

Appendix E.6 Supporting Information for Minimization, Avoidance, and Compensatory Mitigation Measures

Temporary Access

Prior to construction, the sponsor and irrigation district would contact each landowner along the proposed route to discuss the project, and if applicable, approve an easement agreement at the site of the proposed project. Adjacent landowners would be provided with a construction schedule before construction begins. Construction limits would be clearly flagged to preserve existing vegetation and private property. Access to residences and farms would be maintained during construction. Construction would occur during the daytime to minimize disturbance to landowners or other individuals in the construction area vicinity.

Staging, Storage, and Stockpile

Mechanized equipment and vehicles would be selected, operated, and maintained in a manner that minimizes adverse effects on the environment. Construction staging areas would be selected and used to minimize effects on vegetation and avoid the removal of trees. Construction equipment and vehicles would be parked a minimum of 100 feet away from streams, wetlands, ditches, and other waterbodies at the end of each workday. Fueling and maintenance operations would be performed on a flat surface, away from moving equipment, and at least 100 feet away from any water source.

Roads and Traffic Control

Standard construction safety procedures and traffic control measures would be employed to reduce the risk of collisions between construction vehicles and other vehicles, pedestrians, or bicyclists while construction is ongoing. Street/lane closures on roadways would be avoided during peak travel periods where possible to reduce potential traffic delays from construction vehicles.

Erosion Control

Silt fencing, straw wattles, geotextile filters, straw bales, or other erosion control measures would be used to minimize soil erosion and prevent eroded soil from entering waterbodies during construction. Erosion control measures would be free of weeds and weed seeds.

In Water Work

Water quality protection measures will be implemented including erosion control, sediment control, and pollution control for all In Water Work and all dewatering efforts. Equipment will be inspected prior to entering the water. Equipment will remain in the water for the shortest time possible and not remain in the water while not working.

Coffer dams will be installed to dewater work areas. Nuisance water will be removed from the work area and discharged into appropriate locations. Following the completion of work in dewatered areas, there will be a gradual return of streamflow to the extent possible.

Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures

Any hazardous substance or oil that threatens to impact waters of the state must be reported immediately to either NDWEE at 402-471-2186 or the Nebraska State Patrol at 402-479-4921. The party responsible

for the spill is expected to immediately, and completely, remediate the area of any contaminants and process the wastes generated in accordance with all applicable rules and policies. Spill kits would be located at fuel storage areas, and the construction crew would have adequate absorbent materials on hand to enable the rapid cleanup of any spill. If it is determined that a spill is beyond the scope of on-site equipment and personnel, NDWEE will assess and advise. NDWEE may require additional information or written documentation following the spill event.

Invasive Species Control

The measures below would be followed to avoid the introduction of invasive plants and noxious weeds into project areas. Any gear to be used in or near water would be visually inspected for aquatic invasive species. Ground disturbances would be limited to those areas necessary to safely implement the Preferred Alternative.

- Only begin activities in areas uninfested with invasive plants or noxious weeds before operating in infested areas.

- Use uninfested areas for staging, parking, and cleaning equipment. Avoid or minimize all types of travel through infested areas and restrict travel to periods when spread of seed is least likely.

- When it is necessary to conduct soil work in infested areas, schedule activity when seeds are least likely to be viable to be spread.

- Monitor disturbed areas for at least three growing seasons following completion of activities. Provide follow-up treatments based on monitoring results.

- Inspect material sources at site of origin to ensure that they are free of invasive plant material before use and transport to the extent practicable.

Revegetation

During excavation, any topsoil would be stockpiled and replaced as the top layer after grading activities are completed. Areas disturbed for access purposes or during construction would be regraded to their original topography. When necessary, compacted areas would be loosened to facilitate revegetation and improved infiltration. Disturbed areas would be re-seeded with a native seed mix appropriate to the habitat. Costs of re-seeding are included in project installation cost estimates.

Wildlife

Construction at the majority of the project sites (Keith Lincoln, Suburban, Cody Dillon, and Birdwood) would occur outside of the primary nesting period for migratory birds of concern (April 15 through July 15) and raptors (April through July). Construction at the Platte Valley / Paxton Hershey site would occur during the primary nesting period; however, construction would occur outside the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)-approved buffer distance of known nests. Should an active nest be found, construction would be paused and consultation with a local USFWS biologist would occur to determine the next steps.

Cultural Resources

If archaeological resources were inadvertently discovered during construction, an Inadvertent Discovery Plan would be followed. Construction would stop in the vicinity of the discovery, the area would be secured and protected, a professional archaeologist would assess the discovery, consultation with SHPO and NRCS cultural resources staff would occur as appropriate, and the appropriate tribes would be notified. Continuation of construction would occur in accordance with applicable guidance and law.

Land Rights and Easements

Prior to construction, the sponsor would communicate with landowners and obtain necessary easement agreements or land acquisitions for the Preferred Alternative. Following project installation, as-built surveys would be completed and attached to easements.