



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

PRELIMINARY DECISION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS, ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

CITIZENS WATER - INDIANAPOLIS LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT SRF Project DW 23 28 49 01

Date: November 17, 2023

Pursuant to IC 5-1.2-3, the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program has determined that the project described here and in the Citizens Water - Indianapolis Preliminary Engineering Report will have no substantial negative environmental impact. Therefore, the SRF is issuing a preliminary decision of Categorical Exclusion (CE) 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: Lead Service Line Replacement Project
Citizens Water - Indianapolis
2020 North Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202

SRF Project Number: **DW 23 28 49 01**

Authorized Representative: Jeffrey A Harrison, President & CEO

II. PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed project is located in Marion County, Center township, Indianapolis East and West 24k USGS Quadrangles:

Martindale Brightwood - township 16N, range 4E and sections 19, 20, 21, 28, 29, 30 & 31.

Near NW Riverside – township 16N, range 3E, and sections 22, 23, 26, 27, 34 & 35. See **Figures 1 & 2.**

III. PROJECT NEED AND PURPOSE

Citizens Water anticipates replacement of up to 75,000 lead service lines present in several areas within the City of Indianapolis over a 33-year period, as part of their Lead Service Line Replacement (LSLR) Plan. The Citizens Water LSLR Plan is required by the Lead and Copper Rule and has been approved by the IURC. The areas within the City were prioritized using factors such as median household income, environmental justice areas, City projects planned, number of estimated lead service lines, and community engagement. The current Lead Service Line Replacement Project includes replacement of all lead service lines that have been funded within the priority areas of Martindale Brightwood and Near NW-Riverside neighborhoods, totaling approximately 6,500 lead service lines.

IV. ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS, AFFORDABILITY AND FUNDING

Total cost of this project is estimated to be approximately \$90,770,000. Citizens Water will finance the project with a loan from the Drinking Water SRF Loan Program for a term and annual fixed interest rate 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

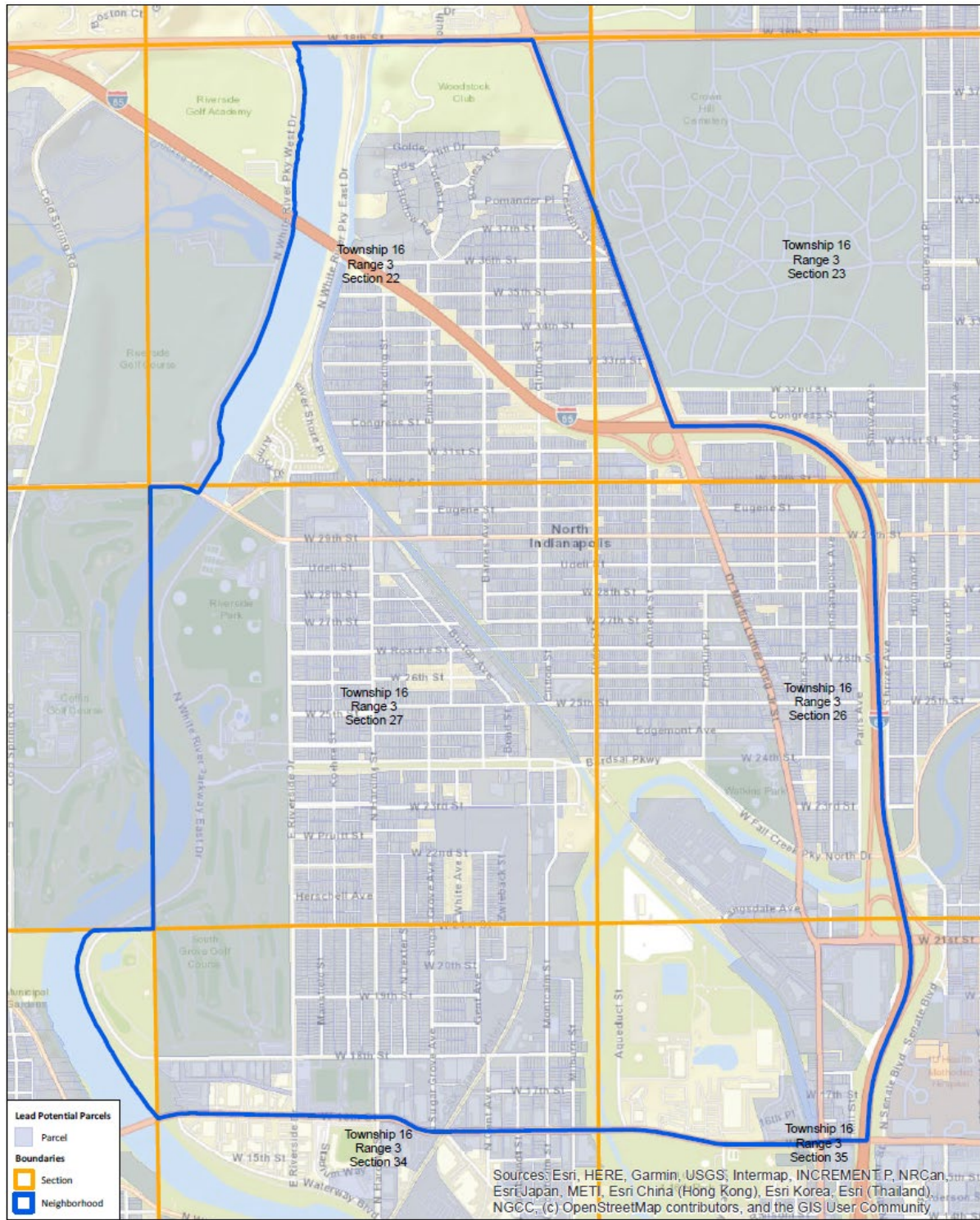
The environmental impacts will be minimal. All project activities will take place in areas previously disturbed by the installation of the existing utilities. The proposed project will not affect streams, floodplains, wetlands, wooded areas, or other sensitive environmental resources and will not convert 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 October 19, 2023 at 1:30 pm at the Edna Martindale Christian Center located at 2605 E. 25th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46218. Questions on this project were answered during the hearing. No written comments were received in the 5-day period following the hearing for this project.



Near NW Riverside

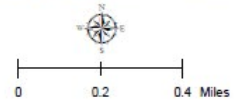


Figure 2