



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

### PRELIMINARY DECISION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS, ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

#### GARY SANITARY DISTRICT WASTEWATER UTILITY IMPROVEMENTS SRF Project WW 25 15 45 00

**Date: March 10, 2026**

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 Gary Sanitary District's 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  
[publicnotices@ifa.in.gov](mailto:publicnotices@ifa.in.gov)

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# CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

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## I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Name and Address: Wastewater Utility Improvements  
Gary Sanitary District  
3600 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue  
Gary, IN Zip

SRF Project Number: **WW 25 15 45 00**

Authorized Representative: Ragen Hatcher, Executive Director

## II. PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed project is located in Lake County, Calumet Township, Gary 24k USGS Quadrangle, Township 36N, Range 8W, and Section 6. See **Figure 5-1**.

## III. PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED

Gary Sanitary District needs to make improvements to its WWTP in order to achieve compliance with the CSO regulations and meet the requirements of the long-term control plan. During wet weather events, the plant is hydraulically overloaded which results in overflows.

The proposed Phase 1A of the project includes WWTP improvements project includes replacing bar screens that are in poor condition, gate/actuators, and the stairway. The project proposes to overhaul four primary digesters. Digester 3 will be rehabilitated to include mixer replacement, interior gas and sludge piping replacement, new cover and poured walls/base slab, new overflow piping, new digester burner, and new sludge pumps. The work at the other digesters includes repairing mixers, level control to prevent overflows, new heat exchangers, removal of sludge, replacement of digester gas piping, new sludge transfer pumps, and inspection of the interiors of the digesters. SCADA system improvements are also proposed. Lastly, the project will add a include polymer improvements.

Phase 1B proposes improvements to the WAS thickening system by adding a second gravity belt thickener, new bulk polymer system, new dosing pumps, improve sludge wasting from clarifiers, new sludge pump, new WAS lines with control valves and flow meters.

## IV. ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS, AFFORDABILITY, AND FUNDING

The total cost of this project is estimated to be approximately \$32,638,000. Gary Sanitary District intends to 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

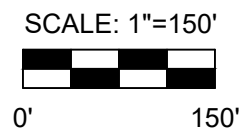
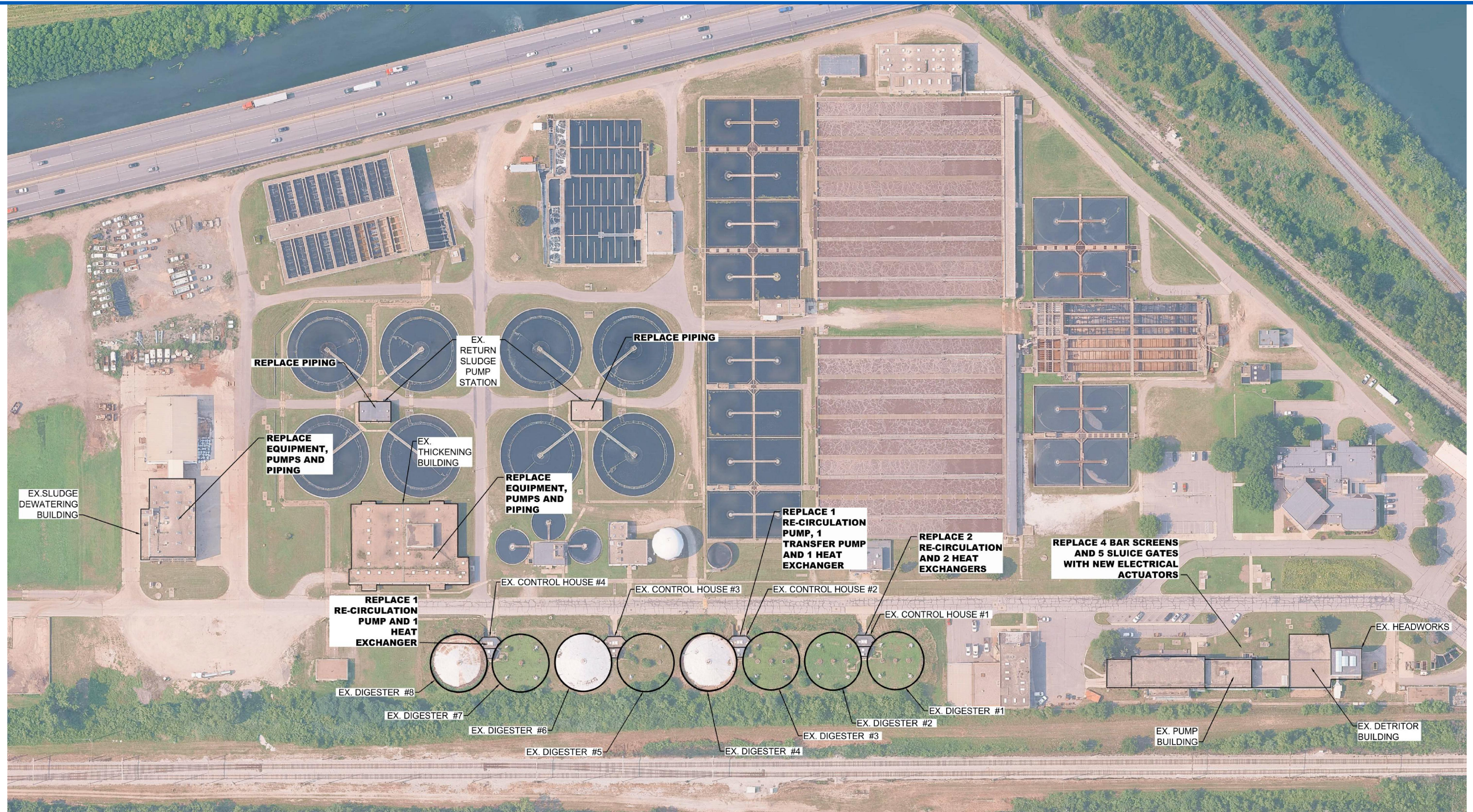
The environmental impacts will be minimal. All project activities will take place in areas previously disturbed by the existing WWTP. The proposed project will not affect streams,

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 16, 2025, at 12:00 pm at the Gary Sanitary District's Administration building board room at 3600 W 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, Gary, IN 46406. 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.



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**GARY SANITARY DISTRICT  
LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA**

WASTEWATER OVERALL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN

**FIGURE**

**5-1**