



NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION  
CHOTEAU, MONTANA  
SRF PROJECT#: C304240 CHOTEAU WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM  
IMPROVEMENTS – PHASE 1

March 30, 2021

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality has reviewed the above-named project for the City of Choteau, consisting of the replacement of 5,550 lineal feet of sewer main and 18 manholes. The City of Choteau identified, through cleaning and video inspections, the need to rehabilitate/replace portions of its wastewater collection system. Much of the collection system consists of clay tile and some concrete pipe, which was installed in 1914 and is showing signs of wear and even failure at some locations. Deficiencies include offset joints, root intrusions, sagging pipes, service tap intrusions, and cracks, which only worsen over time. In addition to causing sewage backups, these deficiencies also allow groundwater to infiltrate into the collection mains. Flow monitoring has shown that the collection system experiences groundwater infiltration of approximately 278,900 gallons per day or approximately 68% of the wastewater flow entering the lagoon. This elevated flow negatively impacts treatment capacity, which has necessitated that the City utilize the old lagoon cells for overflow storage. The City has decided to complete its collection system improvements in two phases to maximize grant funding, thereby making the overall project more affordable for its residents.

Pursuant to ARM 17.40.318, the Montana Department of Environmental Quality has concluded that the proposed project meets the Categorical Exclusion criteria of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA). The Categorical Exclusion may be revoked if the project is not initiated within the time period specified in the Preliminary Engineering Report, a new or modified application is submitted, or new evidence demonstrates serious local or environmental issues exist, or state, local, tribal, or federal laws are violated. The documentation for the Categorical Exclusion is available for public review at the following locations:

Department of Environmental Quality  
State Revolving Fund Loan Program  
1520 East Sixth Ave.  
Helena, MT 59620

Chris Hindoiien, Mayor  
City of Choteau  
P.O. Box 619  
Choteau, Montana 59422

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Smith", is written over a horizontal line.

Mark Smith, PE  
SRF Program Manager  
Water Quality Division  
Montana Department of Environmental Quality



Figure 7-1 - Preferred Alternative Collection and Treatment System Improvements

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Manholes

PS

Lift Station

WTP

Treatment Plant

Existing Gravity Mains

Force Mains


Alternative C-1

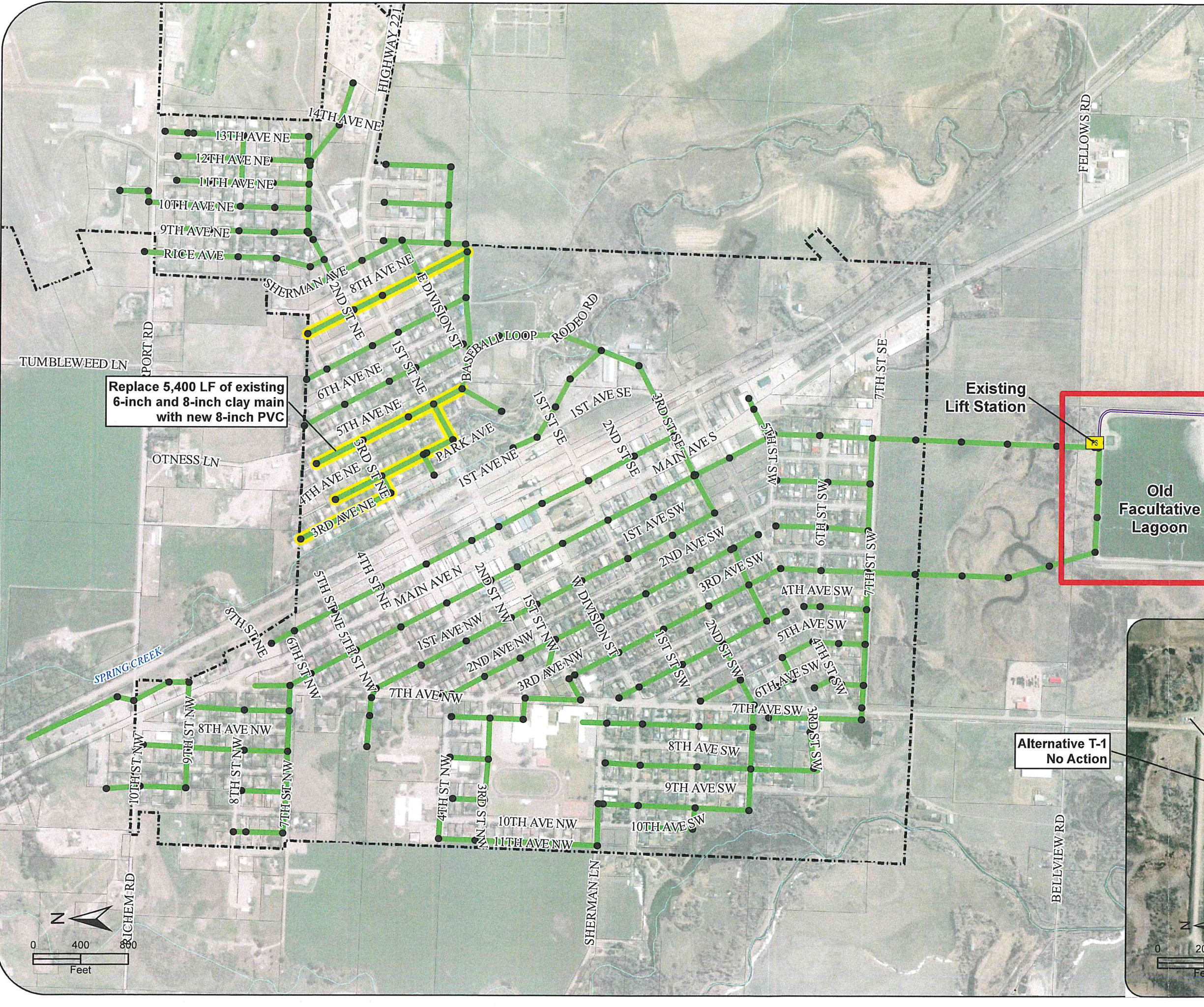
Rivers, Creeks, and Water Flowlines

City of Choteau

Parcel Boundary

Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community





Existing Lift Station

Effluent Discharge to Unnamed Ditch

Old Facultative Lagoon

Existing Treatment Facility (see inset map below)

Alternative T-1 No Action

