

HELENA

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March 9, 2012

Montana Environmental Quality Council
P.O. Box 201704
Helena, MT 59620-1704

**RE: CASCADE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SUN PRAIRIE VILLAGE WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT
Contract # MT-CDBG-11PF-01**

On behalf of the Cascade County Commissioners, enclosed please find the following document:

COMBINED NOTICE (FONSI/NOI/RR0F)

Should you have any questions, please contact the project's Environmental Certifying Officer, Cascade County Commissioner Jane Weber at (406) 454-6810. Written comments should be sent to 325 2nd Avenue North, Courthouse Annex, Great Falls, MT 59401.

Sincerely,

Great West Engineering, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Erickson".

Craig Erickson
Project Administrator

Enclosure (1)

Cc: Kimberliegh Thiel-Schaaf, Cascade County
Bill Decker, Sun Prairie Village WSD
Grant file

BILLINGS
115 N Broadway
Suite 500
Billings, MT 59101
406.652.5000
Fax 406.248.1363

BOZEMAN
602 Ferguson
Suite 1
Bozeman, MT 59718
406.587.0504
Fax 406.587.0541

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

PUBLICATION DATE: March 9, 2012

Cascade County Commissioners
325 2nd Avenue North, Courthouse Annex, Room 111
Great Falls, Montana 59401
Telephone: (406) 454-6810

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS AND PERSONS:

The USDA Rural Development office and the Montana Community Development Block Grant Program are considering an application from Cascade County for financial assistance to the Sun Prairie Village County Water and Sewer District, Great Falls, Montana. The specific elements of this proposed action include the construction of a new well field in a County Park within the District's boundaries. The proposed wells would be drilled to a depth of approximately 200 feet into the same pre-glacial alluvium aquifer in which the existing well field is developed. The project's scope of work also includes the following activities:

- Construct a new reverse osmosis water treatment plant in order to meet all the Safe Drinking Water Act secondary standards using the new water supply.
- Install water meters for all drinking water service connections in the District and convert to a water use based billing system.
- Install a 250kW backup generator to provide power to both the well field pumps and the distribution system pumps. This backup generator would satisfy the requirements for water storage by making the volume of the 450,000-gallon concrete reservoir available during a power outage.

On or before March 27, 2012, the above-named Cascade County Commissioners on behalf of the Sun Prairie Village County Water and Sewer District, Great Falls, Montana will also 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: *Sun Prairie Village County Water and Sewer District Water System Improvements Project, CDBG Contract #MT-CDBG-11PF-02.*

Finding of No Significant Impact

It has been determined that a request for release of funds will not constitute an action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and accordingly the above named Cascade County Commissioners have 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:

1. A consolidated environmental assessment, which is on file at the Cascade County Courthouse Annex, Room 111, located at 325 2nd Avenue North, Great Falls, Montana and at the Sun Prairie Village County Water and Sewer District office, located at 1047

Grant Drive, Great Falls, Montana, itemizes the physical environment and human population of the project area.

2. The potential environmental impacts have been assessed by USDA Rural Development determining that the proposed action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.
3. The proposed action is not located within a minimum required distance of any delineated 100-year flood plain.

An Environmental Review Record documenting review of all project activities in respect to impacts on the environment has been made by the above-named Cascade County Commissioners for the Sun Prairie Village County Water and Sewer District. This Environmental Review Record is on file at the Cascade County Courthouse Annex, Room 111, located at 325 2nd Avenue North, Great Falls, Montana and at the Sun Prairie Village County Water and Sewer District office, located at 1047 Grant Drive, Great Falls, Montana, and is available for public examination and copying upon request between the hours 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Requests to review the RD environmental assessment upon which this determination is based should be directed to USDA Rural Development Great Falls Service Center, 12 Third Street NW, Great Falls, MT 59403.

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 Cascade County Commissioners to the office of the undersigned, or to Rural Development/Rural Utilities Service 12 Third Street NW, Great Falls, MT 59403 on or before March 26, 2012. All such comments so received will be considered and Cascade County will not request release of funds or take any administrative action on the Sun Prairie Village County Water and Sewer District Water System Improvements project prior to the date specified in the preceding sentence.

State Release of Funds

Cascade County 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 Cascade County Commission is certifying to DOC that Jane Weber, in her official capacity as Cascade County Commissioner, consents 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 approval, the Cascade County Commissioners 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

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

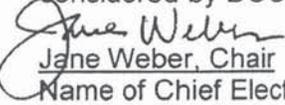
- (a) that the certification was not in fact executed by the certifying officer or other officer of

the applicant approved by DOC;

- (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 Ave., P.O. Box 200523, Helena, Montana 59620-0523.

Objections to the release of funds on bases other than those stated above will not be considered by DOC. No objection received after April 16, 2012, will be considered by DOC.


Jane Weber, Chair

Name of Chief Elected Official

March 5, 2012

Date

Cascade County Courthouse Annex, Room 111

325 2nd Avenue North

Address *

Great Falls, Cascade County, Montana, 59403

City, County, State, Zip Code