WaterSMART:
Drought Response Program: Drought Resiliency Projects FY 2024
NOFO No. R24AS00007

# Northwest Eagle Butte Drought Resiliency Project

FY 2024

MNI WASTÉ WATER COMPANY


**APPLICANT INFORMATION**
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# SECTION 1: TECHNICAL PROPOSAL AND EVALUATION CRITERIA

## 1.1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1.1 Date: November 3, 2023

1.1.2 Applicant: Mni Wašté Water Company

1.1.3 City, County, State: Eagle Butte, Dewey County, South Dakota

1.1.4 Task Area: Task D

1.1.5 Project Summary

Through the Northwest Eagle Butte Drought Resiliency Project (the Project), Mni Wašté Water Company (MWWC) will construct necessary infrastructure to serve quality and reliable drinking water to a rural area northwest of Eagle Butte, SD in Dewey County. The Project is located on the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Reservation (CRST), a disadvantaged community currently underserved and unserved with drinking water. Currently in the Project area, individual customers haul water from up to 10 miles away or utilize wells with poor water quality as their water supply. Connections to MWWC will increase water supply quality, resiliency, and redundancy. The Project consists of approximately 10 miles of pipe to serve 27 acre-feet of water per year to 37 individual residences.

1.1.6 State the length of time and estimated completion date for the proposed project including the construction start date (mm/yr). Note: Proposed projects should not have an estimated construction start date that is prior to October 31, 2024.

Construction is anticipated to begin in April 2025 and take 12 months to complete, with a final completion date of April 2026.

1.1.7 State whether or not the proposed project is located on a Federal facility or will involve Federal lands, and what work will occur on the Federal facility or Federal lands.

This project is not located on a federal facility. However, a portion of the project will be on land which is held in trust by the USA for CRST. The portion of the Project to be on land held in trust by the USA will consist of service pipelines and meter pits for a housing development CRST has initiated on the trust land and adjacent tribal land. The majority of the project construction will be on either tribal land, private property, or within the county ROW. Other than the portion on Trust Land, it does not appear to be any other Federal Lands the project will be constructed on.

### 1.1.8 Current Water Supplies

MWWC currently sources their raw water from Lake Oahe on the Missouri River, near the Cheyenne River tributary. MWWC then pumps the raw water approximately 10 miles to their conventional surface water treatment plant located approximately 25 miles southeast of Eagle Butte, South Dakota and then distributes it throughout their service area via transmission and distribution pipelines. MWWC operates their raw water intake under CRST water rights, and the water treatment plant's current capacity is 4,932 acre-feet/year with provisions for a future expansion up to 9,864 acre-feet/year. MWWC's 10-year average annual water supply is 945.2 acre-feet/year (2013-2023 FY)

The residents in the Project area get their water supplies from either limited groundwater wells or by hauling water. The groundwater wells within the region have proven to be of poor quality, insufficient quantity, high costs due to depth, and difficult to obtain as proven by past "dry holes" within the region. There is no other water supply option for them at this time.

## 1.2 PROJECT LOCATION

The project is located within Dewey County, South Dakota, which is on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation (CRSR). The Northwest Eagle Butte Project planned connection to the transmission water pipeline latitude and longitude is approximately 45° 0'44.81"N, 101°15'31.12"W. The Project area is approximately 15.7 square miles. See Appendix A: for a Project Location Map and a Detailed Project Map.

## 1.3 TECHNICAL PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project includes construction of approximately 10 miles of distribution pipe, ranging from 6-inch to 2-inch in diameter and individual metered service connections. This infrastructure will allow MWWC to reliably serve the disadvantaged Project area. The locations of the Project area and these improvements are depicted in the following maps found in Appendix A::

- Northwest Eagle Butte Drought Resiliency Project – Project Area

The distribution pipe as part of this project will maintain adequate pressures for all new customers during all demand scenarios, including peak demand days. These new customers will see pressures directly from MWWC distribution system, no cisterns or other customer storage will be installed as part of the project. It is anticipated that much of this distribution pipe will be

either AWWA C900 DR18 or ASTM D2241 Class 200 or 250 PVC pipe and installed via trenching or horizontal directional drilling (HDD). The size and approximate length of distribution pipe as part of the Project is as follows:

- 6-inch: 1.6 miles
- 4-inch: 4.2 miles
- 2-inch: 4.2 miles

All customer service connections will include individual meter pits with a PRV, a dual backflow preventer, meter, and water service line.

Supply of water for the project is not an issue as MWWC completed major improvement and upgrades including a new water treatment plant (WTP) project completed in 2018 that increased the capacity to 4.4 MGD (4,932 acre-feet/year), approximately 25 miles of 24" diameter transmission pipeline from the WTP to Eagle Butte completed in 2018, and a new 2-million-gallon water tower completed in 2019.

## 1.4 PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The benefits of implementing this infrastructure will be quantified in terms of the added water supply delivered to the Project area and additional housing development initiated by CRST. Water supply data will come in the form of usage data supplied by the customer meters and additional housing in the project area.

Water quality data and benefits can also be used as a performance measure by comparing water quality from groundwater wells in the project location and the MWWC supplied water.

## 1.5 EVALUATION CRITERIA

### 1.5.1 Criterion A: Project Benefits

#### 1.5.1.1 Sub-Criterion A1.a: Adds to Available Water Supplies

Provide a detailed description of the community that the project will serve. Using the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) methodology and information, describe the community's environmental, climate, socioeconomic, or other burdens.

The area the Project will serve is entirely within the boundaries of census tract number 46041941700 in Dewey County, South Dakota. This tract is located fully within the boundaries of the CRST lands. Per the CEJST, 100% of the lands within the tract are considered lands of Federally Recognized Tribes. 66% of the tract's 3,146-person

demographic is classified as “American Indian and Alaska Native”. The project plans to serve approximately 37 residences on tribal lands and 10 future services.

The entire Tract is considered disadvantaged as it meets four of the eight CEJST criteria on top of being fully on lands of Federally Recognized Tribes. The tract meets Climate Change, Energy, Legacy Pollution, and Workforce Development disadvantaged criteria through expected building loss rate (93rd percentile), expected population loss rate (96th percentile), energy cost (90th percentile), presence of abandoned mine lands, presence of “Formerly Used Defense Sites”, Unemployment (94th percentile), high school education (12th percentile), and low income (86th percentile). The expected agriculture loss rate (83rd percentile) and expected building loss rate (86th percentile) are also very high and underscore the climate burdens and of this tract. The tract also nearly meets health criteria with diabetes (84th percentile) and heart disease (87th percentile). Poverty is prevalent in the tract (84th percentile).

### Describe the need for the domestic water supply project including any prominent public health and safety concerns, interruptions in supply or other reasons that the community does not currently have reliable access to domestic water supplies.

Residences in the Project area either haul water or utilize groundwater wells for their water supply. Citizens often haul water from up to 10 or more miles away and many do not have and are unable to afford proper water hauling vehicles and equipment.

Residential wells are not required to submit testing information to the state, so their individual water quality is not known. However, residents living in the project area and the surrounding area have complained of poor water quality. Wells in this area are about 100 feet deep, but many throughout the region are over 2,000 feet deep.

In the event of well emergencies, there are currently no other water supply alternatives for the Project area.

Another major reason the Project area does not have reliable access to domestic water supply is its remoteness. It is not uncommon for residents to be several miles apart from each other. This makes the typical connection fees an extreme financial burden, a burden that many in the tract are unable to afford.

Explain how the proposed project will increase reliable access to domestic water supplies. Provide this quantity in acre-feet per year that the average annual benefit that the domestic water supply project will provide. How many people is it estimated to serve? How were these estimates calculated (average benefit and population)?

Residences will be connected to MWWC's distribution system through the Project, which will remove water supply reliability, water quality concerns, and the need for customers to haul water. MWWC has provided quality and reliable domestic water supplies for over 40 years.

It is anticipated that the project will provide 27 acre-feet per year of domestic water. This was estimated using 20,000 gallons/month as a conservative estimate of average household demand.

The Project will serve approximately 37 rural households. In the 2020 census, nearby Eagle Butte had a population of 1,258 and 387 total households (3.25 people per household). Using this data point of 3.25 people per household, the project is estimated to serve 120 people. [1] Historically the US census undercounts populations on reservations, therefore it is anticipated that actual population served will be greater.

How many years will the project continue to provide benefits?

This project's lifespan is estimated at 100 years, which is the conservative estimate for the service life of properly designed and installed PVC pipe.[2]

#### 1.5.1.2 Sub-Criterion A2.a: Climate Change

In addition to drought resiliency measures, does the proposed project include other natural hazard risk reductions for hazards such as wildfires or floods?

Yes, the increased reliability of water supplies for the northwest Eagle Butte community adds to their ability to fight wildfires. Specifically, it will allow rural users a water source for fighting small fires on their property before they can turn into wildfires.

Will the proposed project establish and use a renewable energy source?

No

Will the proposed project reduce greenhouse gas emissions by sequestering carbon in soils, grasses, trees, and other vegetation?

No.

[1] Eagle Butte city, South Dakota - Census Bureau Profile

[2] https://www.uni-bell.org/Portals/0/ResourceFile/pvc-pipe-longevity-report.pdf

Does the proposed project include green or sustainable infrastructure to improve community climate resilience?

By providing a reliable drinking water system to the Project area, the disadvantaged communities in this area will have a sustainable infrastructure for climate resilience.

Does the proposed project seek to reduce or mitigate climate pollution such as air or water pollution?

By providing reliable drinking water to individual residents in the Project area, air pollution will be reduced by eliminating water hauling trips by residences.

Does the proposed project have a conservation or management component that will promote healthy lands and soils or serve to protect water supplies and its associated uses?

The project will include appropriate grassland and cropland restoration techniques and soil erosion control measures to restore the lands disturbed from construction.

Does the proposed project contribute to climate change resiliency in other ways not described above?

The Project will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by eliminating water hauling trips by residents.

#### 1.5.1.3 Sub-Criterion A2.b: Environmental Benefits

Does the project seek to improve ecological climate change resiliency of a wetland, river, or stream to benefit wildlife, fisheries, or habitats? Do these benefits support an endangered or threatened species?

No.

What are the types and quantities of environmental benefits provided, such as the types of species and the numbers benefited, acreage of habitat improved, restored, or protected, or the amount of additional stream flow added? How were these benefits calculated?

N/A.

#### 1.5.1.4 Sub-Criterion A2.c: Other Benefits

Will the project assist States and water users in complying with interstate compacts?

No.

Will the project benefit multiple sectors and/or users (e.g., agriculture, municipal and industrial, environmental, recreation, or others)? Describe the associated sector benefits.

Yes, the Project will provide water to the benefit of the agriculture, recreation, and residential sectors. Benefits of the project will be increased water quality and availability, reliability of water supply, decreased groundwater usage (benefit to

agricultural groundwater users), and enhanced ability for growth, particularly with CRST's residential development.

Will the project benefit a larger initiative to address sustainability?

This Project is in accordance with the South Dakota Drought Resiliency Plan's recommendations to mitigate drought-caused future water supply issues and to provide water supplies to areas of shortage during droughts.

Will the project help to prevent a water-related crisis or conflict? Is there frequently tension or litigation over water in the basin?

The Project will help decrease the chances of future water-related crises in the event of extreme drought conditions.

### 1.5.2 Criterion B: Planning and Preparedness

Describe any prior planning efforts related to the proposed project. Was the plan developed through a collaborative process? Describe who was involved in preparing the plan and whether the plan was prepared with input from stakeholders with diverse interests (e.g., water, land, or forest management interests; and agricultural, municipal, Tribal, environmental, and recreation uses)? Describe the process used for interested stakeholders to provide input during the development of the plan.

Initial planning was started in the mid-1990s with the formation of a steering committee which include representatives from Tri-County Rural Water Association (now MWWC), CRST, Cheyenne River House Authority (CRHA), Indian Health Service (IHS), and United States Bureau of Reclamation. The steering committee was formed to recommend a course of action, a water source to be utilized, and develop a long-range future plan (Future Plan) to adequately provide water service to the entire CRSR and identified lands to the west. Various studies and reports were completed which included input from various stakeholders and public input surveys. Through the series of studies and reports the Future Plan was developed to be used as a "blueprint" to undertake individual projects towards meeting the ultimate goal identified above.

The first major projects towards implementing the Future Plan have been completed and consisted of a new raw water intake on Lake Oahe, a new water treatment plant, approximately 40 miles of transmission and distribution mains, and a new 2-million-gallon elevated reservoir. Additionally, IHS utilizes the Future Plan to construct various storage reservoirs and pipelines project for MWWC towards meeting the ultimate goal.

This Future Plan in conjunction with increased demands and the CRST initiated housing development in this area is the primary driving force for the proposed project.

Additionally, planning was conducted by the State of South Dakota in their drought mitigation plan.[3] It was developed, reviewed, and approved by the South Dakota Office of Emergency Management and Drought Task Force by the direction of the Office of the Governor. The plan was developed through a collaborative process and within the planning process Rural Water Systems Associations were included as stakeholders along with various other State, County, and Local agencies. Various meetings were held throughout the state to receive input from stakeholders and are listed in the drought mitigation plan. A public input survey was also conducted to receive input from stakeholders. Part of the plan's recommendations were to mitigate drought-caused future water supply issues, provide water supplies to areas of shortage during droughts, and encourage development of drought-resistant rural water systems. This plan works in conjunction with the Future Plan developed by the Steering Committee.

The Project has been developed through a joint effort with MWWC, CRST, IHS, and Banner. Collaborative meetings were held between the aforementioned entities to discuss the project.

If the plan was prepared by an entity other than the applicant, describe whether and how the applicant was involved in the development of the plan. If the applicant was not involved in the development, explain why.

The initial plan was prepared by the applicant and additional planning was developed by the South Dakota Office of Emergency Management and Drought Task Force. Rural water systems and local water departments were stakeholders in the development of the plan and provided responses and information to support the development of the plan.

If the referenced plan was not developed collaboratively, please explain why. For example, the planning effort is focused on a very small area or concerns internal to the applicant.

N/A.

[3] https://dps.sd.gov/application/files/5615/0161/4504/2015-SD-Drought-Mitigation-Plan_LR.pdf

Does the plan include elements of drought planning? If so, please describe.

The initial plan which has been utilized and followed for the past two decades includes recommendations for water conservation and demand reduction measures specific to MWWC. In addition, the new WTP utilizes water from a new intake which diverts water from the deep portion of Lake Oahe. The new intake was constructed prior to completion of the new WTP due to drought conditions at the time resulting in MWWC's old intake nearly being exposed. The new intake provided water to old intake until the new WTP could be completed.

Additionally, the planning developed by the South Dakota Office of Emergency Management and Drought Task Force includes recommendations to mitigate drought-caused future water supply issues, provide water supplies to areas of shortage during droughts, and encourage development of drought-resistant rural water systems.

### 1.5.3 Criterion C: Severity of Actual or Potential Drought or Water Scarcity Impacts to be Addressed by the Project

Is the project in an area that is currently suffering from drought, or which has recently suffered from drought or water scarcity? Please describe existing conditions, including when and the period of time that the area has experienced drought or water scarcity conditions. Include information to describe the frequency, duration, and severity of current or recent conditions.

The project area regularly experiences drought conditions ranging from annual summer droughts to multiyear droughts. These drought conditions regularly result in water scarcity for the project area and region. Other than Lake Oahe, there is no other viable water source that can supply the quantity and/or quality of water required for average day demands let alone during the frequent drought conditions. See attached Appendix C: for historical drought conditions for the Project area.

Starting in the early 1990s, it became evident that the original system was reaching capacity and that drought conditions were having an effect on the system. In the late 1990s the City of Isabel was forced to abandon their water system and make an emergency connection to the MWWC system.

Starting in the early-2000s, an extreme to exceptional drought lasting through the mid-2000s (2002 to 2008) resulted in water scarcity throughout the region, forcing MWWC to implement a housing moratorium and severely restrict water flows. The tourism and agricultural industries experienced economic impacts in this time period. As the drought continued, Lake Oahe water levels decreased to the point that the old MWWC intake

screen in the Cheyenne River nearly surfaced. Due to this emergency caused by the extended drought, the new intake identified in the Future Plan from the late-1990s was constructed with emergency funding provided by the USACE (United Stated Army Corps of Engineers) at the Cap Point area on Lake Oahe. This new intake utilizes a much deeper portion of Lake Oahe and temporarily pumped water 14 miles to the old intake located within the Cheyenne River, until the new WTP and associated piping could be completed.

The CRST region experienced another extreme to exceptional drought condition from 2012 through 2013 and a moderate to severe drought in 2017. Although the new intake was operational and water supplies were not an issue, the new WTP and transmission pipelines were not completed yet, so the housing moratorium remained in effect and as wells dried up many were forced to install cisterns and haul water.

Starting in 2021 and lasting into 2023 an extreme to severe drought hit the region again. With the recent upgrades to the MWWC system the housing mortarium was lifted and many were able to connect to the water system. However, due to the economic condition of the region, many were unable to connect to the water system due to financial reasons.

Describe any projected increases to the severity or duration of drought or water scarcity in the project area resulting from changes to water supply availability and climate change. Provide support for your response (e.g., reference a recent climate informed analysis, if available).

A report put together by the Wildlife Action Plan Climate Change Consultancy for the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish, and Parks indicated that by the end of the 21st century, average temperatures over June, July, and August are anticipated to increase by 2.5-6.0° Celsius (4.5-10.8° Fahrenheit). While not directly related to drought, the projected increase in temperatures in summer months will equate to higher amounts of evaporation, potentially causing more severe droughts in the future.[4]

[4] https://gfp.sd.gov/images/WebMaps/Viewer/WAP/Website/SWGSummaries/South%20Dakota%20Future%20Climate%20Projections%20Report.pdf

What are the ongoing or potential drought or water scarcity impacts to specific sectors in the project area if no action is taken (e.g., impacts to agriculture, environment, hydropower, recreation, tourism, forestry, etc.), and how severe are those impacts? Impacts should be quantified and documented to the extent possible. For example, impacts could include, but are not limited to:

Whether there are public health concerns or social concerns associated with current or potential conditions (e.g., water quality concerns including past or potential violations of drinking water standards, increased risk of wildfire, or past or potential shortages of drinking water supplies? Does the community have another water source available to them if their water service is interrupted?).

During the various droughts since the early 1990s, the project area has experienced various public health concerns related to shortage of water, poor water quality, higher demands resulting in low water pressures. During the late-1990s the city of Isabel was forced to abandon their water system and make an emergency water connection to MWWC. In the mid-2000s, MWWC was forced to implement a housing moratorium, construct an emergency intake, and severely restrict water flows throughout their system.

Potential impacts from future droughts include public health and social concerns as the existing distribution pipelines are unable to service new connections. In addition, the extended housing moratorium has resulted in a lack of adequate housing in the area, and many are now opting to install cisterns on new housing sites.

The Northwest Eagle Butte area does not have any backup water sources available in the event of water supply issues.

Whether there are ongoing or potential environmental impacts (e.g., impacts to endangered, threatened or candidate species or habitat).

None.

Whether there are local or economic losses associated with current water conditions that are ongoing, occurred in the past, or could occur in the future (e.g., business, agriculture, reduced real estate values).

When severe drought conditions occur in the future, economic losses will occur from decreased hunting and fishing tourism and from reduced crop and livestock production.

Whether there are other water-related impacts not identified above (e.g., tensions over water that could result in a water-related crisis or conflict).

None.

### 1.5.4 Criterion D: Presidential and DOI Priorities

#### 1.5.4.1 Sub-Criterion E.1.4.1: Disadvantaged or Underserved Communities

Describe how the proposed project will serve or benefit a disadvantaged or underserved community, identified using the tool described above. For example, will the project improve public health and safety by addressing water quality, add new water supplies, provide economic growth opportunities, or provide other benefits in a disadvantaged or underserved community?

The entirety of this project will serve disadvantaged communities and will provide all the benefits in the question above: Improve public health and safety through increased domestic water quality, will add new water supplies to the area, provides local economic growth opportunities through access to clean and reliable domestic water.

#### 1.5.4.2 Tribal Benefits

Does the proposed project directly serve and/or benefit a Tribe? Benefits can include, but are not limited to, public health and safety by addressing water quality, new water supplies, economic growth opportunities, or improving water management.

The entire Project will provide all the benefits to the Northwest Eagle Butte area of the CRST listed in the question above: Improve public health and safety through increased domestic water quality, will add new water supplies to the area, provides Tribal economic growth opportunities through access to clean and reliable domestic water, and will aid housing development efforts.

Does the proposed project support Reclamation's Tribal trust responsibilities or a Reclamation activity with a Tribe?

Yes. The applicant is tribally chartered to serve domestic water to the entire CRST Reservation and works closely with CRST to better serve the area. The entire Project will benefit the CRST Reservation in the northwest Eagle Butte area.

### 1.5.5 Criterion E: Readiness to Proceed and Project Implementation

Describe the implementation plan of the proposed project. Please include an estimated project schedule that shows the stages and duration of the proposed work, including major tasks, milestones, and dates. Milestones may include, but are not limited to, the following: design, environmental and cultural resources compliance, permitting, construction/installation.

| Milestone | Date |
|---|---|
| **Project Selection** | Spring 2024 |
| **Design and Easement Acquisition** | Upon Project Selection to March 2025 |
| **Environmental Review** | Upon Project Selection to March 2025 |
| **Bidding** | April 2025 |
| **Construction Start** | June 2025 |
| **Substantial Completion** | December 2025 |
| **Final Completion** | April 2026 |

Project Selection: Spring 2024

Design, Easement Acquisition, and Environmental Review: It is anticipated that the Engineering Design, Easement Acquisition, and Environmental Review work will all overlap as easement Acquisition and Environmental Review will help to identify and finalize pipeline construction routes. This work is expected to start after the project selection is finalized and finish in March 2025.

Bidding: It's anticipated the project will be bid in one bid package. The bid package will be for installation of distribution pipe and service connections.

Construction: Construction is anticipated to begin June 2025 and be Substantially Complete in December 2025. Final Completion will be April 2026.

Describe any permits or approvals that will be required (e.g., water rights, water quality, stormwater, or other regulatory clearances). Include information on permits or approvals already obtained. For those permits and approvals that need to be obtained, describe the process, including estimated timelines for obtaining such permits and approvals.

Water Distribution Pipe:

- South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) review, Federal Agency Review. From January 2025 to March 2025
- Easements as required from landowners, tribal entities, and governmental agencies. From project award to March 2025
- Road crossing permits. From project award to March 2025

- Environmental permit. From project award to March 2025
- Section 404 permit. From project award to March 2025
- Cultural permit – THPO approval. Cultural walk and report from project award to October 2025.
- Temporary Storm Water Discharge Permit. Contractor permitting prior to construction.
- CRST TERO compliance. Contractor permitting prior to construction.

Identify and describe any engineering or design work performed specifically in support of the proposed project.

Banner Associates, Inc. (Banner) performed the initial hydraulic analysis and identified the infrastructure required to complete the Project. Banner also provided cost estimates of the work and technical assistance with the application process.

Describe any land purchases that must occur before the project can be implemented.

Land purchases are not required to implement the Project. Pipeline and service line easements will be gathered upon award.

Describe any new policies or administrative actions required to implement the project.

The MWWC board of directors will need to approve all Project-related contracts, and if any MWWC funds will be required for the cost-share of the project. The board of directors will also need to complete an Official Resolution per Section D.2.2.12 of the NOFO.

### 1.5.6 Criterion F: Nexus to Reclamation

Does the applicant have a water service, repayment, or O&M contract with Reclamation?

No.

If the applicant is not a Reclamation contractor, does the applicant receive Reclamation water through a Reclamation contractor or by any other contractual means?

No.

Will the proposed work benefit a Reclamation project area or activity?

No.

Is the applicant a Tribe?

While not a Tribe, MWWC is a tribally chartered entity and serves 14,000 members within Dewey and Ziebach counties on the CRST Reservation.

### 1.5.7 Criterion G: Stakeholder Support for Proposed Project

Describe the level of stakeholder support for the proposed project. Are letters of support from stakeholders provided? Are any stakeholders providing support for the project through cost-share contributions or through other types of contributions to the project?

Letters of Support are included in Appendix B: Letters of Support. Authors consist of CRST Tribal Chairman, and CRHA Director. Currently no other cost-share contributions are being provided by the other stakeholder. None of these stakeholders are providing cost-share contributions or other contributions at this time.

Explain whether the project is supported by a diverse set of stakeholders, as appropriate, given the types of interested stakeholders within the project area and the scale, type, and complexity of the proposed project. For example, is the project supported by entities representing agricultural, municipal, Tribal, environmental, or recreation uses?

The project is supported by entities representing the CRST, CRHA, and MMWC stakeholders. The CRST has been diligent at providing home sites and housing developments for tribal residents throughout the CRSR. To achieve this goal CRST utilizes the CRHA to provide housing on these sites and MWWC to provide a reliable source of water to these sites.

# SECTION 2: PROJECT BUDGET

## 2.1 FUNDING PLAN AND COST-SHARE STATEMENT

MWWC asks that the BOR consider waiving the 5% cost-share requirement for the Project. In order to pay the 5% cost share, the funds would need to be allocated from the new services' water rates and/or a connection fee. In doing so, it would be burdensome to both MWWC and the disadvantaged communities to be served by this project.

Due to the Project solely serving Tribal and disadvantaged communities, CRJEST tool information, and other census tract data as described in Section 1.5.1, there appears to be overwhelming Federal Interest in the project.

The median household income for the State of South Dakota and the project area's census tract are, respectively, $63,920 +/- $695 and $50,742 +/- $4,003.

The average unemployment rate for the State of South Dakota and the project area's census tract are, respectively, 3.2 +/- 0.2% and 16.2 +/-3.7%. [5]

## 2.2 BUDGET PROPOSAL

| Funding Sources | Cost Share Waived | 5% Cost Share |
|---|---|---|
| **Non-Federal Entities:** | | |
| 1. MWWC | $0 | $142,220 |
| **Non-Federal Subtotal:** | $0 | $142,220 |
| **Requested Reclamation Funding:** | $2,844,400 | $2,702,180 |

## 2.3 BUDGET NARRATIVE

The BOR-provided "Attachment B - Optional Budget Detail and Narrative" excel file was used to complete the Budget Narrative and will be submitted separately from this Report.

# SECTION 3: ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES COMPLIANCE

## 3.1 H.1: ENVIRONMENTAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS

Will the proposed project impact the surrounding environment (e.g., soil [dust], air, water [quality and quantity], animal habitat)? Please briefly describe all earth-disturbing work and any work that will affect the air, water, or animal habitat in the project area. Please also explain the impacts of such work on the surrounding environment and any steps that could be taken to minimize the impacts.

The Project will require excavation for trenching work for the water pipe which will result in temporary impacts to wetlands, soils, and vegetation; permanent impacts to resources are not anticipated. Wildlife may be deterred from utilizing the project area during construction activities

[5] https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDP5Y2021.DP03?t=Employment&g=040XX00US46_1400000US46041941700

due to human disturbance, but long-term impacts to wildlife species and habitats are not anticipated. All disturbed areas will be restored back to pre-project conditions. If required, the water pipeline can be shifted or horizonal directional drilled to minimize temporary impacts to special areas of concern (I.e. cultural sites, large wetland areas).

Are you aware of any species listed or proposed to be listed as a Federal threatened or endangered species, or designated critical habitat in the project area? If so, would they be affected by any activities associated with the proposed project?

According to the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPAC) database, there are several federally listed threatened, endangered, or proposed listed species that have the potential to be present in the project area. Impacts resulting from the installation of the water line will be temporary. Species, if present in the project area, may be deterred from utilizing the project area during construction activities but can resume use once the project is completed. The project is anticipated to have no effect on these species, however, official coordination with the USFWS would occur during the environmental review of the project. After USFWS coordination, recommendations regarding species or habitat avoidance or minimization measures would be incorporated into the project design.

Are there wetlands or other surface waters inside the project boundaries that potentially fall under CWA jurisdiction as "Waters of the United States?" If so, please describe and estimate any impacts the proposed project may have.

Wetlands exist along the proposed water pipe routes. It is anticipated that a wetland delineation and impact determination will be made during the environmental review of the project. Typical installation of water pipe through wetland areas will be accomplished through either trenching or boring techniques, depending upon the size and current condition of the wetland. If wetland basins are dry, trenching through the wetland for pipe installation may occur, followed by compaction of the wetland soils over the pipe to return the basin to pre-project conditions. If wetland basins are larger or too wet for trenching, directional drilling would be utilized to install the line under the basins.

When was the water delivery system constructed?

The system started operating and delivering water as Tri-County Water Association (TCWA) in the mid-1970s. Today the system operates as MWWC and is Tribally and State chartered.

Will the proposed project result in any modification of or effects to individual features of an irrigation system (e.g., headgates, canals, or flumes)? If so, state when those features were constructed and describe the nature and timing of any extensive alterations or modifications to those features completed previously.

No.

Are any buildings, structures, or features in the irrigation district listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places? A cultural resources specialist at your local Reclamation office or the State Historic Preservation Office can assist in answering this question.

A preliminary review of the Project area through the South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Cultural Resource Geographic Resource Information Database (CRGRID) revealed one structure that is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.[6] Impacts to this listed structure are not anticipated. A Level III cultural resource survey of the entire project corridor would occur during the environmental review of the project prior to construction in all areas that have not been previously disturbed. The Level III report will be provided to the appropriate review agency for concurrence. Cultural resources identified during the Level III survey would be avoided; it is not anticipated that the project will impact cultural resources.

Are there any known archeological sites in the proposed project area?

There are no known archeological sites within the proposed project area. The project is on Tribal lands and a Level III cultural resource survey will be completed for the project corridor in all areas that have not been previously disturbed.

Will the proposed project have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations?

No. The project would deliver water to populations that currently do not have a reliable water supply source. The project would be a benefit to all populations.

Will the proposed project limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites or result in other impacts on Tribal lands?

No. The project will install a new water pipeline below the ground surface. No impacts to the access or ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites or other impacts to Tribal lands will occur. Temporary impacts will occur to Tribal lands during construction activities, but the project area will return to pre-construction conditions after construction is complete.

Will the proposed project contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area?

No. The project will require ground and soil disturbance for the length of the construction corridor. Seeding of disturbed areas will occur after construction activities are completed to minimize the establishment or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species.

[6] https://apps.sd.gov/DE71SHPOCRGRID/

### 3.1.1 H.1.1: National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Considerations

MWWC will observe and comply with all NEPA and BOR requirements. MWWC and Banner have other ongoing projects that follow NEPA requirements and will consider the effects of the project on the environment as well as social and economic effects the project may have.

### 3.1.2 H.1.2: National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Considerations

MWWC will observe and comply with all BOR, NHPA, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) requirements as part of the Project. MWWC and Banner have other ongoing projects that follow similar requirements and are familiar with the requirements.

### 3.1.3 H.1.3: Endangered Species Act (ESA) Considerations

MWWC will observe and comply with all ESA Section 7 and BOR requirements. MWWC and Banner have other ongoing projects that follow Section 7 requirements and are familiar with the requirements.

## SECTION 4: REQUIRED PERMITS OR APPROVALS

Water Distribution Pipe:

- South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) review.
- Federal Agency Review.
- Easements as required from landowners, tribal entities, and governmental agencies.
- Road crossing permits.
- Environmental Assessment.
- Section 404 permit.
- Cultural permit – THPO approval.
- Temporary Storm Water Discharge Permit.
- CRST TERO compliance.

## SECTION 5: OVERLAP OR DUPLICATION OF EFFORT STATEMENT

This project is not known to have overlap between any other proposals or projects in terms of activities, costs, or commitment of key personnel.

## SECTION 6: CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

MWWC has no actual or potential conflict of interest at the time of submission.

## SECTION 7: UNIFORM AUDIT REPORTING STATEMENT

Uniform Auditing Report Statement for the most recently closed fiscal year's Uniform Auditing Report Statement (2022) to be provided separately.

## SECTION 8: DISCLOSURE OF LOBBYING ACTIVITY

Please see the GG Lobbying Form Certification Regarding Lobbying Activity.

## SECTION 9: UNIQUE ENTITY IDENTIFIER AND SAM REGISTRATION

MWWC UEI is listed in the completed 424 form, submitted separately from this Project Narrative. MWWC is registered in SAM and the registration will be maintained with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal award or plan under consideration by a Federal Agency.

## SECTION 10: LETTERS OF SUPPORT

See Appendix B: for letters of support from the following individuals/organizations:

- Jason Peterson
    - Engineer Consultant – Indian Health Service

Forthcoming letters of support:

- Ryman LeBeau (forthcoming)
    - Tribal Chairman – Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
- Sharon Vogel (forthcoming)
    - Executive Director – Cheyenne River Housing Authority

## SECTION 11: OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

An official Resolution will be provided by the MWWC for this project before the award of funding is made, per D.2.2.12 of the NOFO.

## SECTION 12: LETTERS OF FUNDING COMMITMENT

No Letters of Funding Commitment.

# APPENDIX B: LETTERS OF SUPPORT

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Indian Health Service
Pierre District Office
420 S. Garfield Ave., Suite 200
Pierre, SD 57501

November 7, 2023

Bureau of Reclamation
Upper Colorado Regional Office
Attn: Karen Shubert
125 South State Street, Room 8100
Salt Lake City, Utah 84138-1147

RE: Letter of Support for the Mni Wašté Water Company (MWWC)

Dear NOFO Team,

I write this letter in support of the MWWC.

The MWWC provides a safe and reliable drinking water service to the underserved residents of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe (CRST) including both Dewey and Ziebach counties in South Dakota. The Indian Health Service (IHS) is in support of the MWWC receiving Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) grant funds to upgrade and expand their distribution system.

CRST as well as the entirety of Dewey and Ziebach Counties are considered disadvantaged communities by the Bureau of Reclamation. Many customers haul water from up to 10 miles away, while the residences that do have their own wells have poor water quality. Without significant funding assistance, the remoteness of the area makes the costs associated with installation of water service pipelines to individual homes unaffordable for the consumer and the MWWC. Projects to upgrade the existing water distribution system will help to mitigate future water supply issues and will provide water to areas of shortage during droughts.

CRST as well as Dewey and Ziebach Counties' status as disadvantaged communities, the area's remoteness, and the lack of reliable and quality drinking water, emphasizes the need for these projects.

The IHS supports MWWC's efforts in pursuing Bureau of Reclamation funding.

Sincerely,

Digitally signed by
Jason A. Petersen, P.E.
Date: 2023.11.07
08:21:11 -06'00'

Jason A. Petersen, PE
IHS Engineer Consultant