



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

PRELIMINARY DECISION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS, ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

**TOWN OF SCHNEIDER
Treatment Plant and Main Lift Station
SRF # WW 13 09 45 01**

Date: March 3, 2014

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 (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:

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

V. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES

The entire town is in the 100-year floodplain. If practical and necessary, above ground structures will be placed above the 100 year flood boundary. The project will not affect streams, wetlands, wooded areas, prime farmland, or other sensitive environmental resources.

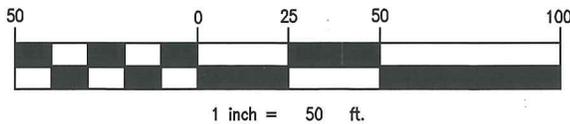
Construction and operation of the project will not alter, demolish or remove historic properties, see Figures 3 and 4. If any visual or audible impacts to historic properties occur, they will be temporary and will not alter the characteristics that qualify such properties for inclusion in or eligibility 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."

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The project was discussed at a properly noticed public meeting on November 4, 2013. No comments were received at the public hearing, and no written comments were received during the 5-day comment period following the public hearing.

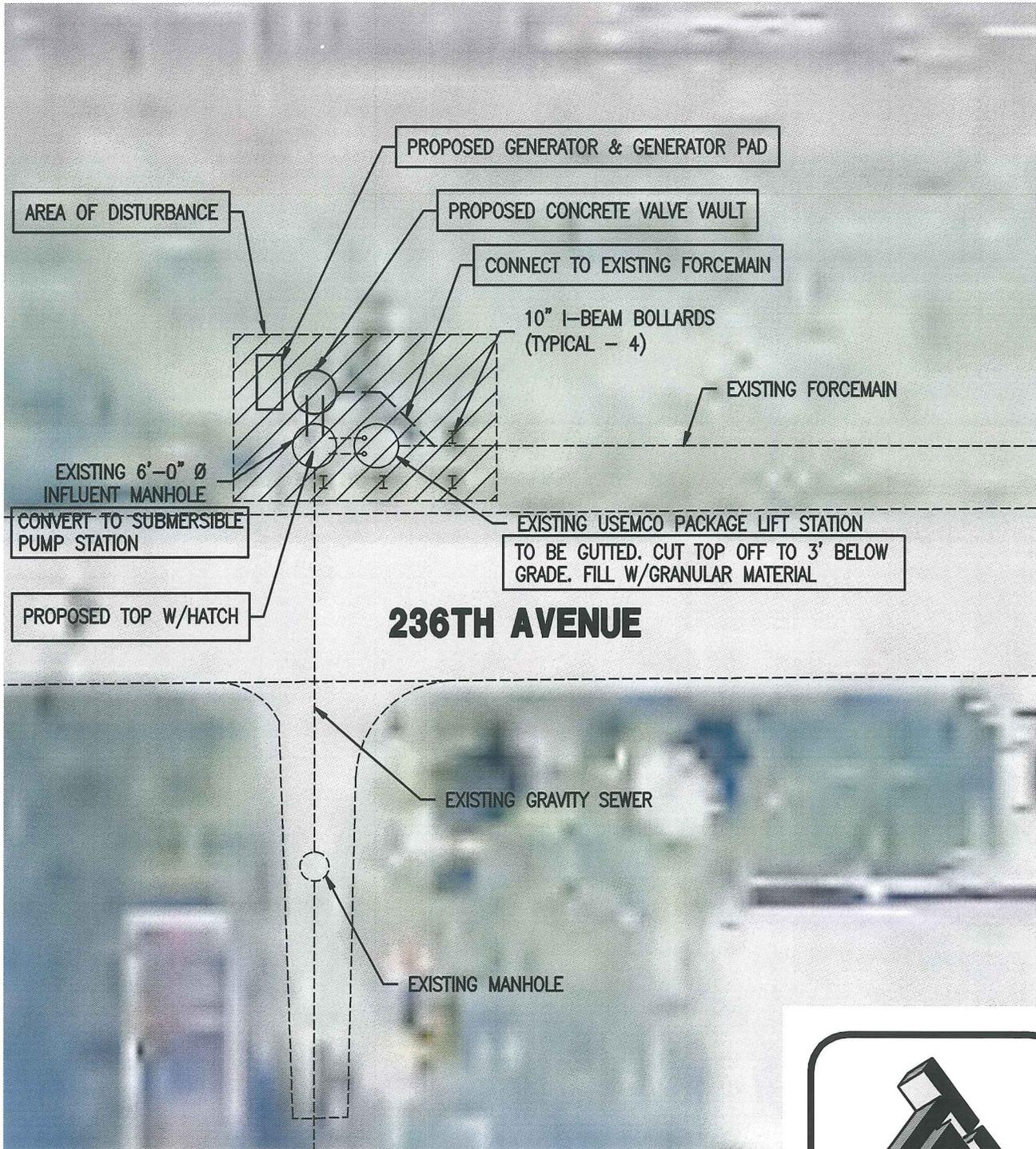


**TOWN OF SCHNEIDER, IN
PROPOSED WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT**



TRIAD ASSOCIATES INC.
 6835 LAWTON LOOP EAST DRIVE
 INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46216
 PHONE: 317-377-8230 FAX: 317-377-8241

**WWTP PER
Figure 1**

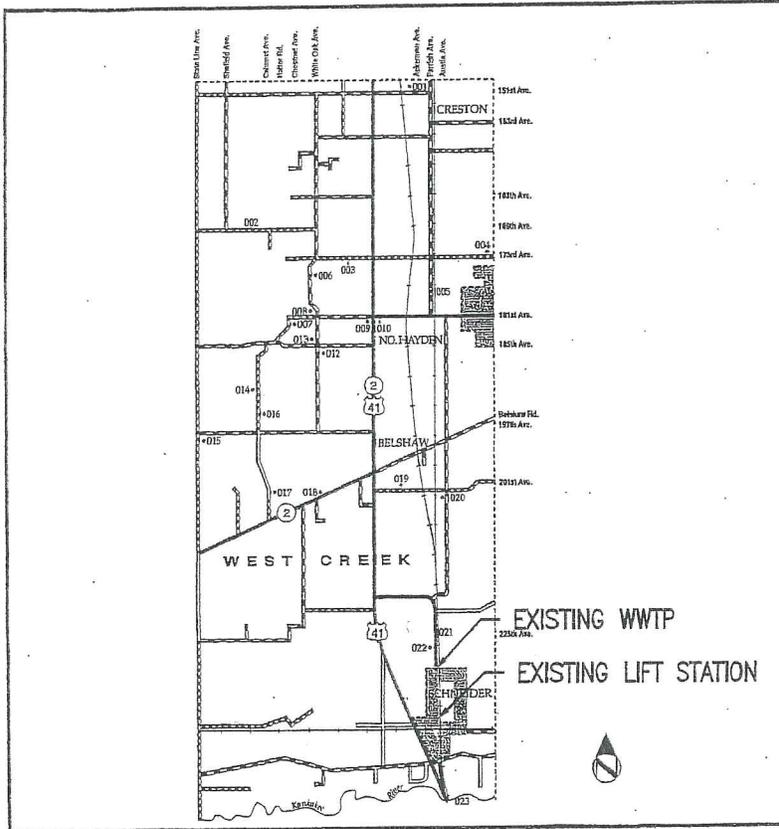


**TOWN OF SCHNEIDER, IN
PROPOSED LIFT STATION IMPROVEMENTS**

TRIAD ASSOCIATES INC.
5835 LAWTON LOOP EAST DRIVE
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46216
PHONE: 317-377-6230 FAX: 317-377-6241

**WWTP PER
Figure 2**

West Creek Township (85001-023)



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West Creek Township is located in the southwest corner of Lake County. It was organized in 1839 and was named for the stream which runs through the area. The township's rich farmland attracted settlers to the area as early as the 1830s.

In addition to agriculture, fur trapping along the Kankakee River, as well as several mills, contributed to the township's early economy. Joseph Jackson opened the township's first general store in 1838. A year later, the first post office was established. Although no structures remain from the township's settlement period, several early cemeteries, including the Sanders Cemetery (85019), the West Creek Cemetery (85017) and the Lake Prairie Cemetery (85009) serve as reminders of this early period.

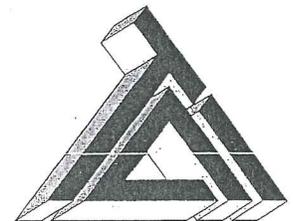
Two events would have a lasting effect on West Creek Township. The construction of an extensive drainage system during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, enabled the cultivation of large tracts of land which before this time were primarily swamps. The resulting agricultural expansion was furthered bolstered in 1905 by the coming of the railroad. The town of Schneider, founded along the rail line during the early twentieth century, developed as a commercial center for the surrounding agricultural community.

The majority of the township's historic resources reflect the economic boom of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The farms at 11703 West 173rd Avenue (85003) and 19202 Calumet Avenue (85014), illustrate the diversity of the farmstead during this period. The grain elevator located north of Schneider (85022) dominates the landscape and represents the integral role that agriculture played in the area's way of life.

The township's only remaining rural church is the Lake Prairie Presbyterian Church (85012). The congregation organized in 1857, and its first church was completed in 1872. The present Twentieth

TOWN OF SCHNEIDER, IN SCATTERED SITES

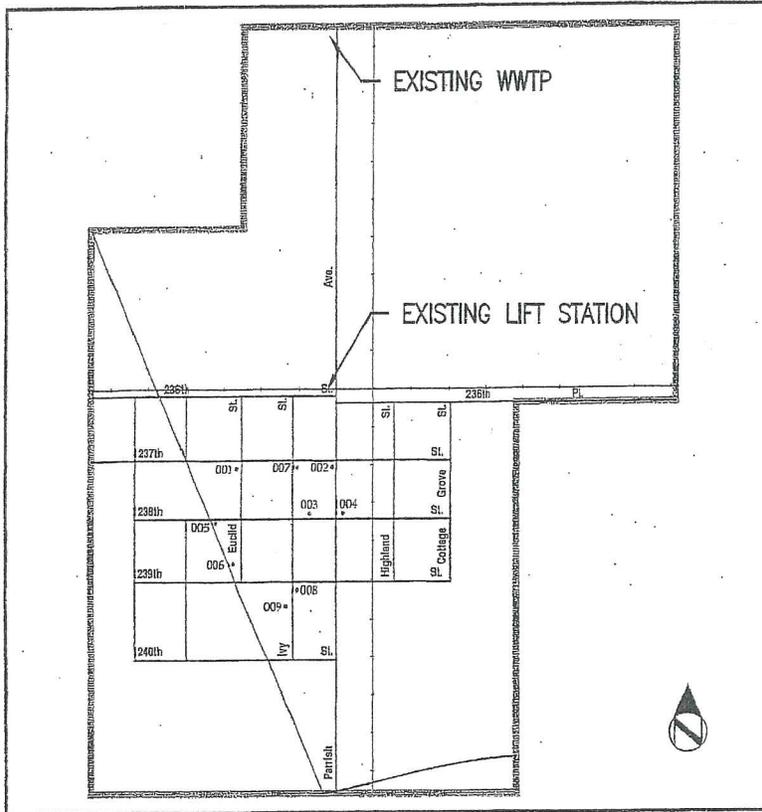
SCALE: NONE



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WWTP PER
Figure 3

Schneider Scattered Sites (86001-009)



The town of Schneider is located at the southern tip of West Creek Township, on the banks of the Kankakee River. Schneider, named for a local landowner, began as a post office, established in 1902. When the railroad built its tracks through the area, the village quickly developed, and by 1915, a town board was elected.

Schneider developed as a bustling commercial center for the surrounding agricultural community: A commercial building on Parrish Avenue (86002) is one of the town's only remaining business buildings from Schneider's early years. A church at 4113 Euclid Street (86006) is one of only two extant churches in town.

The town's residential architecture is modest in scale. The house at 9783 West 238th Street (86003) typifies the town's early twentieth century homes. The two houses on Euclid Street (86001, 86005) are examples of the popular bungalow style.

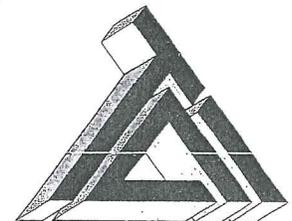
As the railroad lessened in importance, many small towns such as Schneider declined. With the loss of the town's railroad depot and the school, as well as the rerouting of US 41, the town lost much of its vitality. Today, it remains as a quiet, rural community.

No. Rtg. Description

- 001 C House, 23632 Euclid Street; Bungalow, c.1930; Architecture (575)
- 002 C Commercial Building, Parrish Avenue; Commercial Vernacular, c.1900; Commerce, Vernacular/Construction (575)
- 003 C House, 9783 W. 238th Avenue; Free Classic Cottage, c.1910; Architecture (575)

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SCALE: NONE



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Figure 4