



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
LANSING



LIESL EICHLER CLARK
DIRECTOR

July 22, 2019

TO: All Interested Citizens, Organizations, and Government Agencies

SUBJECT: FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
City of Flint, Genesee County
Project 6 – Water Main Replacement Amendment
Drinking Water Revolving Fund Project No. 7422-01

The purpose of this notice is to seek public input and comment on a preliminary decision by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required to implement recommendations discussed in the attached Environmental Assessment Amendment of a water supply project plan submitted by the applicant mentioned above.

HOW WERE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES CONSIDERED?

Part 54, Safe Drinking Water Assistance, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, being Sections 324.5401 to 324.5418 of the Michigan Compiled Laws Annotated, requires EGLE to evaluate all environmental implications of a proposed water supply project. EGLE has done this by incorporating a detailed analysis of the environmental impact of the proposed alternatives in its review and approval process. A project plan was prepared by the applicant and reviewed by the State. EGLE has prepared the attached Environmental Assessment and found that the proposed project does not require the preparation of an EIS.

WHY IS AN EIS NOT REQUIRED?

Our environmental review concluded that no significant environmental impacts would result from the proposed action. Any adverse impacts have either been eliminated by changes in the project plan or will be reduced by the implementation of the mitigative measures discussed in the attached Environmental Assessment.

HOW DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

A map depicting the location of the proposed project is attached. This information is also available on our website at www.michigan.gov/cleanwaterrevolvingfund under "Related Links." The Environmental Assessment presents additional information on the project, alternatives that were considered, impacts of the proposed action, and the basis for our decision. Further information can be obtained by calling or writing one of the contact people listed below.

Finding of No Significant Impact
Page 2
July 22, 2019

HOW DO I SUBMIT COMMENTS?

Any comments supporting or disagreeing with this preliminary decision should be submitted to me at EGLE, Constitution Hall, P.O. Box 30457, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7957. We will not take any action on this project plan for 30 calendar days from the date of this notice in order to receive and consider any comments.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

In the absence of substantive comments during this period, our preliminary decision will become final. The applicant will then be eligible to receive loan assistance from this Agency to construct the proposed project.

Any information you feel should be considered by EGLE should be brought to our attention. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Eric Pohan, the project manager, at 517-284-5416, or you may contact me. Your interest in this process and the environment is appreciated.

Sincerely,



Karol Patton, Acting Manager
Water Infrastructure Financing Section
Finance Division
517-284-5433

Attachment

**Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
Drinking Water Revolving Fund (DWRF)
Environmental Assessment Amendment
City of Flint, Genesee County
July 2019**

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Applicant: City of Flint, Genesee County

Authorized Representative: Mr. Robert Bincsik, Director of Public Works

Address: 1101 South Saginaw Street
Flint, Michigan 48502

Project No.: 7422-01

RATIONALE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AMENDMENT

This document amends Project 6-Water Main Replacement presented in our Environmental Assessment (EA), which was published for review and comment on November 1, 2018. This document is available upon request. Project 6 identified water main replacement projects grouped by criticality over a seven-year time frame. This list of water main segments included more work than loan money was available, in the event other projects presented in the project plan came in under budget. The city of Flint (Flint) has submitted a DWRF Project Plan Amendment with the request to add two additional water main projects not presented in the original plan.

PROJECT DISCUSSION

On December 14, 2018, Flint was awarded a \$77,740,825 DWRF loan with funding provided by the 2017 Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN). The terms of this loan included zero percent interest and 100 percent principal forgiveness. Project 6 was estimated to make up \$13,683,125 of the loan. While the water main list in the project plan was quite extensive, and the available funding could not cover all water main segments identified, it did not include every water main in the distribution system needing replacement. As Flint moves forward with infrastructure projects, two specific road replacements projects have been identified within the city that also require water main replacement. In an effort to maximize multiple funding sources, Flint would like to make it standard practice to replace water main as road reconstruction projects occur. The benefit to this approach would be that newly paved streets would not have to be excavated for water main repairs or replacements only a few years after construction.

PROPOSED PROJECTS

Court Street Road and Water Main Replacement

The Court Street road reconstruction project extends from Crapo Street east to Center Road. The road portion of the project is being funded by the Surface Transportation Urban Program,

National Highway System, and by the city of Flint via standard 80/20 matching funds. The request for the WIIN funded portion totaling \$3,319,221 would cover the replacement of 14,444 linear feet (LF) of water main replacement. This project would begin construction in August of 2019 and end in July of 2020.

The water main on this stretch of Court Street has had 23 breaks since 2005, is constructed of cast iron, and consists of 24-inch, 18-inch, 12-inch, and 6-inch-diameter pipe. The segment of water main on Court Street from Crapo Street to Dort Highway was installed in 1914. The segment from Dort Highway east to Center Road was installed in 1957. The proposed project would replace the water main in-kind except to upsize the existing 6-inch-diameter pipe with 8-inch-diameter pipe with either ductile iron (DI), polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe, or high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe. The 6-inch water main is being replaced due to its age, poor structural condition, and tuberculation within the pipe, and 8-inch-diameter replacement pipe is the standard residential pipeline size for water use requirements in the city. Flint will also perform hydraulic modeling during design on the 18-inch-diameter and 24-inch-diameter pipe and if the hydraulic modeling supports a reduction in size those recommendations will be followed.

Saginaw Street Road and Water Main Replacement

The Saginaw Street Road reconstruction project extends from the Flint River south to Court Street. The road portion of the project will be funded by the Michigan Department of Transportation and Flint via standard 80/20 matching funds totaling approximately \$3,200,000. Additional funding could also be provided by local businesses and philanthropical organizations if additional streetscape projects are desired in this area and the cost-estimate increases. The water main portion of the project to be covered by WIIN funds is estimated to be \$1,000,000. The proposed start date for this project would be during the 2020 construction season.

The water main on Saginaw Street is 12-inch-diameter cast iron pipe and was installed in 1913. The project would be an in-kind replacement of 3,500 LF using either DI pipe, PVC pipe, or HDPE pipe. Since 2005, 11 water main breaks have occurred on this stretch of Saginaw Street. Flint anticipates that they will be able to salvage approximately 30 percent of the existing brick roadway to use in the new road construction.

Potential Impacts

The Saginaw Street project is located on the eastern border of an area of the city referred to as the Archaeological Zone. This is an area of the city bordered by Flushing Road and West 5th Avenue to the north, Court Street to the south, Saginaw Street to the east, and Dupont Street to the west. This area is where several early Native American sites have been recorded in Flint, including early burials and cemeteries, and Native American ancestral remains have been previously discovered. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has indicated that since Saginaw Street is a border street of the Archaeological Zone, a professional archaeologist will not be required to be on-site as is the case with the water main and service line projects within those boundaries. If any inadvertent discovery of human remains or artifacts occur during the proposed projects, work must stop, and contact must be made with law enforcement, EGLE, and SHPO to allow these agencies to examine the site.

Public Participation

A public notice was published in the *Flint Journal* on June 14, 2019, with information regarding the amendment and informing residents that a public hearing would be held on June 24, 2019, at 5:30 p.m., in the city council chambers to allow for public comment on the amendment. At the hearing the locations of the two projects were presented and the hearing was opened for public comment. Two residents had comments on the amendment and the city council responded to questions specific to the proposed projects. A resolution approving the amendment was passed by the Flint City Council after the public hearing.

Questions regarding this Environmental Assessment Amendment should be directed to:

Ms. Karol Patton, Acting Manager
Water Infrastructure Financing Section
Finance Division
Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
P.O. Box 30457
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7957
Telephone: 517-284-5433
E-Mail: pattonk@michigan.gov