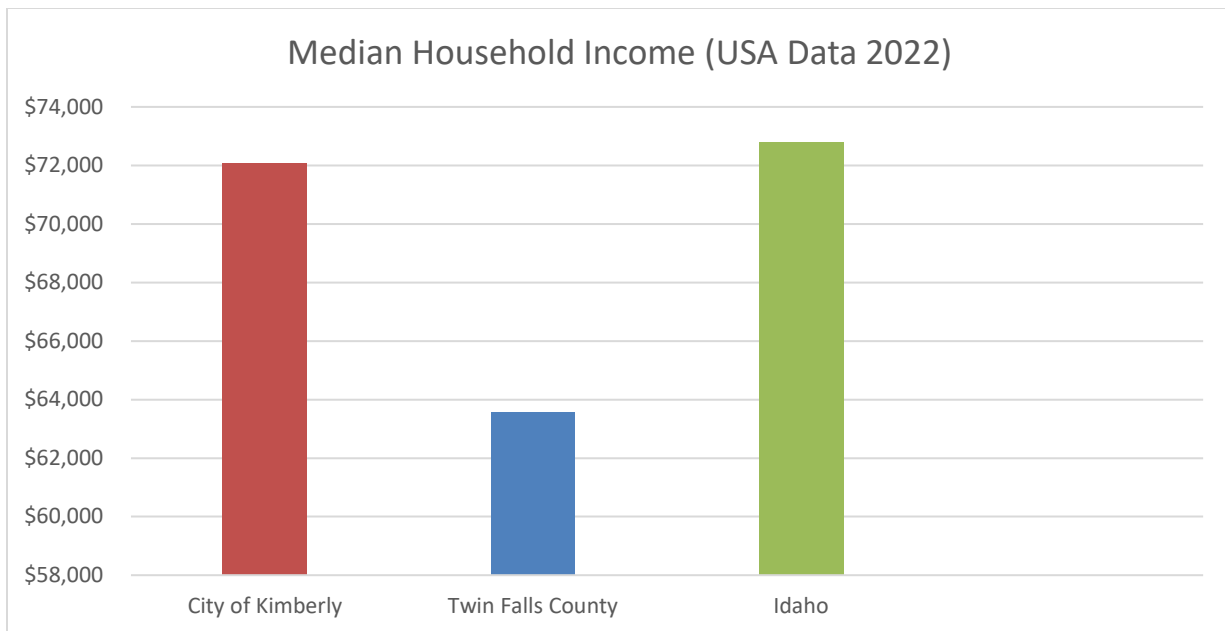


Figure 9. A Comparison of Median Household Income

The area's economy is based primarily on the agricultural and service industries. In addition, the City serves as a residential community for the City of Twin Falls. The City possesses many features, such as grocery stores, restaurants, service stations, beauty shops, banks, schools, and others, that are included within larger cities. Many of the city's residents also commute to Twin Falls for work.

Environmental Justice

Minority populations and communities of color are often disproportionately vulnerable to hazardous health conditions and exposure to environmental pollution. These racial-ethnic disparities occur due to cultural and linguistic barriers, socioeconomic level, segregation, redlining (a discriminatory practice of systematic denial of services to residents of certain areas, based on race or ethnicity), and historical discriminatory regulations/practices in housing, education, employment, and health care.

The population distribution by race/ethnicity of Kimberly is approximately 80% one race, 19.9% two or more races, 89% white, 10.8% Native American, 0% African American, and 26.6% some other race. The Hispanic population is approximately 32.5% (Data USA 2022). Compared to the greater state of Idaho, Kimberly is representative. The State's population is approximately 82.06% white, 1.39% Native American, 0.85% African American, 8.33% two or more races, and 13.02% Hispanic or Latino (Data USA 2022). Notable differences are that Kimberly has a higher percentage by population of the following demographic groups: Native Americans, Hispanic and Latino, and individuals of two or more races.

The Center for Environmental Quality's (CEQ) Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) was utilized to identify the presence of disadvantaged communities. Disadvantaged communities are identified as being marginalized, underserved, and/ or overburdened by pollution. Accessed on 24 June 2024, the CEJST did not identify any census tracts in the proposed action area which exceeded both a burden threshold and an associated socioeconomic threshold. The nearest disadvantaged community is located within the City of Twin Falls.

Although the CEJST Tool did not identify any disadvantaged communities, the impact of the proposed action could have impacts on impoverished communities. Poverty remains an important indicator of economic well-being. Understanding the extent of poverty is essential as low-income populations may have different needs and values due to cultural priorities, restricted/limited accessibility to resources, limited existing resources or lack thereof, and more. These differences should be considered to ensure the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income. Of the approximately 4,696 people who live in Kimberly, a poverty status was discernable for approximately 4,639 people. Of those people, approximately 21.8% were considered below the poverty threshold level. In comparison, the State of Idaho State has a poverty rate of approximately 10.7% (Data USA 2022).

3.5.2 Environmental Consequences

3.5.2.1 Alternative 1: No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no immediate negative effects on socioeconomics or environmental justice in the project area. USACE would not cost share the rehabilitation of the remaining sewer collection lines, and the system would continue to function in a deteriorated state. Although there are not any identifiable direct

impacts to socioeconomics or disadvantaged communities within the proposed action area, the current state of these sewer main lines would continue to cause minor adverse impacts to the general community of Kimberly. Socioeconomic impacts would include increased public spending required for emergency repairs and/ or maintenance, service disruptions, potential public health concerns, and potential environmental degradation through deteriorated lines. Therefore, implementation of the No Action Alternative would have minor adverse direct impacts to the general community of Kimberly but could potentially have moderate indirect impacts should the sewer conveyance system fail in any meaningful way.

3.5.2.2 Alternative 2: Proposed Action – In-Situ Method Rehabilitation (CIPP)

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, there would be direct adverse impacts to socioeconomics and environmental justice through temporary road closures due to construction activities. These road closures may have minor adverse impacts to local businesses and may present an inconvenience to community transportation. These impacts would be temporary and short in duration and would return to baseline conditions on upon completion.

The rehabilitation of the deteriorated lines would ensure that the community avoids costly emergency repairs and frequent maintenance to ensure system function. In addition, rehabilitating the lines would prevent public health concerns as well as potential environmental degradation. Therefore, the Proposed Action Alternative would have minor adverse direct impacts to socioeconomics and environmental justice, and moderate beneficial indirect impacts through the benefits of a rehabilitated sewer conveyance system.

3.6 Cumulative Effects

NEPA and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing the Act require Federal agencies to consider the cumulative impacts of their actions. Cumulative impacts are defined as, “the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of an 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” (40 CFR § 1508.7). Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor, but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

The proposed action is part of the conclusion to a series of improvements to the City’s wastewater system. Previous improvements were conducted on the system, with assistance from USACE, under the authority of Section 595 of WRDA. Those improvements resulted in the replacement of approximately 2,590 linear feet of deteriorated sewer pipeline. These types of projects typically result in minor short-term construction-related impacts to the human environment; however, there are not collectively significant cumulative environmental impacts of the proposed action primarily because it restores the existing wastewater treatment system to full performance but does not augment the system. Potential adverse effects are construction-related and are of a minor and temporary nature.

4 Compliance with Applicable Environmental Laws, Regulations, and Executive Orders

4.1 National Environmental Policy Act

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of their proposed actions prior to making decisions. The range of actions covered by NEPA is broad and includes making decisions on permit applications, adopting federal land management actions, and constructing highways and other publicly owned facilities. Using the NEPA process, agencies evaluate the environmental and related social and economic effects of their proposed actions. Agencies also provide opportunities for public review and comment on those evaluations.

USACE prepared this Environmental Assessment pursuant to regulations implementing NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) and will make it available to state and federal agencies, Tribes, and the public for review and comment. USACE identified no impacts significantly affecting the quality of the human environment in the analysis contained in this EA. If no such impacts are identified during the public review process, compliance with NEPA would be achieved upon signing a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). However, if such impacts are identified, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) would be required, and compliance with NEPA would be achieved upon completion of the EIS and the signing of a Record of Decision.

4.2 Endangered Species Act

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) established a national program for the conservation of threatened and endangered fish, wildlife and plants and the habitat upon which they depend. Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA requires federal agencies to consult with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), as appropriate, to ensure that their actions are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of endangered or threatened species or adversely modify or destroy their critical habitats. Section 7(c) of the ESA and the federal regulations on endangered species coordination (50 CFR §402.12) require that federal agencies prepare biological assessments of the potential effects of major actions on listed species and critical habitat.

According to USFWS, there are no endangered or threatened species and no critical habitat near the proposed action area. Monarch butterflies were listed as candidate species, but USACE determined that implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative would have no effect on monarch butterflies or their habitat. See the attached USFWS Official Species List (Attachment B). There are no threatened or endangered species under the authority of NMFS near the proposed action area.

4.3 National Historic Preservation Act

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 as amended directs federal agencies to assume responsibility for all cultural resources under their jurisdiction. Section 106 of NHPA requires agencies to consider the potential effect of their actions on properties that are listed, or are eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The NHPA implementing regulations, 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 800, requires that the federal agency consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), Tribes and interested parties to ensure that all historic properties are adequately identified, evaluated, and considered.

USACE has completed a review (dated 09 July 2024) of the City's proposed wastewater system improvements and determined that the proposal to use the CIPP to rehabilitate concrete sewer pipelines has No Potential to Affect Historic Properties in accordance with 36 CFR 800.3(1). (Attachment C). Consistent with this determination, USACE has no further responsibility to consult on this undertaking and has fulfilled its responsibilities under Section 106 of the NHPA.

4.4 Clean Water Act

The Clean Water Act (CWA) of 1972 establishes the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into Waters of the United States (WOTUS) and regulating quality standards for surface waters. Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act requires that any federal activity that may result in a discharge of dredged or fill material to waters of the United States must first receive a water quality certification from the state in which the activity would occur. Section 404 of the Clean Water Act established a program to regulate the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

Section 402 of the Clean Water Act also regulates ground disturbance that could potentially cause storm water run-off into WOTUS. Activities involving construction or soil disturbance on the shoreline or upland have the potential for storm water runoff and would be subject to the storm water provisions of Section 402 if the area of soil disturbance would be more than an acre and would discharge storm water into nearby surface waters.

Implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative would not result in the discharge of dredged or fill material or pollutants into WOTUS. Furthermore, the proposed action would not involve ground disturbance of more than one acre and there would be no chance of stormwater runoff into WOTUS. The closest waterbody to the proposed action area is the Snake River, approximately 3 miles to the north. No CWA permits would be required.

4.5 Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management

This Executive Order outlines the responsibilities of federal agencies in the role of floodplain management. Each agency must evaluate the potential effects of actions on

floodplains and avoid undertaking actions that directly or indirectly induce development in the floodplain or adversely affect natural floodplain values.

The proposed action would not directly or indirectly induce growth in the floodplain or adversely affect natural floodplain values. The proposed action area is not located within a mapped floodplain, nor is it prone to flooding.

4.6 Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands

This Executive Order directs federal agencies to take actions to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands, and to preserve and enhance the natural and beneficial values of wetlands when undertaking federal activities and programs. It has been the goal of USACE to avoid or minimize wetland impacts associated with their planned actions.

Implementation of the proposed action would not result in the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands. The nearest mapped wetland to the proposed action area is over a half mile away.

4.7 Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations

This Executive Order directs federal agencies to 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 and its territories and possessions, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands.

USACE determined that implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative would comply with this Executive Order.

5 Consultation, Coordination, and Public Involvement

This EA and the associated FONSI were made available for a 15-day public review and comment period beginning on September 06, 2024, and concluding on September 20, 2024. USACE notified the following agencies, organizations, and tribes of the open comment period: City of Kimberly, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Idaho State Historical Society/ State Historic Preservation Officer, Idaho Department of Water Resources, U.S Environmental Protection Agency, National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S Department of Agriculture-Rural Development, U.S Fish and Wildlife Service, Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, Shoshone-Paiute Tribes, Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Tribe, Twin Falls County, and J-U-B Engineers.

At the close of the public review and comment period, USACE received one comment from the Idaho Department of Water Resources acknowledging the proposed action and their lack of need for comment. Thus, this comment does not require any further

response from USACE. The NEPA process shall proceed forwards with the signing of the associated FONSI.

6 LITERATURE CITED

- Data USA. 2022 U.S Census Bureau. URL: <https://data.census.gov/> (accessed 06.25.2024).
- United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). 2022. Web FLIGHT Tool. Retrieved on June 25, 2024. URL: <https://ghgdata.epa.gov/ghgp/main.do> (assessed 06.25.2024).
- Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). 2021. Web Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool. Retrieved on June 25, 2024. URL: <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#3/33.47/-97.5> (assessed 06.25.2024).
- U.S Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) 2022. Web Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) tool. URL: <https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/> (assessed 06.25.2024).
- J-U-B Engineers Inc 2016. City of Kimberly Wastewater Collection System Environmental Information Document.
- U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District. Little Wood River, Gooding Idaho, Appendix J, Climate Change Assessment.
- U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Walla Walla District. Cultural Resources Memorandum for Environmental Compliance Section, City of Kimberly Wastewater System Improvements Project.

Attachments

- A: City of Kimberly Wastewater Collection System Environmental Information Document dated May 2016
- B. U.S Fish and Wildlife Service Official Species List dated June 26, 2024.
- C. Memorandum for Environmental Compliance Section, USACE Cultural Resources, dated July 09, 2024.