



State Revolving Fund Loan Programs

Drinking Water, Clean Water, Nonpoint Source

PRELIMINARY DECISION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS, ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

CITY OF ELKHART
OAKLAND AVENUE PROJECT A CSO FORCE MAIN PROJECT;
PROJECT B DESIGN COSTS;
DRINKING WATER SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT; &
BROWN FIELDS PROJECT
SRF WW 22 16 20 05 and DW 22 23 20 01

Date: February 24, 2023

Pursuant to IC 5-1.2-3, the Drinking and Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program has determined that the project described here and in the City of Elkhart'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. In the absence of significant comments, the attached CE shall serve as the final environmental document.

How do I submit comments?

Comments can be submitted to:

April Douglas
Environmental Review Coordinator
SRF Programs
317-234-7294
adouglas@ifa.in.gov

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Name and Address: Oakland Avenue Project A CSO Force Main Project;
Project B Design Costs; Drinking Water Service
Line Replacement Project; & Brown Fields Project
City of Elkhart
1201 South Nappanee Street
Elkhart, IN 46516

SRF Project Number: WW 22 16 20 05 and DW 22 23 20 01

Authorized Representative: Tory Irwin, P.E.
City Engineer and Director of Public Works

II. PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed project is located in Elkhart County, Concord township, Elkhart 24K USGS Quadrangle, township 37N, range 5E and sections 7 and Baugo township, Osceola 24K USGS Quadrangle, township 37N, range 4E, section 12. See Figures 1 and 2.

III. PROJECT NEED AND PURPOSE

The Oakland Avenue Project A CSO Force Main project includes:

- Approximately 5,300 LF of 30-inch diameter force main pipe with associated structures and air release valves;
- Approximately 4,920 LF of 18- through 36-inch diameter storm sewer pipe with associated structures;
- Approximately 1,710 LF of 8- through 12-inch diameter sanitary sewer pipe with associated structures;
- Approximately 5,260 LF of relocated and upsized water main piping; and
- Service line replacements along the relocated water main.

The Oakland Avenue Project A CSO force main, and Project B CSO storage tank are included in Elkhart's CSO Long Term Control Plan. The force main will convey wet weather flow from the future Oakland Avenue Project B CSO Storage Tank, CSO 37 Interceptor, and CSO 24 Interceptor to the existing wastewater treatment plant. Sewers along the force main route will be separated by installing storm and sanitary sewer piping. Sewer separation will redistribute combined sewer flows and further reduce discharges from CSO 37 and CSO 24. By reducing the frequency and volume of CSOs, the project is expected to improve water quality of the St. Joseph River.

Design costs are for the Oakland Avenue Project B CSO Storage Tank. The future storage tank will provide wet weather storage and will dewater to the existing treatment plant for full treatment following wet weather events.

Sewer separation includes new storm sewer which requires relocation of the water main

in the area to continue complying with IDEM water and sewer separation requirements and maintain adequate cover over the water main. Upsizing from 6- and 8-inch diameter to 12-inch diameter will improve water supply and quality. Replacing service lines along the relocated water main will identify and eliminate potential lead service lines in the area. The improvements will reduce the risk of lead exposure and improve the operation of the system by reducing water loss.

CG Conn (See Figure 3), located at 1101 East Beardsley Avenue, is a 10.38-acre brownfields site with an approximately 63,000 sq. ft. abandoned parking lot on the northwest side, and an approximately 30,000 sq. ft. abandoned building on the north side. The building on the property will be demolished using local funds. Excavation, removal, and lawful disposal of site soil and groundwater per the Federal Clean Water Act Section 319(h) for nonpoint source (NPS) will be completed throughout the site.

IV. ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS, AFFORDABILITY AND FUNDING

Total cost of the drinking water project related to drinking water service line replacement is estimated to be approximately \$1,027,000. Total cost of the clean water project is estimated to be approximately \$20,991,000. The City of Elkhart will finance the projects with loans from the Drinking Water and Clean Water SRF Loan Programs for terms and annual fixed interest rates 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.

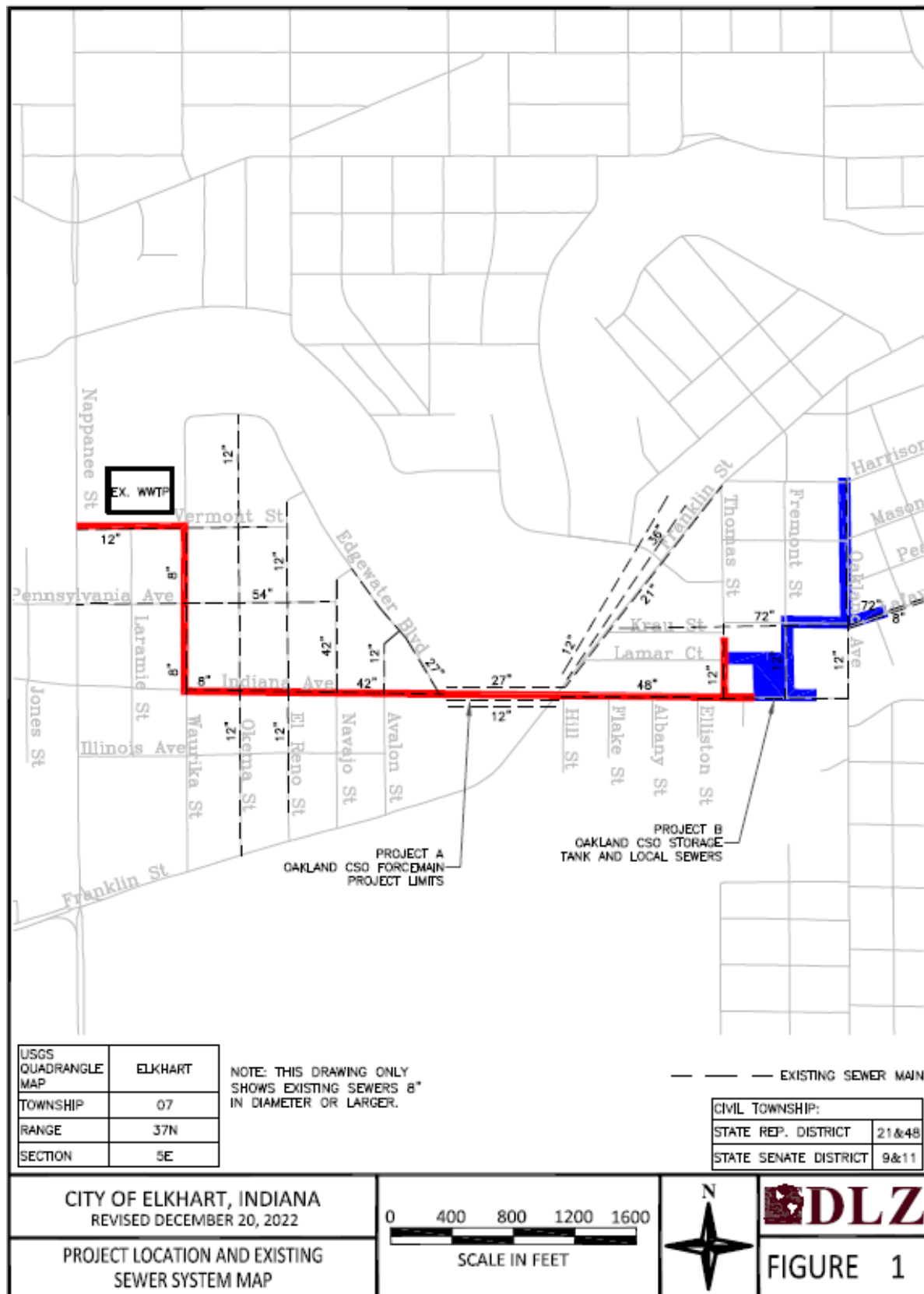
V. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES

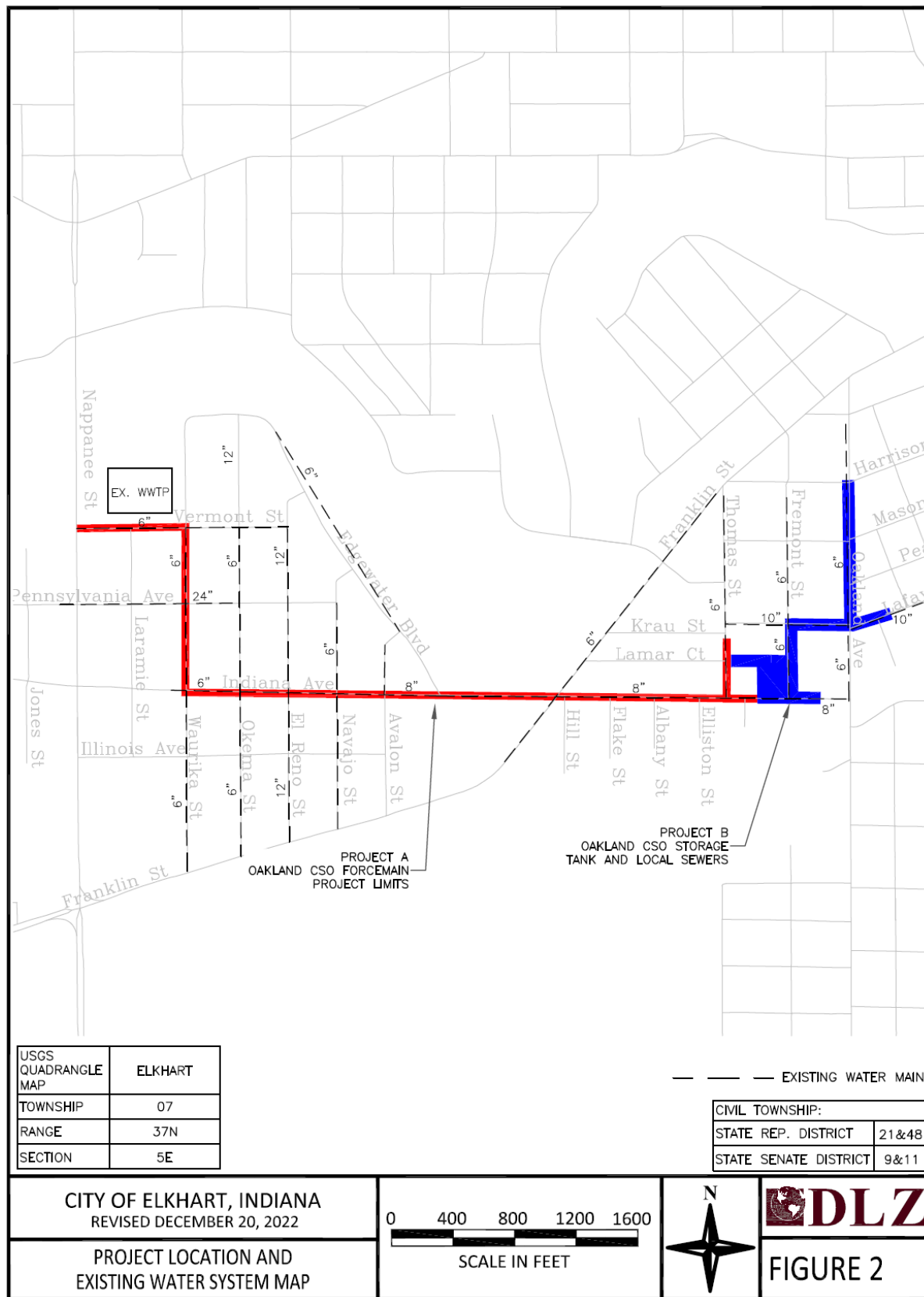
The environmental impacts will be minimal. All project activities will take place in areas previously disturbed by installation of the existing road and utilities. The proposed project will not affect streams, floodplains, wetlands, wooded areas, or other sensitive environmental resources and will not convert prime farmland.

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 Preservation Act is: "no historic properties affected."

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A properly noticed public hearing was held on April 19, 2022, at 9 am at the Municipal Building located at 229 S. Second Street, Elkhart IN. There were no questions about this project during the hearing. No written comments were received in the 5-day period following the hearing for this project.





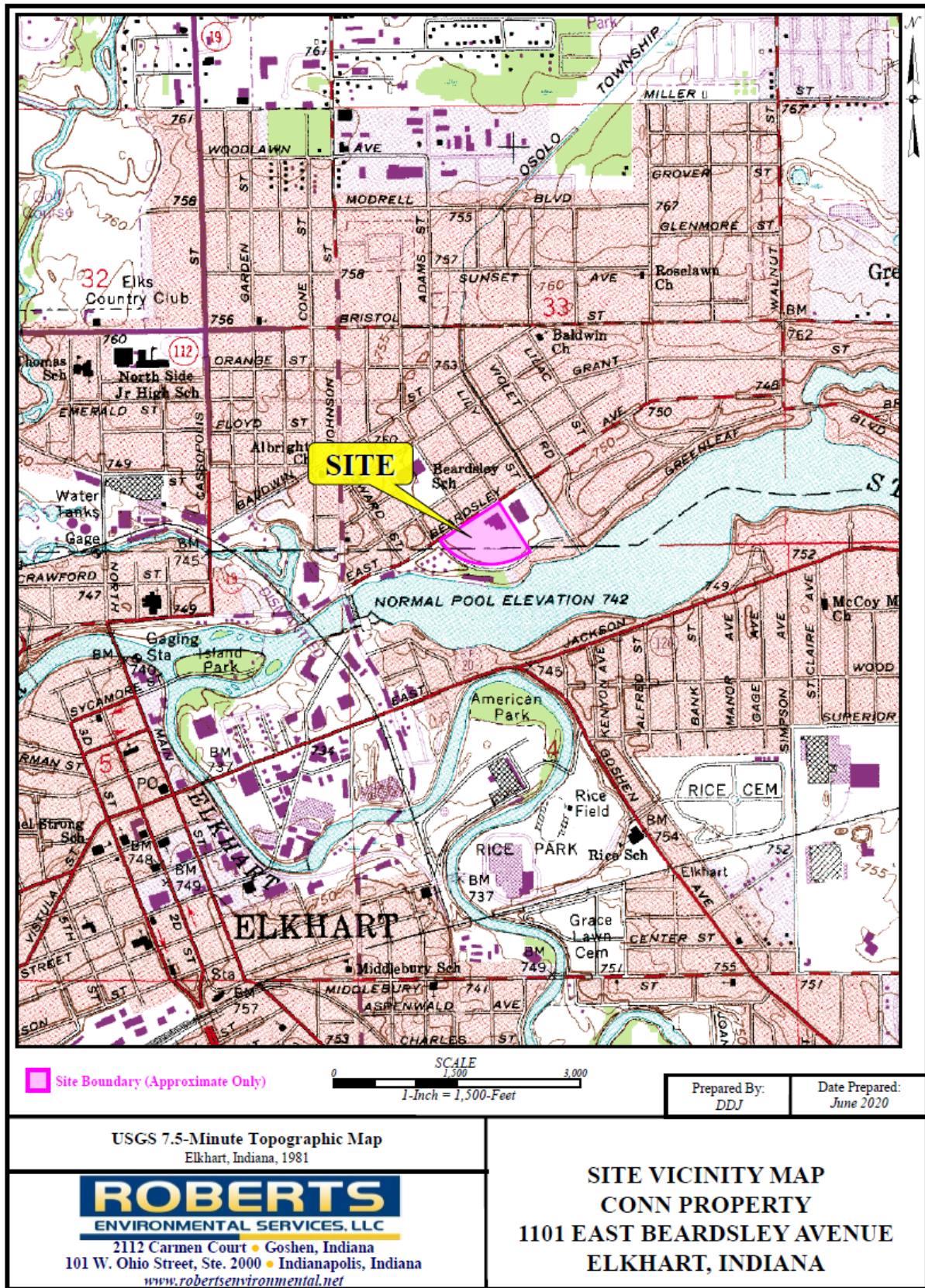


Figure 3 – Brownfield Project Location