



State Revolving Fund Loan Programs

Drinking Water, Clean Water, Nonpoint Source

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

TOWN OF CICERO WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT SRF PROJECT WW 24 05 29 03

DATE: May 23, 2024

TARGET PROJECT APPROVAL DATE: June 24, 2024

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 Clean Water 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 <http://www.in.gov/ifa/srf/>.

II. PRELIMINARY FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FNSI)

The SRF Wastewater 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 effected by finalizing, or not finalizing, the FNSI as appropriate. Comments regarding this document should be sent within 30 days to:

April Douglas
Environmental Review Coordinator
State Revolving Fund
100 N. Senate Ave. IGCN 1275
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317-234-7294
adouglas@ifa.in.gov

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Name and Address: Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Project
Town of Cicero
331 East Jackson Street
Cicero, IN 46034

SRF Project Number: **WW 24 05 29 03**

Authorized Representative: Christopher Lutz, Town Council President

II. PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed project is located at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) which is in Hamilton County, Jackson township, Noblesville 24k USGS Quadrangle, township 19N, range 4E and section 1. See **Figure 1**.

III. PROJECT NEED AND PURPOSE

The proposed Cicero WWTP Expansion Project will increase the hydraulic and treatment capacity of the existing plant to address an IDEM Agreed Order (No. 2015-23421-W) related to wet weather WWTP bypasses. The design average flow treatment capacity will increase from 0.75 MGD to 1.5 MGD and peak hourly flow capacity will increase from 1.5 MGD to 4.3 MGD. The last major plant upgrade was completed in 1990. The rehabilitations, upgrades, and additions listed below will extend the longevity of the WWTP and provide additional capacity to improve wet weather performance.

IV. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project will rehabilitate and upgrade existing facilities including influent screening, raw sewage pumping, oxidation ditch, secondary clarifiers, UV disinfection, effluent flow monitoring, RAS/WAS pumps, and digester. The proposed project will also add an oxidation ditch, flow splitter structure, secondary clarifier, sludge dewatering screw press, dry sludge storage area, vac dump station, new electrical service, emergency generator, and plant monitoring system.

V. ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS, AFFORDABILITY AND FUNDING

A. Selected Plan Estimated Cost Summary

<u>Construction Costs</u>	
Equipment	\$1,065,500
Labor	3,800,000
Subs & Materials	11,800,000
General Conditions	1,000,000
Contingency	<u>1,534,500</u>
Total Construction	\$19,200,000
<u>Non-Construction Costs</u>	<u>\$1,377,000</u>
Primary Project Total Estimated Project Cost	\$20,577,000

- B. Total cost of this project is estimated to be approximately \$20,577,000. The Town of Cicero 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.

VI. DESCRIPTION OF EVALUATED ALTERNATIVES

The “**No Action**” alternative is not practical, environmentally sound or economical. The No Action alternative does not address the legal obligation of the Agreed Order that resulted from the NPDES permit violations. The Town would continue to experience sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) at the WWTP and NPDES permit effluent compliance issues.

WWTP Expansion: This alternative will expand the capacity of the WWTP with new equipment and tankage. This alternative is cost prohibitive and was rejected.

WWTP Expansion-w/Value Engineering: This is the selected alternative to eliminate the SSOs at the WWTP and bring the WWTP into compliance with the Agreed Order and NPDES permit. This alternative incorporates value engineering into the WWTP Expansion alternative and reduces the scope of the project to lower the capital costs by eliminating non-essential improvements.

Regionalization: Regionalization was determined to be not feasible. Only a portion of the flow from west Cicero could be sent to the closest plant due to location of the plant. Flows from the east side of Town would still need to flow to the existing WWTP. The existing WWTP would still need to be rehabilitated to ensure compliance with the Agreed Order.

VII. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES

A. Direct Impacts of Construction and Operation

Disturbed/Undisturbed Land: Work related to the WWTP improvements will be on previously disturbed land.

Structural Resources: 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.*”

Surface Waters (Figure 2): The project will not adversely affect outstanding state resource waters listed in 327 IAC 2-1.3-3(d), exceptional use streams listed in 327 IAC 2-1-11(b), Natural, Scenic and Recreational Rivers and Streams listed in 312 IAC 7-(2), or Salmonid Streams listed in (327 IAC 2-1.5-5(a)(3) or streams on the Outstanding River List for Indiana.

Wetlands (Figure 3): Wetlands will not be impacted by the construction at the WWTP.

Floodplain (Figure 4): The project will not include dredge or fill in the floodway without a permit from IDNR Division of Water. No change in grade will occur within the floodplain.

Groundwater: The project will not impact a drinking water supply or sole source aquifer.

Plants and Animals: The proposed project items will be implemented to minimize impact to non-endangered species and their habitat. Mitigation measures cited in comment letters from the Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be implemented.

Prime Farmland: The project will not convert prime farmland.

Air Quality: Construction activities may generate some noise, fumes and dust, but should not significantly affect air quality.

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

Lake Michigan Coastal Program: The project will not affect the Lake Michigan Coastal Zone.

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

B. Indirect Impacts

The town's Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) states: *The Town of Cicero, through local zoning laws, the authority of its council or planning commission, or other means, will ensure that future development and utility projects connecting to SRF-funded facilities will not adversely affect wetlands, wooded areas, steep slopes, archaeological/ historical/structural resources, or other sensitive environmental resources. The Town of Cicero will require new development and utility projects to be constructed within the guidelines of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Indiana Department of Environmental Management, and other environmental review authorities.*

C. Comments from Environmental Review Authorities

In correspondence dated May 9, 2024, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology stated:

Pursuant to Indiana Code 5-1.2-10, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. § 306108), and 36 C.F.R. Part 800, the Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer ("Indiana SHPO") is conducting an analysis of the materials dated and received by the Indiana SHPO on April 19, 2024, for the above indicated project in Cicero, Hamilton County, Indiana.

Based on our analysis, it has been determined that no historic properties will be altered, demolished, or removed by the proposed project.

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 April 23, 2024, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service stated:

The USFWS concluded that the proposed project, project code 2024-0080777, does not contain critical habitats for the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Northern Long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), and the, proposed endangered, Tricolored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*). In

further coordination the USFWS determined that the *proposed Action is consistent with a determination of “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” for the Endangered northern long-eared bat (Myotis septentrionalis).*

In correspondence dated April 26, 2024, the Department of Natural Resources Environmental Unit stated:

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.

Regulatory Assessment: Formal approval by the Department of Natural Resources under the regulatory programs administered by the Division of Water is not required for this project.

Natural Heritage Database: The Natural Heritage Program's data have been checked. To date, no plant or animal species listed as state or federally threatened, endangered, or rare have been reported to occur in the project vicinity.

Fish and Wildlife Comments: 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. Revegetate all bare and disturbed areas that are not currently mowed and maintained with a mixture of grasses (excluding all varieties of tall fescue) and legumes as soon as possible upon completion; turf-type grasses (including low-endophyte, friendly endophyte, and endophyte free tall fescue but excluding all other varieties of tall fescue) may be used in currently mowed areas only.*
- 2. Minimize and contain within the project limits all tree and brush clearing.*
- 3. Appropriately designed measures for controlling erosion and sediment must be implemented to prevent sediment from entering the waterbody or leaving the construction site; maintain these measures until construction is complete and all disturbed areas are stabilized.*
- 4. If erosion control blankets are used, they shall be heavy-duty, biodegradable, and net free or 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.*

In correspondence dated March 18, 2024, the Natural Resources Conservation Service stated:

The proposed Town of Cicero, Wastewater Treatment Plant Project in Hamilton County, Indiana, as referred to in your letter received March 6, 2024, will not cause a conversion of prime farmland.

VIII. MITIGATION MEASURES

The Town of Cicero’s PER states: *The following mitigation measures will be employed at the project site to limit temporary and long-term negative impacts associated with the project.*

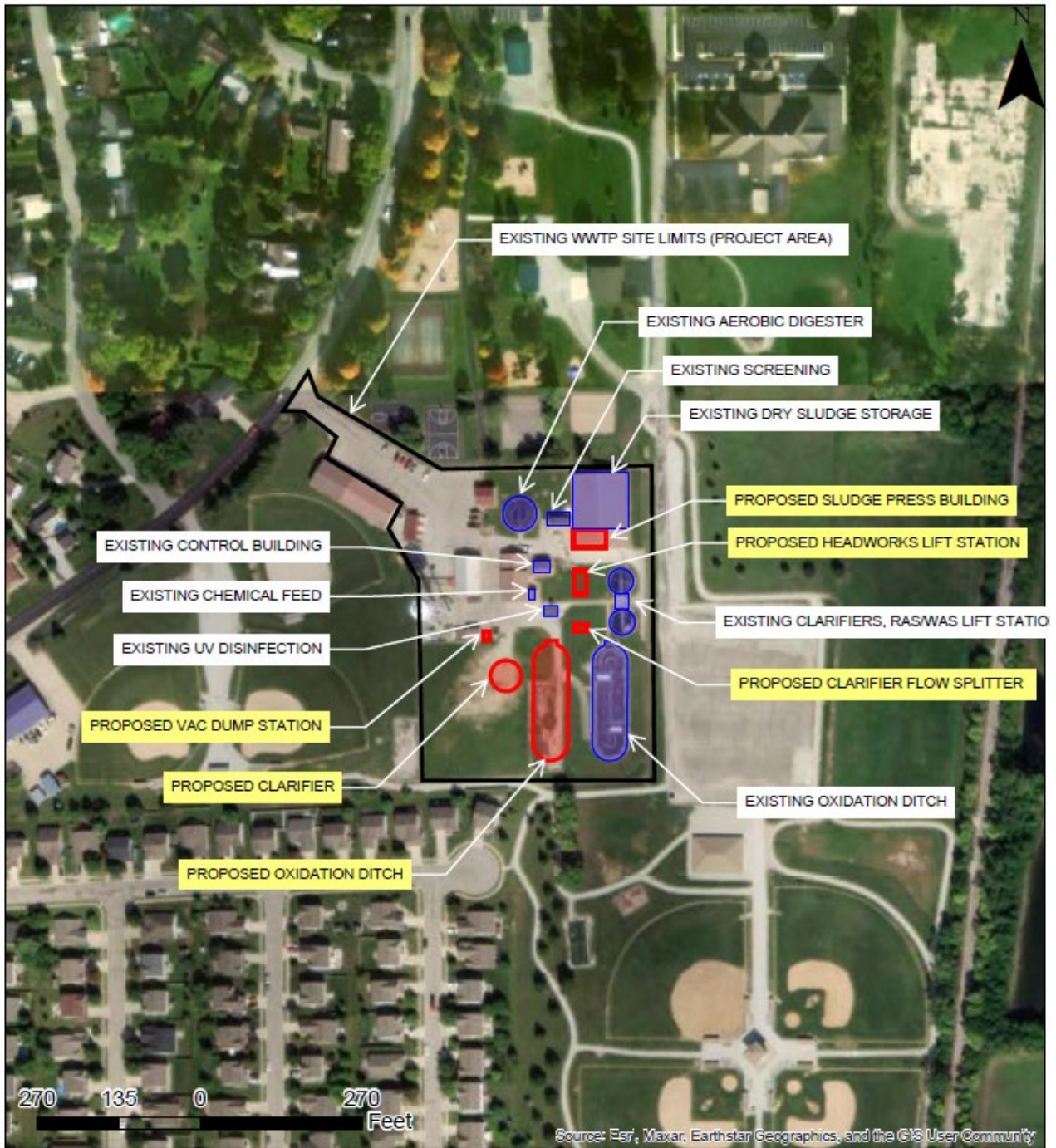
- *Stone construction entrance will be installed to limit sediment transport to*

local roadways from construction equipment.

- *Silt fence will be installed at strategic locations to protect natural areas and capture sediment from runoff leaving the site.*
- *Temporary seeding and permanent seeding will be completed in a timely manner to re-establish vegetative cover.*
- *Temporary pumps and generators will be provided with sound attenuation during construction.*
- *Construction work hours will generally be limited during the week Monday to Friday. Contractor will coordinate schedules in advance with Town personnel.*
- *Construction equipment and related debris will be removed from the site following construction. All disturbed areas will be restored.*

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A properly noticed public hearing was held on March 19, 2024, at 7:00 pm at the Cicero Town Hall to discuss the PER. No written comments were received during the 5-day comment period following the hearing.



<p>PROPOSED PROJECT MAJOR FEATURES</p>		<p>Legend</p> <p>■ Proposed Structures (NEW)</p> <p>■ Existing Structures (Rehabilitated)</p>		
<p>Town of Cicero Hamilton County, Indiana</p>				
Created By: EGC	Date: 2/29/2024	Map Datum: NAD 1983	Map Projection: HARN Indiana State Plane East	

Figure 1

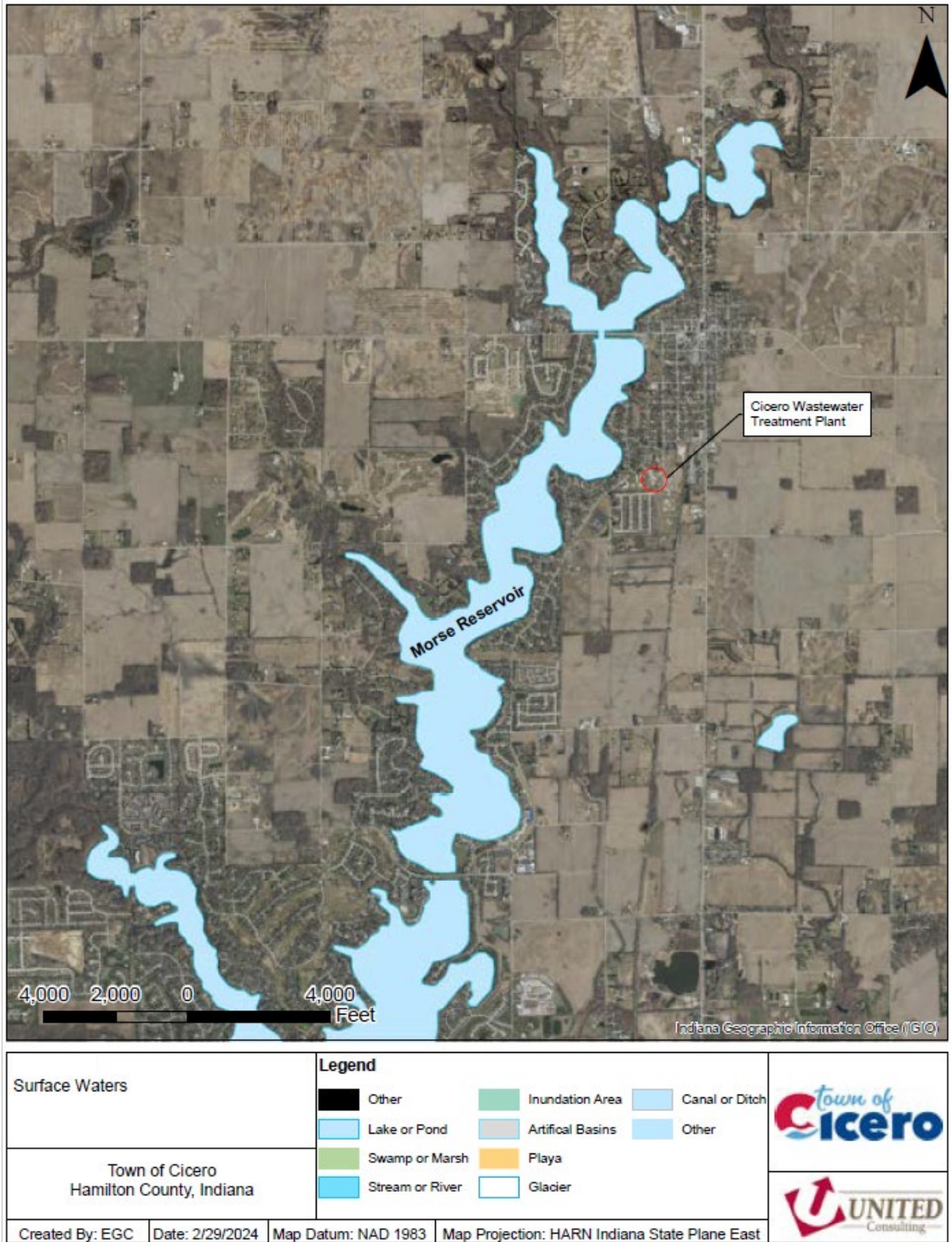
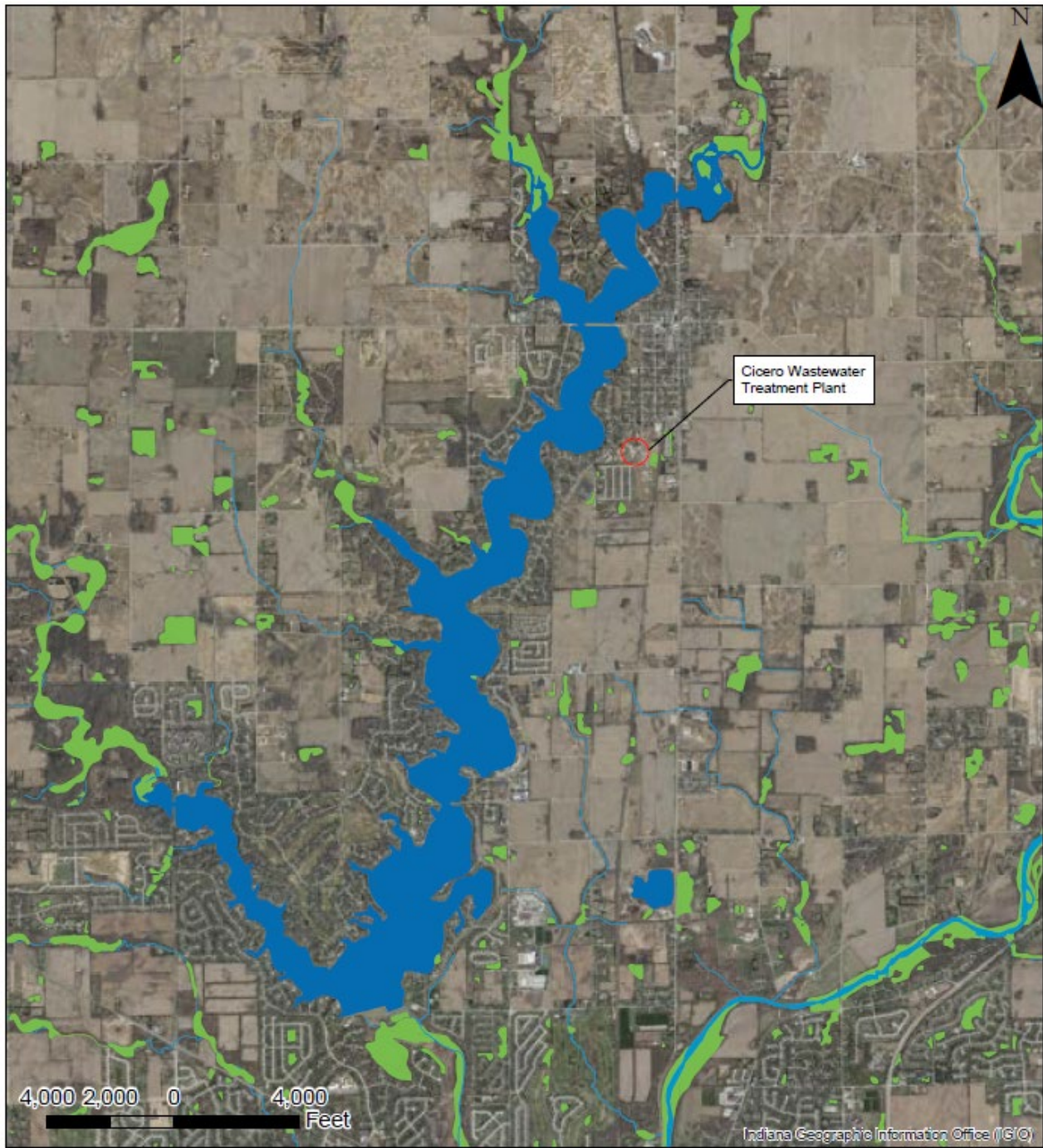


Figure 2










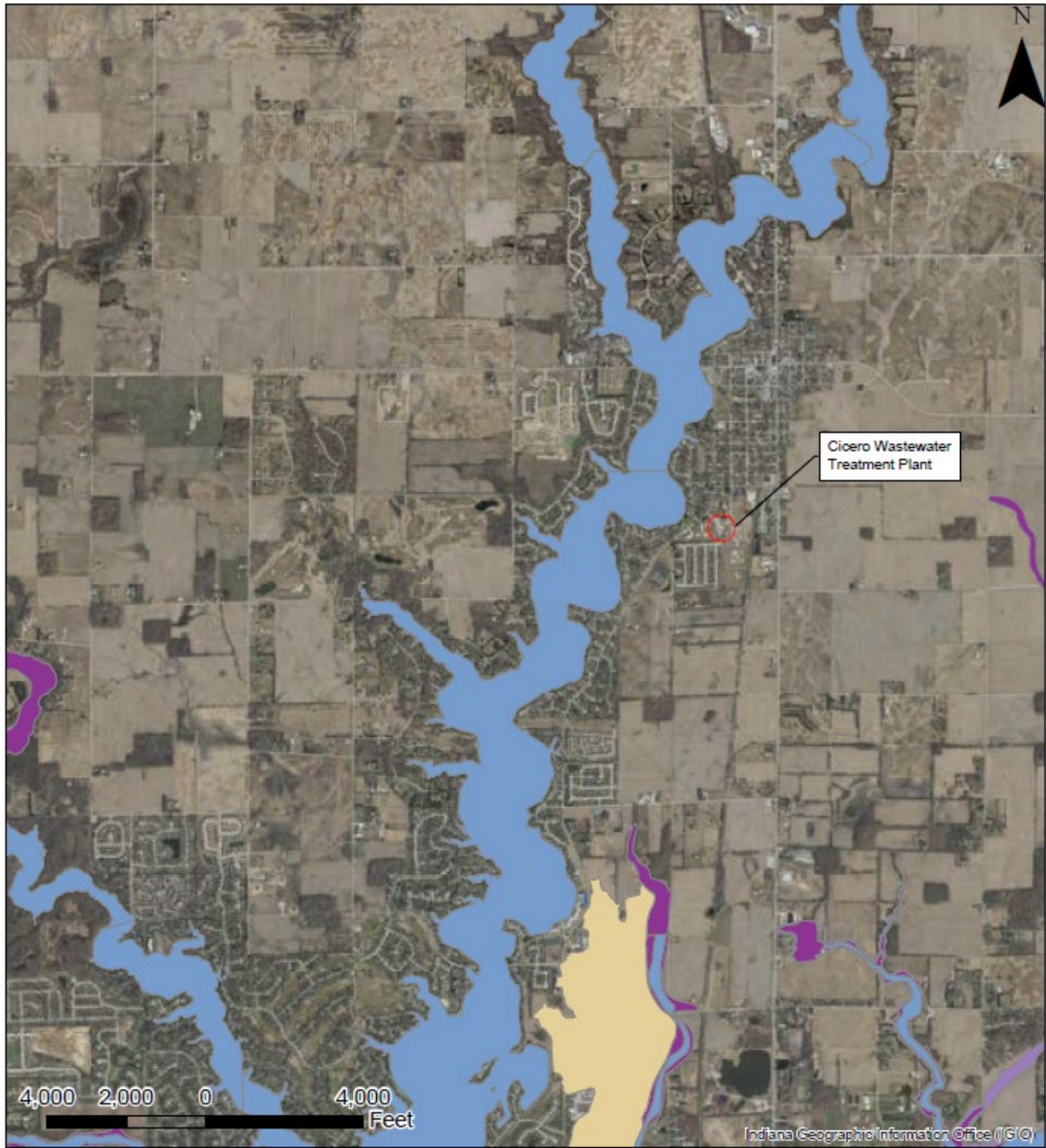
Wetlands and Project Area	Legend		 
Town of Cicero Hamilton County, Indiana	 Marine  Estuary  Marsh, Swamp, Bog, Prairie	 River  Lake, Reservoir	
Created By: EGC	Date: 2/29/2024	Map Datum: NAD 1983	Map Projection: HARN Indiana State Plane East

Figure 3





<p>Regular, 20-year, and 100-year Flood Hazards</p>	Legend			
<p>Town of Cicero Hamilton County, Indiana</p>	<p>0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard</p> <p>1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard</p>	<p>Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard</p> <p>Regulatory Floodway</p>		<p>Area with Reduced Risk Due to Levee</p> <p>Special Floodway</p>
<p>Created By: EGC</p>		<p>Date: 2/29/2024</p>	<p>Map Datum: NAD 1983</p>	
<p>Map Projection: HARN Indiana State Plane East</p>				

Figure 4