

UNIFORM ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

As the engineer that prepared the preliminary engineering report, I Brent Pilon, PE
(print name of engineer)
 have reviewed the information presented in this checklist and believe that it accurately identifies the environmental resources in the area and the potential impacts that the project could have on those resources. In addition, the required state and federal agencies were provided with the required information about the project and requested to provide comments on the proposed public facility project. Their comments have been incorporated into and attached to the Preliminary Engineering Report.

Engineer's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Key Letter: N – No Impact B – Potentially Beneficial A – Potentially Adverse
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PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

<u>Key</u> N <u> </u>	<p>1. Soil Suitability, Topographic and/or Geologic Constraints (e.g., soil slump, steep slopes, subsidence, seismic activity)</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> Soils are generally stable and conducive to excavation and construction. Topography within the project area is suitable for pipe and structure construction. No soil slumps or subsidence have been identified in the project area. Soils data was obtained from the NRCS Jefferson County Soil Survey (Parts of the document are included in the PER). Topographic information was obtained from the USGS Quadrangle for the area and from site inspections completed by Great West Engineering.</p> <p>-Great West Engineering</p>
<u>Key</u> N <u> </u>	<p>2. Hazardous Facilities (e.g., power lines, EPA hazardous waste sites, acceptable distance from explosive and flammable hazards including chemical/petrochemical storage tanks, underground fuel storage tanks, and related facilities such as natural gas storage facilities & propane storage tanks)</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> None of the proposed water system improvements are proximal to any National Priority Sites. The proposed water system improvements are not anticipated to have any adverse impacts on the proximal area. No underground storage tanks are located in the area and local officials do not recall any leaking underground tank over the history of the District area. There are power lines in the project area that the Contractor will be made aware of in the design plans.</p> <p>-Great West Engineering</p>
<u>Key</u> N <u> </u>	<p>3. Effects of Project on Surrounding Air Quality or Any Kind of Effects of Existing Air Quality on Project (e.g., dust, odors, emissions)</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> The project may produce temporary nuisance dust during construction. Dust suppression protocols will be in place during construction, but no long term adverse impacts will result from the water system improvements.</p> <p>-Great West Engineering</p>

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<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Key</u> N</p>	<p>4. Groundwater Resources & Aquifers (e.g., quantity, quality, distribution, depth to groundwater, sole source aquifers)</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> This project will have no adverse impacts on groundwater resources. The same amount of water will be required with the proposed water system improvements versus the existing system, the only difference being that it is a centralized system versus individual system.</p> <p>-Great West Engineering</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Key</u> B</p>	<p>5. Surface Water/Water Quality, Quantity & Distribution (e.g., streams, lakes, storm runoff, irrigation systems, canals)</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> The construction of new water system improvements would possibly improve the surface water quality due to the elimination of individual wells because groundwater is connected to surface water in the area.</p> <p>The effects of storm runoff will need to be mitigated during the construction project. Best Management Practices should be implemented to keep sediment from entering water resources.</p> <p>-Great West Engineering</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Key</u> A</p>	<p>6. Floodplains & Floodplain Management (Identify any floodplains within one mile of the boundary of the project.)</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> The project area is not mapped on the FIRM maps but could potentially be within the 100 year flood plain. The water system improvements could be within flood plain.</p> <p>-Great West Engineering -FEMA FIRM Map</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Key</u> A</p>	<p>7. Wetlands Protection (Identify any wetlands within one mile of the boundary of the project.)</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> Wetlands are located in the planning area. Most of the wetlands in the area are confined to stream and irrigation ditch corridors. Additional wetland delineation would need to be performed in the design phase of the project. Design of the water system would strive to avoid any delineated wetlands if found.</p> <p>-Great West Engineering -NRCS</p>

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<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Key</u> N</p>	<p>8. Agricultural Lands, Production, & Farmland Protection (e.g., grazing, forestry, cropland, prime or unique agricultural lands) (Identify any prime or important farm ground or forest lands within one mile of the boundary of the project.)</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> The NRCS soils survey for Jefferson County identifies both prime farmland and land of statewide importance in the planning area boundary. Within the limits of the proposed project, some agricultural lands will be impacted as part of the proposed water system improvements. All disturbed areas will be returned to existing conditions.</p> <p>-Great West Engineering -NRCS</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Key</u> N</p>	<p>9. Vegetation & Wildlife Species & Habitats, Including Fish (e.g., terrestrial, avian and aquatic life and habitats)</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> The area is considered to be primarily Rocky Mountain Montane Douglas-fir Forest and Woodland (Montana Natural Heritage Program; Montana Field Guides). This system is associated with a dry to submesic continental climate regime with annual precipitation ranging from 20 to 40 inches, with a maximum in water or late spring. Wildlife in the area generally consists of elk, deer, coyote, fox, mountain lion, bobcat, rabbit, porcupine, skunk, raccoon, mice, other small mammals, and a wide variety of birds.</p> <p>-Great West Engineering -Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks -Montana Field Guides</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Key</u> N</p>	<p>10. Unique, Endangered, Fragile, or Limited Environmental Resources, Including Endangered Species (e.g., plants, fish, sage grouse, or other wildlife)</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> A Montana Natural Resources and Information System (NRIS) search was conducted and revealed species of concern in the planning area. The search revealed 22 animal species of concern, 4 plant species of concern, and 1 potential plant species of concern. The species of concern data can be found in associated Appendix. Most of these species do not frequent the habitat found in the Community of Clancy or the proposed water system improvements site. Because most of the proposed water system improvements project construction will take place within the existing community streets, alleys, and previously disturbed areas, minimal adverse impacts are anticipated for the listed species of concern. The Community of Clancy does not fall within the general habitat are for greater sage grouse, as defined by the Montana Sage Grouse Habitat map, which depicts the areas that fall under the Executive Order. Jefferson County does not host sage grouse habitat of any classification.</p> <p>-Great West Engineering -Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks -Montana Field Guides</p>

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<u>Key</u> N	<p>11. Unique Natural Features (e.g., geologic features)</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> The District does not host any known unique natural features therefore natural features will not be impacted by the proposed project. -Great West Engineering</p>
<u>Key</u> N	<p>12. Access to, and Quality of, Recreational & Wilderness Activities, Public Lands and Waterways (including Federally Designated Wild & Scenic Rivers), and Public Open Space</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> Access to and quality of recreational and wilderness activities, public lands and water ways, and public open spaces are not anticipated to be impacted by this project. -Great West Engineering</p>
HUMAN POPULATION	
<u>Key</u> N	<p>1. Visual Quality – Coherence, Diversity, Compatibility of Use and Scale, Aesthetics</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> The only potential impact to visual quality presented by the proposed project is related to the new storage tank. Depending on final elevation of the top of the tank, which will be determined during design, the tank may be visible from surrounding areas. -Great West Engineering</p>
<u>Key</u> N	<p>2. Nuisances (e.g., glare, fumes)</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> Nearby residences may be temporarily affected by noise from construction activity, however, no long term impacts are anticipated and efforts will be made to minimize nuisances if they occur. -Great West Engineering</p>
<u>Key</u> N	<p>3. Noise -- suitable separation between noise sensitive activities (such as residential areas) and major noise sources (aircraft, highways & railroads)</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> Some noise may be generated during construction, but that will be limited. The project will not create long term impacts. -Great West Engineering</p>

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<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Key</u> <u>A/P/M</u></p>	<p>4. Historic Properties, Cultural, and Archaeological Resources</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> The Montana State Preservation Office (SHPO) has been contacted to determine whether there are significant historical and cultural resources within the project area. Response from SHPO dated February 21, 2018: "It is SHPO's position that any structure over fifty years of age is considered historic and is potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. For all water lines that are within existing roadways, we feel there is a low likelihood cultural properties will be impacted as these areas have been previously disturbed...it will be important for you to coordinate efforts in further consideration of impacts to cultural resources through the federal agency for consultation with our office."</p> <p>-Great West Engineering -SHPO</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Key</u> <u>B</u></p>	<p>5. Changes in Demographic (population) Characteristics (e.g., quantity, distribution, density)</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> The implementation of water system improvements will allow for infilling in the area and make the District a more desirable place to live. This will allow the District to grow. No negative impacts are anticipated relating to distribution and density.</p> <p>-Great West Engineering</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Key</u> <u>N</u></p>	<p>6. Environmental Justice – (Does the project avoid placing lower income households in areas where environmental degradation has occurred, such as adjacent to brownfield sites?)</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> This project is not located in an area known to have environmental degradation. Therefore, is not applicable to the project.</p> <p>-Great West Engineering</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Key</u> <u>B</u></p>	<p>7. General Housing Conditions - Quality, Quantity, Affordability</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> The water system improvements project will likely improve property and housing values.</p> <p>-Great West Engineering</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Key</u> <u>B</u></p>	<p>8. Displacement or Relocation of Businesses or Residents</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> The water system improvements project will likely make the District more attractive for existing businesses to remain and for new businesses to open.</p> <p>-Great West Engineering</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Key</u> <u>B</u></p>	<p>9. Public Health and Safety</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> The water system improvements will suppress potential fire and provide for treatment of the source water supply which will increase public health and safety.</p> <p>-Great West Engineering</p>

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<u>Key</u> N	<p>10. Lead Based Paint and/or Asbestos</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> There are no known lead based paint or asbestos that will be encountered on this project.</p> <p>-Great West Engineering</p>
<u>Key</u> B	<p>11. Local Employment & Income Patterns - Quantity and Distribution of Employment, Economic Impact</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> The District may experience short term benefits if contractors choose to hire local residents. Local businesses may benefit from the presence of construction crews, who would patronize local businesses. Longer term benefits may be experienced by the community as a result of the presence of a significantly improved infrastructure that may attract new businesses.</p> <p>-Great West Engineering</p>
<u>Key</u> B	<p>12. Local & State Tax Base & Revenues</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> The water system improvements project will enable commercial and industrial growth to occur therefore, expanding the Local and State tax base and revenues.</p> <p>-Great West Engineering</p>
<u>Key</u> B	<p>13. Educational Facilities - Schools, Colleges, Universities</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> The new water system improvements project will improve fire flows near the school, decreasing the likelihood of major damage to the school and preventing fatalities of its students and staff.</p> <p>-Great West Engineering</p>
<u>Key</u> B	<p>14. Commercial and Industrial Facilities - Production & Activity, Growth or Decline</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> The new water system improvements project construction will expand growth of commercial and industrial facilities.</p> <p>-Great West Engineering</p>

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<u>Key</u> N	<p>15. Health Care – Medical Services</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> No impacts are anticipated.</p> <p>-Great West Engineering</p>
<u>Key</u> N	<p>16. Social Services – Governmental Services (e.g., demand on)</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> No impacts are anticipated.</p> <p>-Great West Engineering</p>

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<u>Key</u> N	<p>17. Social Structures & Mores (Standards of Social Conduct/Social Conventions)</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> No impacts are anticipated. -Great West Engineering</p>
<u>Key</u> N	<p>18. Land Use Compatibility (e.g., growth, land use change, development activity, adjacent land uses and potential conflicts)</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> The land use at the proposed new tank site will change; however, no conflicts with the landowner are anticipated and no other adverse impacts are expected. -Great West Engineering</p>
<u>Key</u> N	<p>19. Energy Resources - Consumption and Conservation</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> The water system improvements project will not incur any adverse impacts on energy resources. -Great West Engineering</p>
<u>Key</u> N	<p>20. Solid Waste Management</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> No impacts are anticipated. -Great West Engineering</p>
<u>Key</u> N	<p>21. Wastewater Treatment - Sewage System</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> No impacts are anticipated. -Great West Engineering</p>
<u>Key</u> N	<p>22. Storm Water – Surface Drainage</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> The project will not incur any long term adverse impacts on storm water or drainage. Some temporary rerouting of storm water may be required during construction. -Great West Engineering</p>
<u>Key</u> B	<p>23. Community Water Supply</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> The water system improvements project will implement a community water supply which is not currently in place. It will improve water supply overall quality, reliability, and fire protection offered by the existing water system. -Great West Engineering</p>
<u>Key</u> N	<p>24. Public Safety – Police</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> No impacts are anticipated. -Great West Engineering</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Key</u> <u>B</u></p>	<p>25. Fire Protection – Hazards</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> Fire flow, and therefore fire fighting capability of the District, throughout the planning area will be improved by the water system improvements project.</p> <p>-Great West Engineering</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Key</u> <u>N</u></p>	<p>26. Emergency Medical Services</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> No impacts are anticipated.</p> <p>-Great West Engineering</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Key</u> <u>N</u></p>	<p>27. Parks, Playgrounds, & Open Space</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> No impacts are anticipated.</p> <p>-Great West Engineering</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Key</u> <u>N</u></p>	<p>28. Cultural Facilities, Cultural Uniqueness & Diversity</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> No impacts are anticipated.</p> <p>-Great West Engineering</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Key</u> <u>P/M</u></p>	<p>29. Transportation Networks and Traffic Flow Conflicts (e.g., rail; auto including local traffic; airport runway clear zones - avoidance of incompatible land use in airport runway clear zones)</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> The water system improvements project may impact MDT facilities. The distribution system would need to cross the highway to provide service to facilities in the District. Necessary permits will be obtained during the design phase of the project. Correspondence from the Federal Highway Administration indicates that MDT will require a permit and review of impacted state roadways plans.</p> <p>-Great West Engineering -FHWA -MDT</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Key</u> <u>N</u></p>	<p>30. Consistency with Local Ordinances, Resolutions, or Plans (e.g., conformance with local comprehensive plans, zoning, or capital improvement plans)</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> All applicable local, state, and federal rules and regulations will be complied with during the project.</p> <p>-Great West Engineering</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Key</u> <u>N</u></p>	<p>31. Is There a Regulatory Action on Private Property Rights as a Result of this Project? (consider options that reduce, minimize, or eliminate the regulation of private property rights.)</p> <p><i>Comments and Source of Information:</i> To the extent possible new facilities will be placed on public easements and public land. Water services would be connected on private property. Temporary construction easements/agreements would be required to perform this work.</p> <p>-Great West Engineering</p>

ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS AFTER THE PER HAS BEEN COMPLETED

I. Environmental Report (ER) with Categorical Exclusion (CE)

Depending on the sources of funding, once the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) has been completed and the potential environmental impacts have been determined, projects may have no additional environmental requirements other than obtaining appropriate permits. However, if the project is being funded by the USDA Rural Development Community Facility Programs, an Environmental Report must be completed. Depending on the outcome of the Environmental Report, either a Categorical Exclusion (CE) will need to be completed or an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be required. Projects funded through the State Revolving Fund Loan Program, the Treasure State Endowment Program, or the Community Development Block Grant Program also require a Categorical Exclusion or an Environmental Assessment before construction can be authorized. Contact the funding agencies involved for details.

The USDA RD program has a guide available to assist you in preparing the Environmental Report. See Guide to Applicants for Preparing Environmental Reports for Categorical Exclusions under § 1970.54 RD Instruction 1970-B, Exhibit C, FINAL RULE 81 FR 11000 Published March 2, 2016 with an Effective Date April 1, 2016. The Guide can be obtained by contacting the RD program staff, or at the following Internet address:

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/1970b.pdf>

RD Instruction 1970-B, Exhibit C provides specific guidance for preparing the ER including the format and information required; the environmental issues that must be considered during the proposed project's planning and design activities; the sources for locating the required information; and the documentation required to determine that there are no extraordinary circumstances that require a higher level of review including an EA or an EIS.

II. Environmental Assessment with FONSI

Depending on the sources of funding, once the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) has been completed and potential environmental impacts associated with the project have been identified, proposed projects may require an Environmental Assessment (EA). For projects that anticipate funding through the USDA Rural Development Community Facility Programs, the State Revolving Fund Loan Programs, the Treasure State Endowment Program, or the Community Development Block Grant Program, an EA must be completed if the environmental review identifies potential environmental impacts beyond those qualifying for a Categorical Exclusion. Depending on the findings of the EA, either a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) must be published or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared. Assuming the EA determines there are no significant environmental impacts, the funding agency will prepare the FONSI and direct the applicant to publish it. The following chart provides specific program requirements for publishing the FONSI.

	CDBG	DNRC	RD	SRF	TSEP
Notice of Availability of EA	Contact CDBG staff	Not Required	Publish once; 30-day comment period required*	Not Required	Contact TSEP Staff
Notice of FONSI	Contact CDBG staff	Provide copy of FONSI.	Publish once; no comment period required	Publish once; 30-day comment period required	Contact TSEP Staff

*RD requires a Notice of Availability of the Environmental Assessment to be published once, which allows for a 30-day comment period prior to publishing the FONSI.

If two or more agencies provide funding for a project, a combined publication notice may possibly be used to satisfy the requirements of all agencies. Check with the applicable agencies to determine if a combined publication notice is possible.