

**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**

February 4, 2026

**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 Little Sioux

**SRF Number:** FS-46-26-DWSRF-014

**County:** Harrison

**Iowa DNR Project Number:** W2023-0355

**State:** Iowa

Potential Other Funding Sources: CDBG, USDA

The City of Little Sioux, Iowa is planning an upgrade to their drinking water 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 Little Sioux is located in Harrison County, Iowa approximately 147 miles northwest of Des Moines, Iowa and 140 miles southeast of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The population of Little Sioux according to the 2020 US Census was 166. The design population equivalent for the year 2043 is 230. The number of people in unincorporated River Sioux is currently estimated at 57-60, with a design year projection of 67. The total design year 2043 population would be 260.

Little Sioux has two existing deep wells in good condition. The City of Little Sioux's Well #1 was drilled in 1972 and was abandoned in 2006, when Well #3 was constructed. Well #2 was constructed in 1974 and normally produces 120-130 gallons-per-minute (gpm). Well #3 normally produces 120-140 gpm. Well #2 and #3 run alternately, one at a time, but are designed to both run during peak demand periods. No new improvements are planned for the existing wells at this time.

There are currently 36 homes and 2 businesses in individual wells in River Sioux. The residents of River Sioux have been represented by the Harrison County Board of Supervisors regarding connection to the municipal water distribution system. All the residents of River Sioux would prefer to be connected to the municipal treated water system rather than being connected to their existing private wells, some of which have contamination or other issues.

The Water Treatment plant (WTP) is designed to produce finished water at up to 100 gpm after the raw water is aerated, treated with potassium permanganate and chlorine, filtered and pumped to the standpipe as finished potable water. A back-up stand by generator has been purchased by the City and its installation is being planned. Little Sioux upgraded its water system new pressure filters and chemical feed systems at the treatment building in 2018. The aerator and detention tank at the WTP are very old having been installed in 1972. A new aerator & detention tank will be necessary to properly aerate during peak flow with both well pump wells running.

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has informed the City of Little Sioux that their water distribution system has too many small diameter water lines and dead-ends, as well as not enough elevated water storage capacity nor at high enough elevation to provide fire protection through the system. Fire protection is inadequate and the cost of insuring a home continues to rise as the risk, in the case of potential house fire, is high. The head loss through the existing small diameter water mains is great enough that fire flows are not available, and the town must rely upon their fire department's pumper truck and tanker to fight a fire, putting families a greater risk.

The current distribution system in Little Sioux has 2" or smaller water lines that are thin-walled plastic lines which commonly have developed leaks due to age or breaking from ground shifts or nearby excavation. Some of the thin-walled pipe have been replaced due to repeat leaks.

Little Sioux and River Sioux (unincorporated) need to upgrade their water distribution system to that fire protection is available and so that the communities can live without fear of having structure fires occur without fire protection capabilities in their water distribution system. The City needs to have 6" fire hydrants supplied with 6" diameter water mains instead of 4" flush hydrants supplied by 4" or smaller water lines.

Little Sioux's existing detention facilities are of the age that they should be replaced. A new elevated storage tank at a designated height and of adequate volume should be constructed so that the fire flow and residual pressure to fight a structure fire is available throughout the community.

The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the distribution system and water treatment plant to enhance their reliability, increase capacity and to replace obsolete system to safely and reliably operate the City of Little Sioux's drinking water system for the next 20 years.

The proposed project includes the installation of approximately 480 LF of water main to loop to the existing water mains and reduce dead-ends. Also proposed are 5 blow-off hydrants to flush out five additional dead ends. The existing 90ft high 25,000-gallon standpipe will be utilized as a finished water storage facility and a 1,500-gallon hydro-pneumatic tank will be installed to increase distribution system static pressure. Also proposed is the construction of a new building to expand the existing WTP. The second building will house a new detention tank, aerator, Pressure Filters (Relocated from existing plant, Alternate Add-on Bid #2), high service pumps, Hydro-Pneumatic Tank, Backwash Tank Pump Skid, chemical feed equipment, backwash tank, electrical & controls, a new Motor Control Center, office space, & a restroom. Also included are all necessary connections, appurtenances, and piping from the existing WTP to the new proposed building and from existing wells #2 and #3 to the new building. A new emergency standby back-up generator will also be installed and new water meters may all be installed.

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. 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 provided all necessary floodplain development permits, state and local, 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.

Various Native American tribes with an interest in the area 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](mailto:SRF-PC@dnr.iowa.gov) or directly to me at [Nicole.Osborn@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto: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 Document  
Project Map

**Distribution**

List (email): Terry Crawford, Sundquist Engineering  
Josh Scanlon, HR Green Inc.  
Southwest Iowa Planning Council (SWIPCO)  
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  
Harrison County Times-Reporter

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**IOWA STATE REVOLVING FUND**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT**

## PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

**Applicant:** City of Little Sioux

**County:** Harrison

**State:** Iowa

Potential Other Funding Sources: USDA

## COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

**Location:** The City of Little Sioux is located in Harrison County, Iowa approximately 147 miles northwest of Des Moines, Iowa and 140 miles southeast of Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

**Population:** The population of Little Sioux according to the 2020 US Census was 166. The design population equivalent for the year 2043 is 230. The number of people in unincorporated River Sioux is currently estimated at 57-60, with a design year projection of 67. The total design year 2043 population would be 260.

**Current Source of Water:** Little Sioux has two existing deep wells in good condition. The City of Little Sioux's Well #1 was drilled in 1972 and was abandoned in 2006, when Well #3 was constructed. Well #2 was constructed in 1974 and normally produces 120-130 gallons-per-minute (gpm). Well #3 normally produces 120-140 gpm. Well #2 and #3 run alternately, one at a time, but are designed to both run during peak demand periods. No new improvements are planned for the existing wells at this time.

There are currently 36 homes and 2 businesses in individual wells in River Sioux. The residents of River Sioux have been represented by the Harrison County Board of Supervisors regarding connection to the municipal water distribution system. All the residents of River Sioux would prefer to be connected to the municipal treated water system rather than being connected to their existing private wells, some of which have contamination or other issues.

**Current Water Treatment and Quality:** The Water Treatment plant (WTP) is designed to produce finished water at up to 100 gpm after the raw water is aerated, treated with potassium permanganate and chlorine, filtered and pumped to the standpipe as finished potable water. A back-up stand by generator has been purchased by the City and its installation is being planned. Little Sioux upgraded its water system new pressure filters and chemical feed systems at the treatment building in 2018.

The aerator and detention tank at the WTP are very old having been installed in 1972. A new aerator & detention tank will be necessary to properly aerate during peak flow with both well pump wells running.

**Current Distribution System:** The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has informed the City of Little Sioux that their water distribution system has too many small diameter water lines and dead-ends, as well as not enough elevated water storage capacity nor at high enough elevation to provide fire protection through the system. Fire protection is inadequate and the cost of insuring a home continues to rise as the risk, in the case of potential house fire, is high. The head loss through the existing small diameter water mains is great enough that fire flows are not available, and the town must rely upon their fire department's pumper truck and tanker to fight a fire, putting families a greater risk.

The current distribution system in Little Sioux has 2" or smaller water lines that are thin-walled plastic lines which commonly have developed leaks due to age or breaking from ground shifts or nearby excavation. Some of the thin-walled pipe have been replaced due to repeat leaks.

Little Sioux and River Sioux (unincorporated) need to upgrade their water distribution system so that fire protection is available and so that the communities can live without fear of having structure fires occur without fire protection capabilities in their water distribution system. The City needs to have 6" fire hydrants supplied with 6" diameter water mains instead of 4" flush hydrants supplied by 4" or smaller water lines.

Little Sioux's existing detention facilities are of the age that they should be replaced. A new elevated storage tank at a designated height and of adequate volume should be constructed so that the fire flow and residual pressure to fight a structure fire is available throughout the community.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

**Purpose:** The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the distribution system and water treatment plant to enhance their reliability, increase capacity and to replace obsolete system to safely and reliably operate the City of Little Sioux's drinking water system for the next 20 years.

**Proposed Improvements:** The proposed project includes the installation of approximately 480 LF of water main to loop to the existing water mains and reduce dead-ends. Also proposed are 5 blow-off hydrants to flush out five additional dead ends. The existing 90ft high 25,000-gallon standpipe will be utilized as a finished water storage facility and a 1,500-gallon hydro-pneumatic tank will be installed to increase distribution system static pressure. Also proposed is the construction of a new building to expand the existing WTP. The second building will house a new detention tank, aerator, Pressure Filters (Relocated from existing plant, Alternate Add-on Bid #2), high service pumps, Hydro-Pneumatic Tank, Backwash Tank Pump Skid, chemical feed equipment, backwash tank, electrical & controls, a new Motor Control Center, office space, & a restroom. Also included are all necessary connections, appurtenances, and piping from the existing WTP to the new proposed building and from existing wells #2 and #3 to the new building. A new emergency standby back-up generator will also be installed and new water meters may all be installed.

## ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

**Alternatives Considered:** Several alternatives were considered to address the City's problem with a low system pressure and lacking fire protection. Alternative 1 included updates to the water distribution system and elevated water storage tank to address fire protection. The estimated project cost for alternative 1 is \$4,392,500.

Alternative 2 included water distribution system upgrades and water treatment plant improvements with a Hydro-pneumatic storage tank. The estimated cost of alternative 2 is \$3,552,500.

**Reasons for Selection of Proposed Alternative:** Alternative 2 was selected as the estimated costs were significantly less than those of Alternative 1 and still addresses distribution system pressure and fire protection concerns.

## MEASURES TAKEN TO ASSESS IMPACT

**Public Involvement:** A public hearing was held on January 12, 2026 at 7:00PM at the City's regular council meeting. The public notice of this hearing was made available by posted to the City social media accounts and posted in three prominent public locations on December 10, 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 may be provided an 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  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
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 Tribe of Nebraska  
Osage Nation  
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 Tribe  
Harrison County Historic Preservation Commission

No adverse comments have been received from any agencies or general public to date. 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 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. SRF notified the applicant that additional permit applications for this project may be necessary. Once these applications are submitted by the SRF applicant, the DNR Flood Plain Management Section will determine if the proposed project requires a permit for impacts to the 100-year floodplain. 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.

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. 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. 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 Little Sioux 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 water quality. The new storage tank and larger sized water mains will bring the City of Little Sioux into compliance with department requirements and will better assist in the prevention of water supply contamination associated with inadequate pressures within the distribution system and will also provide adequate pressures for fire protection for the community.

## **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. 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 provided all necessary floodplain development permits, state and local, 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.
- Various Native American tribes with an interest in the area 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.

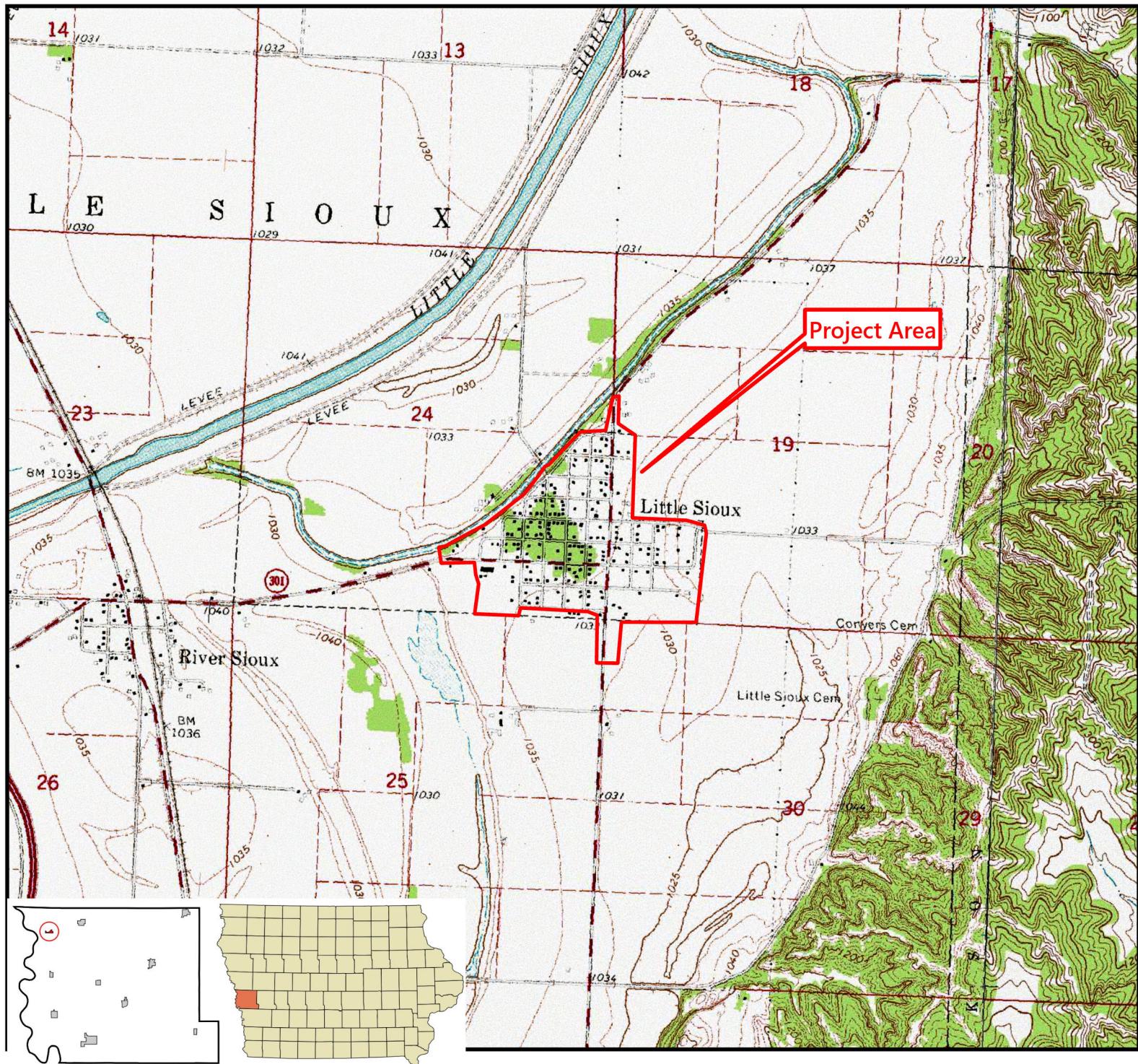
**THEREFORE:**

The above project conforms to the criteria in 567 Iowa Administrative Code 44.10(3) \*drinking water 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.

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**Nicole Osborn**

Environmental Review Specialist  
State Revolving Fund  
Iowa Department of Natural Resources



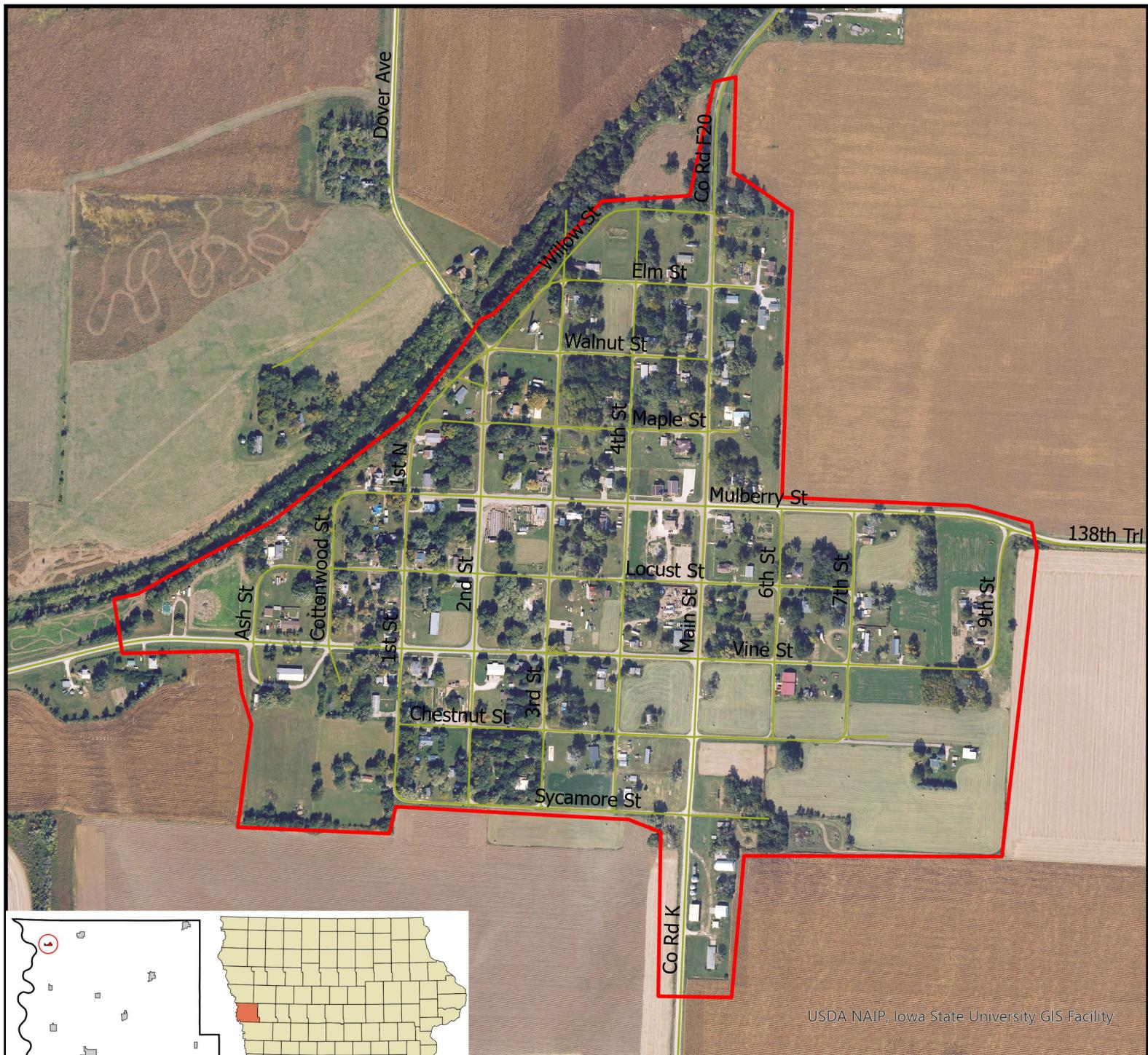
Harrison County. Image source: Wikipedia, 2023.

**Little Sioux Water System Improvements**  
**Little Sioux, IA (Harrison County, Iowa)**

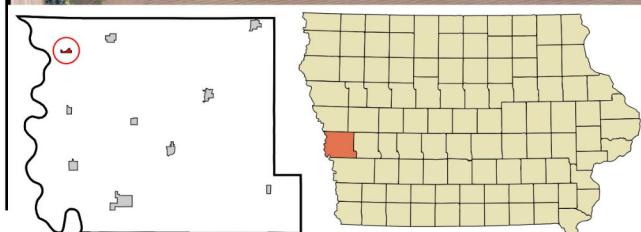
Legend  
 **Project Area**

Scale: 1:24,000

0 990 1,980 2,970 3,960 4,950  
 Feet



Harrison County. Image source: Wikipedia, 2023.



**Little Sioux Water System Improvements**  
**Little Sioux, IA (Harrison County, Iowa)**

Legend  
Project Area

Scale: 1:7,021

