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 VALPARAISO
ADDENDUM 1 – HORSE PRAIRIE SEWER COLLAPSE REPAIR
SRF Project WW 24 01 64 03

Date: March 11, 2026

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 the addendum to the City of Valparaiso'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:

State Revolving Fund
100 N. Senate Ave., IGCN 1275
Indianapolis, IN 46204
publicnotices@ifa.in.gov

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Name and Address:	Addendum 1 – Horse Prairie Sewer Collapse Repair City of Valparaiso 205 Billings Street Valparaiso, IN 46383
SRF Project Number:	WW 24 01 64 03
Authorized Representative:	Steve Poulos, Utilities Director

II. PROJECT LOCATION

The project is located in Porter County, Center Township, Valparaiso 24k USGS Quadrangle, Township 35 N, Range 6 W, and Section 26.See **Figure Amd-1**.

III. PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED

This is an addendum to the Elden Kuehl Pollution Control Facility Expansion and Sturdy Road Lift Station Replacement Project. On September 15, 2025, it became apparent to Valparaiso City Utilities (VCU) that the main influent gravity sanitary sewer to the Horse Prairie Lift station had collapsed. The Horse Prairie Lift station is the largest sewage lift station and the respective sewer that was compromised accommodates the largest sewer flows in the city. Shortly after this sewer line was repaired, another upstream location within this same sewer network collapsed on November 6, 2025. It was apparent that this situation was an emergency that needed to be rectified quickly to prevent interruption of service to the City's east side sewer watershed and to prevent sewage overflows into Salt Creek.

In order to prevent overflows, an extensive emergency sewer bypass pumping setup was implemented to bypass sewer flows around the sewer affected by the collapse. The project included coring a new hole into the Horse Prairie Lift Station wet well and running a new gravity sewer northward to a new manhole then westward to connect into the existing upstream manhole. For the subsequent sewer collapse, a new gravity sewer replacement was required and designed due to the condition of the sewer. The design included the installation of a new manhole at the existing connection, routing the new gravity sewer main southwest and west towards the existing manhole on Horse Prairie.

IV. ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS, AFFORDABILITY, AND FUNDING

The total cost of this project is estimated to be approximately $935,200. The City of Valparaiso intends to finance the project with funds from an existing loan from the Clean Water SRF Loan Program.

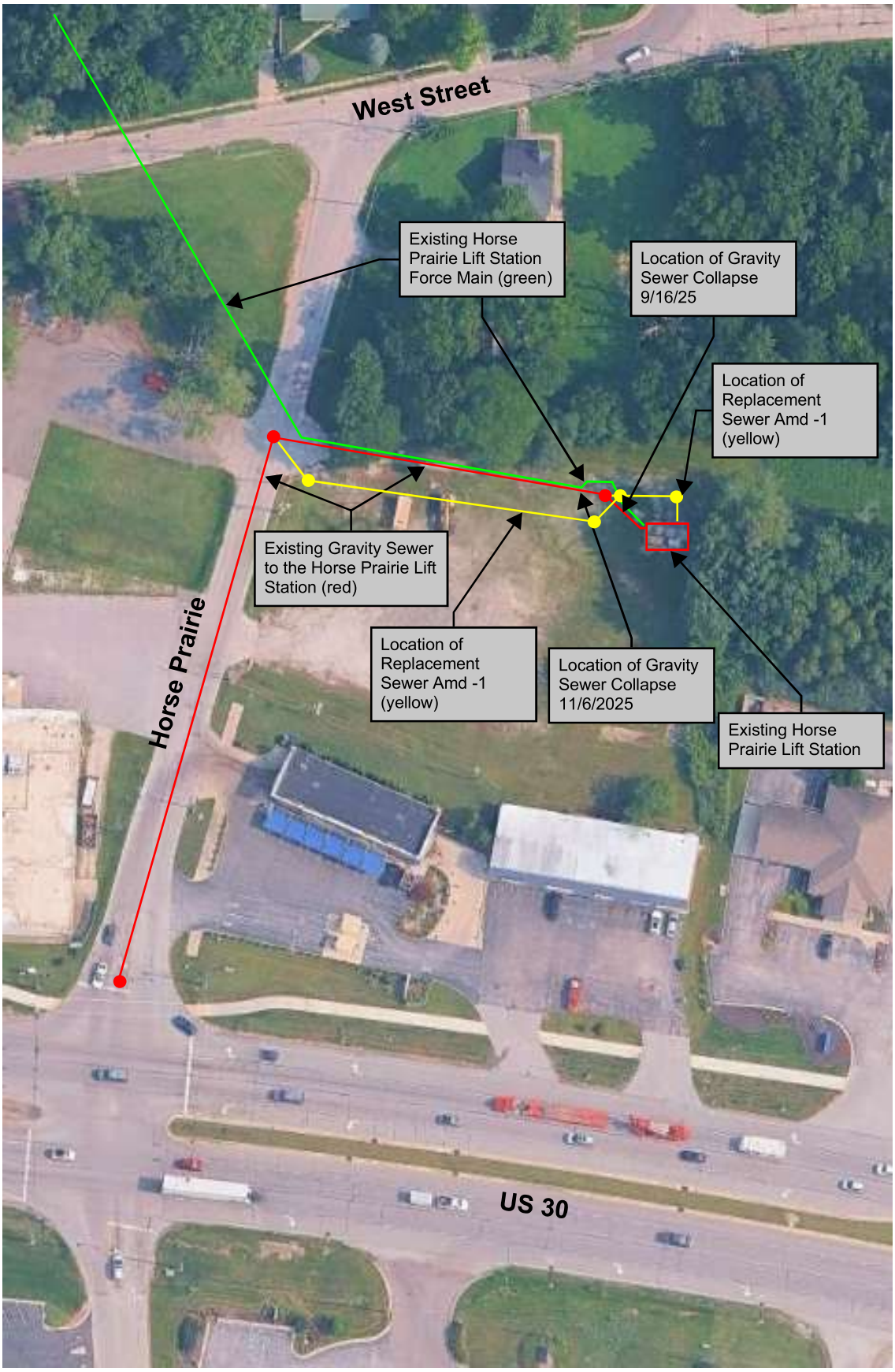
V. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES

The environmental impacts will be minimal. All project activities will take place in areas previously disturbed by the installation of the existing stone driveway. 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 May 9, 2023, at 5 pm at the Valparaiso City Utilities Board of Directors meeting located at 205 Billings Street, Valparaiso, IN 46383. 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.



CITY OF VALPARAISO PER Amendment #1 for WW23016403 EKPCF Expansion & Sturdy Road Lift Station Replacement		N	
HORSE PRAIRIE SEWER COLLAPSE REPAIR PROJECT LOCATION MAP	0' 50' 100' 150'		Figure Amd-1