



**October 1, 2025**

**Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact**

**Board of County Commissioners of Hamilton County, Ohio – Hamilton County  
MCWWTP High-Rate Treatment Pump Station  
Loan number: CS391525-0184**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a new pump station project in Cincinnati which the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) intends to finance through its Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) below-market interest rate revolving loan program. The LER describes the project, costs, and expected environmental benefits. Making available this LER fulfills the Ohio EPA's environmental review and public notice requirements for this loan program.

Ohio EPA analyzes environmental effects of proposed projects as part of its program review and approval process. We have concluded that the proposed project should not result in significant adverse environmental impacts. In accordance with Ohio Administrative Code 3745-150-05, this project meets the criteria for an LER rather than the more comprehensive Environmental Assessment. More information can be obtained by contacting the person named at the end of the attached LER.

Upon issuance of this Final Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) determination, award of funds may proceed without further environmental review or public comment unless new information shows that environmental conditions of the proposed project have changed significantly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kathleen Courtright".

Kathleen Courtright, Assistant Chief  
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

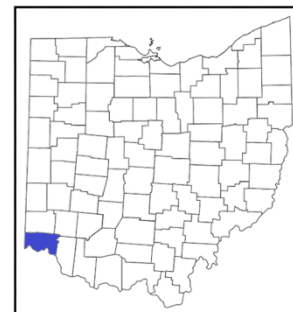
## LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

### **Project Identification**

Project: MCWWTP High-Rate Treatment Pump Station

Applicant: Board of County Commissioners of Hamilton County, Ohio  
1600 Gest Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45204

Loan Number: CS391525-0184



**Figure 1. Hamilton County**

### **Project Summary**

The Board of County Commissioners of Hamilton County, Ohio (Board) has requested funding from the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) to finance the MCWWTP High-Rate Treatment Pump Station project. Work for this project includes upgrading the Mill Creek wastewater treatment plant (MCWWTP) so that it can handle higher volumes of wastewater.

### **History & Existing Conditions**

The Board, based in Hamilton County (Figure 1) manages the Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati (MSDGC), also known as the Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD). MSD operates a collection system and a number of different WWTPs within the City of Cincinnati and surrounding areas, including the MCWWTP.

The MCWWTP was constructed in 1959 and serves roughly 488,000 people. The WWTP was designed to treat up to 300 million gallons per day (MGD). During wet-weather events, the plant can receive as much as 430 MGD. The facility is not equipped to handle excessive flows, which results in combined sewer overflows (CSOs) to nearby streams. These CSOs are a mix of stormwater and wastewater, which impacts the water quality of the receiving stream. In order to meet the objectives of MSDGC's Wet Weather Improvement Program (WWIP), the maximum treatment capacity at MCWWTP needs to be increased. The new high-rate treatment facility will increase MCWWTP's capacity to treat a peak wet weather flow of 700 million gallons per day (MGD).

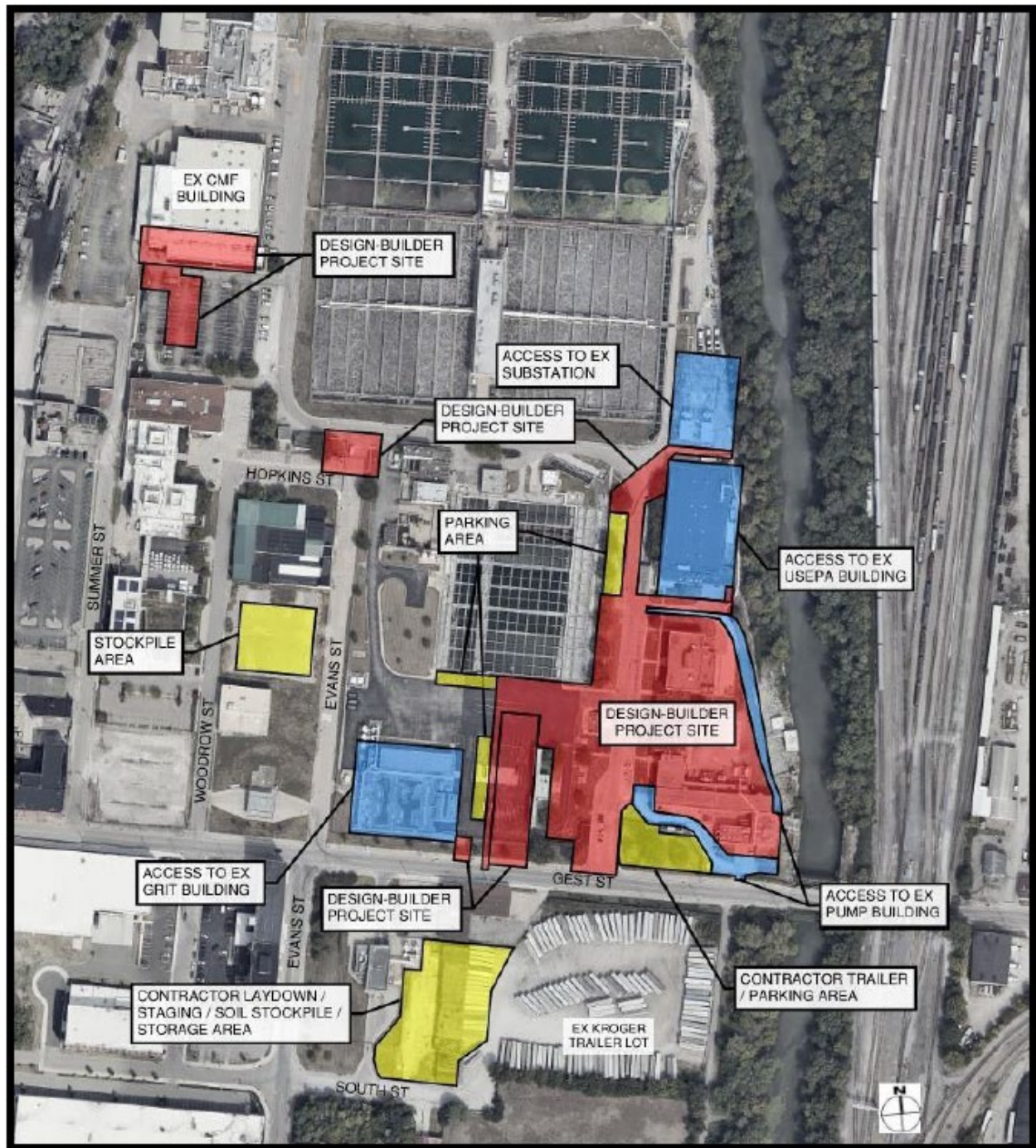
The CSO discharge must be reduced in accordance with a federal consent decree from the U.S. EPA. MSD plans to reduce the overflow volumes by increasing capacity at the MCWWTP, allowing the plant to handle up to 700 MGD.

To handle additional flows, MSD requires a new high-rate treatment (HRT) system at the plant. This project covers two of the steps in the process, starting with constructing a new headworks with a

pump station that can handle 700 MGD. The second portion of the project will consist of upgrading the effluent disinfection system at the MCWWTP so that it can handle the increased flow.

### **Project Description**

The project will involve constructing a new screening facility and new disinfection system at the MCWWTP. The screening facility will have new bar screens installed in four, 10-foot-wide screening channels. The maximum capacity of the screening facility will be 700 MGD. The new disinfection system will include a 2.85-MG contact chlorine tank, chlorine feeder pumps, and a 2.85 MG dechlorination holding tank. It will provide disinfection for all flows up to 430 MGD. The existing diversion chamber, north pump station, and south pump station will be reconfigured or demolished as necessary to accommodate the new facilities. See Figure 2 below for a map of the project area.



**Figure 2. Mill Creek WWTP**

## **Implementation**

The Board proposes to borrow \$355 million from the Ohio WPCLF at the standard interest rate of 3.83%. WPCLF interest rates are set monthly and may change for a later loan award. Assuming a 30-year loan, borrowing this amount could save the Board approximately \$99 million over the life of the loan compared to the current market rate of 5.13%.

MSD has been raising sewer rates in response to their consent decree, rather than one specific project. The current average annual sewer bill for residents served by the Board is \$632. This is 0.9% of the median household income (MHI: \$68,249) and is higher than the Ohio average annual sewer bill, \$528. Construction began in November 2024, with the main work scheduled to begin in November 2025. Construction is scheduled to be completed in approximately 94 months.

### **Public Participation**

MSD uses several methods to convey project information to the public. One is budget hearings, which are open to the public. This project has been discussed in about a dozen hearings over the past five years. The second is through the project website. Additionally, MSD has given several presentations to a local group called the Mill Creek Community Advisory Panel. This is similar to a community council, except the WWTP is not in a residential area so most of the participants are not residents. Instead, they are business owners or representatives from neighboring communities who sometimes address odors from the WWTP. These presentations included all the work at the plant.

Ohio EPA is unaware of any controversy about or opposition to this project. The Limited Environmental Review (LER) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) will be posted on the Ohio EPA Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance website. Additionally, the LER and FNSI have been provided to the Board to be made available according to their public notification procedures.

### **Conclusion**

The proposed project meets the criteria for an LER; namely, it is an action within an existing public wastewater treatment system, which involves the functional replacement of and improvements to existing mechanical equipment. Furthermore, the project meets the other qualifying criteria for an LER; specifically, the proposed project:

**Will have no significant environmental effect, will require no specific impact mitigation, and will have no effect on high-value environmental resources** because no environmentally sensitive resources are present within the footprint of an active WWTP.

**Is cost effective and is not a controversial action** because this project has been approved as part of MSD's WWIP and will increase the maximum treatment capacity of MCWWTP for wet weather flows. Ohio EPA is unaware of opposition to or controversy about the project.

**Does not create a new, or relocate an existing, discharge to surface or ground waters, and will not result in substantial increases in the volume of discharge or the loading of pollutants from an existing source or from new facilities to receiving waters, and will not provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population** because this project merely replaces and upgrades existing equipment within the WWTP. Service will not be extended in any way.

Based upon Ohio EPA's review of the planning information and the materials presented in this Limited Environmental Review, we have concluded that there will be no significant adverse impacts from the

proposed project as it relates to the environmental features discussed previously. This is because these features do not exist in the project area, the features exist but will not be adversely affected, or the impacts will be temporary and mitigated. This project will reduce CSO discharges in the sewershed, as required by a consent decree.

**Contact Information**

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