

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR THE JETTE MEADOWS / LAKE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
MONTANA
WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS**

TO: ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

Date:	November 25, 2009
Action:	Funding Drinking Water System Improvements
Location of Project:	Jette Meadows County Water District, Lake County, Montana
DEQ SRF ARRA Loan:	\$ 750,000
DEQ SRF Loan:	\$ 325,000
TSEP Grant (#CG-10-499):	\$ 750,000
DNRC Grant:	<u>\$ 100,000</u>
Total Project Cost:	<u>\$1,925,000</u>

An environmental assessment (EA) has been prepared by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for proposed funding for improvements to the Jette Meadow / Lake County Water District's water storage, transmission, distribution, and pumping systems. The proposed improvements include the construction of a new 200,000 gallon water storage tank, access road and 10-inch transmission main, installation of approximately 11,000 feet of 4-inch and 8-inch PVC distribution main, construction of two pressure booster stations and a meter building, installation of 11 new fire hydrants and two tanker recharge stations for fire protection, proper abandonment of the existing water tanks and booster stations, and all associated valves, appurtenances and controls. The purpose of the project is to make improvements to the community's water supply system needed to protect public health.

The affected environment will primarily be the Jette Meadows subdivision, north of Polson, Montana, and the immediate vicinity. The human environment affected will include residents and visitors of the aforementioned areas. Based on the EA, the project is not expected to have any significant adverse impacts upon terrestrial and aquatic life or habitat, including endangered species, water quality or quantity, air quality, geological features, cultural or historical features, or social quality.

This project will be funded in part with a low interest loan through the Montana Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program, administered by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality and the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. The loan will be repaid by a General Obligation Bond tax assessment.

The DEQ utilized the following references in completing its EA for this project: a Uniform Environmental Checklist for Montana Public Facility Projects and a Jette Meadows Water & Sewer District Water System Preliminary Engineering Report (dated May 2008) both prepared by Thomas, Dean and Hoskins, Inc. (TD&H), the community's consulting engineer. In addition to these references, letters were sent to; Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) SRF Loan Program, Montana

Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC) Floodplain Management, United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Confederated Salish & Kootenai Historic Preservation Department, and the Salish/Pend d' Oreille Cultural committee. Response letters have been received from the USFWS and Montana SHPO. These references are available for review upon request by contacting:

Robert Ashton
Montana DEQ
State Revolving Fund Program
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901
Phone (406) 444-5316
Email: rashton@mt.gov

or

Russ Barber, President
Jette Meadows WSD
P.O. Box 533
Polson, MT 59860
(406) 883-0584

Comments on this finding or on the EA may be submitted to DEQ at the above address. After evaluating substantive comments, DEQ may revise the EA or determine if an EIS is necessary. This finding will stand if no substantive comments are received during the 30-day comment period or if substantive comments are received and evaluated and the environmental impacts are still determined to be non-significant.

Signed,

Todd Teegarden, Chief
Technical & Financial Assistance Bureau

JETTE MEADOWS / LAKE COUNTY WATER & SEWER DISTRICT
WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

I. COVER SHEET

A. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Applicant: Jette Meadows / Lake County Water & Sewer District
Address: P.O. Box 533, Polson, MT 59860
DOC, TSEP Project No. MT-TSEP-CG-10-499

B. CONTACT PERSON

Name: Russ Barber, President
Jette Meadows / Lake County Water & Sewer District
Address: P.O. Box 533
Polson, MT 59860
Telephone: (406) 883-0584

C. ABSTRACT

The Jette Meadows Water & Sewer District (WSD), through a 2008 Preliminary Engineering Report (PER), prepared by Thomas, Dean & Hoskins, Inc (TD&H), has investigated the needs of their public water system. The PER examined all components of the system including supply, transmission, storage, and distribution. The PER identified significant deficiencies within the district's transmission, distribution, pumping and storage systems. As discussed in the PER, the existing storage tanks are aging and undersized for providing fire flows. Much of the distribution and transmission main pipe is aging and can not meet fire flow requirements. There are multiple dead end mains within the existing distribution system which decreases water quality and greatly decreases the hydraulic efficiency of the system. The PER also identified the need to improve the pumping systems within the distribution system. Replacing the storage tanks, improving the distribution and transmission main piping, improving the pumping systems and adding a mixed fire suppression system to district is necessary to improve system reliability and pressure and improve fire protection.

Alternatives for remedying the system deficiencies were developed and an alternatives evaluation was completed in the 2008 PER with additional analysis done by the district and their engineer in 2009. Based on the analysis, specific water system improvements were recommended. The recommended alternatives can be seen in Exhibit "A" and include the following improvements:

Storage Improvements

- Properly abandon the existing 40,000 gallon and 44,000 gallon concrete water storage tanks.
- Construct a new 200,000 gallon bolted steel water storage tank and tank access road.

Distribution and Transmission System Improvements

- Install approximately 2,200 feet of 10-inch transmission main from the new storage tank to the distribution system at Meadow Road.

- Replace approximately 4,350 the 4-inch pipe in Meadow Road from Pine View Loop to Great Pine Hill with 8-inch PVC water main.
- Install approximately 5,600 feet of 8-inch PVC pipe for critical system looping. Work will include connecting the system from North Meadow Road to Pineview Loop, Terrace Circle to Sunny View Loop, and Johnson Road to South Terrace Circle.
- Install approximately 1,000 feet of 4-inch PVC water main to connect 32 lots in the upper portion of the district to the new North Booster Station.
- Construct a new meter building at the intersections of Johnson Road and South Terrace Circle (this building may also serve as a chlorination building in the future).

Pumping/Booster Station Improvements

- Abandon the existing three booster stations,
- Construct a booster station with a backup power generator adjacent to the Canyon View Drive cul-de-sac (North Booster Station #1),
- Construct a booster station just north of the intersection of Meadow Road and South Rim Drive (South Booster Station #2).
- This work will require modifications to the system pressure reducing stations.

Fire System Improvements (the district currently has no fire suppression system)

- Add 11 fire hydrants to the new 8-inch water main along Meadow Drive,
- Install two 1,000 gallon below grade fiberglass tanks to be used as tanker recharge stations. The tanks will be connected to the system with backflow prevention and automatic fill mechanisms.

The project will be funded by a combination of state grants and loans and local funds. This Environmental Assessment (EA) examines the work as described in the PER, the submitted State Revolving Fund Loan Application and the project design report. Based on this review, environmentally sensitive characteristics such as wetlands, floodplains and threatened or endangered species are not expected to be adversely impacted as a consequence of the proposed Phase II project. No significant long-term environmental impacts were identified. The Montana Department of Commerce, Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP), has reviewed this EA for compliance with MEPA and concurs with the finding of not significant impact.

Under Montana law (75-6-112, MCA), no person, including a municipality or county, may construct, extend, or use a public water system until the DEQ has reviewed and approved the plans and specifications for the project.

D. COMMENT PERIOD

Thirty (30) calendar days.

II. PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION

The Jette Meadows County Water & Sewer District is made up of 180 lots with 120 existing homes. All users within the District are residential; there are no commercial or industrial water users. The water system currently utilizes three groundwater supply wells. Storage is provided by a 40,000 gallon and a 44,000 gallon concrete storage tanks. There is approximately 800 feet of elevation difference across the district. This elevation difference has led to the complex connection of six individual pressure zones within the distribution system. The pressure zones are individualized by booster stations, pressure reducing stations, and well discharge pressures. This amount of pressure zones can be costly to maintain and lead to backflow situations if not properly protected. The distribution and transmission systems consists primarily of 4-inch to 6-

inch PVC pipe with approximately 36,000 feet of distribution main and 12,300 feet of transmission main within the district. There is currently no fire suppression system within the district. The 2008 PER provides a comprehensive engineering analysis of Jette Meadows' existing water system, future demands and recommended improvements. The following is a summary of the primary problems identified in the PER.

STORAGE

The south reservoir exhibits cracking and leaking along its east side. The formation of algae along the cracking could potentially attract bacteria which could migrate into the reservoir and into the distribution system. On June 6th, 2006 a water quality test resulted in a positive coliform test result within the north reservoir. The migration of bacteria into the failing reservoirs could have been the source of the positive coliform detection. The access manways into the water storage tanks are not lockable which could provide an additional means of contamination entering the system.

The existing storage reservoirs are inadequately sized to provide the district with fire flow demands. The current reservoirs meet the average day requirement of Circular DEQ-1 but no excess storage volume exists for fire protection.

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

The distribution system currently has three major dead end water main lines. The first major dead end is on North Meadow and affects 36 lots. The second major dead end is located on Terrace Circle and affects 11 lots. The third major dead end is on South Terrace Circle and affects 10 lots. These major dead ends are not supplied by a redundant water source in case of an emergency or shutdown for maintenance. Also in the system are seven minor dead ends that affect 3 to 5 lots during periods of maintenance or emergency shutdown.

The multiple areas within the district lacking a redundant water service are a direct threat to the health and safety of the residences affected. Pipe breaks can cause localized areas of unstable negative pressure. Negative pressures have the ability to pull in bacteria and contaminants from nearby sources. The number of dead-ends, both major and minor, is an immediate concern for the deterioration of water quality in the system and the overall reliability of water distribution.

BOOSTER STATIONS AND PRESSURE REDUCING STATIONS

The district has three water booster stations within the distribution system. The main booster station currently has only one working pump that must be controlled manually. In addition, each reservoir houses a small booster station designed for water transmission into the upper pressure zones in the district as well as water sharing between the north and south portions of the district. These booster stations have fallen into disrepair. The three booster stations provide no redundant service to their respective pressure zones and have left users without service during times of pump failure.

The two pressure reducing stations have fallen into a state of disrepair. Rotting and saturated timbers, rusting pipes and valves, standing water, and unsafe access hardware are found within both stations. The stations do not vent to the atmosphere thus collecting condensation which in turn produces an environment conducive to bacteriologic growth. The access hatches to the below ground vaults are not lockable and are relatively easy to open.

FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM

The district does not currently have any means of fire protection. The available storage combined with the available source capacity does not meet State design standards. The district is comprised of relatively large lots from 1.5 to 2.5 acres with some as large as 5 acres. The majorities of the lots are not fully landscaped or irrigated resulting in large areas of dry field grass and timber. These areas are prone to wild land fires. The district currently relies on fire protection services from Polson Fire Department and Big Arm Volunteer Fire Department. Both departments are located at least five miles away and must draw water from nearby lakes to fill their trucks. Due to the relatively dry

vegetative nature of the district, a quick response time by the fire department is critical for fire suppression.

III. ALTERNATIVES INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION AND COSTS

Alternatives analyzed in the 2008 Water System PER include the “do nothing” option or improving or repairing the existing problems identified with the water pumping, transmission, storage and distribution systems.

The “no action” alternative was not considered beyond the initial screening stage. This alternative will not remedy the problems currently being experienced with the water system. If improvements are not made to the system, the community will continue to have elevated public health threats caused by potential contamination, loss of water due to booster pump failure, high system maintenance needs and no fire protection.

The PER examined the capital costs and net present worth costs of the viable alternatives to correct the water system problems. In addition to cost analysis, the PER included an impact analysis of the alternatives based on technical feasibility, environmental impacts, financial feasibility, public health and safety, operation and maintenance and public comments. Based on these criteria, the preferred alternative was selected for each component of the water system. A summary of the results for each component of the water system will follow.

Storage Improvements

The existing storage includes one 40,000 and one 44,000 concrete tank. The 2008 PER determined the required Jette Meadows system storage need at 200,000 gallons. This includes the system’s 20 year design operational flow and fire flow. The feasible alternatives for enhancing storage include: **a.** increasing the existing reservoirs for domestic plus fire protection and **b.** constructing a new tank for domestic plus fire protection.

- a. Increase the existing reservoirs for domestic plus fire protection** – In order to meet the 200,000 gallon requirement the north reservoir would be increased by 56,000 gallons and the south reservoir would be increased by 60,000 gallons. The re-routing of the inlet and outlet piping and the addition of baffles as a secondary water turnover device, would be added during the expansion. Additional items necessary to bring the tanks into compliance with State standards include: adding an additional manway access to each reservoir, locking mechanisms for all access manways, site grading to provide for positive stormwater runoff around the reservoirs, removing of all foreign materials from inside and outside the reservoir, patching of reservoir leaks, properly designed drainage outlet structure, general cleanup within the booster station areas, and the addition of permanent access ladders.

Costs – The estimated construction costs for this alternative are **\$316,160** and the estimated total cost including contingencies, engineering and administration is roughly **\$442,624**.

- b. New water storage tank providing domestic plus fire protection** – Construction of a 200,000 gallon above ground water storage reservoir in the northeast portion of the district will provide the flows and pressures needed to meet maximum day demands and fire flows. A transmission main would need to be installed to connect the tank to the distribution system.

Costs – The estimated construction costs for the 200,000-gallon steel tank and transmission main are **\$431,080** and the estimated total cost including contingencies, engineering and administration is roughly **\$603,512**.

Based on the results of the storage alternatives analysis the **PER recommended Alternative b. the construction of a new 200,000 gallon concrete water storage tank** located in the

northeast portion of the district. This work will also include abandoning the two existing tanks and installing a transmission main to connect the new tank to the distribution system.

Distribution, Booster Station, and Fire Protection System Improvements

The existing distribution system has problems caused by dead end mains and poor booster stations and pressure reducing stations. The district also has no fire protection system. The 2008 PER examined three viable alternatives to improve the system, and correct the problems within all three areas of operation simultaneously, namely: **a.** baseline improvements, **b.** mixed distribution piping improvements and **c.** full distribution piping replacement.

- a. Baseline Improvements** – Baseline improvements refer to the immediate improvements necessary to provide the distribution system with basic redundancy, increased reliability of service, increased water quantity, increased water quality, and hydraulic efficiency. This includes all three critical/major looping projects, rehabilitation of the existing booster stations and the introduction of a pressure reducing station. This alternative does not address all of the pumping and pressure needs and leaves the community without fire protection.

Costs – The estimated construction costs for this alternative **\$378,840** and the estimated total cost including contingencies, engineering and administration is roughly **\$530,376**.

- b. Mixed Distribution Improvements** – This alternative includes all of the baseline improvements plus replaces the 4-inch main in a portion of Meadow Road and adds fire protection to this portion of the district (11 fire hydrants will be installed). The fire suppression system would be enhanced with two tanker fill stations. This alternative would also replace the booster bumping stations and improve the pressure reducing stations. The project design report also includes a meter building as part of this alternative. This building may also be used in the future as a chlorination building (the district is not currently required to disinfect). This alternative leaves the secondary looping projects undone and only adds fire protection to a portion of the district.

Costs – The estimated construction costs for the mixed distribution improvements alternative are **\$863,820** and the estimated total cost including contingencies, engineering and administration is roughly **\$1,209,348**.

- c. Full distribution piping replacement** - This alternative expands on the mixed distribution alternative by replacing all of the 4-inch distribution system with 8-inch and fire protection. This alternative would also correct all secondary looping deficiencies.

Costs – The estimated construction costs for this alternative are **\$2,834,120** and the estimated total cost including contingencies, engineering and administration is roughly **\$3,967,768**.

Based on the results of the distribution system analysis (including pumping and pressure reducing stations), and the fire suppression system analysis the **PER recommended Alternative b. Mixed Distribution Improvements**. The selected alternatives were further refined in the project design report and final cost estimates were established during the final stages of project design. The need to abandon an existing well was also identified after the PER was completed. This item has been added to the project to address the need to protect the aquifer. For the proposed project, the Jette Meadows Water & Sewer District has received funding commitments of:

- \$ 750,000 Grant – Montana Department of Commerce/Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP)
- \$ 100,000 Grant – Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation/Renewable Resource Grant and Loan Program (RRGL)
- \$ 750,000 ARRA Loan – Montana Department of Environmental Quality, State Revolving Fund Loan Program (SRF). This amount includes \$416,300 that may be forgiven.
- \$ 325,000 Loan – Montana Department of Environmental Quality, State Revolving Fund Loan Program (SRF)
- \$1,925,000 Total Project Funding**

Total Funding for the proposed project is \$1,925,000 and the Jette Meadows Water & Sewer District expects to be able to complete all of the proposed water system improvements within the existing budget.

USER RATES

The Uniform Application for Funding submitted by Jette Meadows shows average residential water system users pay approximately \$45 per month. The district will utilize a general obligation bond, which will be assessed to all current lots, for the financing of the debt associated with this water project. This new tax assessment, based on the loan amounts seen above, will be approximately \$230 per year per lot (179 lots will be assessed).

IV. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

A. STUDY AREA

The planning area for the PER includes the area within the Jette Meadows Water & Sewer District boundaries and the immediate adjacent areas. Jette Meadows is located in western Montana roughly five miles northwest of Polson. The homes are situated within both the meadow and forest type terrain (see Figure 1).

B. POPULATION AND FLOW PROJECTIONS

Population Projections

The district currently provides approximately 120 active services (or approximately 300 users by using an estimate of 2.5 users per service connection). All the services are residential and there are no industrial or commercial areas within the district. The district includes all of the lots contained in the original Jette Meadows Phase and 1 and Phase 2 subdivisions.

Lake County has experienced a moderate to high growth increase between 2000 and 2006. The county grew approximately 7.9% in this 6-year time period or approximately 1% per year. Due to the increased growth of Lake County and the current residential growth trend in northwestern Montana, the demands on the district water supply will be analyzed for a full subdivision build-out of 180 lots or a population of 450 users.

Flow Projections

Based on an analysis of the existing water supply wells, the PER calculated the current daily water consumption at between 93 to 300 gallons per capita per day (gpcd). Due to the large fluctuations in usage, the proposed system improvements are designed with an average daily usage amount of 150 gpcd or 47 gallons per minute (gpm). The three existing water supply wells can produce 227 gpm; however the system currently only has a pumping capacity of 172 gpm.

The PER examined the existing Jette Meadows water source capacity and the established water rights and determined the water supply system was capable of meeting the current and short term growth needs, however the existing water right of 185 gpm or 291.5 acre-feet of water would need to be increased if the district decided to increase in size. There is currently a water rights moratorium on the Flathead Indian Reservation.

C. NATURAL FEATURES

Soils

The two pre-dominant soil types in the development are Jocko gravelly loam in the central and northern portions of the district and Niarada-Kerl complex, gravelly loam in the southern portion of the district. They were formed in outwash plains and moraine deposits, respectively. The soils are well drained.

Topography and Geology

The southern portion of the district lies on the gently rolling hills of Sunny Slope. The northern portion of the district is situated in sparsely forested hills. The district is bounded to the north, east, and south by private land and by U.S. Highway 93 right-of-way to the west. Flathead Lake lies approximately four miles to the east. The homes are sited at elevations between 3,100 and 3,900 feet

Land Use

This is a residential area containing single family residences. There are approximately 120 developed lots and 60 un-developed lots within the district. There are multiple large common areas within the district.

Floodplains and Wetlands

There are no floodplains or wetlands within the project area. There is one small ephemeral drainage way that meanders through the district, but no wetlands are associated with it.

Historical/Cultural Resources

According to the Montana Historical Society, there have been no previously recorded historic or archaeological sites within the project area.

Biological Resources

Fauna of the general area consists of typical mammalian species found in the intermountain west, mule deer, whitetail deer, black bear, coyote, rabbit, skunk, weasel, rodents and others. Common bird species include the black-billed magpie, American robin, osprey, blackbird, sparrow, warbler, other raptors, game birds and others.

Vegetation

Vegetation types in immediate proximity to Jette Meadows Water & Sewer District generally include open grass lands to the south and forested areas to the north. Agricultural use in the area is limited and generally includes livestock grazing.

Surface Water and Groundwater

There is one small ephemeral drainage way that starts in the north central part of the district and meanders in and out of the district before leaving the southeast part of the district.

Good quality sources of groundwater are common in the surrounding area. Water quantity is variable in the area with wells producing between 20 -280 gpm.

Socio-Economic/Environmental Justice

The origin of the Jette Meadows Subdivision Phase 1 and 2 water system dates back to the original development of the subdivision. Phase 1 of the development was constructed in 1981 and included the southern portion of the district. Phase 2 was constructed in 1982 and included the northern portion of the district. Both phases included a production well and storage reservoir.

The Jette Meadows Water and Sewer District was formed in February 2006 with the goal of acquiring and improving the existing Jette Meadows homeowners associations. After forming the water district a board was elected and ownership of the water system was transferred.

V. DIRECT AND INDIRECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF PROPOSED PROJECT

No adverse impacts to the environment are anticipated by implementation of the proposed water system improvements. All of the storage tank, pump stations, meter building, PRVs, transmission mains and distribution system improvements will be located within existing easements and right-of-ways. The location of the steel water storage tank was selected to minimize the visual impacts of the project.

Soils Suitability, topographic and Geologic Constraints

No soil, topography or geological constraints are present for the proposed water project. Based on the existing conditions and soils types, the indirect impacts of the proposed water project will have no significant effect on the soils or topography.

Land Use

The booster stations, meter building and distribution work will be done within existing streets and right-of-ways and will therefore have no impact on land use. The storage tank will require approximately ¼-acre of land currently used for open park land and the district will need to install an access road to the storage tank. This work will alter the land use but the change is small and not considered significant. There will also be transmission and distribution pipe installed in locations that do not currently have pipe. These areas include the new transmission main from the tank to the distribution system and the three critical looping areas as described previously. The easements and right-of-ways for these areas have been finalized and there will be no change in land use.

Floodplains and Wetlands

The proposed Phase II water improvements project does not include work within floodplain or wetland areas and will not have a direct impact on these resources. The proposed water system improvements are not being done to facilitate growth beyond the water system capacity and will have no indirect impacts to these resources.

Historical/Cultural Resources

The Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) was contacted to complete a cultural resource file search for the Jette Meadows Water & Sewer District area. A letter was provided by the Preservation Office. The Preservation Office noted that there have been no cultural resource inventories conducted in the area and therefore no documented historic or archaeological sites have been identified within the project area.

The project construction specifications will require the contractor to notify SHPO, through the project engineer, in the event cultural materials are discovered during construction.

Biological Resources and Vegetation

The new water storage tank and a portion of the transmission main are the only part of the proposed project requiring work in previously undisturbed areas; however, there will be no direct impact to biological resources or vegetation due to the small scale and short duration of the tank and transmission main work. The proposed water system improvements are not being done to facilitate growth beyond the currently platted lots and will have no indirect impacts to these resources.

Surface Water and Groundwater

The proposed water system improvement will replace or improve portions of the existing water system and will have no impact to surface or groundwater resources.

Socio-Economic/Environmental Justice and Public Health

There is no known disproportionate increase in environmental or public health impacts to minority and low-income persons due to the proposed water improvements project. All persons would benefit from the enhanced water system, security, and fire protection from both a public health and safety basis and an economic basis. Water system improvements are important for public health and fire protection of residential areas.

Air Quality

Short-term negative impacts on the air quality will occur from heavy equipment, dust and exhaust fumes during project construction. Proper construction practices and dust abatement measures will be implemented during construction to control dust, thus minimizing this problem.

Energy

During construction of the proposed project, additional energy will be consumed, resulting in a direct short-term increased demand on this resource. There will be no long term impacts to this resource as a result of the project.

Noise

Short-term impacts from increased noise levels will occur during construction of the proposed project improvements. Construction activities are anticipated to last three to five months and will occur only during daylight hours.

A. UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE IMPACTS

Short-term construction related impacts, such as noise, dust and traffic disruption, will occur but should be minimized through proper construction management. Energy consumption during construction cannot be avoided.

B. CUMMULATIVE IMPACTS

This project addresses the existing water utility needs and will have no subsequent negative cumulative effects on resources, ecosystems or human communities. The projected growth of Jette Meadows Water & Sewer District over the next 20 years is not expected to cause cumulative effects beyond the capacity of the resources. Further environmental analysis would be required for any discussion of cumulative impacts beyond this scope and time frame.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Jette Meadows Water and Sewer District was involved in the PER process and discussed the direction and progress of the PER at monthly board meetings. Two advertised public meetings were held to discuss the alternatives and solicit input from the community. The meetings were open to the public and any district member wanting to comment on the proposed water system improvements. Based on these meetings, the residents of the district support the improvements and understand how it will impact their user rates. The PER includes letters of support and the minutes from the public meetings.

VII. AGENCY ACTION, APPLICABLE REGULATIONS, AND PERMITTING AUTHORITIES

All water system improvements (transmission, storage and distribution) will be designed to meet Montana DEQ requirements. Proper State regulatory review and approval of the project plans and specifications will be obtained. All applicable local, federal and state permits will be acquired including, but not limited to, a stormwater discharge permit and a construction-dewatering permit if needed.

All appropriate easements and access will be addressed with regards to the water system infrastructure. If required, land acquisition or long term agreements will be established for the land requirements associated with the new water storage tank.

VIII. REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The following documents were utilized in the environmental review of this project and are considered to be part of the project file:

- A. The Jette Meadows Water & Sewer District, Montana – Water System Preliminary Engineering Report (PER), May 2, 2008, prepared by Thomas, Dean & Hoskins, Inc., Kalispell, Montana.
- B. The Jette Meadows Water & Sewer District, Montana – State Revolving Fund Loan Application, September 2009, Prepared by Thomas, Dean & Hoskins, Inc., Kalispell, Montana.
- C. Uniform Environmental Checklist for Montana Public Facility Projects, May 2008, prepared by Thomas, Dean & Hoskins, Inc., Kalispell, Montana.

IX. AGENCIES CONSULTED

Several federal, state and local government agencies were send letters in April, 2007 requesting a review of the proposed water system improvements project. The agencies include the following:

Federal Agencies – Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Federal Aviation Administration, National Parks Service, Forest Service, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Transportation.

State Agencies - Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Department of Commerce, Department of Labor and Industry, Department of Transportation, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and the State Historic Preservation Office.

Local Agencies – Confederated Salish and Kootenai Historic Preservation Department, Salish/Pend d’ Oreille Culture Committee.

The only agencies that provided comments on the project include:

- A. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reviewed the project and a comment letter dated May 25, 2007 stated “After review of your project and our records along with the additional information provided on May 16th, the Service has determined federally protected species are not likely to be found in the vicinity of the project.”
- B. The Montana Historical Society’s Historic Preservation Office reviewed the project and a comment letter was sent April 10, 2007. The letter states, “According to our records there have been no previously recorded sites within the designated search locales.” However, the letter notes that the absence of information in the database may be due to the lack of any previous cultural resource inventories in the area and ask that that Confederated Salish & Kootenai Historic Preservation Department be contacted.

X. RECOMMENDATION FOR FURTURE ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

EIS More Detailed EA No Further Analysis

Rationale for Recommendation: Through this EA, The Montana DEQ has verified that none of the adverse impacts of the Jette Meadows Water & Sewer District’s Water System Improvements Project are significant. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required. Richard Knatterud, P.E., representing TSEP has reviewed this EA and is in concurrence with the MDEQ finding. Based on this EA, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be issued and legally advertised in the local newspaper and distributed to a list of interested government agencies. Comments regarding the project will be received for 30 days before final approval of the EA is granted. This environmental review was conducted in accordance with the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 17.4.607 thru 17.4.610.

EA Prepared By:

Robert Ashton

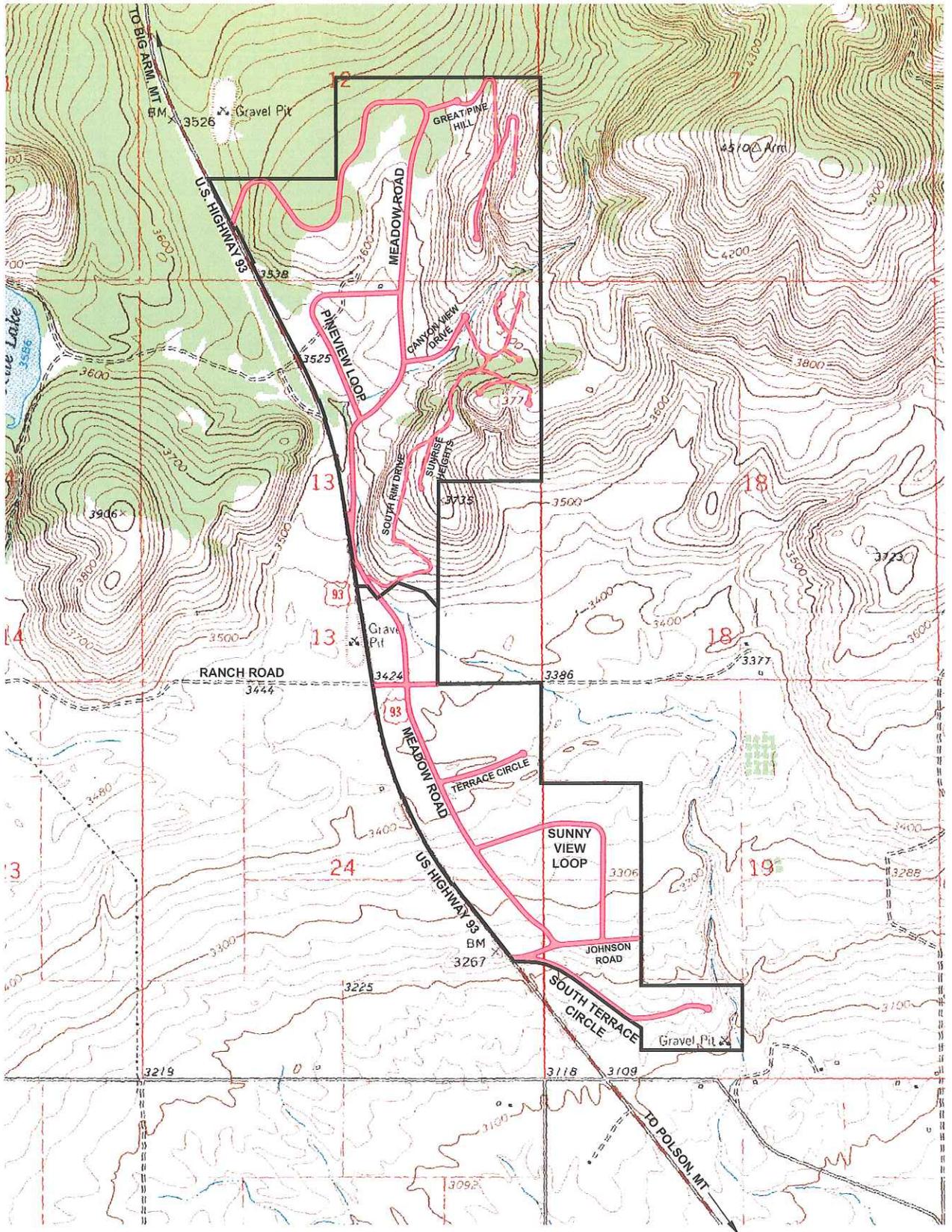
Date

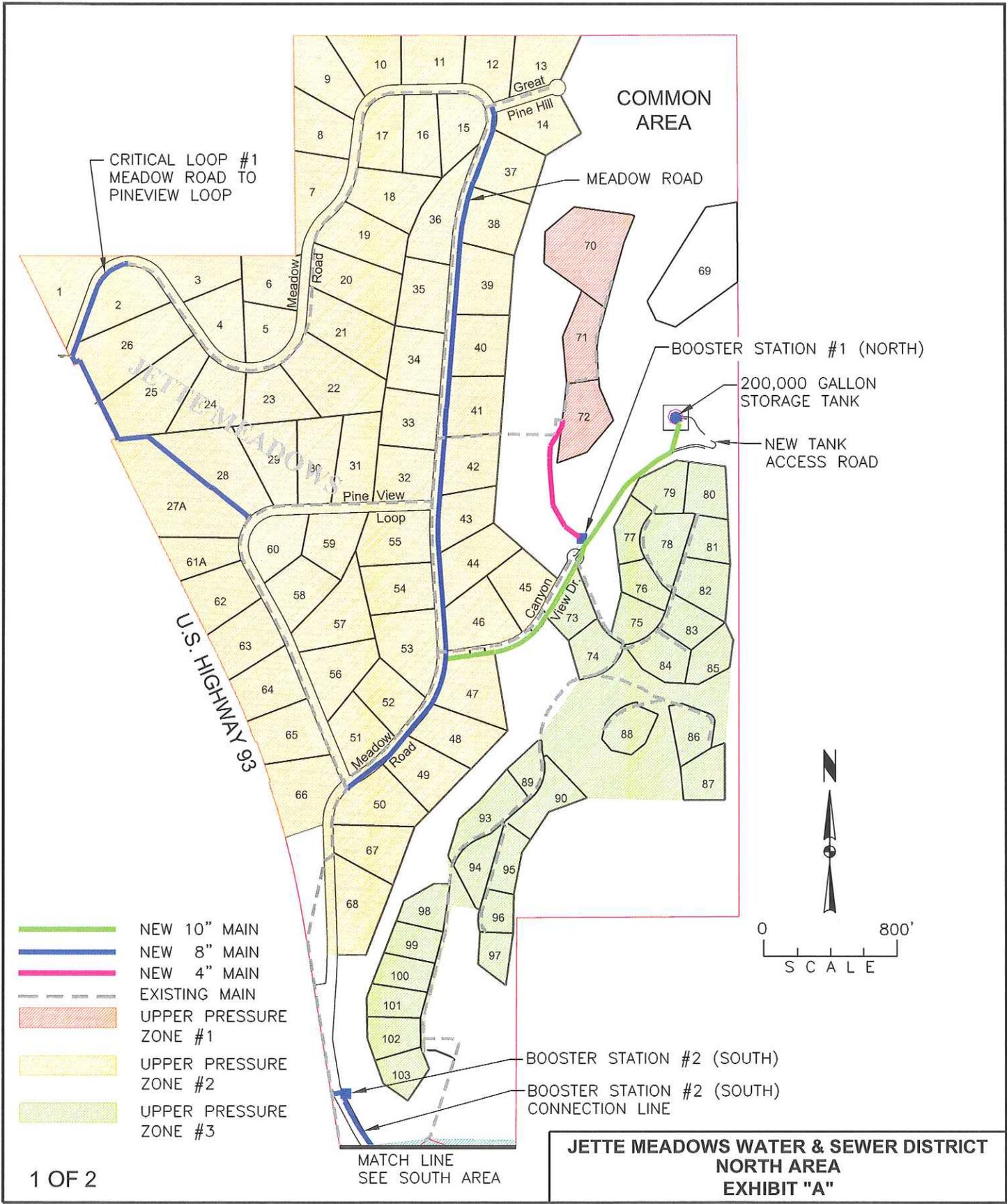
EA Reviewed By:

Marc Golz, P.E.

Date

JETTE MEADOWS WATER DISTRICT





CRITICAL LOOP #1
MEADOW ROAD TO
PINEVIEW LOOP

COMMON
AREA

MEADOW ROAD

BOOSTER STATION #1 (NORTH)

200,000 GALLON
STORAGE TANK

NEW TANK
ACCESS ROAD

U.S. HIGHWAY 93

Pine View
Loop

Canyon
View Dr

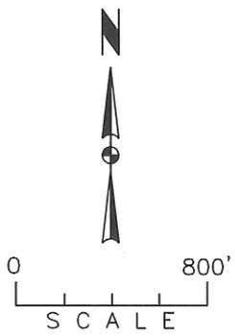
BOOSTER STATION #2 (SOUTH)

BOOSTER STATION #2 (SOUTH)
CONNECTION LINE

MATCH LINE
SEE SOUTH AREA

**JETTE MEADOWS WATER & SEWER DISTRICT
NORTH AREA
EXHIBIT "A"**

- NEW 10" MAIN
- NEW 8" MAIN
- NEW 4" MAIN
- - - EXISTING MAIN
- UPPER PRESSURE ZONE #1
- UPPER PRESSURE ZONE #2
- UPPER PRESSURE ZONE #3

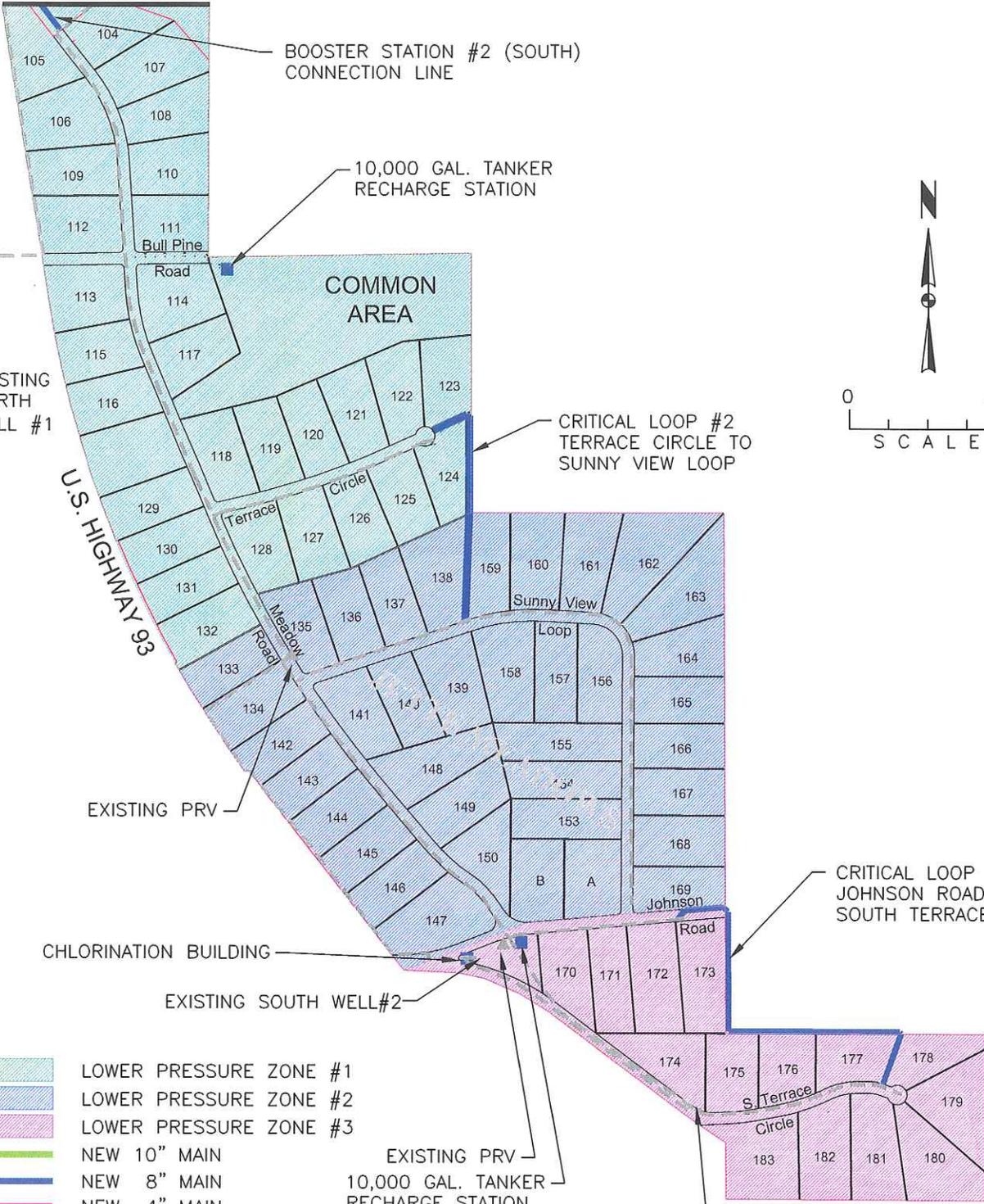
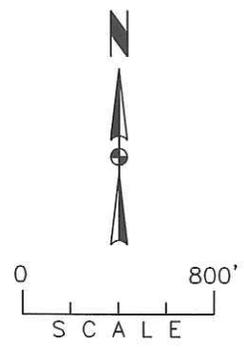


MATCH LINE
SEE NORTH AREA

BOOSTER STATION #2 (SOUTH)
CONNECTION LINE

10,000 GAL. TANKER
RECHARGE STATION

TO
EXISTING
NORTH
WELL #1



COMMON
AREA

CRITICAL LOOP #2
TERRACE CIRCLE TO
SUNNY VIEW LOOP

U.S. HIGHWAY 93

EXISTING PRV

CRITICAL LOOP #3
JOHNSON ROAD TO
SOUTH TERRACE CIRCLE

CHLORINATION BUILDING

EXISTING SOUTH WELL#2

- LOWER PRESSURE ZONE #1
- LOWER PRESSURE ZONE #2
- LOWER PRESSURE ZONE #3
- NEW 10" MAIN
- NEW 8" MAIN
- NEW 4" MAIN
- EXISTING MAIN

EXISTING PRV
10,000 GAL. TANKER
RECHARGE STATION

EXISTING SOUTH
WELL #3