



John R. Kasich, Governor  
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor  
Craig W. Butler, Director

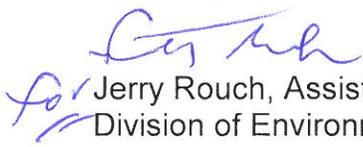
**July 17, 2018**  
**Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact**  
**Summit County – Abandonment of Aurora Shores WWTP #29**  
**Summit County**  
**WPCLF # CS390078-0075**

The attached Environmental Assessment (EA) is for a wastewater treatment project in your area 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 WPCLF 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 EA.

Any comments on our preliminary determination should be sent to me at the letterhead address. We will not act on this project for 30 calendar days from the date of this notice in order to receive and consider comments. In the absence of substantive comments during this period, our preliminary decision will become final. After that, Summit County can then proceed with its application for the WPCLF loan.

Sincerely,

  
for Jerry Rouch, Assistant Chief  
Division of Environmental & Financial Assistance  
Office of Financial Assistance

JR/DH

attachment

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

### A. Project Identification

Name: Summit County – Abandonment of Aurora Shores WWTP #29

Address: Michael Weant, Director  
Summit County Department of Sanitary Sewer Services  
1180 South Main Street, Suite 201  
Akron, OH 44301

WPCLF #: CS390078-0075

### B. Proposed Project

#### 1. Summary

The Summit County Department of Sanitary Sewer Services (DSSS) has requested \$2,100,000 from the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) to construct a pump station and force main and abandon an aged wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) in northeast Summit County. Construction excavation and demolition will be on the existing WWTP site and along roads, areas lacking important environmental features.

#### 2. Project Background

##### a. History and Existing Conditions

Summit County DSSS owns and operates the Aurora Shores Wastewater Treatment Plant #29. The treatment plant is a single-stage, extended aeration, activated sludge facility with an average daily design capacity of 0.5 million gallons per day (mgd). The small facility is nearly redundant with a regional WWTP sewer system nearby.

With access to the Twinsburg sanitary system available, DSSS evaluated the feasibility of abandoning WWTP #29 and determined that eliminating this facility would be economically prudent and environmentally sound.

##### b. Population and Flow Projections

The WWTP serves approximately 1,400 residents and 6 commercial customers. The average flow to the plant is approximately 0.28 mgd. Peak daily flow has increased slightly due in part to large flows from storms in 2011, 2012, and 2013. Peak hydraulic capacity of the WWTP is approximately 2.2 mgd.

### c. Water Quality

WWTP #29 discharges into Pond Brook, a tributary of Tinker's Creek. Pond Brook in the project area has the Aquatic Life Use "Modified Warmwater Habitat" (MWH) in the Ohio Water Quality Standards. The stream reach immediately downstream of the WWTP is in "non-attainment" of the MWH criteria, although upstream of the project area, where recent natural channel restoration was constructed, the stream is in full attainment. Non-attainment is due to physical stream conditions (history of channelization).

### 3. Discussion of Feasible Alternatives

Because this project is based on practical considerations of cost-effectiveness of operating a small WWTP, rather than on specific concerns about reliability of the facility, doing nothing (the "no-action") alternative is feasible. WWTP #29 still functions well and is not violating its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The nearby availability of a larger regional sewer system, however, makes feasible the consideration of eliminating WWTP #29 at significant cost savings to DSSS.

Replacing WWTP #29 with a new lift station and force main to connect into the City of Twinsburg's sanitary collection system via Twinsburg's Willowbrook force main would eliminate a WWTP discharge into a small stream and more efficiently use the Twinsburg WWTP.

### 4. Selected Alternative

Summit County DSSS and Twinsburg negotiated a service agreement to eliminate WWTP #29 as a wastewater treatment facility and pump its flows to Twinsburg's Willowbrook force main. Summit County DSSS will construct a 1,200 gallon per minute pump station at WWTP #29 and 4,050 linear feet of 12" diameter force main from the new pump station to the Willowbrook force main (Figures 1a and 1 b). Part of WWTP #29 will be demolished and the two treatment tanks and two sludge digesters will be converted to 476,000 gallons of flow equalization capacity to prevent overloading of the pump station during infrequent high flows. The existing WWTP pump station will pump wet-weather flows into the new equalization tanks.

Summit County DSSS purchased 650,000 gpd of treatment plant capacity at the Twinsburg WWTP to accommodate the WWTP #29 flows.

### 5. Project Implementation

Summit County will borrow approximately \$2,100,000 from the WPCLF at the standard interest rate (now 2.15%; the rate is set monthly and may change for a later loan award). During the 20-year loan period, Summit County will save approximately

\$425,000 by using WPCLF dollars at this rate, compared to the market rate of 3.40%.

The project requires no rate increase.

Assuming loan award in August 2018, construction will begin in Autumn of 2018 and be completed in late 2019.

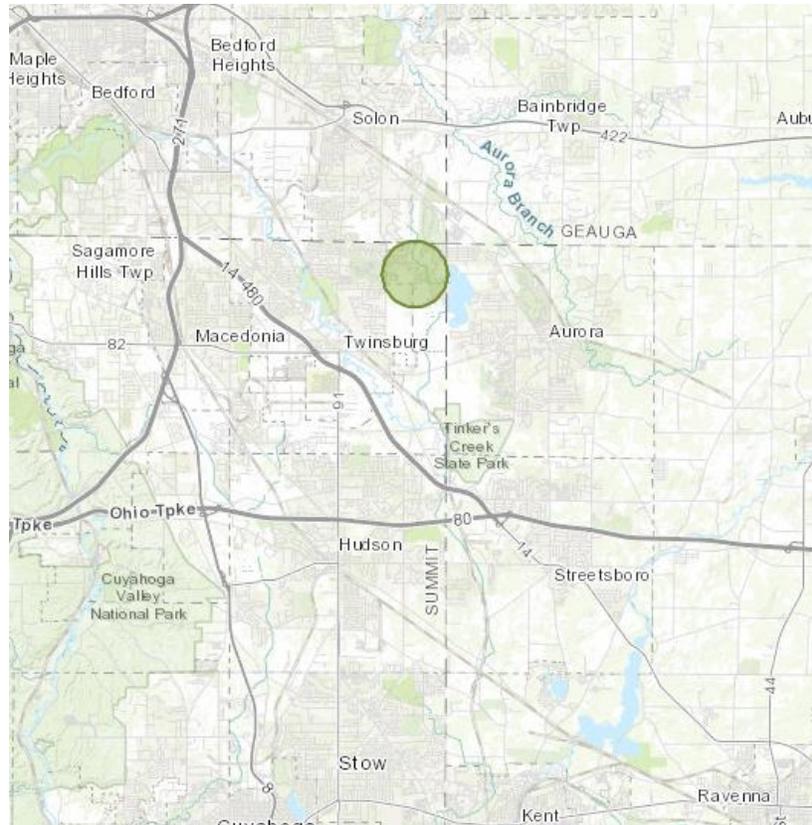


Figure 1a – Project Location

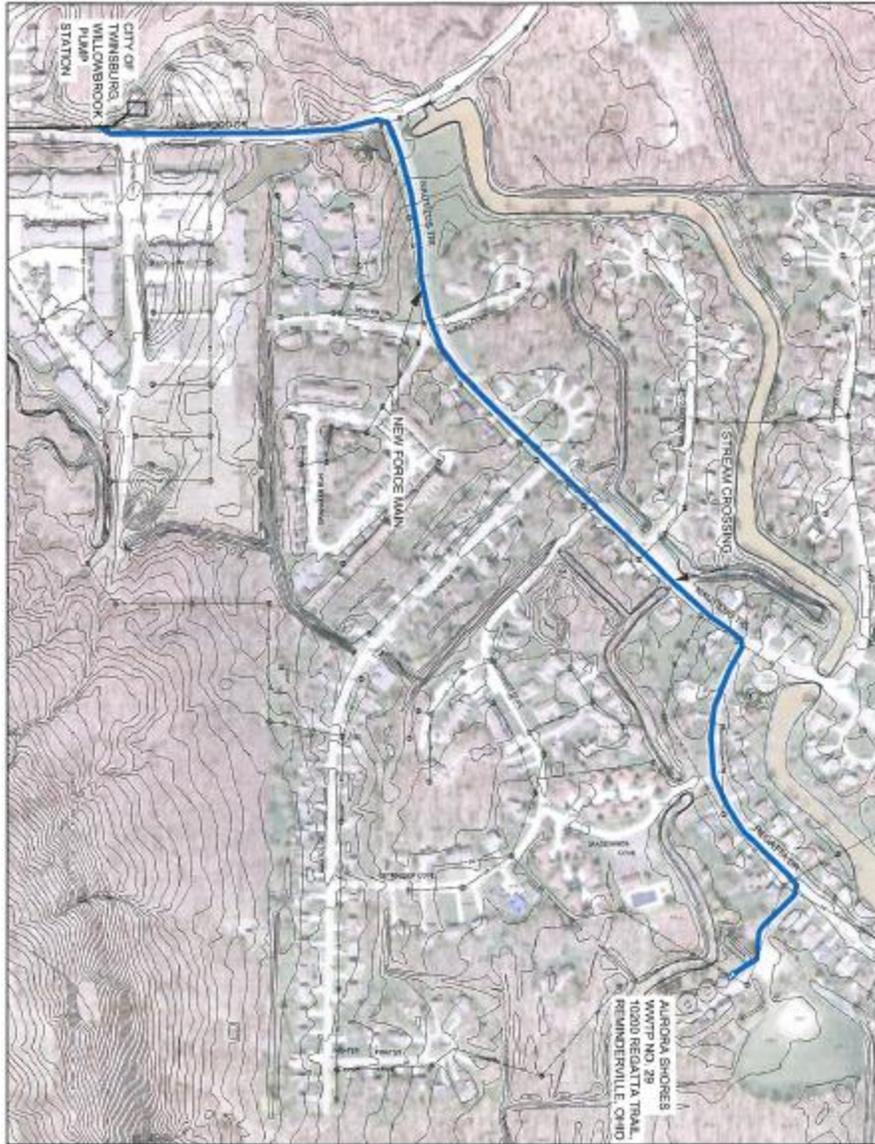


Figure 1b Project Alignment

### C. Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Project

This project could directly affect environmental features. Because the project is designed to abandon an existing WWTP and transport wastewater into another system, rather than provide additional capacity in the wastewater system for growth, the project is not expected to lead to new development or associated indirect or cumulative impacts. The project will disturb the land surface at the existing WWTP, beneath road pavement, and in tree lawns along residential streets, areas lacking important environmental resources. It will have no effect on major land forms, wetlands, floodplains, land use, or agriculture. Because the project adds no new stationary air

pollution sources and the new pump station will have efficient pumps, it will have no effect on local or regional air quality or energy supplies.

Only limited work in Pond Brook to remove a river aeration structure will possibly affect surface water resources or aquatic habitat. The work will conform to the requirements of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit 3 (Maintenance) regarding existing permitted structures in waters of the United States. Because the drainage area upstream of Pond Brook in the vicinity of the aeration structure is 1.62 square miles, the stream falls below the threshold requiring a native mussel survey per the "Ohio Mussel Survey Protocol." The project is therefore unlikely to affect native mussels. Ground water resources likewise will be unaffected by the shallow excavations required of force main and pump station construction.

Construction noise evident in the residential project area will be similar to that of vehicles normally transiting the area. Construction of the force main adjacent to and in roadways will affect traffic. Contractors will ensure traffic is safely maintained by use of standard measures such as barrels, signs, and flaggers. Besides maintaining traffic safety, general public safety will be maintained by limiting access to the active construction site and filling or covering trenches at the end of each work day. Finally, after construction is complete and lawns and pavement restored, local aesthetics will be similar to preconstruction conditions.

For these reasons, no significant adverse short- or long-term impacts to noise, traffic, safety, or aesthetics are expected due to this project.

Based on project location and previous soil disturbance in the construction area, Ohio EPA determined that this project will not cause a significant adverse effect to properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (archaeological and historical resources). In the event of archaeological finds during construction, Ohio Revised Code Section 149.53 requires contractors and subcontractors to notify the State Historic Preservation Office of any archaeological discoveries in the project area, and to cooperate with the Office in archaeological and historic surveys and salvage efforts when appropriate. Work will not resume until a survey of the find and a determination of its value and effect has been made, and Ohio EPA authorizes work to continue.

The typical annual sewer bill for Summit County DSSS residential customers is \$455, which is approximately 0.9% of local median household income (MHI; \$50,765). This compares favorably to the Ohio average 1.2% of state MHI. Sewer bills less than 1.8% of MHI are considered affordable. By using the WPCLF low-interest financing, Summit County has minimized the project cost and the impact to the local economy.

## **D. Public Participation**

The process to formally modify the areawide water quality management plan to transfer the WWTP #29 service area from Summit County to the City of Twinsburg requires significant public notice with formal public comment opportunity. That process yielded no comments in opposition.

Ohio EPA will make a copy of this document available to the public on its web page (<http://epa.ohio.gov/defa/ofa.aspx> WPCLF Documents for Review and Comment) and will provide it on request to interested parties.

The following agencies reviewed this project's planning information:

Northeast Ohio Four County Regional Planning and Development Organization  
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

## **E. Reasons for a Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact**

Based on its review of this project's general plans and other information, Ohio EPA concludes that no significant short-term or long-term adverse direct environmental impacts will result from the project as related to the environmental features discussed in this Environmental Assessment. This is because these features do not exist in the project area, the features exist but will not be adversely affected, or the impacts of construction will be temporary and mitigated.

This project equally serves the entire project area community and no particular segment of the community will be faced with additional adverse impacts or be deprived of environmental benefits, compared to any other segment.

Ohio EPA expects the economic impact of the project on the average user to be insignificant because user rates do not increase.

The project will ensure continued cost-effective and reliable wastewater treatment while eliminating a WWTP discharge.

For more information, please contact:

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