

CITY OF DILLON, MONTANA

125 N. IDAHO
DILLON, MT 59725

JOHN S. (JS) TURNER
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

T.P. COBB
TREASURER

VIRGINIA A. COMPTON
CITY JUDGE



MARTIN R. MALESICH
MAYOR

406-683-4245
FAX 406-683-6361

FAYE JONES
CLERK

W.G. GILBERT, III
ATTORNEY

March 21, 2006

Attached is a project description of the City of Dillon's Thomsen Addition Area Sewer Extension Project funded in part with Community Development Block Grant funds. Also attached is the Combined Notice Finding of No Significant Impact and Notice to Public of Request for Release of Funds (FONSI/NO/RROF).

If you have any comment or information that you feel should be taken into consideration prior to the City requesting a release of funds from the Montana Department of Commerce, please forward such comments/information to J.S. Turner, Environmental Certifying Officer, City Hall, Dillon, MT 59725. Comments must be received by the City either prior to or on April 6, 2006.

J. S. Turner
Environmental Certifying Officer
City of Dillon, MT

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J. S. Turner".

RECEIVED

MAR 24 2006

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY OFFICE

THOMSEN ADDITION AREA WASTEWATER SYSTEM EXTENSION PROJECT

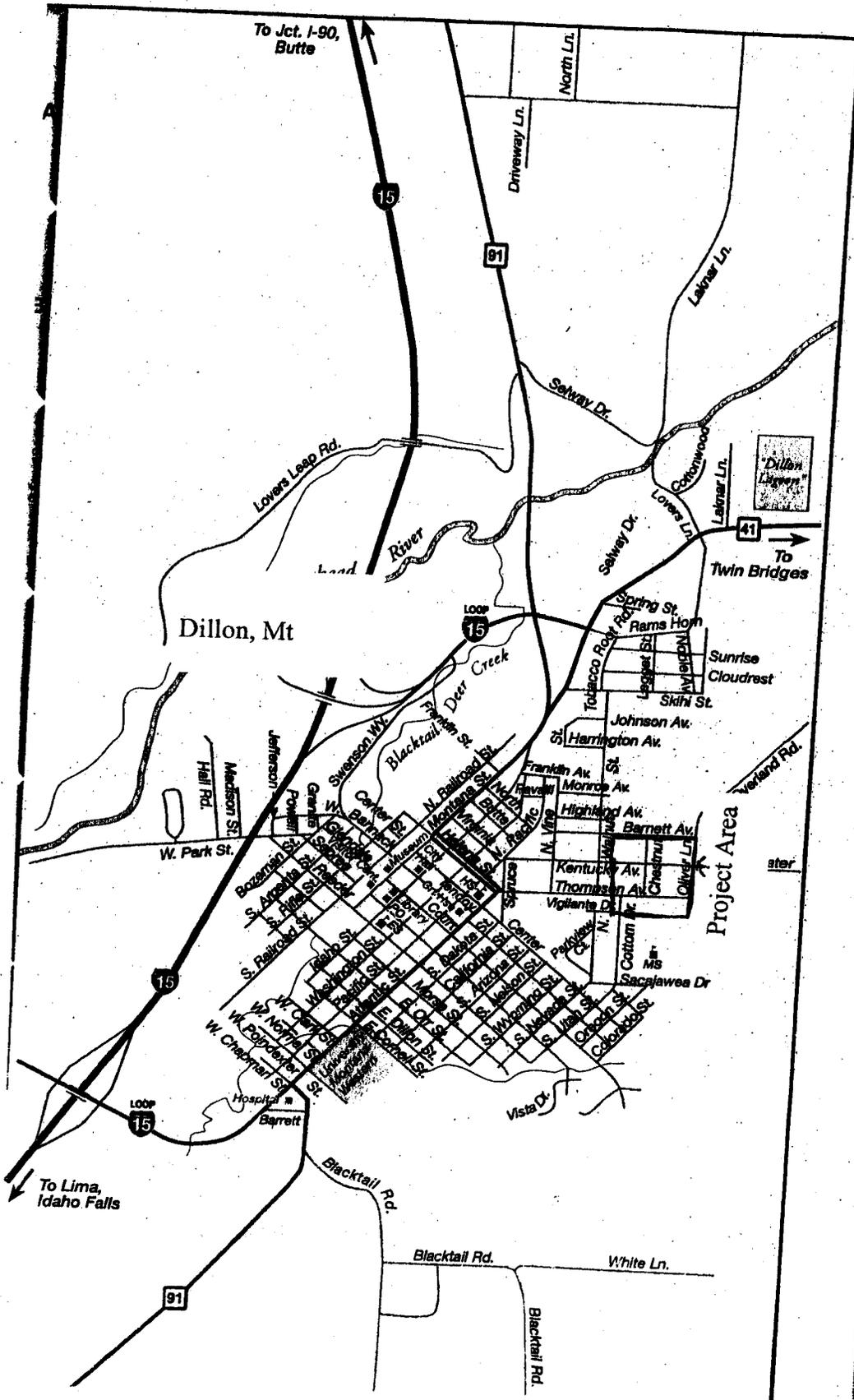
Project Description:

Until 2004 the Thomsen Addition Area was outside the City limits. Consequently, the area was not served by City sewer and developed with septic tanks and some water wells. As the area continued to grow, trailer lots developed that have as many as 12 trailers on one septic tank. Because it is a low-moderate income area few improvements have been made and residents have been afraid of any large increase in tax assessments for public facility improvements. In 2004 the City annexed the area, knowing that a serious deficiency existed and that in the interest of public health and safety, it needed to bring the area onto City sewer. Presently, all area residents are on septic tanks/seepage pits and drainfields and 24 of the residential properties have shallow wells for domestic water. In 2004, the City installed a new 12-inch diameter Noble Street/Oliver Lane Sewer at a cost of \$750,000. This sewer makes the construction of an all gravity collection system to the Thomsen Addition Area feasible.

Gravity 4-inch services will be constructed to each residence in the Thomsen Addition Area and connections to the sewer system provided. A gravity 8-inch sewer main will be constructed down the Avenues to connect to the existing Noble St./Oliver lane sewer and continue to the north to the City's wastewater treatment facility. The existing septic tanks will be removed or pumped and filled.

Description of the area:

The area is residential in nature. The Thomsen Addition Area residents (approximately 136 people, based on 51 residences @ 2.5 people each plus 8 residents at Pioneer Youth Group Home) are currently on septic tanks/seepage pits and drainfields. Twenty four (24) of the residential connections have shallow wells for domestic water. The rest of the Thomsen Addition Area residences are connected to the City's water distribution system. A trailer court between Vigilante Drive and Thomsen Avenue has twelve (12) mobile homes hooked up to one septic system and one well. There are another 11 properties with more than one residential unit on one septic system. There are 17 properties that will be built on when sewer is available. The County Sanitarian has stated: "With these small lots and septic systems, there is a great potential to contaminate the wells in the area and degrade the groundwater in excess of state requirements, because the existing septic systems are probably not adequately treating the effluent in these systems". He goes on to say "this is a health and safety issue for the residents of the immediate areas, the groundwater under the community, adjacent irrigation ditches and eventually the streams of Montana".



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

March 22, 2006

City of Dillon, Montana
City Hall
125 N. Idaho Street
Dillon, MT 59725

(406) 683-4245

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS AND PERSONS:

On or about April, 7, 2006 the above-named City will request the Montana Department of Commerce (DOC) to release Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds provided under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended (PL 93-383) for the following project:

CDBG Project Title: The Thomsen Addition Area Sewer Extension Project

Purpose: To extend the city's centralized sewer collection system into this area of the community and remove or fill the existing septic tanks.

Location: Dillon, Montana

Finding of No Significant Impact

It has been determined that such request for release of funds will not constitute an action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and accordingly the above named City 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 will take place within established street rights-of-ways and private residential lots within a developed area of the community.

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

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 Findings

All interested agencies, groups and persons disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration by the City to the office of the Director of Operations on or before April 6, 2006. All such comments so received will be considered and the City 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 City will undertake the project described above with CDBG funds provided by DOC under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended. The City is certifying to DOC that the City of Dillon, MT and J.S. Turner his official capacity as the Certifying Environmental Officer for the City consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental reviews, decision-making, and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal effect on the certification is that upon its approval, the City may use the CDBG funds and DOC will have satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Objections to State Release of Funds

The Department of Commerce will accept an objection to its approval of the release of funds and acceptance of the certification 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 officer approved by the Department of Commerce;
- (b) that the applicant's environmental review record for the project indicates omission of a required decision, finding, or step applicable to the project in the environmental review process;
- (c) the grant recipient has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by DOC; or
- (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental design.

Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and may be addressed to: Department of Commerce, Community Development Division, 301 S. Park Avenue, P.O. Box 200523, Helena, Montana 59620.

Objections to the release of funds on bases other than those stated above will not be considered by DOC. No objection received after April 25, 2006 will be considered by DOC.

J. S. Turner
Environmental Certifying Officer

March, 22, 2006
Date

125 N. Idaho

Dillon, MT 59725