



CITY OF JOHN DAY

mayor
Ron Lundbom

city manager
Nicholas Green

secretary
Chantal DesJardin

council
Shannon Adair
Gregg Haberly
Dave Holland
Steve Schuette
Elliot Sky
Paul Smith

Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a Floodplain

To: All interested Agencies [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL), Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Eastern Oregon Regional Solutions Center, and Grant County, Oregon, Groups and Individual, North Fork of the John Day Watershed Council, and residents of City of John Day and Grant County.

RE: 24 CFR Part 58 Notice of City of John Day Wastewater System Improvements Final Design: CDBG Project P18011

This is to give notice that Responsible Entity (City of John Day) under Part 58 has determined that the following proposed action to be undertaken with State-administered Community Development Block Grant (Final Design: P18011) is partially located in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). The Responsible Entity will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the floodplain and the potential impacts on the floodplain and wetland resources from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988 and 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands. The proposed project(s) is located in City of John Day, Grant County, Oregon and is described in detail below.

The proposed Wastewater System Improvements Project: Phase 1 includes two primary elements: (1) the construction of a new Class A wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) with associated underground piping and gravel access road; and (2) the demolition of the existing wastewater treatment facility on 7th Street.

1. Construction of a new Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF)

The new WWTF will be located approximately 0.5 miles west of the existing WWTF and approximately 0.2 miles west of the percolation ponds. WWTF components will include a packaged membrane bioreactor, secondary treatment system, and solids digestion infrastructure. Piping for influent into the WWTF and for discharge of treated effluent will include:

- An 18-inch gravity sewer line will be constructed between the existing WWTF and the new WWTF in order to convey wastewater to the new facility. The 18-inch line will cross above Davis Creek.



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- A pressurized sewer force main will be designed to convey treated effluent into the City's existing percolation ponds, which are currently being under-used. This will operate as the primary discharge point for the new WWTF's discharge.

The maximum ground disturbance depths for construction of the new WWTF will be approximately 15 feet for the headworks and installation of the 18-inch gravity sewer line; typical excavation is anticipated to be 5 feet. A gravel road and parking lot will be placed from the south side of the new WWTF to provide access to the new facility. Stormwater will be managed on-site and through the City's existing stormwater infrastructure that will be extended south of the new WWTF as a part of the planned 7th Ave. extension

2. Demolition of the old Wastewater Treatment Facility

The existing WWTF is located on the northwestern end of John Day on 7th Street and is partially in the 100-year floodplain of the SFHA. The old WWTF will be demolished as a part of this project once the new WWTF is constructed and fully operational. However, the existing percolation ponds to the west will remain in service until an alternate discharge method is established and permitted by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

Project Locations Relative to Floodplains and Wetlands

There are four primary categories of new construction taking place with respect to the floodplains and wetlands - (1) the new WWTF, (2) the WWTF's gravel access road, (3) a buried force main, and (4) a buried gravity sewer line.

1. The new WWTF was designed and sited in order to avoid placement in the SFHA as updated by LOMR-19-10-0438P-410077. This will be the only "critical action" that is a part of this project, as defined by 24 CFR 55.2. Located on FIRM #4100740675. It will not be sited in a wetland.
2. The gravel access road will begin outside the SFHA and extend into the 500-year floodplain to the south of the WWTF. There may be shallow grading related to the gravel road. Covered on FIRM #4100740675. It will not be sited in a wetland.
3. The buried force main will begin outside the SFHA and travel east to the existing percolation ponds and will travel through 100- and 500-year floodplains. Located on FIRM #4100740675 and #4100770001. It is routed through an area identified on the National Wetland Inventory as a wetland, however, the City is completing a wetland delineation to



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determine the status of the area. The City does not believe this area is a wetland.

4. The buried gravity sewer line will begin outside the SFHA and be routed through 100- and 500-year floodplains as it travels east. Located on FIRM #4100740675 and #4100770001. This line will cross above Davis Creek, which is conveyed by culvert under the existing access road. Davis Creek is considered a wetland and Waters of the US. Because Davis Creek passes under a road, the pipe will be conveyed across the top of the culvert. The City's Wetland Delineation will identify the Ordinary High Water Mark. The gravity line will also pass through the same wetland area identified in #3 for the buried force main.

The information on floodplain location is based on the recently updated and published FEMA FIRM maps for the City of John Day and the Urban Growth Area. These panels were published in March 2019 and made effective as of October 17, 2019 (see [LOMR-19-10-0438P-410077](#)).

Purpose of this Notice

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplain, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.



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Written comments must be received by the Responsible Entity at the following address on or before **February 17, 2020**:

City of John Day
Attention: Nicholas Green, City Manager
450 East Main Street
John Day, Oregon 97845

A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 8am – 4pm at same address as above and City website:

(<https://www.cityofjohnday.com/planning/page/new-wastewater-treatment-plant>).

Comments may also be submitted via email to green@grantcounty-or.gov.

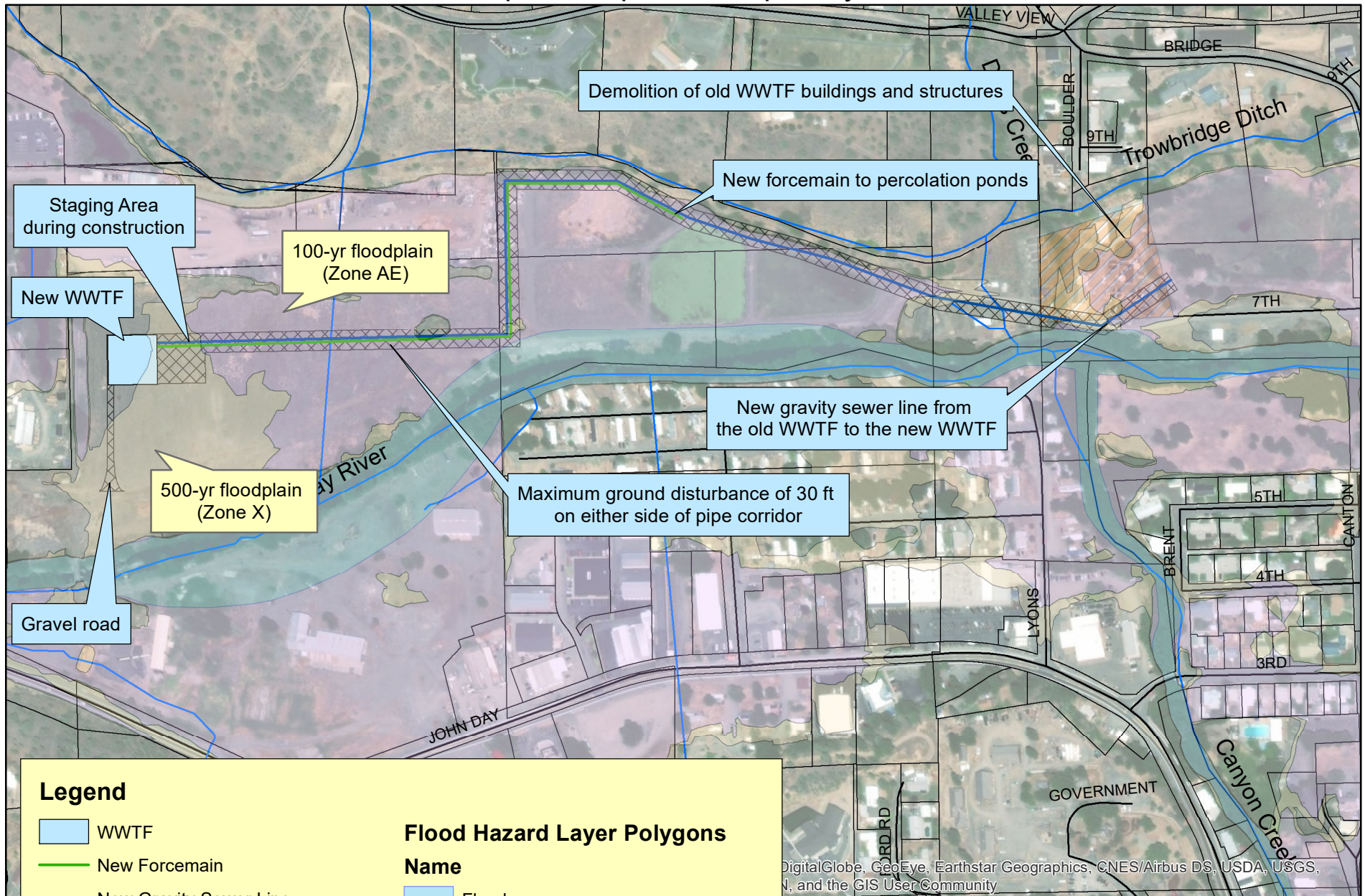
Sincerely,

Nicholas Green, City Manager
Tel: (541) 575-0028

Date: January 31, 2020

Enclosures

City of John Day, CDBG #18011: Wastewater System Improvements: Phase 1 Floodplain Map for 8-Step Early Notice



DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, and the GIS User Community

Legend		Flood Hazard Layer Polygons	
	WWTF		Floodway
	New Forcemain		Zone A
	New Gravity Sewer Line		Zone AE
	ImpactArea		Zone X
	Demolition		Hydrography_Statewide_Streams_Fp
	tax_lots_with_ownerships_3-21-2017		
	ORTrans_public		