



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

PRELIMINARY DECISION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS, ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

**CITY OF LA PORTE
LAKE STREET WATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADES
RIDGE STREET AND TECUMSEH STREET MAIN IMPROVEMENTS
GIS SYSTEM & WATER SYSTEM HYDRAULIC ANALYSIS
SRF # DW 10144501**

Date: May 24, 2011

Target Project Approval Date: May 25, 2011

Pursuant to IC 4-4-11, the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program has determined that the project described here and in the City of La Porte Preliminary Engineering Report for water supply, treatment, storage and distribution system improvements 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 (NEPA) 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 EA or an EIS.

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:

Amy Henninger, Senior Environmental Manager
SRF Programs
317-232-6566; ahenning@ ifa.in.gov

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

I. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name and Address:	City of La Porte Lake Street Water Treatment Plant Upgrades, Ridge Street and Tecumseh Street Main Improvements, GIS System & Water System Hydraulic Analysis 801 Michigan Avenue La Porte, IN 46350
SRF Project Number:	DW 10 14 45 01
Authorized Representative:	Ms. Kathleen Chroback Mayor

II. PROJECT LOCATION

La Porte City is located in La Porte County, Indiana. The Lake Street Plant improvement project is located in Township 37 North, Range 3 West, Section 35 in the La Porte East USGS quadrangle. The Ridge Street and Tecumseh Street water main extension project is located in Township 37 North, Range 3 West, Section 36 in the La Porte East USGS quadrangle.

The existing and proposed future service areas are identified in Figure 1-1.

III. PROJECT NEED AND PURPOSE

La Porte owns and maintains a water treatment and distribution system. The proposed projects will address several deficiencies in the treatment and distribution systems.

The existing Lake Street Water Treatment Plant (WTP) was constructed in 1928 with additions and upgrades in 1950, 1968, and 1998. The Water Department is concerned about the hazards of chlorine gas at the Lake Street WTP and desires that an on-site hypochlorite generation system be installed to replace the gaseous chlorine. The building is in need of masonry and other repairs to avoid further degradation from water damage. The space inside the building is subject to high humidity and this has caused the walls, ceilings and unit heaters to deteriorate. Upgrades to the HVAC system building insulation and other energy efficiencies are needed to extend the useful life of the building. The access hatches to the filters have also corroded making them unusable. Replacement of the access hatches is

necessary to maintain proper monitoring and maintenance of the filters. It is also necessary to replace three of the filter valves to maintain optimal operation of the WTP.

Improvements proposed at the Lake Street WTP include replacement of the existing gaseous chlorination system with an on-site hypochlorite generation system; replacement of the unit heaters in the filter gallery; upgrades to the walls and ceilings in the filter gallery; tuck pointing, lintel upgrades, installation of control joints, miscellaneous masonry repairs, replacement of existing filter access hatches, and replacement of three 24" diameter filter isolation valves (Figure 1-3 & Figure 1-4).

The Ridge Street and Tecumseh Street area is comprised of older residential homes near the center of downtown La Porte. The area is served by undersized and deteriorated water mains. The mains provide poor fire service, are subject to breaks and leaks, and act as a bottleneck to the efficient flow of water in the area.

The proposed improvements in the Ridge Street and Tecumseh Street area include the replacement of existing 4" and 8" diameter water main on Ridge Street between Clement Street and Plain Street; replacement of existing 4" diameter water main on Tecumseh Street between Ridge Street and the alley approximately 150 feet west of John Street; and installation of a new water main in the alley from Tecumseh Street to Clement Street, including valves, hydrants and appurtenances. Approximately 1,200 feet of 10" diameter water main will be installed (Figure 1-5).

Accurate mapping of the water system in the community exists within multiple offices. Information is maintained by the Water Department, City Engineer or consultant in separate documents. It is proposed to combine the available data into one geographically based information system and develop a Geographical Information System that includes a Hydraulic Network Analysis.

Combining the data into one geographically based information system will provide an accurate, up-to-date receptacle of the wealth of data available on this water system and allow for more efficient operations and greater accuracy in predicting future water system improvement needs.

V. ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS

A. Selected Plan Estimated Cost Summary

<u>System Improvements</u>	<u>Estimated Costs</u>
Lake Street WTP Improvements	703,000
Ridge and Tecumseh Street Main Replacement	90,000
Contingencies (10%)	79,300
<i>Construction Subtotal</i>	<i>872,300</i>
<i>Non-Construction Subtotal (including GIS)</i>	<i>\$ 770,900</i>
Total Estimated Project Cost	\$ 1,643,200

- B. La Porte will finance the project with a 20-year loan from the SRF program at an interest rate to be determined at the time of loan closing. Monthly user rates and charges may need to be analyzed to determine if adjustments are required for loan repayment.

VII. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES

The proposed water line and plant improvements will be located within existing footprints, existing water main trench and in areas previously disturbed by road construction. The project will not affect the 100-year floodplain or wetlands. Neither will the project affect endangered species or their habitat, wooded areas, surface or ground waters, National Natural Landmarks or the Lake Michigan Coastal Program Area.

The project will not affect historic sites, including sites on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Construction and operation of the project will not alter, demolish or remove historic properties. 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 Historic Preservation Act is: "no historic properties affected."

C. Comments from Environmental Review Authorities

In correspondence dated March 10, 2011 the DHPA states of the Lake Street and Ridge Street projects: *Based on our analysis, it has been determined that no historic structures will be altered, demolished, or removed by the proposed project.*

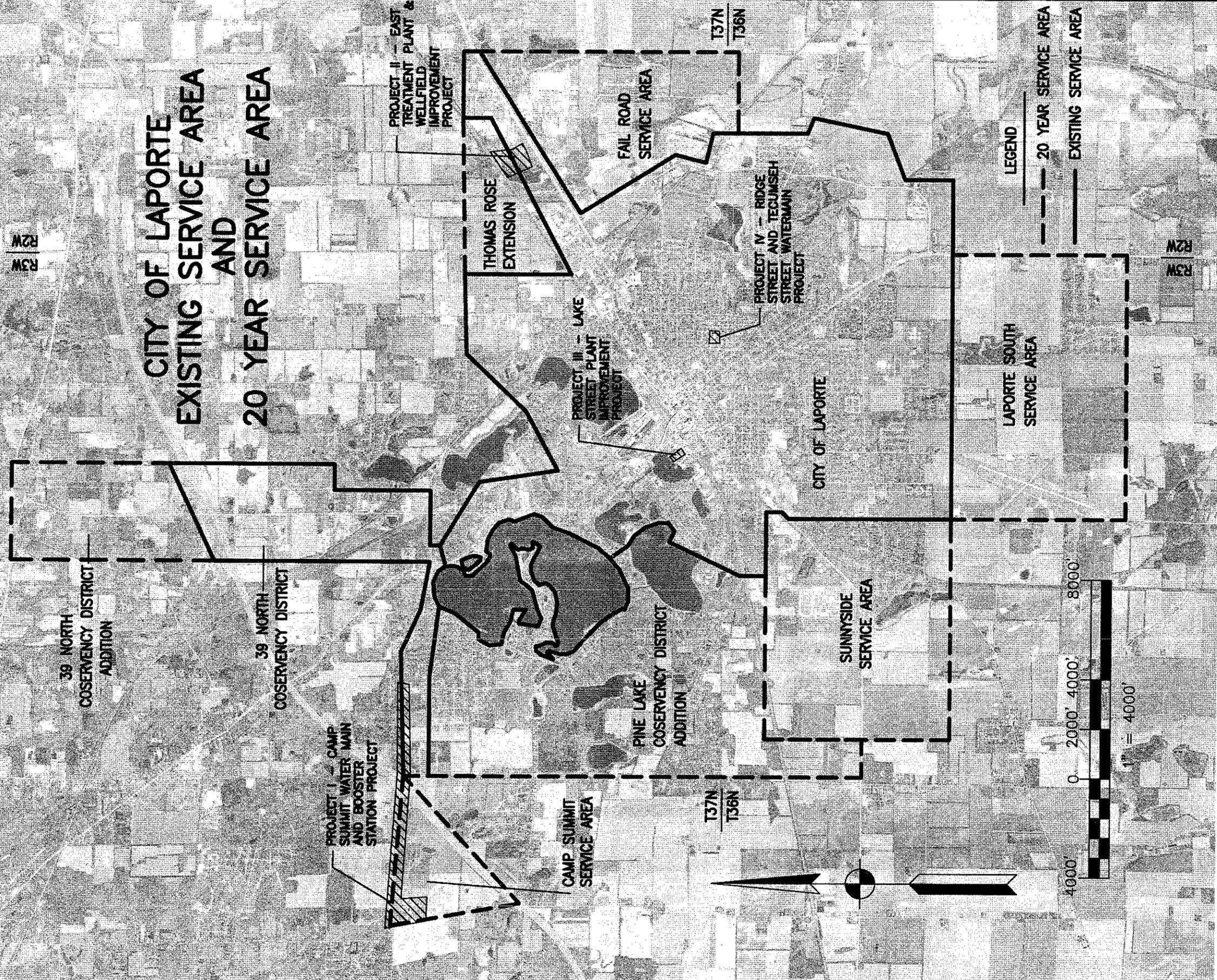
In terms of archaeological resources, an archaeological survey (Plunkett, 5/15/10) has been conducted for the Lake Street... portion of the proposed project. We concurred with the recommendations and conclusions of this report.

In regard to the...Lake Street and the Ridge Street portions of the proposed projects, no further archaeological investigations appear necessary provided that the project activities remain within areas subjected to the survey or with areas disturbed by previous construction.

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A properly advertised public hearing was held at 7:00 pm on Monday, May 10, 2010 at the City Hall to discuss the Preliminary Engineering Report, provide input in the preparation of this report, and solicit citizens' views and concerns regarding the proposed project. A copy of the Preliminary Engineering Report was available for public review for ten days prior to the public hearing. There were no written comments received from the public during the 5-day period after the public hearing.

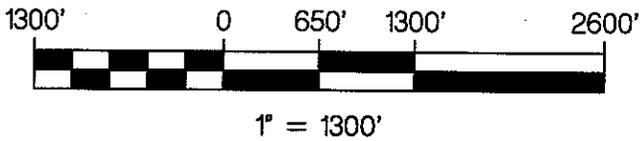
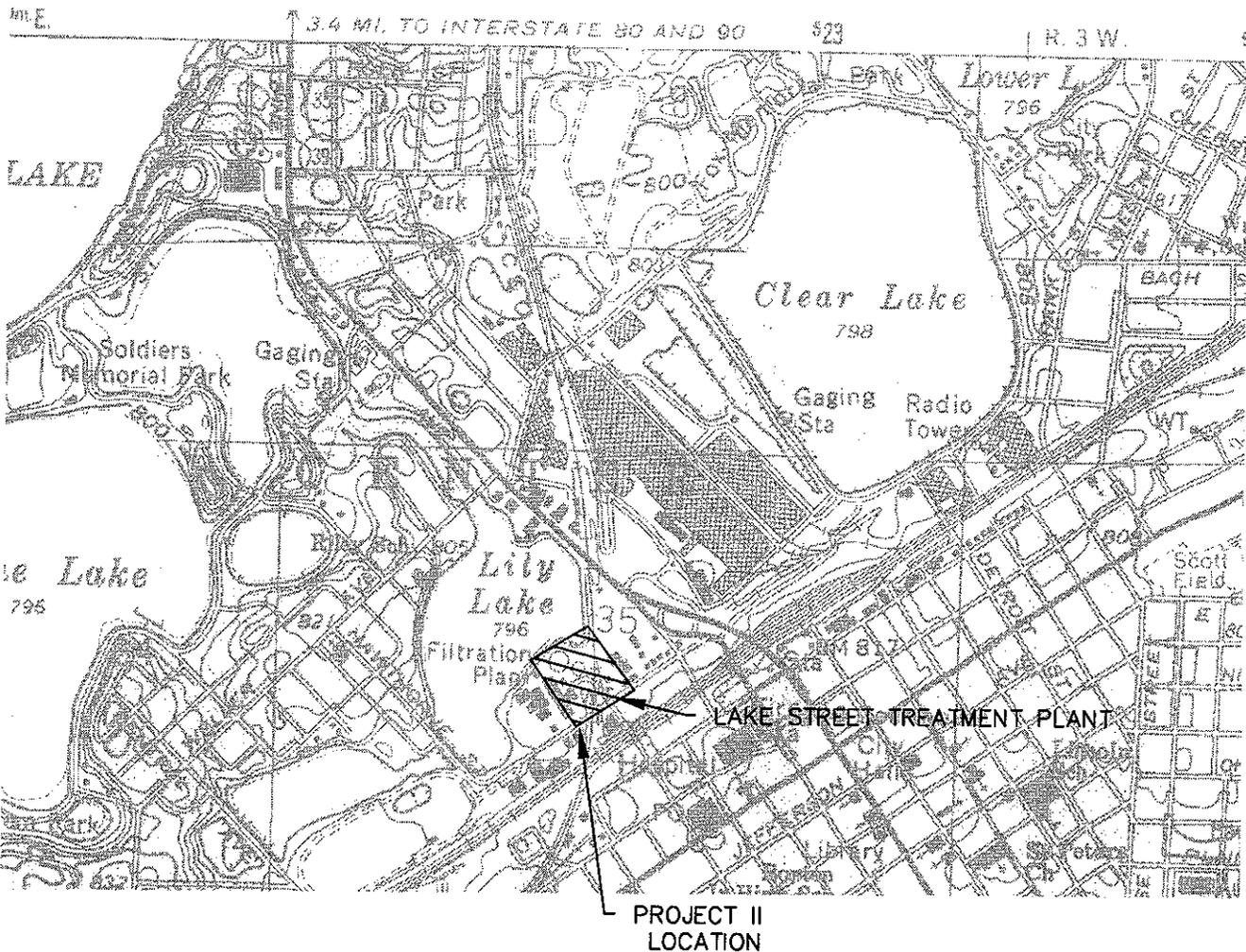
CITY OF LAPORTE EXISTING SERVICE AREA AND 20 YEAR SERVICE AREA



SHEET	Designed: JPP	Customer: LAPORTE WATER DEPARTMENT	
1-1	Drawn: BAW	Project Name: 2010 SRF PER FIGURE 1-1	
OF	Checked: JPP	Project Number: 10-518	
Drawing Title:	Date & Time: 04/26/10 - 13:44		
Sub Title:	LAPORTE WATER DEPARTMENT		
Drawing Filename:	SERVICE DISTRICTS		
Horizontal Scale:	X:\Projects\LAPORTE\Waterdep\10-518\DWG\FIGURES_RECOVER000_RECOVER.DWG/FIG 1.1		
Vertical Scale:	1" = 4000' NONE		



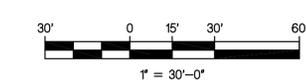
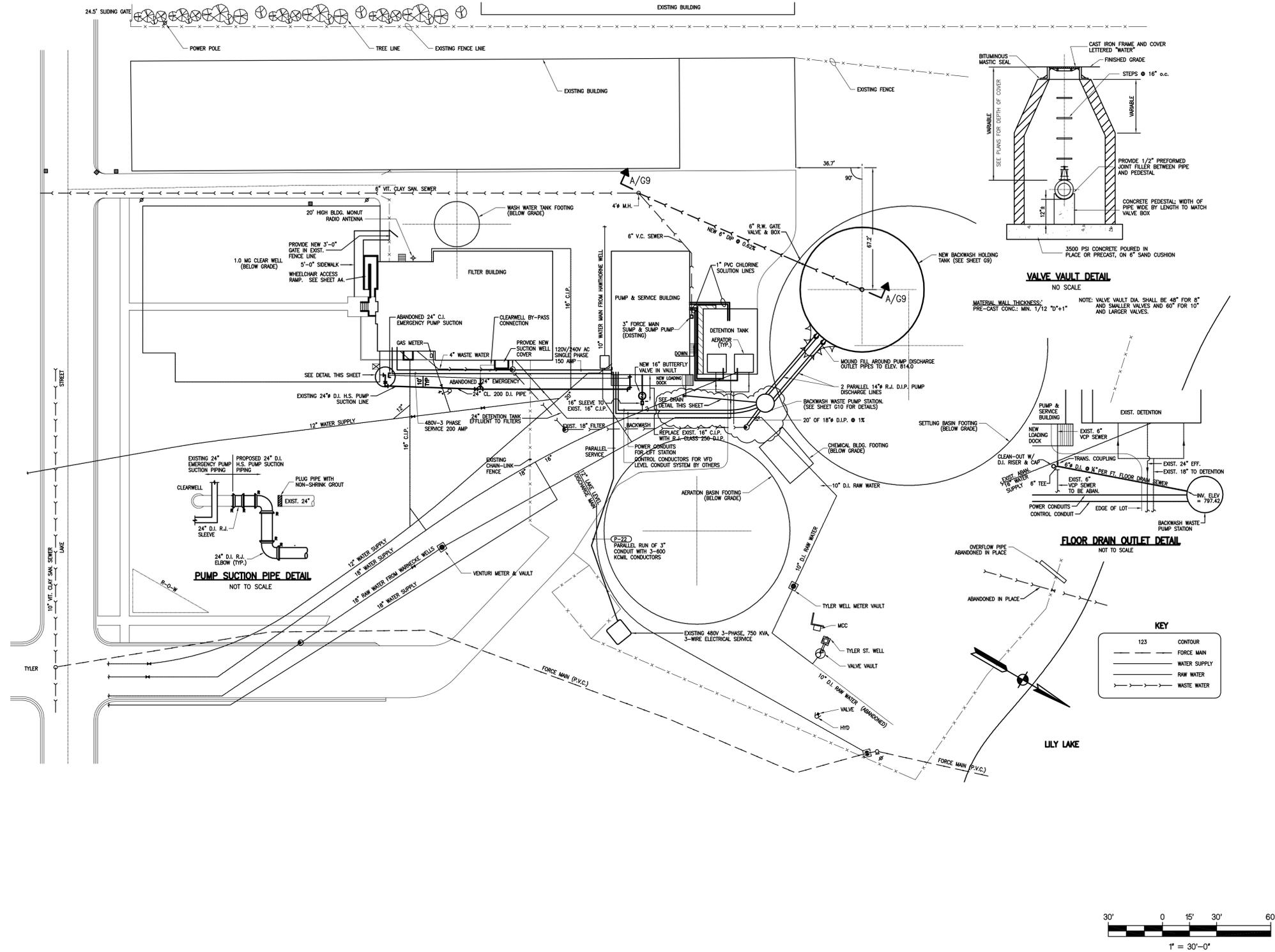
engineering, inc.
 2421 173rd Street, Hammond, Indiana. 46323
 Phone: (219) 844 8680 Fax: (219) 844 7754
 Your Vision • Our Focus

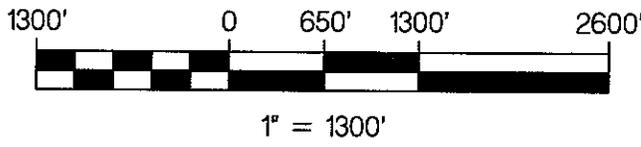


PROJECT II- LAKE STREET PLANT IMPROVEMENT DESIGN
 LOCATED IN TOWNSHIP 37 NORTH, RANGE 3 WEST, SECTION 35, IN
 LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA AS SHOWN ON THE "LAPORTE EAST
 QUADRANGLE" USGS QUADRANGLE MAP

SHEET 1-3 OF OF	Designed: JPP	Customer:	LAPORTE WATER DEPARTMENT
	Drawn: CWT	Project Name:	PROJECT- II - LAKE ST. TREATMENT PLANT
	Checked: JPP	Project Number:	10-518
		Date & Time:	04/26/10--09:40
Drawing Title:	PROJECT LOCATION MAP		 engineering, inc. 2421 173 rd Street, Hammond, Indiana. 46323 Phone: (219) 844 8680 Fax: (219) 844 7754 Your Vision • Our Focus
Sub Title:	FIGURE 1-3		
Drawing Filename:	X:\PROJECTS\LAPORTE\WATER\DEP\10-518\DWGS\QUAD_FIGURES.DWG		
Horizontal Scale:	1" = 1300'		

Figure 1-4





PROJECT IV- RIDGE ST. TECUMSEH ST. WATERMAIN

LOCATED IN TOWNSHIP 37 NORTH, RANGE 3 WEST, SECTION 36, IN LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA AS SHOWN ON THE "LAPORTE EAST QUADRANGLE" USGS QUADRANGLE MAP

SHEET 1-5 OF OF	Designed: JPP	Customer:	CITY OF LAPORTE
	Drawn: CWT	Project Name:	PROJECT - IV - RIDGE ST. / TECUMSEH ST.
	Checked: JPP	Project Number:	10-518
		Date & Time:	04/26/10--09:40
Drawing Title:	PROJECT LOCATION MAP		 engineering, inc. 2421 173 rd Street, Hammond, Indiana. 46323 Phone: (219) 844 8680 Fax: (219) 844 7754 Your Vision • Our Focus
Sub Title:	FIGURE 1-5		
Drawing Filename:	X:\PROJECTS\LAPORTEWATERDEP\10-518\DWGS\QUAD_FIGURES.DWG		
Horizontal Scale:	1"=1300'		