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Date Received: April 2016

Date to be presented to the WQB: June 22, 2016

WATER QUALITY BOARD  
FEASIBILITY REPORT FOR NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION PROJECT

AUTHORIZATION

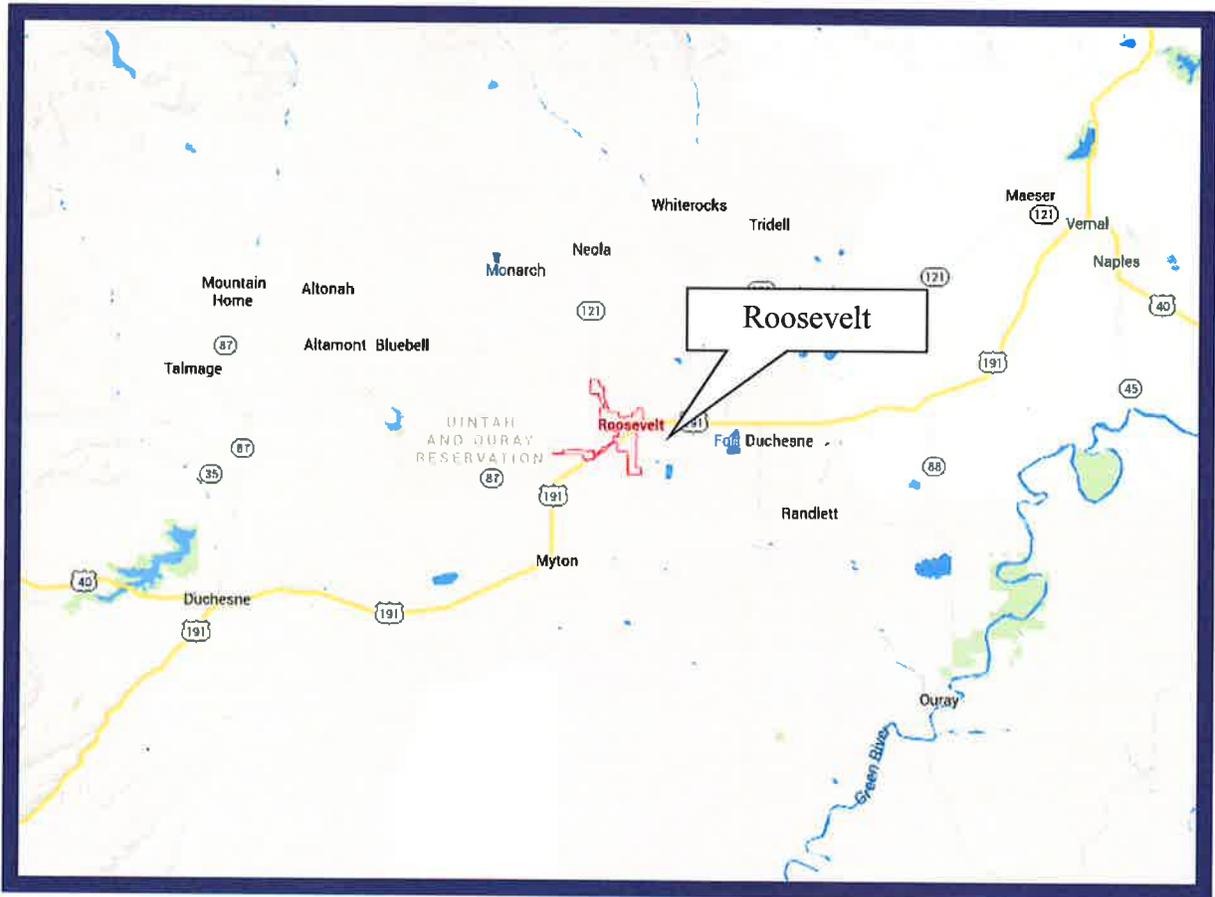
APPLICANT:	TriCounty Health Department 133 S 500 E Vernal Zip Code: 84078 435-247-1172
PRESIDING OFFICIAL:	Jordan D. Mathis - Health Officer
CONTACT PERSON:	Jordan D. Mathis - Health Officer
TREASURER:	Wendi Long (Uintah County Treasurer)
CONSULTING ENGINEER:	Aaron Averett 363 East Main Street Sunrise Engineering Inc. Vernal, UT 84078 435-789-7364
CITY ATTORNEY:	Jared Tingey Duchesne County Attorney PO Box 206 Duchesne, UT 84021 435-738-1236

APPLICANT'S REQUEST:

TriCounty Health Department requests a **hardship grant in the amount of \$221,000** to construct a land drain to address public health and water quality concerns associated with the failing and improperly functioning onsite systems in the Stonegate subdivision.

**APPLICANT'S LOCATION**

The Stonegate Subdivision is located in unincorporated Duchesne County approximately one mile west of Roosevelt City.



**UPDATE**

Staff presented this project to the Water Quality Board (Board) as an introduction on April 27, 2016. The Board had questions and concerns about the proposed project, including concerns that the project would not address the root cause and could possibly delay implementation of the recommended alternative. There was also concern about the irrigation practices on the surrounding properties and what impact that might be having on the affected area.

Drainage is an important component of the recommended alternative and installation of a land drain was initially considered as the most cost-effective option in early discussions. It is difficult to predict exactly how effective the land drain will be at lowering the groundwater in the affected area, but even lowering it a few feet would allow these shallow systems to operate as designed and reduce the risk to public health and water quality. It could be that this land drain might even be sufficient to address the current drainage problems, at far less expense than installing sewer.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Board authorized a planning grant to TriCounty Health Department (TriCounty) on April 27, 2015, to fund a facility plan to evaluate alternatives to address public health and water quality issues in the Stonegate subdivision. Stonegate is located in the Hancock Cove area of Duchesne County just to the east of Roosevelt City (the City). This subdivision (comprised of ~ 49 residences) has experienced multiple failed septic tanks associated with high groundwater and it is suspected that many others are not operating as intended. Failing and poorly functioning septic systems pose a risk to public health and water quality because they are a potential source of contamination from disease-causing bacteria, viruses, household chemicals and nitrates

The facility plan was completed at the end of 2015 and the recommended alternative was to install gravity sewer in the Stonegate subdivision and connect to Roosevelt City's sewer system. However, Roosevelt City's policy is that they don't provide extra-territorial service for sewer and Stonegate would need to be annexed into the City to receive this service. A public meeting with the residents of Stonegate was held on November 10, 2015, to present the results of the planning effort including the alternatives evaluated. Roosevelt City stated that they wanted to be a good neighbor to the residents of Stonegate and should they choose to be annexed into Roosevelt, then Roosevelt would sponsor funding efforts and provide sewer service to the subdivision. In December 2015, residents submitted an annexation plan that was accepted by the City.

In January 2016, the City prepared and submitted funding applications to the Board and CIB to fund the sewer construction project. However, on February 11, 2016, before funding requests were presented to either agency, fifteen residents of Stonegate filed a claim informing five government entities that they intend to sue. Roosevelt City and TriCounty were two of those named entities. Roosevelt City subsequently withdrew their funding applications from both agencies and informed the residents of Stonegate that they would not move forward until the residents waived their right to sue Roosevelt City.

TriCounty continues to work diligently to address these public health concerns and risks to groundwater contamination. As a preliminary and mitigating step in resolving this problem, TriCounty is proposing to install a land drain on the property to the west of Stonegate. Historical data as well as engineering analysis indicate that groundwater in the subdivision is consistently 2-3 feet from the ground surface and the expectation is that this land drain will help lower the water table and improve the functioning of the septic tanks.

Duchesne County is equally committed to addressing this problem and is supportive of this project. The County is going to provide the gravel for the land drain, which accounts for nearly 20% of the total project cost and has committed to providing maintenance work to ensure the land drain continues to function as designed. TriCounty has committed to conducting physical inspection and clean outs of the land drain on a bimonthly basis.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

TriCounty intends to construct a 10-12 foot deep land drain to be located on property up gradient and to the west of Stonegate. The drain will be located in an easement located 100-ft west of the property line and TriCounty is in the process of finalizing this easement. The land drain will be approximately three thousand feet long and will outfall into an existing wash to the southeast of the property.

Annexation into Roosevelt and installing sewer in the subdivision still remains the long-term goal, but installing the land drain now will provide immediate improvement in the functioning of the affected septic tanks. Doing nothing puts public health and water quality at risk.

TriCounty is taking the lead as the funding applicant and sponsoring government body because of the immediate public health concerns.

**PROJECT PRIORITY LIST**

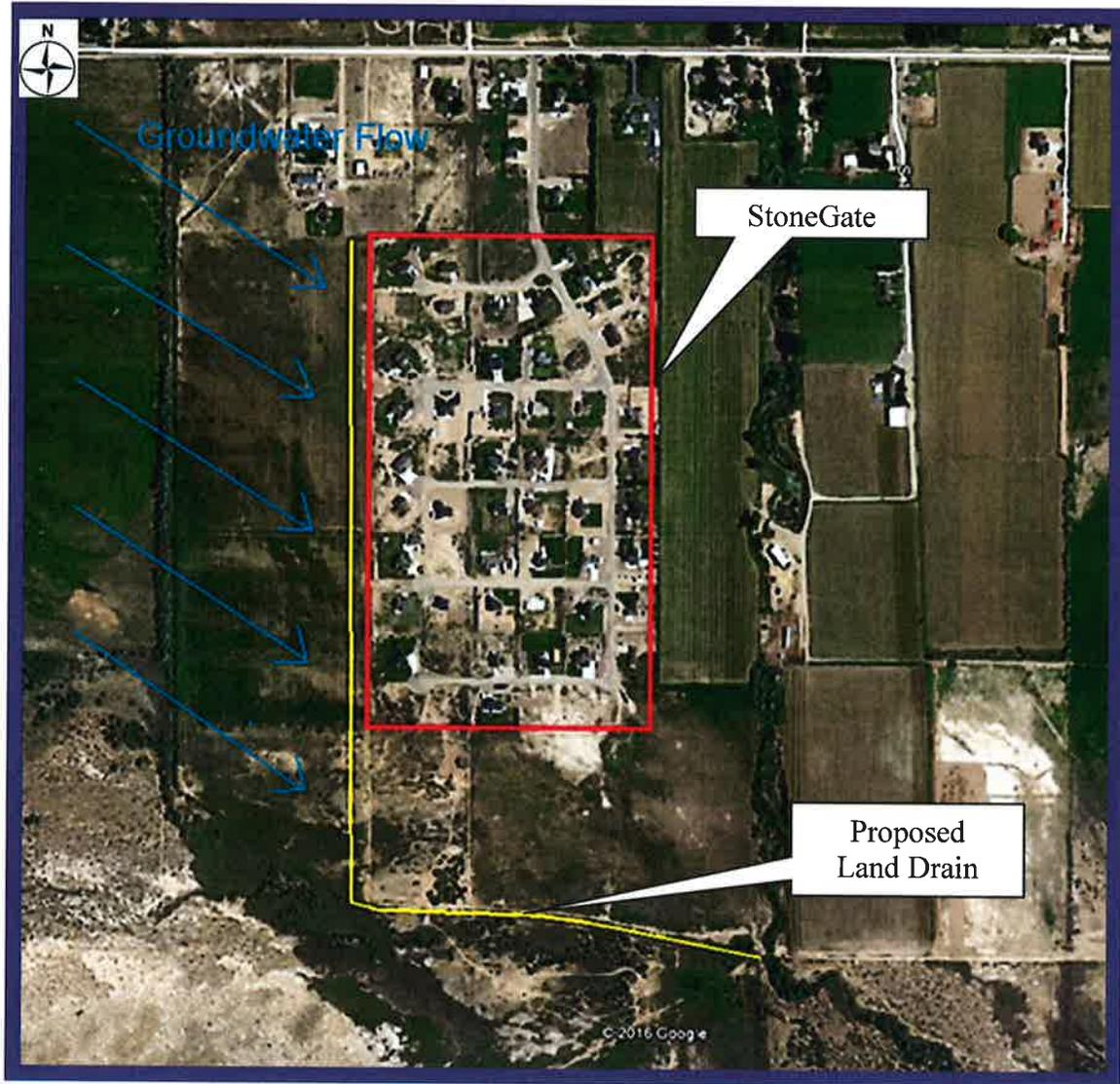
This project is currently ranked **13<sup>th</sup>** out of 16 projects.

**COST ESTIMATE:**

Engineering (Planning)	\$	7,000
Engineering (Design)	\$	37,000
Engineering (other)	\$	8,000
Engineering (CMS)	\$	33,000
Construction	\$	405,000
Contingency (~ 11%)	\$	45,000
Rights of Way, Easements, Misc.	\$	6,000
Geotech, mapping	\$	9,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>550,000</b>

**COST SHARING:**

<u>Funding Source</u>		<u>Cost Sharing</u>
Local Contribution (gravel donated by Duchesne County)	\$	93,000
Local Contribution (cash)	\$	15,000
CIB Grant	\$	221,000
WQB Grant	\$	221,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>550,000</b>



**IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE:**

WQB Funding Introduction:	April 27, 2016
WQB Funding Authorization:	June 22, 2016
Complete Design:	August 2016
Issue Construction Permit	November 2016
Bid Opening	December 2016
Complete Construction	July 2017

**STAFF COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the Board authorize the requested amount of **\$221,000 as grant**, subject to the special conditions stated. Staff is recommending grant because there is no revenue stream associated with this project.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS:**

1. TriCounty Health Department will obtain at least \$221,000 to fund the balance of the project from either the Permanent Community Impact Board (CIB) or other sources.
2. TriCounty Health Department will submit written documentation of easement ownership and maintenance responsibility for the land drain until such time as it is decommissioned.