August 28, 2026

Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact
To All Interested Citizens, Organizations, and Government Agencies

Trumbull County
Caleb Road Sanitary Sewer Improvements
Loan Number: CS390079-0072

The attached Environmental Assessment (EA) is for a project eliminating failing household sewage treatment systems in Trumbull County which the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency intends to finance through its Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) below-market interest rate revolving loan program. The EA describes the project, its costs, and expected environmental benefits. We would appreciate receiving any comments you may have on the project. Making available this EA and seeking your comments fulfills 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. More information can be obtained by contacting the person named at the end of the attached EA.

Any comments on our preliminary determination should be sent to the email address of the contact named at the end of the EA. We will not act on this project for 30 calendar days from the date of this notice. In the absence of substantive comments during this period, our preliminary decision will become final. After that, Trumbull County can then proceed with its application for the WPCLF loan.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Courtright

Kathleen Courtright, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental & Financial Assistance

Attachment

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Project Identification

Project: Caleb Road Sanitary Sewer Improvements

Applicant: Trumbull County
160 High Street NW
Warren, Ohio 44481

Loan Number: CS390079-0072

Figure 1. Trumbull County

Project Summary

Trumbull County requested approximately $7.85 million from the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) for the Caleb Road Sanitary Sewer Improvements project. The project involves eliminating failing household sewage treatment systems (HSTS) and constructing a central sanitary sewer collection system for 174 residential structures within the project area.

The project is eligible to receive a portion of the project costs as principal forgiveness, which will not need to be repaid. Due to the nature and location of construction, as well as proposed protection measures to be implemented, no significant adverse impacts are anticipated, as discussed in the Environmental Impacts section.

History & Existing Conditions

The Trumbull County Sanitary Engineering Department is responsible for the operation and maintenance of all publicly owned wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) and sanitary sewer collection systems located within the unincorporated areas of Trumbull County (Figure 1). The project area includes a portion of Caleb Road in Warren Township that is not currently served by a central sanitary sewer collection system.

This project is the third of four projects to address an Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) consent decree within the Leavittsburg area of Warren Township due to failing HSTS. The existing residences currently have failing septic systems with effluent discharging into the Mahoning River.

See Figure 2 for the proposed service area for this project.

Population and Flow Projections

The new central sewage collection system will convey flows to the new Meadowbrook package WWTP that is currently under construction (Meadowbrook Sanitary Sewer Improvements project). All 174 of the benefitted properties are residential. The design of the sanitary collection system involved estimating sewage flows for the new connections in the project area. Each of the 174 single-family

residential connections is assumed to generate an average daily flow of 400 gallons per day. The total average daily flow is calculated to be approximately 70,000 gallons per day.

The Meadowbrook WWTP will have a capacity of 0.35 million gallons per day (MGD). The average daily design flow at start-up is anticipated to be 0.10 MGD and is estimated to eventually reach 0.20 MGD. The WWTP will have sufficient capacity for the project area.

Alternatives

1. *HSTS Replacements*
This alternative was eliminated due to many of the existing septic systems failing the current treatment requirements established by the Health District. The criteria used by the Health District for approval of HSTS include soil permeability, housing density, and lot size.

2. *Conventional Collection System*
This alternative proposes the collection of sanitary flows from the project area by sewer pipe and connecting to the newly constructed Meadowbrook WWTP for treatment. This alternative includes 12-inch and 8-inch diameter gravity collector sewers, sanitary manholes to service the sewers, and tap-ins within the public right-of-way.

Selected Alternative

Alternative #2 was selected as the proposed alternative due to it being the most economical and environmentally beneficial approach to satisfy the needs of the affected residents and Trumbull County. The project includes the installation of 13,826 linear feet (LF) of 8-inch diameter PVC gravity sewer pipe and 1,314 feet LF of 12-inch diameter PVC gravity sewer pipe. Additional work includes the installation of 6-inch tap-ins within the public right-of-way or easements, and 45 pre-cast concrete manholes. Homeowners are responsible for the removal of their HSTS and laterals to connect to the new sewer.

Implementation

Trumbull County is eligible to receive up to $4,000,000 in principal forgiveness (does not need to be repaid) and the remaining costs at a 0% interest rate loan. With this favorable financing, Trumbull County will save over $11,021,659 compared to financing the entire loan amount at the market rate, 4.79%, for a 30-year loan period. The total cost for this project is $8,780,200. Trumbull County is eligible for grants from American Rescue Plan (ARP) and Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC), as well as Trumbull County Combined Sewer District funds to supplement the rest of the project financing.

The debt associated with this construction project will be recovered from monthly sanitary sewer bills and an additional monthly capital charge of $35 for customers benefitted by this project. The 2027 average monthly residential sewer bill in Trumbull County will be $46.88 ($562.56 annually). This is 1% of the median household income for Trumbull County (MHI $53,537) and is greater than the Ohio average annual sewer bill of $528.

Construction will begin after loan award and is estimated to take 12 months to complete.

Public Participation

A public hearing for this project will be held on September 23rd, 2026, with a 30-day public comment period. All costs expected to be incurred by property owners have been disclosed in the public hearing notices mailed to each property owner on August 14th, 2026.

The project was also presented at the Trumbull County Commissioner's meetings. Meetings are open to the public and are held every Wednesday. The meetings are also livestreamed on Zoom through the county website. Commissioner meeting minutes and legislation can be found on the county's website.

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

Environmental Impacts

The project has the potential to affect the following features, but the effects will be reduced or mitigated to acceptable levels as explained below.

Local Economy

By using favorable financing, Trumbull County has minimized the project cost and economic impact on county residents. Property owners connecting will incur charges consisting of a tap-in fee, a plumbing inspection fee, abandoning HSTS, any necessary plumbing modifications as a result of the plumbing inspection, and the cost to extend the building lateral to the main sewer line located in the public right-of-way. The cost to extend the house lateral to the main sewer line varies due to various factors including distance from structure to right-of-way, soil conditions and the necessary depth of the lateral. The tap-in fee is a one-time charge of $1,850 for a single-family residential home. The Trumbull County Health Department plumbing inspection and septic abandonment fees total $125. It is required by the Trumbull County Health Department to connect to accessible sanitary sewers within 90 days.

The Board of Trumbull County Commissioners initiated a county-wide program using ARPA funds to provide financial assistance to owner-occupied income-qualified households to pay 100% of the above costs except for the tap-in fee. The tap-in fee may be paid in full prior to project completion or financed over a 5-year period at 0% APR through a certification by the Trumbull County Auditor.

Noise, air quality, traffic, safety, and aesthetics

Only the construction phase of the project that will be jack-and-bored underneath the roadway will involve heavy machinery that can emit temporary daytime noise. Some traffic interruptions may occur; however, most work will occur within the right-of-way. It will be the contractor's responsibility to implement construction best management practices to limit erosion, sediment, noise, dust, traffic

disruptions, and like factors throughout the duration of the project. Disturbed surfaces will be restored upon construction completion.

Terrestrial Habitat, Fish and Wildlife, and Endangered Species
Trumbull County will only remove trees during the regular clearing dates of October 1st to March 31st to protect federally listed endangered and threatened bat species. Some tree removal may occur within the right-of-way when installing the sewer.

Unaffected Resources
The following resources are not present and therefore will not be impacted by this project: Archaeological and Historical Resources, Coastal Zones, Prime Farmland, Floodplains, Groundwater Resources including Sole Source Aquifers and Source Water Assessment and Protection areas, Aquatic Habitat, Surface Water Resources, Wetlands, and Wild and Scenic Rivers. Additionally, there will be no change in Energy Use or Land Use as it pertains to public space, nor will there be any impacts to drinking water.

Conclusion

Based upon Ohio EPA's review of the planning information and the materials presented in this EA, 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. Completion of this sewer extension project will eliminate failing HSTS, also improving water quality for the area residents.

Contact information

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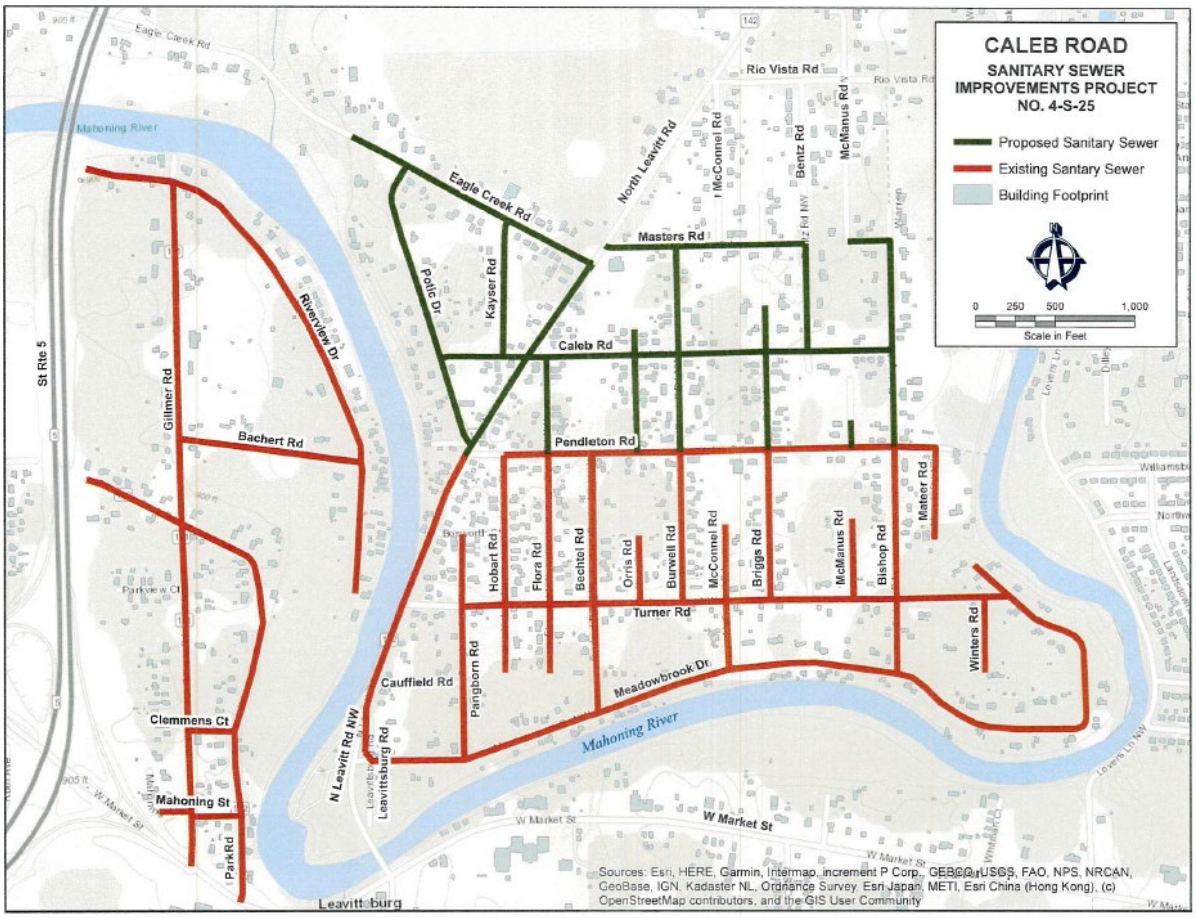

Figure 2. Proposed project area (in green)