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JUL 23 2007

LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY OFFICE

July 20, 2007

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

Re: Upper/Lower River Road Water and Sewer District Phase 2 Project – Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

To Whom It May Concern:

Attached is the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for Cascade County's Upper/Lower River Road Water and Sewer District Phase 2 project. The FONSI/NOI/RROF is to be advertised July 22, 2007 in the local Great Falls Tribune. The local comment period is from 7/23/07 – 8/6/07 and the state comment period is from 8/10/07 – 8/24/07. Please review the attached document. Comments can be directed to the Montana Department of Commerce at the following address:

Montana Department of Commerce
Community Development Division
Attn: Jennifer Olson
301 S. Park
P.O. Box 200523
Helena, MT 59620-0523

Please be sure to direct any and all comments to the above address before 8/24/07. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,



Crystal Rearden Morgan, E.I.
NCI Engineering Co.

Attachments:
FONSI



July 25, 2007

RECEIVED

JUL 27 2007

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

**LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY OFFICE**

Re: Upper/Lower River Road Water and Sewer District Phase 2 Project – Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI/NOI/RROF) - Correction

To Whom It May Concern:

You recently received a letter dated July 20, 2007 (on this same subject) with an attached FONSI prepared by DEQ. In error, the wrong FONSI was attached to the previous correspondence. This correction letter includes the correct FONSI/NOI/RROF that requires your review.

Therefore, attached is the Finding of No Significant Impact and Notice of Intent of Request of Release of Funds (FONSI/NOI/RROF) prepared by Cascade County for Cascade County's Upper/Lower River Road Water and Sewer District Phase 2 project. The FONSI/NOI/RROF was advertised July 22, 2007 in the local Great Falls Tribune. And as mentioned in the previous letter the local comment period is from 7/23/07 – 8/6/07 and the state comment period is from 8/10/07 – 8/24/07. Please review the attached document. Comments can be directed to the Montana Department of Commerce at the following address:

Montana Department of Commerce
Community Development Division
Attn: Jennifer Olson
301 S. Park
P.O. Box 200523
Helena, MT 59620-0523

Please be sure to direct any and all comments to the above address before 8/24/07. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,



Crystal Rearden Morgan, E.I.
NCI Engineering Co.

Attachments:

FONSI/NOI/RROF

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

July 22, 2007

Cascade County

325 2nd Ave. North

Great Falls, Mt. 59401

406 454-6810

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS AND PERSONS:

On or about August 07, 2007 the above-named County 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 **Upper/Lower River Road Water and Sewer District Phase 2** project.

Purpose or Nature of the CDBG Project

The proposed project involves the construction of 3,200 lineal feet of water main with hydrants, valves and appurtenances, along with 5,200 lineal feet of gravity sewer main and manholes. The purpose of the project is to protect public health by extending municipal water and sewer mains to existing developed properties. The groundwater wells and sewage treatment systems currently serving these properties would be abandoned.

Location of CDBG Project

The affected environment will be located in Cascade County in the area east of Lower River Road and between 24th Avenue South and the Pearson Addition, adjacent to the City of Great Falls.

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 County of Cascade 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 that Montana DEQ, EPA, and other agencies have reviewed the project and have concluded that no significant negative environmental impact will occur. No significant adverse environmental impacts have been identified. The proposed project will enhance public health and safety by the provision of central water and sewer mains to the project area.

An Environmental Review Record documenting review of all project activities in respect to impacts on the environment has been made by the above-named County of Cascade. 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.

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 County of Cascade to the County Commission on or before August 06, 2007. All such comments so received will be considered and the County of Cascade 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 of Cascade 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. Cascade County is certifying to DOC that Cascade County and Lance Olson, County Commissioner Chairman, in his official capacity as environmental certifying officer, 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 its approval, the County of Cascade 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 August 24, 2007 will be considered by DOC.

Lance Olson
Environmental Certifying
Officer and Chairman, Cascade County Board of Commissioners

July 20, 2007

325 2nd Ave. North

Great Falls Mt. 59401