



## 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 FLORA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT EXPANSION SRF Project WW 22 18 08 01**

**Date: May 1, 2024**

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 Flora'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

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# CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

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## I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Name and Address:                   Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion  
Town of Flora  
4 East Main Street  
Flora, IN 46929

SRF Project Number:                       **WW 22 18 08 01**

Authorized Representative:                 Darrell Yoder, Council President

## II. PROJECT LOCATION

The project is located in Carroll County, Monroe township, township 24N, range 1W and section 4. See **Figures 1 & 2**.

## III. PROJECT NEED AND PURPOSE

The Town of Flora’s wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) influent flow rates and loadings regularly exceed the plant’s rated capacity, and the town is on a sewer ban. Excessive infiltration and inflow during wet weather causes bypass of treatment at the plant, resulting in sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs). The town is under an Agreed Order with IDEM to capture and fully treat all flows.

The WWTP expansion project will increase the average design flow rate from 0.428 MGD to 1.0 MGD, and the peak design flow rate from 1.0 MGD to 4.0 MGD. The project will allow treatment of all flows and will address plant components that have passed their useful life, are obsolete, or are in need of repairs or replacement. The WWTP expansion will provide an upgraded activated sludge system with addition of anaerobic, anoxic, and aerobic zones and internal sludge recycling. The project will include:

- Headworks, including influent pumping, metering, and screening;
- Rehabilitation of equalization basin, including new blowers, metering and return pump station;
- Upgraded aeration tanks, including new blowers, mixers, and recycle pump;
- Chemical phosphorus removal and building;
- Two circular secondary clarifiers with RAS/WAS pump station;
- UV disinfection system;
- Discharge piping, cascade post aeration, and relocated outfall;
- Conversion of tertiary ponds to additional equalization volume with mixers;
- Sludge bag dewatering system and new sludge pump, with ultimate landfill disposal;
- New digester tank blowers;
- Upgraded digester tank, pump, piping, and guide rails;
- New non-potable water pump station;
- SCADA system, lighting and HVAC upgrades, backup power generator;
- Plant site access drive and fencing; and

- Existing building repair.

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

Total cost of this project is estimated to be approximately \$14,603,000. The Town of Flora will 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 installation of 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 February 17, 2022 at 6 pm at the Flora Town Hall located at 4 E. Main Street, Flora IN 46929. 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.

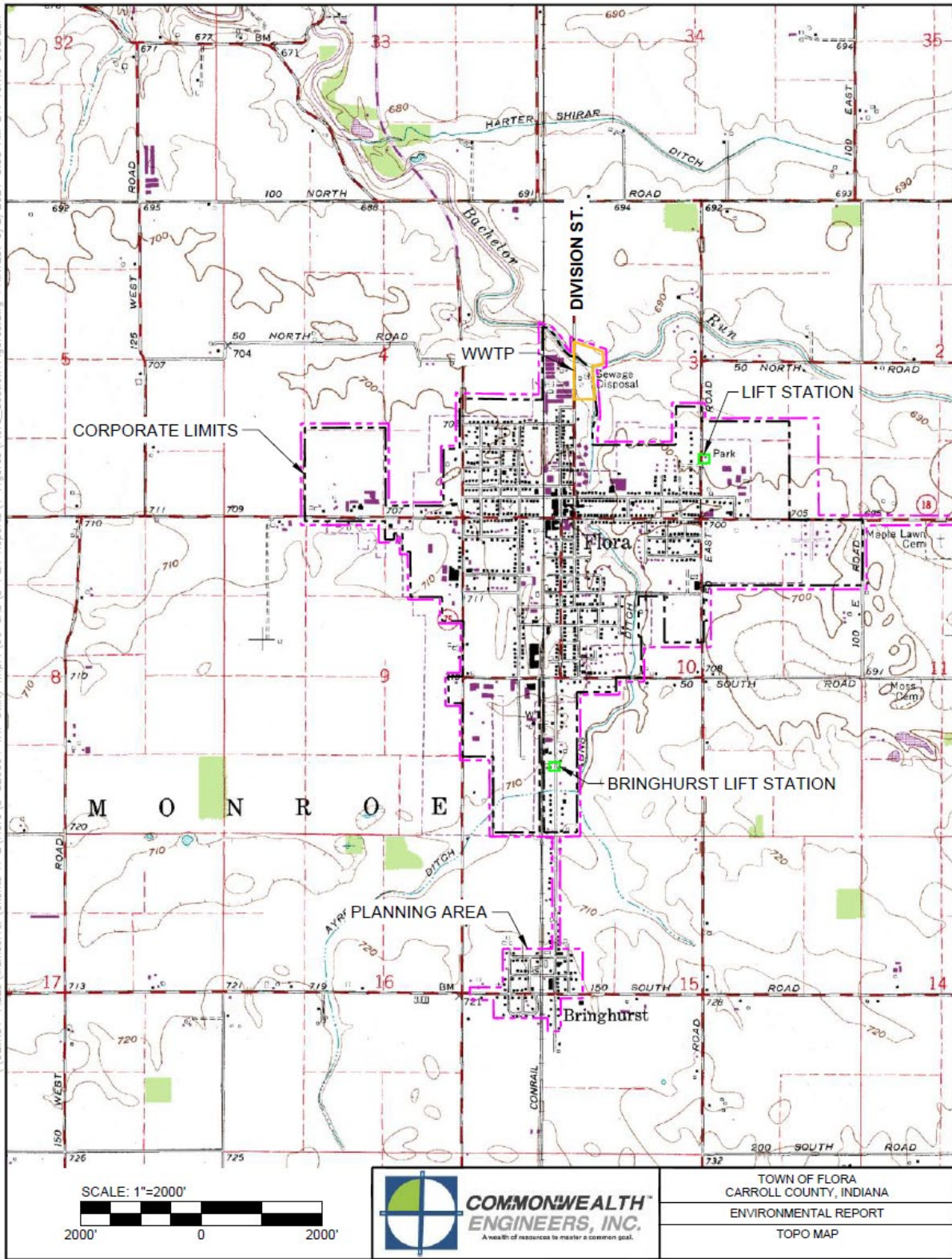


Figure 1

