



**February 10, 2025**

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

**Elyria - Lorain County  
Overbrook Pump Station and Sewer  
Loan number: CS390337-0035**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a sewer replacement and new pump station project 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 that reads "Kathleen Courtright".

Kathleen Courtright, Assistant Chief  
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

## LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

### **Project Identification**

Project: Overbrook Pump Station and Sewer

Applicant: City of Elyria  
131 Court Street  
Elyria, Ohio 44035

Loan Number: CS390337-0035

### **Project Summary**

The City of Elyria, located in Lorain County (see Figure 1), has applied to the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) for the Overbrook Pump Station and Sewer project. The project will add a new upsized pump station where an existing smaller pump station is experiencing overflows. A sewer line in the Overbrook Road area is experiencing overflows as well, caused by stormwater inflow and infiltration; the existing sewer will be replaced with a larger pipe to help prevent further overflows.

The total project cost is \$1,248,414 and Elyria is eligible for this amount as principal forgiveness, which will not need to be repaid. The project will result in reduced wet weather overflows for the Overbrook Road area.

### **History & Existing Conditions**

Elyria's 170 miles of sanitary and combined sewers drain about 21 square miles and 21,000 residences and 400 industrial and commercial properties. Elyria's Wastewater Pollution Control Plant (WWPCP) treats 9 million gallons per day (MGD) of wastewater during dry weather and has a maximum operating capacity of 30 MGD and storage capacity for storm events of 3.4 million gallons. The WWPCP discharges to the Black River.

The sanitary collection system on Overbrook Road was originally constructed in 1921 with a community septic system that discharged to the river. The system had 8-inch clay pipes and a storm sewer system. In the 1960s, an ejector station was constructed to send sanitary flows to the East Side Interceptor in Gulf Road. As part of the project, a regulator was constructed in the piping system that allowed the system to overflow to a small tributary stream to the Black River. The ejector station was replaced with a lift station in 1993 which is what is currently in use today. In 2012, all of the 8-inch main sanitary sewers were lined, abandoned connections and direct connections were lined over, and

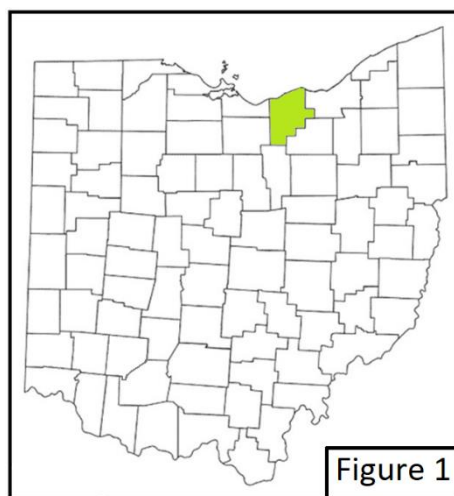
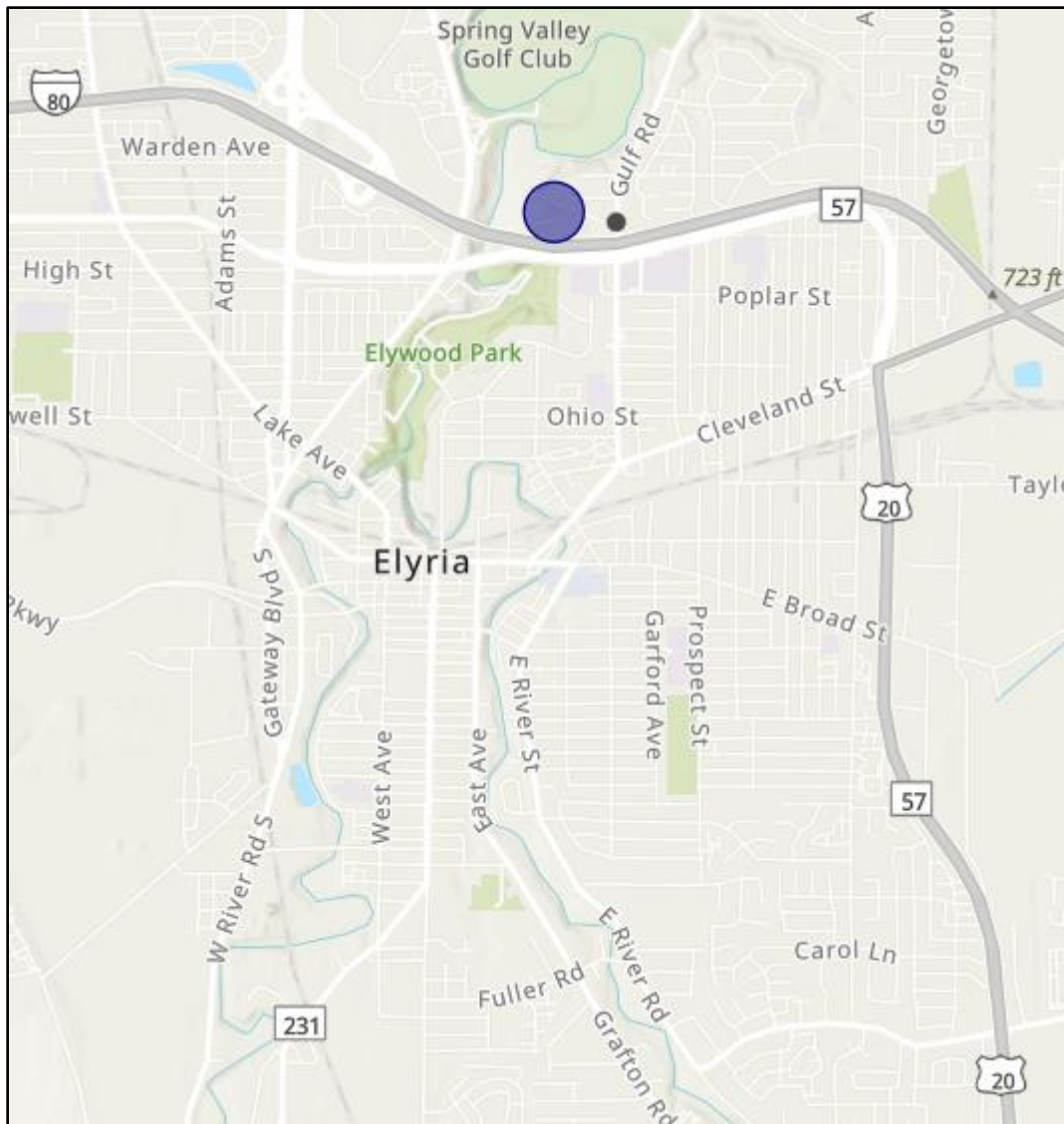


Figure 1

the manholes were sealed. The existing 1993 pump station is a below-grade station that consists of two pumps. The pumps are dry pit suction lift and use a 6-foot diameter circular concrete wet well which is 18 feet deep (see Figure 2 for a map).

Elyria performed field investigations in 2019 to assess the state of the sanitary sewer in the Overbrook area. The sewer showed sagging lines and many places experiencing infiltration in sewer lines and manholes.



**Figure 2. Map of project location in Elyria, marked with blue dot**

### **Project Description**

The project will construct a new additional pump station immediately adjacent to the existing wet well, 260 linear feet of 4-inch force main sewer, and replace 900 linear feet of 8-inch sewer with larger

10-inch sewer pipe. The Overbrook Road residents already have sewer service, and the replacements will be along neighborhood roads (see Figure 3).



**Figure 3. Map of project alignment along Overbrook Drive.**

### **Implementation**

Elyria has requested \$1,248,414 and is eligible for the full amount as principal forgiveness, which means this amount need not be repaid. During the 30-year loan period, Elyria will save \$2.2 million utilizing WPCLF funding, compared to the current market rate, currently at 4.33%.

A typical residential customer living in Elyria is currently paying \$54.50 monthly for sewer service. The most recent sewer rate increase was 3.75% in 2025. The next planned sewer rate increases will be 3.75% annually for the next five years. The estimated median household income (MHI) for a resident of Elyria is \$43,816. The average yearly sewer costs will amount to \$716 per year by 2025, which is 1.5% of the MHI. By using principal forgiveness funds, Elyria is minimizing the cost to its customers.

Anticipating loan award in March 2025, construction is estimated to begin shortly thereafter and be completed by December 2025.

## **Public Participation**

Elyria has made good efforts to notify residents and allow the public to comment about the project starting in 2023. Notifications were mailed to the residents and door tags delivered when necessary. Discussions were held during council committee meetings, and residents were also able to comment on legislation at council meetings. Maintenance of traffic has been and will continue to be communicated by social media and newspaper, and mailings to residents, and by email for those that provided email addresses.

Ohio EPA is unaware of the controversy about or opposition to this project. The Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact will be posted on City of Elyria and Ohio EPA Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance websites.

## **Conclusion**

The proposed project meets the criteria for a Limited Environmental Review (LER); namely, it is an action within a sewerred neighborhood, which involves the functional improvement to the existing collection system. 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 the sewer and pump station replacement will occur within existing neighborhood roads and tree-lawn, where property has been disturbed and developed. Trees will be cut seasonally between October 1 and March 30 to avoid impacting the maternity habitat of threatened and endangered bats.

**Is cost effective and is not a controversial action** as Elyria has chosen the best feasible alternative to correct the wet weather overflows and eliminate I&I. Additionally, Elyria will be utilizing principal forgiveness to minimize financial burden of repayment by its customers.

**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 the discharge limits or volumes will not be increased, no new wastewater will be received, and the treatment capacity will not increase. No new service connections will be made, and no additional population will be served.

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 result in the capture and conveyance of wet weather flows for treatment, to prevent subsequent overflows during wet weather.

**Contact Information**

Megan Osika  
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance  
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency  
50 West Town Street, Suite 700  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Email: [megan.gartland@epa.phio.gov](mailto:megan.gartland@epa.phio.gov)  
Phone: (614) 644-3661