

**COMBINED NOTICE  
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT and  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC OF REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS  
FONSI/NOI/RROF)**

**RECEIVED**

**DEC 01 1998**

**ENVIRONMENTAL  
QUALITY COUNCIL**

November 11, 1998

Chouteau County on behalf of the Highwood County Water & Sewer District  
PO Box 459  
Fort Benton MT 59442  
(406)622-3631

TO ALL INTEREST AGENCIES, GROUPS AND PERSONS:

On or about November 30, 1998, the above name County will request the Montana Department of Commerce (DOC) to release Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds provided under Title I of the Housing Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, (PL93-383) for the following project:

Project:	<b>HIGHWOOD COUNTY WATER &amp; SEWER DISTRICT</b>
Nature of Project:	<b>WASTEWATER FACILITY</b>
Location:	<b>HIGHWOOD MONTANA</b>
Estimated Cost of Project:	<b>\$873,700</b>

**Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)**

It has been determined that such request for release of funds will not constitute an action significantly affecting the quality of the human environmental and accordingly the above named County has decided not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (PL 91-190).

The reasons for the decision not to prepare such Statement are as follows:

The project is not of sufficient size, scale, or mass and does not exceed the threshold criteria established for the preparation of a statement nor will the project have a significant impact on the human environment under NEPA.

An Environmental Review Record documenting review of all project activities in respect to impacts on the environment has been made by the above-name County. This Environmental Review Record is on file at the above address and is available for public examination or copying, upon request between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

No further environmental review of such project is proposed to be conducted prior to the request for release of CDBG project funds.

### **Public Comments on Finding**

All interested agencies, groups and persons disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration by the County to the Commissioner's Office, Chouteau County Courthouse, Fort Benton on or before November 27, 1998. All such comments so received will be considered and the County will not request release of funds or take any administrative action on the project prior to the date specified in the preceding sentence.

### **Release of Funds**

The County will undertake the project described above with Community Development Block Grant funds provided by DOC under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended. The County is certifying to DOC that the County and chief executive officer, in his official capacity as Chairman of the Commission, consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental review, decision-making, and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal effect on the certification is that upon its approval, the County may use the CDBG funds, and DOC will have satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 as delegated to the State of Montana through the 1981 Amendments to the Housing and Community Development Act.

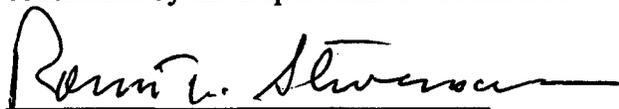
### **Objections to State Release of Funds**

DOC will accept an objection to its approval only if it is on one of the following bases:

- (a) that the certification was not in fact executed by the chief executive officer or other approved by DOC; or
- (b) that the applicant's environmental review record for the project indicates omission of a required decision, finding, or step available to the project in the environmental review process.

Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and may be addressed to the CDBG Program, Department of Commerce, Local Governmental Assistance Division, 1424 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, PO Box 200501, Helena Montana 59620.

Objections to the release of funds on bases other than those stated above will not be considered by the Department of Commerce. No objection received after December 18, 1998 will be considered by the Department of Commerce.



Robert K. Stevenson  
Environmental Certifying Officer  
County of Chouteau  
PO Box 459  
Fort Benton MT 59442