

Why You Should Read This: The document below reviews the environmental impact likely from a project. This project is planned to be federally funded through your tax dollars; therefore, you are entitled to take part in its review. 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

March 8, 2023

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 Johnston

SRF Number: CS192106201

County: Polk

Iowa DNR Project Number: W2022-0196B

State: Iowa

The City of Johnston, 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.

The City of Johnston is located in Polk County, Iowa approximately six miles southwest of Ankeny, Iowa and is bordered by Grimes to the west and Urbandale to the south. The population of Johnston according to the 2020 US Census was 24,064. The City has experienced rapid population growth over the last 20 years. The population density and type of designated land use were used to calculate the equivalent population for the project area which informed the project design.

Johnston is a member of the Des Moines Wastewater Reclamation Authority (DMWRA), which provides sanitary sewer services to the Greater Des Moines area. Sanitary sewer service is provided to Johnston's residents, businesses, and public facilities through more than 65 miles of collection lines and a series of lift stations. The City of Johnston has two connections to the DMWRA sewer, one located west of Merle Hay Road and one located adjacent to the old interurban (abandoned) railroad right of way. As a member of the DMWRA, the City of Johnston pays wastewater collection, operation and maintenance costs on a proportionate basis according to annual proportional wastewater flows contributed. There are current no sanitary sewer services extending to the northern portion of Johnston annexed in 2018.

The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the wastewater collection system extending municipal sanitary sewer to areas of the community which lack sewer access and are currently served only by septic systems.

The project consists of extending sanitary sewer into the newly annexed areas. The primary construction method will be open trench with a few sections of boring to limit disturbances to existing infrastructure. To service the region, total length of gravity main is 13,435 LF with maximum depth of 30-ft, two lift stations will need to be installed along with 4,600 LF of dual force mains. Planned construction schedule is in three segments: 2A, B, and C.

The treated wastewater from the DMWRA facility will discharge to the Des Moines River. It has a use stream designation of A-1, B(WW1). Class A-1 is designated as primary contact recreation uses and Class B(WW1) is designated for warmwater aquatic life use and for fish consumption uses.

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. 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.

No historic properties will be adversely affected by the proposed project. 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).

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. Please direct your comments to me at Hailey.Andersen@dnr.iowa.gov or (515) 321-7385.

Sincerely,

Hailey Andersen
Environmental Specialist
502 E. 9th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319-0034

Enclosures: Environmental Assessment
Project Map

Distribution

List (email): Foth Infrastructure and Environment, LLC
Amy Buckendahl, Iowa National Guard
Rachael Mangum, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Edward Boling, Council on Environmental Quality
Jake Hansen, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
Ken Sharp, Iowa Department of Public Health
Sarah Peterson, Iowa Department of Public Health
Nichole Hansen, Iowa Economic Development Authority
Ingrid Gronstal, Iowa Environmental Council
Tracy Scebold, Iowa Finance Authority
Tony Toigo, 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, USDO, National Park Service, Midwest Region
Kraig McPeck, Fish and Wildlife Service, Rock Island Field Office
Christopher Simmons, USEPA Region VII
Kelly Beard-Tittone, USEPA Region VII
Des Moines Register

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**IOWA STATE REVOLVING FUND
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT**

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Applicant: City of Johnston
County: Polk
State: Iowa

SRF Number: CS192106201
Iowa DNR Project Number: W2022-0196B

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION

Location: The City of Johnston is located in Polk County, Iowa approximately six miles southwest of Ankeny, Iowa and is bordered by Grimes to the west and Urbandale to the south.

Population: The population of Johnston according to the 2020 US Census was 24,064. The City has experienced rapid population growth over the last 20 years. The population density and type of designated land use were used to calculate the equivalent population for the project area which informed the project design.

Current Waste Collection System: Johnston is a member of the Des Moines Wastewater Reclamation Authority (DMWRA), which provides sanitary sewer services to the Greater Des Moines area. Sanitary sewer service is provided to Johnston's residents, businesses, and public facilities through more than 65 miles of collection lines and a series of lift stations. The City of Johnston has two connections to the DMWRA sewer, one located west of Merle Hay Road and one located adjacent to the old interurban (abandoned) railroad right of way. As a member of the DMWRA, the City of Johnston pays wastewater collection, operation and maintenance costs on a proportionate basis according to annual proportional wastewater flows contributed. There are current no sanitary sewer services extending to the northern portion of Johnston annexed in 2018.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the wastewater collection system extending municipal sanitary sewer to areas of the community which lack sewer access and are currently served only by septic systems.

Proposed Improvements: The project consists of extending sanitary sewer into the newly annexed areas. The primary construction method will be open trench with a few sections of boring to limit disturbances to existing infrastructure. To service the region, total length of gravity main is 13,435 LF with maximum depth of 30-ft, two lift stations will need to be installed

along with 4,600 LF of dual force mains. Planned construction schedule is in three segments: 2A, B, and C.

Receiving Stream: The treated wastewater from the DMWRA facility will discharge to the Des Moines River. It has a use stream designation of A-1, B(WW1). Class A-1 is designated as primary contact recreation uses and Class B(WW1) is designated for warmwater aquatic life use and for fish consumption uses.

FUTURE ACTIONS & CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Future Actions: The proposed improvements are being constructed at this time in order to provide sanitary sewer service to anticipated developments that will be built after the sewers are finished. According to projected land use designations in the City's Thrive 2040 Plan, development in this area will include varying levels of residential, mixed, business/employment, commercial, parks and open spaces, and right-of-way uses.

The proposed developments described above will likely include alterations to existing wetlands and streams, which will require a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Any action permitted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers subject to the National Environmental Policy Act will require a review of environmental impacts before issuing a permit.

In addition, the proposed developments may require the construction of new roads or expansion of existing roads. Any road constructed by the Iowa Department of Transportation subject to the National Environmental Policy Act will require a review of environmental impacts before being constructed.

Cumulative Impacts: Impacts to the existing environmental and/or cultural resources within the area to be served by the project are expected as a result of future development activity. Future development of the project area will occur regardless of the federal funding sources involved or the required permits that are necessary for construction. Mitigation measures to avoid or minimize damage or to protect, restore, and enhance the existing environmental and/or cultural resources will be determined based upon applicable local, state and/or federal requirements.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Alternatives Considered: There are currently no sanitary sewer services in this portion of the City of Johnston; therefore, a basic design which could meet the necessary loads is proposed and no alternatives were considered.

Reasons for Selection of Proposed Alternative: The No-Action alternative is not viable due to the need to extend sanitary sewer services to the newly annexed portion of the City.

The project site was selected for the availability of land as well as minimization of the impacts to the environment.

MEASURES TAKEN TO ASSESS IMPACT

Public Involvement: A public hearing was held on October 17, 2022 at 7:00PM at the City's regular council meeting. The public notice of this hearing was published in the Des Moines Register on September 6, 2022. 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 asked 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 Water Resources 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 Tribal Council
Osage 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

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 soils over an area greater than one acre; 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: The State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO), the Certified Local Government and various Native American tribes with an interest in the area were provided information regarding the project. The DNR has determined, and the SHPO has concurred (R&C#220877950), that this undertaking will result in “no adverse effect” to historic properties based on the scope of the project, the prior use of the project area, and the findings of the Phase I Archeological Survey conducted on the project property. 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: 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. 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 threatened or endangered species or their habitats provided that any tree cutting is conducted between October 1 and March 31 to avoid impacting endangered bats. 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 Water Resources Section, this project will not impact the 100-year floodplain provided all necessary floodplain development permits, state and local, are obtained and the terms of which are abided by. No adverse impacts are expected to result from this project, such as those to surface water quantity, or groundwater quality or quantity. Therefore, no significant impact to surface water quality, fish, shellfish, wildlife, or their natural habitats is expected.

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 Johnston 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.

POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS TO BE REALIZED FROM THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Positive environmental effects will be access to sanitary sewer services for the newly annexed area of the City of Johnston allowing for the proper treatment and disposal of wastewater.

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.
- The project will not displace population, alter the character of existing residential areas, or convert significant farmlands to non-agricultural purposes.
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- The project will not have effect on parklands, preserves, other public lands, or areas of recognized scenic or recreational value.
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- 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 567 Iowa Administrative Code 92.8(1)“b” for drinking water relating to compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. No adverse effect or significant environmental impact is foreseen at this time.

HAILEY ANDERSEN

Environmental Review Specialist
State Revolving Fund
Iowa Department of Natural Resources

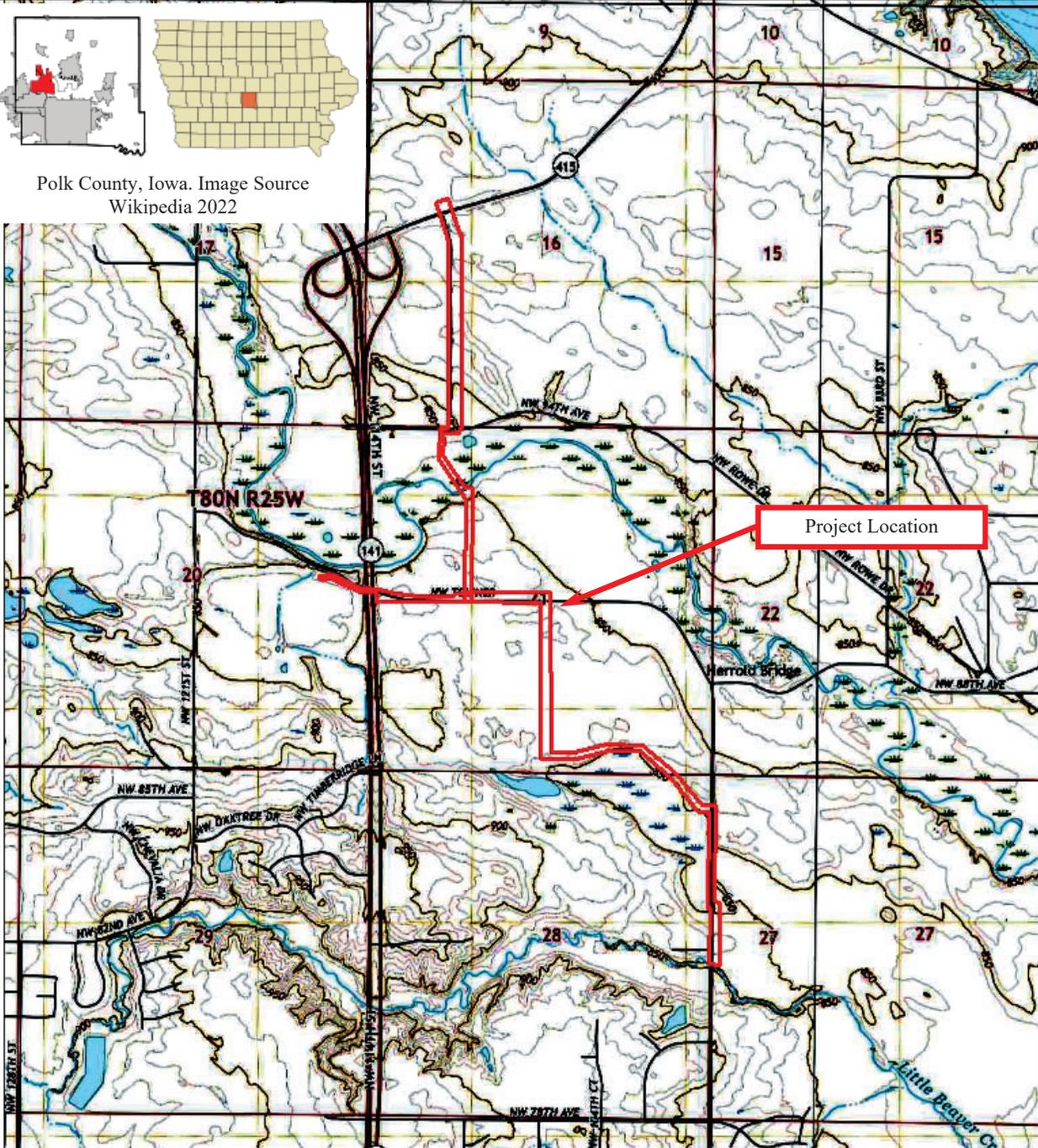
USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle: Grimes
Sections: 16, 20, 21, 27, 28, Township: 80 N, Range: 25 W
Date: 1976
Scale: 1 Inch = 2,000 Feet



North



Polk County, Iowa. Image Source
Wikipedia 2022



USGS Topographic Map

Little Beaver Creek Sanitary Sewer Extension Segments 2A, B, & C
Johnston, IA

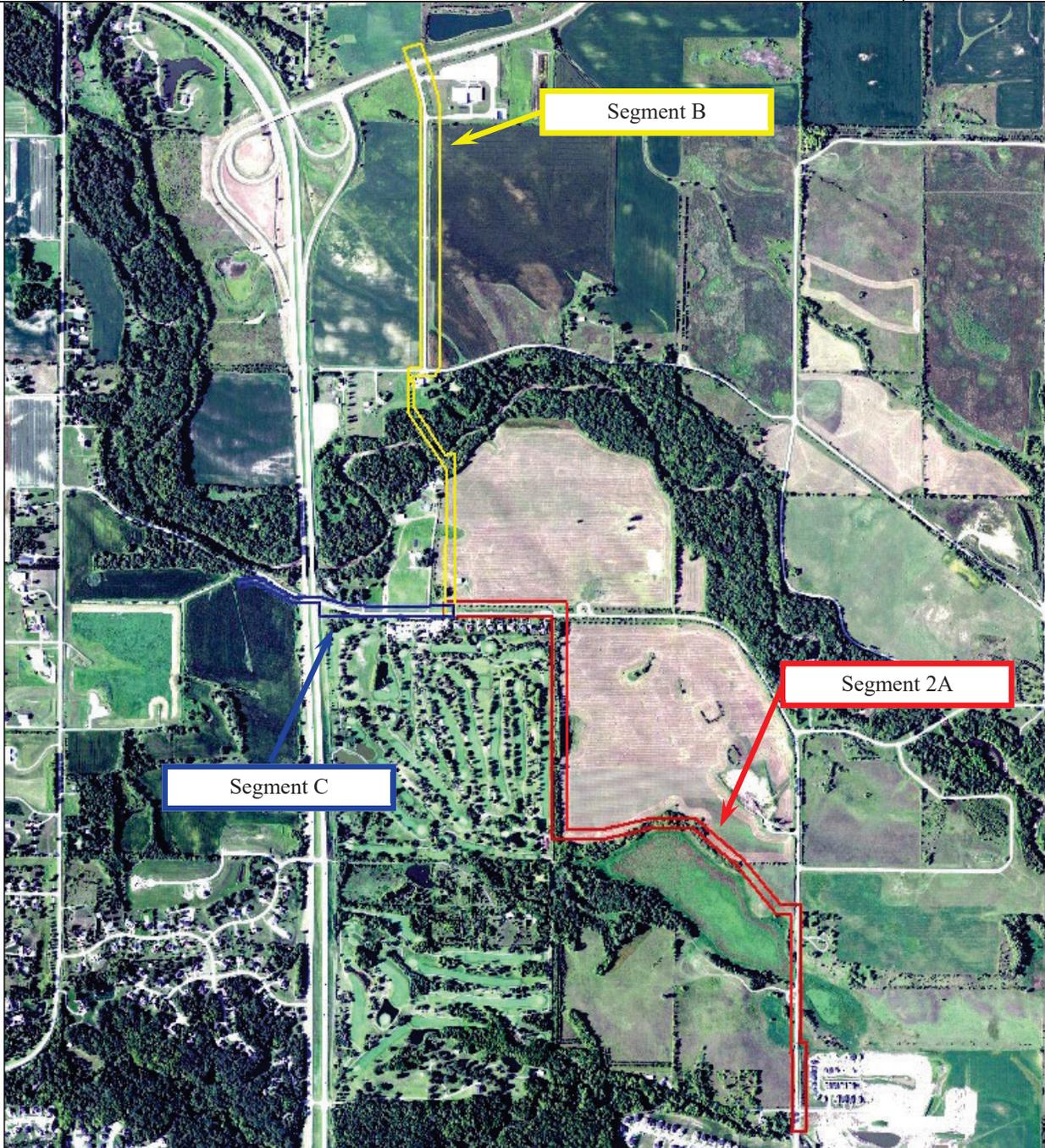


State Revolving Fund
502 East 9th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319-0034

Location information provided by Foth Infrastructure and Environmental, LLC



North



Aerial Photograph

Little Beaver Creek Sanitary Sewer Extension Segments 2A, B, & C
Johnston, IA



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