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
LIFT STATION IMPROVEMENTS NO. 1
SRF Project WW 22 56 03 08

Date: October 7, 2022

Pursuant to IC 5-1.2-3, the Clean 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 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.

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:	Lift Station Improvements No. 1 Columbus City Utilities 1111 McClure Road Columbus, IN 47201
SRF Project Number:	**WW 22 56 03 08**
Authorized Representative:	Mr. Roger Kelso, P.E., Executive Director

II. PROJECT LOCATION

The Balakar Lift Station is located in Bartholomew County, Columbus township, Columbus 24K USGS Quadrangle, township 9N, range 6E and section 6. Gropp's Lift Station is located in Bartholomew County, Columbus township, Columbus 24K USGS Quadrangle, township 9N, range 6E and section 17. The 35th Street Lift Station and Riverside Lift Station is located in Bartholomew County, Columbus township, Columbus 24K USGS Quadrangle, township 9N, range 5E and section 12. The Clifty Lift Station is located in Bartholomew County, Columbus township, Columbus 24K USGS Quadrangle, township 9N, range 6E, and section 29. See **Figure 1**.

III. PROJECT NEED AND PURPOSE

The PER Section 4 Lift Station No. 1 Improvements project includes:

- Bakalar North Lift Station Replacement, including installation of approximately 200 linear feet of gravity sewer and 80 linear feet of force main;
- Gropp's Lift Station Replacement, including installation of approximately 40 linear feet of gravity sewer and 30 linear feet of force main;
- 35th Street Lift Station Replacement, including installation of approximately 90 linear feet of gravity sewer and 60 linear feet of force main;
- Demolition of the Riverside Lift Station and installation of approximately 1,500 linear feet of gravity sewer to direct flow to the 35th Street Lift Station; and
- The addition of a back-up generator at the Clifty Lift Station.

These lift stations are at the end of their useful life and need replaced due to poor condition. Demolition and regionalization of the Riverside Lift Station will be done in accordance with CCU's long-term goals to eliminate lift stations, where feasible. The proposed generator at the Clifty Lift Station will provide permanent emergency back-up power, as access to the site may be limited during extreme flood conditions.

IV. ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS, AFFORDABILITY AND FUNDING

The total cost of this project is estimated to be approximately $3,300,000. Columbus City Utilities will finance the project with a loan from the Clean 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 September 20, 2022 at 5 pm at the CCU Wastewater Treatment Plant at 3465 S Jonesville Road, 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.

Figure 1 – Project Locations