

Sample Flowage Easement

FLOWAGE EASEMENT

THIS EASEMENT is made this ____ day of _____, 201X, by **[Insert Name(s)]**, **[Insert Marital Status]**, whose post office address is **[Insert Address]** (“Grantor”); and the **[Insert Acquiring Entity Name]**, a **[pick one: Minnesota / North Dakota]** political subdivision, whose post office address is **[Insert Address]**, and its successors and assigns (“Grantee”).

RECITALS

A. The Grantee is a member of the METRO FLOOD DIVERSION BOARD OF AUTHORITY, a joint powers entity consisting of Clay County, Minnesota; City of Moorhead, Minnesota; Cass County, North Dakota; City of Fargo, North Dakota; and the Cass County Joint Water Resource District (the “Diversion Authority”).

B. The Fargo-Moorhead Metro Flood Risk Management Project is a flood risk management project, sponsored by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (the “Corps”) and the Diversion Authority, which includes a diversion channel and appurtenant staging and storage areas to reduce flood damages and risks in the region; the parties refer to the project as the FARGO-MOORHEAD METROPOLITAN AREA FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PROJECT, which is a federally authorized project pursuant to Section 7002(2) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (the “Project”).

C. Grantor owns certain real property in the vicinity of the Project, more specifically described below, in an area that may be subject to temporary and periodic flooding as a result of the Project.

D. Grantor has agreed to convey to Grantee a permanent easement, as more specifically described below, to permit Grantee to periodically flood portions of Grantor’s property as well as granting certain access, survey, and exploration rights to Grantee.

E. Grantor agrees to grant and convey to Grantee an easement over the property described below, subject to the terms and conditions contained in this Easement.

In consideration of \$XXX.XX, the mutual covenants contained in this Agreement, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which the parties acknowledge, the parties agree as follows:

AGREEMENT

1. **The Easement Property.** Grantor grants and conveys to Grantee a permanent easement in, on, over, through, and across the following real property in [**Insert County and State**]:

[Insert Description]

The above described tract contains _____ acres, more or less.

(Collectively, the "Easement Property.")

A. Under this Easement, Grantor grants to Grantee, its officers, employees, agents, representatives, contractors, and subcontractors the following perpetual right, power, privilege and easement to occasionally overflow, flood, and submerge the Easement Property in connection with the operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, and rehabilitation of the Project as authorized by Section 7002(2) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014, approved June 10, 2014, together with all right, title and interest in and to the structures and improvements now situated on the Easement Property, excepting fencing, and excepting any existing structures outside the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) floodway (based on the conditional letter of map revision (CLOMR)) that are in compliance, or Grantor may improve to be in compliance with floodplain development ordinances enforced by the local government agency and in compliance with FEMA floodplain development rules, and also excepting any newly constructed structures outside the established FEMA floodway on the Easement Property in accordance with floodplain development ordinances enforced by the local government agency and in accordance with FEMA floodplain development rules and also at least 1-foot higher than the elevation of the maximum pool elevation controlled by the portion of the Project commonly referred to as the Limited Service Spillway or higher than the 500-year flood water surface elevation, whichever is higher; and that no excavation shall be conducted and no fill placed on land within the established FEMA floodway without such approval as to the location and method of excavation and/or placement of fill and verification that the fill will not impact Project operation. The above estate is taken subject to existing easements for public roads and highways, public utilities, railroads and pipelines; reserving, however, to the property owners, their heirs and assigns, all such rights and privileges as may be used and enjoyed without interfering with the use of the Project for the purposes authorized by Congress or abridging the rights and easement hereby acquired; provided further that any use of the land shall be subject to Federal and State laws with respect to pollution.

B. Additionally under this Easement, Grantor grants to Grantee, its officers, employees, agents, representatives, contractors, and subcontractors, and the United States, the following access rights related to the Project regarding the Easement Property: ingress and egress in, on, over, across, and through the Access Area of the Easement Property as defined in the attached Exhibit X; removing structures, obstructions, and any other obstacles from the Access

Area of the Easement Property; conducting observations, surveys, reviews, and data collection for environmental assessments; conducting topographic field and parcel surveys, soil analysis, soil borings, and other investigations; conducting water level, erosion, water quality, habitat, environmental, and other relevant monitoring; performing any other testing, surveys, and analysis; and necessary and reasonable rights of ingress and egress to and from the Access Area of the Easement Property subject to the provisions regard crop damages below. Grantee shall notify Grantor prior to exercising the access provisions associated with this Agreement.

2. **Easement Runs With the Easement Property.** This Easement, and all covenants, terms, conditions, provisions, and undertakings created under this Easement, are perpetual and will run with the Easement Property, and will be binding upon Grantor's heirs, successors, and assigns.

3. **Removal of Unapproved Structures.** Grantor must remove all unapproved structures on the Easement Property on or before [Insert Date]. Any unapproved structures remaining on the Easement Property after [Insert Date], will automatically become Grantee's property, without the need for any bill of sale or any other written instrument or agreement; Grantee may then remove any unapproved structures from the Easement Property, at its sole discretion and at its sole cost.

4. **Grantor Covenants.** Grantor warrants that Grantor is the fee simple owner of the Easement Property; that Grantor has the right to execute this Easement and to make the promises, covenants, and representations contained in this Easement; that this Easement does not violate any mortgage or other interest held by any third party regarding the Easement Property, or any portion of the Easement Property; that there are no outstanding unpaid bills incurred for labor, materials, or services regarding the Easement Property, or any portion of the Easement Property; and that there are no recorded or unrecorded liens, security interests, or any outstanding, pending, or threatened suits, judgments, executions, bankruptcies, or other proceedings pending or of record that would in any manner impact title to the Easement Property, or any portion of the Easement Property. Grantor will release, hold harmless, defend, and indemnify Grantee and its officers, agents, representatives, employees, and contractors from and against any and all claims, damages, injuries, or costs arising out of or in any way related to any title defects regarding the Easement Property.

5. **Taxes.** Grantor is solely responsible for all taxes and special assessments or assessments for special improvements due, levied, or assessed regarding the Easement Property for all past, present, and future years. Grantee will not be responsible for payment of any real estate taxes or special assessments regarding the Easement Property.

6. **Use of the Easement Property.**

A. Grantor's Use. Subject to the provisions of Sections 1 and 3, Grantor has the right and privilege to use the Easement Property at any time, in any manner, and for production of crops, pasture, and other farm-related activities and hunting, including the right to post the Easement Property at Grantor's sole discretion to restrict public hunting rights. Grantor will promptly cease any activities and remove any structures or obstructions that interfere with Grantee's use of the Easement Property, Grantee's rights and privileges under this Easement, or with the Project, when directed by Grantee.

Grantor understands and recognizes any use of the Easement Property is at Grantor's sole risk, and that Grantee is not responsible for any damages to crops or for interference with any other of Grantor's uses of the Easement Property as a result of any inundation or any of Grantee's other rights and privileges regarding the Easement Property.

B. Grantee's Entry. If Grantee enters upon the Easement Property for purposes of conducting any of the surveys or testing permitted under this Agreement, following the conclusion of any surveys or testing, Grantee will return the Easement Property as nearly as practicable to its previous condition, taking into consideration the nature of the work being performed; for example, Grantee will remove any dirt piles or equipment from the Easement Property that might unreasonably interfere with Grantor's permitted uses of the Easement Property. Grantee's ingress and egress rights to the Easement Property will be by the least intrusive means reasonable. Additionally, Grantee will reimburse Grantor for reasonable crop damages resulting from the Grantee's physical entrance upon the Easement Property for purposes of conducting such surveys or testing. Such reasonable crop damages shall be calculated based on the area disturbed, actual production history, Grantor's yields the year of the damages, and current crop prices at the time of the crop damages.

7. **Encumbrances.** Subject to the provisions below regarding the leasing or mortgaging of the Easement Property, Grantor will not encumber the Easement Property or any portion of the Easement Property or enroll the Easement Property or any portion of the Easement Property in any farm or other federal program that would be contrary to, or would in any way disrupt or interfere with, Grantee's use of the Easement Property, Grantee's rights and privileges under this Easement, or with the Project without first obtaining Grantee's consent. However, Grantor may rent or lease the Easement Property, at Grantor's sole discretion without first obtaining Grantee's consent. If Grantor rents or leases the Easement Property, any lessee's rights and uses are subject to this Easement, including the use restrictions described above; Grantor will be fully responsible to Grantee for Grantor's obligations under this Easement, including for any violations by any lessee. Additionally, Grantor may mortgage the Easement Property, at Grantor's sole discretion without first obtaining Grantee's consent so long as any mortgage is subordinate to this Easement.

8. **Waiver of Warranties.** The parties specifically agree neither Grantee nor any of its agents or representatives have made any representations or warranties in any way regarding the Project; Grantor's ability to use the Easement Property following construction of Project; the potential frequency of inundation of the Easement Property; Grantor's ability to enroll the Easement Property in any federal program; or Grantor's ability to obtain any farm insurance regarding the Easement Property.

9. **Maintenance.** Grantee's easement rights include the right, at its discretion and if necessary for purposes of proper operation and maintenance of the Project, to remove trees, underbrush, obstructions, and any other vegetation, structures, or obstacles from the Easement Property. However, Grantor is solely responsible, at Grantor's sole expense and discretion, for maintaining the Easement Property, including grass cutting and weed control, and debris removal following any inundation. Neither Grantor nor Grantee will store, cause, or permit any spillage, leakage, or discharge of fertilizers, herbicides, fungicides, and pesticides on the Easement Property (in excess of normal applications for

farming purposes). Further, in no event will either party cause or permit any spillage, leakage, or discharge of any hazardous substance onto the Easement Property including, but not limited to, spillage of petroleum products or vehicle fuels, gasoline, kerosene, or other products used for the purpose of generating power, lubrication, illumination, heating, or cleaning. If either party causes or permits any spillage, leakage, or discharge of any such hazardous substance onto the Easement Property, that party shall be solely responsible for any damages arising out of such spillage, leakage, or discharge of any such hazardous substance onto the Easement Property to the extent required by law.

10. **Forbearance or Waiver.** The failure or delay of Grantee to insist on the timely performance of any of the terms of this Easement, or the waiver of any particular breach of any of the terms of this Easement, at any time, will not be construed as a continuing waiver of those terms or any subsequent breach, and all terms will continue and remain in full force and effect as if no forbearance or waiver had occurred.

11. **Governing Law.** This Agreement will be construed and enforced in accordance with [Insert STATE] law. The parties agree any litigation arising out of this Agreement will be venued in State District Court in [Insert County, State], and the parties waive any objection to venue or personal jurisdiction.

12. **Severability.** If any court of competent jurisdiction finds any provision or part of this Easement is invalid, illegal, or unenforceable, that portion will be deemed severed from this Easement, and all remaining terms and provisions of this Easement will remain binding and enforceable.

13. **Entire Agreement.** This Easement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties regarding the matters described in this Easement, and this Easement supersedes all other previous oral or written agreements between the parties.

14. **Modifications.** Any modifications or amendments of this Easement must be in writing and signed by Grantor and Grantee and must be recorded with the [INSERT] County Recorder's office.

15. **Representation.** The parties, having been represented by counsel or having waived the right to counsel, have carefully read and understand the contents of this Easement, and agree they have not been influenced by any representations or statements made by any other parties.

16. **Headings.** Headings in this Easement are for convenience only and will not be used to interpret or construe its provisions.

(Signatures appear on the following pages.)

