



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 EAST CHICAGO **LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT PHASE 2** **SRF Project DW 25 20 45 08**

Date: April 10, 2026

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 City of East Chicago 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:

State Revolving Fund
100 N. Senate Ave., IGCN 1275
Indianapolis, IN 46204
publiccomments@ifain.gov

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Name and Address: Lead Service Line Replacements Phase 2
 City of East Chicago
 400 East Chicago Avenue
 East Chicago, IN 46312

SRF Project Number: **DW 25 20 45 08**

Authorized Representative: John Bakota, President

II. PROJECT LOCATION

The project is located in Lake County, North Township, Whiting and Highland 24k USGS Quadrangle, Township 37 N, Range 9 W, and Sections 9-11, 14-17, 20-22, 27-29, and 32-34. See **Exhibits 1 and 2**.

III. PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED

The City has developed its service line inventory and has identified services as high priority for replacement based on lead and galvanized pipe materials. In an effort to reduce the risk of lead exposure, the service line replacement project includes replacement of lead and galvanized service line materials within the Roxanna Neighborhood and Sunnyside Neighborhood areas of the City’s water distribution system. It is proposed that the Participant replace the service lines in accordance with EPA’s Programmatic Requirements for Stand-alone LSLR as outlined in the May 1, 2024, implementation memorandum *Implementing Lead Service Line Replacement Projects Funded by the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund*.

IV. ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS, AFFORDABILITY, AND FUNDING

The total cost of this project is estimated to be approximately \$10,000,000. The City of East Chicago 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.

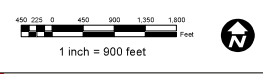
V. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES

The environmental impacts will be minimal. All project activities will take place in areas previously disturbed by service lines and appurtenances. 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.”

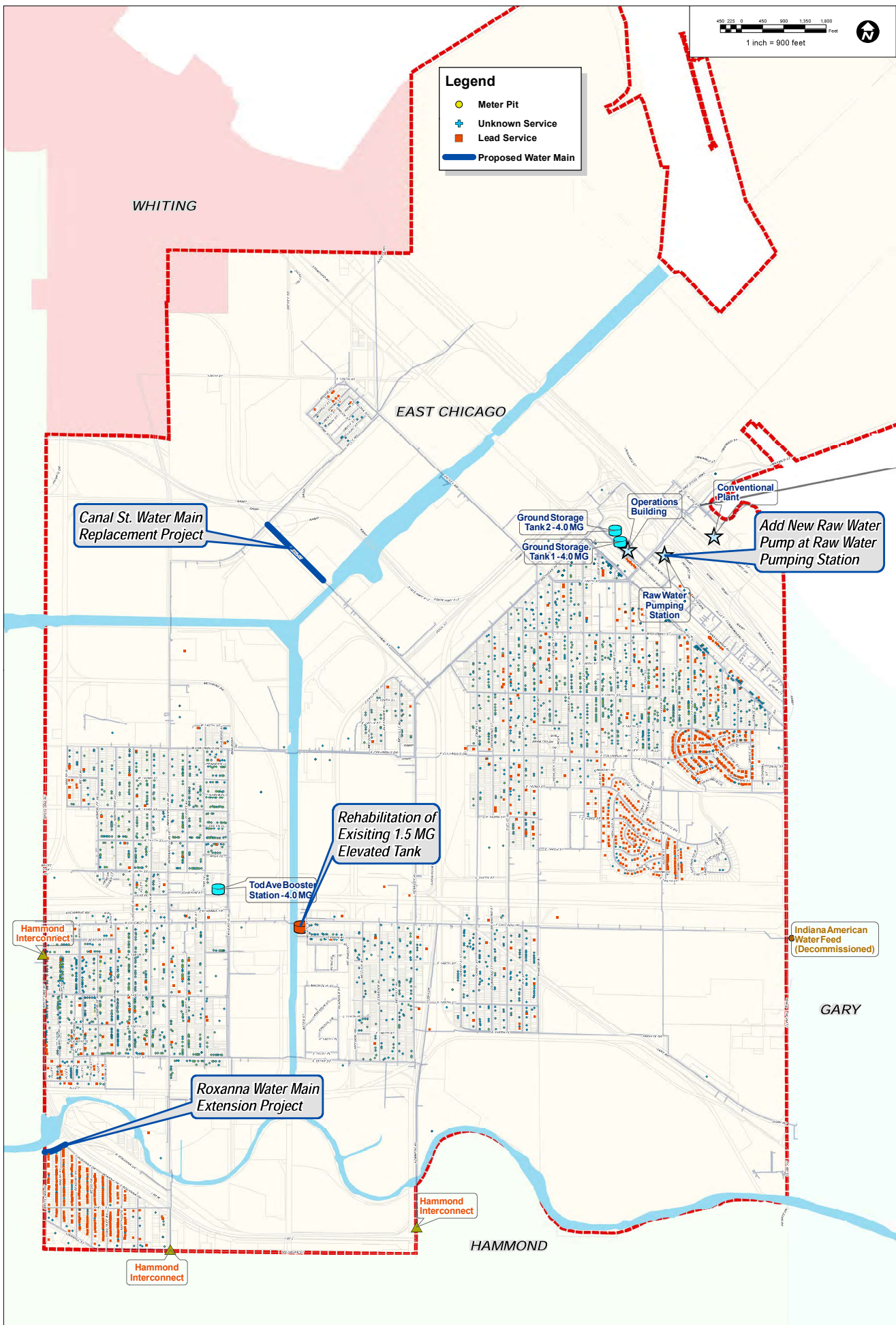
VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A properly noticed public hearing was held on March 30, 2026, at 4:30pm at the East Chicago Council Chambers, located at the East Chicago City Hall, 4525 Indianapolis Boulevard, 2nd floor, East Chicago, IN. 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.



Legend

- Meter Pit
- + Unknown Service
- Lead Service
- Proposed Water Main



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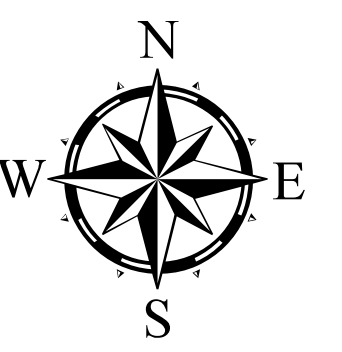
CITY OF EAST CHICAGO
 4525 Indianapolis Blvd.
 East Chicago, IN
 219.391.8300

DSN	
CHKD.	
SCALE	
GIS USER	
MODEL	ArCSIS 10.8
FILE NAME	N:\INDIANA\2019\Main\GIS\arcs2019_EastChicago_OrwellSystem_ProposedProject-64.mxd
DATE	3/21/2023

TITLE
WATER DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM
PROPOSED 2026 IMPROVEMENTS

PROJ. NO. 20-0198
 SHEET OF
 DRAWING NO.
EXHIBIT 1

City of East Chicago



Legend

Meter Status

- Remaining Meter Pits
- Meter Pits

Water Service Type

- Unknown
- Copper
- Ductile Iron
- Galvanized
- Lead
- Poly

▭ Parcels

▭ Corporation Limit

