

**INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE
ALASKA AREA NATIVE HEALTH SERVICE**

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND DETERMINATION
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**TWO CELL LAGOON WITH ACCESS AND FORCEMAIN
AT
HOOPER BAY, ALASKA
WITH THE
VILLAGE SAFE WATER**

Project AN 17-N6K

October 2022

Background

This project provides for the construction of a new facultative lagoon and access in Hooper Bay, Alaska, under the management of Village Safe Water (VSW).

The Proposed Action will:

- Construct a 2-cell facultative lagoon, approximately 27.5 acres, a lift station (approximately 336 ft²), and approximately 1.1 mile of forcemain extension.
- The lift station will also incorporate a backup emergency generator, fuel storage, and will receive electrical service from nearby power.

In an effort to improve overall public health, the City of Hooper Bay proposes to construct a 2-cell lagoon with access and force main. The proposed project will provide an appropriate solution to the existing wastewater deficiencies. The Environmental Assessment (EA), submitted by VSW, analyzes two alternatives in detail: No Action and Proposed Action alternatives, which represent an acceptable range of reasonable alternatives.

Federal and State Agencies

The Indian Health Service (IHS) is the Lead Federal Agency for the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action is funded in part by IHS.

Environmental Issues

The major resource issues identified through the Hooper Bay EA for the Proposed Action are listed in Table 1. For each resource, the short- and long-term impacts, and required mitigation are identified.

Table 1. Identified Resource Issues for <City Project Title>		
Major Resource Issues	Impacts Noted	Required Mitigation
Air Quality	Short-term, impacts from increase in heavy equipment emissions during construction.	▪ No mitigation proposed

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Major Resource Issues	Impacts Noted	Required Mitigation
Floodplains and Wetlands	Project likely located in floodplain, but modeled 100 year storm surge did not result in flooding reaching the proposed site. Project will result in fill being discharged to 27.5 acres of classified wetlands. No significant impacts to floodplains or wetlands management expected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project has received an USACE Section 404 permit for the construction of the lagoon. Project will strictly adhere to any general and individual conditions laid out in the permit.
Water Quality	Small negative impact to tundra ponds in the project area, and groundwater immediately beneath the percolation cell. Short-term increase in turbid runoff during construction. No significant long-term impacts expected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary cell lagoon berms will be lined to prevent seepage through or below berm. Monitoring wells will likely be required by ADEC to verify any wastewater contaminants are within an acceptable range. Project will require a SWPPP.
Wildlife	Project will result in the loss of 27.5 acres of wildlife habitat and nesting grounds. Threatened Spectacled Eider known to be present in project area but does not include critical habitat. No significant impacts are anticipated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winter construction outside of nesting season for the Spectacled Eider and other migratory birds. USACE has consulted with USFWS as part of the section 404 permitting process. No comments were received.
Construction	Short-term noise impacts associated with operation of construction equipment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operate construction equipment during daytime hours.
Energy	Small increase in the City utility's energy consumption expected. No significant long-term impacts to the City's energy supply or consumption expected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The installation of higher efficiency pumps and heat exchangers will help to minimize any resulting increases in energy consumption.
Cultural Resources	SHPO concurred with a finding of No Historic Properties Affected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stop work and report any previously unknown cultural resources to IHS and SHPO immediately if discovered during construction
Socioeconomic Issues and Environmental Justice	Long-term positive impact to the sanitation and health of the community. Short-term positive impact on local economy during construction expected.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No mitigation proposed.

Consultation

The Proposed Action, as presented in the EA, was presented to the local and federal agencies with direct

interest and jurisdiction. The City of Hooper Bay was involved in the development of the alternatives and the selection of the Proposed Action as the appropriate solution to the sanitation and public health concerns.

Finding

The conclusion presented in the EA was reviewed by project stakeholders. The IHS, acting with authority as the Lead Federal Agency in the NEPA process, agrees with the conclusion laid out in the EA. Therefore, the IHS is issuing a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Proposed Action.

VSW has agreed to notify the appropriate authority and IHS if a change in the project or its scope occurs that would change this environmental determination, require additional environmental review, or adversely impact the environment.

Chris Fehrman, P.E.
NEPA Review Officer
Alaska Area Native Health Service

Date