Montana Department of Environmental Quality

September 14, 2020

AMENDED FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

TO ALL INTERESTED GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND PUBLIC GROUPS

As required by state and federal rules for determining whether an Environmental Impact Statement is necessary, an environmental review has been performed on the proposed action below:

Project	Town of Medicine Lake Wastewater Improvements
Location	Medicine Lake, Montana
Project Number	C301257
Total Cost	$2,770,000

The Town of Medicine Lake, through a preliminary engineering report (PER) written in 2016 and amended in 2018, identified the need to upgrade its wastewater treatment facility (WWTF). The chosen alternative included relocation of the existing facultative lagoon away from Muddy Creek eastward, and replacement of the surface water discharge with a spray irrigation system for wastewater disposal. Construction began on this project in May of 2019 and the project was substantially complete on October 4, 2019. Removal and disposal of the lagoon sludge is still an outstanding construction item.

The Department's environmental review of the Town of Medicine Lake Wastewater Improvements Project was conducted prior to approval of the plans and specifications. The Department issued the environmental assessment (EA) on November 7, 2018, and, on November 29, 2018, the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the EA was published in the Sheridan County News weekly newspaper. A 30-day public comment period followed and no public comments were received. This Amended FONSI is being issued to address, and publicly notice, recent changes to the sludge disposal location for the Medicine Lake sewer project. The EA identified potential sites for land application of the biosolids removed from the existing lagoon cells. Recently, the SE quadrant of Township 32 North, Range 56 East, Section 30 (157 acres) was identified as another potential land application site. This acreage is located approximately ½ mile southeast of the Town of Medicine Lake, with Lake Cemetery Road as its northern edge. The biosolids would be hauled from the old lagoon cells, through the town's lagoon and spray irrigation property, and then straight east, crossing Highway 16, to the land application site. All other aspects of the Medicine Lake wastewater project were adequately covered in the EA and remain essentially unchanged. As indicated in the EA, sludge will be land-applied to farmland in accordance with Federal 40 CFR 503 sludge disposal regulations. The land application of sludge will enhance soil conditions and provide beneficial reuse of the biosolids.

Federal and State grant/loan programs will fund the project. Environmentally sensitive characteristics such as wetlands, floodplains, threatened or endangered species, and historical sites are not expected to be adversely impacted because of the proposed project. Public participation during the planning process demonstrated support for the selected alternative. No significant long-term environmental impacts were identified. The EA, which describes the project and analyzes the impacts in more detail, along with a map of the new sludge application site and haul route, is available for public scrutiny on the DEQ web site http://deq.mt.gov/Public/ea and at the following locations:

Department of Environmental Quality
1520 East Sixth Avenue
P.O. Box 200901
Helena, MT 59620-0901
mmarsh@mt.gov

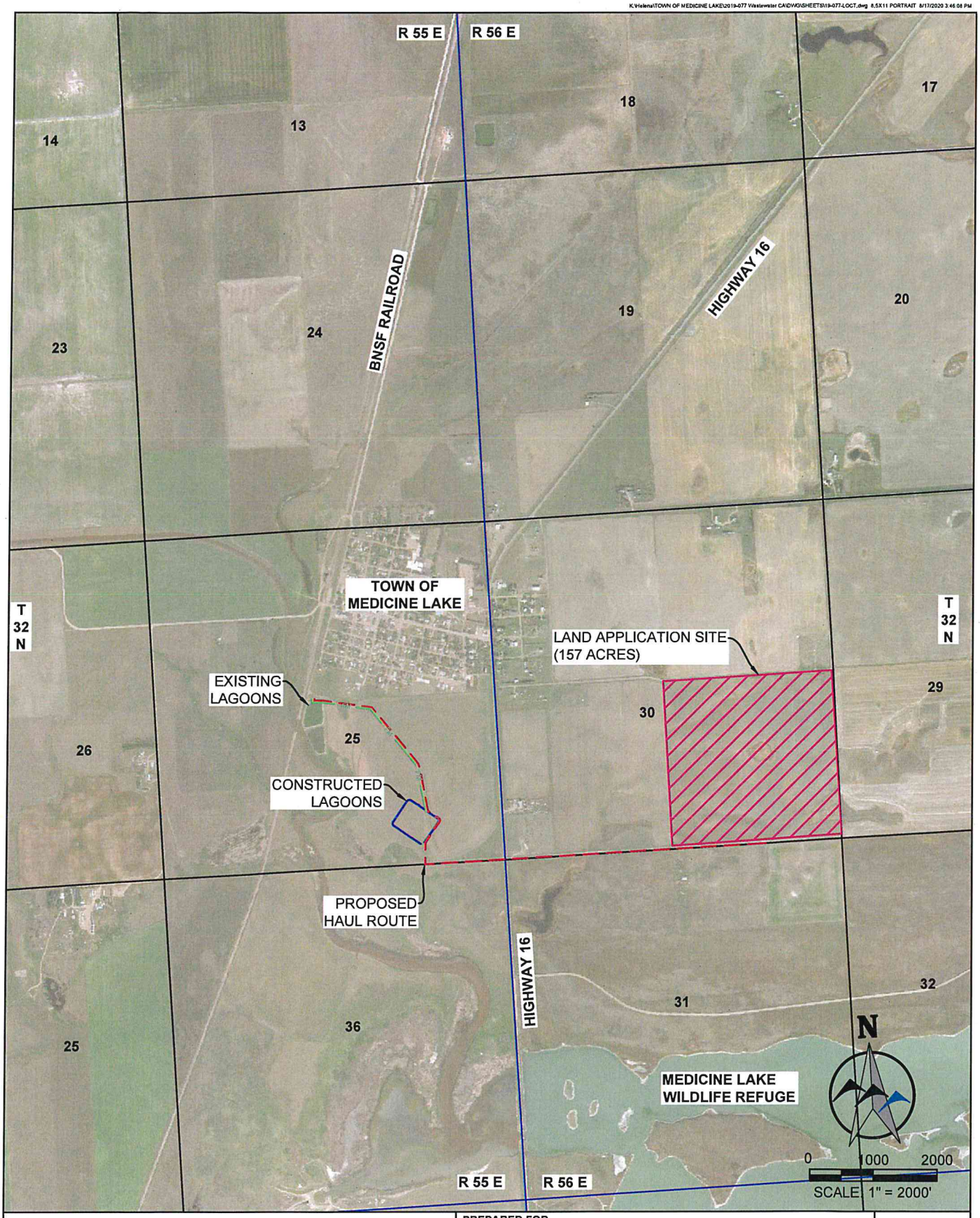
Town of Medicine Lake
201 Main Street
Medicine Lake, MT 59247

Comments on the Amended FONSI may be submitted to the Department of Environmental Quality at the above address. After evaluating comments received, the department will revise the environmental assessment or determine if an environmental impact statement is necessary. If no substantive comments are received during the comment period, or if substantive comments are received and evaluated and the environmental impacts are still determined to be non-significant, the agency will make a final decision. No administrative action will be taken on the project for at least 30 calendar days after release of the Finding of No Significant Impact.

Sincerely,

Mark Smith, P.E.
SRF Program Manager
Water Quality Division
Montana Department of Environmental Quality

K:\Helena\TOWN OF MEDICINE LAKE\2019-077 Wastewater CA\DWG\SHEETS\19-077-LOCT.dwg 8.5X11 PORTRAIT 8/17/2020 3:46:08 PM



PROPOSED LAND SITE MAP

UPDATED LAND APPLICATION MAP

SHERIDAN COUNTY, MONTANA

PREPARED FOR

TOWN OF MEDICINE LAKE

201 MAIN STREET, P.O. BOX 5
MEDICINE LAKE, MT. 59247

DESIGNED BY: DDP
DRAWN BY: MJS
CHECKED BY: DDP
DATE: 08/17/20

PREPARED BY

WWC ENGINEERING

1275 MAPLE STREET, SUITE F
HELENA, MT 59601
(406) 443-3962
www.wwcengineering.com

SHEET

1