

211 Ninth Street South, Box 2806, Fargo, ND 58108-2806 Phone 701-298-2381

February 25, 2019

Dear

The Diversion Authority is contacting all property owners whose land is affected by the Fargo-Moorhead Area Diversion Project (Project). Our records indicate that you own property that may be impacted by the operations of the Project. We are contacting you to provide preliminary information related to the acquisition of property rights needed for the Project.

Living in the Red River Valley, we all have witnessed the devastation flooding can inflict upon our residents. We also keenly understand this Project directly impacts the people of this region. We understand that parts of the Project may cause hardship and we want to be clear that we appreciate the sacrifices we are now asking of you so that flood protection for others can be provided. The acquisition of property rights in the upstream mitigation area will take several years and needs to be completed before long-term flood protection can become a reality.

We apologize for the delay in providing details to the people whose lands and livelihoods may be changed by the Project. We would have liked to be in contact with you sooner, but the Project has undergone continuous refinement. These refinements are ongoing as we establish the necessary bounds of the Project area by working with permitting agencies. There are still a few issues to settle before finalizing the Project area, but we feel that the Project is at the point where the need to provide information outweighs the risk of providing incomplete information.

The Fargo-Moorhead Diversion Authority is committed to limiting impact on properties, and fairly compensating for the Project's impacts. Following the conditions recently included in the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) Dam Safety & Public Waters Work Permit (Permit Number 2018-0819), we have created a process to treat all property owners fairly and to define a value for impacts to your property.

Enclosed with this letter is a preliminary map that details the area upstream of the Project where we expect property rights will need to be acquired. Finalization of the maps, the Property Rights Acquisition & Mitigation Plan, and acquisition of these property rights is expected to begin after approval of the Conditional Letter of Map Revision by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which we anticipate to occur in summer 2019.

We also want you to be aware of additional resources available to you online at www.fmdiversion.com/lands where all the information related to Property Acquisition and Mitigation for the Project is located. Included amongst the online resources are:

- An online, interactive web map that details the Project.
- The Property Rights Acquisition & Mitigation Plan, which includes detailed individual plans for acquiring property rights as well as mitigating the impacts to farmland, organic farmland, cemeteries, and residential and commercial properties. This plan is subject to change due to ongoing refinements through additional input and coordination with state and federal agencies.
- Maps showing the estimated property rights needed to construct and operate the Project.
- Information to help explain the acquisition process.
- Contact information for the Cass County Joint Water Resource District (701-298-2381), the acquiring entity for the Diversion Board of Authority.

The Cass County Joint Water Resource District will be back in touch with the impacted property owners after the Conditional Letter of Map Revision is issued by FEMA. Between now and then, please feel free to contact our property acquisition management team from Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc. (AE2S) at 701-364-9111. Also, please note that services of land agents (project representatives) will be available to work with you during the land acquisition process.

We want to work cooperatively with you to find a fair solution and to address your questions as they relate to the potential impacts the Project may have on your property.

Mary Scherling

Cass County Commission

FM Diversion Authority, Chair

MaryStekerling

Dan Jacobson

Tan factor

Cass County Joint Water Resource District

