

**City of Wasilla Wastewater
Outfall Feasibility Study
Scoping Summary Report**

Scoping Summary Report



Prepared for:
City of Wasilla
290 E. Hering Avenue
Wasilla, AK 99654

Prepared by:
Stantec Consulting Services Inc.
725 East Fireweed Lane, Suite 200
Anchorage, AK 99503

Project No.: 204700415

January 27, 2017

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ADEC	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
ADF&G	Alaska Department of Fish and Game
ADNR	Alaska Department of Natural Resources
ARRC	Alaska Railroad Corporation
City	City of Wasilla
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
gpd	gallons per day
mg/l	milligram per liter
MSB	Matanuska-Susitna Borough
SHPO	ADNR State Historic Preservation Office
Stantec	Stantec Consulting Services Inc.
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife
WWTP	wastewater treatment plant

CITY OF WASILLA WASTEWATER OUTFALL FEASIBILITY STUDY SCOPING SUMMARY REPORT

January 27, 2017

1.0 PROJECT BACKGROUND

The treatment and disposal capacity of the City of Wasilla (City) wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) is limited by the capacity of the existing percolation beds. At flows greater than approximately 300,000 gallons per day (gpd), the beds flood and effluent leaks from the slope face surrounding the WWTP. In addition, the nitrate levels in the shallow aquifer beneath the WWTP exceed permitted values of up to 10 milligrams per liter (mg/l) of nitrate at the compliance monitoring wells. Actual treatment flows are up to 350,000 gpd, and measured nitrate levels of up to 45 mg/l have been recorded. The WWTP is over capacity and out of permit compliance.

Nitrate is a “nutrient” byproduct of the wastewater treatment; high levels in groundwater present health risks. The WWTP needs additional capacity to address current deficiencies and to allow Wasilla to grow.

The City has contracted with Stantec Consulting Services Inc. (Stantec) to prepare a feasibility study examining potential development of wetlands treatment for wastewater effluent on the existing property and a 77-acre parcel adjacent to the existing WWTP purchased by the City.

2.0 SCOPING ACTIVITY

In gathering information for potential projects to address the concerns at the City WWTP, Stantec completed an agency coordination and environmental scoping process. The intent of the scoping process is to involve interested agencies, at the earliest opportunity, identifying the potential social, economic, or environmental impacts of proposed actions. This process contributes to refining alternatives and consideration of mitigation measures, in addition to identifying any required permits.

The scoping activities for the City of Wasilla Wastewater Outfall Feasibility Study (FS) included solicitation for comments from applicable federal, state, and local agencies and additional stakeholders. A scoping letter was distributed via email providing background on the project, alternatives being considered with anticipated impacts, and preliminary research results of publicly available environmental information. A sample scoping letter and its attachments are in Attachment A. Attachment B contains the full list of scoping letter recipients.

3.0 RESPONSES

Responses to the scoping included formal letters, emails, and brief phone conversations. Follow up calls and emails were also made to non-responsive recipients. Agency and stakeholder

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responses, conversation records, and correspondence related to the scoping process are provided in Attachment C with summaries of identified issues in Section 3.1

Responses as summarized in Section 3.1 were received from the following agencies:

- Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) Contaminated Sites Program
- ADEC Wastewater Discharge Authorization Program (WDAP)
- ADEC Non-Point Source Pollution Control
- Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR), State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Division of Habitat
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G)
- United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
- United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

The following agencies while contacted did not provide a response:

- ADEC Water Quality Standards
- Alaska Railroad Corporation (ARRC)
- Wasilla Soil & Water Conservation District (WSWCD)
- Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB)

3.1 IDENTIFIED ISSUES

The following issues were raised either through preliminary environmental research, email correspondence, or during phone conversations with agency representatives. Full copies of agency and stakeholder correspondence are provided in Attachment C.

- ADEC Contaminated Sites Program review identified no actively managed contaminated sites within the project area vicinity. Any discovery of contamination of soils or groundwater would require treatment according to ADEC standards. (email 1/07/2016, Evonne Reese, ADEC)
- The ADF&G does not believe that a fish habitat or special area permit would be required for the project unless there is the discovery of fish habitat resources. (email 1/08/2016, Sarah Wilber, ADF&G)
- There are no known or previously-recorded cultural resource sites in the area but the possibility remains that previously unidentified resources may be located in the area. If historic or cultural resources are identified during the course of the project, further consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office will be required and requirements of the Alaska Historic Preservation Act and/or Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act must be followed. (email 1/20/2016, Shina Duvall, SHPO)
- Construction activities and fill in wetlands will require a Section 404 Wetlands Permit from USACE. They do not have jurisdiction over water/fluid discharge. (conversation 2/10/2016, Jack Hewitt, USACE)

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- The EPA does not have any specific comments or issues to be raised at this time but requests to be kept on the project distribution list. (email 2/12/2016, Matthew LaCroix, EPA)
- The USFWS suggested careful attention to hydrologic changes that may affect wetland plant community composition and nutrient uptake when planning for different amounts of effluent discharge. Affects to downstream salmon bearing streams and seasonal differences in treatment efficacy should also be taken into account. (email 3/01/2016, Franklin Dekker, USFWS)
- The ADEC Wastewater Discharge Authorization Program (WDAP) noted that permitting through WDAP will be required for discharges to land or subsurface. They further recommended acquiring official waters of the U.S. jurisdictional determination (JD) of the wetlands in the proposed treatment area in coordination with USACE. After JD is official, DEC suggested continued collaboration between the City and ADEC in the application process for the required Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) permit for disposal of domestic wastewater to land or subsurface. The JD will determine the points of compliance and therefore the feasibility of wetlands use for treatment. (letter dated 3/18/2016, Wade Strickland, ADEC WDAP)
- A request for a Department of the Army JD was submitted 3/23/2016. The preliminary determination is that the parcel contains waters of the US and / or wetlands under USACE regulatory jurisdiction. Authorization (a permit) will be required if dredged or fill material are to be placed in the wetlands. (letter dated 3/24/2016, Julie Ruth, USACE, see Appendix D)

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**CITY OF WASILLA WASTEWATER OUTFALL FEASIBILITY STUDY
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Appendix 1 Sample Scoping Letter
January 27, 2017

Appendix A Sample Scoping Letter

**CITY OF WASILLA WASTEWATER OUTFALL FEASIBILITY STUDY
SCOPING SUMMARY REPORT**

Appendix 1 Sample Scoping Letter
January 27, 2017

McMillan, Matthew

From: Gould, Stephanie
Sent: Thursday, January 07, 2016 10:54 AM
To: 'adolfaeb@akrr.com'
Subject: City of Wasilla Wastewater Outfall Feasibility Study
Attachments: scpg-ltr_204700415_adolfae-arrrc_2016-01-06.pdf

Dear Mr. Adolfae:

The City of Wasilla is examining options to improve disposal of treated effluent from the City's wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). Improvements seek to use land application of treated effluent to reduce levels of nitrates in groundwater associated with the WWTP.

The City has engaged Stantec Consulting Ltd. for the preparation of a feasibility study on this issue.

As part of the feasibility study, we request your **written comments by February 12, 2016**, on the proposed project, particularly in regard to resources under your jurisdiction and related permit requirements. Your comments at this stage are important; agency response will help determine the feasibility of each option and the evaluations necessary to advance the improvement design. A project description and Preliminary Research Results for a variety of resources are attached. Based on your comments, we may be making additional contact with you to discuss specific concerns.

An **agency scoping meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 23, 2016**, to present the results from this scoping effort and continue the study planning process. It is our expectation this meeting will be held in either Wasilla or Anchorage depending on the location of interested parties. Please indicate your preference for the meeting location and your availability, if you wish to attend.

Please direct comments directly back to me by email or mail at the address below.

If you have any questions regarding the proposed project, please contact me or Archie Giddings (City Public Works Director, 373-9018, agiddings@ci.wasilla.ak.us).

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this project.

Stephanie Gould

Stantec
725 East Fireweed Lane, Suite 200, Anchorage AK 99503
Phone: (907) 343-5235
Fax: (907) 258-4653
stephanie.gould@stantec.com

**Stantec's Anchorage office is moving effective January 25, 2016, to the address above.
My email and phone contact numbers will remain unchanged.**

The content of this email is the confidential property of Stantec and should not be copied, modified, retransmitted, or used for any purpose except with Stantec's written authorization. If you are not the intended recipient, please delete all copies and notify us immediately.

 Please consider the environment before printing this email.



CITY OF WASILLA
Public Works Department
290 E. Herning Avenue, Wasilla Alaska 99654
Telephone (907) 373-9010 Fax (907) 373-9011

January 6, 2016

File: 204700415

Attention: «First Name», «Job Title»

«Suffix»

«Company»

«E-mail Address»

Dear «First Name»:

Reference: City of Wasilla Wastewater Outfall Feasibility Study

The City of Wasilla is examining options to improve disposal of treated effluent from the City's wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). Improvements seek to reduce effluent seepage from existing percolation beds to an adjacent creek, and to reduce levels of nitrates in groundwater associated with the WWTP. Recent nitrate levels exceed the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) discharge permit.

The City is investigating the feasibility of land application of treated effluent to an adjacent wetland purchased by the City as recommended in previous studies. A land application is expected to address nitrate concentration compliance through various natural biological means while increasing overall WWTP capacity. The 77-acre parcel shown in the attached figures consists of what appears to be an old slough bed bounded by rising topography to the east and west. A wetland delineation of the site (see Figure 2) indicates that 36 acres of forested wetlands, 3 acres of scrub shrub wetlands, and 0.01 acres of pond are available in the lower portion of the site.

The City has engaged Stantec Consulting Services Inc. (Stantec) for the preparation of a feasibility study considering:

- *Overland Application to Existing Wetlands*
This element is the basis for most improvements being considered. It involves applying treated effluent meeting secondary standards to the surface of the parcel acquired specifically for WWTP use. Uptake by vegetation and soil bacteria will polish the effluent stream, removing nitrate. In the simplest application, effluent may be introduced to the surface in the forested area, and be allowed to trickle downslope through the vegetated surface over a distance of 1,000 feet or more.
- *Wetland Enhancement:*
The study is considering potential enhancements to the existing wetlands to increase functioning for treatment. Enhancements may include creating impoundments and shallow ponds with associated conversion of forested wetlands, and the addition of vegetation to disturbed or bare portions of the wetlands.

January 6, 2016

Reference: City of Wasilla Wastewater Outfall Feasibility Study

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- *Constructed Wetlands*
Conversion of uplands (approximately 6 acres) to artificial wetlands with subsequent discharge to the existing natural wetlands is also being considered. These wetlands would be on the portion of the new parcel immediately west of the existing lagoons.
- *Infiltration Basins:*
The existing WWTP relies on subsurface percolation beds that are an effective method of year-round disposal, but are known to be over capacity. The option of adding additional subsurface discharge area is also being considered. Construction of these structures may require conversion of forested wetlands and could involve surface revegetation for summer use as wetlands for treatment.

As part of the feasibility study, we request your comments on the proposed project, particularly in regard to resources under your jurisdiction and related permit requirements. Your comments at this stage are important; agency response will help determine the feasibility of each option and the necessary evaluations to advance the improvement design. Preliminary Research Results for a variety of resources are attached. Based on your comments, we may be making additional contact with you to discuss specific concerns.

An agency scoping meeting is being scheduled for February 23, 2016 to present the results from this scoping effort and continue the study planning process. It is our expectation this meeting will be held in either Wasilla or Anchorage depending on the location of interested parties. Please indicate your preference for the meeting location and your availability, if you wish to attend.

We request your written comments by February 12, 2016. Please direct comments directly to Stephanie Gould, P.E., of Stantec by email at Stephanie.Gould@stantec.com.

If you have any questions regarding the proposed project, please contact Stephanie (907-276-4245) or me at the number or email below.

Regards,

City of Wasilla



Archie Giddings
Public Works Director
Phone: 907-373-9018
agiddings@ci.wasilla.ak.us

Attachment: Figure 1, Figure 2, and Preliminary Research Results

c. list of recipients available upon request

Wetlands and Waters of the U.S.: A review of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Wetlands Inventory (USFWS NWI, <http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/Data/Mapper.html>) and Cook Inlet Wetland Inventory (<http://cookinletwetlands.info/>) show wetlands within the proposed project study area, which will be utilized to remediate effluent discharge. The wetland types have been confirmed with a formal delineation. Application of combined solutions proposed within wetlands or ordinary high water of Waters of the U.S., will require a United States Army Corps of Engineers Clean Water Act Section 404 permit (<http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/>).

Fish and Wildlife: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) Fish Resource Monitor identifies the Palmer Slough and Wasilla Creek as the closest anadromous water bodies due to the presence of Chum, Coho, and Chinook salmon. These waters are not within the boundary of the site and no Essential Fish Habitat exists for any protected species under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act within the proposed project study area vicinity, thus no Fish Habitat Permits will be required (ADF&G, <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/sf/SARR/AWC/>).

An aerial eagle nest survey has not been completed for the proposed project study area at this time but GIS data reviewed (USFWS, Alaska Bald Eagle Nest Atlas—computer database <http://www.fws.gov/alaska/mbsp/mbm/landbirds/alaskabaldeagles/default.htm>) shows no nests are within 660 feet of the proposed project area vicinity. If bald eagle nests are found within 660 feet of the project area, then monitoring and construction periods would comply with USFWS protocol under the Bald Eagle Protection Act. No additional migratory birds were identified as using the project study area vicinity. Local timing window guidelines set by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Migratory Bird Treaty Act will be applied and if active nests are discovered outside local timing windows, they will be left in place and protected until young hatch and depart (USFWS, <http://www.fws.gov/alaska/mbsp/mbm/>).

Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species: A review of the USFWS Environmental Conservation Online System did not identify T&E species within the proposed project study area vicinity (USFWS, <http://www.fws.gov/alaska/fisheries/endangered/species.htm>).

State Refuges, Sanctuaries, Critical Habitat Areas, and Wildlife Ranges: A review of the ADF&G Refuges, Sanctuaries, Critical Habitat Areas, and Wildlife Ranges identified Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge more than 2 km to the south, but not directly in the proposed project study area vicinity. No other protected areas or Critical Habitat were identified in the proposed project area vicinity (National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, <http://www.rivers.gov/alaska.php> , ADF&G Conservation Areas, <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=conservationareas.locator>).

National Parks, Preserves, Monuments, and Wild and Scenic Rivers: A review of the National Park Service National Parks and Wild and Scenic River listings did not identify national parks, preserves, monuments, or wild and scenic rivers within the proposed project study area vicinity.

Preliminary Research Results

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Land Use: A review of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) Geographical Information System and Property Database indicates multiple private land owners, as well as the Alaska Railroad, and the State of Alaska own land surrounding the proposed site. Construction alternatives would comply with all MSB permits and best management practices (MSB, <http://www.matsugov.us/shapefiles>). For the proposed project, a Mandatory Land Use Permit from the MSB will be required if building within 75 feet of a waterbody (MSB, <http://www.matsugov.us/codecompliance#newconstruction>).

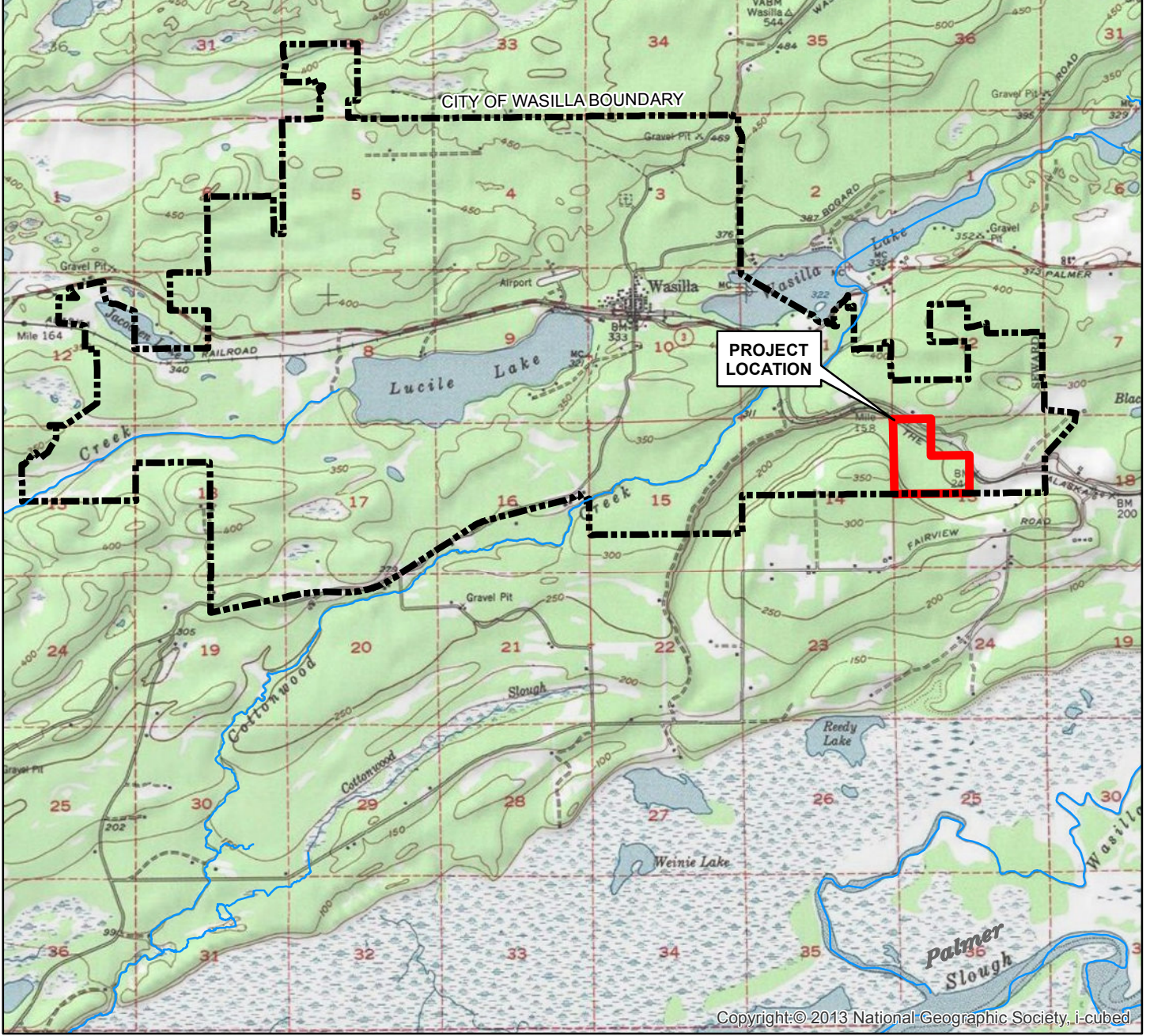
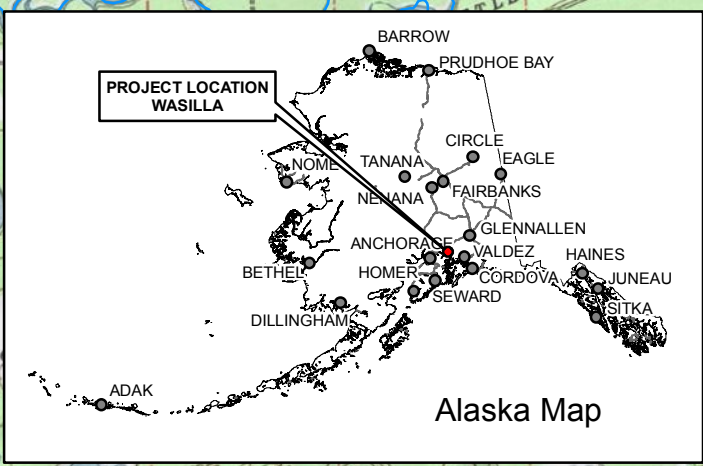
Floodplains: A review of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps and FEMA's National Flood Hazard Layer (FEMA, Map Service Center <http://msc.fema.gov/portal/resources/productsandtools>) identified only 0.2% or 500 year Floodway Hazard Areas within the project study area. The majority of the City of Wasilla and the Core Area of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough are located within the 0.2% or 500 year Floodway Hazard Areas.

Water Quality: A review of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) Impaired Waters List did not identify impaired waters within the proposed project study area vicinity. As of September 2010, Cottonwood Creek was listed as a Category 5/Section 303(d) waterbody impaired with fecal coliform and Lake Lucille was listed as a Category 4a waterbody impaired with low dissolved oxygen concentrations. Both of these waterbodies are in Wasilla, upstream of the WWTP, and 0.67 and 2 miles away, respectively, and are not within the proposed project vicinity. The purpose of the proposed project is to regain compliance with the requirements of the Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit and no impacts beyond those resulting from non-compliance are anticipated (ADEC, Impaired Waters, <https://dec.alaska.gov/water/wqsar/Docs/Impairedwaters.pdf>).

Cultural Resources: At this time, it is not anticipated that any of the listed alternatives would impact cultural or historical resources. The State Historic Preservation Officer, tribal entities, and other consulting parties in the area will be consulted in accordance with the State Historic Preservation Act prior to construction (ADNR, Office of History & Archaeology, <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha/>).

Air Quality: There are no Nonattainment areas in the City of Wasilla or MSB Boundary and it is not expected that the project would directly affect air quality (USEPA, <http://www3.epa.gov/airquality/greenbk/ancl.html>).

Contaminated Sites, Spills, Underground Storage Tanks, and Hazardous Materials: A review of the ADEC Contaminated Sites Program Database found several inactive contaminated sites within the overall vicinity where cleanup has been completed. No contaminated sites are in the direct vicinity of the WWTP. In the event of a discovery of contaminated groundwater, all ADEC protocols would be followed (ADEC Contaminated Sites Program Database, https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/csp/db_search.htm).



Document Path: U:\204700415\GIS\Feasibility Study Figures\204700415_FS_FIG-01.mxd



CITY OF WASILLA
 290 E. HERNING AVE
 WASILLA, ALASKA 99654



2515 A Street
 Anchorage, Alaska 99503
 (907)276-4245
 WO#204700415

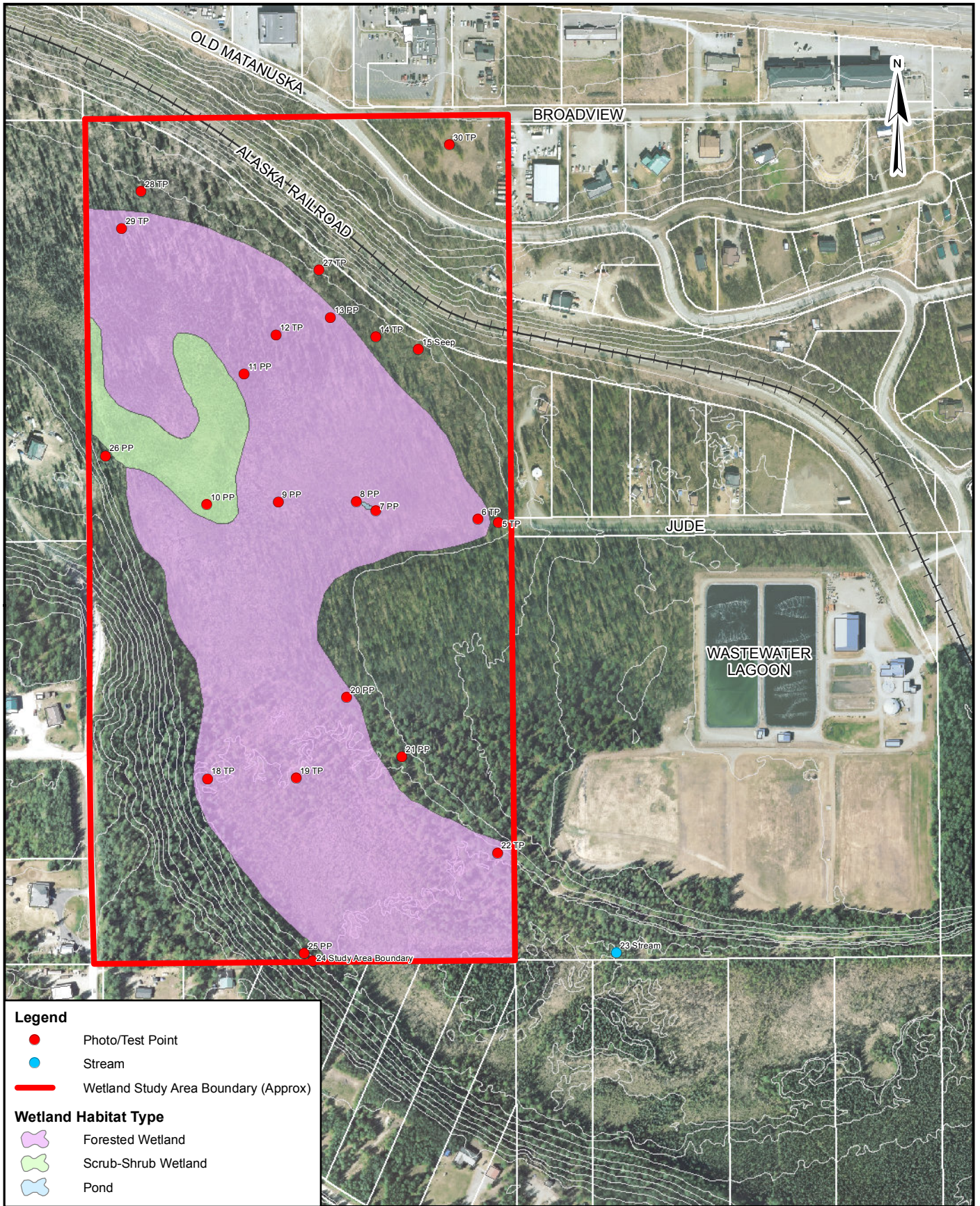
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CITY OF WASILLA
WASTEWATER OUTFALL FEASIBILITY STUDY

WASILLA VICINITY

DATE 12/22/15

FIGURE 1



Legend

- Photo/Test Point
- Stream
- Wetland Study Area Boundary (Approx)

Wetland Habitat Type

- Forested Wetland
- Scrub-Shrub Wetland
- Pond



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DELINEATED WETLANDS

DATE 12/22/15

FIGURE

**CITY OF WASILLA WASTEWATER OUTFALL FEASIBILITY STUDY
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Appendix 2 List of Scoping Letter Recipients
January 27, 2017

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**CITY OF WASILLA WASTEWATER OUTFALL FEASIBILITY STUDY
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Appendix 2 List of Scoping Letter Recipients
January 27, 2017

Agency Contacts for Wasilla WWTP				
Name	Email	Sub-Agency	Agency	Title
Lauren Driscoll	lauren.driscoll@matsugov.us	Planning	Matanuska-Susitna Borough	Planning Chief
Frankie Barker	frankie.barker@matsugov.us	Planning	Matanuska-Susitna Borough	Environmental Planner
Jim Jenson	jjenson@matsugov.us	Public Works	Matanuska-Susitna Borough	Operations and Maintenance Manager
Chuck Kaucic	distmgr@wasillaswcd.org		Wasilla Soil & Water Conservation District	District Manager
Wade Strickland	wade.strickland@alaska.gov	Division of Water-Wastewater	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation	Environmental Program Manager III
William Ashton	william.ashton@alaska.gov	Division of Water-Wastewater	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation	Engineer II
Michael Martz	michael.martz@alaska.gov	Division of Water-Wastewater	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation	Environmental Program Specialist IV
Melinda Smodey	melinda.smodey@alaska.gov	Division of Water-Wastewater	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation	Environmental Program Specialist III
Oran Woolley	oran.woolly@alaska.gov	Division of Water-Wastewater	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation	Engineering Associate I
Doug Cooper	douglas_cooper@fws.gov	Ecological Services	United States Fish & Wildlife Service	Branch Chief
Franklin Dekker	franklin_dekker@fws.gov	Habitat Restoration	United States Fish & Wildlife Service	Hydrologist
Libby Benolkin	elizabeth_benolkin@fws.gov	Habitat Restoration	United States Fish & Wildlife Service	Biologist
Tamara Zeller	tamara_zeller@fws.gov	Migratory Bird Management	United States Fish & Wildlife Service	Wildlife Biologist
Cindy Gilder	cindy.gilder@alaska.gov	Division of Water-Water Quality Standards	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation	Environmental Program Manager II
Brock Tabor	brock.tabor@alaska.gov	Division of Water-Water Quality Standards	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation	Environmental Program Specialist IV
Jennifer Roberts	Jennifer.Roberts@alaska.gov	Spill Prevention Resoponse-Contaminated Sites	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation	Environmental Program Manager III
Evonne Reese	Evonne.Reese@alaska.gov	Spill Prevention Resoponse-Contaminated Sites	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation	Environmental Program Specialist III
David Schade	david.w.schade@alaska.gov	Mining, Land, and Water	Alaska Department of Natural Resources	Natural Resource Manager III
Shina Duvall	shina.duvall@alaska.gov	Office of History & Archaeology	Alaska Department of Natural Resources	Archaeologist II
Heather Stewart	heather.stewart@alaska.gov	Agriculture	Alaska Department of Natural Resources	Natural Resource Specialist III
Ron Benkert	ronald.benkert@alaska.gov	Division of Habitat	Alaska Department of Fish & Game	Habitat Biologist III
Sarah Wilber	sarah.wilber@alaska.gov	Division of Habitat	Alaska Department of Fish & Game	Habitat Biologist II
Matthew LaCroix	lacroix.matthew@epa.gov	Alaska Operations Office	Environmental Protection Agency	Biologist
Gayle Martin	Martin.Gayle@epamail.epa.gov	Alaska Operations Office	Environmental Protection Agency	Biologist
Steve Lindamood	steve.d.lindamood@usace.army.mil	Alaska District	United States Army Corps of Engineers	
Shane McCoy	regpagemaster@usace.army.mil	Alaska District	United States Army Corps of Engineers	Chief, South Section Regulatory Division
Blake Adolfae	adolfaeb@akrr.com		Alaska Railroad	Manager of Scheduling, Logistics & Materials

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Appendix 3 Scoping Responses
January 27, 2017

Appendix 3 Scoping Responses

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Appendix 3 Scoping Responses
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3.1 SCOPING RESPONSES – EMAILS AND LETTERS

- Evonne Reese (ADEC) 01-07-2016
- Wade Strickland (ADEC-WDAP) 01-07-2016
- Sara Wilber (ADF&G) 01-08-2016
- Shina Duvall (ADNR) 01-20-2016
- Matthew LaCroix (EPA) 02-12-2016
- Franklin Dekker (USFWS) 03-01-2016
- Wade Strickland (ADEC-WDAP) 03-18-2016

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Appendix 3 Scoping Responses
January 27, 2017

McMillan, Matthew

From: Reese, Evonne R (DEC) <evonne.reese@alaska.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 07, 2016 11:40 AM
To: Gould, Stephanie
Cc: Reese, Evonne R (DEC)
Subject: RE: City of Wasilla Wastewater Outfall Feasibility Study

Hello Stephanie,

I have compared our contaminated site records with the project location for the wastewater outfall feasibility study and do not see any conflicts from a Contaminated Sites Program perspective. There are no permits required from the ADEC Spill Prevention and Response Division for a project like this, especially since there are no documented contaminated sites directly in the area of your project location.

Of course, this does not preclude ADEC from requiring assessment and/or cleanup action if contaminated soil or groundwater is encountered.

Thank you for checking with us.

Good luck with the project,

Evonne Reese

Environmental Program Specialist
Contaminated Site Program
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
P.O. Box 111800
Juneau, AK 99801

(907) 465-5229

evonne.reese@alaska.gov

From: Gould, Stephanie [<mailto:stephanie.gould@stantec.com>]
Sent: Thursday, January 07, 2016 10:59 AM
To: Reese, Evonne R (DEC) <evonne.reese@alaska.gov>
Subject: City of Wasilla Wastewater Outfall Feasibility Study

Dear Ms. Reese:

The City of Wasilla is examining options to improve disposal of treated effluent from the City's wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). Improvements seek to use land application of treated effluent to reduce levels of nitrates in groundwater associated with the WWTP.

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Thank you in advance for your assistance in this project.

Stephanie Gould

Stantec
725 East Fireweed Lane, Suite 200, Anchorage AK 99503
Phone: (907) 343-5235
Fax: (907) 258-4653
stephanie.gould@stantec.com

***Stantec's Anchorage office is moving effective January 25, 2016, to the address above.
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 Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: [Strickland, Wade K \(DEC\)](#)
To: [Gould, Stephanie](#)
Cc: [Mccabe, Gene C \(DEC\)](#); [Adler, Clint J \(DEC\)](#); [Woolley, Oran L \(DEC\)](#); [Martz, Michael U \(DEC\)](#); [Smodey, Melinda J \(DEC\)](#); [Gilder, Cindy J \(DEC\)](#)
Subject: RE: City of Wasilla Wastewater Outfall Feasibility Study
Date: Thursday, January 07, 2016 12:06:58 PM

Hi Stephanie-

Thank you for the notification. DEC Wastewater will review the proposed project and provide comments by the February 12, 2016 deadline.

Wade

Wade Strickland, Program Manager
Wastewater Discharge Authorization Program
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
907-269-7580

<http://dec.alaska.gov/water/wwdp/index.htm>

From: Gould, Stephanie [mailto:stephanie.gould@stantec.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 07, 2016 11:09 AM
To: Strickland, Wade K (DEC) <wade.strickland@alaska.gov>
Subject: City of Wasilla Wastewater Outfall Feasibility Study

Dear Mr. Strickland:

The City of Wasilla is examining options to improve disposal of treated effluent from the City's wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). Improvements seek to use land application of treated effluent to reduce levels of nitrates in groundwater associated with the WWTP.

The City has engaged Stantec Consulting Ltd. for the preparation of a feasibility study on this issue.

As part of the feasibility study, we request your **written comments by February 12, 2016**, on the proposed project, particularly in regard to resources under your jurisdiction and related permit requirements. Your comments at this stage are important; agency response will help determine the feasibility of each option and the evaluations necessary to advance the improvement design. A project description and Preliminary Research Results for a variety of resources are attached. Based on your comments, we may be making additional contact with you to discuss specific concerns.

An agency scoping meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 23, 2016, to present the results from this scoping effort and continue the study planning process. It is our expectation this meeting will be held in either Wasilla or Anchorage depending on the location of interested parties. Please indicate your preference for the meeting location and your availability, if you wish to attend.

Please direct comments directly back to me by email or mail at the address below.

If you have any questions regarding the proposed project, please contact me or Archie Giddings (City Public Works Director, 373-9018, agiddings@ci.wasilla.ak.us).

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this project.

Stephanie Gould

Stantec
725 East Fireweed Lane, Suite 200, Anchorage AK 99503
Phone: (907) 343-5235
Fax: (907) 258-4653
stephanie.gould@stantec.com

*Stantec's Anchorage office is moving effective January 25, 2016, to the address above.
My email and phone contact numbers will remain unchanged.*

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 Please consider the environment before printing this email.

McMillan, Matthew

From: Wilber, Sarah E E (DFG) <sarah.wilber@alaska.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 08, 2016 4:06 PM
To: Gould, Stephanie
Subject: RE: City of Wasilla Wastewater Outfall Feasibility Study

Dear Ms. Gould,

Both Ron Benkert and myself are in agreeance that at this time a fish habitat permit or special area permit are not required for this project. Should there be discovery of fish habitat resources upon further investigation please let us know and we can evaluate further.

Sincerely,

Sarah E. E. Wilber

Habitat Biologist II
ADF&G Habitat Division, Palmer Office
Office: 907-861-3206
Fax: 907-861-3232

[*ADF&G Habitat Division Permits Link*](#)

From: Gould, Stephanie [<mailto:stephanie.gould@stantec.com>]
Sent: Thursday, January 07, 2016 10:57 AM
To: Wilber, Sarah E E (DFG)
Subject: City of Wasilla Wastewater Outfall Feasibility Study

Dear Ms. Wilber:

The City of Wasilla is examining options to improve disposal of treated effluent from the City's wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). Improvements seek to use land application of treated effluent to reduce levels of nitrates in groundwater associated with the WWTP.

The City has engaged Stantec Consulting Ltd. for the preparation of a feasibility study on this issue.

As part of the feasibility study, we request your **written comments by February 12, 2016**, on the proposed project, particularly in regard to resources under your jurisdiction and related permit requirements. Your comments at this stage are important; agency response will help determine the feasibility of each option and the evaluations necessary to advance the improvement design. A project description and Preliminary Research Results for a variety of resources are attached. Based on your comments, we may be making additional contact with you to discuss specific concerns.

An **agency scoping meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 23, 2016**, to present the results from this scoping effort and continue the study planning process. It is our expectation this meeting will be held in either Wasilla or Anchorage depending on the location of interested parties. Please indicate your preference for the meeting location and your availability, if you wish to attend.

Please direct comments directly back to me by email or mail at the address below.

If you have any questions regarding the proposed project, please contact me or Archie Giddings (City Public Works Director, 373-9018, agiddings@ci.wasilla.ak.us).

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this project.

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McMillan, Matthew

From: Duvall, Shina A (DNR) <shina.duvall@alaska.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2016 2:35 PM
To: Gould, Stephanie
Subject: RE: City of Wasilla Wastewater Outfall Feasibility Study

Dear Stephanie,

The Alaska State Historic Preservation Office (AK SHPO) received your correspondence January 7, 2016. There are no known or previously-recorded cultural resource sites in that immediate area. However, please note that only a very small portion of the State has been surveyed for cultural resources and therefore, the possibility remains that previously unidentified resources may be located within the project area.

If the project will require any State or Federal authorizations, please review the requirements of the Alaska Historic Preservation Act (A.S. 41.35.070) and/or Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR 800) and consult with the appropriate agency contacts regarding their review of the project for impacts to significant cultural resources.

At this time, we do not plan on attending the scoping meeting, but please contact me if we may be of further assistance. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Best regards,
Shina

Shina duVall, RPA
Archaeologist, Review and Compliance Coordinator
Alaska State Historic Preservation Office / Office of History and Archaeology
550 W. 7th Ave., Suite 1310
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
907-269-8720 (phone) 907-269-8908 (fax)
shina.duvall@alaska.gov

From: Gould, Stephanie [<mailto:stephanie.gould@stantec.com>]
Sent: Thursday, January 07, 2016 10:58 AM
To: Duvall, Shina A (DNR)
Subject: City of Wasilla Wastewater Outfall Feasibility Study

Dear Ms. Duvall:

The City of Wasilla is examining options to improve disposal of treated effluent from the City's wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). Improvements seek to use land application of treated effluent to reduce levels of nitrates in groundwater associated with the WWTP.

The City has engaged Stantec Consulting Ltd. for the preparation of a feasibility study on this issue.

As part of the feasibility study, we request your **written comments by February 12, 2016**, on the proposed project, particularly in regard to resources under your jurisdiction and related permit requirements. Your comments at this stage are important; agency response will help determine the feasibility of each option and the evaluations necessary to advance the improvement design. A project description and Preliminary

Research Results for a variety of resources are attached. Based on your comments, we may be making additional contact with you to discuss specific concerns.

An **agency scoping meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 23, 2016**, to present the results from this scoping effort and continue the study planning process. It is our expectation this meeting will be held in either Wasilla or Anchorage depending on the location of interested parties. Please indicate your preference for the meeting location and your availability, if you wish to attend.

Please direct comments directly back to me by email or mail at the address below.

If you have any questions regarding the proposed project, please contact me or Archie Giddings (City Public Works Director, 373-9018, agiddings@ci.wasilla.ak.us).

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this project.

Stephanie Gould

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725 East Fireweed Lane, Suite 200, Anchorage AK 99503
Phone: (907) 343-5235
Fax: (907) 258-4653
stephanie.gould@stantec.com

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McMillan, Matthew

From: Gould, Stephanie
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2016 9:51 AM
To: LaCroix, Matthew
Cc: Schruhl, Derek; McMillan, Matthew
Subject: RE: City of Wasilla Wastewater Outfall Feasibility Study

Thank you Matthew.

We will certainly keep you and Derek on our lists. If you have any questions on the project please let me know.

Stephanie

Stephanie Gould

Stantec
725 East Fireweed Lane, Suite 200, Anchorage AK 99503
Phone: (907) 343-5235
Fax: (907) 258-4653
stephanie.gould@stantec.com

*Stantec's Anchorage office has moved to the address above. Please note the new address.
My email and phone numbers remain unchanged.*

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 Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: LaCroix, Matthew [<mailto:LaCroix.Matthew@epa.gov>]
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2016 9:35 AM
To: Gould, Stephanie
Cc: Schruhl, Derek
Subject: RE: City of Wasilla Wastewater Outfall Feasibility Study

Stephanie,

Good morning. Thank you for soliciting scoping comments on the City of Wasilla's project. The EPA does not have specific comments regarding concerns or recommendations at this stage of project development. We may be able to provide feedback as the project is further developed. Please keep us on the project distribution list, and please add Derek Schruhl (copied on this email) to the distribution list. Derek works in our Seattle office in the UIC program.

I will not be able to attend the agency scoping meeting on February 23, but do look forward to receiving future updates on the project. Matt McMillan contacted me yesterday, and we look forward to working with Stantec on projects in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

Thanks,

Matthew LaCroix
Aquatic Resources Unit
Office of Ecosystems, Tribal & Public Affairs
Alaska Operations Office
(907) 271-1480

From: Gould, Stephanie [<mailto:stephanie.gould@stantec.com>]
Sent: Thursday, January 07, 2016 12:22 PM
To: LaCroix, Matthew <LaCroix.Matthew@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: City of Wasilla Wastewater Outfall Feasibility Study

Dear Mr. LaCroix:

The City of Wasilla is examining options to improve disposal of treated effluent from the City's wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). Improvements seek to use land application of treated effluent to reduce levels of nitrates in groundwater associated with the WWTP.

The City has engaged Stantec Consulting Ltd. for the preparation of a feasibility study on this issue.

As part of the feasibility study, we request your **written comments by February 12, 2016**, on the proposed project, particularly in regard to resources under your jurisdiction and related permit requirements. Your comments at this stage are important; agency response will help determine the feasibility of each option and the evaluations necessary to advance the improvement design. A project description and Preliminary Research Results for a variety of resources are attached. Based on your comments, we may be making additional contact with you to discuss specific concerns.

An **agency scoping meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 23, 2016**, to present the results from this scoping effort and continue the study planning process. It is our expectation this meeting will be held in either Wasilla or Anchorage depending on the location of interested parties. Please indicate your preference for the meeting location and your availability, if you wish to attend.

Please direct comments directly back to me by email or mail at the address below.

If you have any questions regarding the proposed project, please contact me or Archie Giddings (City Public Works Director, 373-9018, agiddings@ci.wasilla.ak.us).

Thank you in advance for your assistance in this project.

Stephanie Gould

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 Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: [Dekker, Franklin](#)
To: [McMillan, Matthew](#)
Subject: Wasilla Wastewater Feasibility Study
Date: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 5:21:23 PM

Hi Matt,

I had to ask my supervisors how or if I can comment on the feasibility study and sorry that took some time the past couple weeks.

I'm not qualified in wetland processes and really can't give this feasibility study a full review. I suggest you contact Mike Gracz <mike@kenaiwatershed.org> with the Kenai Watershed Forum, he likely has the best handle on Mat-Su wetland systems. I'm also not versed in permit requirements and do not work on Section 404 or endangered species permitting/commenting. I'm checking with others in my office to see if anyone is able to assist with that side of things.

From my hydrologist prospective I had a couple things you might address in the future:

It seems like each option might increasing discharge to the natural wetlands resulting in wetter conditions that might change the wetland plant community. This could also affect your calculations of nitrate uptake efficiency depending on wetland types.

Will the increased effluent discharge affect downstream salmon bearing streams?

How would each option differ in operation during winter months?

Sorry again for the delay on this.

Thanks,
Franklin

--

Franklin Dekker
Hydrologist
Habitat Restoration
US Fish and Wildlife Service
4700 BLM Road
Anchorage, AK 99507
907-271-3764



THE STATE
of ALASKA
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Environmental Conservation

DIVISION OF WATER
Wastewater Discharge Authorization Program

555 Cordova Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Main: (907) 269-6285
Fax: (907) 269-3487
www.dec.alaska.gov/water/wwdp

March 18, 2016

Mr. Archie Giddings, Public Works Director
City of Wasilla (*Via electronic transmittal*)

Re: DEC Wastewater Discharge Authorization Program Response to City of Wasilla Wastewater
Outfall Feasibility Study

Dear Mr. Giddings:

This letter is in response to the City of Wasilla's (City) January 6, 2016 letter to Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC or Department) Wastewater Discharge Authorization Program (WDAP) staff. The letter indicates the City is examining options in the form of a feasibility study to improve disposal of treated effluent from the City's wastewater treatment facility. The stated intent of the letter is to request agency comments, particularly in regard to resources under the subject agencies jurisdiction and related permit requirements.

From a resource and administrative standpoint, WDAP is responsible for administering Alaska Statutes (AS) 46.03.100 (as applicable) and all parts of Alaska Administrative Code (AAC) 18 AAC 72 (Wastewater Disposal) and 18 AAC 83 (Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES)) regulations. Provisions in 18 AAC 72 state that the construction or modification of domestic collection or treatment systems in the State of Alaska require engineering plan review and approval by DEC prior to implementation. Provisions in 18 AAC 72 also indicate that a permit is generally required for the disposal of domestic wastewater to land or the subsurface. Provisions in 18 AAC 83 state that any entity that wishes to discharge pollutants from a point source to surface waters of the U.S. as defined by the Clean Water Act (CWA) and its implementing regulations require an APDES permit prior to discharging.

With respect to the City's proposed feasibility study and the applicable DEC wastewater legal requirements, the City will need to engage WDAP on engineering plan review and wastewater permitting for any treatment disposal alternative selected by the City. At this time, it is clear that the City is only soliciting preliminary feedback and does not have completed engineering plans or permit applications for DEC to process. As such, the following remarks are based on the conceptual

proposals put forward in the January 6, 2016 letter and attachments, and do not represent comments relating to specific engineering plans or permit applications submitted to DEC.

Central to the City's proposal is the application of effluent treated from their aerated lagoons to land or surface waters, potentially with some combination of ongoing subsurface discharge to existing percolation beds. Final points of compliance and permit effluent limits are directly linked to whether the discharge is to land, subsurface, or to surface water. Based on the contents of the January 6, 2016 submittal and subsequent conversations with the City and their consultant, a final U.S. Army Corp of Engineers jurisdictional determination as to whether potential disposal areas are wetlands meeting the definition of waters of the U.S. under the CWA has yet to be completed.

Whether the potential disposal areas are designated as waters of the U.S. is critical to determining the appropriate permit vehicle and final permit effluent limits (as well as permit compliance points). If the disposal areas are designated as waters of the U.S., then an APDES permit is required for any discharge. In addition, if the disposal area is determined to be waters of the U.S. and that flowing water is not constantly available to provide meaningful dilution, a mixing zone to meet State Water Quality Criteria (18 AAC 70) cannot be authorized. In this scenario, the point of compliance included in an APDES permit would be prior to application to the waters of the U.S. and applicable State Water Quality Criteria would need to be met prior to application onto the designated waters.

Alternatively, if the disposal areas are not designated as waters of the U.S., then there is increased flexibility in determining compliance points subject to ensuring the protection of public health and environment, including site control and effluent quality as the effluent migrates off the property, as generally described in 18 AAC 72. Nitrate impacts to groundwater will also need to be addressed for any land or subsurface discharge.

As part of the City's ongoing feasibility analysis, the Department strongly recommends the City receive official waters of the U.S. wetland jurisdictional determinations of the proposed disposal area(s) from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to assist in their scoping. Upon determining whether the proposed disposal area(s) are jurisdictional waters, DEC can further engage with the City on engineering plan review and approval requirements as well as wastewater permitting requirements.

DEC is encouraged that the City is evaluating potential improvements to their wastewater treatment facility to ensure ongoing protection of human health and the environment. DEC also appreciates the guided tour of the facility provided on February 19 and we look forward to working with the City as the project progresses.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please don't hesitate to contact me. I can be reached via e-mail at wade.strickland@alaska.gov or by phone at (907) 269-7580. If you have specific questions about engineering plan review, please feel free to contact Oran Woolley of our Wasilla office. Oran can be contacted via e-mail at oran.woolley@alaska.gov or by phone at (907) 376-1852.

Sincerely,



Wade Strickland,
Program Manager

cc: (via e-mail)

Stephanie Gould, Stantec
Oran Woolley, DEC-Wasilla
Clint Adler, DEC-Wasilla
Gene McCabe, DEC-Anchorage
Earl Crapps, DEC-Anchorage
Mike Martz, DEC-Anchorage

CITY OF WASILLA WASTEWATER OUTFALL FEASIBILITY STUDY SCOPING SUMMARY REPORT

Appendix 3 Scoping Responses
January 27, 2017

3.2 SCOPING RESPONSES - CONVERSATION RECORDS

- Jack Hewitt (USACE) 02-10-2016
- Chuck Kaucic (WSWC) 02-11-2016
- Franklin Dekker (USFWS) 02-11-2016
- Matthew LaCroix (EPA) 02-11-2016
- Mike Campfield (MSB) 02-11-2016
- Tamara Zeller (USFWS) 02-11-2016
- Jack Hewitt (USACE) 02-23-2016
- Jack Hewitt (USACE) 03-21-2016

**CITY OF WASILLA WASTEWATER OUTFALL FEASIBILITY STUDY
SCOPING SUMMARY REPORT**

Appendix 3 Scoping Responses
January 27, 2017



Record of Conversation

WO#: 204700415		
PROJECT: Wasilla WWTP Effluent Discharge Outfall		
DATE: 02/10/2016	TIME: 11:46 AM	PHONE #: 907-753-2712
TALKED TO: US Army Corp of Engineers		
BY: Stephanie Gould, Civil Engineer		
SUBJECT: Effluent Discharge Outfall Permitting		
<p>Called to determine permitting pathway for wetlands discharge.</p> <p>Julie took call and transferred me to Jack Hewitt (753-2708, jack.j.hewitt@usace.army.mil).</p> <p>Explained the basic premise of the outfall options.</p> <p>They would have jurisdiction only if the pipe is buried or we "discharge fill material." They are basing mitigation on the cumulative impacts on water within the watershed, so it may not be based directly on quantities. They are still working on finalizing this. We can propose mitigation measures as well. The permit requirements would be based on Section 404 Wetlands Permit.</p>		

ACTION REQUIRED:



Record of Conversation

WO#: 204700415		
PROJECT: Wasilla WWTP Effluent Discharge Outfall		
DATE: 02/11/2016	TIME: 3:12 PM	PHONE #: 907-357-4563
TALKED TO: Wasilla Soil and Water Conservation District		
BY: Matt McMillan, Environmental Scientist		
SUBJECT: Effluent Discharge scoping comments		
<p>Called Chuck Kaucic to ask whether he had comments regarding proposed effluent discharge feasibility study and permitting.</p> <p>Chuck was not available. A message was left with him asking him to call back on the scoping letter whether there were comments or not.</p>		

ACTION REQUIRED:



Record of Conversation

WO#: 204700415		
PROJECT: Wasilla WWTP Effluent Discharge Outfall		
DATE: 02/11/2016	TIME: 1:46 PM	PHONE #: 907-271-3761
TALKED TO: US Fish and Wildlife Service		
BY: Matt McMillan, Environmental Scientist		
SUBJECT: WWTP feasibility study Effluent Discharge scoping		

Called to ask whether he had comments regarding proposed effluent discharge feasibility study and permitting.

Franklin took the call and recalled getting the scoping letter sent but did not know whether he should be providing comments. Franklin said he will revisit the letter to decide whether he had comments or if someone else in his office might have comments and either call back if there were no comments at this time or email comments.

ACTION REQUIRED:



Record of Conversation

WO#: 204700415		
PROJECT: Wasilla WWTP Effluent Discharge Outfall		
DATE: 02/11/2016	TIME: 3:46 PM	PHONE #: 907-271-1480
TALKED TO: US Environmental Protection Agency		
BY: Matt McMillan, Environmental Scientist		
SUBJECT: Effluent Discharge scoping comments		
<p>Called to ask whether he had comments regarding proposed effluent discharge feasibility study and permitting.</p> <p>Matthew took the call and said that he received the scoping letter and he will be sending a response tomorrow with comments. He also mentioned he was curious how USACE would permit the project and wanted to stay in the loop as the project progressed.</p>		

ACTION REQUIRED:



Record of Conversation

WO#: 204700415		
PROJECT: Wasilla WWTP Effluent Discharge Outfall		
DATE: 02/11/2016	TIME: 3:23 PM	PHONE #: 907-357-4563
TALKED TO: Matanuska Susitna Borough		
BY: Matt McMillan, Environmental Scientist		
SUBJECT: Wasilla Wastewater environmental scoping Effluent Discharge		
<p>Called Mike Campfield to ask whether he had comments regarding proposed effluent discharge feasibility study and permitting.</p> <p>Mike was not available. A message was left with him asking him to call back on the scoping letter whether there were comments or not.</p>		

ACTION REQUIRED:



Record of Conversation

WO#: 204700415		
PROJECT: Wasilla WWTP Effluent Discharge Outfall		
DATE: 02/11/2016	TIME: 3:12 PM	PHONE #: 907-786-3571
TALKED TO: US Fish and Wildlife Service		
BY: Matt McMillan, Environmental Scientist		
SUBJECT: Effluent Discharge scoping comments		
<p>Called Tamara Zeller to ask whether he had comments regarding proposed effluent discharge feasibility study and permitting.</p> <p>Tamara was not available and her message indicated she would be out of the office until 2/23/16. A message was left with her asking her to call back on the scoping letter whether there were comments or not.</p>		

ACTION REQUIRED:



Record of Conversation

WO#: 204700415		
PROJECT: Wasilla WWTP Effluent Discharge Outfall		
DATE: 02/23/2016	TIME: 11:38 AM	PHONE #: 753-2708
TALKED TO: Jack Hewitt, US Army Corp of Engineers, jack.j.hewitt@usace.army.mil		
BY: Stephanie Gould, Civil Engineer		
SUBJECT: Effluent Discharge Outfall Permitting		
<p>Called to determine permitting pathway for wetlands discharge. In particular to remove the wetland from jurisdiction for the purposes of APDES permitting.</p> <p>In our previous conversation (2/10/15), Jack had noted that they only have jurisdiction if fill is placed and that mitigation is based on cumulative impacts on water within the watershed, not directly on quantities.</p> <p>If we submit a jurisdictional determination (JD) to him and he will forward it to Sean McCoy, who is Section Chief who will distribute it for processing.</p> <p>I asked about including an additional scoping letter requesting a formal process for converting the wetland, and Jack said he did not see that as helpful. They can't do anything formal until they have a proposal in front of them that can be distributed for comment and permitted.</p> <p>His gut feeling is that the way they would consider this would look at the function of the wetlands and the losses or increases involved. If compensatory mitigation was required it would not likely be for the entire site, but for the areas where losses occur (fill). A determination on requirements can't be made until there is a proposal for review.</p>		

ACTION REQUIRED:



Record of Conversation

WO#: 204700415		
PROJECT: Wasilla WWTP Effluent Discharge Outfall		
DATE: 03/21/2016	TIME: 3:39 PM	PHONE #: 753-2708
TALKED TO: Jack Hewitt, US Army Corp of Engineers, jack.j.hewitt@usace.army.mil		
BY: Stephanie Gould, Civil Engineer		
SUBJECT: Effluent Discharge Outfall Permitting		
<p>Called to let him know that a jurisdictional determination (JD) request is being submitted and ask if there is any benefit in doing the JD as a preliminary rather than a final.</p> <p>Left a message requesting a return call.</p> <p>10:13 AM March 22, 2016 Jack returned my call. I updated him on our need for a jurisdictional determination (JD) based on the discussions with the ADEC. He pulled up the site on Google Earth and we discussed if the submitted request should be for a preliminary or final determination. A final determination may need a field visit by the USACE during the growing season. A preliminary determination can be used in most permitting decisions so that is the recommended route.</p>		

ACTION REQUIRED:

**CITY OF WASILLA WASTEWATER OUTFALL FEASIBILITY STUDY
SCOPING SUMMARY REPORT**

Appendix 4 USACE Jurisdictional Determination
January 27, 2017

Appendix 4 USACE Jurisdictional Determination

**CITY OF WASILLA WASTEWATER OUTFALL FEASIBILITY STUDY
SCOPING SUMMARY REPORT**

Appendix 4 USACE Jurisdictional Determination
January 27, 2017



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ALASKA DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
REGULATORY DIVISION
P.O. BOX 6898
JBER, ALASKA 99506-0898

Regulatory Division
POA-2016-140

Mr. Archie Giddings
290 East Herning Avenue
Wasilla, Alaska 99654

Dear Mr. Giddings:

This letter is in response to your March 23, 2016 request for a Department of the Army (DA) jurisdictional determination for a parcel of land identified as Parcel 13935. The property is located within Section 13, T. 17 N., R. 1 W., Seward Meridian, USGS Map Anchorage C-7; at Latitude 61.5634° N., Longitude 149.3745° W.; Lot B1; Matanuska-Susitna Borough, 2900 East Jude Drive, in Wasilla, Alaska. Your project has been assigned number POA-2016-140, Cottonwood Creek, which should be referred to in all correspondence with us.

Based on our review of the information you provided and available to our office we have preliminarily determined the subject property contains waters of the U.S., and/or wetlands, under the Corps' regulatory jurisdiction. See the attached Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination (PJD) Form. Please sign and return the form to our office. A PJD is not appealable. At any time you have the right to request and obtain an Approved Jurisdictional Determination, which can be appealed. If it is your intent to request an Approved JD, do not begin work until one is obtained.

Department of the Army authorization is required if you propose to place dredged and/or fill material into waters of the U.S., including wetlands. You can find a copy of the DA permit application online at <http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>. You can refer to the sample drawing on our website at <http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/Portals/34/docs/regulatory/guidetodrawings2012.pdf>.

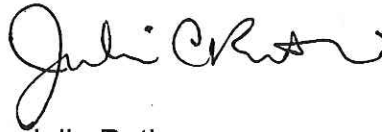
Section 404 of the Clean Water Act requires that a DA permit be obtained for the placement or discharge of dredged and/or fill material into waters of the U.S., including jurisdictional wetlands (33 U.S.C. 1344). The Corps defines wetlands as those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration

sufficient to support, and under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.

Nothing in this letter excuses you from compliance with other Federal, State, or local statutes, ordinances, or regulations.

If you have questions or to request a paper copy of the DA permit application, please contact me via email at Julie.C.Ruth@usace.army.mil, by mail at the address above, by phone at (907) 753-2735, or toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712. For more information about the Regulatory Program, please visit our website at <http://www.poa.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julie Ruth", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Julie Ruth
Regulatory Specialist

Enclosures

Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination Form

This preliminary JD find that there "may be" waters of the United States on the subject project site that could be affected by the proposed activity based on the following information:

District Office	Alaska District Office	File/ORM #	POA-2016-140	PJD Date	Mar 24, 2016		
State	AK	City/County	Wasilla	Name and Address of Person Requesting PJD Mr. Archie Giddings 290 East Herring Avenue Wasilla, Alaska 99654			
Nearest Waterbody	Cottonwood Creek						
Project Location	Section(s)	Township					
	13	17	N				
Meridian	Seward	Range	1	W			
USGS Quad Map	Anchorage C-7	Latitude	61.5634	N	Longitude	149.3745	W
Subdivision Name, Block, Lot, Directions to Project Site	Lot B1, Parcel 13935, take the Glenn Highway north to the George Parks Highway to Wasilla. Turn left (south) on Seward Meridian Parkway, right (west) on Old Matanuska Road, and left (west) on Jude Dr., 2900 E. Jude Dr., Wasilla AK 99654						

Identify (Estimate) Amount of Waters in the Review Area <u>Non-Wetland Waters:</u> Linear ft: <input type="text"/> Width: <input type="text"/> Acres: <input type="text"/>	Stream Flow <input type="text"/>	Name of Any Water Bodies on the Site Identified as Section 10 Waters: Tidal: <input type="text"/> Non-Tidal: <input type="text"/>
<u>Wetlands</u> Acres: <input type="text"/> Cowardin Class: <input type="text"/>	Wetlands 39 Acres Cowardin Class: Palustrine, forested	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Office (Desk) Determination Date of Site Visit: <input type="text"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Field Determination

SUPPORTING DATA: Data Review for Preliminary JD (check all that apply - checked items should be included in case file and, where checked and requested, appropriately reference sources below)

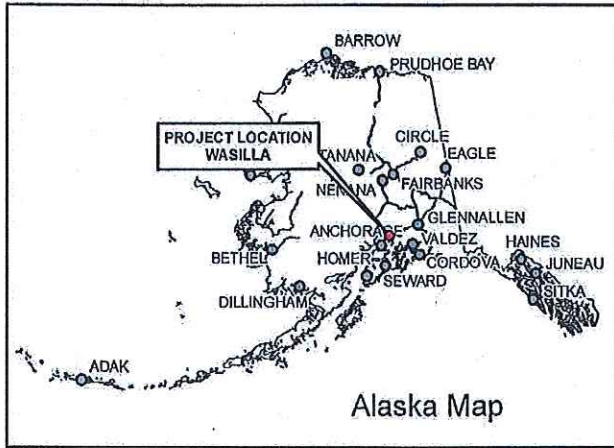
- Maps, plans, plots or plat submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant:
- Data sheets prepared/submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant.
 - Office concurs with data sheets/delineation report.
 - Office does not concur with data sheets/delineation report.
- Data Sheet prepared by the Corps
- Corps navigable waters' study:
- USGS NHD Data.
- USGS 8 and 12 digit HUC maps.
- U.S. Geological Survey map(s) Cite quad name:
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey. Citation:
- National Wetlands Inventory map(s):
- State/Local Wetland Inventory map(s):
- FEMA/FIRM map(s):
- 100-year Floodplain Elevation:
- Photographs:
 - Aerial (Name & Date)
 - Other (Name & Date)
- Previous determination(s). File # and date of response letter:
- Other Information:

IMPORTANT NOTE: The information recorded on this form has not necessarily been verified by the Corps and should not be relied upon for later jurisdictional determinations.

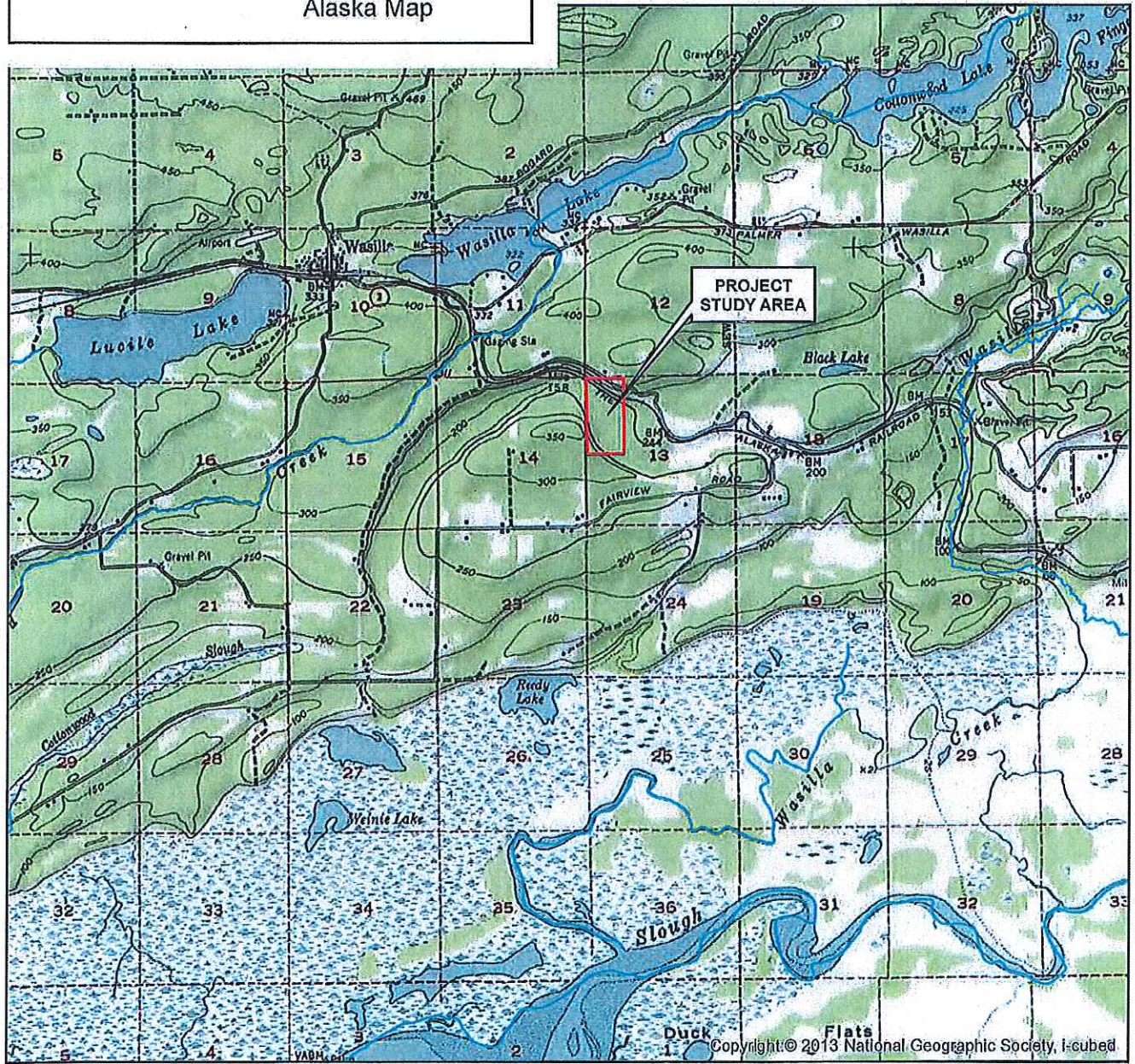
 3/24/2016
Signature and Date of Regulatory Project Manager
(REQUIRED)

Signature and Date of Person Requesting Preliminary JD
(REQUIRED, unless obtaining the signature is impracticable)

EXPLANATION OF PRELIMINARY AND APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATIONS: 1. The Corps of Engineers believes that there may be jurisdictional waters of the United States on the subject site, and the permit applicant or other affected party who requested this preliminary JD is hereby advised of his or her option to request and obtain an approved jurisdictional determination (JD) for that site. Nevertheless, the permit applicant or other person who requested this preliminary JD has declined to exercise the option to obtain an approved JD in this instance and at this time. 2. In any circumstance where a permit applicant obtains an individual permit, or a Nationwide General Permit (NWP) or other general permit verification requiring "preconstruction notification" (PCN), or requests verification for a non-reporting NWP or other general permit, and the permit applicant has not requested an approved JD for the activity, the permit applicant is hereby made aware of the following: (1) the permit applicant has elected to seek a permit authorization based on a preliminary JD, which does not make an official determination of jurisdictional waters; (2) that the applicant has the option to request an approved JD before accepting the terms and conditions of the permit authorization, and that basing a permit authorization on an approved JD could possibly result in less compensatory mitigation being required or different special conditions; (3) that the applicant has the right to request an individual permit rather than accepting the terms and conditions of the NWP or other general permit authorization; (4) that the applicant can accept a permit authorization and thereby agree to comply with all the terms and conditions of that permit, including whatever mitigation requirements the Corps has determined to be necessary; (5) that undertaking any activity in reliance upon the subject permit authorization without requesting an approved JD constitutes the applicant's acceptance of the use of the preliminary JD, but that either form of JD will be processed as soon as is practicable; (6) accepting a permit authorization (e.g., signing a proffered individual permit) or undertaking any activity in reliance on any form of Corps permit authorization based on a preliminary JD constitutes agreement that all wetlands and other water bodies on the site affected in any way by that activity are jurisdictional waters of the United States, and precludes any challenge to such jurisdiction in any administrative or judicial compliance or enforcement action, or in any administrative appeal or in any Federal court; and (7) whether the applicant elects to use either an approved JD or a preliminary JD, that JD will be processed as soon as is practicable. Further, an approved JD, a proffered individual permit (and all terms and conditions contained therein), or individual permit denial can be administratively appealed pursuant to 33 C.F.R. Part 331, and that in any administrative appeal, jurisdictional issues can be raised (see 33 C.F.R. 331.5(a)(2)). If, during that administrative appeal, it becomes necessary to make an official determination whether CWA jurisdiction exists over a site, or to provide an official delineation of jurisdictional waters on the site, the Corps will provide an approved JD to accomplish that result, as soon as is practicable.



Permit #: POA-2016-140
 Waterway: Cottonwood Creek
 Project: PJD
 Applicant: Archie Giddings
 Agent: City of Wasilla
 Date: 3/24/2016
 Page: 1 of 2



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Wasilla Wastewater Outfall Location & Vicinity Map

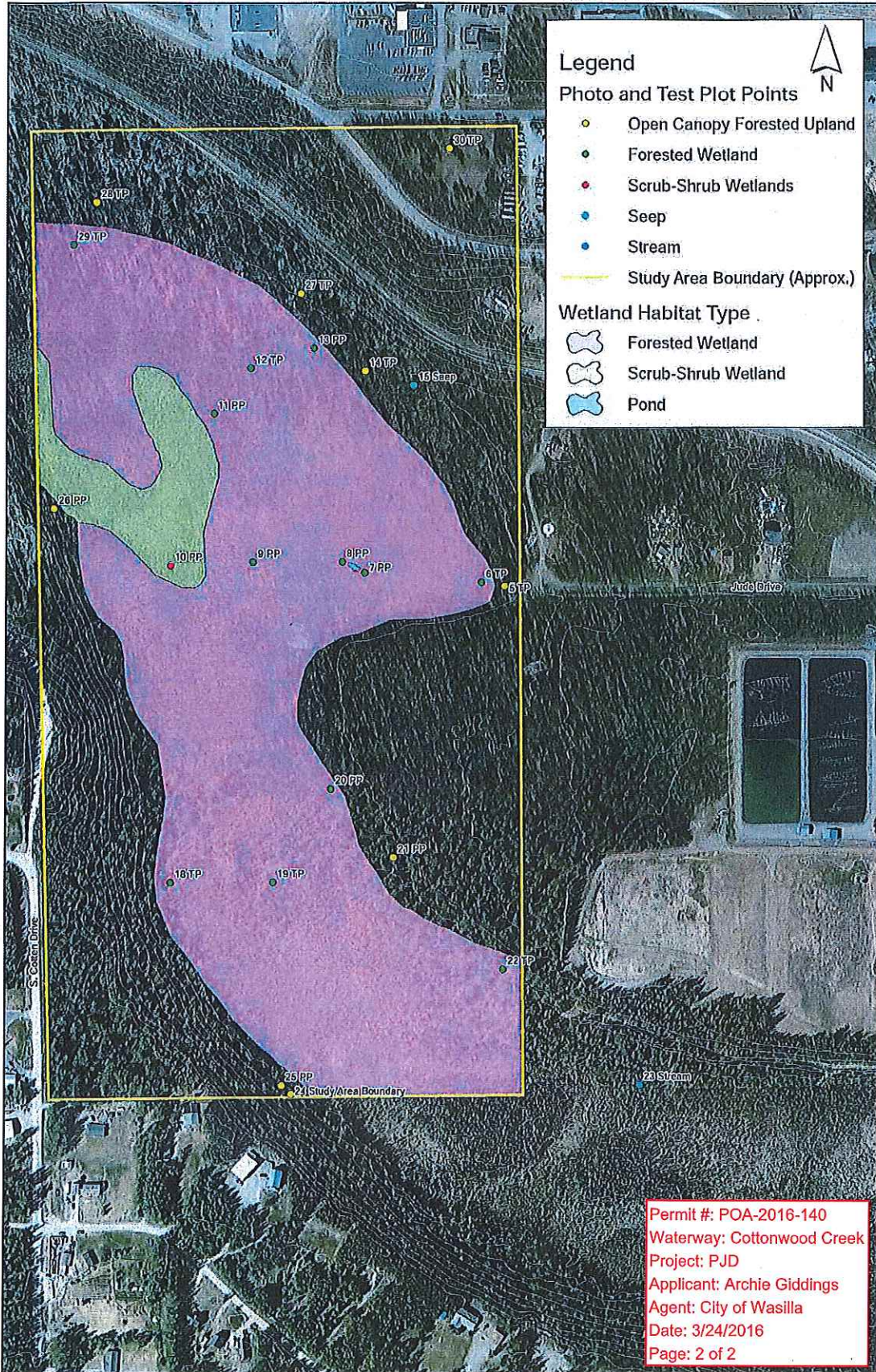
CITY OF WASILLA - WASILLA, ALASKA

Date	DEC 2014
Drawn	CDP
Checked	KDH/SL
Project No.	WO# 204700415

Figure
 1

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Legend

Photo and Test Plot Points

- Open Canopy Forested Upland
- Forested Wetland
- Scrub-Shrub Wetlands
- Seep
- Stream
- Study Area Boundary (Approx.)

Wetland Habitat Type

- Forested Wetland
- Scrub-Shrub Wetland
- Pond



Permit #: POA-2016-140
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 Date: 3/24/2016
 Page: 2 of 2

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Wasilla Wastewater Outfall
 Wetland Delineation
 CITY OF WASILLA - WASILLA, ALASKA

Date: DEC 2014
 Drawn: CDP
 Checked: ROHSL
 Project No.: WQ# 20170415

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 Figure
 2