



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

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

CITY OF HOBART Sewer Improvements STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT WW 12451401

DATE: September 14, 2012

TARGET PROJECT APPROVAL DATE: October 15, 2012

I. INTRODUCTION

The above entity has applied to the Waste Water State Revolving Fund (WWSRF) Loan Program for a loan to finance all or part of the waste 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, which can also be viewed at <http://www.in.gov/ifa/srf/>.

II. PRELIMINARY FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FNSI)

The WWSRF 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:

Sarah Hudson
Senior Environmental Manager
State Revolving Fund
100 N. Senate Ave. IGCN 1275
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317-232-8663; sahudson@ifa.in.gov

**ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT**

I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Name and Address: Hobart Sewer Improvements
City of Hobart
414 Main Street
Hobart, IN 46342

Authorized Representative: Mr. Brian Snedecor, Mayor

II. PROJECT LOCATION AND BACKGROUND

The project area is located in Hobart, Indiana, in the Hobart Civil Township of Lake County. Specifically, the projects are located in Township 36 N, Range 7 W, Sections 29, 30, 31, 32 of the Portage and Gary USGS quadrangles. See Figures 1, 2, and 3.

III. PROJECT NEED AND PURPOSE

Sanitary Sewer System

The City of Hobart has a separate sanitary sewer system. The flows to the sewer system significantly increase during wet weather events. The increased flows result in sanitary sewer overflows (SSO). The City has an Agreed Order with IDEM which requires the elimination of the SSOs.

A Compliance Plan was developed in response to the Agreed Order. Flow monitoring and analysis of the sewer system identified three areas where immediate action to correct deteriorating conditions is needed and where there is evidence of significant infiltration/inflow. These three areas are identified as North Joliet Street Area, South Mundell Area, and Main Street Area.

The wastewater from Hobart is conveyed to the Gary Sanitary District wastewater treatment plant for treatment, so the proposed project addresses just the sanitary sewer system.

IV. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Sewer System Improvements

1. North Joliet Street Area Sewer Improvements – A new storm sewer is proposed to be constructed to relieve the existing sanitary sewers system from wet weather flows. Approximately 3,570 feet of 12-inch to 42-inch storm sewer would be installed.
2. South Mundell Area Sewer Improvements – The project includes the removal of foundation drains from the sanitary sewer and the construction of approximately 5,350 feet of 12-inch to 24-inch storm sewer to relieve the sanitary sewer system from wet weather flows. The work would also include approximately 3,600 feet of 6-inch sanitary sewer lateral.
3. Main Street Area Sewer Improvements – The sanitary sewer that crosses under the railroad tracks is failing with evidence of infiltration and inflow. The proposed project would include construction of approximately 205 feet of 18-inch sanitary sewer.

V. ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS, AFFORDABILITY AND FUNDING

A. Selected Plan Estimated Cost Summary:

	DESCRIPTION	ESTIMATED COSTS
1.	North Joliet Street Area Sewer Improvements	\$ 586,400
2.	South Mundell Area Sewer Improvements	2,157,200
3.	Main Street Area Sewer Improvements	290,900
	Construction Sub-Total	\$3,034,500
	Contingency	<u>280,000</u>
	Construction Total	\$3,314,500
Non-Construction		
1.	Design Engineering	\$260,000
2.	Construction Inspection	468,000
3.	Legal Fees	50,000
4.	Financial Fees	45,000
	Non-Construction Total	\$823,000
	Total Project Costs	\$4,137,500

B. Hobart plans to finance the project through a future 20-year SRF loan at an interest rate to be determined at the 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

No-Action

The no-action alternative was evaluated for each of the proposed projects. It was determined that the no-action alternative would not provide a solution to infiltration/inflow in the sanitary sewers or address the wet weather sanitary sewer overflows. Additionally, the goals of the Compliance Plan developed in response to the Agreed Order between the City and IDEM would not be met. Therefore, this alternative was rejected.

VII. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES

A. Direct Impacts of Construction and Operation

Disturbed / Undisturbed Land: All proposed sanitary and storm sewers will be constructed next to roads in areas previously-disturbed by road construction or in areas where sewers currently exist. This is also true for the new storm sewer outfall which will be constructed in an area that was previously disturbed by the installation of a 30-inch corrugated metal pipe.

Structural Resources: 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 National Historic Preservation Act is: “no historic properties affected.”

Wetlands: A new storm sewer outfall to the Deep River will be installed. Otherwise, wetlands will not be impacted by this project. The area where the new outfall will be constructed was previously disturbed by the installation of a 30-inch corrugated metal pipe. The proposed outfall will consist of a 42-inch diameter reinforced concrete end section with riprap treatment for erosion control.

Surface Waters: A new storm sewer outfall to the Deep River will be installed. This segment of the Deep River is on the Outstanding Rivers list (Natural Resources Commission Non-rule Policy Document). The outfall qualifies for a General License utility exemption under 312 IAC 10-5-8. Otherwise, surface waters will not be impacted by this project.

The project will not adversely affect waters of high quality listed in 327 IAC 2-1-2(3), exceptional use streams listed in 327 IAC 2-1-11(b), Natural, Scenic and Recreational Rivers and Streams listed in 312 IAC 7-(2), Salmonid Streams listed in (327 IAC 2-1.5-5(a)(3), or waters on the Outstanding Rivers list, except for the Deep River.

Floodplain: Except for the new storm sewer outfall, none of the project will occur in the floodway.

Groundwater: Dewatering due to high groundwater is not expected. Groundwater will not be adversely affected by construction of these projects. The project will not impact a sole source aquifer.

Plants and Animals: Tree removal is not expected. The construction and operation of the project will not negatively impact state or federal-listed endangered species and their habitat. The project will be implemented to minimize impact to non-endangered species and their habitat. Mitigation measures cited in comment letters from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be implemented.

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

Air Quality: Air quality issues will be that of any normal construction project with respect to erosion, dust, and noise control. The project should not affect the ozone, airborne pollutants or other air quality concerns. No direct long-term air quality impacts are expected.

Open Space and Recreational Opportunities: The project will neither create nor destroy any open space and recreation opportunities.

Lake Michigan Coastal Program: The proposed project is within the Lake Michigan Coastal Zone and will work to improve water quality by removing storm water from the sanitary sewer collection system in an effort to eliminate Sanitary Sewer Overflows that currently exist and flow into Lake Michigan's tributaries.

National Natural Landmarks: Construction and operation of the proposed project will not impact National Natural Landmarks.

B. Indirect Impacts

The city's Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) states: The City of Hobart will ensure, through the authority of its Council, Storm Water Management Sanitary District, or other means, that future development, as well as future collection system or treatment works projects connecting to

SRF-funded facilities, will not adversely impact archaeological/historical/structural resources, wetlands, wooded areas, or other sensitive environmental resources. The City will require new development treatment works projects to be constructed within the guidelines of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, DNR, IDEM, and other environmental review authorities.

C. Comments by Environmental Review Authorities

In a letter dated January 27, 2012, the Natural Resources Conservation Service determined that the project will not affect prime/unique farmland.

In a letter dated August 21, 2012, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology stated: *no historic properties will be altered, demolished, or removed by the proposed project provided that all proposed project activities remain within areas disturbed by previous construction.*

In a letter dated August 7, 2012, the US Department of Interior Fish and Wildlife Service stated: *the project will not affect wetlands or other sensitive habitats...the proposed project is not likely to adversely affect (these) endangered and threatened species.*

In a letter dated August 24, 2012, the IDNR Division of Fish and Wildlife stated: *the proposal will require formal approval for construction in a floodway.*

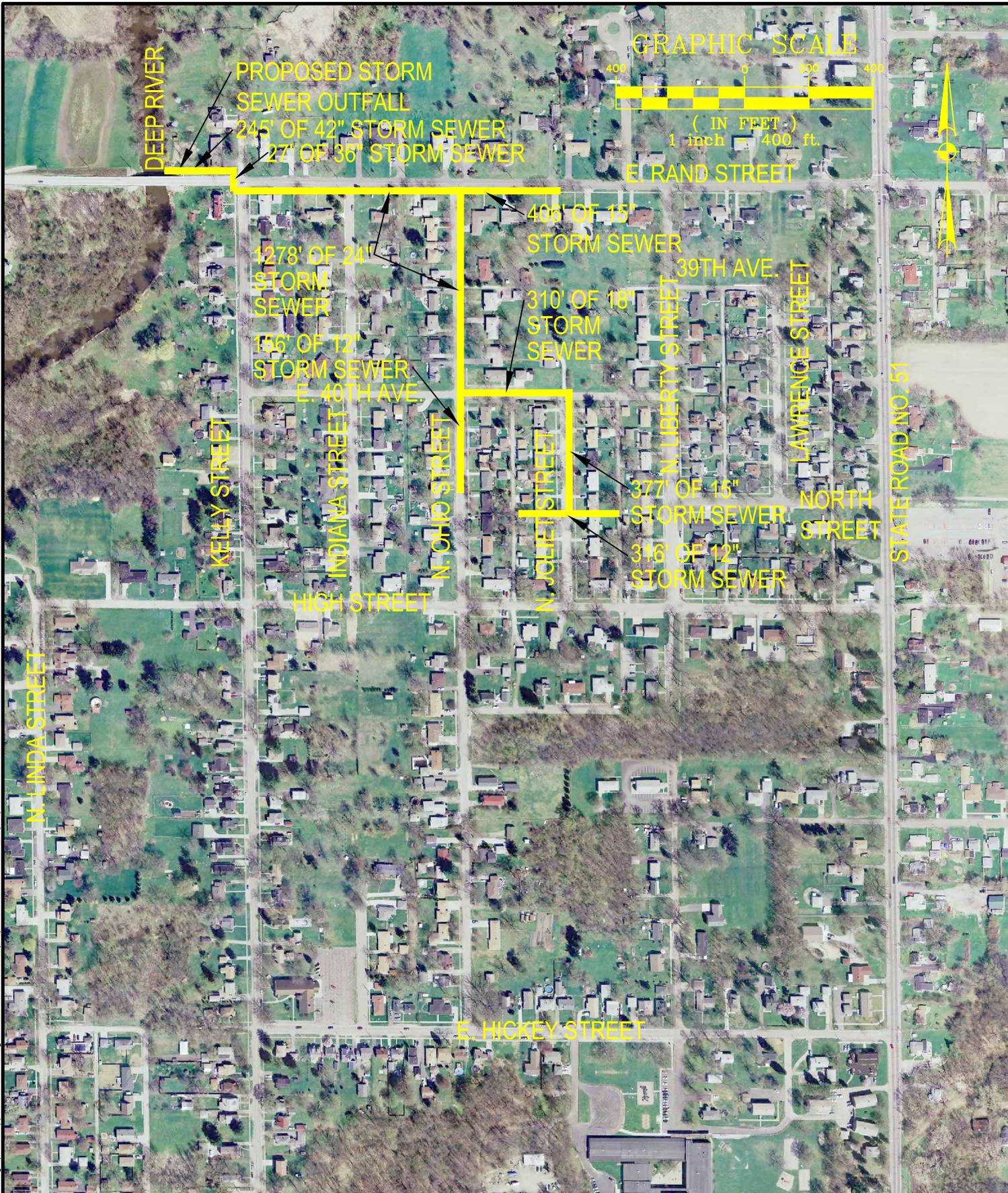
VIII. MITIGATION MEASURES

Mitigation measures cited in comment letters from the Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be implemented. The project will be implemented to minimize impact to non-endangered species and their habitats.

Existing topsoil will be reused during the restoration process, if applicable. The amount of dust may be mitigated by periodic wetting of the exposed soil to reduce the suspension of particles. Normal daytime hours will be used for work activities to reduce noise impacts.

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A properly noticed public hearing was held on June 13, 2012 at 6:00 pm at the Hobart City Hall Council Chamber, 114 Main Street to discuss the project's preliminary engineering report. No comments on this project were voiced at the public hearing, and no written comments were submitted in the five-day period following the public hearing.



Revision: 09/12/2012

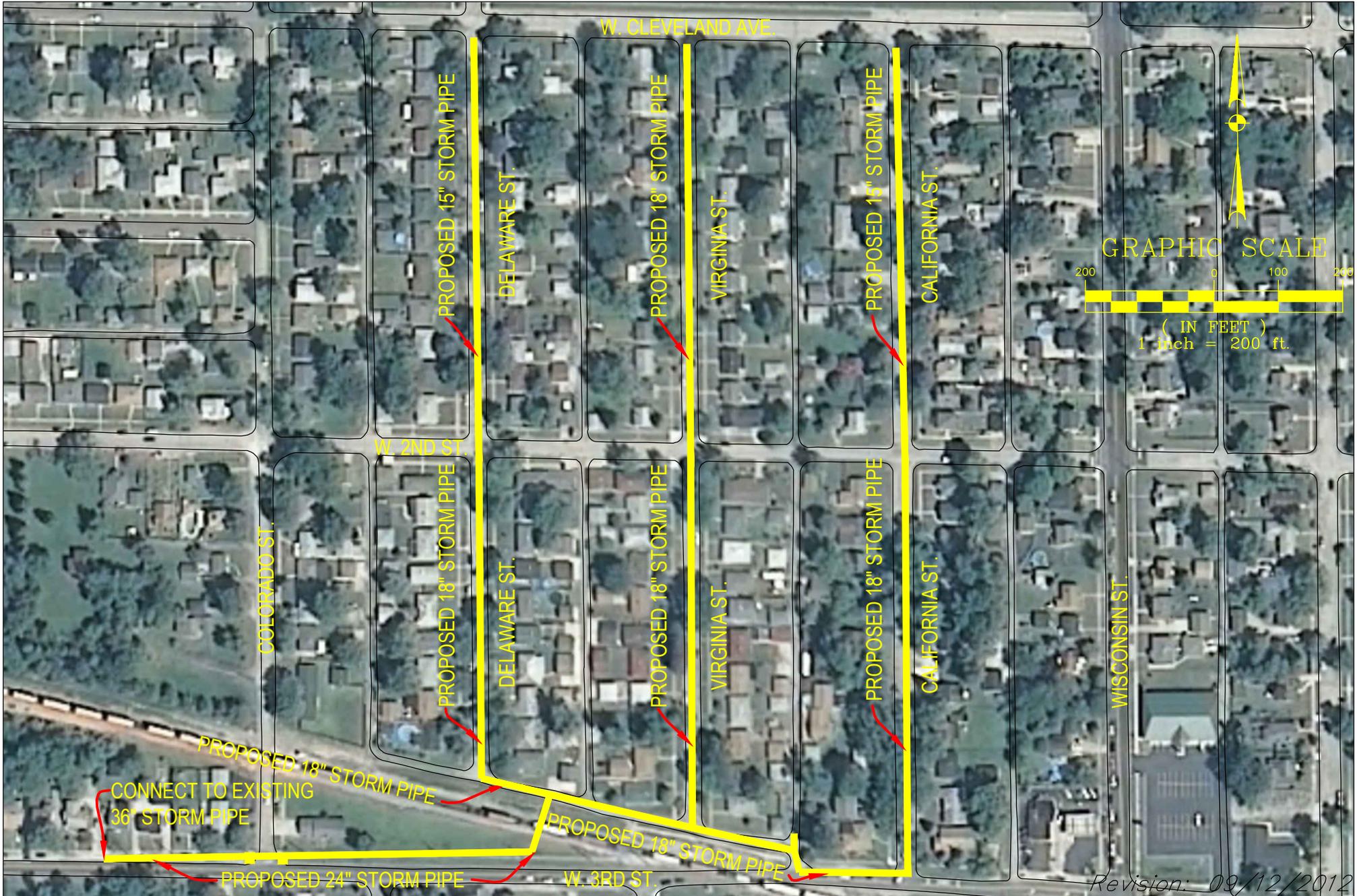


DRAWN: C. Miniello
 CHECKED: M. Spidel
 DATE: January 2012

**HOBART SEWER IMPROVEMENTS
 APPENDIX C-FIGURE 1 NORTH
 JOLIET STREET SEWER IMPROVEMENTS**

**HOBART, INDIANA
 LAKE COUNTY**

HORIZONTAL SCALE
1"=400'
VERTICAL SCALE
N/A
SHEET
OF
PROJECT



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HOBART SEWER IMPROVEMENTS
 APPENDIX C-FIGURE 2 SOUTH MUNDELL SEWER IMPROVEMENTS

HOBART, INDIANA
 LAKE COUNTY

HORIZONTAL SCALE
1"=200'
VERTICAL SCALE
N/A
SHEET
OF
PROJECT



U:\5308\Pro Development\Design\Drawings\5308_AppendixC_Main.dwg Christopher Miniello Plot: 1/18/2012 7:55 AM Save: 1/18/2012 7:53 AM



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**HOBART SEWER IMPROVEMENTS
 APPENDIX C-FIGURE 3 MAIN
 STREET SEWER IMPROVEMENTS**

**HOBART, INDIANA
 LAKE COUNTY**

HORIZONTAL SCALE	1"=400'
VERTICAL SCALE	N/A
SHEET	OF
PROJECT	

BFS NO. 5308