

**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**

June 1, 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 Eldon

**SRF Number:** CS1921212 01

**County:** Wapello

**Iowa DNR Project Number:** S2026-0162A

**State:** Iowa

The City of Eldon, 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 Eldon is located in Wapello County, Iowa approximately 86 miles southeast of Des Moines, Iowa, and 62 miles southwest of Iowa City, Iowa. The population of Eldon according to the 2020 US Census was 783 people. The design population equivalent for the year 2025 remains at 783 people. The City of Eldon currently operates a 2-cell controlled discharge lagoon with a total surface area of 16 acres. The operating capacity of each cell at the high water level elevation is 7.71 million gallons and 7.51 million gallons for Cell 1 and Cell 2, respectively. The city's sanitary sewer collection system consists of 8-inch sewer main that increases to a 10-inch pipe in two locations in town. The existing collection system is adequately sized for the town. Due to odor complaints in the northwest part of town, the Cardinal Community School District (CSD) sought to consolidate their NPDES permit with the city. The Cardinal CSD connected to the city's sanitary sewer system in 2022 with the construction of a new Cardinal CSD wastewater pump station and the installation of approximately 16,300 feet of 4-inch force main. The city continues to experience sewer odors in homes and public spaces, despite the new construction of the new pump station and additional improvements to the new facilities shortly after construction. A recent review of the connection agreement with the Cardinal CSD and the city's sewer system and lagoon determined that the Cardinal CSD is in compliance with the wastewater agreement and that the sewer and lagoon should have the capacity to manage the additional wastewater if managed properly. The Cardinal CSD is permanently connected to the city and the city must find a solution to mitigate the odors persisting within the city.

The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the wastewater collection infrastructure to enhance their reliability, mitigate the sewer gas odor causing public nuisance within the community, and to safely

operate the City of Eldon's wastewater system for the next 20 years. The proposed project will extend the 4-inch force main from the intersection of High Street and 9th Street through town to the City of Eldon's lagoon lift station, approximately 10,600 feet. The pipe installation will require a maximum of 22 bore pit locations approximately 8 feet x 10 feet in size, and hydrovac-ing. The force main will be installed within existing right-of-way and city-owned property. Modifications within the Cardinal pump station and Eldon pump station will be completed as necessary. The project will include all necessary connections and appurtenances. The treated wastewater from the City of Eldon discharges to the Des Moines River, a surface water class A1 water body. 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.

Positive environmental effects will be improved collection of the wastewater from the City of Eldon, mitigated sewer gas odors persisting within the community, and ensured proper disposal of wastewater from the service area. The project will not significantly affect the pattern and type of land use (industrial, commercial, agricultural, recreational, residential) or growth and distribution of population. The project will not conflict with local, regional or State land use plans or policies. The project will have no significant impacts to the 100-year flood plain or wetlands due to the minimal and temporary disturbances planned during construction. The applicant must obtain any necessary permits (local, state, federal) prior to construction. 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. 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. 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 project will not displace population, alter the character of existing residential areas, or convert significant farmlands to non-agricultural purposes. 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.

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 [Rebecca.FlynnKettman@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Rebecca.FlynnKettman@dnr.iowa.gov) or (515) 204-5672.

Sincerely,

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

Enclosures: Environmental Assessment Document  
Project Map

Distribution

List (email): Rick Teed, Garden & Associates, Ltd.  
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Ottumwa Courier

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

**PROJECT IDENTIFICATION**

**Applicant:** City of Eldon  
**County:** Wapello  
**State:** Iowa

**SRF Number:** CS1921212 01  
**Iowa DNR Project Number:** S2026-0162A

**COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION**

**Location:** The City of Eldon is located in Wapello County, Iowa approximately 86 miles southeast of Des Moines, Iowa, and 62 miles southwest of Iowa City, Iowa.

**Population:** The population of Eldon according to the 2020 US Census was 783 people. The design population equivalent for the year 2025 remains at 783 people.

**Current Waste Treatment:** The City of Eldon currently operates a 2-cell controlled discharge lagoon with a total surface area of 16 acres. The operating capacity of each cell at the high water level elevation is 7.71 million gallons and 7.51 million gallons for Cell 1 and Cell 2, respectively.

**Current Waste Collection System:** The city's sanitary sewer collection system consists of 8-inch sewer main that increases to a 10 inch pipe in two locations in town. The existing collection system is adequately sized for the town. Due to odor complaints in the northwest part of town, the Cardinal Community School District (CSD) sought to consolidate their NPDES permit with the city. The Cardinal CSD connected to the city's sanitary sewer system in 2022 with the construction of a new Cardinal CSD wastewater pump station and the installation of approximately 16,300 feet of 4-inch force main. The city continues to experience sewer odors in homes and public spaces, despite the new construction of the new pump station and additional improvements to the new facilities shortly after construction. A recent review of the connection agreement with the Cardinal CSD and the city's sewer system and lagoon determined that the Cardinal CSD is in compliance with the wastewater agreement and that the sewer and lagoon should have the capacity to manage the additional wastewater if managed properly. The Cardinal CSD is permanently connected to the city and the city must find a solution to mitigate the odors persisting within the city.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

**Purpose:** The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the wastewater collection infrastructure to enhance their reliability, mitigate the sewer gas odor causing public nuisance within the community, and to safely operate the City of Eldon's wastewater system for the next 20 years.

**Proposed Improvements:** The proposed project will extend the 4-inch force main from the intersection of High Street and 9th Street through town to the City of Eldon's lagoon lift station, approximately 10,600 feet. The pipe installation will require a maximum of 22 bore pit locations approximately 8 feet x 10 feet in size, and hydrovacating. The force main will be installed within existing right-of-way and city-owned property. Modifications within the Cardinal pump station and Eldon pump station will be completed as necessary. The project will include all necessary connections and appurtenances.

**Receiving Stream:** The treated wastewater from the City of Eldon discharges to the Des Moines River, a surface water class A1 water body. 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.

## ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

**Alternatives Considered:** The city considered two alternatives to mitigate the sewer gas odor complaint occurring in the city, including extending the existing 4-inch force main from the intersection of 9<sup>th</sup> & High Street to either 1) the city's lagoon lift station on Water Street, or 2) the manhole at the Branch Street and Chippewa Creek intersection. The first alternative would extend the existing force main by approximately 10,600 feet to the city's lift station with the majority of the force main being installed along the river front. The second alternative would extend the existing force main by approximately 3,000 feet to by-pass the existing 8-inch sanitary sewer collection system and tie the new force main into the larger diameter sewer main along the river front.

**Reasons for Selection of Proposed Alternative:** The No-Action alternative is not viable due to the ongoing sewer gas odor issue occurring in homes and public spaces in the northwest part of town, causing a public nuisance and possible health issues. The second alternative to extend the force main by 3,000 feet to a new location in town may not resolve the sewer gas issues, and the odor may continue to occur at the new location. Extending the force main to the city's lift station will help eliminate the sewer gases in the homes and nearly eliminate any chance of smelling the sewer gas odors in public spaces in town.

The project site was selected for the availability of land (including City-owned land, public right-of-way, or existing utility easements) as well as minimization of the impacts to the environment.

## MEASURES TAKEN TO ASSESS IMPACT

**Public Involvement:** A public hearing was held on May 12, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. at the city's regular council meeting. The public notice of this hearing was made available by publication in the Ottumwa Courier on April 4, 2026 and placed on the city's website on March 31, 2026. The purpose of this hearing was to present the environmental and financial impacts of the proposed improvement project. The city received one inquiry about who is responsible for the costs of the project. The council explained a portion of the cost will be forgivable with remaining costs covered by Cardinal CSD. No other 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
- 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 Tribe of Nebraska  
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

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.

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 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 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, flood plains, and sovereign lands. A portion of the project area is located in a flood plain or wetland. SRF notified the applicant that additional state/local flood plain and/or USACE permit applications for this project may be necessary. The applicant must obtain any necessary permits (local, state, federal) prior to construction. The project will have no significant impacts to the 100-year flood plains or wetlands due to the minimal and temporary disturbances planned during construction. The flood plain and wetland will be returned to existing conditions upon completion of the project. The force main is planned to cross the Chippewa Creek. The city intends to install the force main underneath the creek via directional drilling. The proposed project will not interfere with any State-owned parks, recreational areas, or open spaces. 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. 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 the City of Eldon 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 Irrecoverable 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 Eldon, mitigated sewer gas odors persisting within the community, and ensured proper disposal of wastewater from the service area.

### **SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR CONCLUDING NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

- The project will not significantly affect the pattern and type of land use (industrial, commercial, agricultural, recreational, residential) or growth and distribution of population.
- The project will not conflict with local, regional or State land use plans or policies.
- The project will have no significant impacts to the 100-year flood plain or wetlands due to the minimal and temporary disturbances planned during construction. The applicant must obtain any necessary permits (local, state, federal) prior to construction.
- 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. 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. 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 project will not displace population, alter the character of existing residential areas, or convert significant farmlands to non-agricultural purposes.
- 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.

**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.

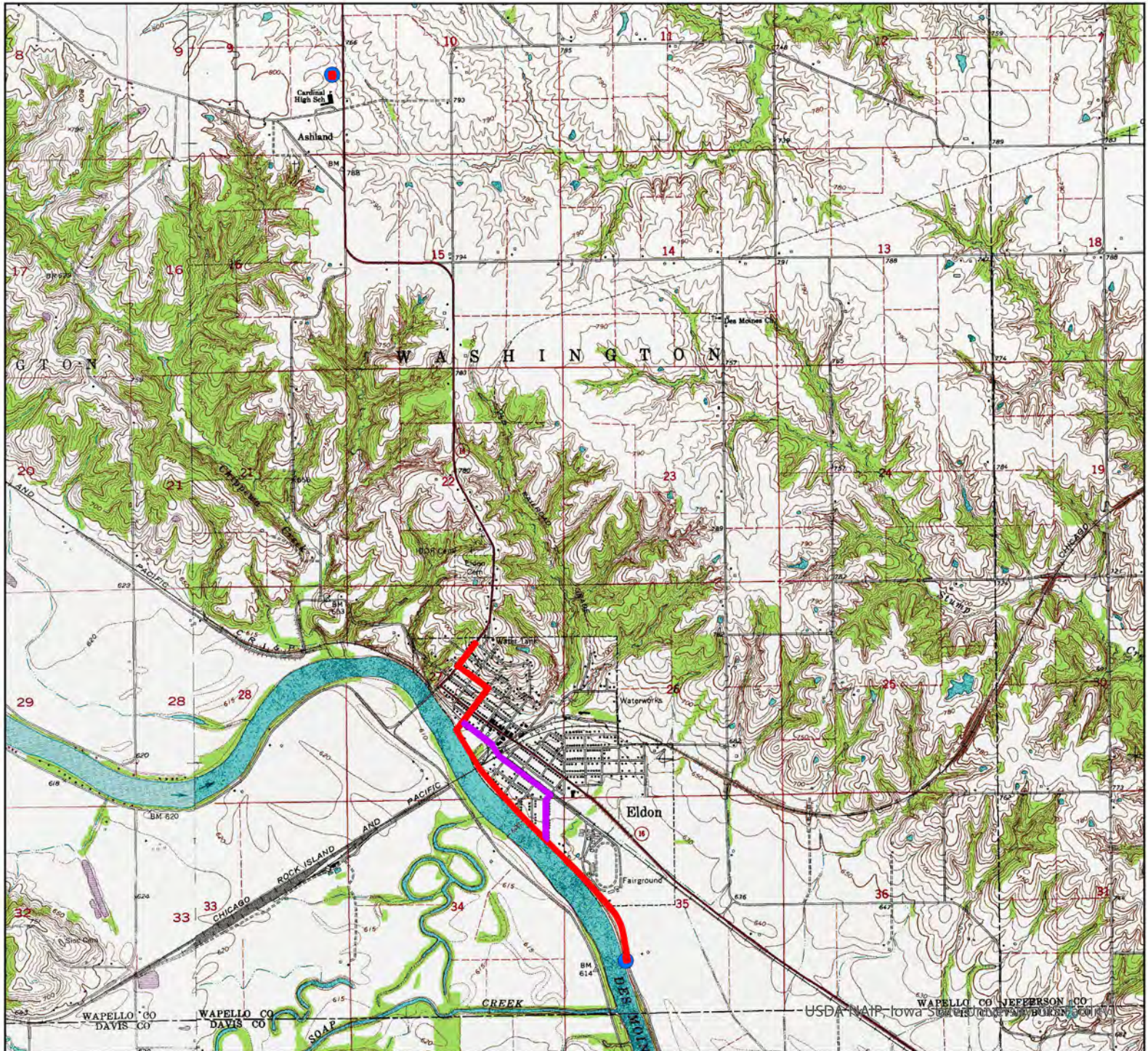
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**Rebecca Flynn Kettman**

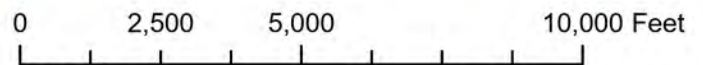
Environmental Review Specialist

State Revolving Fund

Iowa Department of Natural Resources



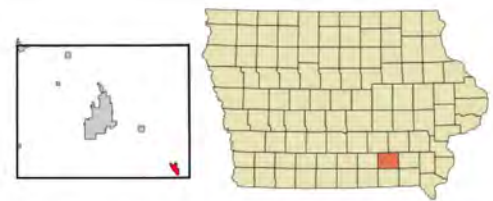
# USGS Topographic Map

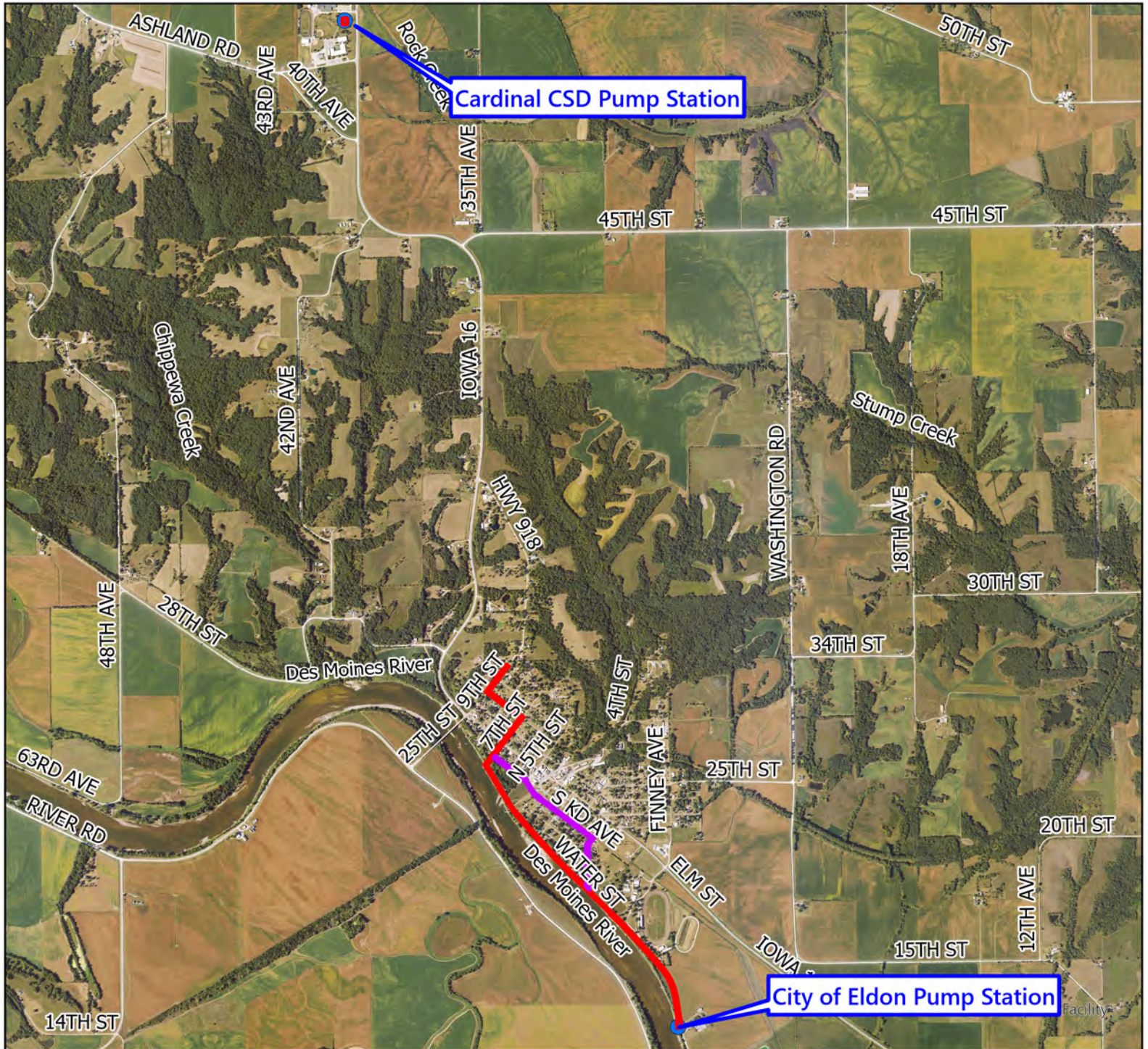


City of Eldon Cardinal School District Force Main Extension  
Eldon, IA (Wapello County)

**Legend**

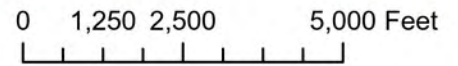
- Pump Station
- Proposed Force Main Route w/ Pump Stations
- Proposed Alternate Force Main Route





**City of Eldon Cardinal School District Force Main Extension  
Eldon, IA (Wapello County)**

**Legend**

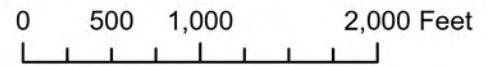


- Pump Station
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- Proposed Alternate Force Main Route



**City of Eldon Cardinal School District Force Main Extension  
Eldon, IA (Wapello County)**

**Legend**



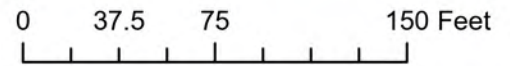
- Pump Station
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USDA NAIP, Iowa State University GIS Facility



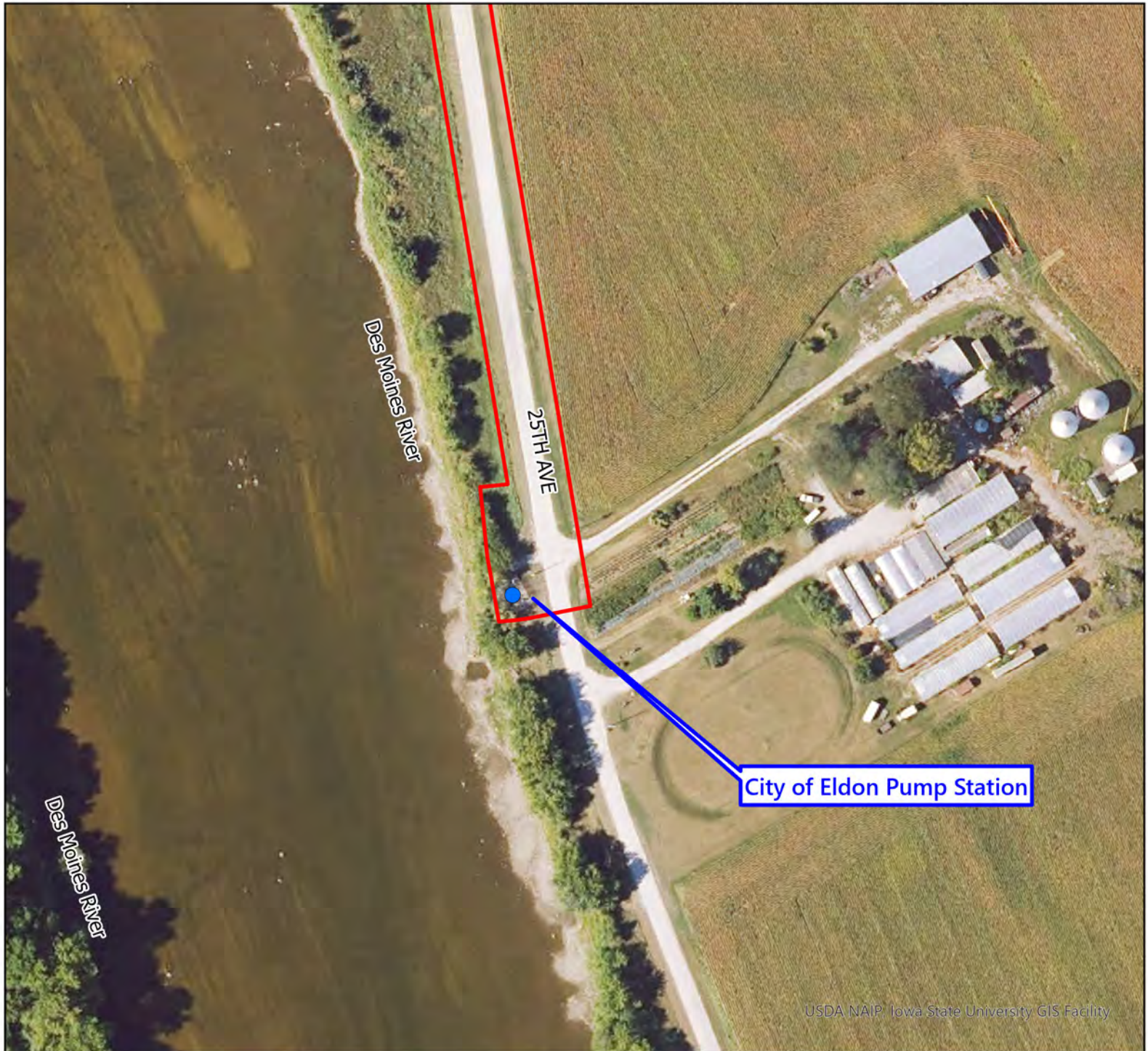
USDA NAIP, Iowa State University GIS Facility

## City of Eldon Cardinal School District Force Main Extension Eldon, IA (Wapello County)

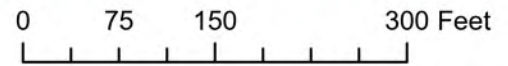


### Legend

- Pump Station
- ▭ Proposed Force Main Route w/ Pump Stations



## City of Eldon Cardinal School District Force Main Extension Eldon, IA (Wapello County)



### Legend

- Pump Station
- ▭ Proposed Force Main Route w/ Pump Stations