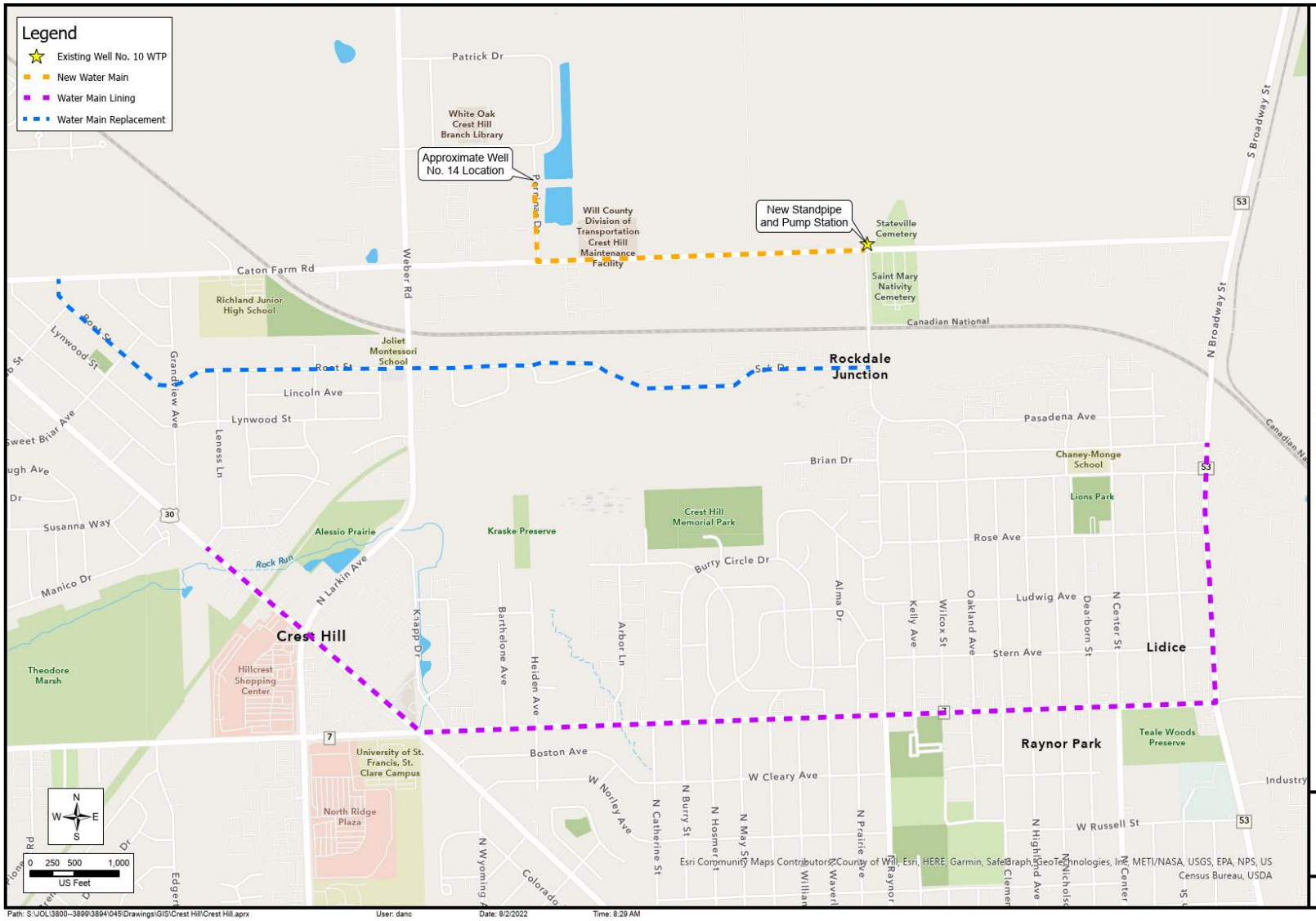
Preliminary Environmental Impacts Determination (PEID) for the Alternative Water Source Distribution System Improvements

Crest Hill, IL

Project Information

- Name: Alternative Water Source Distribution System Improvements
- Loan numbers: L17 - 6383, -6384, -6385, -6386, -7147
- Description
  - Caton Farm Road reinforcement watermain
  - Phase I of US 30 water main lining
  - Phase II through IV of US 30 water main lining
  - Eastern GPWC site - 3.5 million gallon storage tank and a receiving and pumping station
  - ***Western GPWC site - receiving and pumping station***



PROJECT MAP

IEPA PROJECT PLAN - AWS
CITY OF CREST HILL
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

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FIGURE 1
3894.045

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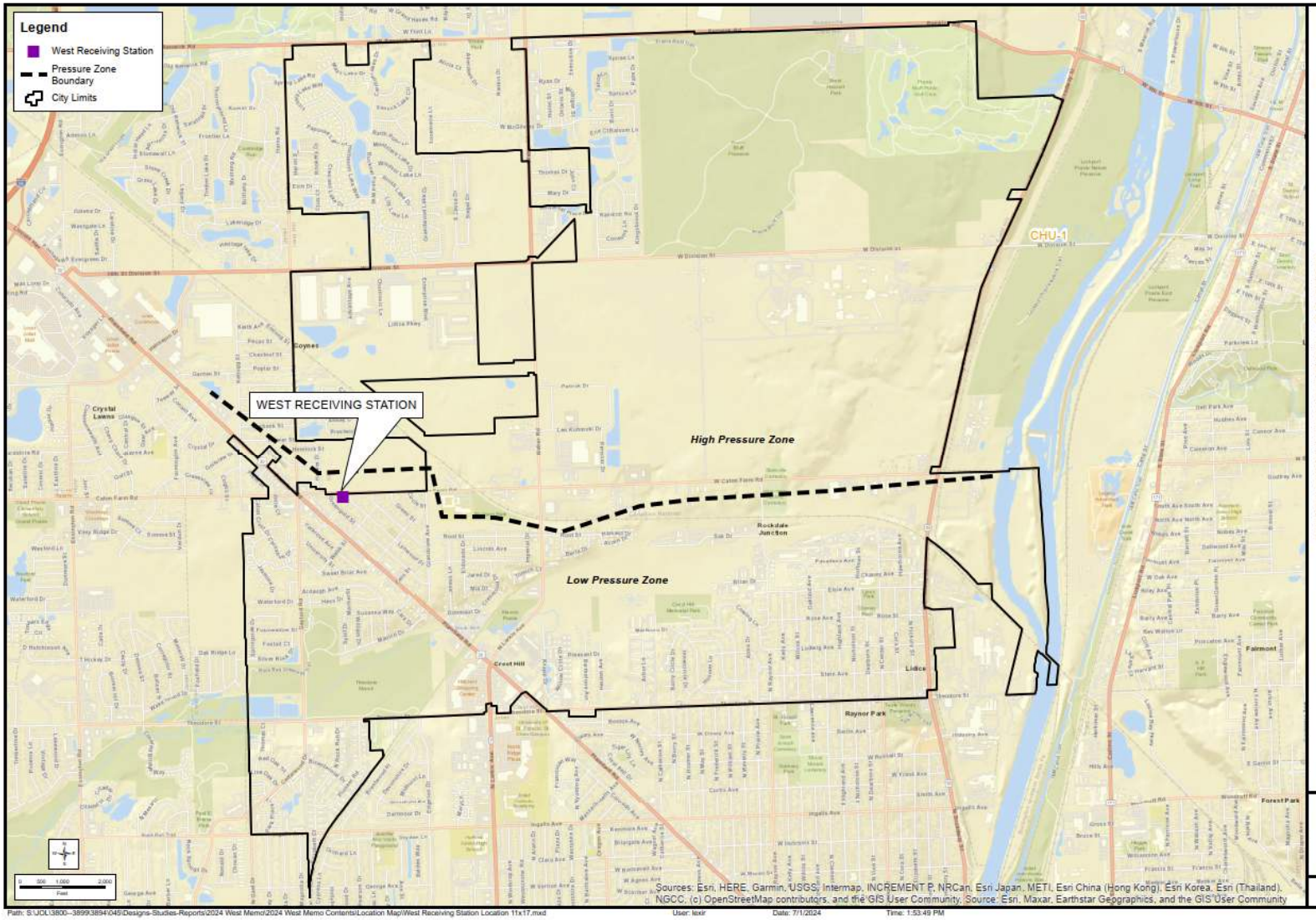

Path: S:\JOL\3800--3899\3894\045\Designs-Studies-Reports\2024 West Memo\2024 West Memo Contents\Location Map\West Receiving Station Location 11x17.mxd User: lexir Date: 7/1/2024 Time: 1:53:49 PM

WEST RECEIVING STATION LOCATION

CITY OF CREST HILL ALTERNATIVE WATER SOURCE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PHASE II
CITY OF CREST HILL
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

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FIGURE 1
3894.045


Crest Hill
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Environmental Issues

Construction impacts

- Temporary impacts that include construction-associated noise, blowing dust, air emissions, soil erosion, and traffic disruption

Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)

- National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 – concluded that adverse effects are unlikely
- Illinois Endangered Species Act - concluded that adverse effects are unlikely
- Illinois Natural Areas Preservation - concluded that adverse effects are unlikely
- Illinois Wetlands Act - concluded that adverse effects are unlikely
- IDNR Office of Water Resources – project is outside of floodway, no permit required

Department of Army, Corps of Engineers (USACE)

- Unable to make a clear determination on Nationwide Permit 58. If impact to aquatic resources can be avoided, there may be no permit requirement. If the impacts are unavoidable, the City would likely qualify for the Nationwide Permit 58. A wetland delineation could help determine if these aquatic resources can be avoided.

Tribal Consultation

- 10 tribes were contacted, no responses with concerns

Amended Project Summary and
Preliminary Environmental Impacts Determination (PEID)

The following amended project summary and environmental assessment has been prepared by the IEPA to assist the loan applicant in complying with the public notice requirements. This is an amendment to the PEID which was originally issued September 19, 2023. This report is based on additional information submitted to the IEPA by the City of Crest Hill. *Sources of information include the following documents: Alternative Water Source Distribution System Improvements – Receiving Station and Ground Level Storage Tank (GLST), dated July 11, 2024 and prepared by Strand Associates, Inc and the IEPA Loan Applicant Environmental Checklist and Certification Form with associated consultations, also dated July 11, 2024.*

Part I – Project Information

Project Name: Alternative Water Source Distribution System Improvements

Project Numbers: L176383, 6384, 6385, 6386, 7147

Loan Applicant: City of Crest Hill **County:** Will

Current Population: 21,169 **Future Population (2050):** 21,169

Number of Service Connections: 5,882

Project Description: The City of Crest Hill is proposing various water distribution system improvements in order to transfer to a treated Lake Michigan water supply. Activities include the lining of approximately 15,575 lineal feet of 8 to 12-inch diameter watermain and the addition of a 3.5 million gallon storage standpipe and associated pump station (Eastern Receiving and Pumping Station). This work will be conducted in five phases. Phase I (L176384) will consist of the first of four watermain lining events. Phase II (L176383) will consist of the construction of the standpipe and Eastern Receiving and Pump Station. Phases III (L176385), IV (L176386), and V (L177147) will consist of the remaining watermain lining events.

For L176383, the amended plan consists of the additional construction of a 23-foot by 33-foot above grade structure, referred to as the Western Receiving Station, to meter and add disinfection chemicals to the water received from the Grand Prairie Water Commission before it is sent to the western Low Pressure Zone for residential consumption.

Project Location: See attached map.

Project Justification: The City's residents currently receive drinking water from 8 shallow wells. In order to meet future demands, the City has decided to join a regional water commission, the Grand Prairie Water Commission (GPWC), to supply its residents with water from Lake Michigan by 2030. The activities proposed in the project plan will ensure a safe water supply through 2030 and provide the transition to the Lake Michigan water source.

While the initial plan proposed receiving water directly to the previously approved Eastern Receiving and Pumping Station, computerized modeling shows that constructing another supply location in the area of the proposed Western Receiving Station will maintain adequate flow and pressure without the use of additional pumps, thus saving energy and simplifying the operation of the system.

Estimated Construction Start Date: Spring 2025

Estimated Construction Completion Date: Winter 2028

Project Cost Estimate: Phase I L176384 - $4,000,000; Phase II L176383 - $17,500,000; Phases III through V - $4,000,000

Part II – Environmental Issues Associated with the Project

Project construction impacts: Temporary adverse environmental impacts such as construction-associated noise, blowing dust, air emissions, soil erosion, and traffic disruption will likely occur during construction.

Illinois Department of Natural Resources: The City submitted project information to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), for consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. The Department has concluded that adverse effects are unlikely.

The City also submitted project information to IDNR EcoCAT website to determine compliance with the Illinois Endangered Species Act, Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act (Section 17 Ill. Administrative Code Part 1075), and the Illinois Wetlands Act (Section 17 Ill. Administrative Code Part 1090). The Department has concluded that adverse effects are unlikely.

The City submitted project information to the IDNR Office of Water Resources (OWR) for consultation for project activities which may be occurring in regulatory floodways. The Department has concluded that the new pump station is located outside the floodway of Railroad Creek, therefore it does not require an IDNR/OWR permit. The new watermain construction and watermain replacement do not require an IDNR/OWR permit because Railroad Creek has a drainage area of less than one square mile at the project sites. The lining to the existing watermain located within the designated floodways of Rock Run North, St. Francis Academy Creek, and St. Anne School Tributary is considered maintenance and repair to an existing structure and is exempt from needing an IDNR/OWR permit.

Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers: The City submitted project information to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for consultation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The Department was unable to make a clear determination as to whether a Nationwide Permit 58 would apply. According to the USACE September 2, 2022 letter, "Upon a map review of your project zones, there could be at least eight possible "Waters of the US" within the proposed construction area. You may choose to have a wetland delineation completed for your project area to help determine if these aquatic resources could be avoided during construction. Any disturbance

or placement of fill material in jurisdictional wetlands or rivers may require a permit from this office under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. If all rivers and wetlands can be avoided in project construction, and utility line crossings are directionally bored underneath aquatic resources, it is possible that no permit would be required from this office. If impact to aquatic resources for your project area are unavoidable, your project would likely qualify for Nationwide Permit 58 – Utility Line Activities for Water and Other Substances." **A definitive consultation from USACE must be received prior to the the Agency issuing a loan agreement for any impacted phase(s) of the proposed projects to ensure any and all recommendations are contained in the construction plans and specifications.**

Tribal Consultation: During Tribal Consultation for the project, ten tribes were contacted and invited to review and identify any potential properties that may have historical, religious, or cultural significance to their tribes. No tribes responded to the proposed project with concerns.

Part III – Project Affordability for Residents and Utility Customers

The City is proposing to finance the project costs with a loan from the Public Water Supply Loan Program (PWSLP). For Phase I L176384, Phase III L176385, Phase IV L176386, and Phase V L177147, a $4,000,000 loan with an interest rate of 1.87% for a twenty (20) year period would have an annual repayment of approximately $239,880. For Phase II L176384, a $17,500,000 loan with an interest rate of 1.87% for a twenty (20) year period would have an annual repayment of approximately $1,049,474. The current loan program interest rate is 1.87%.

The loan program rules include provisions for incentives such as reduced interest rates, partial principal forgiveness, and extended repayment periods for qualifying applicants. The criteria used to determine incentive qualification are found in Section 662.210 and 662.250 of the Procedures for Issuing Loans from the PWSLP, which is available on the Agency's website. The final decision for incentive qualification will be determined at the time a loan agreement is issued, using updated Census Bureau and Department of Labor data. Using current data, the City is eligible to receive the small community interest rate, partial principal forgiveness, and a 30-year loan term. Principal forgiveness is not guaranteed until a loan agreement is issued. The final loan and annual repayment amounts will be based on the as-bid project costs, and the loan terms in effect on the date the loan agreement is issued. A rate increase is not necessary to repay the loan.

Source of Loan Repayment: User fees.

Current Average Monthly Residential Water Use: 513 cubic feet

Current Average Monthly Residential Cost of Service: $31.17

Projected Average Monthly Residential Cost of Service: $31.17

How the monthly residential rate/cost of service is calculated: The City's water customers are charged a flat fee of $25.50 for the first 400 cubic feet of water used and $5.02 per 100 cubic feet beyond the initial 400.

Median Household Income (MHI): $68,377

Financial evaluation of the proposed project: To evaluate the costs of the proposed project for the community, a percentage comparison of the MHI to the average, annual cost for water service is utilized. The MHI listed above is from the current fiscal year's census information. The proposed annual cost of $374.04 for service is 0.55% of the MHI for the City. This percentage is for comparison only and has no impacts on whether a project qualifies for funding from the IEPA. The percentage comparison and MHI are two of several criteria used to determine whether a loan project qualifies for interest rate reductions or principal forgiveness.

Public comments are invited on the proposed project. For further information, contact:

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