

**Why You Should Read This:** The document below reviews the environmental impact likely from a project. This project is planned to be federally funded through your tax dollars; therefore, you are entitled to take part in its review. If you have concerns about the environmental impact of this project, raise them now. We encourage public input in this decision making process.



**IOWA STATE REVOLVING FUND**  
**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

August 22, 2023

**To: All Interested Citizens, Government Agencies, and Public Groups**

An environmental review has been performed based on the procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for the proposed agency action below:

**Applicant:** City of Storm Lake

**County:** Buena Vista

**State:** Iowa

**SRF Number:** FS-11-23-DWSRF-070

**Iowa DNR Project Number:** W2022-0186

The City of Storm Lake, Iowa is planning an upgrade to their drinking water infrastructure. The city has applied for financial assistance through the State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan program to build the project. The State Revolving Loan Program is a program authorized by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and administered by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in partnership with the Iowa Finance Authority.

The City of Storm Lake is located in Buena Vista County, Iowa approximately 60 miles east of Sioux City and 55 miles west of Fort Dodge. The City supplies water to several consecutive systems including Lakeside, Lake Creek HOA, Truesdale, and homes outside of municipal boundaries. The collective population of Storm Lake and surrounding areas served as informed by the 2020 census and estimates of the unincorporated population is 12,478. The design population equivalent for the year 2041 is 17,378.

The City of Storm Lake relies on nine groundwater wells as their water supply source. Those nine wells consist of four sand and gravel (Pleistocene) wells, one shallow alluvial well, three Dakota Aquifer wells, and one Jordan (Cambrian-Ordovician) well.

Well #15 was drilled in 1990 to a depth of 488 feet. It is a deep well pulling from the Dakota Aquifer with a capacity of 800 gpm. The City has noted a loss in capacity in Well #15 due to age and due to the relining of the casing. Well #15 has been identified as a well that needs to be replaced. It is used a substantial amount during summer months and the loss in capacity is significant. A new Dakota well on the same City owned site as the existing Well #15 is suggested with a capacity of 1,000 to 1,100 gpm. Due to a regional concern about the capacity of the Dakota Aquifer and interference concerns, it is not recommended to continue to run the existing Well #15 once the replacement well is drilled.

The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the City's water source to enhance reliability, increase capacity and to replace obsolete system to safely and reliably operate the City of Storm Lake's water system for the next 20 years.

The proposed project includes construction of: a replacement Dakota aquifer public water supply well; a new well house and back-up generator; water main connection; and all necessary connections and appurtenances. This project will also include the demolition of the existing well house and generator house and the capping of the existing well on the site.

The project will not significantly affect the pattern and type of land use (industrial, commercial, agricultural, recreational, residential) or growth and distribution of population. The project will not conflict with local, regional or State land use plans or policies. The project will not impact wetlands. The project will not affect threatened and endangered species or their habitats. If any State- or Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or communities are found during the planning or construction phases, additional studies and/or mitigation may be required. The project will not displace population, alter the character of existing residential areas, or convert significant farmlands to non-agricultural purposes. The project will not affect the 100-year flood plain. The project will not have effect on parklands, preserves, other public lands, or areas of recognized scenic or recreational value.

No historic properties will be adversely affected by the proposed project. However, if project activities uncover any item(s) that might be of archaeological, historical, or architectural interest, or if important new archaeological, historical, or architectural data should be encountered in the project APE, the applicant should make reasonable efforts to avoid further impacts to the property until an assessment can be made by an individual meeting the Secretary of the Interior's professional qualifications standards (36 CFR Part 61).

The project will not have a significant adverse effect upon local ambient air quality provided the applicant takes reasonable precautions to prevent the discharge of visible emissions of fugitive dusts beyond the lot line of the property during the proposed project (567 IAC 23.3(2)“c”). The project will not have a significant adverse effect upon local ambient noise levels, surface water quantity, groundwater quality or quantity, or water supply. No significant impact to surface water quality, fish, shellfish, wildlife, or their natural habitats is expected.

Minimum separation distances will be maintained. Noise during construction will be maintained at tolerable levels through controls on construction activities. Any construction debris will be removed from the site for proper disposal. Adverse environmental effects from construction activities will be minimized with proper construction practices, inspection, prompt clean up and other appropriate measures. Areas temporarily disturbed by the construction will be restored.

It has been determined that the proposed action will result in no significant impacts to the surrounding environment. This determination is based on a careful review of the engineering report, the environmental assessment and other supporting data which are on file at the Department of Natural Resources' office in Des Moines, Iowa. These are available for public review upon request. A copy of the environmental assessment is attached. This Department will not take any administrative action on the project for at least thirty (30) calendar days from the above date. Persons disagreeing with the above environmental decision may submit comments to the department during this period. Please direct your comments to me at [hailey.andersen@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:hailey.andersen@dnr.iowa.gov) or (515) 321-7385.

Sincerely,

Hailey Andersen  
Environmental Specialist  
502 E 9<sup>th</sup> St  
Des Moines, IA 50319-0034

Enclosures: Environmental Assessment  
Project Map

Distribution

List (email): Amanda Goodenow, ISG, Inc.  
Sunshine Bear, Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska  
Edward Boling, Council on Environmental Quality  
Jake Hansen, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship  
Ken Sharp, Iowa Department of Public Health  
Sarah Petersen, Iowa Department of Public Health  
Nichole Hansen, Iowa Economic Development Authority  
Alicia Vasto, Iowa Environmental Council  
Michael Schmidt, Iowa Environmental Council  
Tracy Scebold, Iowa Finance Authority  
Tony Toigo, Iowa Finance Authority  
Lee Wagner, Iowa Finance Authority  
Mickey Shields, Iowa League of Cities  
Jane Clark, Sierra Club  
Josh Mandelbaum, Environmental Law and Policy Center  
Kate Sand, USDA Rural Development  
Tokey Boswell, USDO, National Park Service, Midwest Region  
Kraig McPeck, Fish and Wildlife Service, Rock Island Field Office  
Ann D'Alfonso, USEPA Region VII  
Kelly Beard-Tittone, USEPA Region VII  
The Storm Lake Times Pilot

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**IOWA STATE REVOLVING FUND**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT**

**PROJECT IDENTIFICATION**

**Applicant:** City of Storm Lake

**County:** Buena Vista

**State:** Iowa

**SRF Number:** FS-11-23-DWSRF-070

**Iowa DNR Project Number:** W2022-0186

**COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION**

**Location:** The City of Storm Lake is located in Buena Vista County, Iowa approximately 60 miles east of Sioux City and 55 miles west of Fort Dodge.

**Population:** The City supplies water to several consecutive systems including Lakeside, Lake Creek HOA, Truesdale, and homes outside of municipal boundaries. The collective population of Storm Lake and surrounding areas served as informed by the 2020 census and estimates of the unincorporated population is 12,478. The design population equivalent for the year 2041 is 17,378.

**Current Source of Water:** The City of Storm Lake relies on nine groundwater wells as their water supply source. Those nine wells consist of four sand and gravel (Pleistocene) wells, one shallow alluvial well, three Dakota Aquifer wells, and one Jordan (Cambrian-Ordovician) well.

Well #15 was drilled in 1990 to a depth of 488 feet. It is a deep well pulling from the Dakota Aquifer with a capacity of 800 gpm. The City has noted a loss in capacity in Well #15 due to age and due to the relining of the casing. Well #15 has been identified as a well that needs to be replaced. It is used a substantial amount during summer months and the loss in capacity is significant. A new Dakota well on the same City owned site as the existing Well #15 is suggested with a capacity of 1,000 to 1,100 gpm. Due to a regional concern about the capacity of the Dakota Aquifer and interference concerns, it is not recommended to continue to run the existing Well #15 once the replacement well is drilled.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

**Purpose:** The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the City's water source to enhance reliability, increase capacity and to replace obsolete system to safely and reliably operate the City of Storm Lake's water system for the next 20 years.

**Proposed Improvements:** The proposed project includes construction of: a replacement Dakota aquifer public water supply well; a new well house and back-up generator; water main connection; and all necessary connections and appurtenances. This project will also include the demolition of the existing well house and generator house and the capping of the existing well on the site.

## **ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

**Alternatives Considered:** After review of the existing water system, the City identified the areas of greatest concern. This project is part of the City's long-term plan to provide water system upgrades where needed.

**Reasons for Selection of Proposed Alternative:** The City of Storm Lake is a growing community with diverse areas of growth and industry that has created challenges in meeting future water demand. The No-Action alternative is not viable due to the deteriorating condition of Well #15 and the need to continue meeting the current demand and supply safe drinking water to the City of Storm Lake. The project site was selected for the availability of land (it is already City-owned) as well as minimization of the impacts to the environment.

## **MEASURES TAKEN TO ASSESS IMPACT**

**Public Involvement:** A public hearing was held on July 17, 2023 at 5:00PM at the City's regular council meeting. The public notice of this hearing was published in the Storm Lake Times Pilot on June 16, 2023. The purpose of this hearing was to present the environmental and financial impacts of the proposed improvement project. No written or oral comments were received.

**Coordination and Documentation with Other Agencies and Special Interest Groups:** The following Federal, state and local agencies were asked to comment on the proposed project to better assess the potential impact to the environment:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- State Historical Society of Iowa (State Historical Preservation Office)
- Iowa DNR Conservation and Recreation Division
- Iowa DNR Flood Plain Management Section
- Citizen Band Potawatomi Indian Tribe
- Flandreau Santee Sioux
- Ho-Chunk Nation
- Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska
- Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma
- Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas
- Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma
- Lower Sioux Indian Community Council
- Miami Tribe of Oklahoma
- Omaha Tribal Council
- Osage Tribal Council
- Otoe-Missouria Tribe
- Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma
- Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
- Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma

Ponca Tribe of Nebraska  
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation  
Prairie Island Indian Community  
Sac & Fox Nation of Mississippi in Iowa  
Sac & Fox Nation of Missouri  
Sac & Fox Nation of Oklahoma  
Santee Sioux Nation  
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community  
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate  
Spirit Lake Tribal Council  
Three Affiliated Tribes Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nations  
Upper Sioux Tribe  
Winnebago Tribal Council  
Yankton Sioux Tribal Business and Claims Committee

No adverse comments were received from any agencies or general public. Conditions placed on the applicant by the above agencies in order to assure no significant impact are included in the Summary of Reasons for Concluding No Significant Impact section.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT SUMMARY**

**Construction:** Traffic patterns within the community may be disrupted and above normal noise levels in the vicinity of the construction equipment can be anticipated during construction and should be a temporary problem. Adverse environmental impacts on noise quality will be handled by limited hours of contractor work time during the day. Other adverse environmental effects from construction activities will be minimized by proper construction practices, inspection, prompt cleanup, and other appropriate measures. Areas temporarily disturbed by the construction will be restored. Solid wastes resulting from the construction project will be regularly cleared away with substantial efforts made to minimize inconvenience to area residents. Care will be taken to maintain dirt to avoid erosion and runoff.

Temporary air quality degradation may occur due to dust and fumes from construction equipment. The applicant shall take reasonable precautions to prevent the discharge of visible emissions of fugitive dusts beyond the lot line of the property during the proposed project (567 Iowa Administrative Code IAC 23.3(2)“c”).

**Historical/Archaeological:** The State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO), the Certified Local Government and various Native American tribes with an interest in the area were provided information regarding the project. The DNR has determined, and the SHPO has concurred (R&C#230611411), that this undertaking will result in “no historic properties affected” based on the scope of the project, the prior use of the project area, and the findings of the Phase I Archeological Survey conducted on the project property. However, if project activities uncover any item(s) that might be of archaeological, historical, or architectural interest, or if important new archaeological, historical, or architectural data should be encountered in the project APE, the applicant should make reasonable efforts to avoid further impacts to the property until an assessment can be made by an individual meeting the Secretary of the Interior’s professional qualifications standards (36 CFR Part 61).

**Environmental:** According to the Iowa DNR Conservation and Recreation Division, the proposed project will not interfere with any State-owned parks, recreational areas or open spaces. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

concur that the project will not impact wetlands. The project will not impact any wild and scenic rivers as none exist within the State of Iowa. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Section 7 Technical Assistance website consultation determined, and Iowa DNR Conservation and Recreation Division agree, that the project will not impact protected species or their habitats. However, if any State- or Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or communities are found during the planning or construction phases, additional studies and/or mitigation may be required. According to the Iowa DNR Flood Plain Management Section, this project will not impact the 100-year floodplain. No adverse impacts are expected to result from this project, such as those to surface water quantity, or groundwater quality or quantity. Therefore, no significant impact to surface water quality, fish, shellfish, wildlife, or their natural habitats is expected.

**Land Use and Trends:** The project will not displace population nor will it alter the character of existing residential areas. The proposed project is within the present corporate limits of Storm Lake in areas zoned residential, commercial, or industrial. No significant farmlands will be impacted. This project should not impact population trends as the presence or absence of existing water/sewer infrastructure is unlikely to induce significant alterations in the population growth or distribution given the myriad of factors that influence development in this region. Similarly, this project is unlikely to induce significant alterations in the pattern and type of land use.

**Irreversible and Irrecoverable Commitment of Resources:** Fuels, materials, and various forms of energy will be utilized during construction

**Nondiscrimination:** All programs, projects, and activities undertaken by DNR in the SRF programs are subject to federal anti-discrimination laws, including the Civil Rights Act of 1964, section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and section 13 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Amendments of 1972. These laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age.

## **POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS TO BE REALIZED FROM THE PROPOSED PROJECT**

Positive environmental effects will be maintained water quality for the citizens of Storm Lake. A catastrophic loss of water supply could result in City-wide health impacts due to a lack of sanitation and the use of other water sources that may not meet Federal drinking water standards.

## **SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR CONCLUDING NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

- The project will not significantly affect the pattern and type of land use (industrial, commercial, agricultural, recreational, residential) or growth and distribution of population.
- The project will not conflict with local, regional or State land use plans or policies.
- The project will not impact wetlands.
- The project will not affect threatened and endangered species or their habitats. If any State- or Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or communities are found during the planning or construction phases, additional studies and/or mitigation may be required.
- The project will not displace population, alter the character of existing residential areas, or convert significant farmlands to non-agricultural purposes.
- The project will not affect the 100-year flood plain.
- The project will not have effect on parklands, preserves, other public lands, or areas of recognized scenic or recreational value.

- No historic properties will be adversely affected by the proposed project. However, if project activities uncover any item(s) that might be of archaeological, historical, or architectural interest, or if important new archaeological, historical, or architectural data should be encountered in the project APE, the applicant should make reasonable efforts to avoid further impacts to the property until an assessment can be made by an individual meeting the Secretary of the Interior's professional qualifications standards (36 CFR Part 61).
- The project will not have a significant adverse effect upon local ambient air quality provided the applicant takes reasonable precautions to prevent the discharge of visible emissions of fugitive dusts beyond the lot line of the property during the proposed project (567 IAC 23.3(2)“c”).
- The project will not have a significant adverse effect upon local ambient noise levels, surface water quantity, groundwater quality or quantity, or water supply.
- No significant impact to surface water quality, fish, shellfish, wildlife, or their natural habitats is expected.

THEREFORE:

The above project conforms to the criteria in 567 Iowa Administrative Code 44.10(3) for drinking water relating to compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. No adverse effect or significant environmental impact is foreseen at this time.

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**Hailey Andersen**

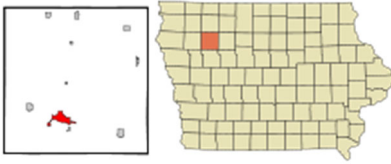
Environmental Review Specialist  
State Revolving Fund  
Iowa Department of Natural Resources



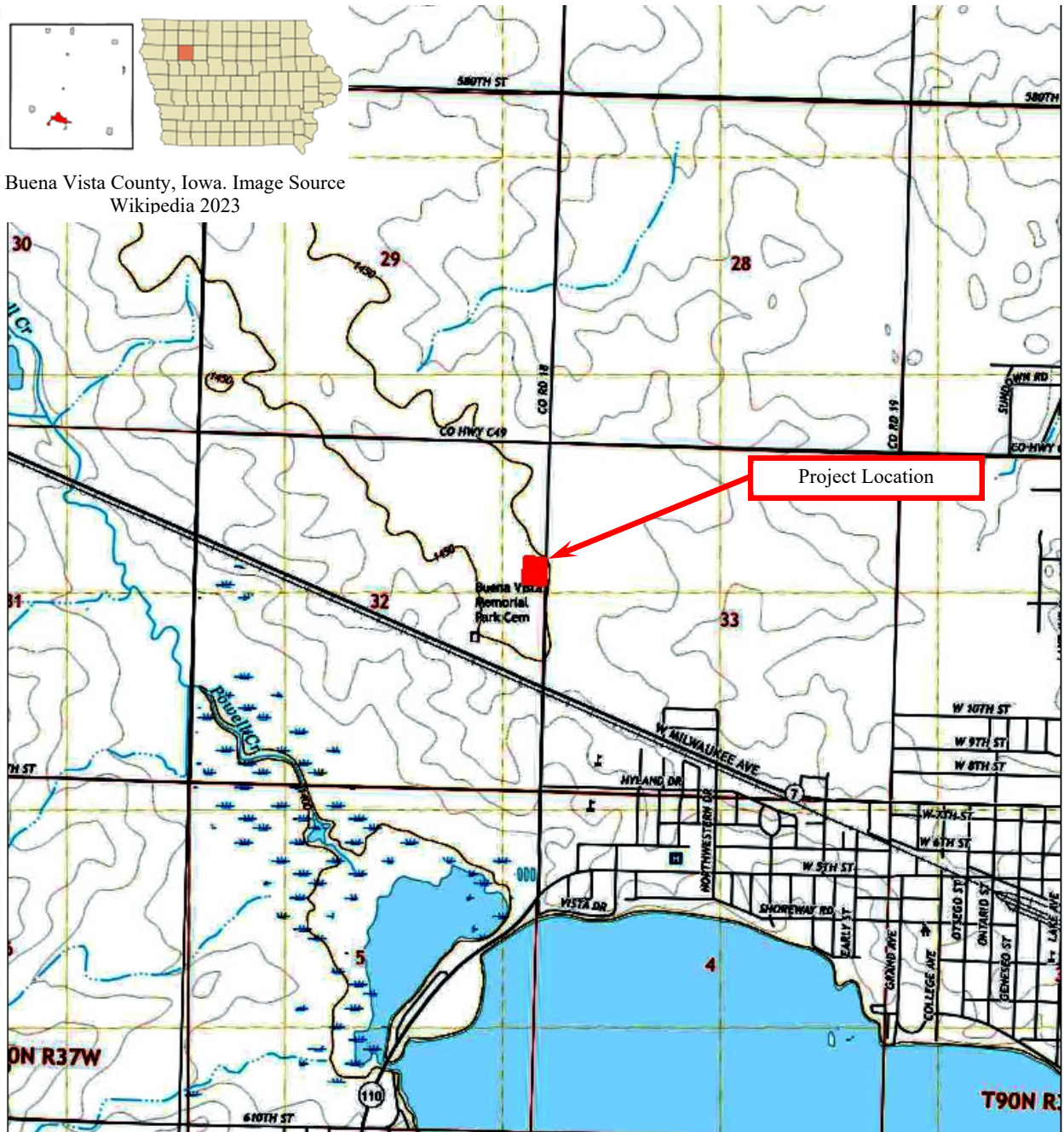
**USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle: Storm Lake**  
**Sections: 32, Township: 97 N, Range: 37 W**  
**Date: 1979**  
**Scale: 1 Inch = 2,000 Feet**



**North**



Buena Vista County, Iowa. Image Source  
Wikipedia 2023



## USGS Topographic Map

City of Storm Lake Well No. 22  
Storm Lake, IA



State Revolving Fund  
502 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, IA 50319-0034

Location information provided by ISG, Inc.



**North**



Project Location

## **Aerial Photograph**

City of Storm Lake Well No. 22  
Storm Lake, IA



State Revolving Fund  
502 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, IA 50319-0034