

## **NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS**

October 2, 2024  
City of Seward  
537 Main Street  
Seward, NE 68434  
(402) 643-2928

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Seward, the recipient of the Nebraska Department of Economic Development grant, and also the Responsible Entity (RE).

### **REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS**

On or after October 19, 2024, the City of Seward will submit a request to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), or its State administering agency, Nebraska Department of Economic Development (State) for the release of Community Development Block Grant Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund funds under Title 1 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1974 (U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) as amended, to undertake a project for the purpose of a public facilities infrastructure street improvement in the City, namely, extending Worthman Boulevard from Pine Street to the proposed Business property boundary, constructing approximately 1,800 of new 2-Lane street, sidewalks, storm sewer, and water/wastewater extension. The project will principally benefit a start-up dairy processor, DARI Processing, LLC, a Nebraska Limited Liability Company, which plans to construct a new facility in Seward, NE. Total project costs are estimated at \$2,598,000. Funding sources include approximately \$1,015,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Economic Development (EDRLF) funds, including \$10,000 in general administration and \$5,000 for construction management. The City will contribute \$1,000,000 in matching funds, in addition to a Nebraska Department of Transportation Economic Opportunity Program grant in the amount of \$583,000.

Project impacts may include temporary road closures, noise, and dust. Businesses, residents, and emergency services will be notified of all road closures and will be routed to alleyways or other roads during construction. Project activities will take place during normal business hours. Twenty-nine (29) full time equivalent (“FTE”) jobs will be created as a result of the Project, primarily benefitting low to moderate income persons. The Business will maintain the new FTE job positions for a period of at least one year. All employees will be paid at least \$19 per hour which includes a benefits package. The Project is unlikely to result in displacement of residents, farms or businesses, and should be completed within thirty months.

### **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

The City of Seward has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEDPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the City Office, located at 537 Main Street, Seward, NE in addition to the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (NDED) office, which is located at 245 Fallbrook Blvd, Suite 002, Lincoln, NE, where the ERR can be examined and may be copied weekdays between 9:00AM and 5:00PM. The ERR will be made available to the public for review either electronically or by U.S. mail. Please submit your request by mail to 537 Main Street, Seward, NE 68434 or by email to [Derek.Bargmann@cityofsewardne.gov](mailto:Derek.Bargmann@cityofsewardne.gov). If the RE chooses to send the ERR to the public for review via U.S. mail, the RE will establish a timeframe for accepting comments with the person requesting the ERR.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to Derek Bargmann, City Clerk. All comments received by October 18, 2024 will be considered by the City of Seward prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION**

The City of Seward certifies to the State that Joshua Eickmeier, in their capacity as Mayor, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if any action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The State's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of Seward to use Program funds.

## **OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS**

The Nebraska Department of Economic Development will accept objections to its release of funds and the City of Seward certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of Seward; (b) grant recipient has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) in writing to the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, 245 Fallbrook Blvd, Suite 002, Lincoln, NE 68521. Potential objectors should contact the Nebraska Department of Economic Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Joshua Eickmeier, Mayor  
Certifying Officer