

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 29, 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 Waterloo

SRF Number: CS1921107 01

County: Black Hawk

Iowa DNR Project Number: W2023-0245A

State: Iowa

The City of Waterloo, 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 Waterloo is located in Black Hawk County, Iowa approximately 100 mile east of Fort Dodge, Iowa and 50 miles northwest of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The population of Waterloo according to the 2020 US Census was 67,314. The design population equivalent for the year 2044 is 72,292.

The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the wastewater collection system to enhance their reliability, increase capacity and to replace obsolete system to safely and reliably operate the City of Waterloo's wastewater system for the next 20 years.

The proposed scope consists of replacing the existing lift station and force main. This includes the demolition of the 1961 lift station building and the dry and wet pits with approximate dimensions of 12 feet diameter and 27 feet deep. The existing 10-inch iron force main will be removed, including the aerial section crossing the Cedar River along Conger Street Bridges. In its place, a new Cattle Congress Lift Station will be installed as a wet pit with three submersible pumps, a valve vault, a flow meter pit, and an air release manhole. Additionally, electrical updates will be completed to provide the lift station with an on-site emergency generator. The new force main will follow the existing force main alignment, which travels southeast along South Riverside Trail and crosses the Cedar River hung under the Conger Street Bridges, buried along Conger Street within San Souci Island to discharge into a 36-inch gravity sewer at manhole SA10. The new force main is designed to be 12 inches in diameter and approximately 2,300 linear feet long. Ground disturbance is approximately 3.4 acres.

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.

The project will not displace population, alter the character of existing residential areas, or convert significant farmlands to non-agricultural purposes. According to the Iowa DNR Flood Plain Management Section, this project will not impact the 100-year floodplain. A local flood plain permit may be necessary. The project will not have effect on parklands, preserves, other public lands, or areas of recognized scenic or recreational value.

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 area of potential effect, 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 karrie.darnell@dnr.iowa.gov or 515-901-6817.

Sincerely,

Karrie Darnell
Environmental Specialist Senior
6200 Park Ave, Suite 200
Des Moines, IA 50321

Enclosures: Environmental Assessment
Project Map

Distribution

List (email): Ross Hillsman, AECOM
Sac & Fox Nation of Mississippi in Iowa
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 McPeck, Fish and Wildlife Service, Rock Island Field Office
Ann D'Alfonso, USEPA Region VII
Kelly Beard-Tittone, USEPA Region VII
Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier

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IOWA STATE REVOLVING FUND
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Applicant: City of Waterloo
County: Black Hawk
State: Iowa

SRF Number: CS1921107 01
Iowa DNR Project Number: W2023-0245A

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Location: The City of Waterloo is located in Black Hawk County, Iowa approximately 100 mile east of Fort Dodge, Iowa and 50 miles northwest of Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Population: The population of Waterloo according to the 2020 US Census was 67,314. The design population equivalent for the year 2044 is 72,292.

Current Waste Collection System: The City operates a wastewater collection system that is comprised of approximately 400 miles of sanitary sewers; 9,300 sanitary manholes; 46,240 linear feet (LF) of force mains; and 26 lift stations. In October 2016, the City was issued a Consent Decree by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State of Iowa to address Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) and sewer bypasses that the City has experienced. The collection system is classified by Service Area (SA), with SAs totaling fifteen (15). The collection system and the treatment plant are operated by the City of Waterloo Waste Management Services Department (WMSD).

The current Cattle Congress Lift Station is a wet pit plus dry pit type wastewater pumping station originally constructed in 1961. The lift station's two centrifugal pumps have the capacity of approximately 1,075 and 1,003 gallons per minute. This lift station pumps wastewater, via a force main, across the Cedar River to a manhole near Conger Street and Longfellow Avenue, then onto the Park Road Lift Station by a gravity sewer system. The existing lift station is not equipped with an emergency generator or the ability to connect to a portable emergency generator.

In October 2016, the City was issued a Consent Decree by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State of Iowa to address Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) and sewer bypasses that the City has experienced.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the wastewater collection system to enhance their reliability, increase capacity and to replace obsolete system to safely and reliably operate the City of Waterloo's wastewater system for the next 20 years.

Proposed Improvements: The proposed scope consists of replacing the existing lift station and force main. This includes the demolition of the 1961 lift station building and the dry and wet pits with approximate dimensions of 12 feet diameter and 27 feet deep. The existing 10-inch iron force main will be removed, including the aerial section crossing the Cedar River along Conger Street Bridges. In its place, a new Cattle Congress Lift Station will be installed as a wet pit with three submersible pumps, a valve vault, a flow meter pit, and an air release manhole. Additionally, electrical updates will be completed to provide the lift station with an on-site emergency generator. The new force main will follow the existing force main alignment, which travels southeast along South Riverside Trail and crosses the Cedar River hung under the Conger Street Bridges, buried along Conger Street within San Souci Island to discharge into a 36-inch gravity sewer at manhole SA10. The new force main is designed to be 12 inches in diameter and approximately 2,300 linear feet long. Ground disturbance is approximately 3.4 acres.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Alternatives Considered: 1) Continue with existing conditions: The Cattle Congress Lift Station was constructed in 1961 and is, therefore, over 60 years old, in disrepair and in need of being replaced. This alternative was not given further consideration. 2) Replacement of existing lift station along with new force main.

Reasons for Selection of Proposed Alternative: The No-Action alternative is not viable due to the EPA Consent Decree. The project site was selected for the due to location of existing infrastructure and minimization of the impacts to the environment. Permanent easements may be needed.

MEASURES TAKEN TO ASSESS IMPACT

Public Involvement: A public hearing was held on December 1, 2025 at 5:30PM at the City's regular council meeting. The public notice of this hearing was made available by publication in the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Courier on October 25, 2025 and placed on the City website on October 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 provided opportunity 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
- 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
Waterloo 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 includes construction of an emergency generator that has a potential to emit criteria pollutants and/or hazardous air pollutants. However, the generator’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. Phase I and Phase II archeological investigations were completed. A Phase IA architectural study was completed on the Cattle Congress and lift station. Results from these investigations were submitted to the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) for their record. 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: A Joint Application was submitted by the City's consultant to the Iowa DNR Conservation and Recreation Division and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The DNR Conservation and Recreation Division issued a Sovereign Lands Construction Permit (2023-1847SL-01) authorizing the project. 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. 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. A local flood plain permit may be necessary. 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 Waterloo 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 collection of the wastewater from the City of Waterloo, compliance with effluent discharge permit limits, reduced discharge of the pollutants and nutrients to the receiving stream, and improved water quality in 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.
- The project will not displace population, alter the character of existing residential areas, or convert significant farmlands to non-agricultural purposes.
- According to the Iowa DNR Flood Plain Management Section, this project will not impact the 100-year floodplain. A local flood plain permit may be necessary.
- The project will not have effect on parklands, preserves, other public lands, or areas of recognized scenic or recreational value.
- 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” for wastewater 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.

Karrie Darnell

Environmental Review Specialist

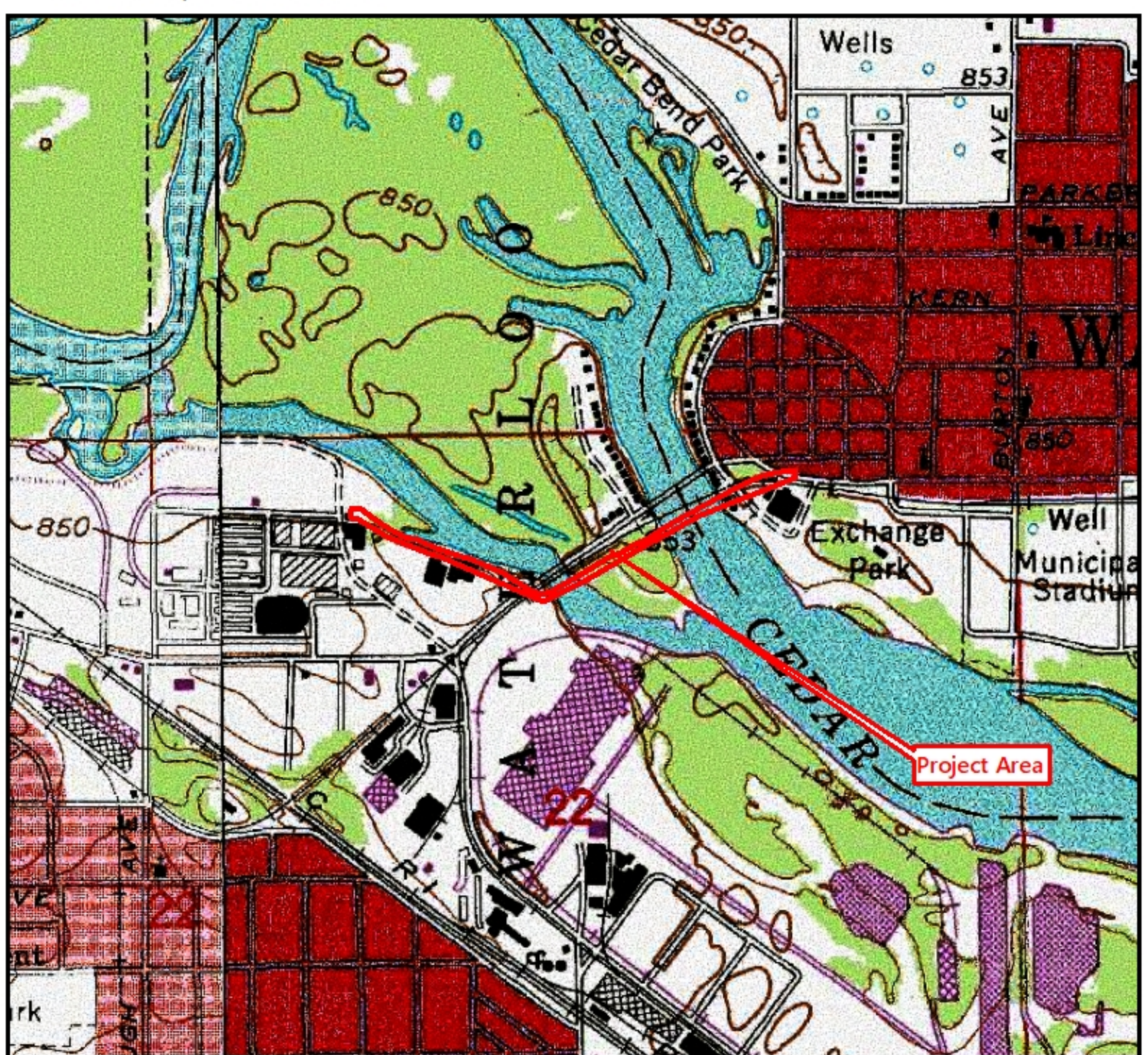
State Revolving Fund

Iowa Department of Natural Resources



State Revolving Fund
502 East 9th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319-0034

USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle: Waterloo_N
Section: 22, Township: 89 N, Range: 13 W
Date: 1972



Scale: 1 inch = 833 feet



Waterloo Cattle Congress Lift Station and Force Main Project
Waterloo, Iowa (Black Hawk County, Iowa)

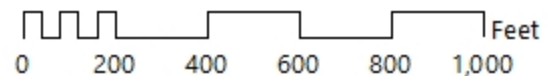


State Revolving Fund
502 East 9th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319-0034

Aerial



Scale: 1 inch = 417 feet



Waterloo Cattle Congress Lift Station and Force Main Project
Waterloo, Iowa (Black Hawk County, Iowa)