

October 24, 2013

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

TO ALL INTERESTED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND PUBLIC GROUPS:

In accordance with the environmental review guidelines of the Council on Environmental Quality found at 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 1500, and with the use of the implementing environmental review procedures of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) found at 40 CFR Part 6 entitled "Procedures for Implementing the Requirements of the Council on Environmental Quality on the National Environmental Policy Act" as guidance, the New Mexico Environment Department Construction Programs Bureau has performed an environmental review of the following proposed action:

Improvements to the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project
for the
City of Portales
located in
Portales, Roosevelt County, New Mexico

EPA State Appropriations Project (SAAP) Number: XP-997240-10
CWSRF Project Number: 023

Estimated Proposed Funding: \$17,680,000

EPA SAAP Grant: \$291,000
CWSRF Loan: \$16,730,909
CWSRF Grant: \$420,000
Matching Local Funds: \$238,091

The Fiscal Year 2010 Appropriations Act for the EPA included special Congressional funding for water and wastewater construction projects. The City of Portales was selected to receive funding through these special appropriations for improvements to its Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). Additionally, the City has been selected to receive a loan and grant funding package from the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund through the State of New Mexico Environment Department. The planning area associated with the WWTP improvements incorporates all of the City of Portales, the Country Club Golf Course area west of the municipal airport, the Portales Municipal Airport, the WWTP site south of the City, and the Playa effluent discharge area southeast of the WWTP. The planning area includes all of the components of the City sewer system: the entire collection system pipe network, the WWTP itself, the Playa discharge area, and all associated ground water monitoring wells. Effluent discharged from the plant flows to a drainage area located approximately 1.5 miles southeast of the facility. The facility site and the drainage area total approximately 80 acres in total size. The WWTP is located in Section 1, township 2 south, range 34 east. Access to the WWTP is provided from South Roosevelt Road Q1/2. South Roosevelt Road 7 borders the southern edge of the facility.

The design of the overall proposed WWTP in the City of Portales includes a new influent lift station, a new headworks structure, an effective bypass/pretreatment system upstream from the main biological treatment processes of the plant, a biological treatment system that includes nitrification and denitrification components, a sludge handling system, an effluent disinfection and reuse system that will facilitate effluent reuse storage and pumping to irrigation sites. The preliminary layout of the proposed WWTP consists of the new influent lift station located next to

the wet well portion of the existing headworks. It will be reused to convey influent flow into the new wet well. The new headworks structure, main biological treatment system structure with blower building, office/lab building, and solids handling facility will all be located in the current location of existing Pond P-1. Existing Pond S-2 will be reused as the bypass/pretreatment pond. Existing Pond EFF will be reused as the effluent reuse storage pond. The new effluent reuse pump station and gas-chlorination disinfection system will be located to the southwest of Pond EFF.

The need for an improved WWTP is being driven by the requirement to provide a more effective treatment process and more capacity to meet present and future wastewater demands. At the same time, the City of Portales has been experiencing water shortages and an extreme demand on the City water supply due to severe drought conditions. The need for a reclaimed wastewater reuse has become paramount for the city so it can decrease demand on the potable water supply. Portales will utilize special Congressional funds, SAAP, and Clean Water State Revolving Loan funds, in conjunction with local funds to finance the construction of the project.

The environmental review process, which is documented by the enclosed Environmental Assessment, indicates that no potential significant adverse environmental impacts will result from the proposed action. The project individually, cumulatively over time, or in conjunction with other actions will not have a significant adverse effect on the quality of the environment. On the basis of the environmental review determination that there are no predicted or cumulative significant adverse impacts associated with the project, I have determined that the project is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, and that preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not necessary. My preliminary decision is based upon the enclosed Environmental Assessment, a careful review of the Environmental Information Document prepared for the project, the results of the public participation process, and other supporting data which are on file in the office listed below and available for public review upon request. Therefore, I am issuing this preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact pertaining to the project.

Comments supporting or disagreeing with my preliminary decision may be submitted for consideration to the attention of Andrea Pollock, Project Manager of the New Mexico Environment Department Construction Programs Bureau 5500 San Antonio Drive, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109. After evaluating any comments received, the Construction Programs Bureau will make a final decision. No administrative action will be taken on this preliminary decision for at least 30 calendar days after release of this Finding of No Significant Impact. The preliminary decision and finding will then become final after the 30-day comment period expires if no new significant information is provided to alter this finding.

Responsible Official,



Jim Chiasson, PE
Bureau Chief, Construction Programs Bureau

cc: John DeSha, Public Utilities Director
City of Portales

Ryan Flynn, Cabinet Secretary-Designate
New Mexico Environment Department

Enclosure: Environmental Assessment

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

CONSTRUCTION OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS for the CITY OF PORTALES located in ROOSEVELT COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

EPA SAAP Grant Project Number: XP-997240-10
CWSRF Project Number: 023

BACKGROUND

The proposed construction project is located in the City of Portales, located in Roosevelt County, 240 miles north of Albuquerque, 90 miles northwest of Roswell and 100 miles southeast of Lubbock Texas. The area is shown on the map enclosed as Figure 1. The Fiscal Year 2010 Appropriations Act for the EPA included special Congressional funding for water and wastewater treatment construction projects. The City of Portales received funding through these special appropriations to construct improvements to the wastewater treatment plant. Additionally, the City has been selected to receive a loan and grant funding package from the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund through the State of New Mexico Environment Department.

The existing WWTP plant was built in 1975 and was designed as a system of treatment ponds with the capacity to handle an average daily flow of 2.0 MGD and a peak flow of 4.0 MGD. Construction of the plant involved diverting an existing drainage channel, resulting in significant cut and fill across the WWTP site. The southwest portion of the plant, where the influent piping enters the site, was built on top of approximately 12 feet of fill requiring the influent wastewater be raised a significant amount to be able to enter the plant. The original construction of the WWTP included an influent lift station, headworks, two aeration lagoons, four stabilization ponds, and a slow sand filter. Trickling filters with the associated pumps and piping were added in 1985 and six new surface aerators were added to the north aeration lagoon in 1986.

Discharge of treated effluent from the WWTP to an 80-acre playa has been regulated under the Ground Water Discharge Permit (GWDP) DP-887 issued by the Ground Water Quality Bureau of New Mexico Environment Department. The primary condition of the permit is that effluent samples from the final stabilization pond of the plant cannot exceed 15 mg/L of total nitrogen (TN). However, as part of Condition 9 of DP-887, if there are two consecutive quarterly effluent samples from the final stabilization pond that exceed 10 mg/L, the City of Portales will have to place an additional monitoring well as part of the permit's contingency plan. There were two consecutive quarterly effluent samples that had TN in excess of 10 mg/L and the contingency plan was placed into effect after May 17, 2004. The required monitoring well was placed down gradient from the playa. Sample monitoring is being done by the City on a monthly basis as required by the contingency plan for Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) and TN.

Wastewater influent flows from industrial sources have had a significant impact on the Portales WWTP treatment system over the years and have caused the progression to the current treatment approach being used at the plant. Historically, pretreatment of the industries' high strength wastewater by the industries themselves has not been required by the City of Portales. By 2005-2006, the high strength industrial flows had seriously upset the biological processes of the Portales WWTP. The plant had not been designed to handle such flows.

The proposed project is considered to be a Federal action requiring compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). In accordance with the environmental review requirements of the Council on Environmental Quality found at 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 1500, and with the use of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) implementing regulations found at 40 CFR Part 6 entitled "Procedures for Implementing the Requirements of the Council on Environmental Quality on the National Environmental Policy Act" as guidance, the EPA is preparing this Environmental Assessment to assist in determining the environmental impacts of the proposed action, and in evaluating whether an Environmental Impact Statement or a Finding of No Significant Impact will be prepared for the proposed project.

PURPOSE AND NEED

The purpose of the proposed WWTP improvements project is to provide pretreatment to handle the high strength industrial flows, increase capacity to allow for future population growth, and to consistently achieve the effluent quality necessary for reclaimed wastewater regulatory compliance. Due to the corrective action modifications and equipment improvements completed in 2006, the existing WWTP is adequately treating wastewater, with the exception of inconsistent nitrogen removal. However, since the existing WWTP is a pond treatment system, it will always produce inconsistent effluent quality, especially with regard to nitrogen removal. To provide the effluent quality and capacity needed by the City for future growth and uses, the existing WWTP must be improved. Specifically, an effective pretreatment process must be installed upstream of the main biological treatment processes of the plant, the main biological treatment processes need to include more effective nitrification and denitrification components, and sludge produced by the plant must be handled more efficiently. In addition, components of the effluent disposal system need to be improved to ensure protection of ground water and more effective land application of treated effluent to meet the demands of future growth. Portales will utilize SAAP, Clean Water State Revolving Loan and grant funds, in conjunction with local funds to finance the construction of the project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The City of Portales proposed project would include the following components (see figure 2):

1. **Primary Treatment System:** The proposed primary treatment system will replace the existing headworks (influent wet well, screw pumps, and inlet channel) with a new closed-top wet well, submersible pumps, grit chamber, and a new concrete inlet channel.
2. **Bypass/Pretreatment System:** A bypass/pretreatment system will be incorporated into the overall, proposed WWTP design scheme to provide a buffer for the main biological treatment system from the highly variant and strong wastewater influent caused by the industrial flow contributors.
3. **Updated Main Biological System:** The main biological treatment system would be improved to an advanced extended aeration system. The new treatment system will be constructed using a dual-train design to have redundancy in the treatment processes. Each train includes first and second stage aeration tanks, one clarifier tank, two digester tanks, and air lift pumps to drive flow between the tanks. The entire main biological treatment system will be constructed within the existing Pond P-1 location as one large cast-in-place common-wall concrete structure with common walls between the treatment trains and between the tanks within each train. Also included in the main biological system a new solids-handling facility and a new laboratory building would be built as features of the Proposed Project.

4. Disinfection and Effluent Storage System: The proposed Disinfection and Effluent Reuse System will be made up of a new effluent reuse storage pond connected to the wet well basin structure that incorporates a new gas-chlorination disinfection system with a new effluent reuse pump station. The effluent reuse pump station will pump disinfected effluent to a pressurized distribution system for irrigation reuse. Existing Pond EFF will be rehabilitated into the new effluent reuse storage pond by making it 2.5' deeper and lining it with synthetic HDPE liner. Treated effluent from the advanced extended aeration system basins will flow by gravity directly into the effluent reuse storage pond. A new wet well basin structure and associated effluent reuse pump station will be constructed to the southwest of the effluent storage pond and flow will be conveyed by gravity directly from the pond outlet pipe to an inlet channel of the wet well basin structure. A new gas-chlorination disinfection system will be installed next to the wet well basin structure inlet channel to inject chlorine into the channel or inlet piping of the channel.

All construction activities will occur within the boundaries of the existing site. The Proposed Project will improve the removal of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and total suspended solids (TSS) as well as reduce the effluent total nitrogen (TN).

ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The funding recipient evaluated and considered a range of various alternatives to address the infrastructure needs of the area. Important factors influencing the evaluation of the processes and their recommended solutions include environmental acceptability, overall costs, availability of land for the intended uses, maximum reuse of existing facilities when applicable, operation and maintenance costs, system reliability, accommodation of future expansion needs, and public acceptance. Adherence to local, state and Federal regulations is of prime importance and concern to the funding recipient. Alternatives considered included No Action, several options rejected from further consideration, and implementation of the proposed project. A complete description of the alternatives is provided in the Environmental Information Document developed and provided by the funding recipient for the project.

- A. No Action: The NEPA environmental review process requires consideration of the “no action” alternative. The No Action Alternative would result in the continued potential for strong plant odors, future non-compliance with effluent reuse standards, the continued threat of contamination of the groundwater, and insufficient plant capacity to handle future population growth. The environmental consequences of taking “no action” would have a negative impact on land use, growth and population trends, ground water quality, air quality, socioeconomics, and public health and safety. They were compared with the benefits to be gained from the construction of the proposed project. Since taking “no action” is unresponsive to the current and future infrastructure needs of the funding recipient, and does not protect public health and environmental standards in the area, this alternative was **rejected** from further consideration in favor of implementing the proposed project.
- B. Primary Treatment System Alternative 1 - Existing Headworks and Reused Automated Bar Screen.

Alternative 1 would replace the existing screw pumps with three non-clog submersible pumps. A new 3-inch manual bar screen would be installed at the influent side of the wet well to help remove large debris prior to pumping. The existing mechanical bar screen, composite sampling equipment, and Parshall Flume would remain in service and continue to be reused at their current locations. An automated vortex grit system, including grit classifier, would be installed along with a new concrete open channel. Organic and Inorganic solids are separated in the grit classifier. The inorganic solids are

transferred to a container ready for transport to the disposal location. The proposed equipment would require modifications in the existing concrete headworks structure. Alternative 1 was not selected because it ranked lower than the Preferred Action (Alternative 2) in safety, aesthetics, expandability, phase-ability, and construction feasibility. For these reasons, this option was **rejected** from further consideration.

Primary Treatment System Alternative 2 - New Headworks and Relocated Automated Bar Screen – Preferred Action

The entire existing headworks/lift station would be abandoned and demolished for installation of a new closed-top wet well, containing three non-clog centrifugal submersible pumps. Two 3-inch debris baskets would be installed at the existing inlet pipe openings to catch and remove large debris from the influent prior to it entering the new wet well. Solid-top fiberglass grating will be installed on top of the existing wet well to decrease odors. A new valve vault will be constructed to convey influent flow, via a forcemain, to a new headworks channel structure. A new headworks structure would contain two open channels and would be constructed within existing Pond P-1. The existing mechanical bar screen would be relocated to one of the new open channels and a new grit chamber with grit classifier, identical to Alternative 1, and a new Parshall Flume with ultrasonic flow meter would be installed in the same channel, downstream of the bar screen. The second channel will be a bypass channel, containing a manual barscreen. This alternative was **selected** as the Preferred Action because it ranked highest in safety, aesthetics, and technical feasibility, with the added benefits outweighing the higher construction costs.

C. Main Biological Treatment Alternative 1 – Phased Isolation Oxidation Ditch Reactor System

Main biological treatment alternative 1 is a biological nutrient removal (BNR) process that consists of three modified oxidation ditch reactor basins that provide biological treatment in one large common-wall concrete structure combined with separate clarifier and digester structures that remove and process suspended solids from the reactor basins. This alternative was **rejected** from further consideration because it ranked lower in safety, ease of operation, present worth cost, construction costs, expandability, phase-ability, and construction feasibility.

Main Biological Treatment Alternative 2 – ICEAS Sequencing Batch Reactor System

Main biological treatment alternative 2 consists of sequencing batch reactor (SBR) basins combined with digester basins. SBRs are a form of activated sludge treatment in which multiple biological treatment processes are accomplished in the same reactor basin. The SBR treatment process operates using the principle of fill and draw. The treatment phases of fill, react, settle, decant, and idle are cycled in sequence in the main reactor portion of the SBR basins to achieve biological oxidation, nitrification, and denitrification. This alternative was **rejected** from further consideration because it ranked lower than the Preferred Action in level of service/reliability and present worth cost.

Main Biological Treatment Alternative 3 – Advanced Extended Aeration Treatment System

Main biological treatment alternative 3 would be an advanced extended aeration treatment system. The new treatment system would be constructed using a dual-train design to have redundancy in the treatment processes. Each individual train includes first and second stage aeration tanks, one clarifier tank, and one digester tank, and air

lift pumps to drive flow between the tanks. The entire main biological treatment system will be constructed where Pond P-1 is currently located as one large cast-in-place common-wall concrete structure with common walls between the treatment trains and between the tanks within each train. As part of the main biological system a new blower building to house the aeration blowers, electrical controls/equipment building, a dewatering building (facility), and a new office/laboratory building would be built as features of the proposed project. A SCADA system will be installed to control treatment operations from the office building. This was **selected** as the preferred alternative because it ranked highest overall for social, environmental, and economic impact groups. This alternative also has the lowest construction, energy, and operation and maintenance costs of all the alternatives.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The City of Portales is located in Roosevelt County, New Mexico. It is located on the eastern plains of New Mexico, approximately 91 miles northeast of Roswell, NM, and roughly 19 miles south of Clovis, NM. This area is also known as the Llano Estacado. The Llano Estacado lies at the southern end of the High Plains section of the Great Plains of North America; it is part of what was once the Great American Desert. This geographic area stretches about 250 miles north to south, and 150 miles east to west, covering all or part of 33 Texas counties and four New Mexico Counties. The community is largely agricultural and cattle ranching and dairy farming are the major industries for this rural region.

According to a soil survey, the soils in the vicinity of the WWTP are the Arch, Gomez and Portales series. The following soil types are located within the project area: Portales fine sandy loam (Pa), Gomez loamy fine sand (Go), Arch soils (Am), Portales loam (Pb), Gravel Pit (GP), Drake soils (Dr), and Church clay loam (Ca). The plant community found within the WWTP project area is dominated by Blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*) and scarlet beeblossom (*Guara coccinea*). The dominant woody species present within the project limits are saltcedar (*Tamarix* spp.) and Siberian elm (*Ulmus pumila*). There are three species of Class C noxious weeds around the discharge pond, field bindweed, Siberian elm and saltcedar.

According to the 2010 Census, the City of Portales had a year 2010 population of 12,280 residents. This was an increase of 1149 residents from the 11,131 residents in the 2000 census. The median age of residents in the city is 27.3. Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU) is a large contributor to the economy and total population of the City and is included in the planning area for the WWTP.

IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The proposed project was analyzed to identify potential short-term, long-term, and cumulative impacts on the environment. Factors that were considered include the probability of impact occurrence, magnitude of any occurrence, if any predicted occurrence is determined to be reversible/irreversible, direct/indirect or one-time/cumulative, the proposed action's conformity to legal mandates, and the social distribution of risks and benefits. The proposed project should not have a substantial negative impact upon current land uses or land values, nor should it have a substantial impact upon the values of surrounding land holdings. The proposed action is expected to have energy requirements typical of other construction projects of similar scope, size and duration, and will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of all local and state regulations.

The majority of the impacts associated with the proposed project will be short-term and temporary due to actual construction activities, and will cease immediately upon completion of construction work in any particular area. There are no significant adverse environmental

impacts associated with the proposed action that cannot be reduced to acceptable levels. The only irretrievable resources committed to this project are labor, machinery wear, materials, funds spent, and energy consumed during construction. The potential short and long-term, direct, indirect and cumulative impacts resulting from the proposed action are identified and discussed below.

1. Biological Resources Including Threatened and Endangered Species: The proposed project was coordinated with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish concerning the protection of listed animal and plant species and their designated critical habitat. Since these protected resources are not known to occur in the project area, Federally listed species or their habitats will not be adversely impacted by construction of the project.

2. Cultural/Historic Resources: The proposed project was coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) as required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) concerning the protection of sensitive resources with archaeological, historical, architectural, or cultural significance. Since these protected resources are not known to occur in the project area, cultural or historic resources will not be adversely impacted by construction of the project. A good faith effort of tribal consultation indicates that no impacts will occur.

However, should materials, artifacts or properties of a potentially historic or archaeological nature be unearthed during construction, work will stop immediately in that general vicinity, and the funding recipient will immediately notify the SHPO of the discovery. Any such resources discovered will be evaluated in accordance with the requirements of 36 CFR Part 800. Appropriate mitigation measures will be developed and implemented, as needed, in consultation with the SHPO before construction is allowed to continue.

3. Floodplains: The proposed project was coordinated with the local Floodplain Administrator and the Federal Emergency Management Agency concerning the protection of the floodplain, and compliance with local floodplain management regulations. The entire wastewater treatment site is located within FEMA Flood Hazard Zone D. The existing wastewater treatment site is elevated above the surrounding area and flooding is not expected to be an issue as all new construction will occur within the boundaries of the existing site.

4. Wetlands: The proposed project was coordinated with the United States Army Corps of Engineers concerning the protection of jurisdictional wetlands. Since these protected resources are not known to occur in the project area, a Section 404 permit will not be required and wetlands will not be adversely impacted by construction of the project.

5. Surface Water Resources: The proposed project was coordinated with both the National Park Service and the New Mexico Environment Department Surface Water Quality Bureau concerning the protection of surface water resources. The USEPA requires NPDES permit coverage for storm water discharges from construction projects that will result in one or more acres of total land area. This permit requires that a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) be prepared for the site and that appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) be installed and maintained both during and after construction to prevent, to the extent practicable, pollutants in storm water runoff from entering waters of the US.

6. Ground Water Resources: The proposed project was coordinated with the New Mexico Environment Department Ground Water Quality Bureau concerning the protection of ground water resources for compliance with the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) groundwater discharge and effluent reuse requirements. Since the project is not located over ground water resources that have been designated as a sole source aquifer, ground water resources will not be adversely impacted by construction of the project. The proposed project would also help the city reduce ground water withdrawals by allowing the use of reclaimed

wastewater for irrigation of public areas.

The NMED will require that the City of Portales obtain a Ground Water Discharge Permit for reuse of the effluent to ensure that the ground water quality is protected. The permit application includes requirements for a monitoring plan to ensure that ground water quality is protected.

7. Prime and Unique Farmlands: The proposed project was coordinated with the Natural Resources Conservation Service concerning the protection of prime and/or unique farmlands. Since these protected resources are not known to occur in the project area, prime and/or unique farmlands will not be adversely impacted by construction of the project.

8. Air Quality: The project was coordinated with the New Mexico Environment Department Air Quality Bureau concerning the protection of air quality. The proposed project is located in an attainment area which is in compliance with the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for all criteria air pollutants. All vehicles and equipment used in the construction of this project must comply with the regulations concerning control of air pollution from mobile sources. Long-term air quality impacts may include nuisance odors and hydrogen sulfide emissions associated with the treatment of wastewater.

9. Environmental Justice: The proposed project was reviewed for compliance with Executive Order 12898 entitled "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice (EJ) in Economically Stressed Populations". Potential environmental impacts to economically stressed communities were evaluated using Geographical Information System maps, census demographic data, and a mathematical formula to rank the project for EJ impacts. The project will serve all populations equally and will be constructed in a manner to ensure that no persons or populations will be discriminated against or denied the benefits of the project. There will be no adverse impacts that are considered disproportionate to any particular population(s). The results of the EJ analysis are shown in the enclosed figures 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8. These figures result in a ranking scale of one to one hundred that indicates the potential for economically stressed. A ranking below thirteen indicates a low possibility of economically stressed while a ranking above fifty indicates a high probability of economically stressed.

10. Coastal and Barrier Resource: Since the entire state of New Mexico is inland and not adjacent to any coastal location, construction of the proposed project should not have significant adverse impacts to coastal and barrier resources.

11. Cumulative Impacts: Potential cumulative impacts would be those impacts to the local environment that would result from the proposed project in combination with other ongoing actions, and those reasonably foreseeable future actions. No other major construction activity is being conducted presently or planned for the immediate future. The proposed project will not individually nor cumulatively over time have a negative impact on the quality of the human or natural environment. To the contrary, improved infrastructure will have a positive environmental effect by enhancing public health, and protecting the local environment from continued contamination.

DOCUMENTATION, COORDINATION, AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A public hearing for the proposed project was held on January 16, 2013, 5:30 PM, at the City Hall Council Chambers, located at 100 West 1st Street, Portales, NM. The purpose of the meeting was to inform the public of the proposed project, to identify any issues of concern, and to request public participation in the development of the project. Since the project is supported by the community, no adverse public comments or concerns were received.

During the process of conducting the environmental review and preparing this Environmental Assessment for the project, coordination has been conducted with all required

resource protection agencies and offices to solicit and incorporate their initial review and comments, if any. Copies of this Environmental Assessment will be provided to those agencies and offices for their final review and comments, if any. Other interested parties may request a copy of the Environmental Assessment in writing from the New Mexico Environment Department Construction Programs Bureau, 5500 San Antonio Drive, Albuquerque, NM 87109.

References

1. Preliminary Engineering Report, Smith Engineering, July 2012
2. Environmental Information Document, Smith Engineering, February 2013
3. Preliminary Engineering Report – Amended, Smith Engineering, October 2013
4. Amendment to Environmental Information Document, Smith Engineering, October 2013

RECOMMENDATION

Based upon completion of this Environmental Assessment, and a detailed review of the supporting information contained in the Environmental Information Document, the Public Hearing Responsiveness Summary and the Preliminary Engineering Report which were prepared for the project, and other pertinent technical, engineering and administrative documentation, the proposed project is considered to be cost-effective and environmentally sound. Therefore, it is recommended that a Finding of No Significant Impact be issued for this project.

City of Portales WWTP Amended EID

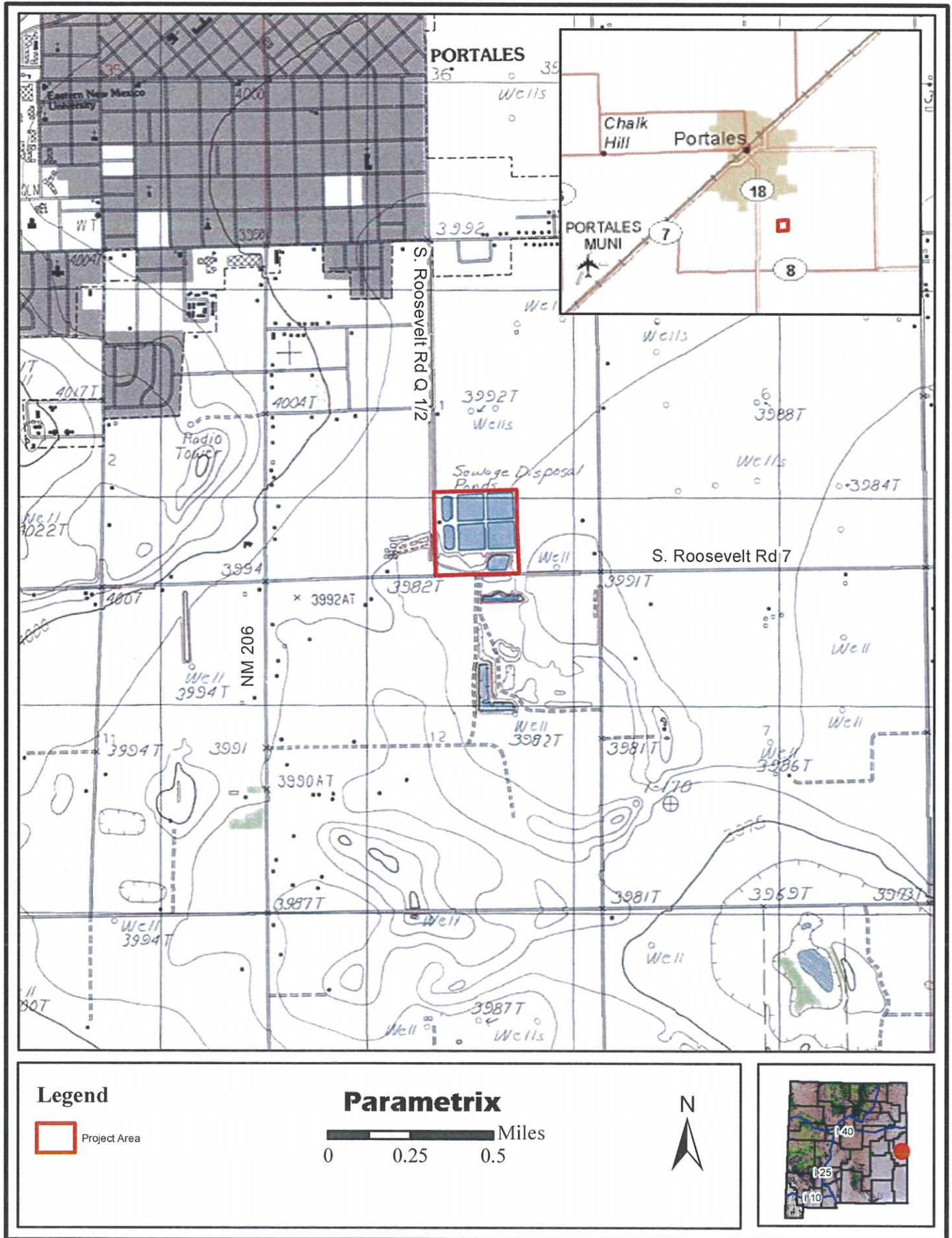


Figure 1: Project Location

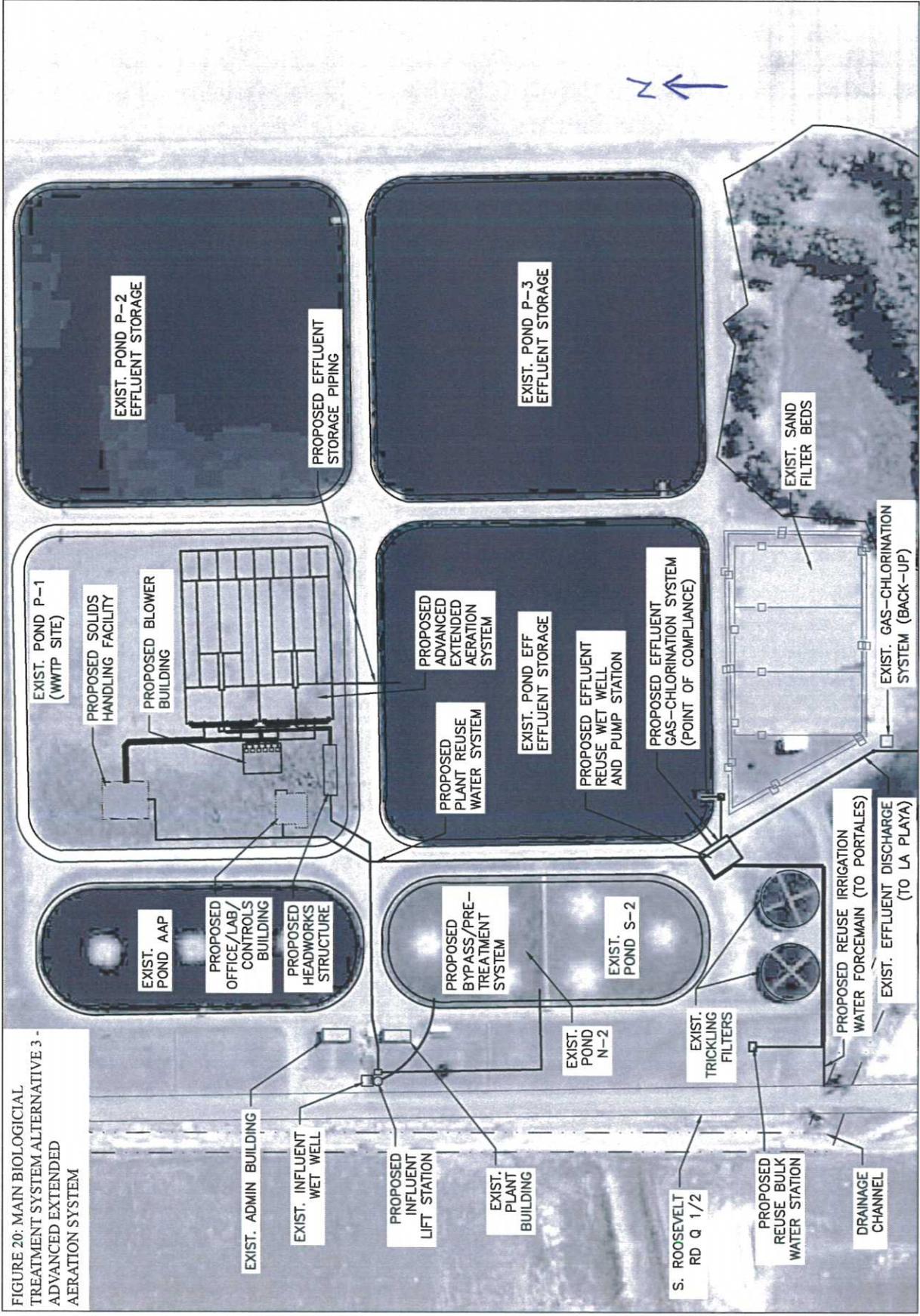
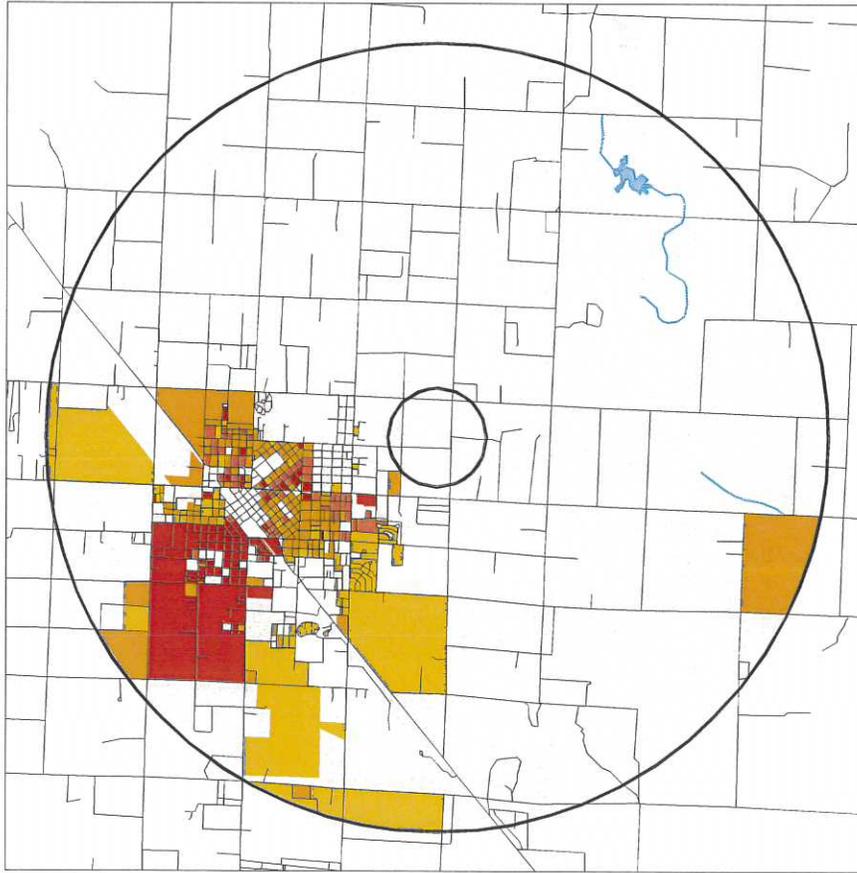


FIGURE 20: MAIN BIOLOGICAL TREATMENT SYSTEM ALTERNATIVE 3 - ADVANCED EXTENDED AERATION SYSTEM

Figure 2 - Preferred Alternative

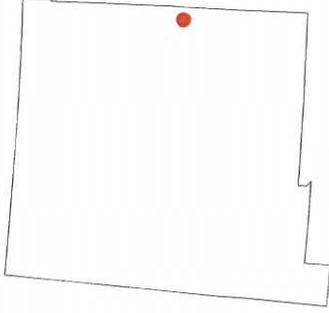
City of Portales wwtp, Roosevelt County, NM

Economic Status - Degree of Vulnerability (DVECO)



Percent Economically Stressed by Census Block Group State Percentage = 31

- <= the State Percentage
- > the State Percentage, <= 1.33 times the State Percentage
- > 1.33 times the State Percentage, <= 1.66 times the State Percentage
- > 1.66 times the State Percentage, <= 2 times the State Percentage
- > 2 times the State Percentage



Potential Environmental Justice Index for Two Study Areas

	1 Sq. Mile	50 Sq. Mile
Total Population	68	13074
Population Ranking (PF)	1	2
Percent Minority	25%	33.7%
Minority Status (DVMMAV)	1	1
Percent Economically Stressed Economic Status (DVECO)	20.8%	43.8%
Environmental Justice Index	1	6

Longitude: -103 19 26.73 Latitude: 34 09 32.24



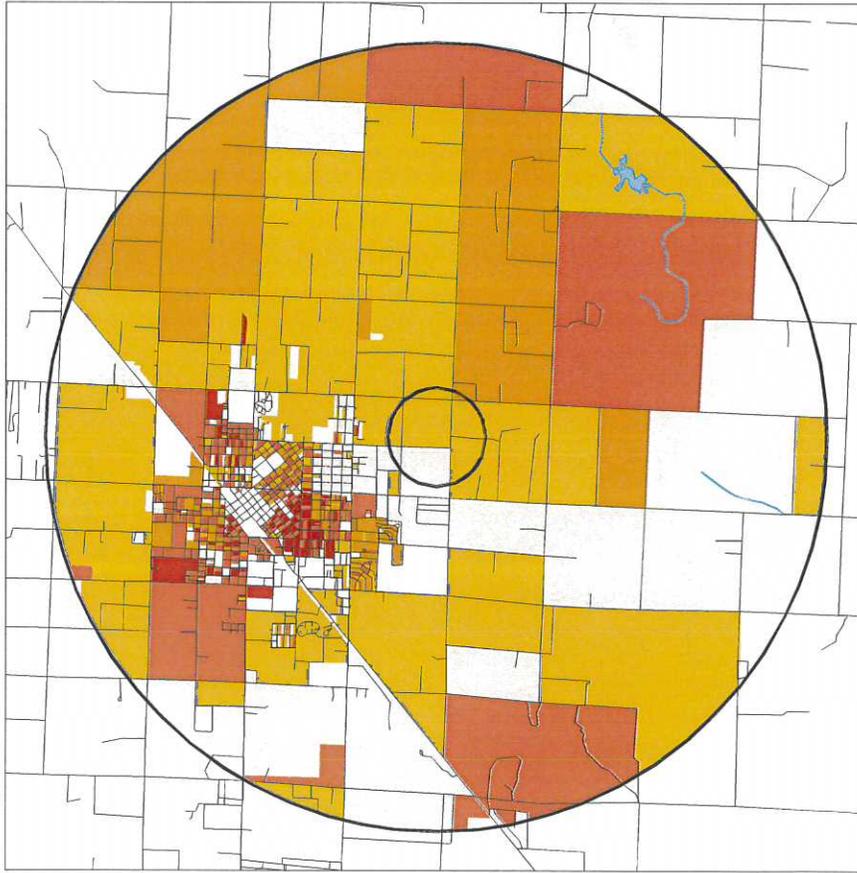
Data Sources and References: US Bureau of the Census, 1990 PL94-171 and STF-3A Data, and TIGER Files US EPA Region 6, 1992. Computer Assisted Environmental Assessment Methodologies, Chapter V. Special Applications, Environmental Equity. Planning and Analysis Section, Management Division, Region 6 EPA, Dallas, Texas



Figure 3 - Environmental Justice Index

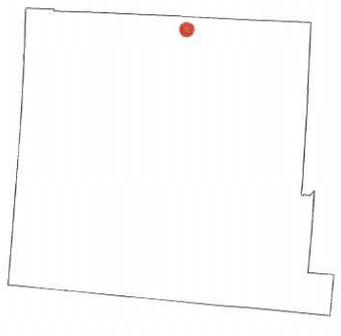
City of Portales wwtp, Roosevelt County, NM

Economic Status - Degree of Vulnerability (DVECO)



Percent Economically Stressed by Census Block Group
State Percentage = 28.7

- ≤ the State Percentage
- ≤ the State Percentage, <= 1.33 times the State Percentage
- > 1.33 times the State Percentage, <= 1.66 times the State Percentage
- > 1.66 times the State Percentage, <= 2 times the State Percentage
- > 2 times the State Percentage



Potential Environmental Justice Index for Two Study Areas

	1 Sq. Mile	50 Sq. Mile
Total Population	108	13746
Population Ranking (PF)	1	2
Percent Minority	39.8%	40.3%
Minority Status (DVMVA)	1	1
Percent Economically Stressed Economic Status (DVECO)	25.6%	42.2%
Environmental Justice Index	1	6

Longitude: -103 19 26.73 Latitude: 34 09 32.24

0 .5 1 1.5 miles

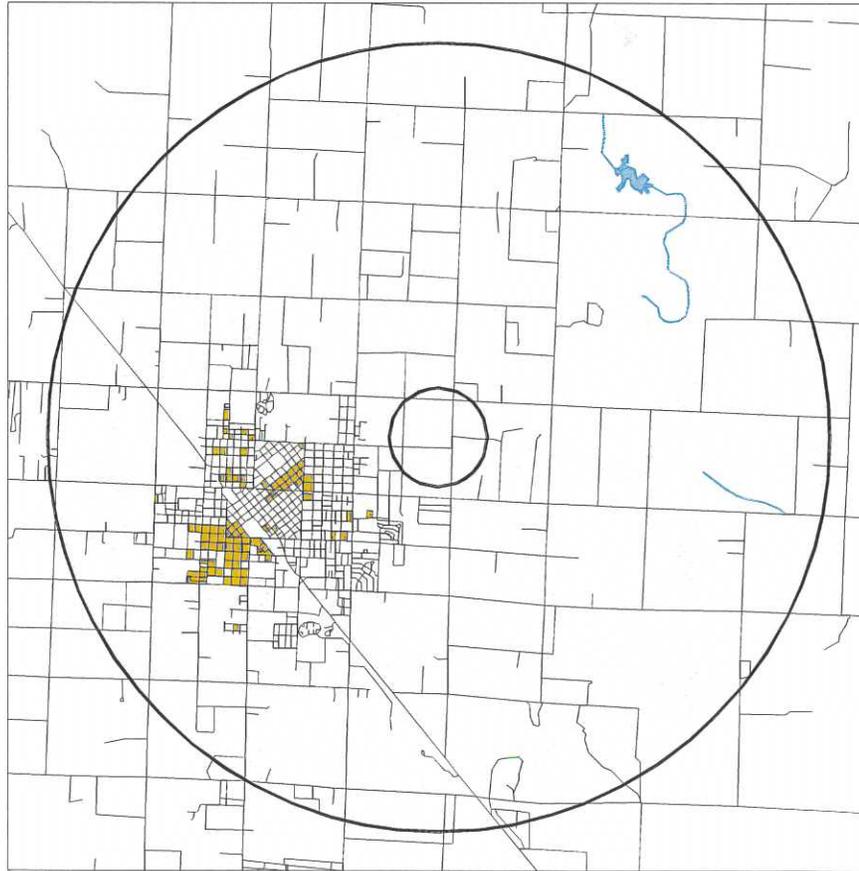
Data Sources and References: US Bureau of the Census, 2000 PL94-171, SF3 Data, and TIGER Files
US EPA Region 6, 1992. Computer Assisted Environmental Assessment Methodologies, Chapter V. Special Applications, Environmental Equity. Planning and Analysis Section, Management Division, Region 6 EPA, Dallas, Texas



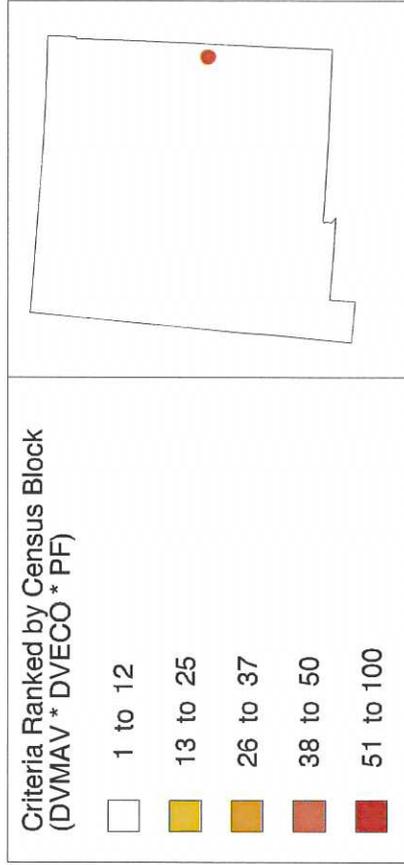
Figure 4 - Environmental Justice Index

City of Portales wwtp, Roosevelt County, NM

Potential Environmental Justice Index (EJ)



Longitude: -103 19 26.73 Latitude: 34 09 32.24



Potential Environmental Justice Index for Two Study Areas	1 Sq. Mile	50 Sq. Mile
Total Population	68	13074
Population Ranking (PF)	1	2
Percent Minority Minority Status (DVMAV)	25% 1	33.7% 1
Percent Economically Stressed Economic Status (DVECO)	20.8% 1	43.8% 3
Environmental Justice Index	1	6

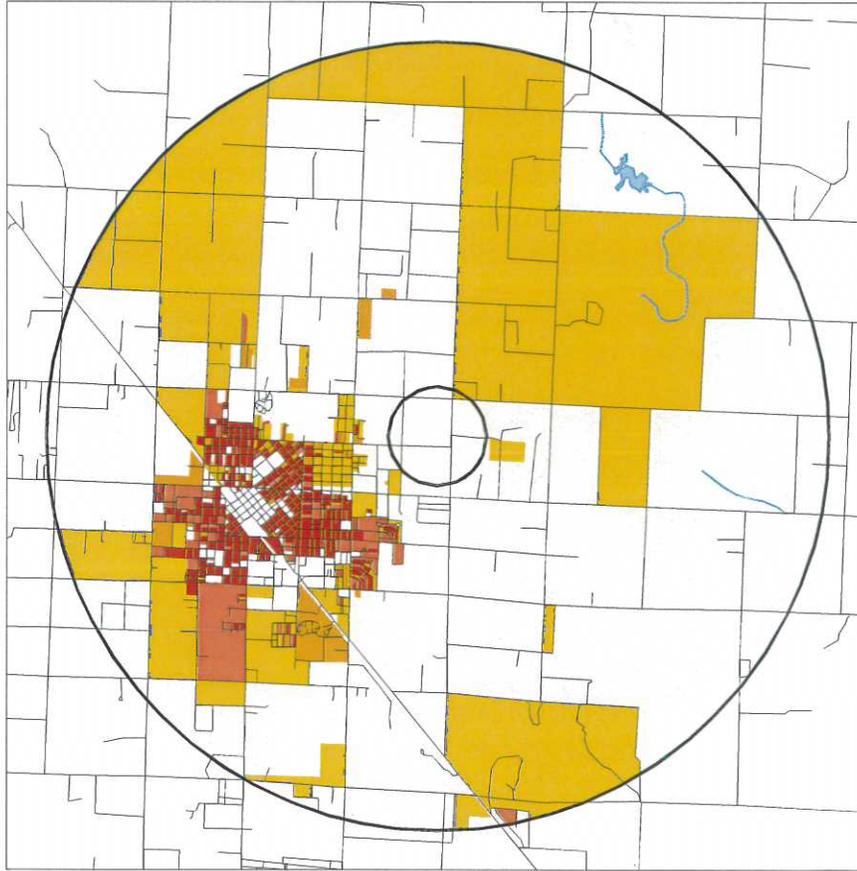
Data Sources and References: US Bureau of the Census, 1990 PL94-171 and STF3A Data, and TIGER Files US EPA Region 6, 1992. Computer Assisted Environmental Assessment Methodologies, Chapter V. Special Applications, Environmental Equity. Planning and Analysis Section, Management Division, Region 6 EPA, Dallas, Texas



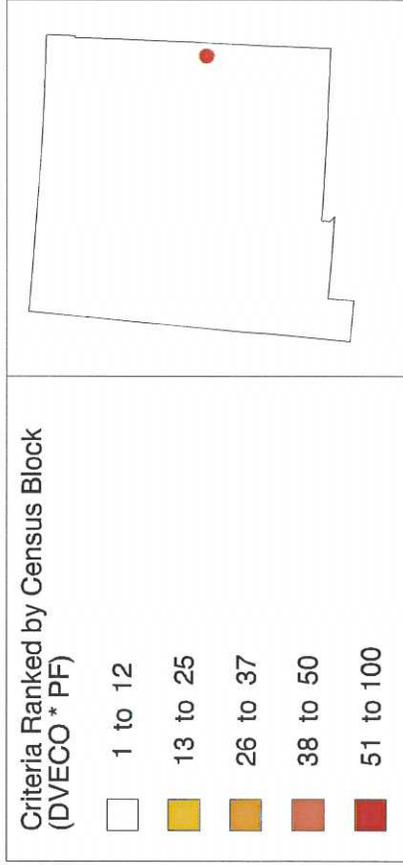
Figure 5 - Environmental Justice Index

City of Portales wwp, Roosevelt County, NM

Potential Environmental Justice Index (EJ)



Longitude: -103 19 26.73 Latitude: 34 09 32.24



Potential Environmental Justice Index for Two Study Areas	1 Sq. Mile	50 Sq. Mile
Total Population	108	13746
Population Ranking (PF)	1	2
Percent Minority	39.8%	40.3%
Minority Status (DVMAY)	1	1
Percent Economically Stressed Economic Status (DVECO)	25.6%	42.2%
Environmental Justice Index	1	6

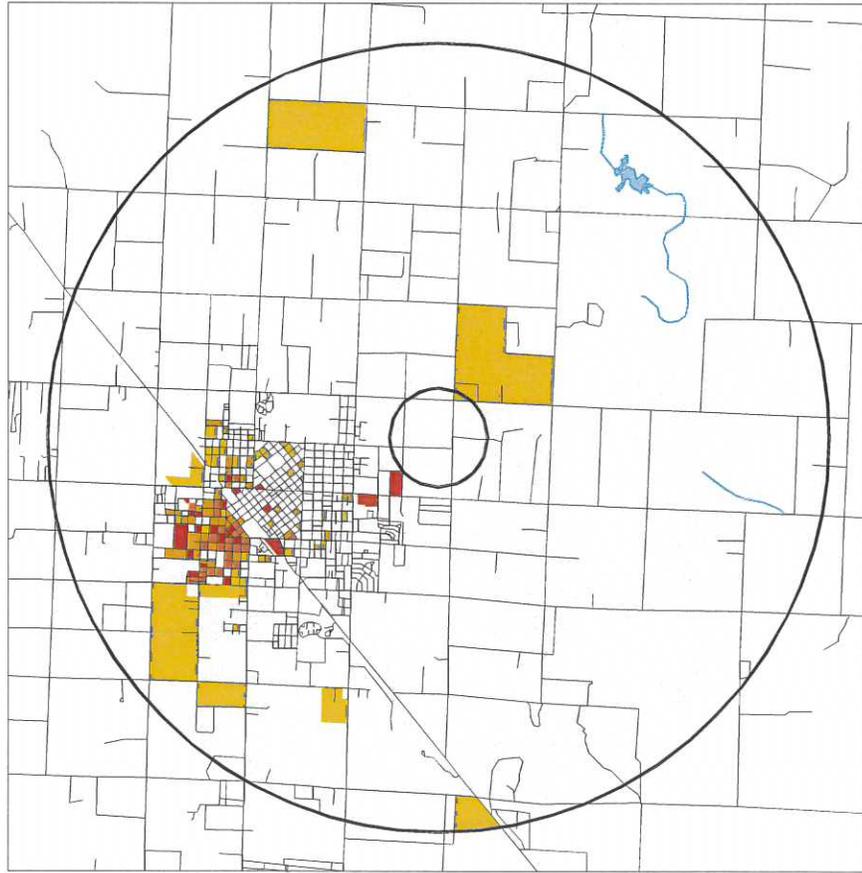
Data Sources and References: US Bureau of the Census, 2000 PL94-171, SF3 Data, and TIGER Files
 US EPA Region 6, 1992. Computer Assisted Environmental Assessment Methodologies, Chapter V. Special Applications, Environmental Equity. Planning and Analysis Section, Management Division, Region 6 EPA, Dallas, Texas



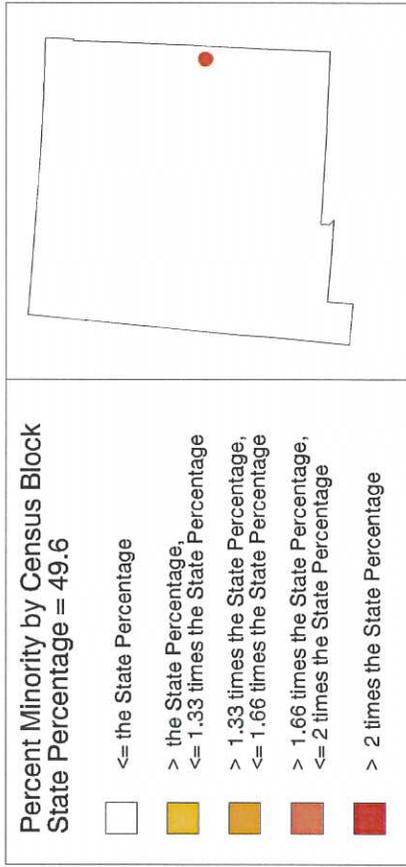
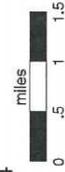
Figure 6 - Environmental Justice Index

City of Portales wwp, Roosevelt County, NM

Minority Status - Degree of Vulnerability (DVMAV)



Longitude: -103 19 26.73 Latitude: 34 09 32.24



Potential Environmental Justice Index for Two Study Areas	1 Sq. Mile	50 Sq. Mile
Total Population	68	13074
Population Ranking (PF)	1	2
Percent Minority	25%	33.7%
Minority Status (DVMAV)	1	1
Percent Economically Stressed Economic Status (DVECO)	20.8%	43.8%
Environmental Justice Index	1	6

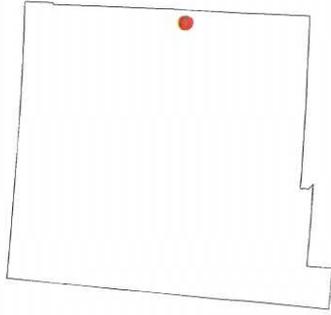
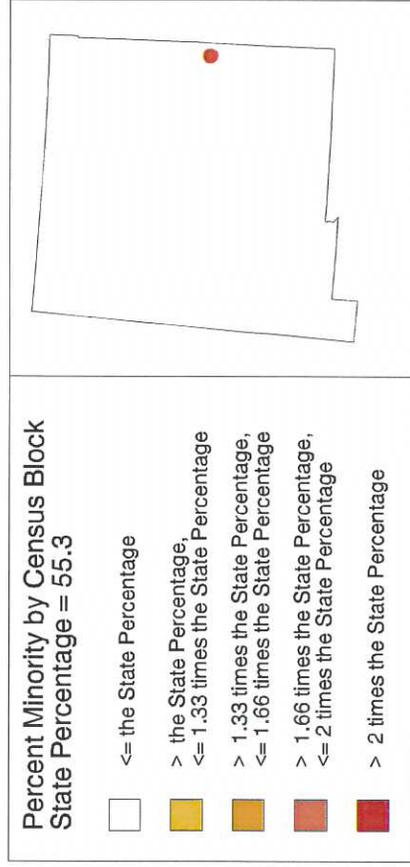
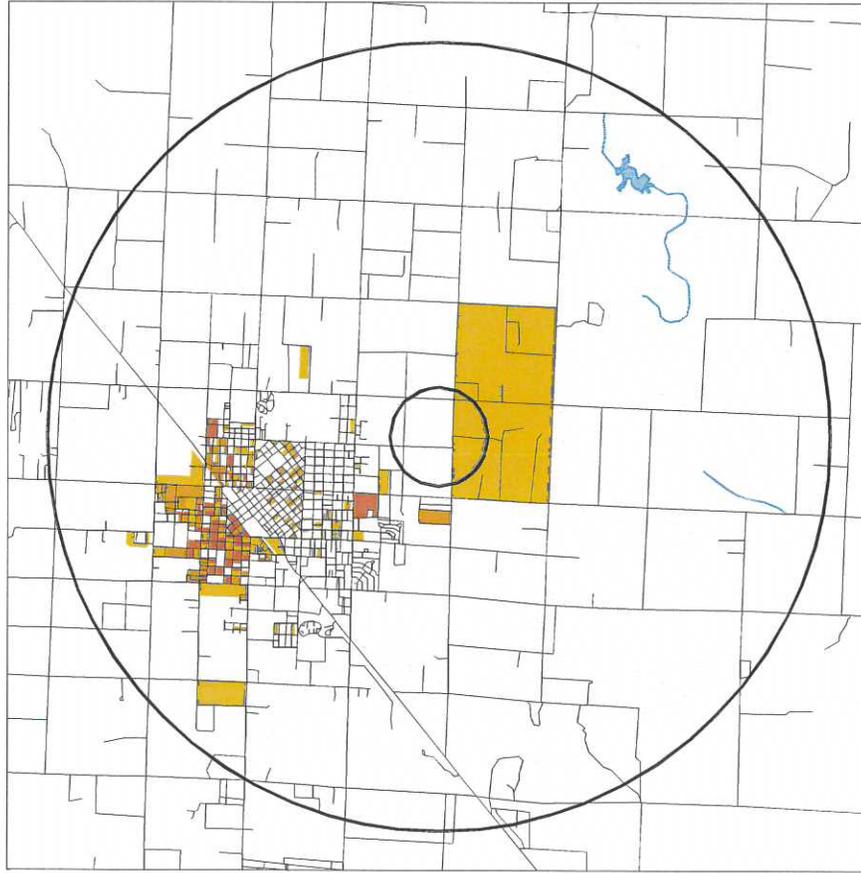
Data Sources and References: US Bureau of the Census, 1990 PL94-171 and STF-3A Data, and TIGER Files US EPA Region 6, 1992. Computer Assisted Environmental Assessment Methodologies, Chapter V. Special Applications, Environmental Equity. Planning and Analysis Section, Management Division, Region 6 EPA, Dallas, Texas



Figure 7 - Environmental Justice Index

City of Portales wwtp, Roosevelt County, NM

Minority Status - Degree of Vulnerability (DVMAV)



Potential Environmental Justice Index for Two Study Areas	1 Sq. Mile	50 Sq. Mile
Total Population	108	13746
Population Ranking (PF)	1	2
Percent Minority	39.8%	40.3%
Minority Status (DVMAV)	1	1
Percent Economically Stressed Economic Status (DVECO)	25.6%	42.2%
Environmental Justice Index	1	6

Longitude: -103 19 26.73 Latitude: 34 09 32.24

0 .5 1 1.5 miles

Data Sources and References: US Bureau of the Census, 2000 PL94-171, SF3 Data, and TIGER Files
 US EPA Region 6, 1992. Computer Assisted Environmental Assessment Methodologies, Chapter V. Special Applications, Environmental Equity. Planning and Analysis Section, Management Division, Region 6 EPA, Dallas, Texas



Figure 8 - Environmental Justice Index