



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

PRELIMINARY DECISION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS, ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

**CITY OF MOUNT VERNON
NORTHSIDE WATER MAIN EXTENSIONS
SRF # DW 15 01 65 02**

Date: February 4, 2015

Pursuant to IC 4-4-11, the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program has determined that the project described here and in Mount Vernon'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:

Amy Henninger
Senior Environmental Manager
SRF Programs
317-232-6566; ahenning@ifa.in.gov

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Name and Address: **Northside Water Main Extension**
City Hall Annex
520 Main Street
Mount Vernon, IN 47620-1846

SRF Project Number: DW 15 01 65 02

Authorized Representative: The Honorable John Tucker, Mayor

II. PROJECT LOCATION

Mount Vernon is located in southern Posey County. The proposed Northside water main extension project area is located in the Mount Vernon USGS 7.5' topographic quadrangle in Black Township, Township 6S, Range 14W, sections 25, 26, 35, 36; Township 6S, Range 13W sections 29, 30, 31, 32; Township 7S, Range 14 W sections 1, 2, 12; and Township 7S, Range 13W, section 6; (Figure 1-1).

III. PROJECT NEED AND PURPOSE

The residents within the project area currently receive their water from private wells. Recently concerns have been raised regarding the groundwater quality and the potential effects of oil and natural gas production activities in southwestern Indiana impacting the private wells.

The purpose for the project is to extend the city's water distribution system to residents in the north not currently being served (Figure 4-1).

The proposed project includes approximately:

- A. 78,500 feet of 6-inch polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe;
- B. 71 water service lines;
- C. 71 water service meter pits;
- D. Ten isolation valves;
- E. Six air release valves;
- F. Six flushing hydrants;
- G. Five railroad crossing jack & bore w/steel casing;

- H. Eight directional drill road crossings;
- I. Eleven stream/ditch crossings; and
- J. Five taps into existing water mains.

Two alternatives were evaluated including the “No Action” alternative. The “No Action” alternative was rejected since the potential effects of contaminating the private wells with oil and natural gas activities would still exist.

The Northside Water Main Extensions Alternative involves installing approximately 78,500 feet of 6-inch water mains extensions to the northside from the existing water distribution system using polyvinyl chloride pipe. **This is the selected alternative.**

IV. ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS, AFFORDABILITY AND FUNDING

The estimated cost of the project is \$5,537,000. Mount Vernon will fund the project with a 20-year loan from the State Revolving Fund Loan Program at a fixed interest rate to be determined at the time of 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 water mains will be constructed under roads or in areas immediately adjacent to roads disturbed by road construction.

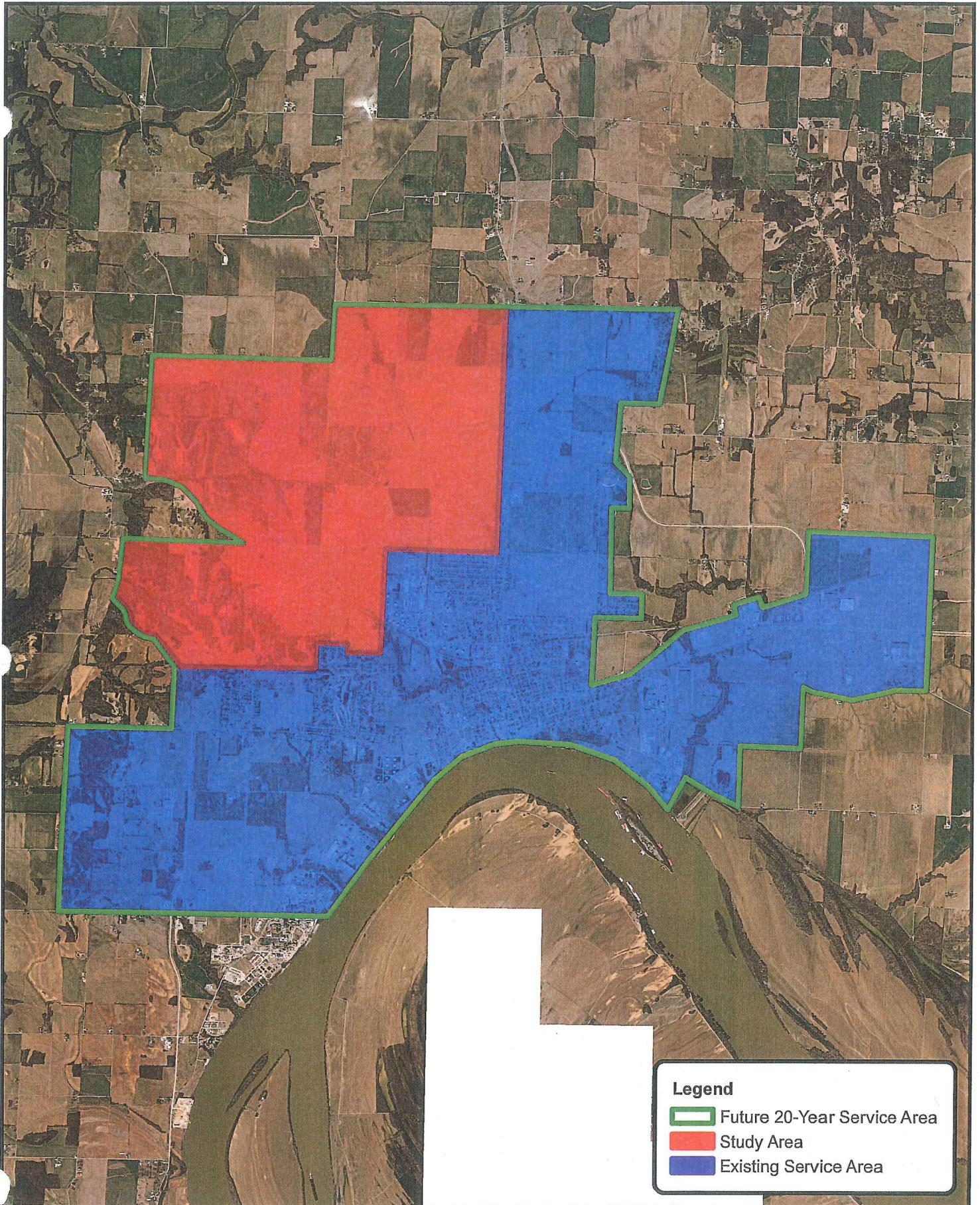
The proposed project will include stream and drainage crossings with the installation of the water mains. Impacts to stream and drainage ditches will be minimized with the new water main crossings being installed by directional drilling (Figure 5-3).

Construction of the project will be designed and operated to minimize impacts to wetlands in the project area (Figure 5-2).

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.” (Figure 5-1).

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A properly noticed public hearing was held on June 25, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. at the City Hall Annex located at 520 Main Street. No members of the public attended the hearing. No written comments were received in the 5-day period following the hearing.



Legend

- Future 20-Year Service Area
- Study Area
- Existing Service Area

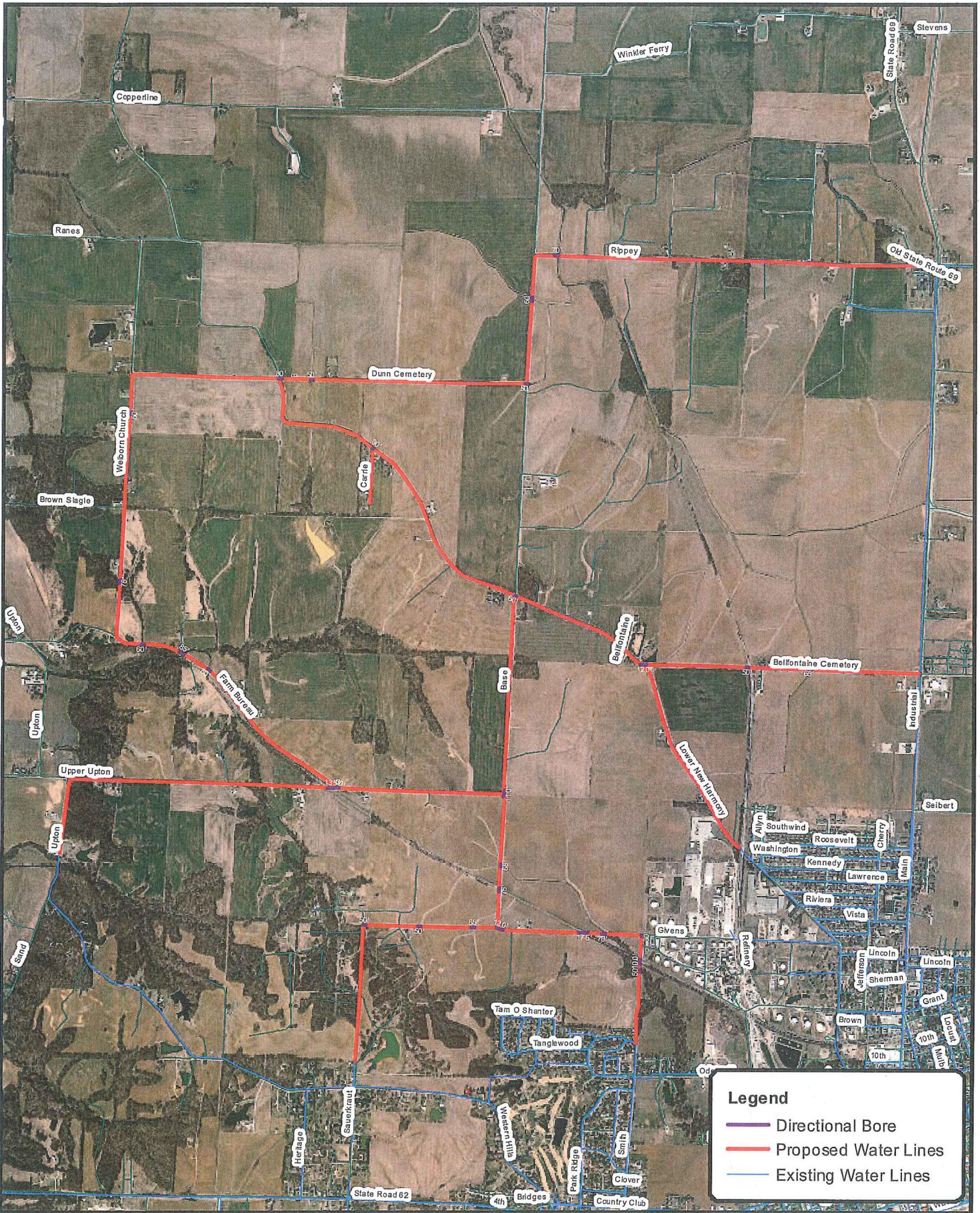


0 2,750 5,500 11,000
 Feet

Figure 1-1
Study Area, Existing & Future
20-Year Service Areas
Northside Water Main Extensions PER



3502 Woodview Trace, Suite 150
 Indianapolis, IN 46268
 Phone: (317) 222-3880



Legend

- Directional Bore
- Proposed Water Lines
- Existing Water Lines

Revised 12/19/14



Figure 4-1
City Of Mount Vernon
Proposed Water Main Layout
Northside Water Main Extensions PER



3502 Woodview Trace, Suite 150
 Indianapolis, IN 46268
 Phone: (317) 222-3880

Black Township (35001-053)

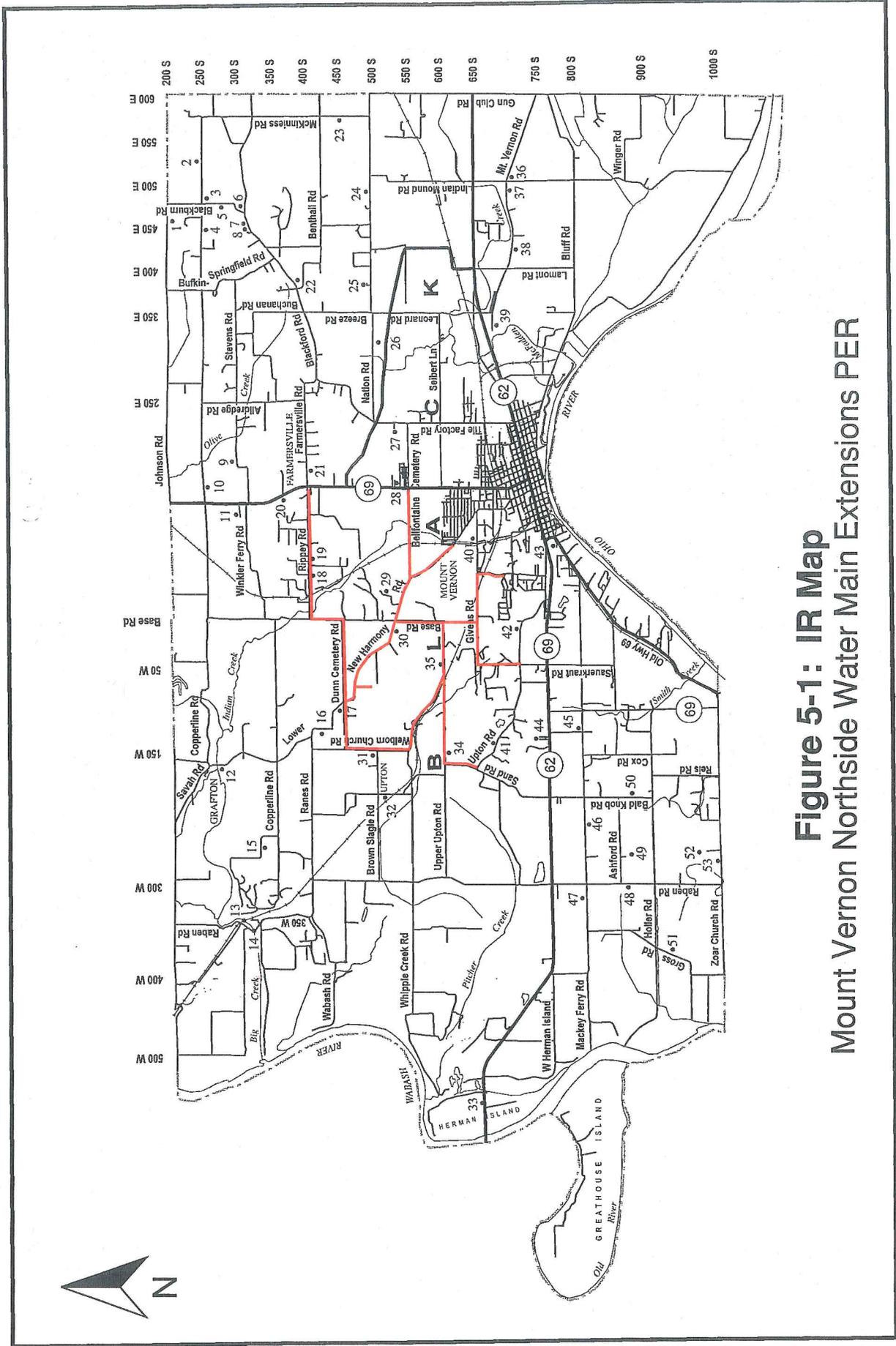
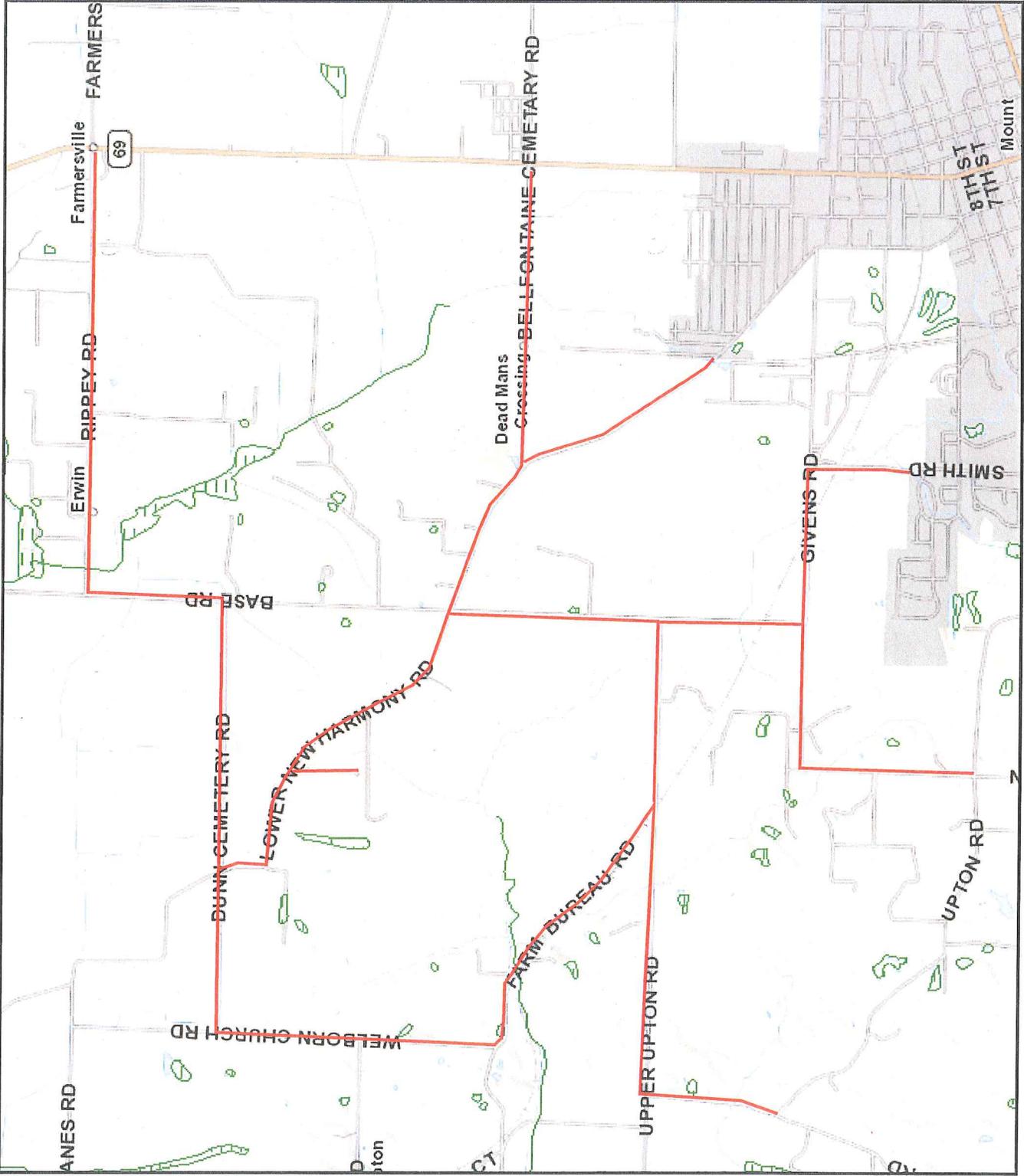


Figure 5-1: IR Map
Mount Vernon Northside Water Main Extensions PER

Proposed Water Main Routes

Fig. e 5-2: Wetlands Map

Mount Vernon Northside Water Main Extensions F...

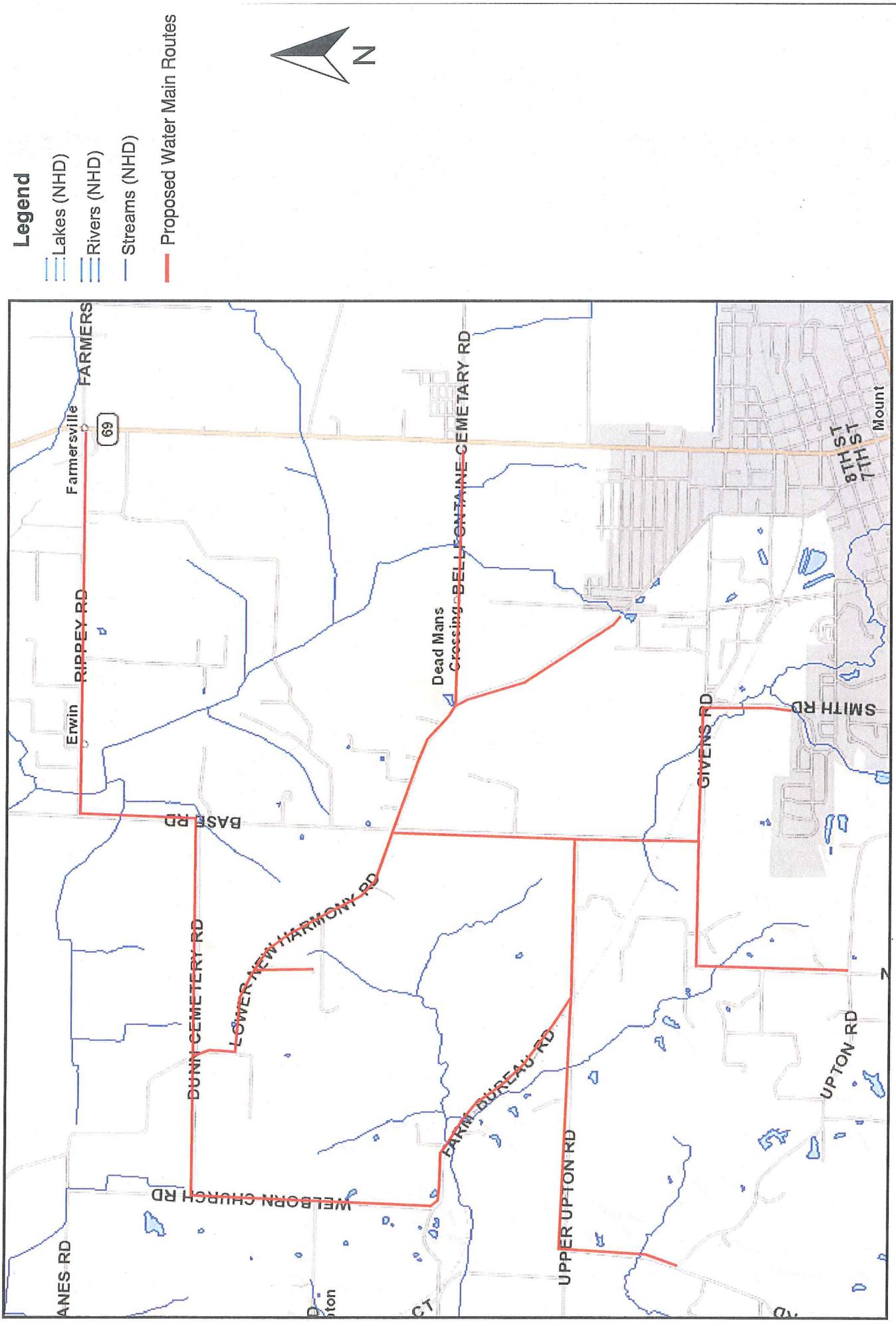


Author: Lochmueller Group, Inc.

1 mi

IndianaMAP

Figure 5-3: Surface Waters Map Mount Vernon Northside Water Main Extensions PEF



Author: Lochmueller Group, Inc.

0 1 mi

IndianaMAP