

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Sarpy Infrastructure Project Expected to Generate Billions in Tax Revenue Awarded \$45.3 Million Loan**

An infrastructure project in Sarpy County that is projected to drive billions in tax revenue for the State of Nebraska will move forward with a \$45.3 million investment from the federal government.

The loan will help fund a critical segment of sewer line that stretches between Highway 50 and 63<sup>rd</sup> Street in southern Sarpy County. The line is part of a once-in-a-generation wastewater project in the fastest-growing county in the state.

When realized, it's expected to support development that will generate \$15.7 billion in tax revenue for the State of Nebraska over 30 years and create more than 4,000 full-time jobs, according to an economic impact report commissioned by the Sarpy County and Cities Wastewater Agency.

In 2023 dollars, the project in its entirety would increase the value of taxable property in Sarpy County from \$2.1 billion to \$3.5 billion.

"This project will change the landscape of Sarpy County. With this investment, we can finish a critical segment of the project that will broaden the tax base of our communities and set the stage for continued growth, new amenities and better quality of life," said Don Kelly, Sarpy County Commissioner and chairman of the wastewater agency.

Sarpy County and the Cities of Bellevue, Gretna, La Vista, Papillion and Springfield formed the agency in 2017 as a first-of-its-kind collaborative effort to create a unified wastewater system in the southern part of the county. The group also partnered with the City of Omaha to use its wastewater treatment plant as part of the project.

The agency kicked off the first phase of the project in 2022 by building two lines, one extending to Springfield and the other through Bellevue. Construction on those lines is nearly complete. The \$45.3 million loan will support construction of an additional line that connects the first two. The first phase of the project, which includes 19 miles of sewer line, is expected to finish in December 2024, opening up to 12,000 acres for development.

"This infrastructure project is essential to sustained economic growth in the area. We're thrilled to move forward thanks to the support of our community and financial partners who recognize how valuable this investment is to our community," said Doug Kindig, vice chair of the wastewater agency and La Vista Mayor.

The Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) loan supplements a zero-interest loan from the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy and \$10 million in state funding designated for the project.

The federal WIFIA program, administered through the Environmental Protection Agency, accelerates investment in water infrastructure across the U.S. by providing long-term, low-cost supplemental loans for regionally and nationally significant projects.

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### **About Sarpy County**

Sarpy County is the fastest-growing county in the state of Nebraska, attracting new residents, visitors, businesses and jobs each year. Sarpy County is home to the cities of Bellevue, Papillion, La Vista, Gretna and Springfield, as well as Offutt Air Force Base. In less than 20 minutes, you can travel from the vibrant urban centers to beautiful outdoor recreational areas and activities. More information is available at [Sarpy.gov](http://Sarpy.gov).

### **About the Sarpy County and Cities Wastewater Agency**

The Sarpy County and Cities Wastewater Agency is made up of six jurisdictions: Sarpy County and the Cities of Bellevue, Gretna, La Vista, Papillion and Springfield. The group formed in 2017 to address a serious, looming obstacle to local economic growth: the lack of a regional sewer system in southern Sarpy County. Together, these governments are collaborating as the SCCWWA to create a unified wastewater system. Learn more at [sccwwa.org](http://sccwwa.org).