BUFFALO
SEWER AUTHORITY

ATTACHMENT F

Full Environmental Assessment Form

Part 3 – Evaluation of the Magnitude and Importance of Project Impacts and Determination of Significance

Buffalo Sewer Authority – Kerns Avenue SPP399 and SPP340 Modification

Proposed Activity

Under the proposed project, the Sewer Patrol Point (SPP 339) will be modified by increasing the diameter of the underflow pipe to 48”, and by raising the elevation of the overflow weir to 52.71 ft (City datum). These modifications would reduce CSO-053 overflows. SPP340 would be modified by increasing the diameter of the underflow orifice to 24”. A flap gate or automatically controlled gate (based on level) would also be applied to prevent backflow from the Scajaquada Drain. The modification would reduce CSO-053 overflows.

Agency Coordination

The completion of this project will potentially involve approval from twelve (12) agencies. SEQR materials were prepared and sent to the following agencies: The City of Buffalo Common Council – Lovejoy District, City of Buffalo Office of Strategic Planning, City of Buffalo Department of Public Works, Parks, and Streets, Buffalo Environmental Management Commission, City of Buffalo Water Authority, Erie County Department of Health, New York State Department of Transportation, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Historic Preservation Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and New York State Department of State. Subsequent to distribution of SEQR materials, the Erie County Water Authority (ECWA) was identified as an additional stakeholder due to the presence of an existing water line within the project area, identified during geotechnical investigations; ECWA will be consulted and coordinated with as the project advances.

Agency Consultations

The project details were submitted to the New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation – Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP). The OPRHP issued an Effective Finding of No Impact Letter. Based on the review, the OPRHP determined that no properties, including archaeological and/ or historic resources, listed in or eligible for the New York State and National Registers of Historic Places will be impacted by this project.

A consultation was also made with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system. The project is in proximity of one (1) Proposed Endangered species, the salamander mussel. Based on the scope of the project, IPaC determined there would be no impact on the salamander mussel or its

habitat. A determination letter of no effect was provided by IPaC stating no further consultation or coordination will be required by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Impacts

The following impacts were identified on the FEAF Part 2.

1. Impact on Land

Analysis

The 19-month construction phase of the project requires the excavation of approximately 1,700 cubic yards of native soil for the underground SPP modification, and the disruption will be localized to the proposed 0.5-acre construction site. The excavated material will be used as backfill once installation is complete and any excess soil will be disposed of according to regulations at an authorized facility. The work will occur within the right-of-way along Kerns Avenue, Texas Street, and Hagen Street in the City of Buffalo. Construction activities will result in significant soil disturbance and the movement of excavated material. These activities may also temporarily alter drainage patterns and increase the potential for erosion or soil compaction in disturbed areas.

Mitigation Measures

To mitigate potential impacts on land, erosion and sediment control measures will be implemented to prevent soil displacement and sediment transport. Silt fences, stabilized construction entrances, straw wattles, and erosion control blankets will be used where necessary, and all disturbed areas will be stabilized promptly with gravel or temporary vegetation following construction. Additionally, stormwater management best practices will be employed to minimize runoff. Proper grading techniques will be used to direct runoff away from sensitive areas and to prevent pooling.

Impact

With proper mitigation, the impact on land will be moderate and short term during the construction period. Given the limited scale of land disturbance, the reuse of excavated material, and the incorporation of erosion control and stormwater management strategies, the proposed project is not expected to result in significant adverse impacts on land. Any potential effects will be temporary and localized, and mitigation measures will be in place to ensure that soil stability and drainage patterns are maintained throughout the project's implementation.

13. Impact on Transportation

Analysis

The construction of the associated sewer infrastructure will temporarily impact transportation in the surrounding area, particularly near the intersections of Kerns Avenue and Texas Street and Kerns Avenue and Hagen Street. Construction activities, including excavation and pipe installation, will require partial lane closures and detours. Local traffic circulation, including access to adjacent residences and businesses, may be temporarily affected. Pedestrian access along sidewalks may be restricted or rerouted during certain phases of construction. However, the affected area is primarily residential with low to moderate traffic volumes, and no long-term operational impacts on transportation are expected after construction is complete.

Mitigation:

Traffic and pedestrian impacts will be mitigated through the implementation of a comprehensive Maintenance and Protection of Traffic (MPT) plan. This plan will include clear signage, temporary pedestrian walkways, detour routes, flagging operations where necessary, and coordination with local transportation agencies and school officials to ensure safe access around the construction zone. Efforts will be made to schedule disruptive work during off-peak hours or school recess periods, where feasible, to reduce impacts on daily routines.

Impact:

The impact on transportation will be moderate and short term, limited to the construction phase. Post-construction, traffic and pedestrian conditions will return to normal, with no permanent transportation infrastructure changes resulting from the project.

15. Impact on Noise, Odor, and Light

Analysis

Construction activities will generate noise from heavy equipment, excavation, and material transport, which may affect nearby residents. Temporary lighting may also be used for construction work during early morning or evening hours, potentially affecting nearby properties.

Mitigation

Noise mitigation measures will include compliance with local noise ordinances, limiting work hours to daytime periods, and using equipment with noise-reduction features. Light pollution will be minimized by directing construction lighting downward and using shielded fixtures.

Impacts

The impact on noise will be moderate to significant and temporary during construction. Light impacts will be moderate and temporary.

16. Impact on Human Health

Analysis

During construction, potential air quality impacts from dust, diesel emissions, and airborne particulates may affect nearby residents. If not properly managed, prolonged exposure to construction dust and emissions could pose respiratory risks, particularly for sensitive populations such as children, the elderly, and individuals with pre-existing respiratory conditions. Additionally, excavation may encounter contaminated soils, particularly given the urban nature of the site and the presence of existing underground utilities and infrastructure. Construction activities also pose safety risks, including hazards associated with heavy machinery operation, excavation, and material handling.

In the long term, the project is expected to have significant **positive** impacts on human health by reducing combined sewer overflows (CSOs) into the Scajaquada Drain. The reduction of CSO discharges will improve water quality, reducing the risk of waterborne illnesses and improving environmental conditions for both residents and aquatic ecosystems.

Mitigation

Dust control measures, including water spraying, dust suppression barriers, and covering of stockpiled materials, will be implemented to minimize airborne particulates. Construction vehicles and equipment will comply with emissions standards, and idling will be restricted to reduce diesel emissions. If contaminated soil is encountered, it will be handled and disposed of according to environmental regulations, with appropriate safety protocols in place. Strict adherence to Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and local construction safety standards will ensure worker and public safety.

Impact

The impact on human health during construction will be minor and short term, with proper mitigation measures in place to minimize exposure to air pollutants and safety hazards. In the long term, the project will have a significant beneficial impact, improving public health through reduced CSO discharges and enhanced water quality.

Determination of Significance

The proposed project involves the modification of Sewer Patrol Point (SPP) 339 by increasing the diameter of the underflow pipe to 48” and raising the elevation of the overflow weir to 52.71’. The project also involves the modification of SPP340 by increasing the diameter of the underflow orifice to 24” and installing a flap gate to prevent backflow from the Scajaquada Drain. These modifications would reduce CSO-053 overflows. The project will require the excavation of approximately 1,700 cubic yards of soil and will include a 19-month construction period. Given the scale and duration of the work, the project will have temporary but moderate impacts on land, transportation, noise, light, and human health during construction.

Impacts to land will be mitigated through erosion and sediment controls, proper backfilling, and restoration of the site post-construction. Noise and light impacts will be moderate but temporary, managed through adherence to local ordinances and best practices.

Transportation impacts are expected during construction, including disruptions to traffic patterns and pedestrian pathways near the intersections of Kerns Avenue and Texas Street and Kerns Avenue and Hagen Street. These impacts will be temporary and mitigated through a Maintenance and Protection of Traffic (MPT) plan, including detour signage, pedestrian safety measures, and coordination with local agencies.

The impact on human health during construction will be minor and short term, with proper mitigation measures in place to minimize exposure to air pollutants and safety hazards.

Despite these temporary disruptions, the project provides substantial long-term environmental benefits, including a reduction in combined sewer overflows (CSOs) to the Scajaquada Drain, improved water quality, and enhanced public health protections. With implementation of the identified mitigation measures, the potential adverse effects of the project will be minimized to the extent practicable.

Negative Declaration

Based on the environmental assessment, the project **will not result in significant adverse environmental impacts that cannot be mitigated**. The temporary disruptions during construction—including impacts on land, transportation, noise, light, and air quality—will be effectively managed through standard construction and environmental best management practices.

Given that the project will ultimately result in long-term environmental and public health benefits by reducing CSO discharges, improving water quality, and supporting regional stormwater management goals, and because all adverse effects will ultimately be temporary and mitigated appropriately, the Buffalo Sewer Authority is issuing a **Negative Declaration** pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR). **No significant adverse environmental impacts are anticipated** that would warrant the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).