



Public Notice

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND LOAN

The Nevada Administrative Code (NAC), in Sections NAC 445A.6758 to 445A.67612, inclusive, outlines the environmental review procedures to be followed by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) to be consistent with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In accordance with these procedures, NDEP intends to issue a Categorical Exclusion. The proposed project includes the rehabilitation of the existing distribution system within the Golconda General Improvement District (GID). As specified by NAC 445A.67583 (2), the proposed project qualifies for a Categorical Exclusion because it is (b) The replacement of equipment or structures. A significant negative effect on the quality of the environment by this project is unlikely.

The community of Golconda's drinking water system is operated by the Golconda GID. The Golconda GID operates the public water system, NV0005029, located in Humboldt County, Nevada. The Project will utilize Principal Forgiveness funds from the Nevada Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF).

Project Name: Golconda Distribution System Rehabilitation Project

Project Priority List Rank.: Class III Rehabilitation #30 - NV DWSRF Priority List – Effective January 2024

Applicant: Golconda GID

Total Estimated DWSRF Assistance: \$825,000

The community of Golconda is located along Interstate 80, approximately 15 miles east of Winnemucca. The Golconda GID has approximately 71 service connections and serves a population of about 175 people.

While Golconda GID has made some recent improvements that help strengthen some of the system's critical infrastructure, there are several remaining vulnerabilities which need to be addressed. The system functionality is impacted by aging and undersized lines, ongoing leaks, and other inefficiencies. This project consists of rehabilitation and upgrades for the Golconda GID distribution system, including: the replacement of gate valves, fire hydrants, water meter service laterals, and an existing Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) computer, plus the abandonment of a water main leading to a former water storage tank. An evaluation of alternatives was conducted; the proposed project has been chosen as the preferred alternative.

NDEP has reviewed the environmental checklist and documentation provided by the borrower and agrees that the proposed project work does not have a potential to negatively impact the environment or other interests represented by various Federal cross-cutting regulations. There are no sensitive, threatened, or endangered animal or plant species in the project area. There would be no effects to the species or their critical habitats as a result of the project. No critical habitat for migratory birds has been identified in the project area. Construction and staging activities will occur within existing disturbed areas. Documentation supporting these conclusions is available for public examination from the offices of the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, 901 S. Stewart St., Suite 4001, Carson City, Nevada.

A consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will be conducted and Native American entities that may have interest in the general project area and other potential stakeholders will be given an opportunity to provide their comments and feedback. SHPO concurrence for the finding of direct and indirect Areas of Potential Effects and mitigation plans, if any are needed, is required prior to commencing construction on the project. No Native American-related resources have been previously identified within the project area.

This Categorical Exclusion notice soliciting public comments, and any responses received, will be presented to SHPO as evidence of NDEP's outreach efforts and shall become part of the package to be submitted for their concurrence. This, along with standard unanticipated discovery protocols applicable during the active project construction, form

the basis for reasonable assurances that no national landmarks or property with nationally significant historic, architectural, prehistoric, archaeological, or cultural value will be adversely affected by the project. As such, this project is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion, and neither a Finding of No Significant Impact nor an Environmental Impact Statement is required.

Comments for consideration on this proposed Categorical Exclusion determination are due on or before **February 12, 2024**. As specified by NAC 445A.67584, the public comment period is 15 days. All comments must be submitted to: Jason Cooper, Program Manager, Office of Financial Assistance, State Revolving Fund Program, 901 S. Stewart St., Suite 4001, Carson City, NV 89701-5405. Questions regarding this notice may be directed by email at ndep-ofa@ndep.nv.gov or (775) 687-9351. Email is the most optimal means to reach this office for a timely response. The process of environmental review shall be deemed complete if no comments that the NDEP determines to be significant are received within the time allowed for public comment.