



State Revolving Fund Loan Programs

Drinking Water, Wastewater, Nonpoint Source

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

TOWN OF WALTON WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS SRF PROJECT DW 10 04 09 01

DATE: September 29, 2010

TARGET PROJECT APPROVAL DATE: October 29, 2010

I. INTRODUCTION

The above entity has applied to the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) for a loan to finance all or part of the drinking water project described in the accompanying Environmental Assessment (EA). As part of facilities planning requirements, an environmental review has been completed which addresses the project's impacts on the natural and human environment. This review is summarized in the attached EA.

II. PRELIMINARY FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FNSI)

The SRF Drinking Water Program has evaluated all pertinent environmental information regarding the proposed project and determined that an Environmental Impact Statement is not necessary. Subject to responses received during the 30-day public comment period, and pursuant to Indiana Code 4-4-11, it is our preliminary finding that the construction and operation of the proposed facilities will result in no significant adverse environmental impact. In the absence of significant comments, the attached EA shall serve as the final environmental document.

III. COMMENTS

All interested parties may comment upon the EA/FNSI. Comments must be received at the address below by the deadline date above. Significant comments may prompt a reevaluation of the preliminary FNSI; if appropriate, a new FNSI will be issued for another 30-day public comment period. A final decision to proceed, or not to proceed, with the proposed project shall be effected by finalizing, or not finalizing, the FNSI as appropriate. Comments regarding this document should be sent within 30 days to:

Amy Henninger
Senior Environmental Manager
State Revolving Fund -- IGCN 1275
100 N. Senate Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317-232-6566

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Name and Address:	Water System Improvements Town of Walton 100 S. Depot Street PO Box 597 Walton, IN 46994
SRF Project Number:	DW 10 04 09 01
Authorized Representative:	Ben Meader, President Town Council

II. PROJECT LOCATION

The town of Walton is located in Tipton Township in Cass County, Indiana in part of Sections 30 and 31, Township 26 North, Range 3 East and Sections 25 and 36, Township 26 North, Range 2 East and can be found on the Onward Quadrangle map. Work activities related to the distribution system will occur within previously disturbed rights of way and easements under and immediately adjacent to roadways. Proposed treatment improvements will occur at the existing well sites. The new water tower will be installed at the existing wellfield for well no 1 (Figure 3).

III. PROJECT NEED AND PURPOSE

The town of Walton currently experiences water storage capacity issues, an aging system, high iron content, pressure problems and major water loss issues, with 59% of water lost in 2009.

To meet these needs, the Town is proposing to make the needed improvements to the water distribution system, increase the water storage capabilities and to install a chemical feed at each well site.

IV. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The existing water system is aged and undersized. Based on the volume of water loss, the lines most likely contain cracks, leaks and other defects. The Town's water source contains high levels of iron causing water quality concerns as well as the need to flush lines. In addition, the storage volume is less than what is needed for daily demand and fire protection. The project scope consists of constructing a 150,000 gallon storage tower, replacing all lines, valves, hydrants and meters, replacing the chlorinators, providing backup power at the primary well, making repairs to the well houses, and installing a chemical feed at each well (Figure 4).

V. ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS, AFFORDABILITY AND FUNDING

A. Selected Plan Estimated Cost Summary

<u>Construction Costs</u>	
6" PVC Water Lines	\$ 1,316,000
6" Valves	27,000
Hydrants	199,500
Service Reconnections	222,500
Railroad & Creek Bore	30,000
150,000 gallon Elevated Water Tower	520,000
Wellhouse Building Improvements	30,000
Generator (Well #2)	45,000
Chemical Feed Equipment	20,000
Chlorination System	12,000
	<u>Contingencies</u> 121,100
	<i>Construction Subtotal</i> 2,543,100
 <u>Non-Construction Costs</u>	
Administrative, Legal, Bond	\$ 60,000
Engineering Fees	260,000
Project Inspection	65,000
	<i>Non-Construction Subtotal</i> 385,000
	Total Project Cost \$ 2,928,100

B. The town of Walton will finance the project with a 20-year loan of approximately \$2,928,100 from the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan 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.

VI. DESCRIPTION OF EVALUATED ALTERNATIVES

The no-action alternative would mean maintaining the current status quo. This will result in the distribution system to continue to age and break and cause disruptions in service when failures occur. Iron would continue to be a problem and the lines would need regular flushing. Storage and line size would remain undersized and could result in safety issues due to inadequate fire protection and flows.

The alternative to install a new water treatment facility was rejected due to the high cost of the alternative.

VII. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES

A. Direct Impacts of Construction and Operation

Undisturbed/Disturbed Land: The project will be limited to disturbed rights of way and existing trenches. The water tower will be constructed at the existing north well site.

Structural Resources: The project will not affect historic sites or districts. Audible, atmospheric or visual effects of the projects will be temporary. The SRF's finding pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act is: "no historic properties affected."

Surface Waters and Wetlands: The project will not affect wetlands.

100-Year Floodplain: The projects will not affect the 100-year floodplain.

Groundwater: The proposed project will not negatively affect a sole source aquifer or other groundwater resources. The groundwater table may be temporarily affected by construction.

Plants and Animals: The proposed project will not affect endangered plants or animals. The project will be implemented to minimize impact to non-endangered species and their habitat. Minor tree impacts are anticipated.

Prime Farmland: The proposed project will not cause a conversion of prime farmland.

Air Quality: Air quality will be temporarily impacted by construction activities, including vehicle exhaust and dust.

Open Space and Recreational Opportunities: The proposed project will neither create nor destroy open space and recreational opportunities. The proposed projects will not affect National Natural Landmarks.

B. Indirect Impacts

The Town's Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) states: *The Town, through the authority of its Council, planning commission, or other means will ensure that future development, as well as future supply, storage, distribution, or treatment works projects connecting to publicly-funded facilities, will not adversely impact archaeological/historical/ structural resources, wetlands, wooded areas, or other sensitive environmental resources. The Town will require new development and treatment works projects to be constructed within the guidelines of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, IDNR, IDEM, and other environmental review authorities.*

C. Comments from Environmental Review Authorities

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in correspondence dated January 29, 2010 stated: *Based on a review of the information you provided, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has no objections to the project as currently proposed. This precludes the need for further consultation on this project as required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.*

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources, in correspondence dated February 24, 2010 stated: *The Indiana Department of Natural Resources has reviewed the above referenced project per your request. Our agency offers the following comments to your information and in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. This proposal will require the formal approval for construction in a floodway under the Flood Control Act unless it qualifies for a general license under Administrative Rule 312 IAC 10-5 that applies to utility crossings.*

The State Historic Preservation Officer, in correspondence dated March 16, 2010, stated: *We concur with the Town of Walton's March 3, 2010 finding that there are no historic buildings, structures, districts, objects or archaeological resources within the area of potential effects that will be affected by the above indicated project.*

The Natural Resources Conservation Service, in correspondence dated December 1, 2009, stated: *The project to make waterworks improvements in the Town of Walton, Cass County, Indiana, as referred to in your letter received November 19, 2009, will not cause a conversion of prime farmland.*

VIII. MITIGATION MEASURES

The town's PER states: *Siltation and erosion will be kept to a minimum. Any mitigation measures mandated by authorized reviewing agencies to reduce or eliminate waterway contamination will be implemented. Mitigative measures to limit erosion and siltation will include the following:*

- *Erosion and sediment control measures required by the project specifications will require that the contractor provide a schedule for clearing, grading, excavating and restoring disturbed areas, along with a description of measures to be used during construction to ensure erosion/ sediment control. The program shall meet all applicable federal, state, and local requirements.*
- *Natural vegetation will be retained wherever feasible.*
- *Excavations will be limited to right of ways where possible.*
- *Appropriate agronomic practices (sediment basins, seeding, mulching) will be provided to control runoff, including shoreline and stream crossings, if applicable.*
- *Drainage systems, including surface and subsurface drainage, will be returned to their natural state as soon as possible, if disturbed.*
- *Roadways and parking lots will remain stabilized during construction to the extent possible.*
- *When possible, construction activities will be scheduled to avoid excessively wet conditions.*
- *The existing topsoil will be reused during the restoration process.*
- *No more than 100 feet of open trench will be allowed. Where possible, excavated material will be kept to the upland side of the trench. Excess material will be used elsewhere on the project.*
- *If necessary, discharge from dewatering may be directed to sedimentation basins prior to discharging into surrounding surface water.*

The State Historic Preservation Officer, in correspondence dated March 16, 2010, stated: *If any archaeological artifacts, features, or human remains are uncovered during construction, state law (Indiana Code 14-21-1-27 & 29) requires that the discovery must be reported to the Department of Natural Resources within two (2) business days.*

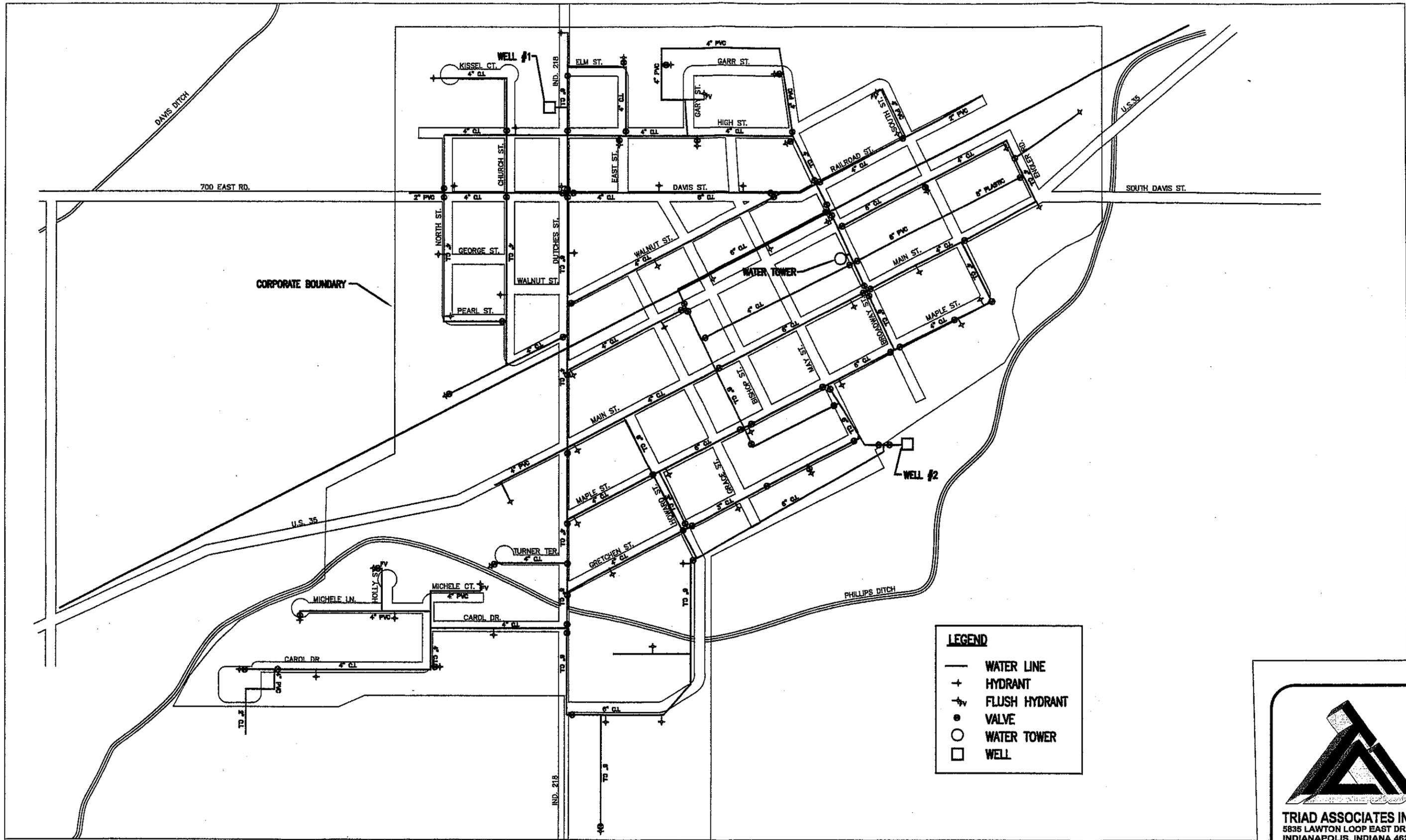
The Indiana Department of Natural Resources Environmental Unit, in correspondence dated February 24, 2010 stated: *Directional drilling pits must be contained with erosion controls such as silt fencing or other appropriate devices such that drilling mud does not leave the immediate area of the pit or enter the stream. Fish, wildlife, and botanical resource losses as a result of this project can be minimized through implementation of the following measures.*

- *Revegetate all bare and disturbed areas with a mixture of grasses (excluding all varieties of tall fescue), legumes, and native shrub and hardwood tree species as soon*

- as possible upon completion.*
- *Plant five trees, at least 2 inches in diameter-at-breast height, for each tree which is removed that is ten inches or greater in diameter-at-breast height.*
 - *Appropriately designed measures for controlling erosion and sediment must be implemented to prevent sediment from entering the stream or leaving the construction site; maintain these measures until construction is complete and all disturbed areas are stabilized.*

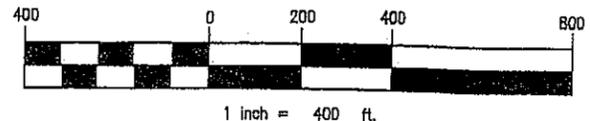
IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A properly noticed Public Hearing was held on June 7, 2010 at 6:30 pm at the Walton Town Hall, located at 100 South Depot Street Walton, IN 46994. There were no written comments received by the utility during the 5-day period following the public hearing.

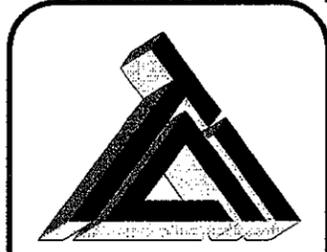


LEGEND

- WATER LINE
- + HYDRANT
- + FLUSH HYDRANT
- VALVE
- WATER TOWER
- WELL

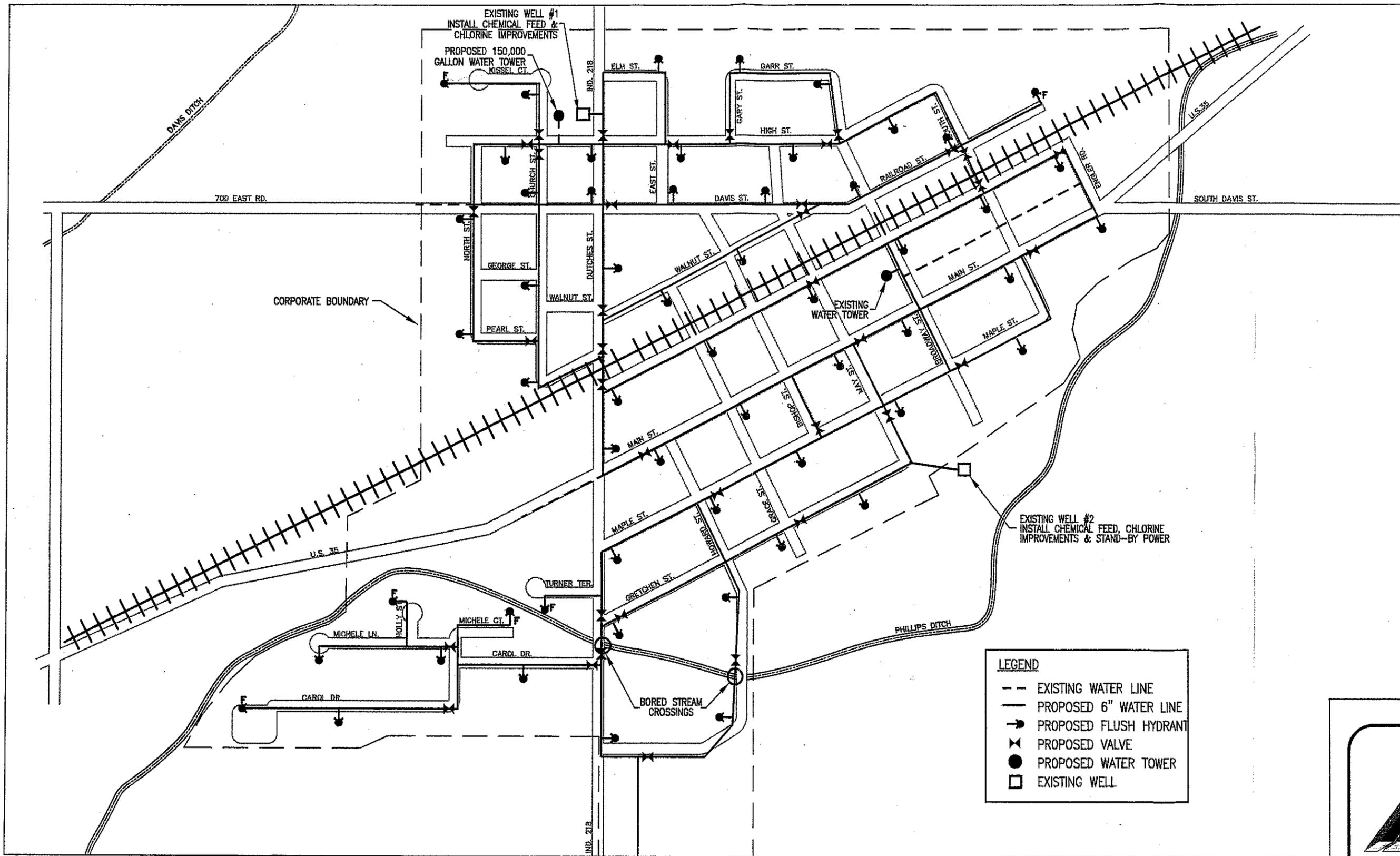


**TOWN OF WALTON
EXISTING WATER SYSTEM**



TRIAD ASSOCIATES INC.
5835 LAWTON LOOP EAST DRIVE
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46216
PHONE: 317-377-5230 FAX: 317-377-5241

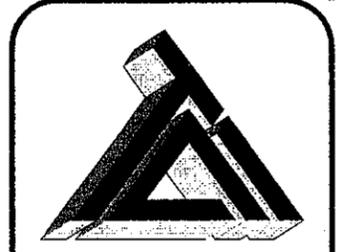
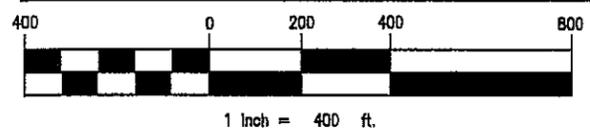
EXHIBIT 3



LEGEND

- - - EXISTING WATER LINE
- PROPOSED 6" WATER LINE
- ➔ PROPOSED FLUSH HYDRANT
- ✕ PROPOSED VALVE
- PROPOSED WATER TOWER
- EXISTING WELL

**TOWN OF WALTON
PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS**



TRIAD ASSOCIATES INC.
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EXHIBIT 4