

**Why You Should Read This:** The document below reviews the environmental impact likely from a project. This project is planned to be federally funded through your tax dollars; therefore, you are entitled to take part in its review. If you have concerns about the environmental impact of this project, raise them now. We encourage public input in this decision making process.



**IOWA STATE REVOLVING FUND**  
**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

September 14, 2021

**To: All Interested Citizens, Government Agencies, and Public Groups**

An environmental review has been performed based on the procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for the proposed agency action below:

**Applicant:** City of Marengo  
**County:** Iowa  
**State:** Iowa

**SRF Number:** CS1921008 01  
**Iowa DNR Project Number:** W2017-0244A

Other Federal Funding: Applying for CDBG funds

The City of Marengo, Iowa is planning an upgrade to their wastewater treatment facility. The city has applied for financial assistance through the State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan program to build the project. The State Revolving Loan Program is a program authorized by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and administered by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in partnership with the Iowa Finance Authority.

The City of Marengo is located in Iowa County, Iowa approximately 25 southeast miles of Cedar Rapids, Iowa and 25 miles northwest of Iowa City, Iowa. The population of Marengo according to the 2010 US Census was 2,528. The design population equivalent for the year 2040 is 2,768. The existing wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) was constructed in 1962 as a two-cell controlled discharge lagoon and was upgraded to a continuous discharge aerated lagoon system in 1991. During the 1991 improvements, the north basin was converted to a flow equalization (EQ) basin while the south lagoon basin was converted to an aerated lagoon. The south basin was fitted with a diffused aeration system and divided into four cells (three aerated cells and one quiescent cell) using floating baffles.

The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the wastewater treatment facilities to enhance their reliability, to adequately treat for ammonia and disinfection as outlined in the 2016 NPDES Permit in order to safely and reliably operate the City of Marengo's wastewater system for at least the next 20 years.

The project area consists of the existing WWTF and surrounding city and privately owned agriculture fields. The proposed project includes constructing a new building to house the new UV disinfection and effluent pumps. Moving the discharge from an unnamed creek to the Iowa River to improve stream quality at the current discharge point. The new effluent lift station/UV building will be approximately 30-feet x 40-feet and a new 1 mile long 12-inch diameter force main will be open cut to the Iowa River. The proposed scope will also include sludge removal and replacement of the existing lagoon aeration system. Additional improvements at the existing WWTF include miscellaneous flow control/metering structures, electrical work, granular surfacing, and underground piping. The proposed project also includes construction of a potential water main route to the WWTF along E. South Street to be constructed of either 2-inch service pipe or a 6-inch main. Additionally, a construction access point will be needed on the south side of the site. The access area will require some improvements to handle the additional construction traffic. A rock road will need to be constructed and some grading around the existing railroad crossing. The area is City-owned right of way and will be used for construction access to the area between the small creek and the levee.

The treated wastewater from the proposed facility upgrade will move from an unnamed creek to discharge to the Iowa River. It has a use stream designation of A1, B(WW-1). A1 waters are those in which recreational or other uses may result in prolonged and direct contact with the water, involving considerable risk of ingesting water in quantities sufficient to pose a health hazard. B(WW-1) waters are those in which temperature, flow and other habitat characteristics are suitable to maintain warm water game fish populations along with a resident aquatic community that includes a variety of native nongame fish and invertebrate species.

The project will not significantly affect the pattern and type of land use (industrial, commercial, agricultural, recreational, and residential) or growth and distribution of population. The project will not conflict with local, regional or State land use plans or policies. The project will not impact wetlands provided the terms of Nationwide Permit #7 are abided by. The project will not affect threatened and endangered species or their habitats provided that any tree cutting is conducted between October 1 and March 31 to avoid impacting endangered bats. If any State- or Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or communities are found during the planning or construction phases, additional studies and/or mitigation may be required. The project will not displace population, alter the character of existing residential areas, or convert significant farmlands to non-agricultural purposes. The project will not affect the 100-year flood plain provided the terms of the Flood Plain Development Permit Number 2021-0310FP-01 are abided by. The project will not have effect on parklands, preserves, other public lands, or areas of recognized scenic or recreational value.

No historic properties will be adversely affected by the proposed project. However, if project activities uncover any item(s) that might be of archaeological, historical, or architectural interest, or if important new archaeological, historical, or architectural data should be encountered in the project APE, the applicant should make reasonable efforts to avoid further impacts to the property until an assessment can be made by an individual meeting the Secretary of the Interior's professional qualifications standards (36 CFR Part 61). The project will not have a significant adverse effect upon local ambient air quality provided the applicant takes reasonable precautions to prevent the discharge of visible emissions of fugitive dusts beyond the lot line of the property during the proposed project (567 IAC 23.3(2)“c”). The project will not have a significant adverse effect upon local ambient noise levels, surface water quantity, groundwater quality or quantity, or water supply. No significant impact to surface water quality, fish, shellfish, wildlife, or their natural habitats is expected provided that an NPDES General Permit Number 2 (for storm water discharge associated with construction activities) is obtained and the terms of which are abided by.

Minimum separation distances will be maintained. Noise during construction will be maintained at tolerable levels through controls on construction activities. Any construction debris will be removed from the site for proper disposal. Adverse environmental effects from construction activities will be minimized with proper construction practices, inspection, prompt clean up and other appropriate measures. Areas temporarily disturbed by the construction will be restored.

It has been determined that the proposed action will result in no significant impacts to the surrounding environment. This determination is based on a careful review of the engineering report, the environmental assessment and other supporting data which are on file at the Department of Natural Resources' office in Des Moines, Iowa. These are available for public review upon request. A copy of the environmental assessment is attached. This Department will not take any administrative action on the project for at least thirty (30) calendar days from the above date. Persons disagreeing with the above environmental decision may submit comments to the department during this period. Please direct your comments to me at [casey.laskowski@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:casey.laskowski@dnr.iowa.gov) or 515-725-0261.

Sincerely,

Casey Laskowski  
Environmental Specialist  
502 E. 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, IA 50319-0034

Enclosures: Environmental Assessment  
Project Map

Distribution

List (email): Emily Linebaugh, Veenstra & Kimm, Inc.  
Council on Environmental Quality  
Jake Hansen, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship  
Ken Sharp, Iowa Department of Public Health  
Sarah Petersen, Iowa Department of Public Health  
Nichole Hansen, Iowa Economic Development Authority  
Ingrid Gronstal, Iowa Environmental Council  
Tracy Scebold, Iowa Finance Authority  
Tony Toigo, Iowa Finance Authority  
Mickey Shields, Iowa League of Cities  
Jane Clark, Sierra Club  
Josh Mandelbaum, Environmental Law and Policy Center  
Kate Sand, USDA Rural Development  
Tokey Boswell, USDOJ, National Park Service, Midwest Region  
Kraig McPeck, Fish and Wildlife Service, Rock Island Field Office  
Christopher Simmons, USEPA Region VII  
Kelly Beard-Tittone, USEPA Region VII  
The Hometown Current

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**IOWA STATE REVOLVING FUND**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT**

***PROJECT IDENTIFICATION***

**Applicant:** City of Marengo  
**County:** Iowa  
**State:** Iowa

**SRF Number:** CS1921008 01  
**Iowa DNR Project Number:** W2017-0244A

Other Federal Funding: Applying for CDBG funds

***COMMUNITY DESCRIPTION***

**Location:** The City of Marengo is located in Iowa County, Iowa approximately 25 southeast miles of Cedar Rapids, Iowa and 25 miles northwest of Iowa City, Iowa.

**Population:** The population of Marengo according to the 2010 US Census was 2,528. The design population equivalent for the year 2040 is 2,768.

**Current Waste Treatment:** The existing wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) was constructed in 1962 as a two-cell controlled discharge lagoon and was upgraded to a continuous discharge aerated lagoon system in 1991. During the 1991 improvements, the north basin was converted to a flow equalization (EQ) basin while the south lagoon basin was converted to an aerated lagoon. The south basin was fitted with a diffused aeration system and divided into four cells (three aerated cells and one quiescent cell) using floating baffles.

***PROJECT DESCRIPTION***

**Purpose:** The purpose of this project is to make improvements to the wastewater treatment facilities to enhance their reliability, to adequately treat for ammonia and

disinfection as outlined in the 2016 NPDES Permit in order to safely and reliably operate the City of Marengo's wastewater system for at least the next 20 years.

**Proposed Improvements:** The project area consists of the existing WWTF and surrounding city and privately owned agriculture fields. The proposed project includes constructing a new building to house the new UV disinfection and effluent pumps. Moving the discharge from an unnamed creek to the Iowa River to improve stream quality at the current discharge point. The new effluent lift station/UV building will be approximately 30-feet x 40-feet and a new 1 mile long 12-inch diameter force main will be open cut to the Iowa River. The proposed scope will also include sludge removal and replacement of the existing lagoon aeration system. Additional improvements at the existing WWTF include miscellaneous flow control/metering structures, electrical work, granular surfacing, and underground piping. The proposed project also includes construction of a potential water main route to the WWTF along E. South Street to be constructed of either 2-inch service pipe or a 6-inch main. Additionally, a construction access point will be needed on the south side of the site. The access area will require some improvements to handle the additional construction traffic. A rock road will need to be constructed and some grading around the existing railroad crossing. The area is City-owned right of way and will be used for construction access to the area between the small creek and the levee.

**Receiving Stream:** The treated wastewater from the proposed facility upgrade will move from an unnamed creek to discharge to the Iowa River. It has a use stream designation of A1, B(WW-1). A1 waters are those in which recreational or other uses may result in prolonged and direct contact with the water, involving considerable risk of ingesting water in quantities sufficient to pose a health hazard. B(WW-1) waters are those in which temperature, flow and other habitat characteristics are suitable to maintain warm water game fish populations along with a resident aquatic community that includes a variety of native nongame fish and invertebrate species.

## ***ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED***

### **Alternatives Considered:**

1. No action
2. Land application
3. Mechanical treatment process: A mechanical treatment plant would replace the existing aerated lagoon facility and could be located on the existing grounds.
4. Enhanced treatment aerated lagoon processes: The City would convert the existing aerated lagoon treatment facility would be converted to an enhanced treatment aerated lagoon process. The existing aerated lagoon cells would be used, but additional equipment would be incorporated to increase nitrification for ammonia reduction levels typically seen in an activated sludge process.
5. Force main to Iowa River: The City would pump existing wastewater effluent to the Iowa River where ammonia-nitrogen limits would be less stringent.

**Reasons for Selection of Proposed Alternative:** The No-Action alternative is not viable due to the inability to meet the effluent limits in the NPDES permit. The force main to the Iowa River option was selected due to cost effectiveness. The construction will also include UV disinfection which will improve water quality and meet discharge limits. The project site was selected for the availability of land, capital cost, operational costs and considerations, as well as minimization of the impacts to the environment.

### ***MEASURES TAKEN TO ASSESS IMPACT***

**Public Involvement:** A public hearing was held on August 11, 2021 at 6:00PM at the City's regular council meeting. The public notice of this hearing was published in The Hometown Current on July 7, 2021. The purpose of this hearing was to present the environmental and financial impacts of the proposed improvement project. No written or oral comments were received.

**Coordination and Documentation with Other Agencies and Special Interest Groups:** The following Federal, state and local agencies were asked to comment on the proposed project to better assess the potential impact to the environment:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- State Historical Society of Iowa (State Historical Preservation Office)
- Iowa DNR Conservation and Recreation Division
- Iowa DNR Water Resources Section
- Citizen Band Potawatomi Indian Tribe
- Flandreau Santee Sioux
- Ho-Chunk Nation
- Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska
- Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma
- Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas
- Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma
- Lower Sioux Indian Community Council
- Miami Tribe of Oklahoma
- Omaha Tribal Council
- Osage Tribal Council
- Otoe-Missouria Tribe
- Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma
- Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
- Ponca Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
- Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
- Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
- Prairie Island Indian Community
- Sac & Fox Nation of Mississippi in Iowa
- Sac & Fox Nation of Missouri

Sac & Fox Nation of Oklahoma  
Santee Sioux Nation  
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community  
Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate  
Spirit Lake Tribal Council  
Three Affiliated Tribes Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nations  
Upper Sioux Tribe  
Winnebago Tribal Council  
Yankton Sioux Tribal Business and Claims Committee

No adverse comments were received from any agencies or general public. Conditions placed on the applicant by the above agencies in order to assure no significant impact are included in the Summary of Reasons for Concluding No Significant Impact section.

### ***ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT SUMMARY***

**Construction:** Traffic patterns within the community may be disrupted and above normal noise levels in the vicinity of the construction equipment can be anticipated during construction and should be a temporary problem. Adverse environmental impacts on noise quality will be handled by limited hours of contractor work time during the day. Other adverse environmental effects from construction activities will be minimized by proper construction practices, inspection, prompt cleanup, and other appropriate measures. Areas temporarily disturbed by the construction will be restored. Solid wastes resulting from the construction project will be regularly cleared away with substantial efforts made to minimize inconvenience to area residents.

Care will be taken to maintain dirt to avoid erosion and runoff. The proposed project will disturb soils over an area greater than one acre; therefore, the applicant is required to obtain an NPDES General Permit Number 2 (for storm water discharge associated with construction activities) and abide by its terms. Provided that this permit is obtained and the terms of which are abided by, no significant impact to surface water quality, fish, shellfish, wildlife, or their natural habitats is expected.

Temporary air quality degradation may occur due to dust and fumes from construction equipment. The applicant shall take reasonable precautions to prevent the discharge of visible emissions of fugitive dusts beyond the lot line of the property during the proposed project (567 Iowa Administrative Code IAC 23.3(2)“c”).

This project may require the disposal of sewage sludge. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the disposal of any sewage sludge complies with applicable requirements found in 40 CFR Part 503 and 567 Iowa Administrative Code IAC 67. Properties that contain regulated materials are located within or very near the proposed project area. If construction activities find an unknown area of contamination, it is the responsibility of the applicant to follow the procedure for notification of hazardous



conditions (567 IAC 131.2). Excavated soil that contains a hazardous substance must be assessed and properly disposed of (567 IAC 100.4).

**Historical/Archaeological:** The State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO), the Certified Local Government and various Native American tribes with an interest in the area were provided information regarding the project. The DNR has determined, and the SHPO has concurred (R&C#210948086), that this undertaking will result in “no historic properties affected” based on the scope of the project, the prior use of the project area, and the findings of the Phase I Archeological Survey conducted on the project property. However, if project activities uncover any item(s) that might be of archaeological, historical, or architectural interest, or if important new archaeological, historical, or architectural data should be encountered in the project APE, the applicant should make reasonable efforts to avoid further impacts to the property until an assessment can be made by an individual meeting the Secretary of the Interior’s professional qualifications standards (36 CFR Part 61).

**Environmental:** According to the Iowa DNR Conservation and Recreation Division, the proposed project will not interfere with any State-owned parks, recreational areas or open spaces. The U.S. Army corps of Engineers concurs that the project will not impact wetlands provided the terms of Nationwide Permit #7 are abided by. The project will not impact any wild and scenic rivers as none exist within the State of Iowa.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Section 7 Technical Assistance website consultation determined, and the Iowa DNR Conservation and Recreation Division agree, that the project will not impact threatened or endangered species or their habitats provided that any tree cutting is conducted between October 1 and March 31 to avoid impacting endangered bats. However, if any State- or Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or communities are found during the planning or construction phases, additional studies and/or mitigation may be required. According to the Iowa DNR Water Resources Section, this project will not impact the 100-year floodplain provided the terms of the Flood Plain Development Permit Number 2021-0310FP-01 are abided by. No adverse impacts are expected to result from this project, such as those to surface water quantity, or groundwater quality or quantity. No significant impact to surface water quality, fish, shellfish, wildlife, or their natural habitats is expected.

**Land Use and Trends:** The project will not displace population nor will it alter the character of existing residential areas. No significant farmlands will be impacted. This project should not impact population trends as the presence or absence of existing water/sewer infrastructure is unlikely to induce significant alterations in the population growth or distribution given the myriad of factors that influence development in this region. Similarly, this project is unlikely to induce significant alterations in the pattern and type of land use.

**Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources:** Fuels, materials, and various forms of energy will be utilized during construction.

***POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS TO BE REALIZED FROM THE PROPOSED PROJECT***

Positive environmental effects will be improved treatment of the wastewater from the City of Marengo, compliance with effluent discharge permit limits, reduced discharge of the pollutants ammonia and nutrients to the receiving stream, and improved water quality in the existing receiving stream.

***SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR CONCLUDING NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT***

- The project will not significantly affect the pattern and type of land use (industrial, commercial, agricultural, recreational, and residential) or growth and distribution of population.
- The project will not conflict with local, regional or State land use plans or policies.
- The project will not impact wetlands provided the terms of Nationwide Permit #7 are abided by.
- The project will not affect threatened and endangered species or their habitats provided that any tree cutting is conducted between October 1 and March 31 to avoid impacting endangered bats. If any State- or Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or communities are found during the planning or construction phases, additional studies and/or mitigation may be required. The project will not displace population, alter the character of existing residential areas, or convert significant farmlands to non-agricultural purposes.
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- No historic properties will be adversely affected by the proposed project. However, if project activities uncover any item(s) that might be of archaeological, historical, or architectural interest, or if important new archaeological, historical, or architectural data should be encountered in the project APE, the applicant should make reasonable efforts to avoid further impacts to the property until an assessment can be made by an individual meeting the Secretary of the Interior's professional qualifications standards (36 CFR Part 61).
- The project will not have a significant adverse effect upon local ambient air quality provided the applicant takes reasonable precautions to prevent the discharge of visible emissions of fugitive dusts beyond the lot line of the property during the proposed project (567 IAC 23.3(2)"c").
- The project will not have a significant adverse effect upon local ambient noise levels, surface water quantity, groundwater quality or quantity, or water supply.

- No significant impact to surface water quality, fish, shellfish, wildlife, or their natural habitats is expected provided that an NPDES General Permit Number 2 (for storm water discharge associated with construction activities) is obtained and the terms of which are abided by.

THEREFORE:

The above project conforms to the criteria in 567 Iowa Administrative Code 92.8(1)“b” relating to compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. No adverse effect or significant environmental impact is foreseen at this time.

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**Casey Laskowski**

Environmental Review Specialist

State Revolving Fund

Iowa Department of Natural Resources



**USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle: Marengo**  
**Section: 29 & 30, Township: 81 N, Range: 10 W**  
**Date: 1965**  
**Scale: 1 Inch = 2,000 Feet**



**North**

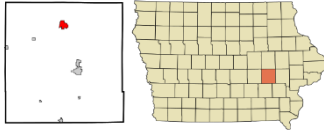
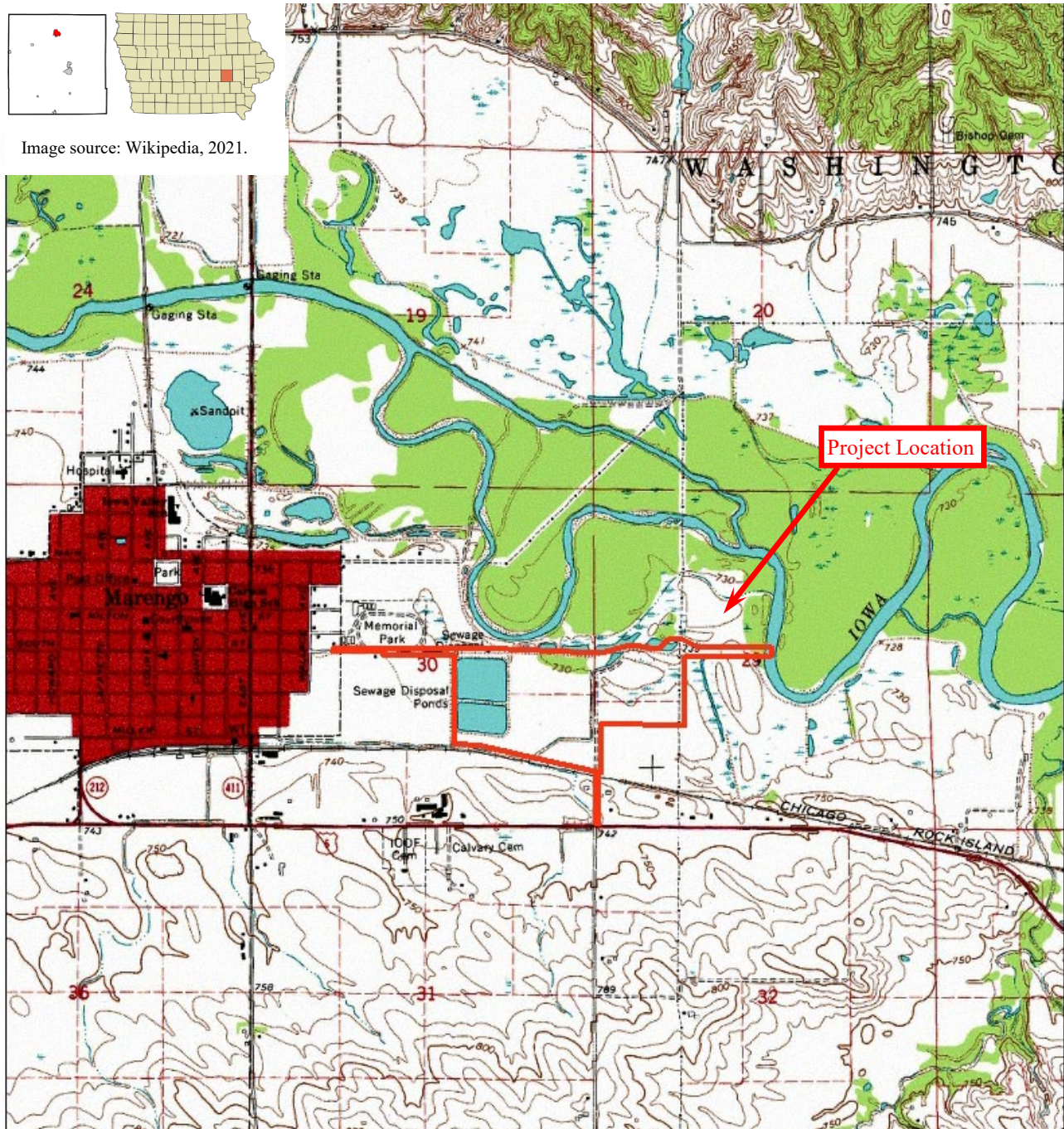


Image source: Wikipedia, 2021.



## USGS Topographic Map

Marengo Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade  
Marengo, IA



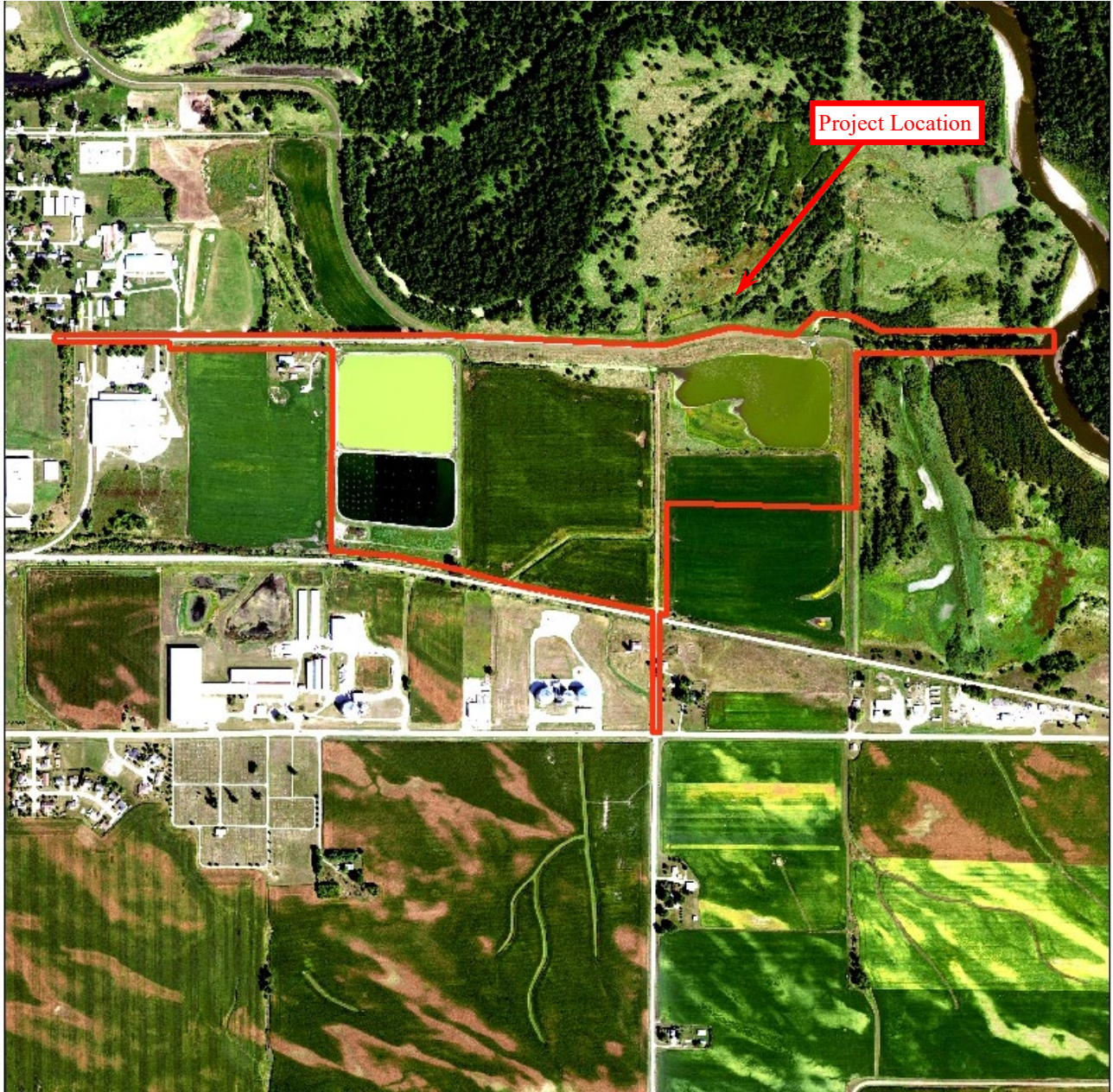
State Revolving Fund  
502 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, IA 50319-0034



Location information provided by Veenstra & Kimm, Inc.  
2017



North



Project Location

## Aerial Photograph

Marengo Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade  
Marengo, IA



State Revolving Fund  
502 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, IA 50319-0034