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
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

10/22/2026

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 Laurens
County: Pocahontas
State: Iowa

SRF Number: CS1921204 01; FS-76-26-DWSRF-053
Iowa DNR Project Number: W2026-0098; S2026-0140A

Potential Other Funding Sources: CDBG ($500,000)

The City of Laurens, Iowa is planning an upgrade to their drinking water and wastewater infrastructure. The city has applied for financial assistance through the State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan program to build the project. SRF 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.

Project description:

Water Distributions System Improvements
Replace original CIP and DIP water mains along 1st Street, 3rd Street, and 4th Street that are aging and have experienced numerous breaks and/or leaks.

Install 9 blocks of C900 water main via trenching with min. 6' bury depth (approx. trench widths of 16'). Replace valves, hydrants, curb stops, and water services from the main to the curb stop. Replace streets and storm sewer utilities are required for installation and separation requirements

Street specific information is as follows: 1st St: 1.5 blocks/Myrtle St to Hwy 10/Veterans Rd., 3rd St (2.5 blocks/Olive St to Hwy 10/Veterans Rd), and 4th St (Walnut intersection). Replace antiquated gate valves. Under railroad crossing, it is believed that a casing pipe exists and is adequately sized; this will be confirmed. The current design includes approximately 1,211 LF of 6-inch C900 PVC, 23 LF of 6-inch DIP, 1,811 LF of 10-inch C900 PVC, 4 LF of 10-inch DIP, and 157 LF of 12-inch C900 PVC water main, for a total of approximately 3,206 LF.

Sanitary Sewer System Improvements

Install 9 blocks of 8" SDR26 sanitary sewer mains along 1st, 3rd, and 4th Streets. Replace manholes and active services to past back of curb. Due to sewer depths (~14' or more) trench widths will be approximately 28' wide, streets will be replaced and some trees will be removed.

Street specific information as follows: 1st St (6.5 blocks/Section Line Rd to Veterans Rd). Under railroad crossing, install casing pipe via jack & bore methods extending through ROW. Due to sewer depth, storm sewer will require replacement, 3rd Street (1.5 blocks/Myrtle St to Hwy 10/Veterans Rd). Under Hwy 10 crossing, install casing pipe via jack & bore methods, and 4th Street (1 block/Walnut St to Main St). The sanitary sewer improvements include approximately 1,294 LF of 8-inch SDR-26 PVC, 194 LF of 8-inch C900 PVC, 1,794 LF of 10-inch SDR-26 PVC, 30 LF of 10-inch C900 PVC, and 105 LF of 10-inch SDR-26 PVC installed by jack and bore, for a total of approximately 3,417 LF.

The proposed project was reviewed for eligibility for a categorical exclusion from NEPA review specified in the 40 CFR (Code of Federal Regulations) Part 6.204. The project meets all criteria described in the above reference and was determined that this project is eligible for a categorical exclusion. Consequently, a preliminary decision has been made that a Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) will not be prepared.

Justification for granting categorical exclusion:

- The project as proposed is solely directed toward minor upgrading or minor expansion of system capacity, rehabilitation of the existing system and system components, or construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities.
- This project will not involve new or relocated discharges to surface or ground water.
- This project will not result in substantial increase in the volume or the loading of pollutant to the receiving water.
- The project will not serve a population 30% greater than the existing population.
- The project is not directly or indirectly involved or related to upgrading or extending infrastructure systems primarily for the purposes of future development.
- The project is not counter to the state, or other regional growth plan or strategy.
- The proposed action is not known or expected to have potentially significant environmental impacts on the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time.
- The proposed action is not known or expected to have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on any community, including minority communities, low-income communities, or federally-recognized Indian tribal communities.
- The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect federally listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat.
- The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect national natural landmarks or any property with nationally significant historic, architectural, prehistoric, archeological, or cultural value, including but not limited to, property listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.
- The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect environmentally important natural resource areas such as wetlands, floodplains, significant agricultural lands, aquifer recharge zones, coastal zones, barrier islands, wild and scenic rivers, and significant fish or wildlife habitat.
- The proposed action is not known or expected to cause significant adverse air quality effects.
- The proposed action is not known or expected to have a significant effect on the pattern and type of land use (industrial, commercial, agricultural, recreational, residential) or growth and distribution of population including altering the character of existing residential areas, or may not be consistent with state or local government, or federally-recognized Indian tribe approved land use plans or federal land management plans.

- The proposed action is not known or expected to cause significant public controversy about a potential environmental impact of the proposed action.
- The proposed action is not known or expected to be associated with providing financial assistance to a federal agency through an interagency agreement for a project that is known or expected to have potentially significant environmental impacts.
- The proposed action is not known or expected to conflict with federal, state or local government, or federally-recognized Indian tribe environmental, resource-protection, or land-use laws or regulations.

The Department of Natural Resources shall revoke the categorical exclusion and shall require a full environmental review if, subsequent to the granting of an exclusion, the state determines that:

- The proposed project no longer meets the requirements for a categorical exclusion due to changes in the proposed project; or
- New evidence reveals that serious local or environmental issues exist; or
- Federal, State, local or tribal laws are being violated.

This action is taken on the basis of a careful review of supporting information that is on file at the Department of Natural Resources' Des Moines, Iowa office. This information is available upon request. 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 morgan.smith@dnr.iowa.gov or (515) 867-0580.

Sincerely,

Morgan Smith

Digitally signed by Morgan Smith
Date: 2026.10.22 08:10:27 -05'00'

Morgan Smith
Environmental Review Specialist
6200 Park Ave, Suite 200
Des Moines, IA 50321

Enclosure: Project Map

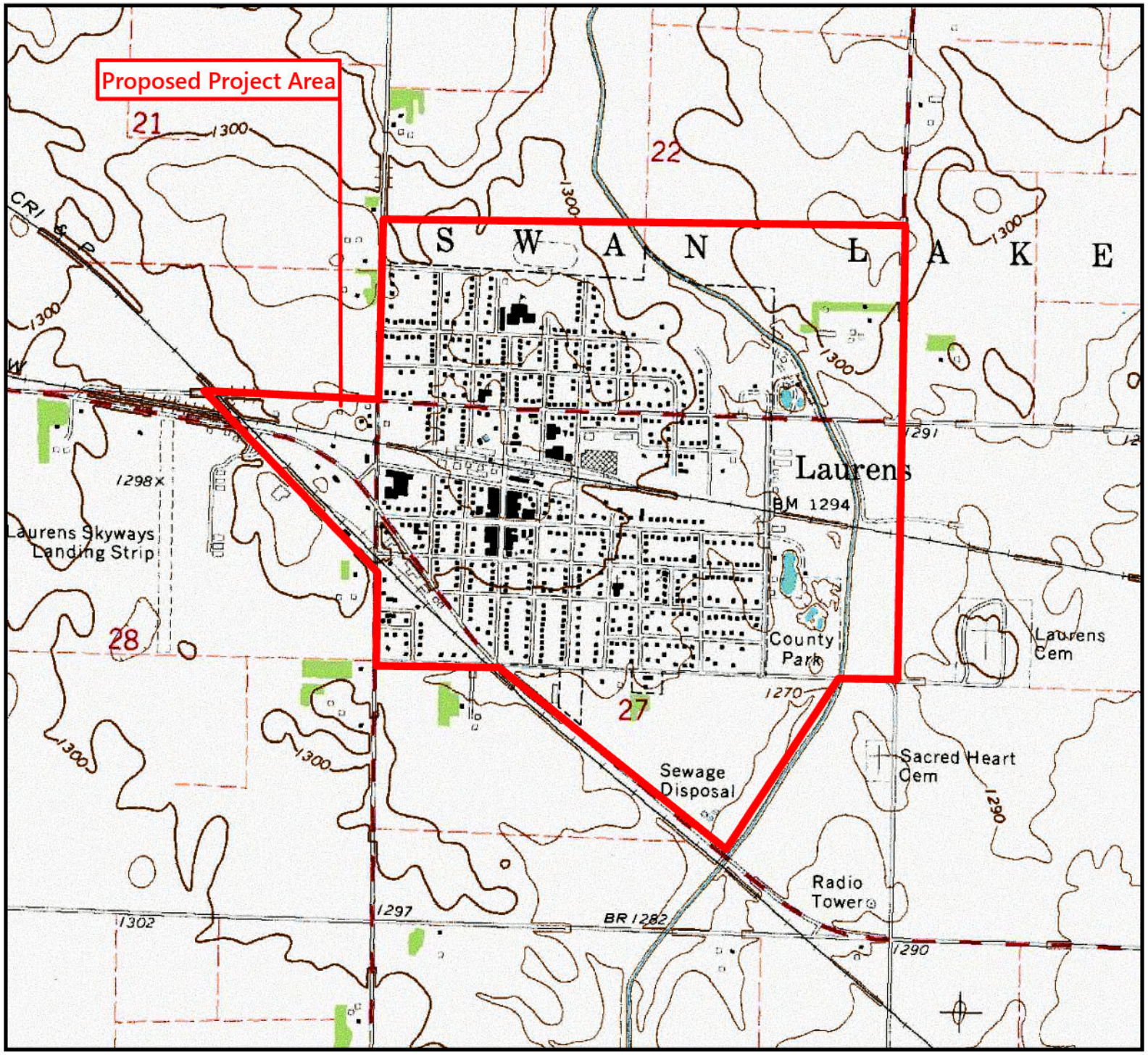
Distribution List (email):
Amanda Goodenow, ISG
Marisa Klinkel, ISG
Justin Yarosevich, CDBG
Hilary Reed, Laurens Historic Preservation Commission
Edward Boling, Council on Environmental Quality
Jake Hansen, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
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Michael Schmidt, Iowa Environmental Council
Tony Toigo, Iowa Finance Authority
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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
Laurens Sun

IOWA State Revolving Fund

USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle: Laurens
Section: 28, Township: 93 N, Range: 34 W
Date: 1971

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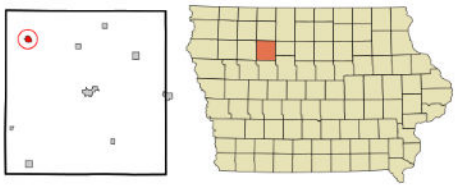
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SRF_Polygon

USGS Topographic Map

Laurens Sanitary Sewer and Water Distribution System Improvements
Laurens, IA (Pocahontas County, Iowa)

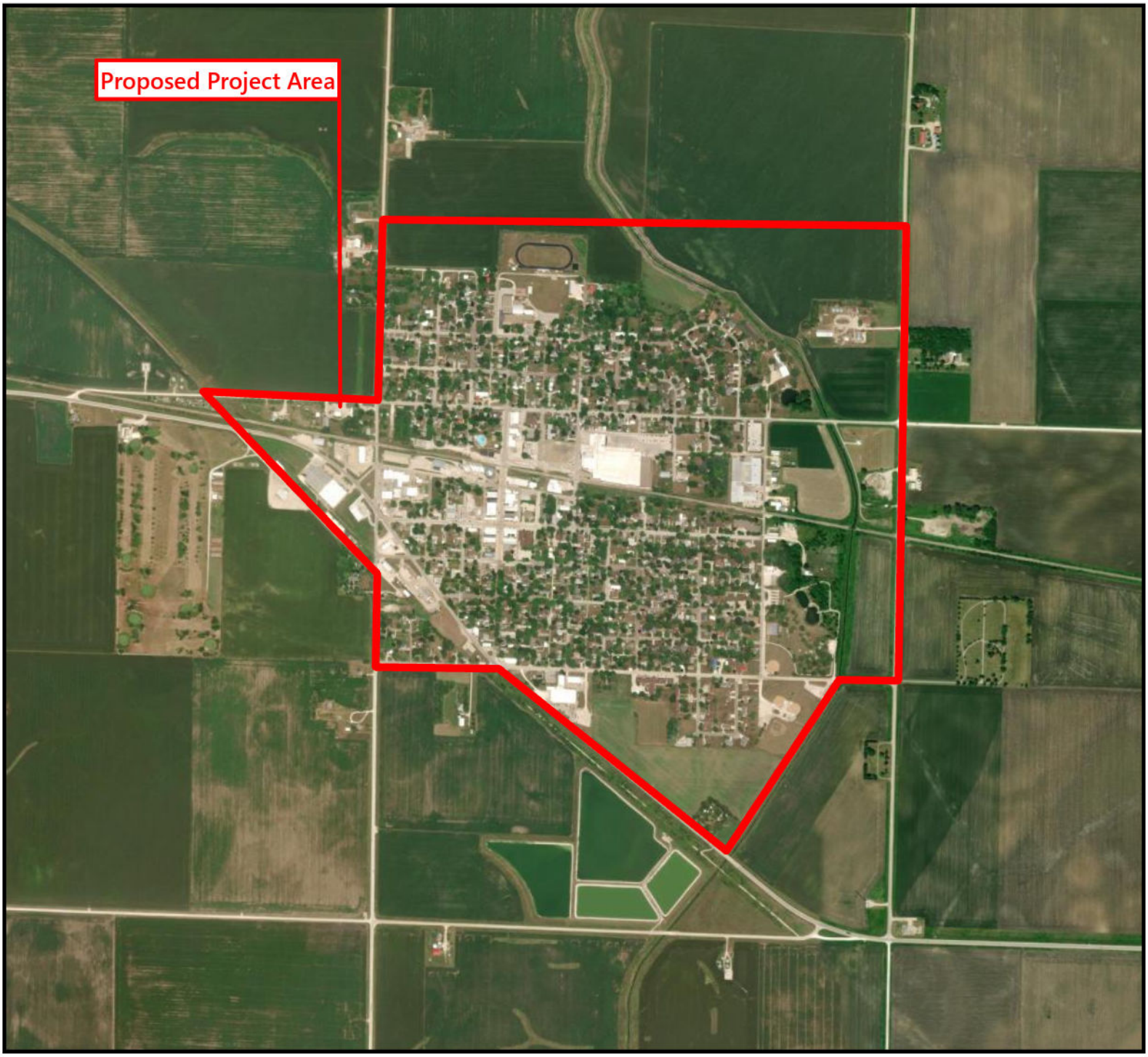
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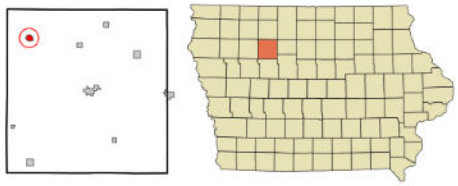
IOWA
State Revolving Fund

Aerial

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Laurens Sanitary Sewer and Water Distribution System Improvements
Laurens, IA (Pocahontas County, Iowa)



Legend

SRF_Polygon

0 0.13 0.25 0.5 Miles