



State Revolving Fund Loan Programs

Drinking Water, Clean Water, Nonpoint Source

PRELIMINARY DECISION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS, ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

COLUMBUS CITY UTILITIES

WATER UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS

SRF Project DW 25 25 03 00

Date: December 11, 2025

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 Columbus City Utilities' 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:

Jenni Curry
Environmental Section Manager
State Revolving Fund
100 N. Senate Ave., IGCN 1275
Indianapolis, IN 46204
463-261-6943
jecurry@ifa.in.gov

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Name and Address: Water Utility Improvements
Columbus City Utilities
1111 McClure Road
Columbus, IN 47201

SRF Project Number: **DW 25 25 03 00**

Authorized Representative: Roger Kelso, Executive Director

II. PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed project is located in Bartholomew County, Columbus Township, Columbus 24k USGS Quadrangle, Township 9N, Range 6E, Sections 5, 17-20; Township 9N, Range 6E, and Section 35; Elizabethtown 24k USGS Quadrangle, Township 9N, Range 6E, Sections 6 and 16. See **Figures 1-2**.

III. PROJECT NEED AND PURPOSE

The purpose of the Water Utility Improvements project is to allow Columbus City Utilities to continue to reliably provide safe and clean drinking water to their customers. Improvements are needed to update aging equipment, limited or lack of redundancies, exposed transmission mains, and dead ends in the distribution system.

The Water Utility Improvements project will include various improvements, such as improvements to the filtration, chemical feed systems and storage, finished water handling, reconfiguring backwash pumping, etc., at the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) No. 1. Improvements at WTP 2 will include chemical disinfection improvements, structural modifications, adding a redundant raw water main, and design services for a full plant rehabilitation. The project also includes replacing water storage Tank No. 1 and installing a new booster station at Tank No. 2 with approximately 1,000 linear feet of 12" water main. An additional 4,000 LF of 12" water main will be replaced along 2nd Street. Pressure reducing valves will be replaced throughout the distribution system as well as water main replacements as needed. Water Storage Tank No. 3 will be demolished. Lastly, the proposed project will replace an exposed transmission main at Haw Creek in kind via directional drilling.

IV. ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS, AFFORDABILITY, AND FUNDING

The total cost of this project is estimated to be approximately \$29,975,000. Columbus City Utilities intends to 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

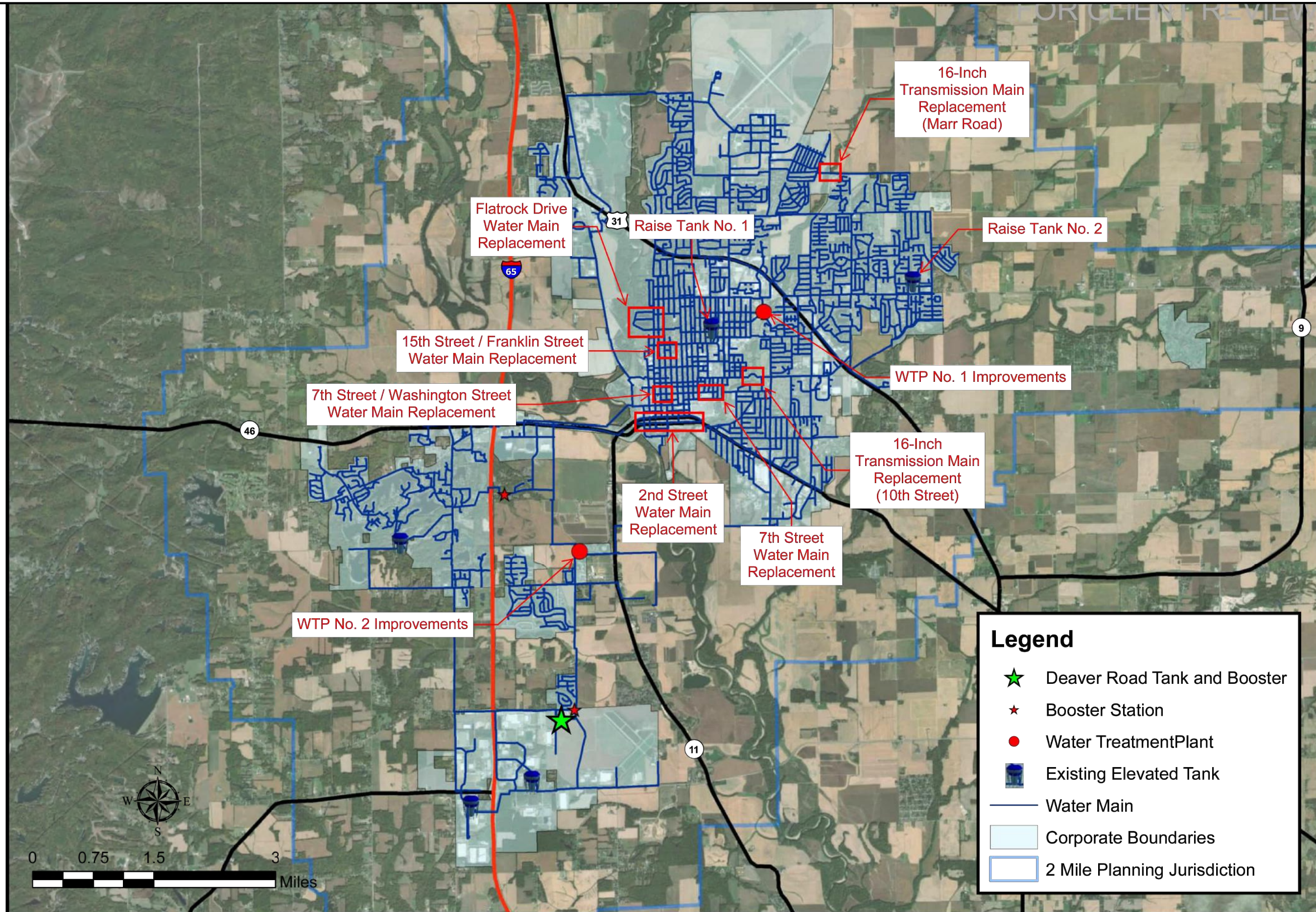
previously disturbed by existing utilities. The proposed project will not affect streams, floodplains, wetlands, wooded areas, or other sensitive environmental resources and will not convert prime farmland.

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 May 13, 2025, at 5:30 pm at City Hall, Council Chambers, 123 Washington Street, Columbus, IN 47201. There were no questions on this project during the hearing. No written comments were received in the 5-day period following the hearing for this project.

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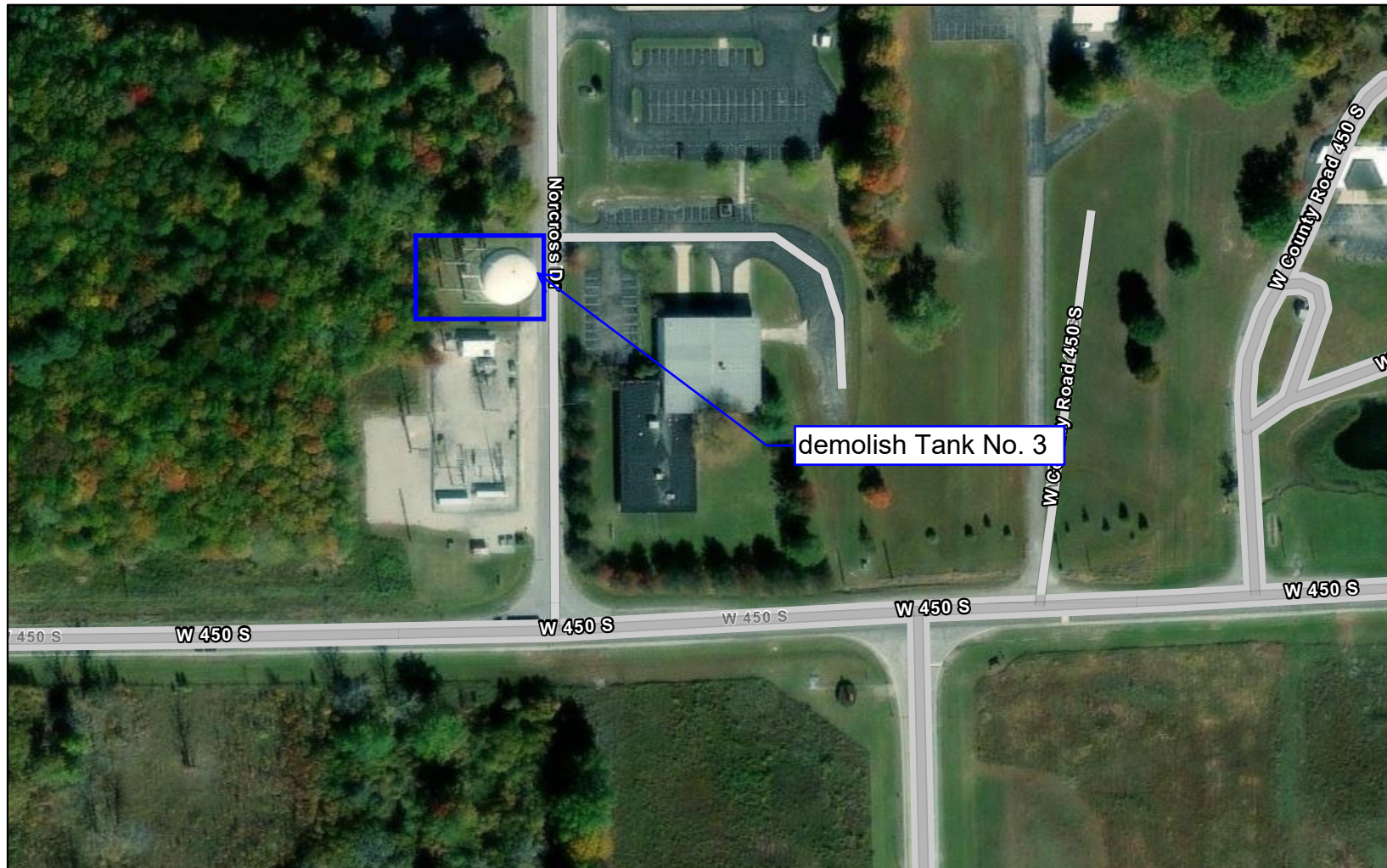
OVERALL WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITY
MASTER PLAN
COLUMBUS CITY UTILITIES
COLUMBUS, INDIANA






FIGURE 2.05-2
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DHPA IHBBC Map



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-  Counties
-  USGS Topo Quads
-  Civil Township Boundaries

