

An Addendum to the Application

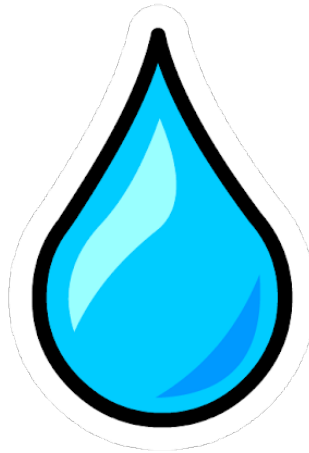
for an

Idaho Community Development Block Grant

PUBLIC FACILITY GRANT

By the

City of Bliss, Idaho



for a

Water System Improvement Project

March 5, 2021

Chris Pruett, Mayor

City of Bliss
P.O. Box 102
Bliss, ID 83314-0102
(208)352-1117 Fax (208)352-1117

March 3, 2021

Tom Kealey, Director
Idaho Department of Commerce
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83270-0092

Re: Idaho Community Development Block Grant Addendum – Water Project

Dear Director Kealey:

The City of Bliss is very pleased to provide this addendum response in support of our Idaho Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) application for the improvements to our water system. This is a very critical project for our community, and we are thrilled you have considered supporting us in our efforts.

These proposed improvements are necessary to bring our water system into compliance with regulatory standards, improve efficiencies, and protect the health and safety of the system and the customers we serve.

We will begin our addendum response by addressing the issues identified in the letter we received from Dennis Porter, ICDBG Program Manager dated February 2, 2021. We will then address each of the items identified in the Addendum Checklist that was attached with his letter.

Has the City been granted judicial confirmation? If so, provide the executed Judgement.

Yes. On January 26, 2021, the Honorable Rosemary Emory, District Judge of the Fifth Judicial District, Gooding County, issued a Judgement that the improvements to the City's domestic water system is a valid "ordinary and necessary expense". Copies of the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, as well as the Judgement issued by Judge Emory are included in Exhibit 1 of this addendum response.

Identify in writing any changes to the project's scope of work from the original application.

There are no changes to the scope of work as outlined in the City's original ICDBG application that was submitted to the Idaho Department of Commerce on November 20, 2020. As outlined in our application, the City of Bliss retained the services of J-U-B

Engineers to conduct a feasibility study of its municipal water system. As a result of conducting this study, there were several system violations and inefficiencies that require the City's immediate attention. Specifically, the City must construct a new well source for redundancy, upgrade the chlorinator system, install a backup power source (generator), and replace failing pumps at the booster station. These critical issues pose serious health and safety issues for the residents and businesses in Bliss. These improvements are vital to keep our municipal water system safe and operational.

Updated: All pages must be submitted regardless if the information has changed or not.

Application Information Page.

Budget Page.

EAC Briefing Page.

Project Schedule Page. Re-examine the project schedule to ensure all actions, permits, winter shutdown, acquisition and reviews have been determined and scheduled.

The Application Information Page, ICDBG Budget Page, EAC Briefing Page, and Project Schedule page have been updated and are enclosed as Exhibit 2 of this addendum response.

Design Professional Cost Estimate – If it is felt that the cost estimate submitted with the November application is still valid then it's not necessary to submit an updated cost estimate. If there is likely a significant change to expected project cost (> 5%) then submit an updated cost estimate.

There are no expected changes in the cost estimates for this project. The City believes the cost estimates provided in the November 2020 ICDBG application are still current and valid. Please reference the updated information provided in Exhibit 2.

If not provided in the initial application, provide written evidence of the community's ability to secure local and other match funds committed to the project. Evidence must be a commitment letter or executed loan / grant agreement from the agency providing the matching funds.

As previously referenced, on January 26, 2021, the Honorable Rosemary Emory, District Judge of the Fifth Judicial District, Gooding County, issued a Judgement that the improvements to the City's domestic water system is a valid "ordinary and necessary expense". Evidence of this finding is provided in Exhibit 1. As a result of this judgment, the City of Bliss is in the process of applying for financing through USDA-Rural Development. The City is working with Region IV Development staff and USDA-RD to complete the application process. At the time of this addendum response, the City is still working through the application process. It is the hope of the City to have an approval within the next 90-120 days. USDA-RD has provided a Letter of Support that is provided in Exhibit 3. A financial commitment letter pledging \$900,000 in funding toward this project was provided in Exhibit 1 of the application that was submitted to the Idaho Department of Commerce on November 20, 2020. The City is still committed to this financing. A copy of this commitment letter is provided again for your convenience in Exhibit 3.

If the project involves a building provide documentation of ownership and title to the subject building. This does not include buildings that are part of a water or sewer system, i.e. pump house.

Not applicable. The project does not involve the construction or remodel of a building; therefore, this criterion does not apply to this project.

Provide documentation that a Fair Housing Resolution has been adopted before the addendum deadline of March 5, 2021. If unable to meet the deadline due to time constraints, identify the expected date that the resolution will be adopted.

Fair Housing Resolution 2020-30 was adopted by the City of Bliss at the November 18, 2020 City Council meeting. A copy of this resolution was provided in Exhibit 5 of the grant application and is provided again for your convenience this Addendum response as Exhibit 4.

Submit city or county's most current audited financial statements.

The City of Bliss' most recently audited financial statements dated September 30, 2020 was submitted electronically to the Idaho Department of Commerce on February 22, 2021.

Once again, the City of Bliss is very grateful that you are considering our project for funding. If you should have any questions or concerns regarding our project, please feel free to contact me or our grant administrator, Adeanna Jenkins with Region IV Development Association, Inc. at (208) 732-5727 ext. 3008. Thank you again for your time and consideration of our grant request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Pruett". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Chris Pruett, Mayor

EXHIBIT 1

STEPHANIE J. BONNEY ISB #6037
MSBT LAW, CHTD.
7699 W. Riverside Drive
Boise, Idaho 83714
Telephone: (208) 331-1800
Facsimile: (208) 331-1202
E-mail: sjb@msbtlaw.com

Attorneys for Petitioner

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE
STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF GOODING

In re:)	
)	Case No. CV24-20-00671
)	
THE CITY OF BLISS,)	FINDINGS OF FACT AND
An Idaho municipal corporation,)	CONCLUSIONS OF LAW
)	
_____ Petitioner.)	

This matter having come on duly and regularly before this Court for hearing on January 26, 2021, and Petitioner having submitted a verified Petition for Judicial Confirmation (“Petition”), a memorandum of law and affidavits in support of its Petition, and it appearing that proper notice of the filing of the Petition for Judicial Confirmation has been given as provided in Title 7, Chapter 13, Idaho Code, and the Court having examined the allegations of the Petition, the memorandum of law, the affidavits in support and the exhibits annexed thereto, and the matter having been fully submitted; the Court, being fully advised in the premises, now makes the following:

FINDINGS OF FACT

I.

Petitioner, City of Bliss, Gooding County, Idaho (the “Petitioner”), is a political subdivision within the definition contained in Section 7-1303(6), Idaho Code, and has filed this

action pursuant to Sections 7-1301, et seq., Idaho Code (the “Judicial Confirmation Law”), seeking judicial confirmation of the validity of the issuance of its promissory note or other evidence of indebtedness, whereby Petitioner seeks to borrow funds for improvements to Petitioner’s domestic water system, to cause to be issued its promissory note or other evidence of indebtedness, and pledge the net revenues of its domestic water system and other lawfully available funds of Petitioner to the payment thereof.

II.

Pursuant to Section 7-1304, Idaho Code, the City Council (the “Council”) of Petitioner, on October 28, 2020, held and conducted a public hearing to consider whether it should adopt a resolution authorizing the filing of a petition under the Judicial Confirmation Law. A notice of the public hearing, in the form and content described in Section 7-1306(2), Idaho Code, setting forth the time, place, and summary of the matter, was published once in *The Times News*, a newspaper of general circulation within Petitioner’s boundaries and the official newspaper of Petitioner, at least fifteen (15) days prior to the public hearing. Following the public hearing, and after the passage of at least fourteen (14) days, the Council, on November 18, 2020, adopted Resolution No. 2020-29, authorizing the filing of a petition for judicial confirmation and making certain findings and determinations.

III.

Pursuant to Sections 7-1305 and 7-1306, Idaho Code, notice of the filing of the Petition for Judicial Confirmation was duly served by publication once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks by three (3) weekly insertions in *The Times News*, and by posting in a prominent place at or near the main door of the administrative office of Petitioner at least thirty (30) days prior to the date fixed in the notice of hearing on the Petition, all as more fully shown by the Affidavit of Kacy

Bradshaw and the Affidavit of Publication on file herein.

IV.

Petitioner has submitted with its Petition for Judicial Confirmation an Affidavit of City Clerk Kacy Bradshaw with exhibits, an Affidavit of Stephanie J. Bonney with exhibits, an Affidavit of Publication with an exhibit, and an Affidavit of City Engineer Gary Haderlie, P.E. with exhibits. Petitioner's proof was unopposed and the documents are conclusively deemed to be true and correct in accordance with their terms.

V.

Petitioner owns, maintains, and operates, and has for many years owned, maintained, and operated, pursuant to Title 50, Chapters 3 and 10, Idaho Code, a domestic water system for the provision of water services to its residents. The City is the sole provider of domestic water services in Bliss, Idaho.

The distribution portion of the system consists of approximately 7 miles of 4- to 12-inch diameter pipe, a booster pump installed in 1979, and another booster pump added in 2000, together with a storage tank. Prior to 2017, the City had two water supply wells, but in 2017, the City lost the use of one of the wells, which was owned by the Union Pacific Railroad, after the Railroad unexpectedly terminated the City's use of the well.

VI.

In order to determine the improvements needed to comply with environmental regulations following the loss of the well, J-U-B Engineers was retained to assess the ability of the existing system to meet present demand, together with the current performance of the system and its components with respect to standards established by the State of Idaho through its Department of Environmental Quality ("DEQ") and the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA").

The engineer review determined that the City's system is in need of upgrades to address critical issues with the water system. Raising public health and safety concerns, Haderlie recommended that the City immediately undertake the Project, which consists of installing a new groundwater well, upgrading the chlorine system for the additional water supply, providing a backup power source, and repairing failing pumps at the booster station, together with other related and ancillary items.

The critical issues identified in the Affidavit of Haderlie pose a serious health and safety risk for the City's inhabitants. The issues also create potential legal liability for the City.

VII.

Based on the available information, Petitioner's Mayor and Council determined that the City immediately needed to implement the Project in order to keep the System viable and functioning.

The improvements will be installed in accordance with DEQ requirements. Such improvements to the System are necessary for the purpose of preserving the health, safety, and welfare of the Petitioner's population.

VIII.

The total cost of the Project has been estimated as \$1,400,000. Petitioner does not have funds available to it within its present budget to meet the cost of the Project, and has determined that such cost must be financed over a term of years from the revenues of the System and other lawfully available funds of Petitioner.

IX.

Petitioner has determined to finance the cost of the Project by entering into a loan obligation, pursuant to which the Petitioner will borrow the funds required to finance the Project,

and the Petitioner will issue its promissory note or other evidence of such indebtedness and will repay the loan over a term of years from system revenues together with other lawfully available funds of Petitioner.

X.

The loan, promissory note, or other evidence of indebtedness thereof, would constitute an indebtedness of Petitioner extending beyond its current year's revenues. Petitioner has not sought or obtained an approving vote of the electors at a special election called for the purpose of approving such indebtedness.

XI.

Article 8, Section 3, of the Idaho Constitution provides, in relevant part, that no county, city, or other political subdivision shall incur any indebtedness or liability, in any manner or for any purpose, exceeding in that year the income and revenue provided to it for such year, without the assent of two-thirds (or, in the case of certain revenue bonds, the assent of the majority) of the qualified electors thereof voting at an election held for that purpose, but said Article 8, Section 3, contains the following exception: "provided, that this section shall not be construed to apply to the ordinary and necessary expenses authorized by the general laws of the state"

XII.

Petitioner, by and through its Council, has determined that the proposed loan obligation for the financing of the Project constitutes an "ordinary and necessary expense" of Petitioner within the meaning of the above-quoted proviso to Article 8, Section 3, Idaho Constitution, for which no approving vote of the electors is required. This determination is based upon the following factor: the legal issue, arising under Article 8, Section 3, Idaho Constitution, as to whether or not the proposed loan obligation and any promissory note or other obligation evidencing such obligation

constitutes an “ordinary and necessary expense” of Petitioner, authorized by the general laws of the State, for which an approving vote of the electors is not required.

XIII.

Petitioner’s Council has determined that the loan obligation may be validly secured by Petitioner’s execution of a proposed loan obligation, by the issue of its promissory note and by repayment of the same from its System revenues and other lawfully available funds of Petitioner.

Based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact, the Court now makes the following:

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

I.

Proceedings under the Judicial Confirmation Law, Title 7, Chapter 13, Idaho Code, are proceedings in rem, and jurisdiction of the subject matter and of all interested parties is lawfully obtained through publication and posting as provided therein. Publication and posting as authorized by the Judicial Confirmation Law is a valid method of vesting jurisdiction of this Court over all interested parties and over the subject matter.

II.

Jurisdiction of this Court over the subject matter of the Petition for Judicial Confirmation and over all interested parties has, as a matter of law, been obtained herein by publication and posting as provided by law.

III.

The Judicial Confirmation Law is valid and constitutional.

IV.

The allegations of the Petition for Judicial Confirmation are deemed to be admitted by all interested parties who failed to appear in objection thereto. This Court is authorized to render the

judgment as prayed for in Petitioner's Petition for Judicial Confirmation and as set forth hereinafter.

V.

The Project proposed by Petitioner, and the indebtedness proposed to be incurred therefor, meets the criteria articulated by the Idaho Supreme Court to qualify under the "ordinary and necessary expenses" exception to Article 8, Section 3, Idaho Constitution.

VI.

As "ordinary and necessary expenses" within the meaning of Article 8, Section 3, Idaho Constitution, no approval of the electors of Petitioner at a special election called for such purpose is required.

VII.

The loan obligation, when duly executed by Petitioner and a third party, and the promissory note when issued pursuant thereto will be valid and binding special obligations of Petitioner, payable in accordance with its terms.

VIII.

Petitioner may validly pledge its domestic water system revenues and other lawfully available funds of Petitioner appropriated by Petitioner for such purpose, as security for its required payments under the loan obligation.

Based on the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and good cause appearing therefor,

THE COURT HEREBY DIRECTS that Judgment be entered in accordance with the Petition for Judicial Confirmation, to the effect that the proposed loan obligation will constitute a valid, binding, and enforceable obligation of Petitioner and may be entered into and performed in accordance with its terms.

DATED this 26th day of January, 2021.

1/26/2021 03:05 PM



Honorable Rosemary Emory
District Judge

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on 26th, January, 2021, I served a true and correct copy of the within and foregoing **FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW** upon the individual or office named below in the matter noted:

Stephanie J. Bonney
MSBT Law, Chtd.
7699 W. Riverside Drive
Boise, ID 83714
Email: sjb@msbtlaw.com

Via iCourt

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A Cooke". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Deputy Clerk

STEPHANIE J. BONNEY ISB #6037
MSBT LAW, CHARTERED
7699 W. Riverside Drive
Boise, Idaho 83714
Telephone: (208) 331-1800
Facsimile: (208) 331-1202
e-mail: sjb@msbtlaw.com

Attorneys for Petitioner

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE
STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF GOODING

In re:)	
)	Case No. CV24-20-00671
THE CITY OF BLISS,)	
an Idaho municipal corporation,)	JUDGMENT
)	
)	
Petitioner.)	
_____)	

JUDGMENT IS ENTERED AS FOLLOWS:

(1) The Judicial Confirmation Law, Title 7, Chapter 13, Idaho Code, is valid and constitutional;

(2) The proposed indebtedness of the City of Bliss, Idaho for improvements to its domestic water system in an amount of approximately \$1,400,000 constitutes a valid “ordinary and necessary expense” within the meaning of Article 8, Section 3, Idaho Constitution, for which no approval of the City’s electors is required;

(3) Evidence of the proposed indebtedness, when duly executed and delivered, will, when executed, issued, and delivered to a third party, constitute a valid and enforceable special obligation of the Petitioner, enforceable in accordance with its terms;

(4) The City may validly pledge its water revenues and other lawfully available funds of the City appropriated by the City Council for such purpose as security for the payments required under a loan agreement and/or promissory note issued pursuant thereto; and

(5) The Judgment is entered as to all claims for relief. With respect to the issues determined by the above judgment or order it is hereby CERTIFIED, in accordance with Rule 54(b), I.R.C.P., that the court has determined that there is no just reason for delay of the entry of a final judgment and that the court has and does hereby direct that the above judgment or order shall be a final judgment upon which execution may issue and an appeal may be taken as provided by the Idaho Appellate Rules.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED this 26th day of January, 2021.

1/26/2021 03:48 PM



Honorable Rosemary Emory
District Judge

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on **26th**, January, 2021, I served a true and correct copy of the within and foregoing **JUDGMENT** upon the individual or office named below in the matter noted:

Stephanie J. Bonney
MSBT Law, Chtd.
7699 W. Riverside Drive
Boise, ID 83714
Email: sjb@msbtlaw.com

Via iCourt

Deputy Clerk

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A Cooke". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line that serves as a signature line.

EXHIBIT 2

ICDBG Application Information Form

Applicant (County): City of Bliss Chief Elected Official: Mayor Chris Pruett
 Address: 165 E Kentucky St, Bliss, ID 83314 Phone: (208) 320-1387
 Email Address: clpruett@mindspring.com
 DUNS # 039-04-1772 CAGE Code 5R5B1

Application Prepared by: Region IV Development – Adeanna Jenkins Phone: (208) 732-5727
 Address: P.O box 5079 (202 Falls Ave.), Twin Falls, ID 83303-5079

Engineer: Hattie Zobott, P.E. J-U-B Engineers, Inc.
 Address: 115 Northstar Ave, Twin Falls, ID 83301 Phone: 208-733-2414

NATIONAL OBJECTIVE (MARK ONE)

LMI Area LMI Clientele Imminent Threat
 LMI Jobs Slum & Blight LMI Housing

PROJECT TYPE (MARK ONE)

Public Facility Imminent Threat
 Infrastructure for Jobs Senior Center
 Downtown Revitalize Public Park
 Community Center

PROJECT POPULATION TO BENEFIT (PERSONS): Census

TOTAL # TO BENEFIT: 345

TOTAL # LMI TO BENEFIT: 260 **LMI TO BENEFIT:** 75.4%

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The City of Bliss is preparing to make improvements to its municipal water system. Specifically, the project will include the development of a new well and well house, new chlorination system, installation of VFD to pump, booster station repairs, replacing damaged pumps, and upgrading the SCADA system. Included in the project costs are engineering and grant administration services.

SOURCE	AMOUNT	FUNDS COMMITTED/ CONTRACT AWARD DATE	DOCUMENTATION IN EXHIBIT
ICDBG	\$ 500,000		
Local Cash			
Local Loan*	\$ 675,000	Pending	1
Local In-Kind**			
USDA-RD Grant	\$ 225,000	Pending	1
State Grant			
Foundation Grant			
Private Investment			
Other (identify)			
TOTAL PROJECT FINANCING	\$ 1,400,000		

* Identify Loan Source(s): USDA-RD and/or IDEQ (Pending)

Date Bond or Necessary and Ordinary Passed Pending: – Judicial Confirmation to be completed by January 31, 2020

**Identify which Exhibit corresponding documentation is in. Documentation should be a letter from the appropriate source.

Economic Advisory Council Page

The City of Bliss is located in South-central Idaho in the southwestern area of Gooding County. It sits approximately 40 miles northwest of the City of Twin Falls. The community is located along Interstate-84 (I-84) and State Highway 30. The City of Bliss owns and operates the water supply, storage and distribution system that serves approximately 345 people.

The City's water system was originally constructed to provide water for the steam locomotives operating along the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) mainlines and included two wells and a storage tank. As the town expanded, a distribution system was added. Then, in 1960 the water system was donated to the City of Bliss.

In 2016, the City began the process of conducting a feasibility study of its municipal water system. In 2017, while conducting this study, UPRR notified the City that they would no longer be able to utilize one of the system's wells, as this well was still owned by the railroad and served as the system's required secondary, redundant source. The Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) was adjusted to reflect this significant change before it was completed in 2018. The PER documented other critical regulatory violations and inefficiencies within water system such as the lack of back-up power source and insufficient fire flow. To make matters even worse, a power outage in 2019 caused serious damage to the booster station pumps and electronic components. In short, the City's municipal water system needs to make immediate and significant upgrades. The City's proposed project will include the following components:

- ◆ Development of a secondary well source to provide system redundancy.
 - ◆ Install a chlorination system for the new secondary well source.
 - ◆ Upgrade controls at the primary well site to improve flow rates and pressures and provide energy cost savings.
 - ◆ Purchase and install a backup generator.
 - ◆ Booster station upgrades will replace damaged, worn, and outdated equipment.
 - ◆ Fire protection improvements.
- * Land acquisition, engineering, and project administration services are also included in the project scope.

These proposed improvements are necessary to bring the City of Bliss's system into compliance with regulatory standards, improve efficiencies, and protect the health and safety of the water system and the customers they serve. However, this is more than the water system users can afford; especially, as it is reported by HUD that the City of Bliss has a population that is 75.4% low-to-moderate income (LMI).

The proposed improvements are estimated to cost \$1.4 million. The City of Bliss is seeking bonding authority through the judicial confirmation process. They have obtained legal counsel and hope to have this process completed by January 2021. The City seek the help of USDA-Rural Development in financing \$900,000 (\$675,000 loan and \$225,000 grant). This leaves a \$500,000 funding gap. For this reason, the City of Bliss is seeking the help of the Idaho Community Development Block grant program to complete these vital improvements while keeping monthly user rates affordable for their citizens.

Idaho Community Development Block Grant Budget Form

Bliss Water System Improvement Project									
As of March 5, 2021									
Line Items	ICDBG	Cash	City In-Kind	USDA-RD Loan	USDA-RD Grant	Private Cash	Private In-Kind	Total	
Planning								\$ -	0%
Facilities Plan								\$ -	0%
Administration	\$ 50,000			\$ 31,000				\$ 81,000	6%
Design Professional	\$ 173,000							\$ 173,000	12%
Acquisition								\$ -	0%
Soft Cost								\$ -	0%
Construction	\$ 277,000			\$ 626,000	\$ 225,000			\$ 1,128,000	81%
Materials/Equipment								\$ -	0%
Financing Expenses								\$ -	0%
Legal				\$ 18,000				\$ 18,000	1%
Property Value								\$ -	0%
TOTAL COSTS	\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 675,000	\$ 225,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,400,000	
	36%	0%	0%	48%	16%	0%	0%		

* The City of Bliss is seeking bonding authority through the judicial confirmation process. At this time, the best option for the City is to utilize the loan program through USDA-Rural Development.

Detailed Cost Analysis

1. Have plans and specs been submitted to regulatory agencies for review? ___ Yes X No
 If yes, list date submitted: _____
 If no, list expected date to be submitted: December 2021

2. Will project include bid alternatives to meet project budget if necessary? X Yes ___ No

3. Are Davis Bacon wage rates applicable to the project? X Yes ___ No
 If yes, are they included in the project costs? X Yes ___ No

4. Design Professional Cost Estimate are provided in the Memorandum update dated November 17, 2020 and is available in Exhibit 7.

Project Schedule

Project Activity	Date (to be) Completed	Documentation in Application Exhibit	Documentation in Application Exhibit
Design Professional Contract Executed	December 2020	9	
Grant Administration Contract Executed	May 2021	4	
Environmental Release	June 2021		
Bid Document Approval	December 2021		
Bid Opening	January 2022		
Construction Contract Executed	February 2022		
Start Construction	March 2022		
Construction 50% Complete	June 2022		
Second Public Hearing	July 2022		
Certificate of Substantial Completion	August 2022		
Update Fair Housing Plan	August 2022	5	4
Update 504 Review and Transition Plan	August 2022	5	
LEP Four Factor Analysis	August 2022		
Construction 100% Complete	September 2022		
Final Closeout	December 2022		

EXHIBIT 3



February 18, 2021

Ms. Adeanna Jenkins
Community Development Planner
Region IV Development
PO Box 5079
Twin Falls, ID 83303

Dear Ms. Jenkins:

This letter is in support of the City of Bliss efforts to gain Idaho Community Development Block Grant funding for their water improvement project.

The Facility Plan and Environmental Information Document have been completed and a project alternative chosen by the City. USDA is currently underwriting the request and hope to have a favorable funding package put together within the next 45 days.

The proposed improvements will provide for needed ground water source redundancy, backup power supply for the booster station, booster pump upgrades, improvement to the existing well, pressure control upgrades, and SCADA upgrades.

The project will develop new 40 HP well within 300ft of the existing dedicated distribution line and install a new VFD on Well #2. The new well will include a backup generator, wellhouse, pump, and VFD to control flows. This new well combined with the existing well will meet the current max day demand and equalization storage.

The chlorine system will need to be upgraded with a new sodium hypochlorite system to support the increased water supply. A metering pump, piping, valves, and injection equipment will be installed. The metering pump will be connected to the SCADA system for control of the injection rate to match variable flow rates. Backup power will be installed on the new well and the existing booster station as required for redundancy.

The drinking water control system will be upgraded to interface with the improved drinking water system. The flow meter will be properly configured and connected to the control system. The new well, backup power, and chlorination system would also be managed by the new control system. The project will include the replacement of the damaged and failing pumps. A VFD will be installed on larger pumps as needed. A pressure relief bypass will also be installed to improve reliability and reduce risk of system failure. The city has a waste system and the proposed well site can have French drains or local drainage into the existing system.

RD is planning to put together a financing package that will put user rates in the \$50-\$55 range per EDU. User rates factor in system O&M costs, debt service and reserve, and an allocation for short lived assets. It is RD's goal to create a sustainable water system for rural communities with affordable, but fair, user rates. With the assistance of additional funding partners including ICDBG and USDA-RD it will be possible to fund this needed project.

Positive consideration of the ICDBG grant request by Idaho Department of Commerce is an integral part of this effort by the City of Bliss to address their issues. Working together we can make an investment in the future viability of this rural community.

Sincerely,

Tony Ballesterio
Area Specialist

Rural Development • Northern Idaho Area Office

1441 Filmore Suite C, Twin Falls Idaho 83301
Phone (208)733-5380 Ext 4- Fax (855) 505-1569

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (PDF), found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

City of Bliss
PO Box 102
Bliss, ID 83314
208-352-1117

November 20, 2020

Tom Kealy, Director
Idaho Department of Commerce
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0093

Re: Idaho Community Development Block Grant – Financial Commitment Letter

Dear Director:

The City of Bliss owns and operates our community's potable water system. An evaluation of this system identified several regulatory violations and operating deficiencies. The City has developed a plan to address the immediate needs our system most desperately needs. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$1.4 million.

We are pursuing bonding authority through the judicial confirmation process. We have obtained legal counsel and have started the judicial procedure. Our attorney has advised us that we may have this process completed by January 2021.

We are requesting \$500,000 from the ICDBG program. We are also in the process of applying to USDA-RD and/or IDEQ to finance the remaining \$900,000 of our project. At this time, it is in the best interest of the City and our customers to pursue financing through USDA -Rural Development. USDA can offer a 75% loan and a 25% grant to the City of Bliss. To finance the remaining \$900,000, the City would be eligible for a \$675,000 loan and \$225,000 grant. Currently, USDA-RD can offer a 40-year note with an interest rate at 1.25%.

The City is committed to make these improvements and are taking the necessary steps to do so. If you have any questions or concerns regarding our financial commitment, please contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris Pruett".

Chris Pruett, Mayor

EXHIBIT 4

Fair Housing Resolution 2020-30_____

LET IT BE KNOWN TO ALL PERSONS OF The City of Bliss that discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap, or familial status in the sale, rental, advertising, leasing or financing of housing or land to be used for construction of housing or in the provision of brokerage services is prohibited by Title VIII of the 1968 Civil Rights Act (Federal Fair Housing Law) and the Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988.

It is the policy of the City of Bliss to encourage equal opportunity in housing for all persons regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap, or familial status. Therefore, the City does hereby pass the following Resolution.

BE IT RESOLVED that within available resources the City will assist all persons who feel they have been discriminated against because of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, handicap, or familial status to seek equity under federal and state laws by referring them to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, Compliance Division.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City shall publicize this Resolution and through this publicity shall encourage owners of real estate, real estate brokers and sellers, rental owners, rental property manager, lenders, developers, builders, home buyers, and renters to become aware of their respective responsibilities and rights under the Federal Fair Housing Law and amendments and any applicable state or local laws or ordinances.

SAID FAIR HOUSING PROGRAM will at a minimum include: 1) publicizing this resolution; 2) posting applicable fair housing information in prominent public areas; 3) providing fair housing information to the public; 4) preparing a fair housing assessment; and 5) declaring April as Fair Housing Month.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This Resolution shall take effect this ___18_____ day of November, 2020.



Chris Pruett, Mayor



Attest: Kacy Bradshaw, City Clerk