



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY  
LANSING



LIESL EICHLER CLARK  
DIRECTOR

May 20, 2022

TO: All Interested Citizens, Organizations, and Government Agencies

SUBJECT: **DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND (DWSRF)  
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION  
St. Clair River Sewer and Water Authority, St. Clair County  
DWSRF Project Number: 7610-01**

The purpose of this notice is to advise interested parties of a proposed decision by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) that the criteria for qualifying for a Categorical Exclusion are met and this project will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment or public health, and thus, qualifies for a Categorical Exclusion under Section 5408 of 1994 PA 451. Consequently, an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement is not required to implement the water supply project discussed in the attached document.

#### **CRITERIA USED IN MAKING THE DETERMINATION**

Part 54 of the Safe Drinking Water Assistance Act specifies six exclusionary criteria that must be met before EGLE can conclude that a proposed project qualifies for a Categorical Exclusion. The criteria are as follows:

- (1) The project must not result in an increase in residuals and sludge generated by drinking water processes which would negatively impact the performance of the waterworks system or the disposal methods or would threaten an aquifer recharge zone.*
- (2) The proposed facilities must not be designed to provide service to a population greater than 30 percent of the existing population, unless population projections required in section 5405(3)(e) support projected needs.*
- (3) The proposed public water supply project must not be expected, to directly or indirectly affect cultural areas, fauna or flora habitats, endangered or threatened species, or environmentally important natural resource areas.*
- (4) The proposed public water supply project must not directly or indirectly involve the extension of transmission systems to new service areas.*
- (5) The proposed public water supply project has been shown to be the cost-effective alternative.*
- (6) The proposed public water supply project will not cause significant public controversy.*

#### **PROJECT DETAIL**

An attachment describing the proposed project is provided. This information is also available on our website at [Michigan.gov/DWSRF](https://Michigan.gov/DWSRF) under "Related Links." It presents information related to the proposed project, including the alternative selected, rationale for our decision to grant a Categorical Exclusion, and other pertinent information. Map(s) showing the location of the proposed project are also included.

The attachment provides information and allows appropriate federal cross-cutter agencies and state agencies an opportunity to submit information that may impact EGLE's decision prior to its effective date. Significant issues raised by these agencies could result in EGLE staff preparing a full Environmental Assessment.

**WHERE DO I SUBMIT COMMENTS?**

Any comments regarding this decision should be submitted to:

Ms. Leni Steiner-Zehender, Project Manager  
Water Infrastructure Financing Section  
Finance Division  
Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy  
P.O. Box 30457  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7957

**EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE EGLE DECISION ON THE CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION**

Absent comments that introduce significant information contrary to EGLE's final determination, the Categorical Exclusion will become effective upon conclusion of the 30-day comment period.

Questions regarding this project can be directed to Ms. Leni Steiner-Zehender, project manager, Water Infrastructure Financing Section, Finance Division, by phone at 517-231-9913, by email at [Steinerl@michigan.gov](mailto:Steinerl@michigan.gov), or by mail at EGLE, P.O. Box 30457, Lansing, Michigan, 48909-7957; or you may contact me. Your interest in this process is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

*Eric Pocan*

Eric Pocan, Unit Supervisor  
Water Infrastructure Financing Section  
Financing Division  
517-284-5433

Attachment

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY**  
**Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)**  
**East China Township, St. Clair County**  
**Categorical Exclusion**  
**May 2022**

**PROJECT IDENTIFICATION**

**Applicant:** St. Clair River Sewer & Water Authority  
(on behalf of East China Township)

**Authorized Representative:** Cynthia Paparelli, Township Manager

**Address:** 5111 River Road  
East China, Michigan 48054

**Project Number:** 7610-01

**PROJECT OVERVIEW**

East China Township (East China) is located in St. Clair County and has a land area of approximately 7.8 square miles. According to the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, in 2015 East China had a population of 4,047 people. It is projected that the population will increase to 4,399 by the year 2040 and thus drinking water demand is not anticipated to change significantly in the next 20 years.

The St. Clair River Sewer and Water Authority (SWA) is seeking a DWSRF loan (on behalf of East China) for water main replacement on M-29, two meter pit rehabilitations, water main abandonment on Meisner Road, and the replacement of approximately 50 valves near the north water tower (see Figure 1). The estimated cost of the project is \$6,530,000 which would result in an increase of \$1.26 a month to the average residential user in 2022, \$1.32 in 2023 with an added 2.5 percent increase for the remaining 28 years for a total increase of \$30.27 over the next 30 years. China Township (China) will contribute 20 percent of the total project costs per the water transmission facilities operation and maintenance agreement of 2001.

**EXISTING SYSTEM**

East China's water system is owned by the St. Clair River SWA but operated by East China. The system serves all of East China and a small portion of China Township (China). The distribution system was installed in 1945 and the water treatment plant (WTP) was built in 1952. The distribution system consists of approximately 40 miles of water main composed of asbestos cement, cast iron, ductile iron, polyvinyl chloride, and high-density polyurethane (HDPE) pipe, ranging in size from 4-inches to 24-inches in diameter. The WTP pumps water from the St. Clair River and the raw water is treated at the WTP and stored in a 530,000-gallon ground storage tank before being pumped to two elevated storage tanks. The northern tower stores 300,000 gallons, and the southern tower stores 500,000 gallons. The water system serves 2,112 customers, comprised of residential, industrial, and commercial users.

**NEED FOR PROJECT**

The older 10-inch diameter water mains along M-29 are beyond their life expectancy and have a history of frequent breaks, saddles and corporation stops decaying off of the main, as well as

tuberculation, leaks, and unreliable fixtures.

The older 6-inch diameter watermain on Meisner Road (Meisner) has deteriorated and is showing signs of stress and leaks. Some water mains in the system must be flushed out weekly or biweekly due to low chlorine levels from water sitting in the mains for an extended period of time. This causes the system to lose approximately 3.2 million gallons of water a year.

The existing water main from the WTP to the northern tower takes several detours through the neighborhood causing the chlorine levels to drop before it is distributed. To correct this issue the water storage is reduced to half full and flushed. The water is tested until the chlorine levels are acceptable and the tower resumes intaking water for storage. This happens several times a year during the warmer seasons.

Two meter pits at the East China/China border will be rehabilitated including replacement of the missing meters within these pits. These meters will accurately record water usage in China and help to determine potential water loss occurring in China.

## PROPOSED PROJECT

The proposed project will include the replacement of 17,600 linear feet (lft) of water main on M-29 with 12-inch diameter HDPE pipe including approximately 28 hydrants, 26 valves, water services, and the abandonment of the existing 10-inch diameter water main, the rehabilitation of two meter pits including meter replacement, abandonment of 5,500 lft of 6-inch diameter water main on Meisner and connection of water services to the existing parallel 12-inch diameter water main, and the replacement of approximately 50 valves near the north water tower. Construction of the proposed project is expected to start in November 2022 with completion in November of 2023.

**TABLE 1 – Project Cost**

<b>Component</b>	<b>Cost</b>
M-29 Water Main Replacement	\$3,940,000
Meter Pit Rehabilitation	\$365,000
Meisner Water Main Abandonment	\$380,000
Valve Replacement	\$790,000
<b>Total Project Construction Costs</b>	<b>\$5,475,000</b>
Engineering and Contract Administration	\$1,055,000
<b>Total DWSRF Project Costs</b>	<b>\$6,530,000</b>

The proposed project is expected to be financed with a 30-year loan at 2.125 percent interest from the DWSRF. The estimated monthly billing impact to the average residential user will be approximately \$1.26 per month in 2022 \$1.32 in 2023 with an added 2.5 percent increase for the remaining 28 years for a total increase of \$30.27 over the next 30 years.

## EXISTING ENVIRONMENT AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS

The proposed project has minimal to no anticipated impacts to environmental resources. There will be no construction within wetlands, coastal zones, rivers, surface waters, recreational facilities, or agricultural resources. There is work proposed within floodplains but is kept underground and a joint permit will be acquired before the proposed work commences.

Based on preliminary research the study area does not have any historical or archaeological sites. All work will be done within existing road rights-of-way and is not expected to disturb any structures or untouched land. If any artifacts are discovered during construction, work will immediately stop and the State Historic Preservation Office and associated Tribal Historic Preservation Officers will be contacted.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) shows the potential for several threatened and endangered species in St. Clair County, including, the Indian bat, Northern long eared bat, Piping plover, Rufa red knot, Eastern massasauga rattlesnake, Rayed bean's clam, Snuffbox mussel, and the Eastern prairie fringed orchid. However, there is no critical habitat in the project area. If endangered species are encountered all work will be stopped until further notice so that East China can consult with the USFWS to identify alternative solutions to construct the proposed project without impacting the habitat of an endangered or threatened species.

Short-term construction impacts include temporary lane closures along M-29, temporary water service disruptions, and construction noise. The water service disruptions will be quick and will not cause any business closures. When a lane must be temporarily closed the required signage, traffic drums and traffic regulations will be used. Construction will be limited to normal daylight hours. Best management practices for soil erosion will be used and a Soil Erosion Permit will be acquired from the County.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A public hearing to discuss the proposed project was held at 7:30 p.m. on June 21, 2021, at the East China Township Hall. The hearing was advertised on May 19, 2021, in *The Voice* and on the Township website, the project plan was available for viewing at the East China Township Hall and on the Township website. There were no public comments or questions. A resolution adopting the project plan and implementation of the selected alternative was approved 6-1 by the East China Township Board on June 21, 2021.

## **RATIONALE FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION**

In accordance with Part 54, Safe Drinking Water Assistance, of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, Section 5408(5) specifies criteria that must be met to grant a Categorical Exclusion from further environmental review activity for a proposed DWSRF assisted project. The EGLE staff has carefully reviewed the East China WMR and meter pit rehab projects and related documents and has determined that no significant adverse impacts are anticipated by implementation.

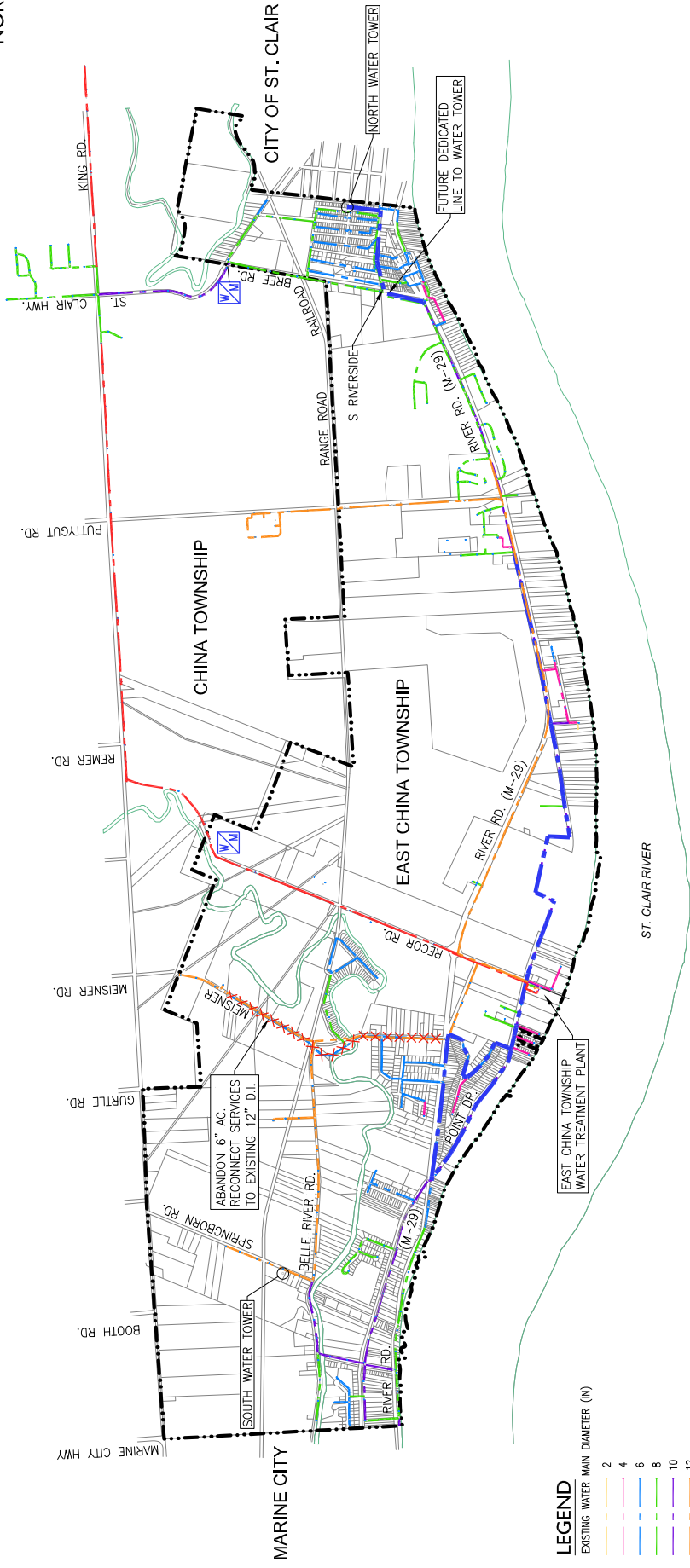
Questions regarding this Environmental Assessment should be directed to:

Ms. Leni Steiner-Zehender, Project Manager  
Water Infrastructure Financing Section  
Finance Division  
Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy  
P.O. Box 30457  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7957  
Telephone: 517-231-9913  
E-Mail: [Steinerl@michigan.gov](mailto:Steinerl@michigan.gov)

Appendix I – Project Map

# PROJECT PLAN

NOT TO SCALE



**LEGEND**

- EXISTING WATER MAIN DIAMETER (IN)
- 2
- 4
- 6
- 8
- 10
- 12
- 16
- 24
- TOWNSHIP LIMITS
- PARCELS
- RIVER
- FUTURE 12 INCH HDPE
- FUTURE ABANDONED PIPE
- FUTURE WATER METER

CLIENT: EAST CHINA TOWNSHIP  
 ADDRESS: 5111 RIVER ROAD  
 CITY, STATE & ZIP: EAST CHINA, MICHIGAN 48054  
 CITY/TWP.: EAST CHINA TOWNSHIP



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 Engineers Surveyors Consultants  
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 DATE: 3-3-21 DRAWING ID: 21-015 Map SHEET No. 1 OF 1  
 REVISIONS: