



State Revolving Fund Loan Programs

Drinking Water, Clean Water, Nonpoint Source

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

POSEY COUNTY REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT Wadesville-Blairsville Wastewater Utility Project STATE REVOLVING FUND PROJECT WW 19 26 65 02

DATE: March 1, 2021

TARGET PROJECT APPROVAL DATE: March 31, 2021

I. INTRODUCTION

The above entity has applied to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program for a loan to finance all or part of the wastewater project described in the accompanying Environmental Assessment (EA). As part of facilities planning requirements, an environmental review has been completed which addresses the project's impacts on the natural and human environment. This review is summarized in the attached EA, which can also be viewed in color at www.in.gov/ifa/srf.

II. PRELIMINARY FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FNSI)

The SRF Clean Water Program has evaluated all pertinent environmental information regarding the proposed project and determined that an Environmental Impact Statement is not necessary. Subject to responses received during the 30-day public comment period, and pursuant to Indiana Code 5-1.2-3, it is our preliminary finding that the construction and operation of the proposed facilities will result in no significant adverse environmental impact. In the absence of significant comments, the attached EA shall serve as the final environmental document.

III. COMMENTS

All interested parties may comment upon the EA/FNSI. Comments must be received at the address below by the target approval date above. Significant comments may prompt a reevaluation of the preliminary FNSI; if appropriate, a new FNSI will be issued for another 30-day public comment period. A final decision to proceed, or not to proceed, with the proposed project shall be achieved by finalizing, or not finalizing, the FNSI as appropriate. Comments regarding this document should be sent within 30 days to:

Amy Henninger
Compliance Officer
State Revolving Fund Loan Programs
100 N. Senate Ave. IGCN 1275
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317-232-6566
ahenning@ifa.in.gov

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Name and Address: **Wadesville-Blairsville Wastewater Utility Project**
Posey County Regional Sewer District
100 Vista Drive
Mount Vernon, IN 47620

SRF Project Number: WW 19 26 65 02

Authorized Representative: Mr. Dwayne Ackerman, Posey County RSD President

II. PROJECT LOCATION

The Wadesville-Blairsville project area is located along State Road 66 about 12 miles northeast of the City of Mount Vernon and 9 miles west of downtown Evansville. The project area generally extends along State Road 66 from the unincorporated community of Wadesville to the unincorporated community of Blairsville. The project area encompasses the following Sections: 1-18, 20-24, 27-29, Township 5 South, Range 12 West.

III. PROJECT NEED AND PURPOSE

Currently the communities of Wadesville and Blairsville have no existing sewer infrastructure, and homes are currently served by on-site septic systems. Since the 1980s a number of these septic systems have been failing and lead to ponding of wastewater from overloaded leach fields. In a letter dated January 2001 the Posey County Health Department states: *The septic situation in Wadesville and Blairsville is very critical. There are a large number of failing septic systems. Many of the lots are small and the soils are not very good. This restricts the options available for repairs. South Terrace School, which is in Blairsville, has septic leaching to the surface in the ball diamond. This creates a very serious problem. Unfortunately, there is very little that can be done using a conventional system. The area needs some kind of central sewage system.*

IV. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Phase one of the project would include constructing the mainline sewer and associated booster station. The sewer system will be constructed as a sewer running southeast along State Road 66, which is the primary road through Wadesville and Blairsville. Additionally, a new Wadesville Blairsville wastewater treatment plant would be constructed to provide treatment. A preliminary layout of the proposed system can be seen in the **Figures 1.1** through **1.4**. A clear layout of the wastewater treatment plant site, including incoming sewer can be seen in **Figure 1.6**. A minor change to the location of the booster station, near the intersection of Highway 66 and Stierley Rd, is reflected in **Figure 1.5**.

V. ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS, AFFORDABILITY AND FUNDING

A. Selected Plan Estimated Cost Summary

Construction Costs	
Collection/Transport system	\$2,450,000
Treatment System	1,260,000
Grinder Pumps	4,080,000
Contingency	780,000
Construction Sub-Total	\$8,570,000
 Non-Construction Costs	 \$1,700,000
 Total Estimated Project Cost	 \$10,300,000

Costs reflected are stated in the Posey County Regional Sewer District's Preliminary Engineering Report.

- B.** The Posey County Regional Sewer District will finance the project with a loan from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program for a term and annual fixed interest rate to be determined at loan closing. The actual loan amount will depend on the bids received. Monthly user rates and charges may need to be analyzed to determine if adjustments are required for loan repayment.

VI. DESCRIPTION OF EVALUATED ALTERNATIVES

The “**No Action**” alternative is not a feasible alternative as it would allow existing problem with the onsite treatment systems to persist and worsen resulting in the population decline likely being proliferated. Children that attend South Terrace Elementary School would continue to be exposed to partially treated wastewater from failed or failing septic system which occasionally discharge onto the school property and could lead to the closing of the school if not remediated.

Low Pressure Sewer System: This alternative would provide low pressure sewer systems to existing development in the service area. This is the selected collection system alternative.

Gravity Sewer System: This alternative would provide gravity sewers for the existing project area and capacity for future flows. This alternative was rejected because of the design challenges the topography of the area introduce, and higher cost of construction.

Gravity and Low-Pressure Sewer System (Hybrid system): This alternative is a combination of utilizing the advantages of both gravity and low-pressure sewer systems. This alternative would provide gravity sewers where hydraulically suited and low-pressure sewers to the remaining development. This alternative was rejected due to a required increase in public coordination.

Wadesville-Blairsville Wastewater Treatment Plant: This alternative would include the construction of a centrally located treatment plant designed to treat sanitary flows conveyed within the project area. This is the selected treatment alternative.

Wadesville-Blairsville Wastewater Dual Treatment Plants: This alternative would include the construction of two treatment plants located within the two communities of Wadesville and Blairsville. This alternative was rejected due to the increased cost and additional land acquisition required.

VII. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES

A. Direct Impacts of Construction and Operation

Disturbed/Undisturbed Land: Work related to the installation of the sanitary sewers will occur in areas previously disturbed by road construction. The proposed wastewater treatment plant site is currently only disturbed by agricultural use. A Phase 1a report addressing this property has been completed by a licensed Archaeologist and no additional review of the area is recommended. The amended booster station site was the subject of a records check and no impacts to archaeological resources is anticipated.

Structural Resources (Figure D-1 and D-2): The installation of sewer lines will remain in areas previously disturbed by road construction. The area of potential effect of this construction includes two notable structures, eight contributing structures and School House Number 2 on Old Blairsville Road, which is rated outstanding. However, 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 Historic Preservation Act is: "*no historic properties affected.*"

Wetlands (Figure A-7): Wetlands are not anticipated to be impacted by the installation of sewer main or the wastewater treatment plant. A USACE Section 401/404 permit will be obtained if wetlands are to be impacted.

Surface Waters (Figure A-8): The project will not adversely affect waters of high quality listed in 327 IAC 2-1-2(3), exceptional use streams listed in 327 IAC 2-1-11(b), Natural, Scenic and Recreational Rivers and Streams listed in 312 IAC 7-(2), Salmonid Streams listed in (327 IAC 2-1.5-5(a)(3), or waters on the Outstanding Rivers list (Natural Resources Commission Non-rule Policy Document). The project will require the crossing of ephemeral and perennial streams.

Floodplain (Figure A-9): Construction will occur in a floodway. The proposed sewer main will be installed at grade or underground to replace existing infrastructure. The southern portion of the land parcel proposed for the WWTP site is in the floodplain. The project will not impact the existing floodplain levels.

Groundwater: Dewatering may be required to temporarily lower the groundwater table in some areas during construction. Minor fluctuations in groundwater levels will be temporary in nature. Discharge from dewatering activities will be filtered or settled to remove sediment and will not be directly discharged to any waterway, wetland, or stormwater conveyance. Groundwater will not be impacted by the construction or operation of the proposed project.

Plants and Animals: The Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) states: *Construction and operation of proposed projects located within the Project area are not expected to pose a threat to or negatively impact state or federal-list endangered species and their habitat. It is not believed that the removal of trees will be required... The proposed project items will be implemented to minimize impact to non-endangered species and their habitat*

Prime Farmland: The project will convert prime farmland. In correspondence dated June 29, 2020 the NRCS stated *The revised project to proceed with underground improvements in Wadesville and Blairsville in Posey County, Indiana as referred to in your letter received June 18, 2020, will cause a conversion of prime farmland.*

Air Quality: Construction activities may generate some noise, fumes and dust, and impact short-term air quality. Long-term air quality impacts are not expected, and the project will not impact compliance with air quality standards

Open Space and Recreational Opportunities: The project will neither create nor destroy open space or recreational opportunities.

National Natural Landmarks: Construction and operation of the proposed project will not affect National Natural Landmarks.

B. Indirect Impacts

The RSD's PER states: *The Posey County Regional Sewer District, through the authority of its Board, planning commission or other means, will ensure future development, as well as future collection system or treatment works projects connected to State Revolving Fund funded facilities will not adversely impact wetlands, archaeological/ historical/ structural resources, wooded areas, steep slopes, or other sensitive environmental resources. The District will require new development and infrastructure projects to be constructed within the guidelines of the USFWS, IDNR, IDEM and other environmental review authorities.*

C. Comments from Environmental Review Authorities

In correspondence dated June 29, 2020, the Natural Resources Conservation Service stated: *The revised project to proceed with underground improvements in Wadesville and Blairsville in Posey County, Indiana as referred to in your letter received June 18, 2020 will cause a conversion of prime farmland.*

In correspondence dated January 13, 2021, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology stated: *Based on our analysis, it has been determined that no historic properties will be altered, demolished, or removed by the proposed project.*

In regard to archaeological resources, we note the following:

- 1. In regard to the proposed low pressure sewer, as long as the proposed project activities remain within areas disturbed by past construction activities, then no archaeological investigations are needed for the low pressure sewer. We do note that is unclear whether the portion of the proposed line running from Springfield Road east to the proposed wastewater treatment plant has been disturbed by past construction activity. This segment of the proposed sewer line was not included in the archaeological survey.*
- 2. Regarding the archaeological survey of the wastewater treatment plant, no archaeological sites were located, and we concur that no additional archaeological investigation is needed in the proposed plant location.*
- 3. We concur that the proposed booster station location does not require archaeological investigation.*

Therefore, based on our analysis, it has been determined that no historic properties will be altered, demolished, or removed by the proposed project. This analysis is subject to the following conditions:

- The proposed sewer line location remains within previously disturbed areas.*

- *If project ground disturbance will be within 100 feet of a cemetery, please be aware of the requirements in Indiana Code (IC) 14-21-1-26.5 (<http://iga.in.gov/legislative/laws/2018/ic/titles/014/#14-21-1-26.5>) regarding ground disturbance within one hundred feet of a cemetery/burial ground. In addition, please be aware of the restrictions on utility construction in Indiana Code (IC) 23-14-44-1 (<http://iga.in.gov/legislative/laws/2018/ic/titles/023/#23-14-44-1>).*

If any prehistoric or historic archaeological artifacts or human remains are uncovered during construction, demolition, or earthmoving activities, state law (Indiana Code 14-21-1-27 and 29) requires that the discovery must be reported to the Department of Natural Resources within two (2) business days. In that event, please call (317) 232-1646. Be advised that adherence to Indiana Code 14-21-1-27 and 29 does not obviate the need to adhere to applicable federal statutes and regulations, including but not limited to 36 C.F.R. 800.

In correspondence dated December 15, 2020, the Department of Natural Resources Environmental Unit stated: *The Indiana Department of Natural Resources has reviewed the above referenced project per your request. The Indiana Department of Natural Resources has reviewed the above referenced project per your request. Our agency offers the following comments for your information and in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.*

If our agency has regulatory jurisdiction over the project, the recommendations contained in this letter may become requirements of any permit issued. If we do not have permitting authority, all recommendations are voluntary.

The proposed sanitary sewer lines will require the formal approval of our agency pursuant to the Flood Control Act (IC 14-28-1) for any proposal to construct, excavate, or fill in or on the floodway of a stream or other flowing waterbody which has a drainage area greater than one square mile, unless it qualifies for a general license under Administrative Rule 312 IAC 10-5 that applies to utility line crossings (see enclosure). Please include a copy of this letter with the permit application(s), if required.

Formal approval by the Department of Natural Resources under the regulatory programs administered by the Division of Water is not required for the proposed WWTP and outfall structure.

The Natural Heritage Program's data have been checked.

Avoid and minimize impacts to fish, wildlife, and botanical resources to the greatest extent possible, and compensate for impacts. The following are recommendations that address potential impacts identified in the proposed project area:

1) Directional Boring:

We recommend that all creek or stream crossings be done using a trenchless method. The length of the bore should include any forested riparian areas along the creek to minimize impacts to forested habitat. Install erosion control measures such as silt fencing or other appropriate devices around directional drilling pits in order to prevent drilling mud from leaving the immediate area of the pit or entering the stream.

If the open-trench method is necessary and the only feasible option at any of the planned stream crossings due to the site conditions, then the following measures should be implemented:

- a. *Any open-trench stream crossing should be timed to coincide with the low-water time of year (typically mid- to late-summer).*
- b. *Restore disturbed streambanks using bioengineering bank stabilization methods and revegetate disturbed banks with native trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants. Stream bank slopes after project completion should be restored to stable-slope steepness (not steeper than 2:1). Information about bioengineering techniques can be found at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/iac/20120404-IR-312120154NRA.xml.pdf>. Also, the following is a USDA/NRCS document that outlines many different bioengineering techniques for streambank stabilization: <http://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/17553.wba>.*
- c. *The cleared width through any forested area should be the minimum needed to install the line and no more than 20 feet wide through the forested area to allow the canopy to close over the line.*
- d. *Use graded stone or riprap to protect the section of trench below the normal water level from scour or erosion (any stone or riprap fill in the streambed must not be placed above the existing streambed elevation to avoid creating a fish passage obstruction). impacts to forested areas. We recommend a mitigation plan be developed (and submitted with the permit application, if required) for any unavoidable habitat impacts that will occur. The DNR's Habitat Mitigation guidelines (and plant lists) can be found online at: <http://iac.iga.in.gov/iac/20200527-IR-312200284NRA.xml.pdf>.*

Impacts to non-wetland forest of one (1) acre or more should be mitigated at a minimum 2:1 ratio. If less than one acre of non-wetland forest is removed in a rural setting, replacement should be at a 1:1 ratio based on area. Impacts to non-wetland forest under one (1) acre in an urban setting should be mitigated by planting five trees, at least 2 inches in diameter-at-breast height (dbh), for each tree which is removed that is 10" dbh or greater (5:1 mitigation based on the number of large trees) or by using the 1:1 replacement ratio based on area depending on the type of habitat impacted (individual canopy tree removal in an urban streetscape or park-like environment versus removal of habitat supporting a tree canopy, woody understory, and herbaceous layer). Impacts under 0.10 acre in an urban area may still involve the replacement of large diameter trees but typically do not require any additional mitigation or additional plantings beyond seeding and stabilizing disturbed areas. There are exceptions for high quality habitat sites however.

The additional measures listed below should be implemented to avoid, minimize, or compensate for impacts to fish, wildlife, and botanical resources:

1. *Revegetate all bare and disturbed areas with a mixture of native grasses, sedges, wildflowers, and also native hardwood trees and shrubs if any woody plants are disturbed during construction as soon as possible upon completion. Do not use any varieties of Tall Fescue or other non-native plants, including prohibited invasive species (see 312 IAC 18-3-25).*
2. *Minimize and contain within the project limits inchannel disturbance and the clearing of trees and brush.*
3. *Do not work in the waterway from April 1 through June 30 without the prior written approval of the Division of Fish and Wildlife.*
4. *Do not cut any trees suitable for Indiana bat or Northern Long-eared bat roosting*

5. *(greater than 5 inches dbh, living or dead, with loose hanging bark, or with cracks, crevices, or cavities) from April 1 through September 30.*
6. *Plant native hardwood trees along the top of the bank and right-of-way to replace the vegetation destroyed during construction.*
7. *Appropriately designed measures for controlling erosion and sediment must be implemented to prevent sediment from entering the stream or leaving the construction site; maintain these measures until construction is complete and all disturbed areas are stabilized.*
8. *Seed and protect all disturbed streambanks and slopes not protected by other methods that are 3:1 or steeper with erosion control blankets that are heavy-duty, biodegradable, and net free or that use loose-woven / Leno-woven netting to minimize the entrapment and snaring of small-bodied wildlife such as snakes and turtles (follow manufacturer's recommendations for selection and installation); seed and apply mulch on all other disturbed areas.*

VIII. MITIGATION MEASURES

The Posey County RSD's PER states:

Sediment removed during construction will be stockpiled and used as backfill. Excess soil that remains from excavation activities will be disposed of properly. If the total area of land disturbance exceeds one acre, a Construction/ Land Disturbance Stormwater Permit will be obtained in accordance with 327 IAC 15-5 (Rule 5 Permit). Silt fencing, erosion control blankets and other appropriate measures, as necessary, will be utilized to prevent erosion in areas of construction activity. Disturbed land will be temporarily seeded if permanent seeding is delayed. Tree removal will be evaluated project-by-project and tree cutting restrictions will be implemented in the required areas.

The proposed location for the WWTP may require permit as the southern portion of the land parcel is in the floodplain of Big Creek. During the planning phase, efforts will be made to design the WWTP out of the floodplain.

Proposed project will be implemented to minimize impacts to non-endangered species and their habitat. Mitigation measures for endangered, threatened and rare species cited in comment letters from environmental review authorities or permit conditions from state agencies will be implemented as necessary and may include tree cutting restrictions or tree management practices.

Short-term air quality impacts for proposed projects may generate dust and noise during construction... Mitigation measures include limiting construction activity to daylight hours on weekdays to minimize noise effects. Construction specifications may require proper control measures be utilized to control wind erosion from construction areas. Proper cleanup practices will be required to reduce the generation of dust and other construction debris. When impacts cannot be avoided, appropriate measure will be utilized.

A USACE Section 404 Permit under the Clean Water Act and an IDME Section 401 Water Quality Certification will be obtained if wetlands are to be impacted.

If a Proposed Project impacts a waterway below the ordinary high-water mark, 401/404 permits will be obtained.

Dewatering may be required to temporarily lower the groundwater table in some areas during

construction. Minor fluctuations in groundwater levels will be temporary in nature. Discharge from dewatering activities will be filtered or settled to remove sediment and will not directly discharge to any waterway, wetland or stormwater conveyance.

General erosion and sediment control practices will be implemented during all construction activity. Areas disturbed by construction will be restored and revegetated with seeding and other measures such as erosion control blankets. A Rule 5 Permit will be required for erosion and sediment control for land disturbances that exceed one acre.

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A properly noticed public hearing was held on July 28, 2020, at 6:00 pm via Zoom to discuss the PER. Questions shared at the public hearing included the cost of installation and maintenance requirements to homeowners. All concerns were discussed at the hearing and no written comments were received during the 5-day comment period following the hearing.



Legend

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| — Proposed LPS | — Canal/Ditch |
| — Lakes (NHD) | — Connector |
| — Artificial Path | — Stream/River |

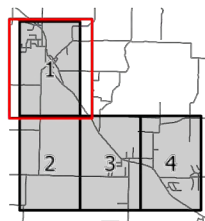
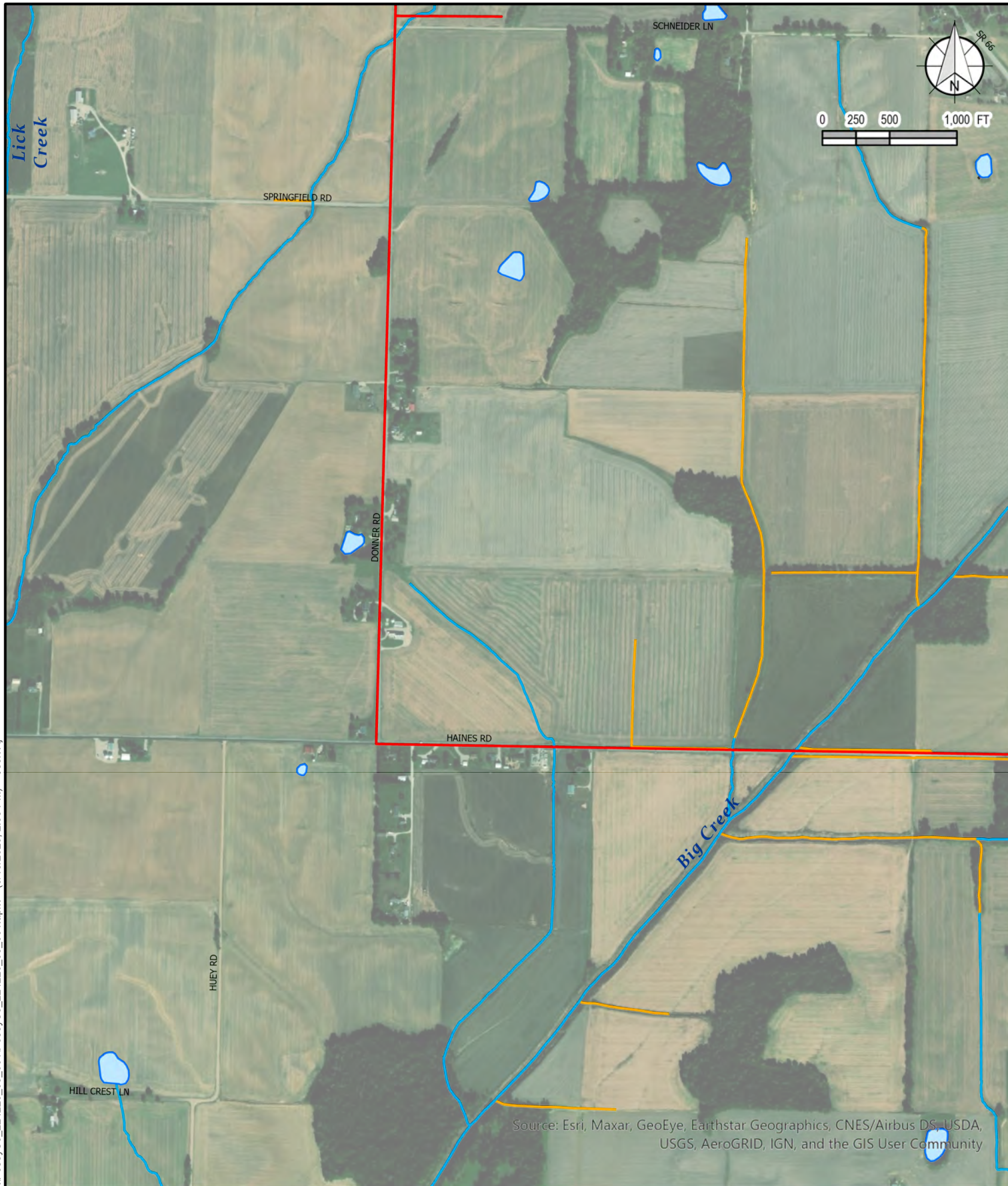








FIGURE 1.1
SURFACE WATER MAP
Posey County, Indiana

June 2020
224220-03-001



Legend

- | | |
|---|--|
|  Proposed LPS |  Canal/Ditch |
|  Lakes (NHD) |  Connector |
|  Artificial Path |  Stream/River |

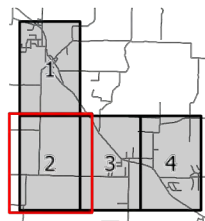
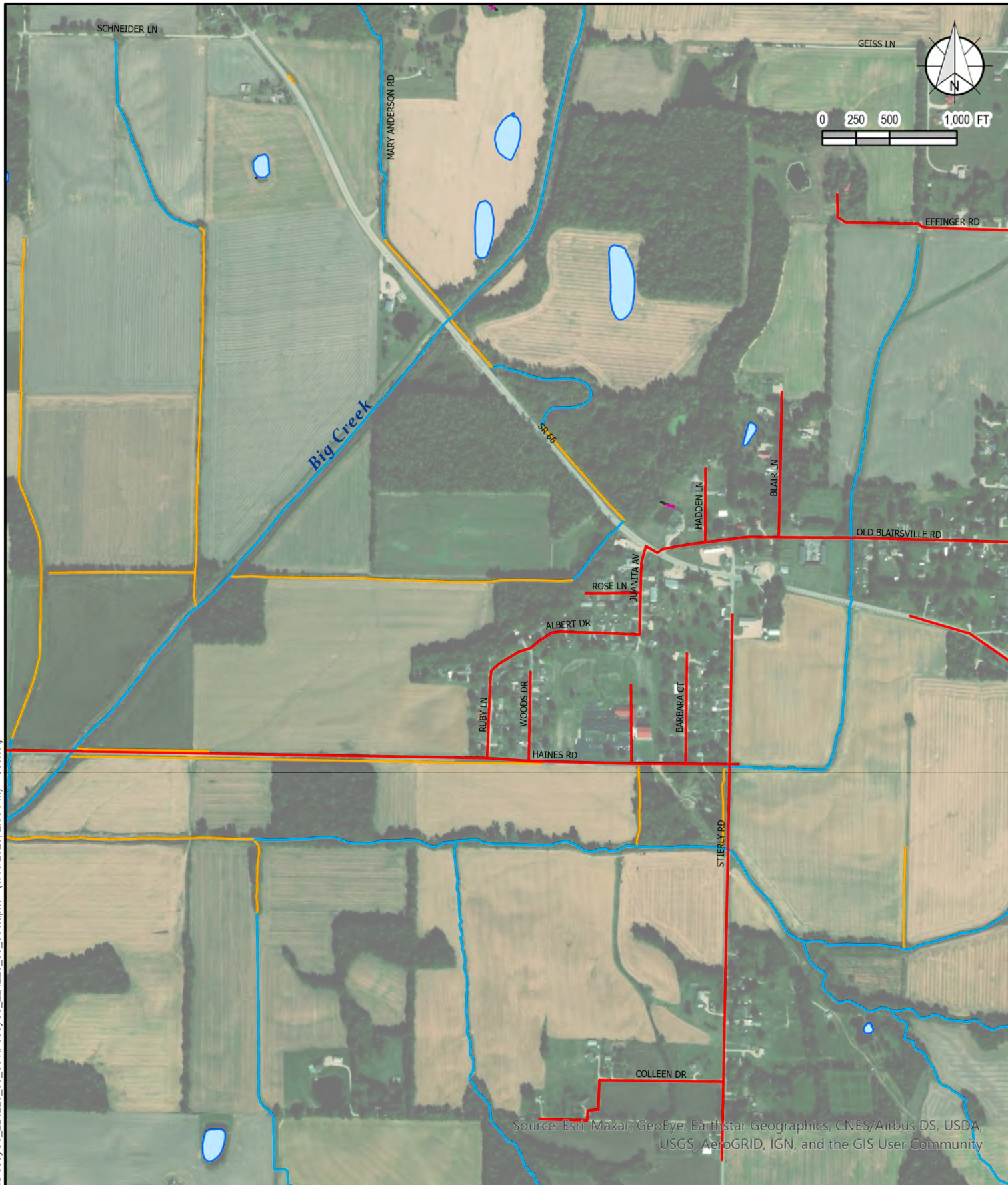


FIGURE 1.2
SURFACE WATER MAP

Posey County, Indiana

June 2020
224220-03-001



Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community



Legend

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Proposed LPS | Canal/Ditch |
| Lakes (NHD) | Connector |
| Artificial Path | Stream/River |

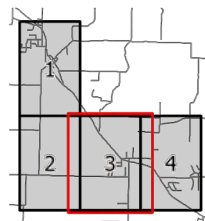
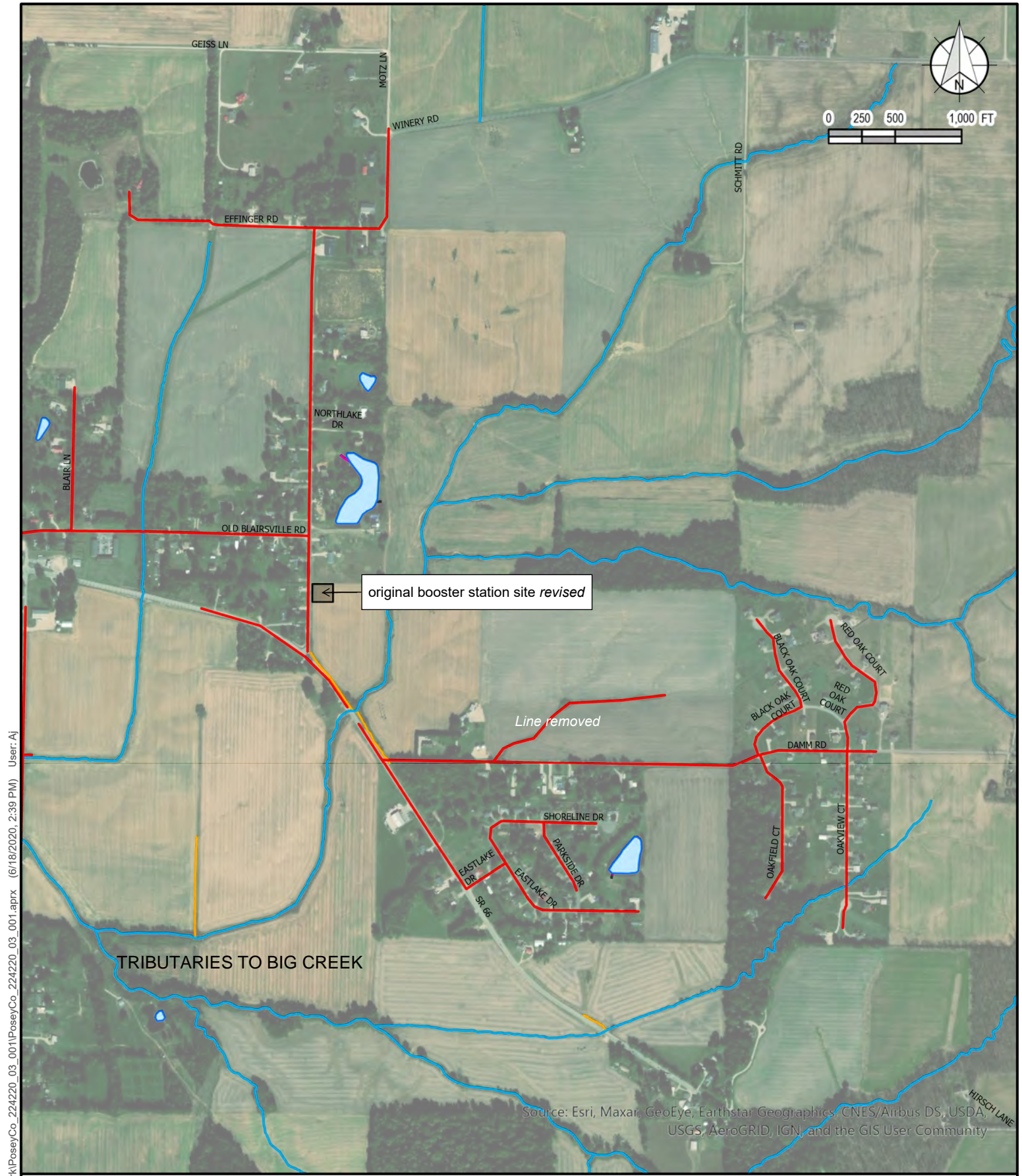


FIGURE 1.3
SURFACE WATER MAP

Posey County, Indiana

June 2020
224220-03-001



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Source: Esri, Maxar, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community



- Legend**
- Proposed LPS
 - Lakes (NHD)
 - ArtificialPath
 - CanalDitch
 - Connector
 - StreamRiver
 - Polygon Notes

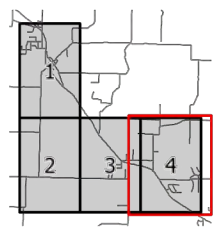
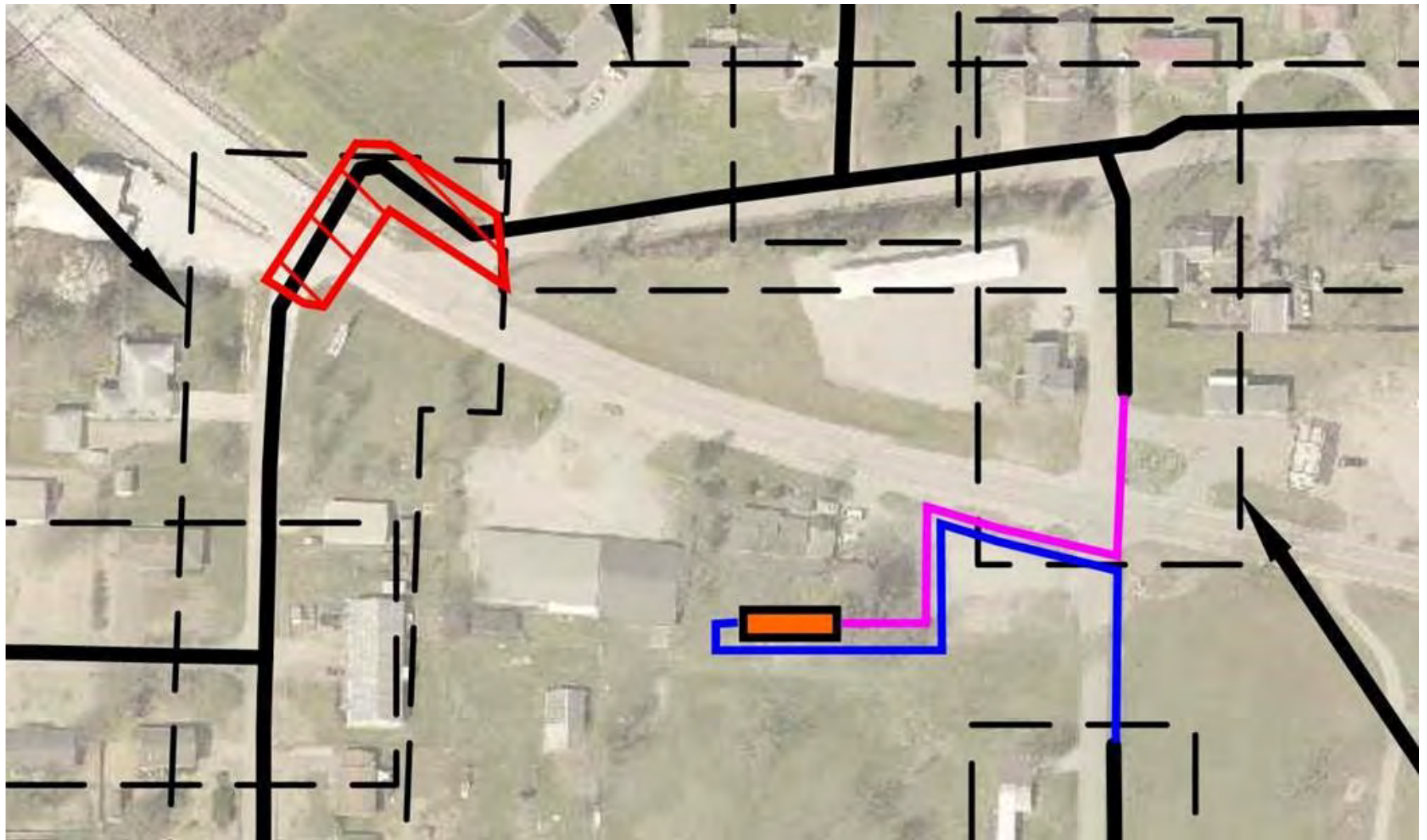
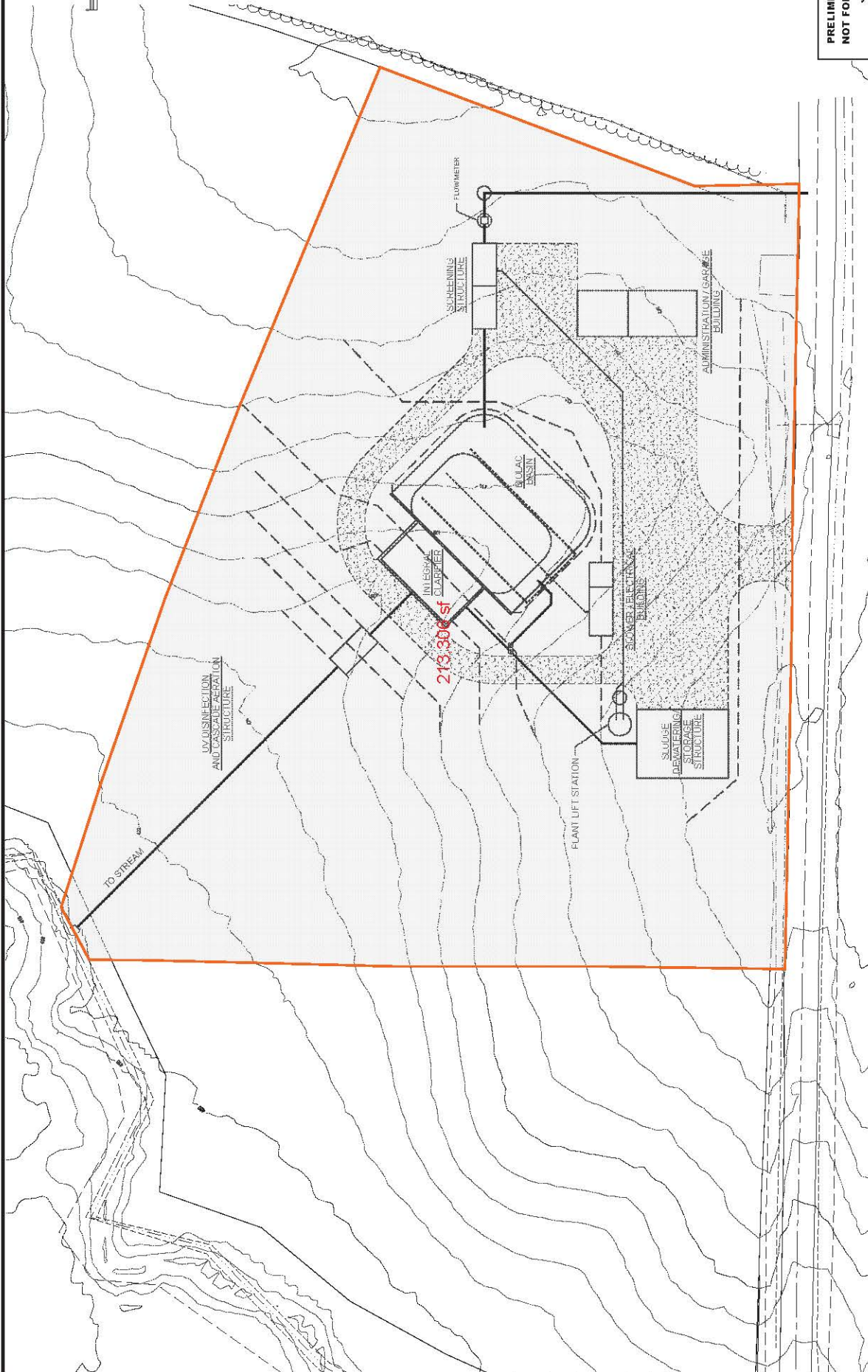


FIGURE 1.4
SURFACE WATER MAP
 Posey County, Indiana
 June 2020
 224220-03-001



Provided by Wessler Engineering
November 17, 2020

Figure 1.5
Amended Booster Station Location
intersection of Highway 66 and Stierley Rd



PRELIMINARY DRAWINGS
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION
JUNE 2020

SHEET NO.

WADESVILLE/BLAIRSVILLE SEWER AND WASTEWATER EXPANSION

POSEY COUNTY REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT
POSEY COUNTY, INDIANA

PAGE NO.

Figure 1.6



DATE

REVISION DESCRIPTION

DATE

DATE

DATE




DATE

DATE

DATE

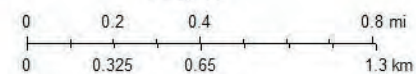
DATE

LEGEND:

-  Cemeteries
-  Notable
-  Contributing



1:18,000









**WADESVILLE
 SHAARD MAP
 FIGURE D-1**

Wadesville

May 2019

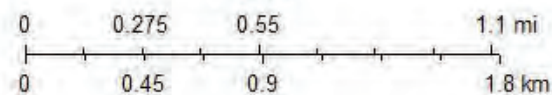
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LEGEND:

-  Cemeteries
-  Outstanding
-  Notable
-  Contributing
-  Contributing
-  Demolished

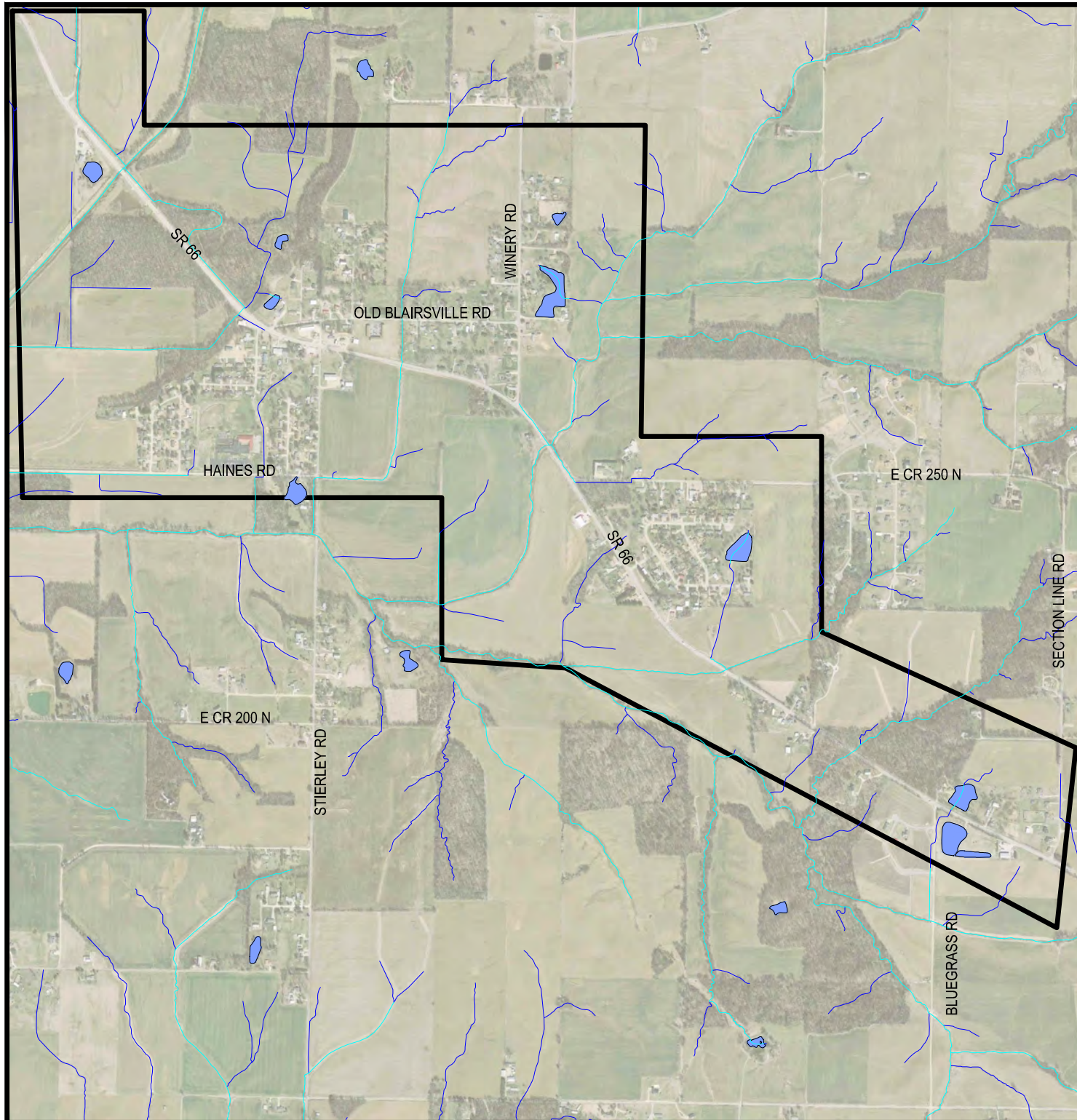


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






**BLAIRSVILLE
 SHAARD MAP
 FIGURE D-2**

Blairsville
 May 2019
 196517-01-001



LEGEND:

-  WATER BODY DISCRETE (NHD)
-  WATER BODY LINEAR (NHD)
-  FLOWLINE UNCLASSIFIED (NHD)
-  FLOWLINE CLASSIFIED (NHD)
-  STUDY AREA

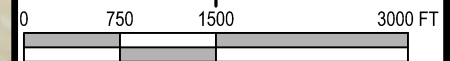
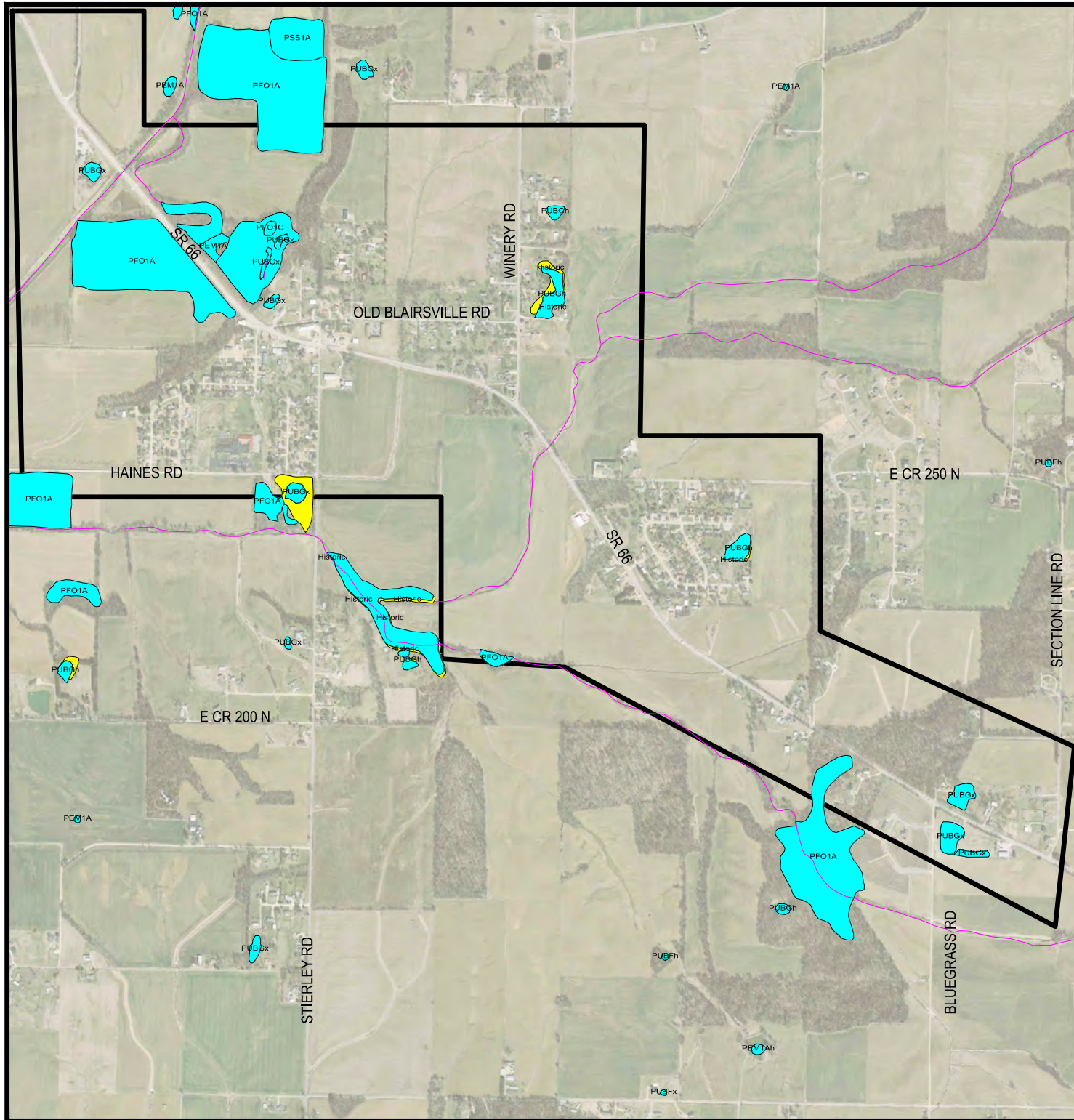






FIGURE A-8
BLAIRSVILLE
SURFACE WATER
MAP

Blairsville

June 2019
196517-01-001



LEGEND:

-  WETLANDS
HISTORIC NWI
(USFWS)
-  WETLANDS NWI
LINES (USFWS)
-  WETLANDS NWI
(USFWS)
-  STUDY AREA

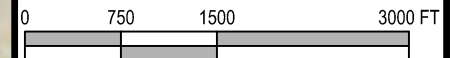
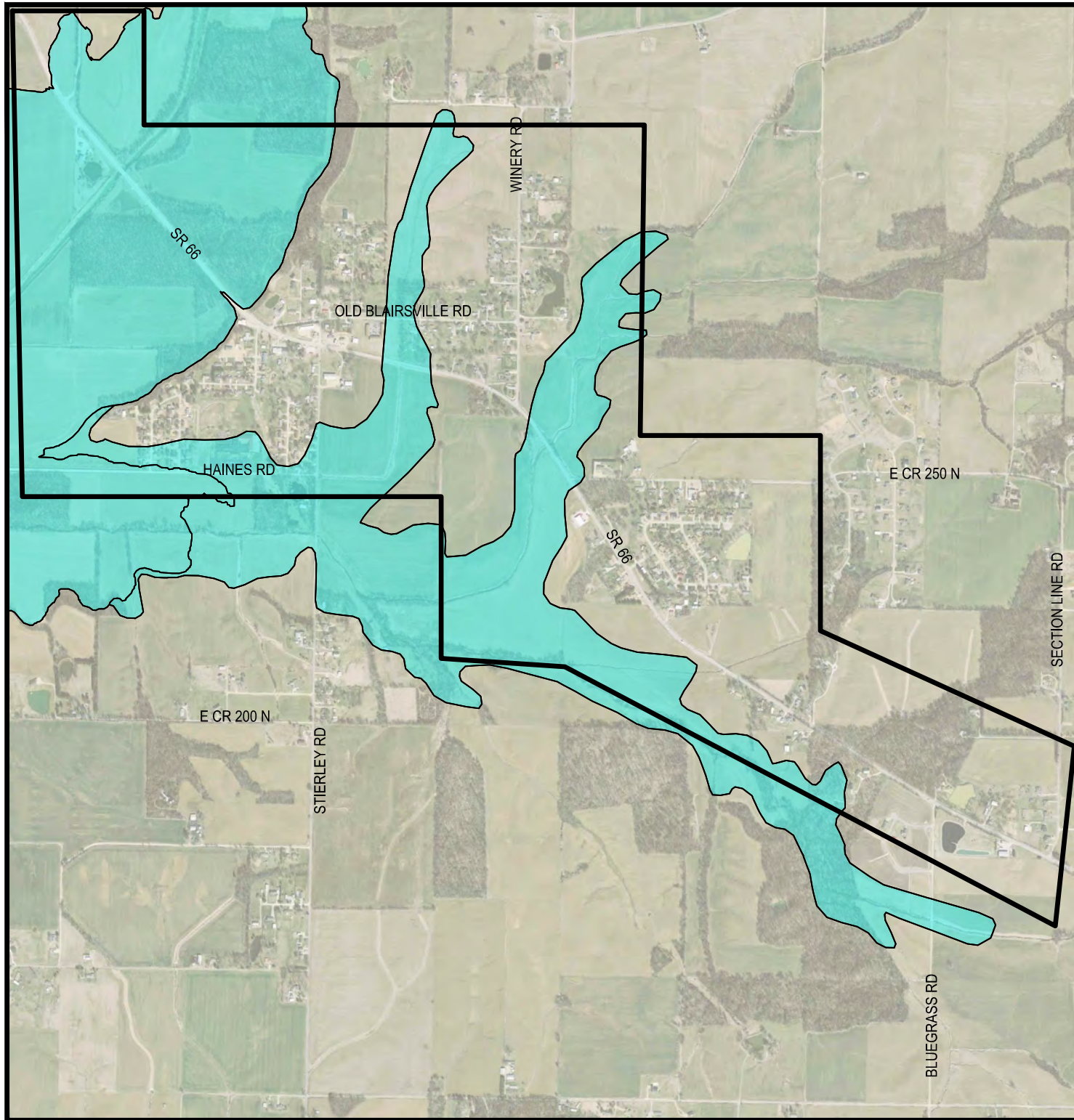






FIGURE A-7
BLAIRSVILLE
WETLANDS MAP

Blairsville

June 2019
196517-01-001



LEGEND:

-  FLOODWAY
-  100 YEAR
-  500 YEAR
-  STUDY AREA

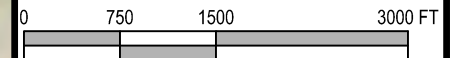


FIGURE A-9
BLAIRSVILLE
FLOODPLAIN MAP

Blairsville

June 2019
196517-01-001