FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR THE UPPER/LOWER RIVER ROAD WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT'S
IMPROVEMENTS TO SERVICE DISTRICT NO. 4

TO: ALL INTERESTED PERSONS

Date: October 25, 2011
Action: Constructing water and sewer improvements for Service District No. 4
Location of Project: Great Falls, Montana
DWSRF Funding: $385,000.
Total Project Cost: $985,000.

An environmental review was conducted in 2005 by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality for the proposed construction of improvements throughout the Upper/Lower River Road Water and Sewer District. The proposed construction for the current phase, Service District No. 4, involves the construction of 2650 lineal feet of water main with hydrants, valves and appurtenances, along with 1330 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 will be abandoned.

The affected environment will primarily be the area extending for one block east of Upper River Road on 31st, 32nd and 33rd Avenues South. The human environment affected will include the city of Great Falls and surrounding area. Based on the information provided in the references below, 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 with state and federal grants and a low-interest loan from the Montana Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Program, administered by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality and the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation.

The Department of Environmental Quality utilized the following references in completing its environmental review of this project:

- Upper and Lower River Road Water and Wastewater Facilities Plan, October 2000, prepared by Neil Consultants, Inc., Great Falls, Montana.
- Upper and Lower River Road Water and Wastewater Facilities Preliminary Engineering Report, April 2002, prepared by Neil Consultants, Inc., Great Falls, Montana.

- Water System Design Report, Phase 4 Upper and Lower River Road Water Improvements, September 2011, prepared by NCI Engineering, Great Falls, Montana.
- Wastewater Collection System Design Report, Phase 4 Upper and Lower River Road Sewer Improvements, September 2011, prepared by NCI Engineering, Great Falls, Montana.

In addition to these references, letters were sent to the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Montana State Historic Preservation Office. Responses were received from the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality and the Montana State Historic Preservation Office. These references are available for review upon request by contacting:

Gary J. Wiens, P.E.
Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, Montana 59620-0901
Phone: 406-444-7838
Email: gwiens@mt.gov

John Stephenson-Love
Upper/Lower River Road
Water and Sewer District
300 - 40th Avenue South #29
Great Falls, Montana 59405

Comments on this finding or on the environmental assessment may be submitted to the Department of Environmental Quality at the above address. Comments must be postmarked no later than December 15, 2011. After evaluating substantive comments received, the department will revise the environmental assessment or determine if an environmental impact statement is necessary. Otherwise, this finding of no significant impact will stand if no substantive comments are received during the comment period or if substantive comments are received and evaluated and the environmental impacts are still determined to be non-significant.

Signed,

Todd Teegarden

Todd Teegarden, Chief
Technical & Financial Assistance Bureau

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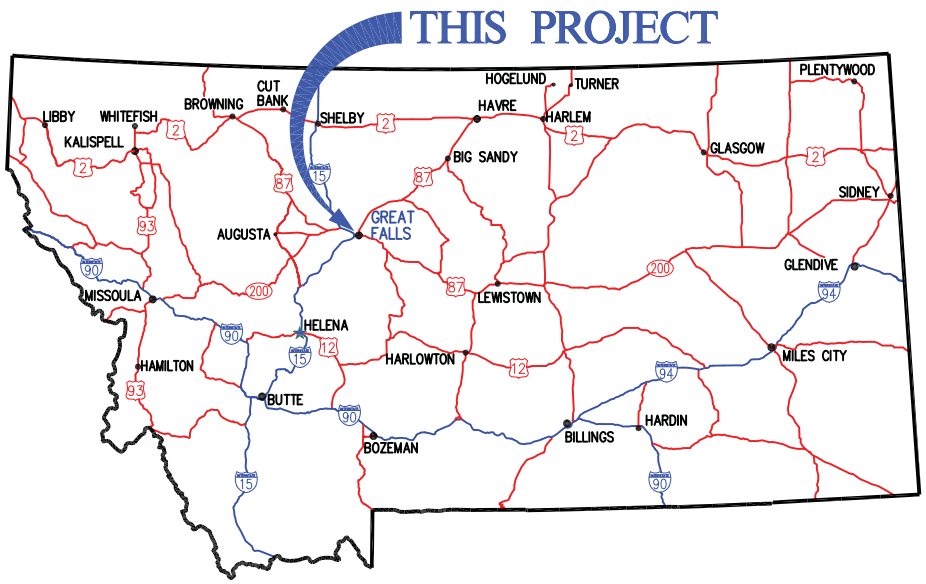
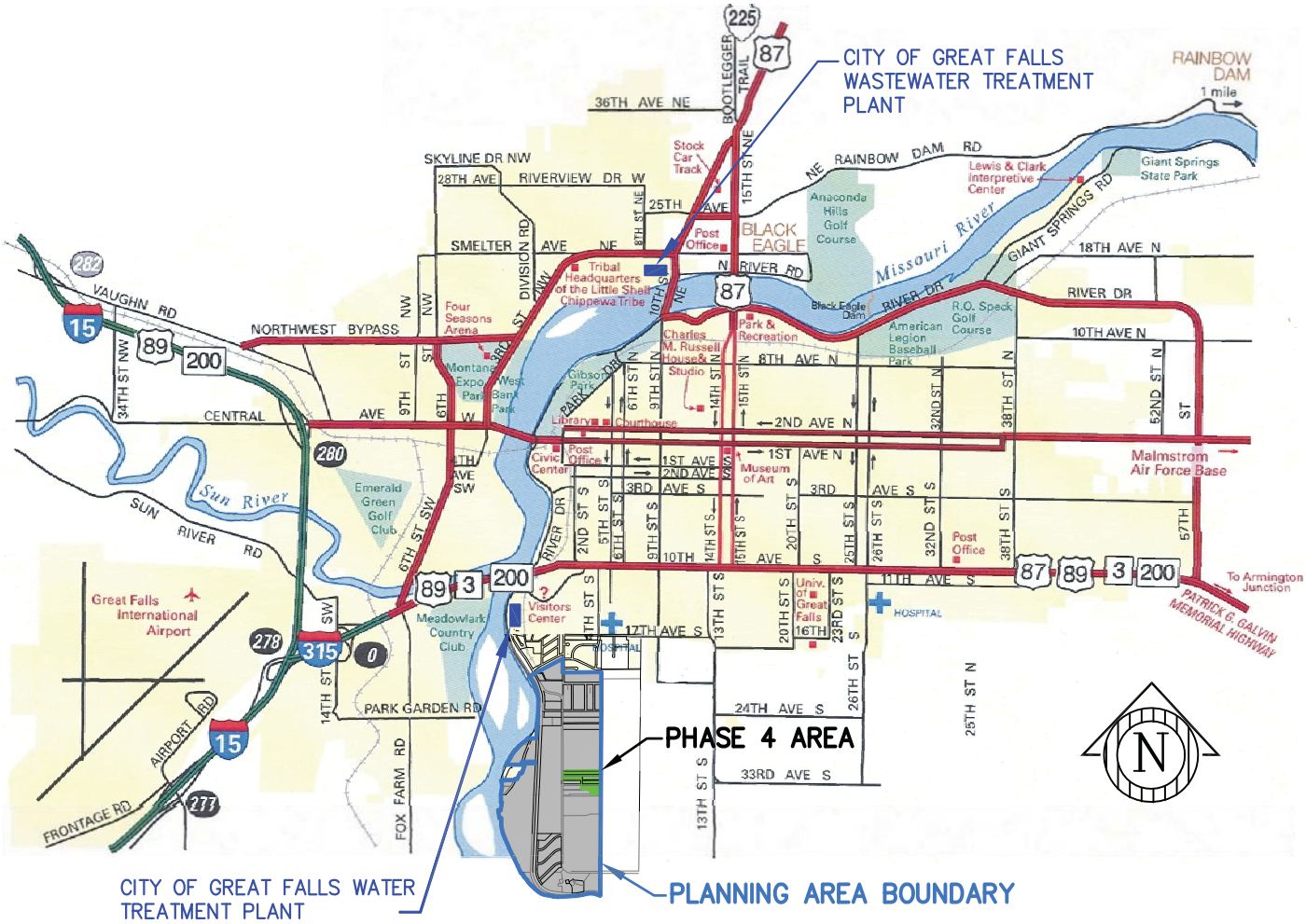
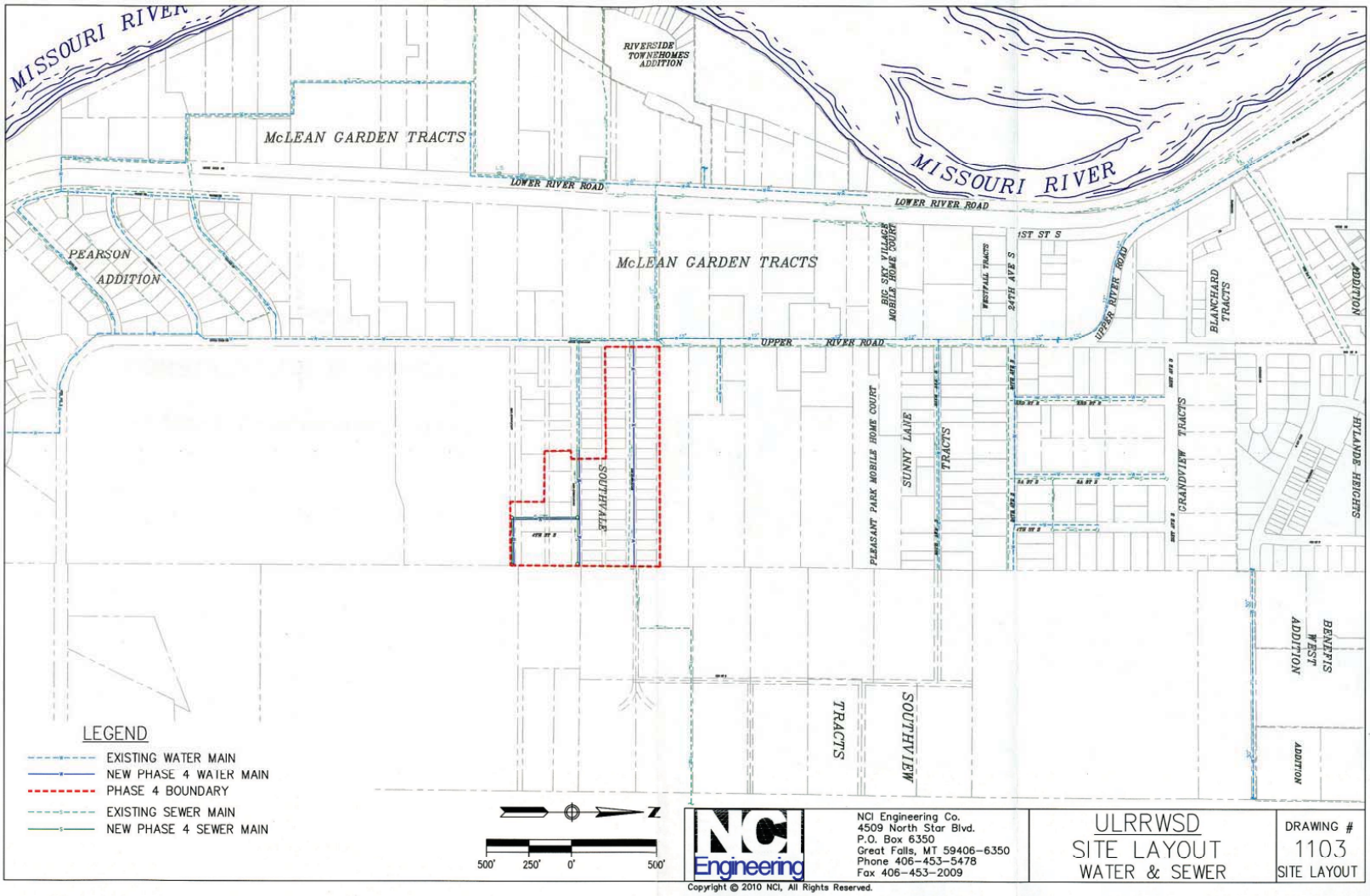




NCI Engineering Co.
4509 North Star Blvd.
P.O. Box 6350
Great Falls, MT 59406-6350
Phone 406-453-5478
Fax 406-453-2009

GREAT FALLS VICINITY MAP

DRAWING # 1103



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ULRRWSD
SITE LAYOUT
WATER & SEWER

DRAWING # 1103
SITE LAYOUT

UPPER/LOWER RIVER ROAD WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT
WATER AND WASTEWATER FACILITIES

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

I. COVER SHEET

A. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Applicant:	Upper/Lower River Road Water and Sewer District
Address:	300 40th Avenue South, #29 Great Falls, MT 59405
Project Number:	XP-98883401

B. CONTACT PERSON

Name:	John D. Stephenson-Love, President Upper/Lower River Road Water and Sewer District
Address:	300 40th Avenue South, #29 Great Falls, MT 59405
Telephone:	(406) 455-1075

C. ABSTRACT

The residents of the Upper/Lower River Road Water and Sewer District, through a 2002 Preliminary Engineering Report prepared by Neil Consultants, Inc., have investigated the need for centralized public water supply and wastewater collection facilities to serve the district. Wastewater treatment in the district is presently provided by on-site wastewater disposal, primarily septic tank and drainfield systems. Water supply is primarily provided by wells, although one mobile home park within the district is connected to the Great Falls municipal public water system. Most homes obtain water from individual wells and many residents haul drinking water because of poor water quality.

The recommended alternative from the preliminary engineering report includes the following improvements:

- Construction of a gravity sewage collection system to serve the district.
- Connection of the sewer collection system to the city's south interceptor sewer.
- Connection of the currently privately owned sewer south of 40th Avenue South to the new collection system.
- Construction of a sewage lift station on Lower River Road.
- Construction of a water distribution system to supply water throughout the district.
- Connection of the water distribution system to the existing city water mains adjacent to the district.

The proposed wastewater collection and treatment system improvements will enable wastewater to be adequately treated at the city's wastewater treatment plant prior to discharging to the Missouri River. The new water distribution system will ensure that drinking water meeting state and federal regulations is provided to all homes and businesses in the district.

The project will be funded by a combination of state and federal grants and a State Revolving Fund loan. 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 project. No significant long-term environmental impacts were identified.

D. COMMENT PERIOD

Thirty (30) calendar days.

II. PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION

A. WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS

Single-family residences, which occupy most of the land within the district, are served by individual on-site wastewater treatment systems. Since many of these lots were platted before the county initiated permit regulations in 1969, the exact number and condition of wastewater treatment systems is unknown. Testing performed by the Cascade County Health Department and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality during a 1998 groundwater study suggests that many of these systems are contributing to elevated levels of nitrate in groundwater.

Of the six public sewage systems in the district, five are subsurface on-site wastewater treatment systems serving mobile home courts and a condominium development and one is a facultative lagoon serving a single-family residential subdivision. Problems noted at some of these sites include surfacing wastewater effluent, elevated levels of nitrate, phosphorus and ammonia in groundwater and lack of replacement areas in the event of system failure.

B. WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS

Three mobile home parks and the condominium development are supplied with water from public water supply systems. One mobile home park has individual wells for water supply while the other is served by a 2-inch service line from the city's distribution system. This aging and undersized service line is in frequent need of repair. All other homes and businesses in the district are served by individual wells.

Although most of these sources have provided adequate quantity and quality water over the years, many water quality problems have been documented. They include the detection of coliform bacteria in drinking water samples, elevated nitrate concentrations in groundwater, the detection of ammonia and phosphorus in groundwater monitoring wells, the potential for groundwater contamination from improperly abandoned wells and high iron and manganese levels in some water supplies.

C. PROPOSED PROJECT

The proposed project includes the following improvements:

1. Approximately 25,000 lineal feet of 8-inch diameter sewer main
2. Approximately 110 sewer manholes

3. Approximately 100 lineal feet of sewer force main
4. A grinder station
5. A package sewage lift station
6. Abandonment of an existing sewage lagoon currently serving the Pearson Addition
7. Over 23,000 lineal feet of 8-inch diameter water main
8. Approximately 54 fire hydrants
9. Approximately 440 water meters and service lines

Proper water supply and wastewater collection and treatment are important to the water quality of the area as well as public health and safety. Without these, water quality and public health and safety will continue to be at risk.

III. ALTERNATIVES INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

A. WASTEWATER SYSTEM ALTERNATIVES

Four alternatives for addressing the community's wastewater system needs were addressed as follows:

1. No action
2. Annexation and connection to the city's wastewater system
3. District formation and connection to the city's wastewater system
4. Construction of an independent wastewater system

1. NO ACTION – This alternative would involve making no improvements to the existing wastewater systems. Likely consequences would be the continued degradation of groundwater by inadequate on-site wastewater disposal systems, periodic failure of underdesigned and overloaded drainfields, potential chemical and bacteriological contamination of well water supplies, stagnation of property values and the possibility of enforcement action by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality against owners of sewage disposal systems violating water quality standards. This alternative does not address the immediate issues facing the community and is therefore not recommended.

2. ANNEXATION AND CONNECTION TO THE CITY'S WASTEWATER SYSTEM – This alternative would involve the annexation of all or portions of the groundwater study area into the city, followed by construction of a sewage collection system and connection to the city's wastewater conveyance and treatment system. Since a water and sewer district has already been formed and this alternative is so similar to the third alternative, little further discussion will be devoted to this option.

3. DISTRICT FORMATION AND CONNECTION TO THE CITY'S WASTEWATER SYSTEM – This alternative involves the formation of a water and sewer district, followed by construction of a sewage collection system and connection to the city's system. Technically and environmentally, this alternative is nearly identical to the second alternative. Since a water and sewer district has already been formed, this is the recommended alternative.

4. CONSTRUCTION OF AN INDEPENDENT WASTEWATER SYSTEM – This alternative would involve the construction of an independent wastewater collection and treatment system. Although several wastewater treatment options were considered in the April 2002 Preliminary Engineering Report, all of which are technically feasible, only costs for the least expensive option (an aerated lagoon with discharge of treated wastewater to the Missouri River) are shown in Table 1. This alternative provides a reasonable solution to the existing wastewater problems, however, the cost is prohibitively high and it is therefore not recommended.

B. WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM ALTERNATIVES

Five alternatives for addressing the community's water supply needs were addressed as follows:

1. No action
2. Annexation and connection to the city's water system
3. District formation and connection to the city's water system
4. Construction of an independent water system with well water sources
5. Construction of an independent water system with river water sources

1. NO ACTION – This alternative would involve making no improvements to the existing water supply facilities. Even if the district were connected to the city's wastewater collection system, thus eliminating the primary source of groundwater contamination, it would probably take many years to flush out the existing contaminants from the shallow, pooled groundwater that supplies the area with drinking water. It is also likely that the state or county would eventually mandate chlorination or other treatment to protect the users of public water supplies within the district. The no action alternative does not adequately address many of the issues facing the community and is therefore not recommended

2. ANNEXATION AND CONNECTION TO THE CITY'S WATER SYSTEM – This alternative would involve the annexation of all or portions of the groundwater study area into the city, followed by construction of a water distribution system and connection to the city's water system. Since a water and sewer district has already been formed and this alternative is so similar to the third alternative, little further discussion will be devoted to the annexation option.

3. DISTRICT FORMATION AND CONNECTION TO THE CITY'S WATER SYSTEM - This alternative involves the formation of a water and sewer district, followed by construction of a water distribution system and connection to the city's system. Technically and environmentally, this alternative is nearly identical to the second alternative. Since a water and sewer district has already been formed, this is the recommended alternative.

4. CONSTRUCTION OF AN INDEPENDENT WATER SYSTEM WITH WELL SOURCES – This alternative would necessitate the drilling of at least two wells, along with the provision of a backup power supply and water treatment facilities for softening, iron removal and disinfection. A certified operator would have to be retained to operate and maintain the system. Because of high capital and

operating costs, this alternative is not recommended.

5. CONSTRUCTION OF AN INDEPENDENT WATER SYSTEM WITH MISSOURI RIVER WATER SOURCES – This alternative is based on the assumption that a Ranney System, which would involve the installation of horizontal well casings under the river bottom, would be constructed. If river water sources were to meet the requirements of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, it is possible that water treatment requirements would be minimal. However, if the water source could not meet the requirements, then filtration and disinfection would be necessary. Under either scenario, this alternative is not the most cost-effective and is therefore not recommended.

C. COST COMPARISON - PRESENT WORTH ANALYSES

The present worth analysis is a method of comparing alternatives in present day dollars and may be used to determine the most cost-effective alternative. Capital cost is first adjusted by subtracting the present worth of the salvage value at the end of 20 years. The present worth value of the annual operating and maintenance costs is calculated assuming a 6.0% interest rate over the 20-year planning period. The present worth of the annual operation and maintenance costs is then added to the adjusted capital cost to provide the total present worth cost of each alternative. These values are compared to determine the most cost-effective alternative.

1. Table 1 provides a summary of the present worth analysis of the wastewater system alternatives.

Table 1. Present Worth Analysis for Wastewater System Alternatives

	Wastewater System Alternatives			
	Alt. 1 No action	**Alt. 2** Annexation and connection to city's system	**Alt. 3** District formation and connection to city's system	**Alt. 4** Independent wastewater system
Capital Cost (2002)	-	$2,660,312	$2,395,012	$3,857,635
20-Year Salvage Value	-	$816,538	$816,538	$1,212,103
Present Worth of Salvage Value (6.0%)	-	$254,600	$254,600	$377,939
Annual O&M Costs	$144,976	$71,680	$89,545	$80,567
Present Worth of Annual O&M Costs (6.0%)	$1,662,863	$822,164	$1,027,074	$924,097
Total Present Worth Cost	$1,662,863	$3,227,876	$3,167,486	$4,403,793

Based on the present worth analysis for the wastewater system alternatives, Alternative 3 is the least costly.

2. Table 2 provides a summary of the present worth analysis of the water supply system alternatives.

Table 2. Present Worth Analysis for Water Supply System Alternatives

	Water Supply System Alternatives				
	Alt. 1 No action	**Alt. 2** Annexation and connection to city's system	**Alt. 3** District formation and connection to city's system	**Alt. 4** Independent groundwater supply system	**Alt. 5** Independent river water supply system
Capital Cost (2002)	-	$3,151,196	$2,725,276	$4,714,640	$4,063,224
20-Year Salvage Value	-	$1,036,000	$1,048,000	$1,794,500	$1,472,880
Present Worth of Salvage Value (6.0%)	-	$323,030	$326,771	$559,534	$459,226
Annual O&M Costs	$212,610	$160,000	$183,250	$155,150	$84,850
Present Worth of Annual O&M Costs (6.0%)	$2,433,458	$1,835,187	$2,101,863	$1,779,558	$973,223
Total Present Worth Cost	$2,433,458	$4,663,354	$4,500,368	$5,934,665	$4,577,221

Based on the present worth analysis for the water supply system alternatives, Alternative 3 is the least costly.

D. TOTAL ESTIMATED COSTS

The total estimated present worth cost of the proposed project, based on selection of Alternative 3 for both water and wastewater, is $7,667,854. Estimated cost of the Phase I project, including administrative, financial, land acquisition, annexation, engineering and construction costs, is $2,885,068. The Upper/Lower River Road Water and Sewer District has received a $100,000 grant from the state's Renewable Resource Grant and Loan program, an $867,300 State and Tribal Assistance Grant from the federal government, a $500,000 Treasure State Endowment Program grant, a $500,000 Community Development Block Grant from Cascade County and a $332,000 Community Development Block Grant from the city. The district will take out a total of $585,768 in Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loans for 20 years to complete the Phase I funding package. Of the loan amount, the first $500,000 will be at the disadvantaged interest rate of 2.75 percent and the remainder will be at an interest rate of 3.75 percent. The Phase I project will result in an average monthly combined water and sewer rate of approximately $77.18, based on 166 equivalent dwelling units.

IV. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

A. PLANNING AREA

The planning area encompasses 530 acres adjacent to the Great Falls city limits and is bounded by the Missouri River on the west and south, by 4th Street South on the east and by 21st Avenue South on the north. The Upper/Lower River Road Water and Sewer District is unincorporated and falls under the jurisdiction of the Cascade County Commission. Land use is over ninety percent residential, with less than seven percent zoned for mobile homes and less than three percent for light industrial use.

Presently, growth in the study area is at a standstill due to the restrictions of state groundwater nondegradation regulations, which make it nearly impossible for the Cascade County Health Department to issue new septic tank and drainfield permits. Resolution of current groundwater quality problems would provide an opportunity for further residential growth in the study area. The City-County Planning Board could choose to retain the lower density suburban character that many residents currently prefer, but could also consider infill and higher density residential development as appropriate land uses. The 1999 City-County Comprehensive Plan update sets a general goal for infill of lower density suburban uses to higher densities, along with the general goal of creating self-contained neighborhoods with adequate services.

Construction of the proposed Phase I project will take an estimated five months following the award of a contract. Construction is anticipated to begin during the summer of 2005.

B. FLOW PROJECTIONS

Based on street-by-street reconnaissance and a roof count from aerial photographs, there were approximately 442 dwelling units in the planning area in 2000. Assuming 2.51 residents per household, the population was estimated at 1109. Applying an annual growth rate of 1.1 percent, the 20-year projection was for a population of 1380 and 550 equivalent dwelling units. For design purposes, the district's consultant chose to use varying assumptions regarding population density, a higher annual growth rate of two percent and a shorter time frame of ten years, resulting in population and equivalent dwelling unit estimates of 1509 and 608.5, respectively.

Based on the city's wastewater flow records, the average wastewater flow per capita in the Great Falls area is 148 gallons per day. Maximum per capita flow is 296 gallons per day. Assuming a population of 1509, the projected added daily flow to the wastewater treatment system would be 223,332 gallons per day or 82 million gallons per year for the design year 2015. This constitutes 0.7 percent of the city's wastewater treatment plant capacity of 32 million gallons per day. The added maximum daily flow to the treatment system is estimated to be 446,664 gallons per day for the design year 2015.

C. NATURAL FEATURES

The planning area, bounded on the west and south by the Missouri River, is located just upstream of the confluence of the Missouri and Sun Rivers. Although the river valley narrows upstream, with bluffs rising 200 to 300 feet above the river, the planning area lies within a broad floodplain and surrounding plateau at an elevation of 3320 feet. A poorly defined drainage traverses the planning area from east to west, at times conveying runoff that can cause ponding in low-lying areas. Additionally, flooding of the Missouri River appears to influence the water table in low areas in and adjacent to the floodplain. Seasonal high ground water elevations are within eight feet of the ground surface over much of the planning area. Portions of the district, including many residences and some existing

wastewater facilities and city water transmission mains, lie within the 100-year and 500-year floodplains.

Recorded temperature extremes in Great Falls have ranged from a high of 107° F to a low of -49° F. Yearly precipitation has varied from as little as 9.02 inches to a high of 25.24 inches. The Continental Divide to the west, and the Big Belt and Little Belt Ranges to the south, are primary factors in producing the weather variations for the region. The combination of valley and plateau topographies in the immediate area also contributes significantly to temperature and wind velocity variations.

Precipitation averages approximately 15 inches a year, with most of the precipitation occurring during late spring and early summer. Although the average annual precipitation would normally classify the area as being semi-arid, about 70 percent of the annual precipitation falls during the peak of the growing season. Long hours of summer sunshine and nearly ten inches of precipitation during the six critical months, makes the climate very favorable for dryland farming.

The benches around Great Falls are simple in terms of geological structure. The strata as a rule lie nearly horizontal, dipping with a small angle to the north and east. The predominant geological feature of the area is the Sweetgrass Arch, a broad low uplift in the marine basin that covered the region during the Middle Jurassic Period. Surface soils in the planning area consist mainly of Lihen loamy sand and Yetull loamy sand. Both soils are described as having rapid permeability. Also found over a portion of the area are soils of the Tally series, with moderately rapid permeability, and Harlem silty clay loam, which typically exhibits slow permeability.

Common fish species inhabiting the Missouri River within the boundaries of the planning area include mountain whitefish, carp, longnose and white suckers, black bullheads, stonecats, yellow perch and mottled sculpin. Largemouth bass, bluegill and black crappie are also known to be present in this reach, but their relative abundance is unknown. Rainbow and brown trout have been noted, but are considered uncommon in occurrence.

Few large mammals are found within the planning area, due primarily to urban encroachment and limited forage. Occasionally, white tailed deer and mule deer are found in the suburban setting. On rare occasions, a wandering moose or mountain lion is found in the Great Falls suburbs. A number of smaller rodents and predators are common to the area. Coyotes, weasels, skunks, raccoons and bobcats number among the predators, while field or deer mice, ground squirrels and beavers are the most common rodent species.

A wide variety of songbirds, some scavengers, shore birds, upland game birds, hawks and owls are found in the planning area. Sparrows, robins, swallows, meadowlarks and warblers are among the common songbird species. Magpies and crows are the prevalent scavengers. The area is a major flyway, providing habitat for a number of waterfowl species. Pheasant, Hungarian partridge and sharp tailed grouse are the upland game species present.

V. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF PROPOSED PROJECT

A. DIRECT AND INDIRECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1. Housing and Commercial Development – Land use within the district boundaries is dominated by residential homes, with a small percentage of light industrial use.

Provision of city water and sewer services would remove the current limitations on development imposed by the state and county groundwater quality standards. This would, in turn, allow more intensive residential, commercial or industrial development within the district.

2. Future Land Use – Land use in the immediate vicinity surrounding the district boundaries is predominately residential. Although the proposed project would remove some regulatory restrictions on development, land use within the planning area is not expected to change significantly in the future. No adverse impacts to land use are expected from the proposed project.

3. Floodplains and Wetlands – Most of the area west of Lower River Road is within the 100-year floodplain, according to the 1974 Flood Insurance Rate Map. Furthermore, most of the area between Lower River Road and Upper River Road is within the 500-year floodplain. Construction of the proposed project would result in the abandonment of wastewater treatment systems within the floodplain, reducing the likelihood of surface water or groundwater contamination during flood events.

   No wetlands have been identified in the vicinity of the proposed project.

4. Cultural Resources – A cultural resource file search conducted by Terrence Godin of the state Historic Preservation Office indicated four previously recorded historic sites within the designated search locale. One of these sites is the Great Falls portage (24CA238) of the Lewis and Clark expedition, which is a National Historic Landmark.

   Since the water and sewer mains of the proposed project will be constructed beneath existing roadways or other previously disturbed ground, Mr. Godin concluded that there is a low probability cultural properties will be impacted; therefore a cultural resource inventory is not warranted. However, he recommended that the Historic Preservation Office be contacted in the event cultural resources are identified during construction.

5. Fish and Wildlife – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service did not respond to a September 14, 2000, request for comments on the proposed project. Since the district is primarily residential, there are no anticipated potential threats to any listed, threatened or endangered species as a result of this project.

6. Water Quality – Upon abandonment of the existing on-site wastewater disposal systems, groundwater quality in the area should gradually improve. Short-term impacts on water quality can be controlled through proper construction practices.

7. 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.

8. Public Health – The proposed project is not expected to have adverse impacts on public health, and should instead enhance public health by providing a safe water

supply and a reliable wastewater collection and disposal system that does not contaminate surface water or groundwater.

9. Energy - During construction of the proposed project additional energy will be consumed, causing a direct short-term impact on this resource.

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

B. 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.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A public meeting on the groundwater study results was held in July 1997. Other public meetings and hearings related to district formation and the scope of the construction project were held on April 27, 1999, May 16, 2000, February 1, 2001, May 17, 2001, and March 28, 2002. The water and sewer district was formed by a popular vote held on June 12, 2001.

VII. 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. Upper and Lower River Road Water and Wastewater Facilities Plan, October 2000, prepared by Neil Consultants, Inc., Great Falls, Montana.
B. Upper and Lower River Road Water and Wastewater Facilities Preliminary Engineering Report, April 2002, prepared by Neil Consultants, Inc., Great Falls, Montana.
C. Water System Design Report, Upper and Lower River Road Phase 1 Improvements, May 2005, prepared by Neil Consultants, Inc., Great Falls, Montana.
D. Wastewater System Design Report, Upper and Lower River Road Phase 1 Improvements, May 2005, prepared by Neil Consultants, Inc., Great Falls, Montana.

VIII. AGENCIES CONSULTED

The following agencies were contacted regarding the proposed construction of this project:

A. The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks was asked in a September 14, 2000, letter by the district's consultant for comments on the proposed project. No response was received.

B. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was asked in a September 14, 2000, letter by the district's consultant for comments on the proposed project. No response was received.

C. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reviewed the proposed project and commented in a November 6, 2000, letter. The Corps of Engineers is responsible for administering Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, which regulates the excavation or placement of

dredged or fill material below the ordinary high water mark of the nation's rivers, streams, lakes or in wetlands. From the limited information provided, the Corps of Engineers could not determine whether a Section 404 permit would be required and, if so, what the permit requirements would be.

D. The Montana Historical Society's Historic Preservation Office reviewed the project and conducted a cultural resource file search. Terrence Godin, author of the response, wrote that his records indicated four previously recorded cultural properties (24CA197, 24CA238, 24CA262 and 24CA401) within the designated search locale. One of these sites, 24CA238, is related to the Great Falls portage of the Lewis and Clark expedition.

Since the water and sewer mains of the proposed project will be constructed beneath existing roadways or other previously disturbed ground, Mr. Godin concluded that there is a low probability cultural properties will be impacted. However, he recommended that the Historic Preservation Office be contacted in the event cultural resources are identified during construction.

E. The Montana Department of Natural Resource and Conservation's Floodplain Section reviewed the proposed project and responded in a November 9, 2000, letter. Due to a lack of clarity on the location map, the author of the response, Karl Christians, was not able to determine where the project would be in relation to the designated 100-year floodplain. He concluded by recommending that all construction be designed to minimally obstruct floodwaters and to be minimally impacted by the 100-year flood event.

F. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service was asked in a September 14, 2000, letter by the district's consultant for comments on the proposed project. No response was received.