



State Revolving Fund Loan Programs Drinking Water, Wastewater, Nonpoint Source

PRELIMINARY DECISION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS, ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

CHESTERTON UTILITIES WASTEWATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PHASE II SRF # WW 13 10 64 02

Date: July 5, 2013

Pursuant to IC 4-4-11, the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program has determined that the project described here and in the town's Preliminary Engineering Report will have no substantial negative environmental impact. Therefore, the SRF is issuing a preliminary decision of Categorical Exclusion from the requirements of substantive environmental review.

How were environmental issues considered?

The National Environmental Policy Act requires agencies disbursing Federal funds to include environmental factors in the decision making process. A summary of the project is attached for your review. The SRF's preliminary review has found that the proposed project does not require the preparation of either an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement.

Why is additional environmental review not required?

Our environmental review has concluded that significant environmental impacts will not result from the proposed action.

How do I submit comments?

Comments can be submitted to:

Mrs. April Douglas,
Senior Environmental Manager
SRF Programs
317-234-7294; adouglas@ifa.in.gov

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Name and Address: **Wastewater System Improvements Phase II**
Chesterton Utility Service Board
726 Broadway
Chesterton, IN 46304

SRF Project Number: WW 13 10 64 02

Authorized Representative: Mr. Lawrence Brandt, Board Chairman

II. PROJECT LOCATION

Chesterton is located in Porter County in northern Indiana, approximately 20 miles east of Gary. The proposed projects are located throughout Chesterton. The wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) is located in the Chesterton USGS quadrangle, Township 37 North, Range 6 West, section 26. The collection system projects are located in the Chesterton USGS quadrangle, T36N, R6W, sections 1, 2 and 3; T37N, R6W, sections 35 and 36; and T36N, R5W, section 7. See Figure 1.

III. PROJECT NEED AND PURPOSE

The proposed Wastewater System Improvements Phase II projects include a wet weather expansion for the WWTP and control system upgrades for the WWTP and collection system lift stations. The wet weather expansion to the WWTP was developed in Chesterton's Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) and involves the addition of a CSO storage tank and an upgrade to the plant headworks that will collect wet weather flows above treatment plant capacity. The headworks upgrade includes an addition to the influent building with new vertical bar screens, new grit chamber, and a new lift station. The CSO storage tank and headworks addition will treat wet weather flows up to the 10-year storm or 26 MGD over the treatment plant capacity. The storage tank will store 1,200,000 gallons. See Figure 2.

The proposed Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) improvements include updating the monitoring and controls system at the wastewater treatment plant, which will allow the plant to run more efficiently. The KAT, Porter Cove, Chesterton H.S. and Westwood lift stations will upgrade their communication systems with new SCADA system technology which is more reliable, wireless and low maintenance. See Figure 1.

The No Action alternative was rejected. This alternative would leave WWTP and its overflow in its current operation. Combined sewer overflows would continue to bypass the treatment plant during wet weather events and discharge into the Little Calumet River. The town of Chesterton would be in violation of its NPDES Permit. The lift station SCADA

System would remain unchanged and continue to be used as is. The potential for undetected failures, false alarms, inconsistent data and maintenance issues would continue.

IV. ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS, AFFORDABILITY AND FUNDING

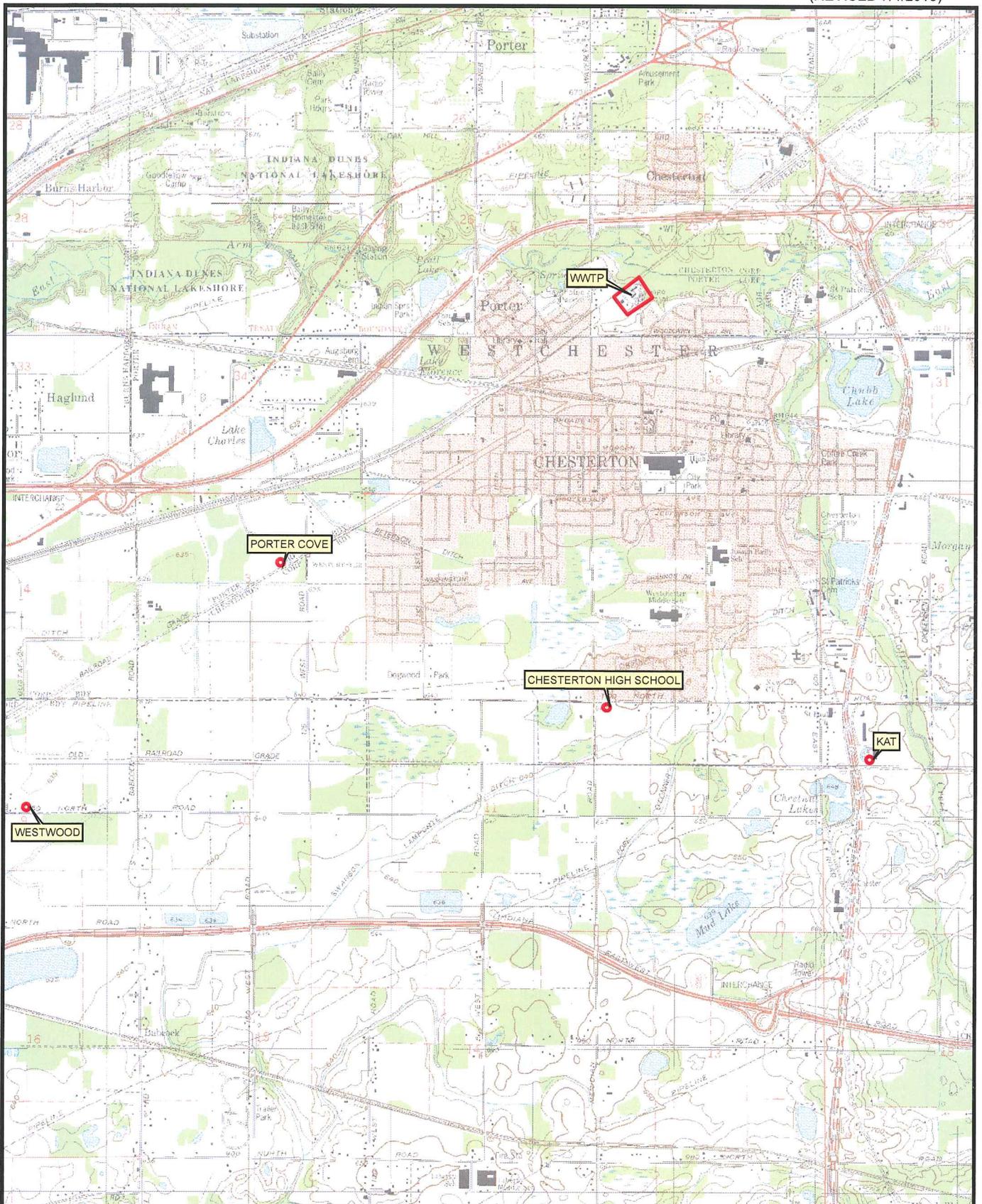
Total cost of the Phase II project is estimated to be approximately \$11,174,000. Chesterton will finance the project with a loan from the State Revolving Fund Loan Program for a 20-year term at an annual fixed interest rate to be determined at loan closing. Monthly user rates and charges may need to be analyzed to determine if adjustments are required for loan repayment.

V. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES

Construction and operation of the project will not alter, demolish or remove historic properties (figures 3-6). If any visual or audible impacts to historic properties occur, they will be temporary and will not alter the characteristics that qualify such properties for inclusion in or eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. The SRF's finding pursuant to Section 106 of the National Preservation Act is: "no historic properties affected."

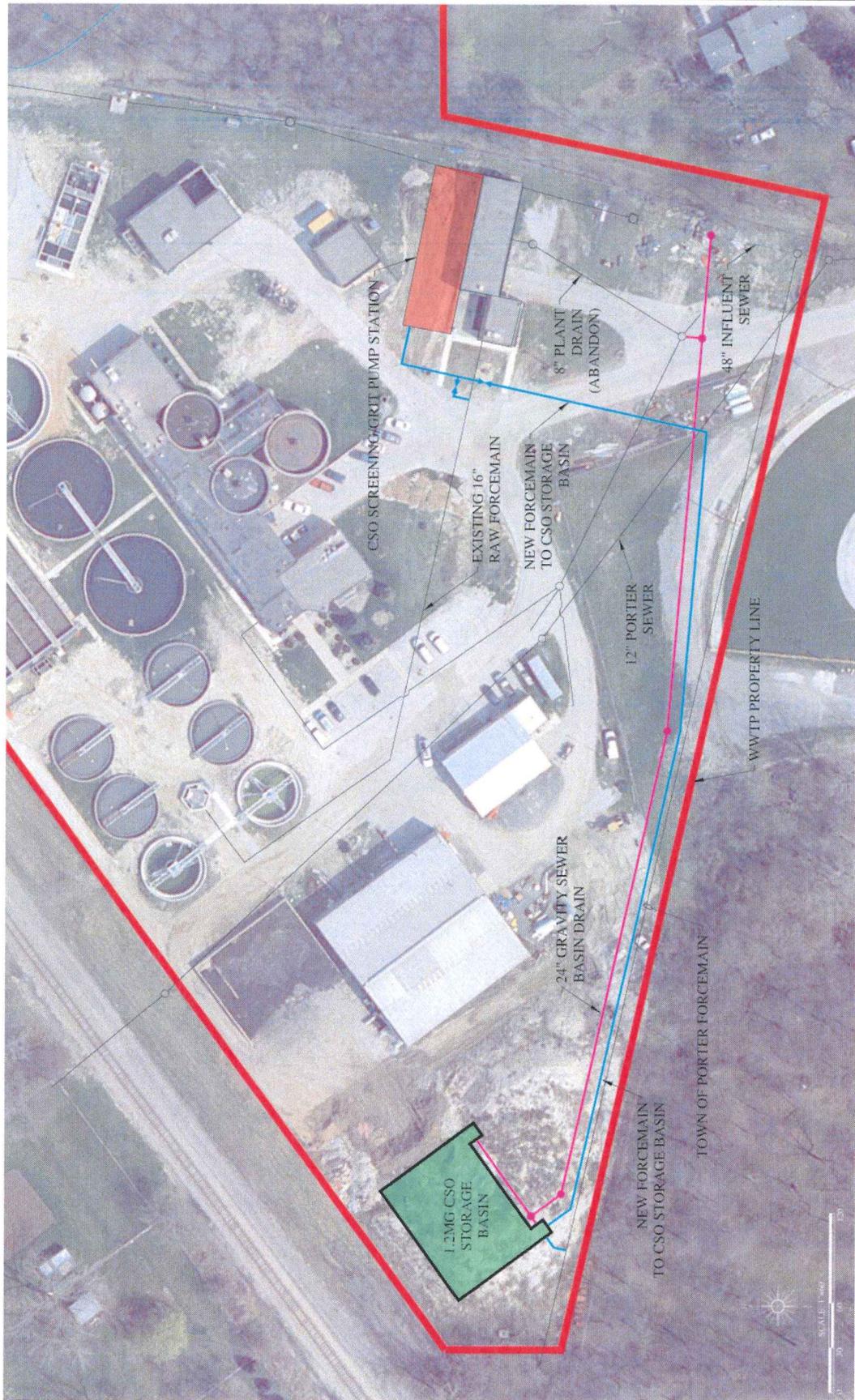
VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A properly noticed public hearing was held on October 29, 2012 at 6 pm at the Chesterton Town Hall, 726 Broadway. There was one question during the hearing regarding Phase II, regarding how the Utility will keep the wastewater in the storage tank from going septic. The answer: the overflow from an extended storm will not remain in the tank long enough for it to become septic; once the WWTP capacity is available, the water in the tank will be processed. No written comments were received in the 5-day period following the hearing.



CHESTERTON USGS QUADRANGLE MAP

<p>TOWN OF CHESTERTON, INDIANA</p>	<p>0 1,500 3,000 4,500 6,000</p> 		 <p>Figure 1</p>
<p>TOPOGRAPHIC MAP</p>	<p>SCALE IN FEET</p>		



TOWN OF CHESTERTON, INDIANA

HEADWORKS AND STORAGE
BASIN LOCATIONS



Figure 2