

Why You Should Read This: The document below reviews the environmental impact likely from a State Revolving Fund project. As part of the environmental review, you are entitled to provide comments. If you have concerns about the environmental impact of this project, raise them now. We encourage public input in this decision making process.



IOWA STATE REVOLVING FUND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

May 14, 2025

To: All Interested Citizens, Government Agencies, and Public Groups

An environmental review has been performed based on the procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for the proposed agency action below:

Applicant: City of Mason City

County: Cerro Gordo

State: Iowa

SRF Number: CS1921173 01

Iowa DNR Project Number: W2024-0304A

The City of Mason City, Iowa is planning an upgrade to their sanitary sewer system. The city has applied for financial assistance through the State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan program to build the project. The State Revolving Loan Program is a program authorized by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and administered by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in partnership with the Iowa Finance Authority.

The City of Mason City is located in Cerro Gordo County, Iowa approximately 9 miles east of Clear Lake, Iowa and 27 miles west of Charles City, Iowa. The population of Mason City according to the 2020 US Census was 27,338 people. The design population equivalent for the year 2044 is 31,401 people.

The City of Mason City collects and treats wastewater from residential, industrial, and commercial users. The existing wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) consists of a plant with both trickling filters and activated sludge. The City completed an upgrade to the WWTF in 2008 and installed a new effluent pump station in 2010. Nutrient reduction improvements are also under construction. The City installed the South Sanitary Sewer Interceptor in 2006 consisting of 12", 18", 24", and 27" sanitary sewer to service a newly annexed area in the southwest portion of the City. This interceptor connects to an existing interceptor, the Wastewater Treatment Facility Interceptor, which consists of mainly 21" pipe and leads to the WWTF. The City needs to construct a new lift station to provide sanitary sewer service to areas outside of the gravity portion of the collection system that can be feasibly developed.

The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the sanitary sewer collection system to service currently unsewered growing areas of the city, enhance its reliability, and increase capacity to safely and reliably operate the City of Mason City's sanitary sewer collection system for the next 20 years. The proposed

project will construct a lift station (0.94 MGD initial capacity, 4.5 MGD ultimate capacity), 8" force main (for initial capacity), 16" force main (for ultimate capacity), and 12" gravity sanitary sewer to service an industrial area which is currently unsewered. Site work will include grading, a new access drive, a chain link fence, a generator, and all connections and appurtenances. Positive environmental effects will be improved collection of wastewater from the City of Mason City and ensured proper disposal of wastewater from the service area.

The project will not significantly affect the pattern and type of land use (industrial, commercial, agricultural, recreational, residential) or growth and distribution of population. The project will not conflict with local, regional or State land use plans or policies. An application has been submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for their determination if the project will impact wetlands or jurisdictional waters of the United States and require a permit. The project will not affect threatened and endangered species or their habitats. If any State- or Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or communities are found during the planning or construction phases, additional studies and/or mitigation may be required. The project will not displace population or alter the character of existing residential areas. An analysis of the farmland conversion impact was completed. Removing this area from production should not have a significant impact on corn or soybean production in the area, nor should it have a significant impact on the agricultural industry in the area. The project will not affect the 100-year flood plain provided all necessary local floodplain development permits are obtained and the terms of which are abided by. The project will not have effect on parklands, preserves, other public lands, or areas of recognized scenic or recreational value.

No historic properties will be adversely affected by the proposed project. If construction activities uncover any archaeological item(s), the City should notify SRF staff. If human remains are discovered then state law also applies IC 263B.

The project will not have a significant adverse effect upon local ambient air quality provided the applicant takes reasonable precautions to prevent the discharge of visible emissions of fugitive dusts beyond the lot line of the property during the proposed project (567 IAC 23.3(2)"c"). The project will not have a significant adverse effect upon local ambient noise levels, surface water quantity, groundwater quality or quantity, or water supply. No significant impact to surface water quality, fish, shellfish, wildlife, or their natural habitats is expected provided that an NPDES General Permit Number 2 (for storm water discharge associated with construction activities) is obtained and the terms of which are abided by.

Minimum separation distances will be maintained. Noise during construction will be maintained at tolerable levels through controls on construction activities. Any construction debris will be removed from the site for proper disposal. Adverse environmental effects from construction activities will be minimized with proper construction practices, inspection, prompt clean up and other appropriate measures. Areas temporarily disturbed by the construction will be restored.

It has been determined that the proposed action will result in no significant impacts to the surrounding environment. This determination is based on a careful review of the engineering report, the environmental assessment and other supporting data which are on file at the Department of Natural Resources' office in Des Moines, Iowa. These are available for public review upon request. A copy of the environmental assessment is attached. This Department will not take any administrative action on the project for at least thirty (30) calendar days from the above date. Persons disagreeing with the above environmental decision may submit comments to the department during this period. Your comments can be sent to SRF-PC@dnr.iowa.gov or directly to me at Rebecca.FlynnKettman@dnr.iowa.gov or (515) 204-5672.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Flynn Kettman
Environmental Specialist
6200 Park Ave, Suite 200
Des Moines, IA 50321

Enclosures: Environmental Assessment
Project Map

Distribution

List (email): Thomas Madden, Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc.
Edward Boling, Council on Environmental Quality
Jake Hansen, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
Ken Sharp, Iowa Department of Health & Human Services
Mindy Wells, Iowa Department of Health & Human Services
Chad Sands, Iowa Economic Development Authority
Alicia Vasto, Iowa Environmental Council
Michael Schmidt, Iowa Environmental Council
Tracy Scebold, Iowa Finance Authority
Tony Toigo, Iowa Finance Authority
Lee Wagner, Iowa Finance Authority
Mickey Shields, Iowa League of Cities
Jane Clark, Sierra Club
Josh Mandelbaum, Environmental Law and Policy Center
Kate Sand, USDA Rural Development
Tokey Boswell, USDO, National Park Service, Midwest Region
Kraig McPeck, Fish and Wildlife Service, Rock Island Field Office
Ann D'Alfonso, USEPA Region VII
Kelly Beard-Tittone, USEPA Region VII
The Globe Gazette

Why You Should Read This: The document below reviews the environmental impact likely from a State Revolving Fund project. As part of the environmental review, you are entitled to provide comments. If you have concerns about the environmental impact of this project, raise them now. We encourage public input in this decision making process.



IOWA STATE REVOLVING FUND
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Applicant: City of Mason City
County: Cerro Gordo
State: Iowa

SRF Number: CS1921173 01
Iowa DNR Project Number: W2024-0304A

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Location: The City of Mason City is located in Cerro Gordo County, Iowa approximately 9 miles east of Clear Lake, Iowa and 27 miles west of Charles City, Iowa.

Population: The population of Mason City according to the 2020 US Census was 27,338 people. The design population equivalent for the year 2044 is 31,401 people.

Current Waste Treatment: The City of Mason City collects and treats wastewater from residential, industrial, and commercial users. The existing wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) consists of a plant with both trickling filters and activated sludge. The City completed an upgrade to the WWTF in 2008 and installed a new effluent pump station in 2010. Nutrient reduction improvements are also under construction.

Current Waste Collection System: The City installed the South Sanitary Sewer Interceptor in 2006 consisting of 12", 18", 24", and 27" sanitary sewer to service a newly annexed area in the southwest portion of the City. This interceptor connects to an existing interceptor, the Wastewater Treatment Facility Interceptor, which consists of mainly 21" pipe and leads to the WWTF. The City needs to construct a new lift station to provide sanitary sewer service to areas outside of the gravity portion of the collection system that can be feasibly developed.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the sanitary sewer collection system to service currently unsewered growing areas of the city, enhance its reliability, and increase capacity to safely and reliably operate the City of Mason City's sanitary sewer collection system for the next 20 years.

Proposed Improvements: The proposed project will construct a lift station (0.94 MGD initial capacity, 4.5 MGD ultimate capacity), 8" force main (for initial capacity), 16" force main (for ultimate capacity), and 12" gravity sanitary sewer to service an industrial area which is currently unsewered. Site work will include grading, a new access drive, a chain link fence, a generator, and all connections and appurtenances.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Alternatives Considered and Reasons for Selection of Proposed Alternative: The City's undeveloped areas that can be feasibly developed will need sanitary sewer collection services. Because a portion of the undeveloped areas are outside of the existing gravity sewer collection system, a no alternatives to the planned lift station were considered.

The project site was selected for the minimization of the impacts to the environment. The city is acquiring approximately 0.26 acres of land for construction of the lift station. The city is also obtaining a temporary easement of approximately 0.5 acres around the lift station site for construction.

MEASURES TAKEN TO ASSESS IMPACT

Public Involvement: A public hearing was held on May 6, 2025 at 7:00PM at the at the Mason City Public Library, Mason City Room. The public notice of this hearing was made available by publication in The Globe Gazette on April 1, 2025 and placed on the City website on March 25, 2025. The purpose of this hearing was to present the environmental and financial impacts of the proposed improvement project. No written or oral comments were received.

Coordination and Documentation with Other Agencies and Special Interest Groups: The following Federal, state and local agencies were asked to comment on the proposed project to better assess the potential impact to the environment:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- State Historical Society of Iowa (State Historical Preservation Office)
- Iowa DNR Conservation and Recreation Division
- Iowa DNR Flood Plain Management Section
- Citizen Band Potawatomi Indian Tribe
- Flandreau Santee Sioux
- Ho-Chunk Nation
- Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska
- Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma
- Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas
- Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma
- Lower Sioux Indian Community Council
- Miami Tribe of Oklahoma
- Omaha Tribal Council
- Osage Tribal Council
- Otoe-Missouria Tribe
- Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma
- Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma

Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
Prairie Island Indian Community
Sac & Fox Nation of Mississippi in Iowa
Sac & Fox Nation of Missouri
Sac & Fox Nation of Oklahoma
Santee Sioux Nation
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate
Spirit Lake Tribal Council
Three Affiliated Tribes Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nations
Upper Sioux Tribe
Winnebago Tribal Council
Yankton Sioux Tribal Business and Claims Committee
Mason City Historic Preservation Commission

No adverse comments were received from any agencies or general public. Conditions placed on the applicant by the above agencies in order to assure no significant impact are included in the Summary of Reasons for Concluding No Significant Impact section.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT SUMMARY

Construction: Traffic patterns within the community may be disrupted and above normal noise levels in the vicinity of the construction equipment can be anticipated during construction and should be a temporary problem. Adverse environmental impacts on noise quality will be handled by limited hours of contractor work time during the day. Other adverse environmental effects from construction activities will be minimized by proper construction practices, inspection, prompt cleanup, and other appropriate measures. Areas temporarily disturbed by the construction will be restored. Solid wastes resulting from the construction project will be regularly cleared away with substantial efforts made to minimize inconvenience to area residents.

Care will be taken to maintain dirt to avoid erosion and runoff. The proposed project will disturb one or more acres of soil; therefore, the applicant is required to obtain an NPDES General Permit Number 2 (for storm water discharge associated with construction activities) and abide by its terms. Provided that this permit is obtained and the terms of which are abided by, no significant impact to surface water quality, fish, shellfish, wildlife, or their natural habitats is expected.

Temporary air quality degradation may occur due to dust and fumes from construction equipment. The applicant shall take reasonable precautions to prevent the discharge of visible emissions of fugitive dusts beyond the lot line of the property during the proposed project (567 Iowa Administrative Code IAC 23.3(2)“c”). This project does include construction of equipment that has a potential to emit criteria pollutants and/or hazardous air pollutants. However, the equipment’s potential to emit and anticipated actual emissions are below minor source reporting thresholds.

This project may require the disposal of sewage sludge. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the disposal of any sewage sludge complies with applicable requirements found in 40 CFR Part 503 and 567 Iowa Administrative Code IAC 67.

Historical/Archaeological: This project will not be receiving federal funds through SRF. As such, this project is not considered a federal undertaking as defined in §300320 under the National Historic Preservation Act, 54 U.S.C. 300101 et seq. for the purpose of the SRF environmental review. The State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO), the Certified Local Government and various Native American tribes with an interest in the area were provided information regarding the project. The DNR has determined that this undertaking will result in no historic properties affected based on the scope of the project and the findings of previous archaeological surveys conducted on the project property. If construction activities uncover any archaeological item(s), the City should notify SRF staff. If human remains are discovered then state law also applies IC 263B.

Environmental: According to the Iowa DNR Conservation and Recreation Division, the proposed project will not interfere with any State-owned parks, recreational areas or open spaces. An application has been submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for their determination if the project will impact wetlands or jurisdictional waters of the United States and require a permit. The project will not impact any wild and scenic rivers as none exist within the State of Iowa. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Section 7 Technical Assistance website consultation determined, and Iowa DNR Conservation and Recreation Division agree, that the project will not impact protected species or their habitats. However, if any State- or Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or communities are found during the planning or construction phases, additional studies and/or mitigation may be required. According to the Iowa DNR Flood Plain Management Section, this project will not impact the 100-year floodplain provided all necessary local floodplain development permits are obtained and the terms of which are abided by. No adverse impacts are expected to result from this project, such as those to surface water quantity, or groundwater quality or quantity.

Land Use and Trends: The project will not displace population nor will it alter the character of existing residential areas. The proposed project is within the present corporate limits of Mason City. An analysis of the farmland conversion impact was completed. Removing this area from production should not have a significant impact on corn or soybean production in the area, nor should it have a significant impact on the agricultural industry in the area. This project should not impact population trends as the presence or absence of existing water/sewer infrastructure is unlikely to induce significant alterations in the population growth or distribution given the myriad of factors that influence development in this region. Similarly, this project is unlikely to induce significant alterations in the pattern and type of land use.

Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources: Fuels, materials, and various forms of energy will be utilized during construction.

Nondiscrimination: All programs, projects, and activities undertaken by DNR in the SRF programs are subject to federal anti-discrimination laws, including the Civil Rights Act of 1964, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and section 13 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Amendments of 1972. These laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age.

POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS TO BE REALIZED FROM THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Positive environmental effects will be improved collection of wastewater from the City of Mason City and ensured proper disposal of wastewater from the service area.

SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR CONCLUDING NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

- The project will not significantly affect the pattern and type of land use (industrial, commercial, agricultural, recreational, residential) or growth and distribution of population.
- The project will not conflict with local, regional or State land use plans or policies.
- An application has been submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for their determination if the project will impact wetlands or jurisdictional waters of the United States and require a permit.
- The project will not affect threatened and endangered species or their habitats. If any State- or Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or communities are found during the planning or construction phases, additional studies and/or mitigation may be required.
- The project will not displace population or alter the character of existing residential areas.
- An analysis of the farmland conversion impact was completed. Removing this area from production should not have a significant impact on corn or soybean production in the area, nor should it have a significant impact on the agricultural industry in the area.
- The project will not affect the 100-year flood plain provided all necessary local floodplain development permits are obtained and the terms of which are abided by.
- The project will not have effect on parklands, preserves, other public lands, or areas of recognized scenic or recreational value.
- No historic properties will be adversely affected by the proposed project. If construction activities uncover any archaeological item(s), the City should notify SRF staff. If human remains are discovered then state law also applies IC 263B.
- The project will not have a significant adverse effect upon local ambient air quality provided the applicant takes reasonable precautions to prevent the discharge of visible emissions of fugitive dusts beyond the lot line of the property during the proposed project (567 IAC 23.3(2)“c”).
- The project will not have a significant adverse effect upon local ambient noise levels, surface water quantity, groundwater quality or quantity, or water supply.
- No significant impact to surface water quality, fish, shellfish, wildlife, or their natural habitats is expected provided that an NPDES General Permit Number 2 (for storm water discharge associated with construction activities) is obtained and the terms of which are abided by.

THEREFORE:

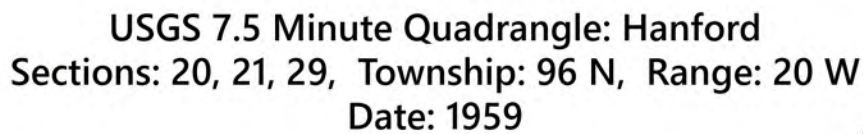
The above project conforms to the criteria in 567 Iowa Administrative Code 92.8(1)“b” relating to compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. This Environmental Assessment Document (EAD) outlines the justification that the environmental review for the proposed project should be classified as a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) and does not rise to the significance of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in accordance with 40 CFR § 1501.5.

Rebecca Flynn Kettman

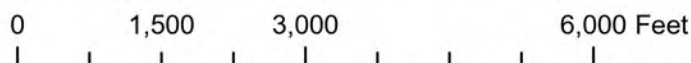
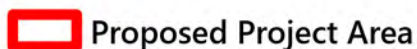
Environmental Review Specialist

State Revolving Fund

Iowa Department of Natural Resources



Legend




Cerro Gordo County. Image source: Wikipedia, 2025.



Mason City 43rd Street SW Lift Station and Force Main
Mason City, IA (Cerro Gordo County)

Legend

 Proposed Project Area

0 500 1,000 2,000 Feet