

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

August 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 La Motte

County: Jackson

State: Iowa

SRF Number: FS-49-24-DWSRF-030

Iowa DNR Project Number: W2023-0155

Other Funding Sources: CDBG

The City of <City>, Iowa is planning an upgrade to their water supply infrastructure. 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 La Motte is located in Jackson County, Iowa approximately 60 miles north of Davenport, Iowa and 18 miles southeast of Dubuque, Iowa. The population of La Motte according to the 2020 US Census was 237. The design population equivalent for the year 2040 is 214.

The City of La Motte owns its own public water system, and Peoples Service, Inc operates and maintains the water system. The City currently has one well, existing Well #2, that supplies water for the City. Well #2 was originally installed in 1959 and has shown several signs of deterioration. The casing of existing Well #2 has begun to cave in at 25 to 30 feet deep. In addition, the existing alarm dialer and controls are unreliable and are sometimes inoperable, resulting in unreliable or non-notification of issues at Well #2 to the Water Operator and decreases the overall reliability of the water system in La Motte. If existing Well #2 were to become inoperable, the residents of La Motte would have no access to drinking water after six days once the standpipe is drained. As per Chapter 43, Section 43.3(2) in the Iowa Administrative Code, any community water system is required to provide a minimum of two public supply wells, unless a single well can provide a reliable and adequate source of water. However, based on the issues outlined above, the existing Well #2 is not suitable to be considered as a reliable source of water.

The City treats its water with the injection of chlorine into the water system. The City also has one steel water storage standpipe located in the southeast portion of the City, along 250th Street.

The purpose of this project is to make improvements to water supply system increase the efficiency and redundancy of the existing water system. By constructing a new well, the municipal water system will have increased capacity; improved efficiency and significant reliability; and required redundancy within the water system.

The proposed project includes the construction of Municipal Well #3 with a 200 gallon-per-minute (gpm) pump, electrical controls, on-site generator, and associated appurtenances. Additionally, construction of a well house, installation of a water main from the new well to the existing infrastructure, and the installation of a new transmission main (approx. 1,600') would be installed to replace the existing water main along Elm Street (Well Site - Ash St.), Ash Street (Elm St. - Pine St.), and Pine Street (Ash St. - Maple St.). The water main replacement will be constructed via open trench methods, approximate depth of 7-7.5ft and 3 ft wide. Also proposed is the installation of a sanitary sewer lateral from the existing infrastructure to the new wellhouse. The proposed project includes pavement replacement.

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. The project will not impact wetlands. The project will not affect threatened and endangered species or their habitats provided that any tree cutting is conducted between October 1 and March 31 to avoid impacting endangered bats. 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, alter the character of existing residential areas, or convert significant farmlands to non-agricultural purposes. The project will not affect the 100-year flood plain. The project will not have effect on parklands, preserves, other public lands, or areas of recognized scenic or recreational value.

Various Native American tribes with an interest in the area and the Certified Local Government were provided information regarding the project. 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. If this SRF project receives federal funds from other sources, it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure all federal requirements are met for that funding. No historic properties will be adversely affected by the proposed project. However, if project activities uncover any item(s) that might be of archaeological, historical, or architectural interest, or if important new archaeological, historical, or architectural data should be encountered in the project APE, the applicant should make reasonable efforts to avoid further impacts to the property until an assessment can be made by an individual meeting the Secretary of the Interior's professional qualifications standards (36 CFR Part 61).

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 Nicole.Osborn@dnr.iowa.gov or (515) 321-7601.

Sincerely,

Nicole Osborn
Environmental Specialist
6200 Park Ave, Suite 200
Des Moines, IA 50321

Enclosures: Environmental Assessment
Project Map

Distribution

List (email): Delta 3 Engineering
East Central Intergovernmental Association (ECIA)
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
Bellevue Herald-Leader

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IOWA STATE REVOLVING FUND
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Applicant: City of La Motte
County: Jackson
State: Iowa

SRF Number: FS-49-24-DWSRF-030
Iowa DNR Project Number: W2023-0155

Other Funding Sources: CDBG

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Location: The City of La Motte is located in Jackson County, Iowa approximately 60 miles north of Davenport, Iowa and 18 miles southeast of Dubuque, Iowa.

Population: The population of La Motte according to the 2020 US Census was 237. The design population equivalent for the year 2040 is 214.

Current Source of Water: The City of La Motte owns its own public water system, and Peoples Service, Inc operates and maintains the water system. The City currently has one well, existing Well #2, that supplies water for the City. Well #2 was originally installed in 1959 and has shown several signs of deterioration. The casing of existing Well #2 has begun to cave in at 25 to 30 feet deep. In addition, the existing alarm dialer and controls are unreliable and are sometimes inoperable, resulting in unreliable or non-notification of issues at Well #2 to the Water Operator and decreases the overall reliability of the water system in La Motte. If existing Well #2 were to become inoperable, the residents of La Motte would have no access to drinking water after six days once the standpipe is drained. As per Chapter 43, Section 43.3(2) in the Iowa Administrative Code, any community water system is required to provide a minimum of two public supply wells, unless a single well can provide a reliable and adequate source of water. However, based on the issues outlined above, the existing Well #2 is not suitable to be considered as a reliable source of water.

Current Water Treatment and Quality: The City treats its water with the injection of chlorine into the water system. The City also has one steel, water storage standpipe located in the southeast portion of the City, along 250th Street.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to make improvements to water supply system increase the efficiency and redundancy of the existing water system. By constructing a new well, the municipal water system will have increased capacity; improved efficiency and significant reliability; and required redundancy within the water system.

Proposed Improvements: The proposed project includes the construction of Municipal Well #3 with a 200 gallon-per-minute (gpm) pump, electrical controls, on-site generator, and associated appurtenances. Additionally, construction of a well house, installation of a water main from the new well to the existing infrastructure, and the installation of a new transmission main (approx. 1,600') would be installed to replace the existing water main along Elm Street (Well Site - Ash St.), Ash Street (Elm St. - Pine St.), and Pine Street (Ash St. - Maple St.). The water main replacement will be constructed via open trench methods, approximate depth of 7-7.5ft and 3 ft wide. Also proposed is the installation of a sanitary sewer lateral from the existing infrastructure to the new wellhouse. The proposed project includes pavement replacement.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Alternatives Considered: Several alternatives were reviewed for La Motte's proposed new well project.

Alternative #1 – 'Do Nothing': The "Do-Nothing" alternative would leave the existing water system operating with one existing water supply well and one water storage standpipe. The existing water system supplies sufficient minimum residential fire flow (500-gpm flow at 20 psi pressure from Insurance Services Office) throughout the City. As per Section 43.3(2) in the Iowa Administrative Code, any community water system is required to provide a minimum of two public supply wells, unless a single well can provide a reliable and adequate source of water. The lone existing Well #2 has shown signs of deterioration and is unreliable, with accumulating repairs and maintenance issues. Therefore, existing Well #2 does not provide a reliable and adequate source of water. When existing Well #2 goes offline for maintenance or repairs, the residents of La Motte only have enough water for six days, assuming that the existing standpipe is at full capacity. This option also does not address the lack of redundancy within the existing water supply system. Therefore, this alternative was removed from consideration.

Alternative #2 – 100-gpm Water Supply Well: Installing a 100-gpm water supply well pump would provide a backup water supply for the existing water system as required by the Iowa Administrative Code. However, due to the limited source resiliency of Well #2, redundancy in the water system needs to satisfy the same pumping requirements as Well #2 at a minimum. The 100-gpm pump would have a lower pumping capacity than the existing 140-gpm pump at Well #2 and would not provide system redundancy. The lower capacity of the proposed pump would result in less system reliability and less ability to accommodate the City's current water supply demands. In addition, the City's water system would still have deficient capacity for future development or expansion with a proposed 100-gpm well pump.

Alternative #3 – 200-gpm Water Supply Well: The 200-gpm water supply well pump will significantly improve the reliability and satisfy the redundancy requirements for the existing water supply system as per Section 43.3(2) of the Iowa Administrative Code. The proposed 200-gpm pump would have a slightly higher capacity than the existing 140-gpm pump, providing adequate redundancy of the water system. In addition, if existing Well #2 is out of service, the proposed 200-gpm pump would also provide sufficient capacity for future residential, commercial, or industrial development or expansion in the City as a standalone well. Furthermore,

the daily operational usage for the proposed 200-gpm well will be reduced since the proposed pump has a higher capacity than existing Well #2. Reduction of the daily operational usage results in less pump wear and tear; reduction in electrical costs; and an increased pump service life. Based on these factors, the 200-gpm water supply well pump with VFD motor is the recommended alternative for the City's water supply system improvements.

Reasons for Selection of Proposed Alternative: The No-Action alternative is not viable due to Section 43.3(2) of the Iowa Administrative Code. Based on the above listed factors, Alternative #3 (200-gpm water supply well pump with VFD motor) is the recommended alternative for the City's water supply system improvements.

MEASURES TAKEN TO ASSESS IMPACT

Public Involvement: A public hearing was held on August 4, 2025 at 7:00PM at the City's regular council meeting. The public notice of this hearing was made available by posting in four public locations on June 30, 2025 and publication in the local newspaper, Bellevue Herald-Leader, on July 3, 2025. The purpose of this hearing was to present the environmental and financial impacts of the proposed improvement project. Oral comments were received, no written comments were received. All comments were adequately answered and documented at the time of the public hearing.

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
- 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
Jackson County 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”).

Historical/Archaeological:

Various Native American tribes with an interest in the area and the Certified Local Government were provided information regarding the project. 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. If this SRF project receives federal funds from other sources, it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure all federal requirements are met for that funding.

However, if project activities uncover any item(s) that might be of archaeological, historical, or architectural interest, or if important new archaeological, historical, or architectural data should be encountered in the project APE, the applicant should make reasonable efforts to avoid further impacts to the property until an assessment can be made by an individual meeting the Secretary of the Interior's professional qualifications standards (36 CFR Part 61).

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. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers concurs that the project will not impact wetlands. 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 provided that any tree cutting is conducted between October 1 and March 31 to avoid impacting endangered bats. 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.

No adverse impacts are expected to result from this project, such as those to surface water quantity, or groundwater quality or quantity. Therefore, no significant impact to surface water quality, fish, shellfish, wildlife, or their natural habitats is expected.

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 La Motte in areas zoned residential, commercial, or industrial. No significant farmlands will be impacted. 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 maintained water quality for the citizens of La Motte. A catastrophic loss of water supply could result in City-wide health impacts due to a lack of sanitation and the use of other water sources that may not meet Federal drinking water standards.

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.
- The project will not impact wetlands.
- The project will not affect threatened and endangered species or their habitats provided that any tree cutting is conducted between October 1 and March 31 to avoid impacting endangered bats. 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, alter the character of existing residential areas, or convert significant farmlands to non-agricultural purposes.
- The project will not affect the 100-year flood plain.
- The project will not have effect on parklands, preserves, other public lands, or areas of recognized scenic or recreational value.
- Various Native American tribes with an interest in the area and the Certified Local Government were provided information regarding the project. 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. If this SRF project receives federal funds from other sources, it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure all federal requirements are met for that funding.
- No historic properties will be adversely affected by the proposed project. However, if project activities uncover any item(s) that might be of archaeological, historical, or architectural interest, or if important new archaeological, historical, or architectural data should be encountered in the project APE, the applicant should make reasonable efforts to avoid further impacts to the property until an assessment can be made by an individual meeting the Secretary of the Interior's professional qualifications standards (36 CFR Part 61).
- 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:

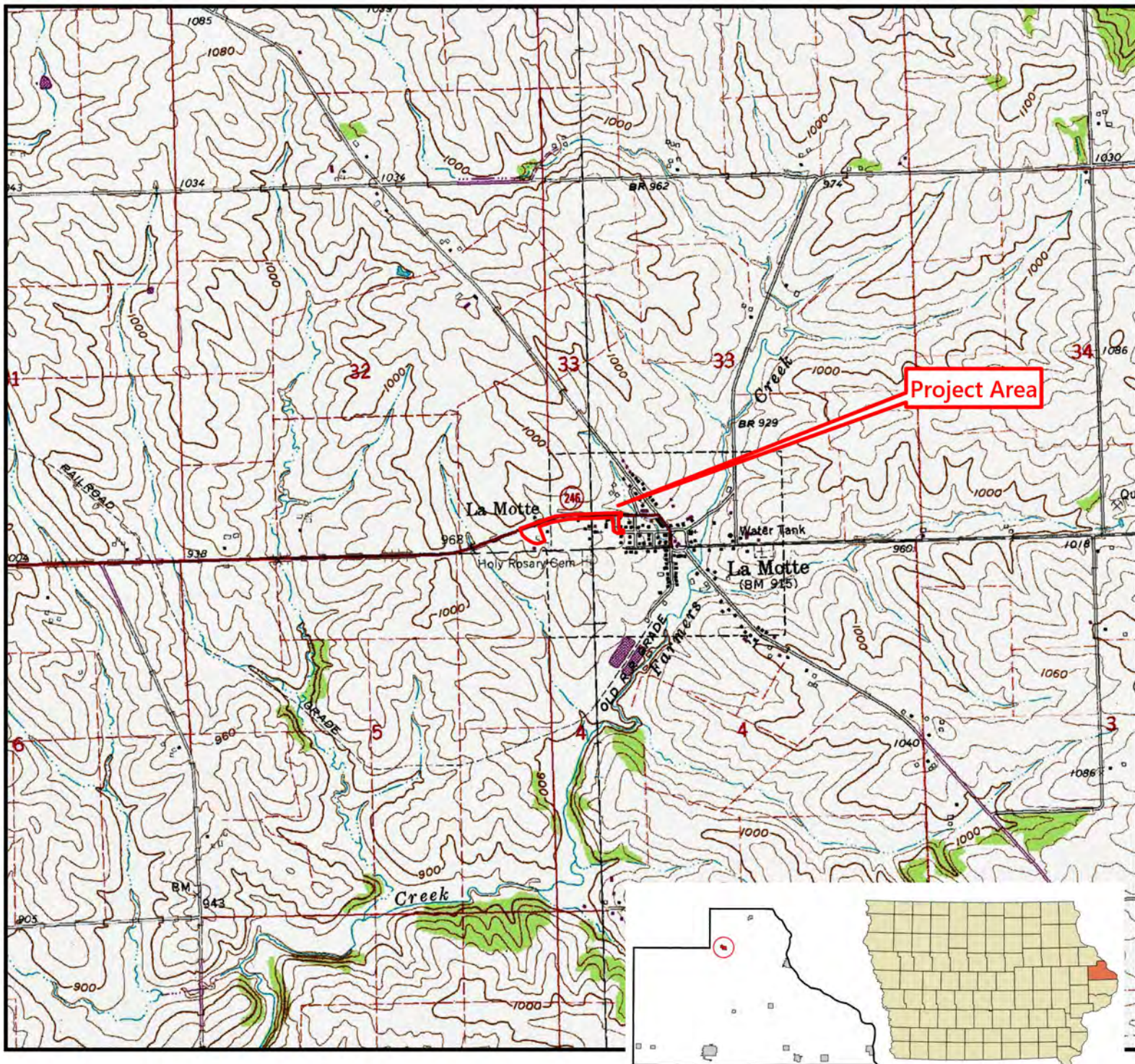
The above project conforms to the criteria in 567 Iowa Administrative Code 44.10(3) relating to compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. This Environmental Assessment Document (EAD) outlines the justification that the environmental review for the proposed project should be classified 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.

Nicole Osborn

Environmental Review Specialist


State Revolving Fund

Iowa Department of Natural Resources



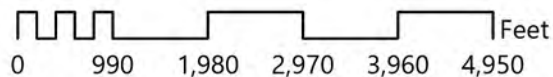
Jackson County. Image source: Wikipedia, 2025.

Legend

 Project Area

La Motte Proposed Municipal Well #3
La Motte, IA (Jackson County, Iowa)

Scale: 1:24,000





Legend

 Project Area

Scale: 1:2,434

La Motte Proposed Municipal Well #3
La Motte, IA (Jackson County, Iowa)

