



GREATER PEORIA SANITARY DISTRICT

October 22, 2014

Mr. Gary R. Meden, P.E., P.M.P.
US Army Corp of Engineers
1 Clock Tower Road
Rock Island, IL 61201

Re: Proposal for Funding, Section 7001 of the 2014 Water Resources Reform and Development Act. Deadline December 3, 2014

Dear Mr. Meden:

The Greater Peoria Sanitary District proposes to sponsor a project for Section 7001 funding. The particulars of that proposal are enclosed with this letter.

In the aftermath of extreme flooding across the country in recent years, the District proactively evaluated the risk at the Darst Street facilities by initiating a comprehensive analysis of the existing levee system against the current Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requirements for levee certification. That evaluation identified improvements valued at \$6.2 million to raise the crest of the levee and construct an internal drainage system.

The District is now raising capital funds to complete those improvements. Given the regional implications of a levee failure, the District believes this project is well suited to a federal appropriation.

Thank you for including this project in your Section 7001 project proposals. Please contact Mr. Stan Browning, Executive Director, 309-272-4800 for additional project information.

Sincerely,

GREATER PEORIA SANITARY DISTRICT

Michael F. Menke, President
Board of Trustees

Encl: Proposal for Levee Funding

PROPOSAL FOR SECTION 7001 FUNDING
WATER RESOURCES REFORM AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2014
GREATER PEORIA SANITARY DISTRICT
October 22, 2014

Sponsor:

The Greater Peoria Sanitary and Sewage Disposal District, an Illinois Municipal Corporation
2322 South Darst Street
Peoria, IL 61607

Contact:

Stanton A. Browning, Executive Director
Phone: 309-637-3511
Email: browning@gpsd.org

Proposal is for:

The Sponsor proposes to establish a USACE project to complete the design and construction of a levee improvement to meet the certification requirements of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the base flood.

Purpose of the Proposal:

The Sponsor owns and operates sewage collection and treatment facilities serving the eastern portion of Peoria County, Illinois. Those assets include the treatment works located along the right descending bank of the Illinois River at mile 160 in Peoria which is protected from Illinois River flooding by an earthen embankment. The semi-circular levee, 6,625 feet in length, has not been certified by any federal agency as providing protection from the base flood. The Sponsor seeks certification from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Project Cost:

A comprehensive application was submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Agency in April 2013 for consideration of a Conditional Letter of Map Revision in support of certification for protection from the base flood. This application identified and developed the following scope of work:

- Freeboard: Raise the crest of the levee to provide 3.5' of freeboard above the Base Flood Elevation. The current levee deficiency is approximately 1.5' in elevation.
- Closures: Several sewers, pipelines and utilities pass under the levee. These potential seepage locations will be sealed.
- Embankment Protection: Hard armor protection is proposed for 275' of flood side slope protection.
- Foundation Stability: As a result of an extensive geotechnical investigation, an active groundwater control system including relief wells is proposed.

The project cost estimate is \$6.2 million to complete the project. This budget provides for completing the construction documents (drawings approximately 80% complete to date), construction and contract administration.

Benefits:

This levee improvement is a risk management venture associated with Illinois River flooding. Risks can be measured in two ways: 1) public and environmental health associated with untreated human and industrial sewage and 2) direct economic loss.

Public and Environmental Health. A levee overtopping scenario would interrupt the ability to treat sewage for a period of time on the order of six months. During that time, untreated or partially treated sewage would be discharged to the Illinois River. While direct human contact with Illinois River water is limited and seasonal, there would be an increased exposure to water borne disease. The impact on aquatic life is associated with depressed oxygen levels caused by the natural degradation of organic material in the sewage.

Economic Loss. The direct economic loss to the Sponsor is associated with reconditioning and replacement of assets damaged by flood water. The Sponsor estimates that value is on the order of \$100 million. At the present time, the levee protecting the treatment works is not recognized on the flood insurance rate maps. That being the case, flood insurance coverage is rated as being in Flood Zone A and marginally available. The Sponsor maintains \$5 million coverage on five buildings through the National Flood Insurance Program, leaving a potential uninsured loss of \$95 million.

Local Support:

The Board of Trustees of The Greater Peoria Sanitary District recognize a fiduciary responsibility to protect and preserve the public's investment in the sewage collection and treatment assets for the benefit of future generations. One component of that responsibility is to secure those assets from flooding to the degree generally recognized as prudent management, that being the base flood.

Financial Ability of the Sponsor:

The Sponsor has an annual operating budget of approximately \$11 million and an annual capital budget of approximately \$4 million. These expenditures are primarily funded by user fees associated with sewerage service. The Sponsor has the capacity to cost share the project from reserves or the sale of bonds.