



# 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 SOUTH BEND LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT SRF Project DW 23 46 71 03

**Date: May 19, 2024**

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 South Bend'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:

April Douglas  
Environmental Review Coordinator  
SRF Programs  
317-234-7294  
adouglas@ifa.in.gov

---

# CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

---

## I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Name and Address:                   Lead Service Line Replacement Project  
City of South Bend Public Works  
227 W. Jefferson Blvd. Ste 1300 N.  
South Bend, Indiana 46601

SRF Project Number:                         **DW 23 46 71 03**

Authorized Representative:                 Eric Horvath PE, Executive Director

## II. PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed project is located in St Joseph County, Portage township, South Bend East 24k USGS Quadrangle, Township 38 North, Range 2 East and Section 34; Township 37N, Range 2E, Section 3, 9, 13, 14, 15; Township 37N, Range 3E, sections 18 and 19. See **Figure 1**.

## III. PROJECT NEED AND PURPOSE

South Bend has developed a lead service line inventory per requirements of the Lead and Copper Rule. Approximately 3,500 lead service lines have been identified to be within Disadvantaged Communities census tracts. Selected project areas were further prioritized based on a lead-risk analysis. The current SRF funded lead service line replacement project includes complete replacement of lead service lines within the West, Southeast, Northwest and Southwest Zones, totaling approximately 500 lead service lines.

## IV. ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS, AFFORDABILITY AND FUNDING

Total cost of this project is estimated to be approximately \$5,900,000. The City of South Bend will 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 installation of existing service lines. 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 June 13, 2023 at 9:30 am in the Board of Public Works Conference Room, 227 W. Jefferson Blvd, Suite 1308, South Bend, IN 46601. 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.

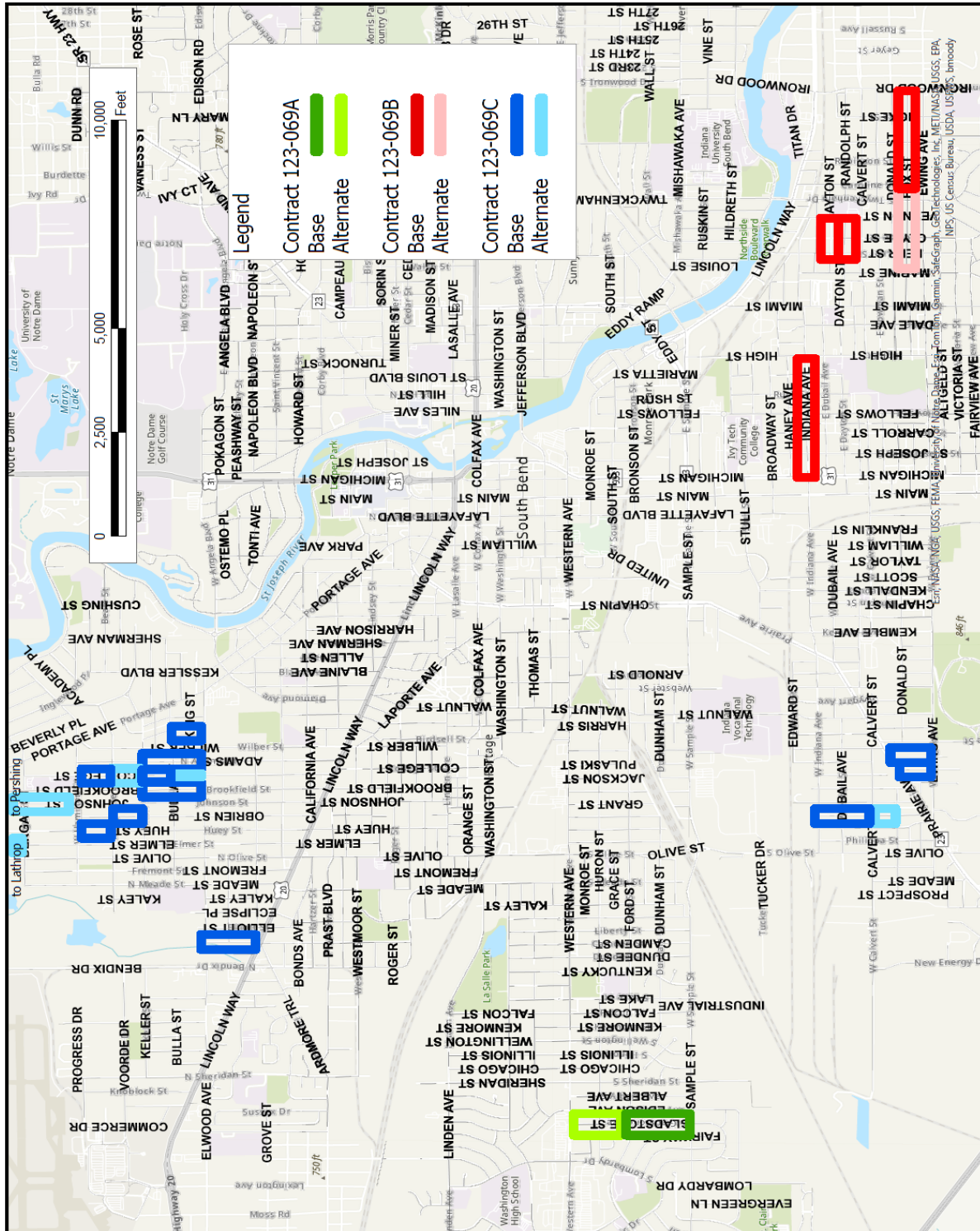


Figure 1