

# NEBRASKA NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Water Sustainability Fund

Application for Funding

## Section A.

### ADMINISTRATIVE

PROJECT NAME: *Omaha CSO Program*

#### PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION

Entity Name: *City of Omaha*

Contact Name: *Robert Stubbe*

Address: *1819 Farnam St, Ste 601, Omaha NE 68183*

Phone: *402-444-5220*

Email: *robert.stubbe@cityofomaha.org*

Partners / Co-sponsors, if any: *34T*

1. Dollar amounts requested: (Grant, Loan, or Combination)

Grant amount requested. \$ *The City requests the max. amount allowed by law.*

Loan amount requested. \$ *34T*

If Loan, how many years repayment period? *34T*

If Loan, supply a complete year-by-year repayment schedule.  
*34T*

2. Permits Needed - Attach copy for each obtained (N/A = not applicable)

Nebraska Game & Parks Commission  
(G&P) consultation on Threatened and  
Endangered Species and their Habitat

N/A ☒ Obtained: YES ☐ NO ☐

Surface Water Right

N/A ☒ Obtained: YES ☐ NO ☐

USACE (e.g., 404 Permit) N/A ☒ Obtained: YES ☐ NO ☐

Cultural Resources Evaluation N/A ☒ Obtained: YES ☐ NO ☐

Other (provide explanation below) N/A ☒ Obtained: YES ☐ NO ☐  
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3. Are you applying for funding for a combined sewer over-flow project?

YES ☒ NO ☐

If yes, do you have a Long Term Control Plan that is currently approved by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality?

YES ☒ NO ☐

If yes attach a copy to your application. *Due to size limitations, the Executive Summary of our LTCP and the letter of approval from NDEQ are submitted along with this application. The full LTCP documents may be downloaded from the following site: <http://omahacso.com/resources/ltcpdocs/>*

If yes what is the population served by your project? *Approximately 780,000*

If yes provide a demonstration of need. *The federally mandated Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Program is currently anticipated to exceed \$2,000,000,000.00 in total program costs. The bulk of this cost is covered by the ratepayers – both residential and commercial – of the Omaha metropolitan area. About 60% of the cost burden is carried by the residential ratepayers. The typical residential monthly sewer fee has risen from \$10/month in 2006 to over \$50/month in 2018. Current projections indicate that the residential sewer rates will continue to rise at a rate that exceeds inflation through the life of the program. All of the data indicate that in particular, the low income and poverty-stricken areas of the community are heavily burdened by these sewer rates. Previously we have submitted a study completed in 2013 which provided this information. An updated study in draft form and under review by the City, the data in that draft report provides similar information on the burden of these increasing sewer rates on the community.*

If yes and you were approved for funding in the most recent funding cycle, then resubmit the above information updated annually but you need not complete the remainder of the application.

*A courtesy copy of Omaha's 2017 application is also included with this submission*

4. If you are or are representing an NRD, do you have an Integrated Management Plan in place, or have you initiated one?

N/A ☒ YES ☐ NO ☐

5. Has this application previously been submitted for funding assistance from the Water Sustainability Fund and not been funded?

YES ☐ NO ☒

If yes, have any changes been made to the application in comparison to the previously submitted application? 34T

If yes, describe the changes that have been made since the last application.  
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No, I certify the application is a true and exact copy of the previously submitted and scored application. (Signature required) 34T

6. Complete the following if your project has or will commence prior to next July 1<sup>st</sup>.

As of the date of submittal of this application, what is the Total Net Local Share of Expenses incurred for which you are asking cost share assistance from this fund? \$ *The City will be contributing a local match greater than the minimum required by Statute. A detail will be provided with the application claim.*

Attach all substantiating documentation such as invoices, cancelled checks etc. along with an itemized statement for these expenses. *Documentation will be provided along with the claim submitted after application approval.*

Estimate the Total Net Local Share of Expenses and a description of each you will incur between the date of submittal of this application and next July 1<sup>st</sup> for which you are asking cost share assistance from this fund.  
\$ 34T

## Section B.

### DNR DIRECTOR'S FINDINGS

Does your project include physical construction (defined as moving dirt, directing water, physically constructing something, or installing equipment)?

YES ☐ NO ☐

- 1(a). If yes (structural), submit a feasibility report (to comply with Title 261, CH 2) including engineering and technical data and the following information:

A discussion of the plan of development (004.01 A);  
34T

A description of all field investigations made to substantiate the feasibility report (004.01 B); 34T

Maps, drawings, charts, tables, etc., used as a basis for the feasibility report (004.01 C); 34T

A description of any necessary water and land rights and pertinent water supply and water quality information, if appropriate (004.01 D);  
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A discussion of each component of the final plan including, when applicable (004.01 E);

Required geologic investigation (004.01 E 1); 34T

Required hydrologic data (004.01 E 2); 34T

Design criteria for final design including, but not limited to, soil mechanics, hydraulic, hydrologic, structural, embankments and foundation criteria (004.01 E 3). 34T

- 1(b). If no (non-structural), submit data necessary to establish technical feasibility including, but not limited to the following (004.02):

A discussion of the plan of development (004.02 A);  
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A description of field or research investigations utilized to substantiate the project conception (004.02 B); 34T

A description of the necessary water and/or land rights, if applicable (004.02 C); 34T

A discussion of the anticipated effects, if any, of the project upon the development and/or operation of existing or envisioned structural measures including a brief description of any such measure (004.02 D). 34T

2. Provide evidence that there are no known means of accomplishing the same purpose or purposes more economically, by describing the next best alternative. 34T
3. Document all sources and report all costs and benefit data using current data, (commodity prices, recreation benefit prices, and wildlife prices as prescribed by the Director) using both dollar values and other units of measurement when appropriate (environmental, social, cultural, data improvement, etc.). The period of analysis for economic feasibility studies shall be fifty (50) years or with prior approval of the Director, up to one hundred (100) years [T261 CH 2 (005)].
  - Describe any relevant cost information including, but not limited to the engineering and inspection costs, capital construction costs, annual operation and maintenance costs, and replacement costs. Cost information shall also include the estimated construction period as well as the estimated project life (005.01). 34T
  - Only primary tangible benefits may be counted in providing the monetary benefit information and shall be displayed by year for the project life. In a multi-purpose project, estimate benefits for each purpose, by year, for the life of the project. Describe any intangible or secondary benefits separately. In a case where there is no generally accepted method for calculation of primary tangible benefits describe how the project will increase water sustainability, such that the economic feasibility of the project can be approved by the Director and the Commission (005.02). 34T
  - All benefit and cost data shall be presented in a table form to indicate the annual cash flow for the life of the proposal, not to exceed 100 years (005.03). 34T
  - In the case of projects for which there is no generally accepted method for calculation of primary tangible benefits and if the project will increase water sustainability, the economic feasibility of such proposal shall be demonstrated by such method as the Director and the Commission deem appropriate (005.04). 34T
4. Provide evidence that sufficient funds are available to complete the proposal. 34T

5. Provide evidence that sufficient annual revenue is available to repay the reimbursable costs and to cover OM&R (operate, maintain, and replace).  
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6. If a loan is involved, provide sufficient documentation to prove that the loan can be repaid during the repayment life of the proposal.  
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7. Describe how the plan of development minimizes impacts on the natural environment.  
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8. Explain how you are qualified, responsible and legally capable of carrying out the project for which you are seeking funds.  
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9. Explain how your project considers plans and programs of the state and resources development plans of the political subdivisions of the state.  
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10. Are land rights necessary to complete your project?

YES ☐ NO ☐

If yes, provide a complete listing of all lands involved in the project.  
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If yes, attach proof of ownership for each easements, rights-of-way and fee title currently held.  
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If yes, provide assurance that you can hold or can acquire title to all lands not currently held.  
34T

11. Identify how you possess all necessary authority to undertake or participate in the project. 34T
12. Identify the probable environmental and ecological consequences that may result as the result of the project. 34T

## Section C.

### NRC SCORING

In the NRC's scoring process, points will be given to each project in ranking the projects, with the total number of points determining the final project ranking list.

The following 15 criteria constitute the items for which points will be assigned. Point assignments will be 0, 2, 4, or 6 for items 1 through 8; and 0, 1, 2, or 3 for items 9 through 15. Two additional points will be awarded to projects which address issues determined by the NRC to be the result of a federal mandate.

#### **Notes:**

- The responses to one criterion will not be considered in the scoring of other criteria. Repeat references as needed to support documentation in each criterion as appropriate. The 15 categories are specified by statute and will be used to create scoring matrixes which will ultimately determine which projects receive funding.
- There is a total of 69 possible points, plus two bonus points. The potential number of points awarded for each criteria are noted in parenthesis. Once points are assigned, they will be added to determine a final score. The scores will determine ranking.
- The Commission recommends providing the requested information and the requests are not intended to limit the information an applicant may provide. An applicant should include additional information that is believed will assist the Commission in understanding a proposal so that it can be awarded the points to which it is entitled.

Complete any of the following (15) criteria which apply to your project. Your response will be reviewed and scored by the NRC. Place an N/A (not applicable) in any that do not apply, an N/A will automatically be placed in any response fields left blank.

1. Remediates or mitigates threats to drinking water;
  - Describe the specific threats to drinking water the project will address.
  - Identify whose drinking water, how many people are affected, how will project remediate or mitigate.
  - Provide a history of issues and tried solutions.
  - Provide detail regarding long range impacts if issues are not resolved.

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2. Meets the goals and objectives of an approved integrated management plan or ground water management plan;
  - Identify the specific plan that is being referenced including date, who issued it and whether it is an IMP or GW management plan.
  - Provide the history of work completed to achieve the goals of this plan.
  - List which goals and objectives of the management plan the project provides benefits for and how the project provides those benefits.

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3. Contributes to water sustainability goals by increasing aquifer recharge, reducing aquifer depletion, or increasing streamflow;

List the following information that is applicable:

- The location, area and amount of recharge;
- The location, area and amount that aquifer depletion will be reduced;
- The reach, amount and timing of increased streamflow. Describe how the project will meet these objectives and what the source of the water is;
- Provide a detailed listing of cross basin benefits, if any.

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4. Contributes to multiple water supply goals, including, but not limited to, flood control, agricultural use, municipal and industrial uses, recreational benefits, wildlife habitat, conservation of water resources, and preservation of water resources;
  - List the goals the project provides benefits.
  - Describe how the project will provide these benefits
  - Provide a long range forecast of the expected benefits this project could have versus continuing on current path.

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5. Maximizes the beneficial use of Nebraska's water resources for the benefit of the state's residents;
  - Describe how the project will maximize the increased beneficial use of Nebraska's water resources.
  - Describe the beneficial uses that will be reduced, if any.
  - Describe how the project provides a beneficial impact to the state's residents.

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6. Is cost-effective;

- List the estimated construction costs, O/M costs, land and water acquisition costs, alternative options, value of benefits gained.
- Compare these costs to other methods of achieving the same benefits.
- List the costs of the project.
- Describe how it is a cost effective project or alternative.

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7. Helps the state meet its obligations under interstate compacts, decrees, or other state contracts or agreements or federal law;

- Identify the interstate compact, decree, state contract or agreement or federal law.
- Describe how the project will help the state meet its obligations under compacts, decrees, state contracts or agreements or federal law.
- Describe current deficiencies and document how the project will reduce deficiencies.

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8. Reduces threats to property damage or protects critical infrastructure that consists of the physical assets, systems, and networks vital to the state or the United States such that their incapacitation would have a debilitating effect on public security or public health and safety;

- Identify the property that the project is intended to reduce threats to.
- Describe and quantify reductions in threats to critical infrastructure provided by the project and how the infrastructure is vital to Nebraska or the United States.
- Identify the potential value of cost savings resulting from completion of the project.
- Describe the benefits for public security, public health and safety.

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9. Improves water quality;

- Describe what quality issue(s) is/are to be improved.
- Describe and quantify how the project improves water quality, what is the target area, what is the population or acreage receiving benefits, what is the usage of the water: residential, industrial, agriculture or recreational.
- Describe other possible solutions to remedy this issue.
- Describe the history of the water quality issue including previous attempts to remedy the problem and the results obtained.

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10. Has utilized all available funding resources of the local jurisdiction to support the program, project, or activity;

- Identify the local jurisdiction that supports the project.
- List current property tax levy, valuations, or other sources of revenue for the sponsoring entity.
- List other funding sources for the project.

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11. Has a local jurisdiction with plans in place that support sustainable water use;

- List the local jurisdiction and identify specific plans being referenced that are in place to support sustainable water use.
- Provide the history of work completed to achieve the goals of these plans.
- List which goals and objectives this project will provide benefits for and how this project supports or contributes to those plans.
- Describe and quantify how the project supports sustainable water use, what is the target area, what is the population or acreage receiving benefits, what is the usage of the water: residential, industrial, agriculture or recreational.
- List all stakeholders involved in project.
- Identify who benefits from this project.

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12. Addresses a statewide problem or issue;

- List the issues or problems addressed by the project and why they should be considered statewide.
- Describe how the project will address each issue and/or problem.
- Describe the total number of people and/or total number of acres that would receive benefits.
- Identify the benefit, to the state, this project would provide.

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13. Contributes to the state's ability to leverage state dollars with local or federal government partners or other partners to maximize the use of its resources;

- List other funding sources or other partners, and the amount each will contribute, in a funding matrix.
- Describe how each source of funding is made available if the project is funded.

- Provide a copy or evidence of each commitment, for each separate source, of match dollars and funding partners.
- Describe how you will proceed if other funding sources do not come through.

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14. Contributes to watershed health and function;

- Describe how the project will contribute to watershed health and function in detail and list all of the watersheds affected.

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15. Uses objectives described in the annual report and plan of work for the state water planning and review process issued by the department.

- Identify the date of the Annual Report utilized.
- List any and all objectives of the Annual Report intended to be met by the project
- Explain how the project meets each objective.

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16. Federal Mandate Bonus. If you believe that your project is designed to meet the requirements of a federal mandate which furthers the goals of the WSF, then:

- Describe the federal mandate.
- Provide documentary evidence of the federal mandate.
- Describe how the project meets the requirements of the federal mandate.
- Describe the relationship between the federal mandate and how the project furthers the goals of water sustainability.

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## Section D.

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

#### 1. Overview

In 1,000 characters or less, provide a brief description of your project including the nature and purpose of the project and objectives of the project.

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#### 2. Project Tasks and Timeline

Identify what activities will be conducted by the project. For multiyear projects please list what activities are to be completed each year.

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#### 3. Partnerships

Identify the roles and responsibilities of agencies and groups involved in the proposed project regardless of whether each is an additional funding source. List any other sources of funding that have been approached for project support and that have officially turned you down. Attach the rejection letter.

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#### 4. Other Sources of Funding

Identify the costs of the entire project, what costs each other source of funding will be applied to, and whether each of these other sources of funding is confirmed. If not, please identify those entities and list the date when confirmation is expected. Explain how you will implement the project if these sources are not obtained.

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#### 5. Support/Opposition

Discuss both support and opposition to the project, including the group or interest each represents.

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