



NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

CITY OF WOLF POINT, MONTANA

WPCSRF #: C304262

Phase 2 Wastewater Improvements

May 19, 2025

The wastewater collection system for the City of Wolf Point (City) was constructed in the 1930's and is comprised of vitrified clay and concrete pipe that has reached the end of its useful life. Additionally, outdated blowers do not provide adequate aeration to the primary cells at the City's wastewater treatment facility (WWTF). These deficiencies result in unanticipated repairs, increased operation and maintenance costs, potential sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs), and potential permit violations. A 2022 Preliminary Engineering Report evaluated and selected preferred alternatives, consisting of cured-in-place-pipe (CIPP) rehabilitation of approximately 29,800 LF of sewer; open cut replacement of approximately 13,400 LF of sewer and some manholes; and replacement of all 5 blowers at the lagoons. Due to the size of the project, the work is being done in phases. Phase 2A was started in 2024 and consists of open cut replacement of 3,000 LF of sewer and 11 manholes. Phase 2B will be started in 2025 and consists of CIPP rehabilitation of approximately 17,000 LF sewer, open cut replacement of approximately 5,300 LF of sewer and 61 manholes, and jack and bore installation of approximately 615 LF of 24-inch steel casing. Remaining phases, including blower replacement, will be completed in the future as allowed by available funding. The project is a continuation of a sewer replacement program started in 2022. The project will ensure safe and reliable conveyance of wastewater to the City's WWTF, and protect public health, safety, and the environment by reducing sanitary SSOs and ensuring that discharge limits are achieved.

Pursuant to ARM 17.40.318, the Department 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 specified in the facility plan, a new or modified application is submitted, 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 and online at <http://deq.mt.gov/public/water-public>:

Department of Environmental Quality
State Revolving Fund Loan Program
1520 East Sixth Avenue
Helena, MT 59601

City of Wolf Point
201 4th Avenue South
Wolf Point, MT 59201

Sincerely,

Michael Abrahamson

Michael Abrahamson, PE
Section Supervisor
Water Pollution Control State Revolving Fund Program
Engineering Bureau, Water Quality Division
Montana Department of Environmental Quality

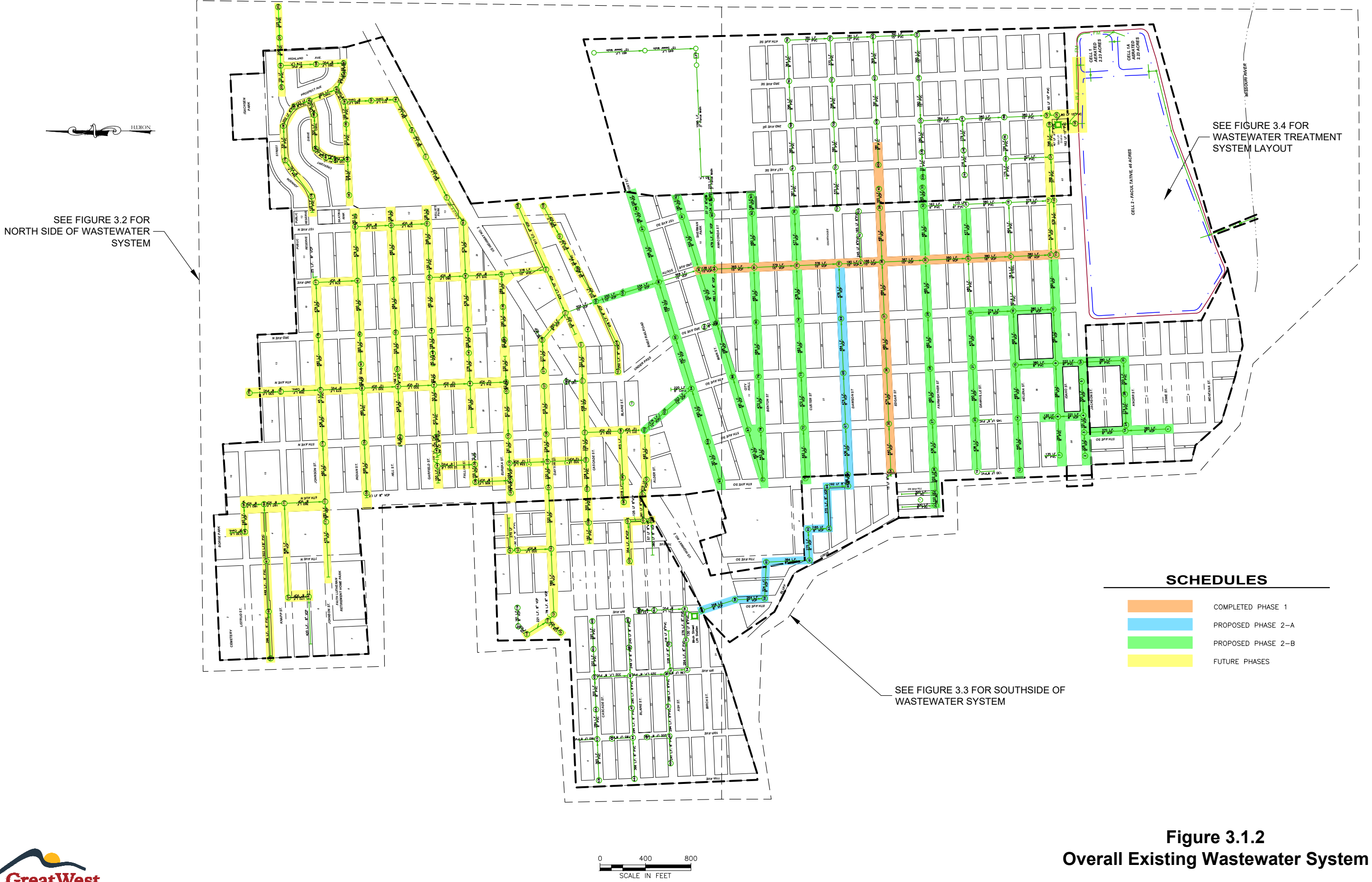


Figure 3.1.2
Overall Existing Wastewater System



CHAPTER III – ATTACHMENT D

DOCUMENTATION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION CHECKLIST

Project Name / Brief Description: Wolf Point

Project Number: C304262

Date: 5/19/2025

Preparer: Pete Behrends, PE

The Department action under Title 75, chapter 5, part 11 and or chapter 6, part 1 or 2, MCA, is excluded from the requirement to prepare an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS) if the application for department review is for any of the following projects:

(a) Projects relating to existing infrastructure systems such as sewer systems, drinking water supply systems, and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems that involve:

[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", an EA or EIS must be completed. If any answer is yes, skip to (b).]

- yes 1. minor upgrading;
- no 2. minor expansion of system capacity;
- yes 3. rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and system components;
- no 4. construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities; or
- no 5. projects in unsewered communities involving the replacement of existing on-site systems, provided that the new on-site systems do not result in substantial increases in the volume of discharges or in loadings of pollutants from existing sources, and do not relocate existing discharges.

(b) A categorical exclusion may NOT be granted for a department action if:

[Answer yes or no. If all answers "no", skip to (c). If any answer is yes, an EA or EIS must be completed.]

- no 6. the action would authorize facilities that will provide a new discharge or relocate an existing discharge to ground or surface waters;
- no 7. the action would result in an increase above permit levels established for the facility under the Montana pollutant discharge elimination system or Montana ground water pollution control system for either volume of discharge or loading rate of pollutants to receiving waters;
- no 8. the action would authorize facilities that will provide capacity to serve a population at least 30% greater than the existing population;
- no 9. the action is not supported by the state, or other regional growth plan or strategy;
- no 10. the action directly or indirectly involves or relates to upgrading or extending infrastructure systems primarily for the purposes of future development;

