

# NEBRASKA NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

## Water Sustainability Fund

Application for Funding

### Section A.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE

**PROJECT NAME:** Omaha CSO Program

**SPONSOR'S PRIMARY CONTACT INFORMATION (Not Consultant's)** Sponsor Business

Name: City of Omaha

Sponsor Contact's Name: James Theiler / Asst Director of Public Works - Environmental

Sponsor Contact's Address: 1819 Farnam St, Ste 601, Omaha NE 68183

Sponsor Contact's Phone: 402-444-5220

Sponsor Contact's Email: James.Theiler@cityofomaha.org

1. **Funding** amount requested from the Water Sustainability Fund:

**Grant** amount requested. \$ The City requests the max. amount allowed by law (10%)

- If requesting less than 60% cost share, what %? [Click here to enter text.](#)

**If a loan is requested** amount requested. \$ [Click here to enter text.](#)

- How many years repayment period? [Click here to enter text.](#)
- Supply a complete year-by-year repayment schedule. [Click here to enter text.](#)

2. **Neb. Rev. Stat. § 2-1507 (2)**

Are you applying for a **combined sewer overflow 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
- Attach a copy to your application. *Due to size limitations, the 2021 Update and it's approval letter are being uploded to the application portal. Additional LTCP documents may be downloaded from the following website: <https://omahacso.com/about-program/long-term-control-plan>*
- What is the population served by your project? Approximately 800,000
- 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 \$60/month in 2021. 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, as has been demonstrated by previously submitted rate studies. Rate increases prior to 2018 had been foretasted in the range of 9% per year, but with careful program management, including strong budgetary controls and assistance from programs like this, the City has been able to maintain a stable increase level of 5.25% from 2018 through 2023. Rate increases after 2023 will continue to trend downward; however, continued assistance from this program is critical to keep these increases as low as possible.*
- **Do not complete the remainder of the application.**

3. **Permits Required/Obtained** Attach a copy of each that has been obtained. For those needed, but not yet obtained (box “NO” checked), 1.) State when you will apply for the permit, 2.) When you anticipate receiving the permit, and 3.) Your estimated cost to obtain the permit.

(N/A = Not applicable/not asking for cost share to obtain)

(Yes = See attached)

(No = Might need, don't have & are asking for 60% cost share to obtain)

G&P - T&E consultation (required)

N/A  Obtained: YES  NO

DNR Surface Water Right

N/A  Obtained: YES  NO

USACE (e.g., 404/other Permit)	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Obtained: YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
FEMA (CLOMR)	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Obtained: YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Local Zoning/Construction	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Obtained: YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Cultural Resources Evaluation	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Obtained: YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Other (provide explanation below)	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Obtained: YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>

[Click here to enter text.](#)

4. **Partnerships**

List each Partner / Co-sponsor, attach documentation of agreement:

[Click here to enter text.](#)

Identify the roles and responsibilities of each Partner / Co-sponsor involved in the proposed project regardless of whether each is an additional funding source.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

5. **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.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

6. **Overview**

In 1,000 words or less, provide a brief description of your project including the nature/purpose of the project and its objectives. Do not exceed one page!

[Click here to enter text.](#)

7. **Project Tasks and Timeline**

Identify what activities will be conducted to complete the project, and the anticipated completion date.

**For multiyear projects** please list (using the following example):

<u>Tasks</u>	<u>Year 1\$</u>	<u>Year 2\$</u>	<u>Year 3\$</u>	<u>Remaining</u>	<u>Total \$ Amt.</u>
Permits	\$18,000				\$18,000
Engineering		\$96,000			\$96,000
Construction		\$87,000	\$96,000		\$183,000
Close-out				\$8,000	\$8,000
				TOTAL	\$305,000

- What activities (Tasks) are to be completed.
- An estimate of each Tasks expenditures/cost per year.
- Activities in years 4 through project completion under a single column.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

8. **IMP**

Do you have an **Integrated Management Plan** in place, or have you initiated one? YES  NO  Sponsor is not an NRD

## Section B.

### DNR DIRECTOR'S FINDINGS

#### **Prove Engineering & Technical Feasibility**

(Applicant must demonstrate compliance with Title 261, CH 2 - 004)

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

YES  NO

If you answered "YES" you must answer all questions in section 1.A.

If you answer "NO" you must answer all questions in section 1.B.

If "YES", it is considered mostly structural, so answer the following:

- 1.A.1 Insert a feasibility report to comply with Title 261, Chapter 2, including engineering and technical data; [Click here to enter text.](#)
- 1.A.2 Describe the plan of development (004.01 A); [Click here to enter text.](#)
- 1.A.3 Include a description of all field investigations made to substantiate the feasibility report (004.01 B); [Click here to enter text.](#)
- 1.A.4 Provide maps, drawings, charts, tables, etc., used as a basis for the feasibility report (004.01 C); [Click here to enter text.](#)
- 1.A.5 Describe any necessary water and/or land rights including pertinent water supply and water quality information (004.01 D); [Click here to enter text.](#)
- 1.A.6 Discuss each component of the final plan (004.01 E); [Click here to enter text.](#)
- 1.A.7 When applicable include the geologic investigation required for the project (004.01 E 1); [Click here to enter text.](#)
- 1.A.8 When applicable include the hydrologic data investigation required for the project (004.01 E 2); [Click here to enter text.](#)
- 1.A.9 When applicable include the criteria for final design including, but not limited to, soil mechanics, hydraulic, hydrologic, structural, embankments and foundation criteria (004.01 E 3). [Click here to enter text.](#)

If "NO", it is considered mostly non-structural, so answer the following:

- 1.B.1 Insert data necessary to establish technical feasibility (004.02); [Click here to enter text.](#)

- 1.B.2 Discuss the plan of development (004.02 A); [Click here to enter text.](#)
- 1.B.3 Describe field or research investigations utilized to substantiate the project conception (004.02 B); [Click here to enter text.](#)
- 1.B.4 Describe any necessary water and/or land rights (004.02 C); [Click here to enter text.](#)
- 1.B.5 Discuss 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). [Click here to enter text.](#)

### **Prove Economic Feasibility**

(Applicant must demonstrate compliance with Title 261, CH 2 - 005)

2. Provide evidence that there are no known means of accomplishing the same purpose or purposes more economically, by describing the next best alternative. [Click here to enter text.](#)
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 is the project life, up to fifty (50) years; or, with prior approval of the Director up to one hundred (100) years, (Title 261, CH 2 - 005). [Click here to enter text.](#)
  - 3.A 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). [Click here to enter text.](#)
  - 3.B 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 intangible or secondary benefits (if any) 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, in a way that justifies economic feasibility of the project such that the finding can be approved by the Director and the Commission (005.02). [Click here to enter text.](#)
  - 3.C Present all cost and benefit data in a table to indicate the annual cash flow for the life of the project (005.03). [Click here to enter text.](#)

- 3.D 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, demonstrate the economic feasibility of such proposal by such method as the Director and the Commission deem appropriate (005.04). (For example, show costs of and describe the next best alternative.) [Click here to enter text.](#)

### **Prove Financial Feasibility**

(Applicant must demonstrate compliance with Title 261, CH 2 - 006)

4. Provide evidence that sufficient funds are available to complete the proposal. [Click here to enter text.](#)
5. Provide evidence that sufficient annual revenue is available to repay the reimbursable costs and to cover OM&R (operate, maintain, and replace). [Click here to enter text.](#)
6. If a loan is involved, provide sufficient documentation to prove that the loan can be repaid during the repayment life of the proposal. [Click here to enter text.](#)
7. Describe how the plan of development minimizes impacts on the natural environment (i.e. timing vs nesting/migration, etc.). [Click here to enter text.](#)
8. Explain how you are qualified, responsible and legally capable of carrying out the project for which you are seeking funds. [Click here to enter text.](#)
9. Explain how your project considers plans and programs of the state and resources development plans of the political subdivisions of the state. [Click here to enter text.](#)
10. Are land rights necessary to complete your project? **YES**  **NO**

#### **If yes:**

- 10.A Provide a complete listing of all lands involved in the project. [Click here to enter text.](#)
- 10.B Attach proof of ownership for each easements, rights-of-way and fee title currently held. [Click here to enter text.](#)
- 10.C Provide assurance that you can hold or can acquire title to all lands not currently held. [Click here to enter text.](#)

11. Identify how you possess all necessary authority to undertake or participate in the project. [Click here to enter text.](#)
12. Identify the probable consequences (environmental and ecological) that may result if the project is or is not completed. [Click here to enter text.](#)



## 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 above. 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.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

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.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

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.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

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.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

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.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

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.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

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.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

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.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

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.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

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.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

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.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

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.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

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.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

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.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

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.

[Click here to enter text.](#)

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.

[Click here to enter text.](#)