



STATE OF IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

1410 North Hilton • Boise, Idaho 83706 • (208) 373-0502
www.deq.idaho.gov

C.L. "Butch" Otter, Governor
John H. Tippets, Director

October 24, 2016

Chairman Dave McWilliams
Sandpiper Shores Master Utility Inc.
701 Oak Park Drive
Melbourne, FL 32940

RE: Categorical exclusion for the Sandpiper Shores Master Utility Wastewater Improvements
WWG-374-2015-4

Dear Chairman McWilliams:

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has completed a review of the environmental information document for the Sandpiper Shores Master Utility (SSMU) Wastewater Facility Improvement Project and has issued a categorical exclusion (Cat Ex) determination. A Cat Ex exempts the referenced project from further substantive environmental review requirements because no environmental effects were found. Enclosed is a signed copy of the Cat Ex for the referenced project.

DEQ has requested that the *Bonner County Daily Bee*, newspaper of record for Sandpiper Shores, publish the enclosed Cat Ex legal notice for the referenced project one time on October 27, 2016. The legal notice will explain how the public can obtain copies of the full Cat Ex.

SSMU should keep a copy of the Cat Ex and the legal notice as published for their records. No required public comment or waiting period is required after notification of a Cat Ex. Following publication of the legal notice, you may proceed with the closure of the DEQ planning grant. Katy Baker-Casile at the DEQ Coeur d'Alene Office, (208) 666-4640, is your local DEQ contact on the referenced project. Please keep her informed of progress on the project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barry N. Burnell".

Barry N. Burnell
Water Quality Division Administrator

BNB:ahh:dls

Enclosures

c: MaryAnna Peavey, DEQ State Office
Charlie Parkins, DEQ State Office
Katy Baker-Casile, DEQ CRO katy.baker-casile@deq.idaho.gov
Scott McNee, T-O Engineers smcnee@to-engineers.com
Dave McWilliams, SSMU dtmcwilliams@cfl.rr.com

October 24, 2016

Categorical Exclusion Determination for the Proposed

Sandpiper Shores Master Utility Wastewater Facilities Improvement, Bonner County, Coolin, Idaho

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has conducted an environmental review and analysis of the October 2016 Final Wastewater Facilities Plan for the Sandpiper Shores Master Utility in accordance with state procedures for implementing an environmental review under the State Environmental Review Process (SERP), “Rules for Administration of Wastewater Treatment Facility Grants” (IDAPA 58.01.04), and “Rules for Administration of Water Pollution Control Loans” (IDAPA 58.01.12). DEQ has determined that this project does not involve any extraordinary circumstances requiring additional environmental analysis and documentation and is therefore eligible for a categorical exclusion (Cat Ex). Accordingly, the project is exempted from further substantive environmental review requirements under the SERP.

The project consists of upgrading the existing Class C treatment system including expanded lagoon storage, lagoon liner replacement, construction of a lagoon separation wall for dual cells, upgrades to the irrigation pumping system, new chlorine contact piping, new irrigation force main, conversion and expansion of spray irrigation to drip irrigation. Also included in the improvements are replacement of the collection main, rehabilitation of manholes, minor lift station upgrades, and backup power for the lift stations.

DEQ has determined that this project is consistent with criteria for issuing a Cat Ex for the following reasons:

- The proposed facility improvements are solely directed toward minor rehabilitation of existing facilities, functional replacement of equipment, or the construction of new ancillary facilities adjacent or appurtenant to existing facilities.
- The facility improvements will not provide the capacity to serve a population that is projected to grow at a rate 25% in excess of the 20-year population growth rate expectations for the state as a whole according to the Idaho Division of Financial Management projections, and is not expected to change the current system’s population by greater than 500 estimated residential units.
- There will be no significant effect on the quality of the human environment either individually, cumulatively over time, or in conjunction with other federal, state, local, or private actions as a result of this project.
- There will be no direct or indirect effects to (a) cultural resource sites; (b) endangered or threatened species or their habitats; (c) essential fish habitat; (d) environmentally important natural resource areas such as floodplains, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, important farmlands, aquifer recharge zones; or (e) other resource areas identified in DEQ’s guidance.
- The alternative selected by the Sandpiper Shores Master Utility for construction is cost-effective and has not caused significant public controversy.

Short-term impacts may occur during project construction that includes temporary disruption of the collection and treatment system, increased noise, increased dust pollution, increased potential for stormwater runoff, and disruption of localized traffic conditions. The project contractor is responsible for managing the temporary disruptions of the system as follows:

- Air Quality: Temporary dust pollution impacts will be controlled as a condition of the construction specifications in accordance with the “Rules for the Control of Air Pollution in Idaho” (IDAPA 58.01.01.651). IDAPA 58.01.01.651 states that reasonable precautions shall be taken for dust control and suppression by using water or chemicals, applying dust suppressants, covering trucks, paving, and removing materials. In addition to the rule requirements, DEQ recommends that a dust prevention and control plan be implemented during construction of the project that includes best management practices (BMPs) to minimize dust pollution for fugitive dust control.

- Cultural Resources: If archeological artifacts (such as beads, arrow heads, pottery, fabric, grave goods, glass, metal fragments, or other human-made objects that appear to predate 1960) or human remains (such as bones, bone fragments, or teeth) are inadvertently discovered during construction, ground disturbing activities shall cease and the State Historical Preservation Officer (SHPO) and Kootenai Tribal Council shall be notified. Mitigation measures will be implemented as directed by SHPO and the tribe, and work will not resume at the discovery site without their consent.
- Stormwater: Stormwater runoff shall be handled through an Environmental Protection Agency Stormwater Construction General permit and the development of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The SWPPP and stormwater BMPs will be implemented prior to, during, and after project construction to reduce the potential for erosion from runoff.
- Noise impacts from the project construction will be reduced by restricting work hours to reasonable times identified in the construction specifications.
- Implement any other appropriate BMPs, wherever possible, to avoid or minimize impacts from other construction activities.

Overall, completion of the proposed project will have long-term positive effects by improving wastewater treatment and addressing Sandpiper Shores Master Utility's permit issues. The proposed project will protect water quality and public health.

The documentation to support this decision is on file at DEQ. This determination can be found on DEQ's website at www.deq.idaho.gov/water-quality/grants-loans/environmental-assessment.aspx or at the following locations:

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
 Water Quality Division
 1410 North Hilton
 Boise, Idaho 83706
 Grant/loan SERP contact: Aimee Hill (208) 373-0556

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
 Coeur d'Alene Regional Office
 2110 Ironwood Parkway
 Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814
 Regional Office contact: Katy Baker-Casile (208) 666-4640

Sandpiper Shores Master Utility Inc.
 701 Oak Park Drive
 Melbourne, FL 32940
 Contact: Dave McWilliams, Chairman (321) 693-2995

A one-time publication is required in the newspaper of record. DEQ has requested the *Bonner County Daily Bee* publish the Cat Ex legal notice for the Wastewater Facility Improvements for the Sandpiper Shores Master Utility one time on October 27, 2016. The legal notice will inform the public that the proposed project has received a Cat Ex, which excludes the project from further environmental review.

The Cat Ex and published legal notice should be made part of the final planning document for this project.

Barry N. Burnell
 Water Quality Division Administrator

LEGAL NOTICE OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FOR THE
SANDPIPER SHORES MASTER UTILITY WASTEWATER IMPROVEMENTS

The Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has determined that the proposed wastewater improvement project for the Sandpiper Shores Master Utility, Bonner County, Idaho, conforms to the State Environmental Review Process (SERP), “Rules for Administration of Wastewater Treatment Facility Grants” (IDAPA 58.01.04) and “Rules for Administration of Water Pollution Control Loans” (IDAPA 58.01.12) by which the project is eligible for a categorical exclusion. Accordingly, the project is exempted from further substantive environmental review requirements.

The project consists of upgrading the existing Class C treatment system including expanded lagoon storage, lagoon liner replacement, construction of a lagoon separation wall for dual cells, upgrades to the irrigation pumping system, new chlorine contact piping, new irrigation force main, conversion and expansion of spray irrigation to drip irrigation. Also included in the improvements are replacement of the collection main, rehabilitation of manholes, minor lift station upgrades, and backup power for the lift stations.

Copies of the notice of categorical exclusion are available for public review on DEQ’s website at www.deq.idaho.gov/water-quality/grants-loans/environmental-assessment.aspx or at the following locations:

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
Water Quality Division
1410 North Hilton
Boise, Idaho 83706
Grant/loan SERP contact: Aimee Hill (208) 373-0556

Idaho Department of Environmental Quality
Coeur d’Alene Regional Office
2110 Ironwood Parkway
Coeur d’Alene, Idaho 83814
Regional Office contact: Katy Baker-Casile (208) 666-4640

Sandpiper Shores Master Utility Inc.
701 Oak Park Drive
Melbourne, FL 32940
Contact: Dave McWilliams, Chairman (321) 693-2995