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

December 10, 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 Independence
County: Buchanan
State: Iowa

SRF Number: CS1921196 01
Iowa DNR Project Number: W2025-0136A

The City of Independence, Iowa is planning an upgrade to their wastewater 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. This project will not be receiving federal funds through SRF.

The City of Independence is located in Buchanan County, Iowa approximately 23 miles east of Waterloo, Iowa and 36 miles northwest of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The population of the City of Independence according to the 2020 US Census was 6,064 people. The design population equivalent for the year 2046 is 6,695 people.

The City of Independence owns and operates a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) located at 2018 Three Elms Park Road that provides wastewater treatment for domestic and industrial wastewater from all the customers in the City's service area. The WWTP was originally constructed in 1978. The major treatment processes at the WWTP include influent flow metering, screening, grit removal, preaeration, primary clarification, first-stage trickling filters, intermediate clarification, second-stage trickling filters, final clarification, chlorination, and dechlorination. Improvements to the biosolids processes were made in the late 1990s. The WWTP currently uses anaerobic digestion to produce Class A biosolids, utilizing three egg-shape digesters. A sludge storage tank provides on-site liquid storage. Class A biosolids are not currently a requirement at the WWTP because of the eventual sludge application on agricultural land, therefore, production of Class B biosolids would be sufficient to continue the current reuse program. Both a new headworks facility and third first-stage trickling filter were constructed in the early 2000s. The most recent upgrade at the WWTP was completed in 2020 and included miscellaneous improvements to existing processes. The City holds a NPDES permit with limits that expire September 30, 2025. The City had a notable permit exceedance for a mass-based total suspended solids violation in September 2018, likely the result of high flow conditions due to the localized flooding after a rainfall event. The City anticipates more stringent effluent limits in future NPDES permits due to revised regulatory standards and changing environmental

impacts. The current biological treatment system and trickling filtration is not amenable to the removal of nutrients to meet future permit levels. Additionally, in recent interviews with the two largest industrial users in the City's service area, the City learned that growth from these two existing significant industrial users is expected to be between 25 and 50 percent. Based on the age of the current WWTP facilities, expected increases in industrial loading, as well as the potential changes to the regulations governing discharges from the WWTP, the City needs to consider improvements to its treatment processes and its needs for additional capacity at the existing WWTP.

The City owns and operates a sanitary sewer collection system that conveys domestic and industrial flow generated throughout the City to the WWTP. Before the construction of the current WWTP facility, wastewater was treated at a site located east of the Wapsipinicon River in the southeast corner of the City. A pumping station was constructed on Lover's Lane Boulevard to pump flow from the influent of the previous facility to the current WWTP site, and the previous facility was abandoned following construction of the current WWTP. Most of the flow to the current WWTP is pumped to the site by the Lover's Lane Boulevard pumping station.

The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the wastewater treatment facilities to increase capacity, meet future effluent limits, and reliably operate the City of Independence's wastewater system for the next 20 years. The proposed project includes the following improvements to the WWTP: replace preliminary treatment equipment, construct two oxidation ditches, construct three secondary clarifiers, construct new RAS/WAS pumping building, install UV disinfection equipment, construct four aerobic digesters, install new equipment in the existing sludge storage tank, construct two sludge storage tanks, and construct a new storage building. The new tanks, buildings, and equipment will be constructed while the existing plant is in service. After construction, the flow will be strategically transitioned to flow through the new plant and once the new biology has been established in the new wastewater treatment plant, the existing plant will be demolished. Once the existing plant is demolished, the storage building will be constructed. The project also includes two new submersible pump stations and associated valve and meter vaults to pump plant sanitary sewer and biosolids to their appropriate locations. There will also be a hauled waste receiving station to receive vactor truck waste along with two new splitter structures to split flow evenly into the two oxidation ditches and the three final clarifiers. The existing Headworks Building, Administration Building, and Blower/UV Building will include plumbing, HVAC, and electrical/SCADA upgrades and will receive new paint, doors, and flooring/ceilings. The Administration Building renovation will also include a remodeled lab and offices within their existing footprint. New site utilities include a gas distribution system, a plant sanitary sewer system, and an electrical/SCADA distribution system along with an emergency generator. A new fence will be installed on the north side, and part of the east side. New concrete roadways will be included and disturbed areas will be graded and reseeded. A stormwater collection system will be installed and will flow to a retention basin prior to leaving the site.

The treated wastewater from the WWTP discharges into the Wapsipinicon River. It has a stream use designation of Class A1, Class B (WW-1), and Class HH. Class A1 waters are waters in which recreational or other uses may result in prolonged and direct contact with the water, involving considerable risk of ingesting water in quantities sufficient to pose a health hazard. Such activities would include, but not be limited to, swimming, diving, water skiing, and water contact recreational canoeing. Class B (WW-1) waters are waters in which temperature, flow and other habitat characteristics are suitable to maintain warm water game fish populations along with a resident aquatic community that includes a variety of native nongame fish and invertebrate species. These waters generally include border rivers, large interior rivers, and the lower segments of medium-size tributary streams. Class HH waters are waters in which fish are routinely harvested for human consumption or waters both designated as a drinking water supply and in which fish are routinely harvested for human consumption.

Positive environmental effects will be improved treatment of the wastewater from the City of Independence WWTP, compliance with existing and future effluent discharge permit limits, and reduced E. Coli and nutrients into the receiving stream.

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. 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. Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act may apply and other wildlife conservation laws such as the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940. 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. 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 Rebecca.FlynnKettman@dnr.iowa.gov or (515) 204-5672.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Flynn Kettman

Digitally signed by Rebecca Flynn Kettman
Date: 2025.12.10 13:50:58 -06'00'

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

Enclosures: Environmental Assessment Document
Project Map

Distribution List (email):
Bradley Lake, Strand Associates, 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
Tony Toigo, Iowa Finance Authority
Lee Wagner, Iowa Finance Authority
Yolanda Attaway, 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, USDOI, National Park Service, Midwest Region
Kraig McPeek, Fish and Wildlife Service, Rock Island Field Office
Ann D'Alfonso, USEPA Region VII
Kelly Beard-Tittone, USEPA Region VII
Independence Bulletin Journal

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IOWA STATE REVOLVING FUND
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Applicant: City of Independence
County: Buchanan
State: Iowa

SRF Number: CS1921196 01
Iowa DNR Project Number: W2025-0136A

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Location: The City of Independence is located in Buchanan County, Iowa approximately 23 miles east of Waterloo, Iowa and 36 miles northwest of Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Population: The population of the City of Independence according to the 2020 US Census was 6,064 people. The design population equivalent for the year 2046 is 6,695 people.

Current Waste Treatment: The City of Independence owns and operates a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) located at 2018 Three Elms Park Road that provides wastewater treatment for domestic and industrial wastewater from all the customers in the City's service area. The WWTP was originally constructed in 1978. The major treatment processes at the WWTP include influent flow metering, screening, grit removal, preaeration, primary clarification, first-stage trickling filters, intermediate clarification, second-stage trickling filters, final clarification, chlorination, and dechlorination. Improvements to the biosolids processes were made in the late 1990s. The WWTP currently uses anaerobic digestion to produce Class A biosolids, utilizing three egg-shape digesters. A sludge storage tank provides on-site liquid storage. Class A biosolids are not currently a requirement at the WWTP because of the eventual sludge application on agricultural land, therefore, production of Class B biosolids would be sufficient to continue the current reuse program. Both a new headworks facility and third first-stage trickling filter were constructed in the early 2000s. The most recent upgrade at the WWTP was completed in 2020 and included miscellaneous improvements to existing processes. The City holds a NPDES permit with limits that expire September 30, 2025. The City had a notable permit exceedance for a mass-based total suspended solids violation in September 2018, likely the result of high flow conditions due to the localized flooding after a rainfall event. The City anticipates more stringent effluent limits in future NPDES permits due to revised regulatory standards and changing environmental impacts. The current biological treatment system and trickling filtration is not amenable to the removal of nutrients to meet future permit levels. Additionally, in recent interviews with the two largest industrial users in the City's service area, the City learned that growth from these two existing significant industrial users is expected to be between 25 and 50 percent. Based on the age of the current WWTP facilities, expected

increases in industrial loading, as well as the potential changes to the regulations governing discharges from the WWTP, the City needs to consider improvements to its treatment processes and its needs for additional capacity at the existing WWTP.

Current Waste Collection System: The City owns and operates a sanitary sewer collection system that conveys domestic and industrial flow generated throughout the City to the WWTP. Before the construction of the current WWTP facility, wastewater was treated at a site located east of the Wapsipinicon River in the southeast corner of the City. A pumping station was constructed on Lover's Lane Boulevard to pump flow from the influent of the previous facility to the current WWTP site, and the previous facility was abandoned following construction of the current WWTP. Most of the flow to the current WWTP is pumped to the site by the Lover's Lane Boulevard pumping station.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the wastewater treatment facilities to increase capacity, meet future effluent limits, and reliably operate the City of Independence's wastewater system for the next 20 years.

Proposed Improvements: The proposed project includes the following improvements to the WWTP: replace preliminary treatment equipment, construct two oxidation ditches, construct three secondary clarifiers, construct new RAS/WAS pumping building, install UV disinfection equipment, construct four aerobic digesters, install new equipment in the existing sludge storage tank, construct two sludge storage tanks, and construct a new storage building. The new tanks, buildings, and equipment will be constructed while the existing plant is in service. After construction, the flow will be strategically transitioned to flow through the new plant and once the new biology has been established in the new wastewater treatment plant, the existing plant will be demolished. Once the existing plant is demolished, the storage building will be constructed. The project also includes two new submersible pump stations and associated valve and meter vaults to pump plant sanitary sewer and biosolids to their appropriate locations. There will also be a hauled waste receiving station to receive vactor truck waste along with two new splitter structures to split flow evenly into the two oxidation ditches and the three final clarifiers. The existing Headworks Building, Administration Building, and Blower/UV Building will include plumbing, HVAC, and electrical/SCADA upgrades and will receive new paint, doors, and flooring/ceilings. The Administration Building renovation will also include a remodeled lab and offices within their existing footprint. New site utilities include a gas distribution system, a plant sanitary sewer system, and an electrical/SCADA distribution system along with an emergency generator. A new fence will be installed on the north side, and part of the east side. New concrete roadways will be included and disturbed areas will be graded and reseeded. A stormwater collection system will be installed and will flow to a retention basin prior to leaving the site.

Receiving Stream: The treated wastewater from the WWTP discharges into the Wapsipinicon River. It has a stream use designation of Class A1, Class B (WW-1), and Class HH. Class A1 waters are waters in which recreational or other uses may result in prolonged and direct contact with the water, involving considerable risk of ingesting water in quantities sufficient to pose a health hazard. Such activities would include, but not be limited to, swimming, diving, water skiing, and water contact recreational canoeing. Class B (WW-1) waters are waters in which temperature, flow and other habitat characteristics are suitable to maintain warm water game fish populations along with a resident aquatic community that includes a variety of native nongame fish and invertebrate species. These waters generally include border rivers, large interior rivers, and the lower segments of medium-size tributary streams. Class HH waters are waters in which fish are routinely harvested for human consumption or waters both designated as a drinking water supply and in which fish are routinely harvested for human consumption.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Alternatives Considered: First, the City considered improvements to the treatment process for biological treatment and disinfection. The two alternative biological treatment methods the City considered include an oxidation ditch process or an aerobic granular sludge (AGS) process. Both processes can remove biochemical oxygen demand, total suspended solids, ammonia, and phosphorus to the anticipated required concentrations.

Oxidation ditch processes are a modification of the activated sludge process and are capable of removing nutrients to meet the anticipated permit limits. Advantages include resistance to shock loads due to a complete-mix design and long hydraulic residence time, and relatively simple operation and maintenance. However, they occupy more site area than alternative technologies. AGS processes differ from conventional activated sludge by selecting for organisms that form granules, which settle much faster than conventional activated sludge. This eliminates the need for secondary clarification and reduces reactor size. Each individual granule is composed of an oxic, anoxic, and anaerobic layer (or zones). This eliminates the need for separate anoxic and anaerobic tanks while providing both total nitrogen and total phosphorus removal to meet permit limits. Disadvantages of this type of process include its equipment cost, somewhat higher operational complexity, relatively few applications in the United States, and reduced capacity to handle peak wet weather flows. The United States license for the process is held by one company (Aqua Aerobics), which is a disadvantage for competition and cost control.

The City considered ultraviolet (UV) disinfection alternatives at the WWTP that will meet future seasonal *E. coli* limits and comply with the *Iowa Wastewater Facilities Design Standards*. Considering only UV disinfection is consistent with the City's desire to discontinue chemical (i.e., chlorine) disinfection. The UV system would be installed in half of the existing chlorine contact tank. Controls and winter lamp storage will be housed in the chlorine room of the existing pump building. The two similar UV disinfection alternatives the City is considering includes installing either a Trojan Technologies or Wedeco disinfection system.

Last, the City also considered alternatives for continued sludge digestion at the WWTP including continuing anaerobic digestion, installing aerobic digestion with new digesters, or installing aerobic digestion with a retrofit of the egg-shape digesters.

Continuation of anaerobic digestion at the WWTP would use the existing digestion configuration to treat sludge. The proposed nutrient reduction alternatives do not require primary clarification, and, therefore, will not produce primary sludge. Anaerobic digestion is not normally used for waste activated sludge-only digestion applications because waste activated sludge is not very amenable to anaerobic digestion. In addition, the capital costs to continue operating the temperature-phase anaerobic digestion facilities (constructed in 1978) would be very high with no meaningful energy recovery benefit. Finally, the biological upgrades will include biological phosphorus removal processes that will tend to create struvite problems within the anaerobic digesters and biosolids storage facilities.

Alternatively, aerobic digestion can be used to meet requirements for Class B (Class 2 in the State of Iowa) solids stabilization. Benefits of aerobic digestion include operational simplicity, reduced struvite potential, and lower supernatant recycle loading. Aerobic digestion with all new digesters would be appropriately sized and covered to meet the minimum digester temperature year round. The design consists of a 216,000-cubic-foot (cf) digester divided into four cells. This configuration provides more than 60 days of solids retention time with four cells in service under design maximum month conditions. Alternatively, the existing egg-shape digesters could be converted into additional volume for aerobic digesters. The primary advantage of this alternative over constructing completely new digester volume is that the required new digester volume would

be 106,000 cf, with the remaining 110,000 cf supplied by the existing digesters. However, the egg-shape digesters are difficult to access and have not been inspected recently, so their current condition is unknown. Reusing the egg-shape digesters may require structural improvements, potentially including structural rehabilitation. Conversion of the digesters will require demolition of the existing equipment and most piping. Conversion will add aeration diffusers to the digesters, requiring support from the floors that currently have a steep slope.

Reasons for Selection of Proposed Alternative: The No-Action alternative is not viable due to the aging infrastructure, the City's need to meet increased future loads, and the anticipated NPDES permit limits. First, the installation of the AGS system was deemed mechanically complex compared to the oxidation ditch and is a relatively new technology with a sole-sourced supplier. This may result in higher future capital costs and could present potential issues due to limited resources for operational troubleshooting. Second, because of incompatibility of anaerobic digestion with the nutrient reduction alternatives, and lack of economic benefit from gas production, anaerobic digestion was not considered a viable alternative. The current condition of the egg-shape digesters is uncertain and retrofitting them for aerobic digestion would likely require structural repairs, and they would require costly and complex equipment. Thus, the City determined that the cost to retrofit equipment and repair the existing egg-shape digesters into additional volume for aerobic digesters exceeded the savings with the required smaller new digester volume. The City determined it was more economical to construct all new aerobic digesters. At this time, the City compared the costs for the two similar disinfection systems and the Wedeco system was deemed more expensive.

The project site was selected for the availability of land (it is already City-owned and is the site of the existing WWTP) as well as minimization of the impacts to the environment.

MEASURES TAKEN TO ASSESS IMPACT

Public Involvement: A public hearing was held on December 8, 2025 at 5:30 pm at the City's regular council meeting. The public notice of this hearing was made available by publication in the Independence Bulletin Journal on November 1, 2025, placed on the City website on November 1, 2025, and posted to the City Facebook page on November 1, 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 provided an opportunity to comment on the proposed project to better assess the potential impact to the environment:

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
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
Buchanan County Historic Preservation Commission

No adverse comments have been 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: 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 area, 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: The project area was screened for the presence of wetlands, floodplains, and sovereign lands. The project will not impact wetlands. The project will not interfere with any State-owned parks. The project will not impact any wild and scenic rivers as none exist within the State of Iowa. Endangered Species Act Section 7 consultation is not required for this non-federal SRF project. Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act may apply and other wildlife conservation laws such as the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Information for Planning and Consultation website (IPAC) consultation determined 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. The project will not impact the 100-year flood plain. 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 Independence 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 improved treatment of the wastewater from the City of Independence WWTP, compliance with existing and future effluent discharge permit limits, and reduced E. Coli and nutrients into the receiving stream.

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. 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. Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act may apply and other wildlife conservation laws such as the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.
- 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.
- 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 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

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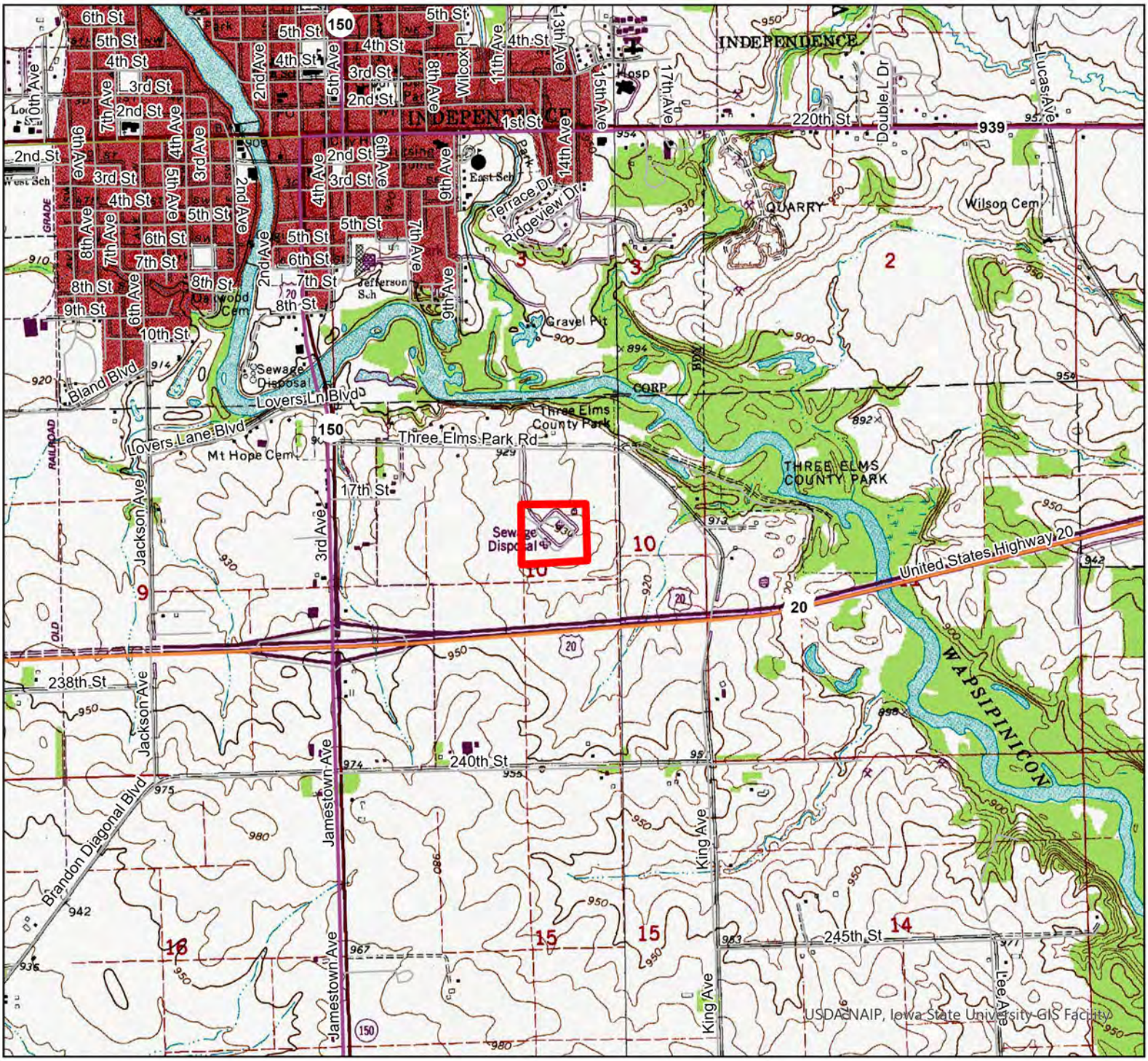
Date: 2025.12.10 13:51:36 -06'00'

Rebecca Flynn Kettman
Environmental Review Specialist
State Revolving Fund
Iowa Department of Natural Resources

IOWA
State Revolving Fund

USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle: Independence
Section: 10, Township: 88 N, Range: 09 W
Date: 1982

N



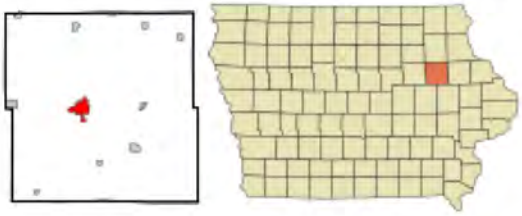
USGS Topographic Map

City of Independence WWTP Modifications
Independence, IA (Buchanan County)

Legend

Proposed Project Area

0 1,500 3,000 6,000 Feet



Buchanan County. Image source: Wikipedia, 2025.

IOWA
State Revolving Fund

2023 Aerial Photograph

N

City of Independence WWTP Modifications
Independence, IA (Buchanan County)

0 250 500 1,000 Feet

Legend

Proposed Project Area