



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

PRELIMINARY DECISION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS, ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

TOWN OF WAKARUSA DRINKING WATER IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT SRF Project DW 22 31 20 01

Date: May 3, 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 the Town of Wakarusa's 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: Drinking Water Improvements Project
 Town of Wakarusa
 100 W Waterford Street
 Wakarusa, IN 46573

SRF Project Number: **DW 22 31 20 01**

Authorized Representative: Rocco Rigsby, Town Council President

II. PROJECT LOCATION

The Wakarusa Drinking Water Improvements project will replace the existing water treatment plant with a larger plant in Elkhart County, Olive township, Wakarusa 24K USGS Quadrangle, township 36N, range 4E and section 36. See **Figures 1 and 2**.

III. PROJECT NEED AND PURPOSE

The proposed plan at the water treatment plant includes:

- Two (2) 450 GPM wells, pumps, well houses and appurtenances,
- One (1) 450 GPM Induced Draft Aerator,
- One (1) approximate 15,000 Gallon Cast-in-Place Concrete Reaction Basin,
- Three (3) 550 GPM High Service Pumps with Variable Frequency Drives,
- Vertical Pressure Filters (firm capacity of 450 GPM) with Anthracite Media and air/water backwash system,
- Two (2) chemical rooms for polyphosphate and Sodium Hypochlorite storage,
- Laboratory, restroom, controls/office, electrical and storage rooms,
- Approximate 6,000 square foot WTP building,
- New electrical service,
- Diesel powered generator for back-up power,
- Instrumentation and controls, and
- Site piping modifications, site storm water management, and other site improvements

The proposed improvements will replace equipment that has outlived its useful life and allow the Town to provide reliability and redundancy in its water supply and treatment processes. The new filters will also remove manganese from the raw water. Manganese is identified by EPA as an emerging contaminant.

IV. ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS, AFFORDABILITY AND FUNDING

Total cost of this project is estimated to be approximately \$14,540,000. The Town of Wakarusa 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 the existing water treatment plant or surface grading. 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 April 12, 2022 at 6:30 pm at the Town Hall, located at 100 West Waterford Street, Wakarusa, IN 46573. 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.

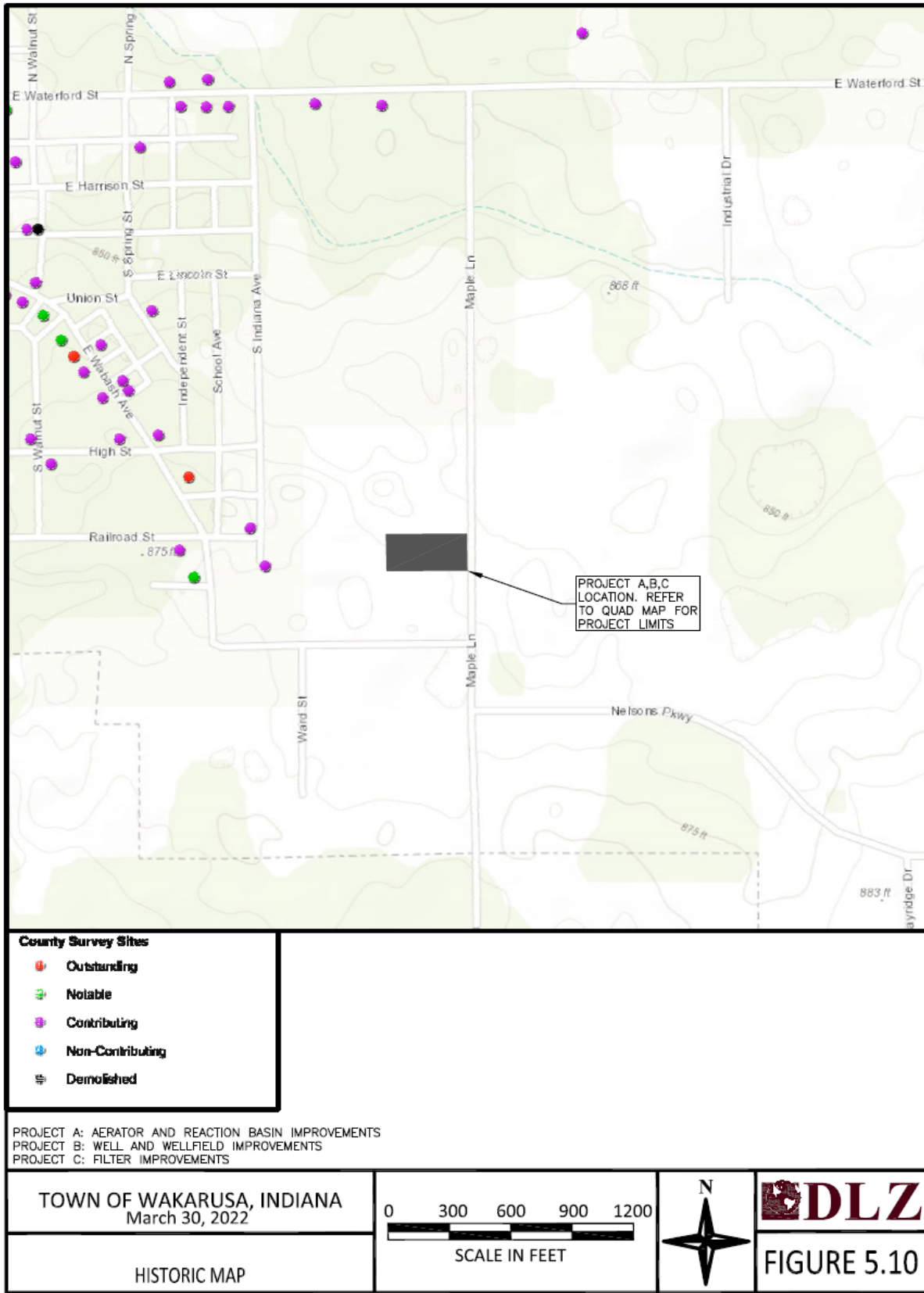


Figure 1

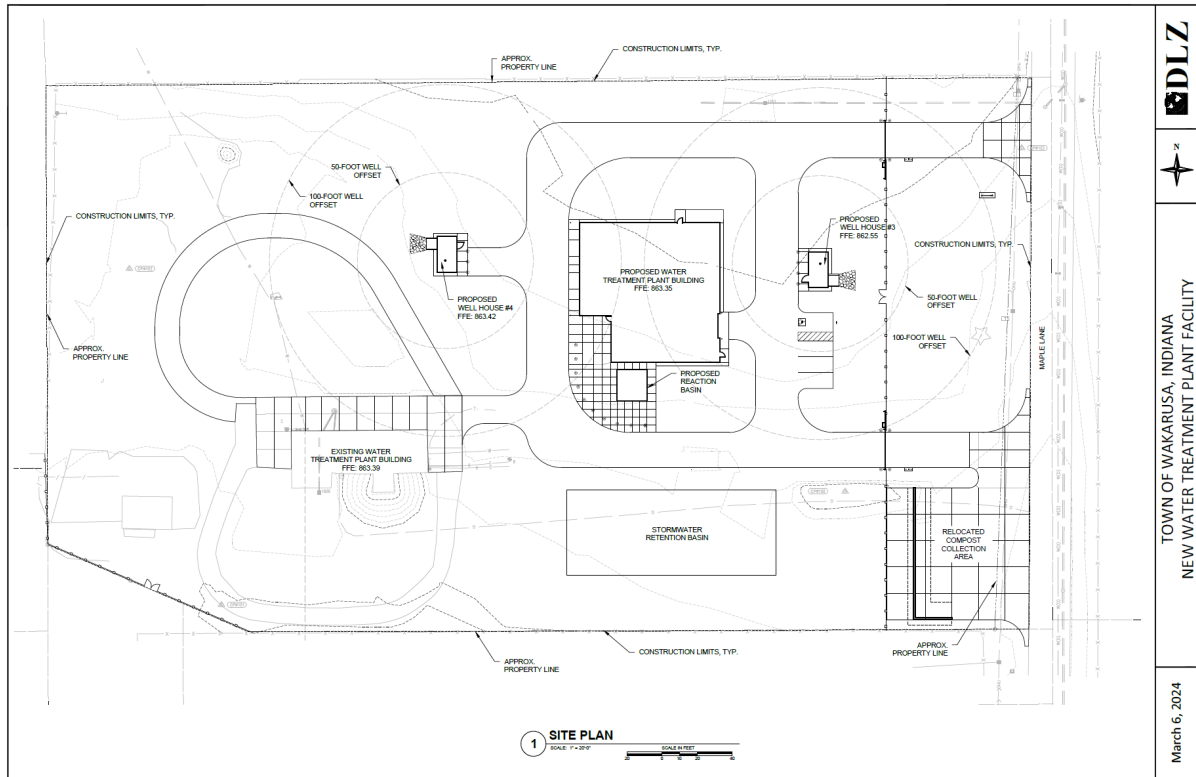


Figure 2