GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

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

LIESL EICHLER CLARK
DIRECTOR

April 22, 2022

TO: All Interested Citizens, Organizations, and Government Agencies

SUBJECT: FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
East China Township
Pump Station Upgrades, Manhole Rehabilitation, and Sewer Lining Project
Clean Water State Revolving Fund Project No. 5776-01

The purpose of this notice is to seek public input and comment on a preliminary decision by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required to implement recommendations discussed in the attached Environmental Assessment of a wastewater project plan submitted by the applicant mentioned above.

HOW WERE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES CONSIDERED?

Part 53, Clean Water Assistance, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, being Sections 324.5301 to 324.5316 of the Michigan Compiled Laws Annotated, requires EGLE to evaluate all environmental implications of a proposed wastewater project. EGLE has done this by incorporating a detailed analysis of the environmental effects of the proposed alternatives in its review and approval process. A project plan containing information on environmental impacts was prepared by the municipality and reviewed by the State. EGLE has prepared the attached Environmental Assessment and found that the proposed project does not require the preparation of an EIS.

Our environmental review concluded that no significant environmental impacts would result from the proposed action. Any adverse impacts have either been eliminated by changes in the project plan or will be reduced by the implementation of the mitigative measures discussed in the attached Environmental Assessment.

HOW DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

A map depicting the location of the proposed project is attached. This information is also available on our website at Michigan.gov/CWSRF under “Related Links.” The Environmental Assessment presents additional information on the project, alternatives that were considered, impacts of the proposed action, and the basis for our decision. Further information can be obtained by calling or writing one of the contact people listed below.

HOW DO I SUBMIT COMMENTS?

Any comments supporting or disagreeing with this preliminary decision should be submitted to me at EGLE, Constitution Hall, P.O. Box 30457, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7957. We will not take any action on this project plan for 30 calendar days from the date of this notice in order to receive and consider any comments.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

In the absence of substantive comments during this period, our preliminary decision will become final. The applicant will then be eligible to receive loan assistance from this Agency to construct the proposed project.

Any information you feel should be considered by EGLE should be brought to our attention. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Leni Steiner-Zehender, the project manager, at 517-231-8813, by email at steinerl@michigan.gov, or you may contact me. Your interest in this process and the environment is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Kelly Green, Administrator
Water Infrastructure Financing Section
Finance Division
517-284-5433

Attachment

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
Clean Water State Revolving Fund
East China Township, St. Clair County
Environmental Assessment
April 2022

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Applicant:	East China Township
Authorized Representative:	Cynthia Paparelli, Township Manager
Address:	5111 River Road East China, Michigan 48054
Project No.	5776-01

PROJECT OVERVIEW

East China Township (East China) located in St. Clair County has a land area of approximately 7.8 square miles. East China owns and operates the sanitary system. The wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) is owned and operated by the St. Clair River Sewer Authority, and treats wastewater flows from East China, and portions of China Township (China). The treated wastewater discharges into the St. Clair River. East China has a population of 4,047 based on the 2015 Southeast Michigan Council of Governments data. The population is expected to increase to 4,399 by 2042, thus the treatment demand is not anticipated to change significantly over the next 20 years meaning the sanitary sewer system and the WWTP capacity will remain sufficient to receive and treat wastewater flows. The majority of the land use in the study area is existing residential, with other portions being zoned as industrial, commercial, and public land.

East China is seeking a low-interest Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan administered by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) for three pump station upgrades, the lining of 7,484 linear feet (lft) of sanitary sewer, and the rehabilitation of 15 manholes. The proposed project includes replacing existing pumps and controls, cured in place pipe (CIPP) lining, joint repairs, tap lining, flail cleaning, and installation of cleanouts along Pointe Drive (see Figure 1 and Figure 2). The estimated cost of the project is $3,200,000, which may result in an incremental annual cost increase of $29 for the average residential user in 2022, $19 in 2023-2024, $4 in 2025-2033, and $6 in 2034-2051.

EXISTING SYSTEM

The East China sanitary sewer system has approximately 188,000 lft of sanitary sewer pipe and nine pump stations. The collector pipes range from 8-inches to 27-inches in diameter, many are aging having been installed in the late 1950s and 1960s and made of vitrified clay. East China has its own WWTP and treats an average of 860,000 gallons of wastewater per day from both East China and parts of China. The WWTP has been in operation since the 1960s and uses primary clarifiers, digesters, and rotating biological contactors. The treated effluent goes through lagoons prior to being discharged to the St. Clair River.

NEED FOR PROJECT

The East China WWTP discharges into the St. Clair River in accordance with effluent limitations and monitoring requirements. The projected population estimate for East China does not warrant an increase in the size of the sanitary sewer pipes, the WWTP, or the pumps, but it will require upgrades and repair. The proposed project activities include repairing major structural defects, reducing inflow and infiltration (I/I), providing more efficient movement of the wastewater, and adding backup protection in case of pump failures.

The proposed project was identified in the 2018 Asset Management Plan. Four pump stations, 132 manhole structures, and over 10,000 lft of sanitary sewer pipe were identified as in need of rehabilitation. The sanitary sewer pipes and manholes identified for rehabilitation were inspected and the structural integrity was analyzed using the National Association of Sewer Service Companies Pipeline Assessment Certification Program and Manhole Assessment Certification Program. The service area being addressed has major flood risks that caused East China to implement a project back in 2020 that installed a new force main from the Pointe Drive station directly to the interceptor to prevent sewage backups and discharging. Now, the aim is to eliminate the major structural defects and sources of I/I in that same service area to reduce the burden on the stations and WWTP due to pumping and treating the excessive flood waters making it into the system.

Sanitary sewers in some areas of East China are beyond their life expectancy, and the pipes are becoming structurally deficient. Many of the pumps are underperforming, which causes East China to use more energy and staff hours to maintain, as well as creating an inconvenience and health risk to residents when sewage backs up into basements.

POTENTIAL ALTERNATIVES

No-action Alternative

No action would result in future equipment failures, increased I/I, costs for maintenance, energy consumption, backups, and overflows. This alternative was not considered further.

Regional Alternative

A regional alternative isn’t feasible as the East China sanitary system already serves the entire township and portions of China. The existing treatment plant is operated by the St. Clair River Sewer Authority and treats wastewater from both East China and parts of China.

Rehabilitation and Replacement Alternative

Lining the pipes and rehabilitating manholes can eliminate structural deficiencies and repair damages which cause structural failure, infiltration problems, and it is generally less costly, disruptive, and time consuming than a full replacement. This alternative identifies 15 manholes to be rehabilitated and 7,484 lft of the most critical sanitary sewer pipes, joints, and taps that would be lined.

Keeping the existing pump stations and increasing performance would require the replacement of pumps and controls to increase the life expectancy of the station and improve the overall system. Through evaluation it was determined that the replacement of the pumps and controls at Pump Station #5, and Pump Station #6, and the replacement of the controls at Pump Station #4 would be the most efficient. This is the selected alternative.

Replacement Alternative

Replacement of the pump stations and a complete replacement of 15 manholes and 7,157 lft of the existing sanitary sewer would result in the reduction of sanitary sewer failures, more efficient use of energy, and an increase in the life expectancy of the system. However, this alternative is much more expensive and disruptive than the rehabilitation alternative and is not the selected alternative.

PROPOSED PROJECT

The selected alternative is the rehabilitation and replacement alternative. The proposed project is expected to start construction in October 2022 with a completion date of September 2023.

TABLE 1: Project Cost

Component	Cost
Pump Station Rehabilitation	$770,000
CIPP Lining of Sanitary Pipe and Manhole Rehabilitation	$2,075,000
Total Project Construction Costs	**$2,845,000**
Engineering, legal, financial, and administrative fees.	$355,000
Total Project Cost	**$3,200,000**

The proposed project is expected to be financed with a 20-year loan at 1.875 percent interest from the CWSRF. The rate impact of these proposed projects will incrementally increase over time. The average residential user can expect an annual rate increase of $29 in 2022, $19 in 2023 to 2024, $4 in 2025-2033, and $6 in 2034-2051.

EXISTING ENVIRONMENT AND POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Construction Impacts

Construction of the project will result in short-term impacts such as noise, odor, and traffic disruption in the project area. There will also be a temporary service disruption for appliances that use a large amount of water during the lining of the pipes. The construction will be within the right-of-way and should not significantly impact the surrounding commercial and residential properties.

Water Quality Impacts

There are no anticipated water quality impacts. The project would result in a reduction of I/I and improved efficiency of the existing system, potentially resulting in a 40 percent reduction in flow going to the treatment plant.

Endangered Species

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service shows the potential for several threatened and endangered species in St. Clair County, including the Indiana bat, the Northern long eared bat, the Piping plover, the Rufa red knot, the Eastern massasauga, the Rayed bean's clam, the Snuffbox mussel, and the Eastern prairie fringed orchid. However, there is no critical habitat in the project area, and East China plans to abide by any restrictions necessary to protect the species, such as limiting construction times or construction activities. Because there will be no earth disturbance, sensitive features such as floodplains, wetlands, stream crossings, and shorelines will not be impacted.

Historical Preservation

According to the National Register of Historic Place's database, there are no historical buildings within the study area. 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.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A public hearing to discuss the proposed project was held at 7 pm on May 17, 2021, at East China Township Hall. The hearing was advertised on April 14, 2021, in *The Voice*, and the project plan was available for viewing on the township's website as well as at the East China Township Hall. There were no public comments or questions. A resolution adopting the project plan and implementation of the selected alternative was unanimously approved by the East China Township Board on May 17, 2021.

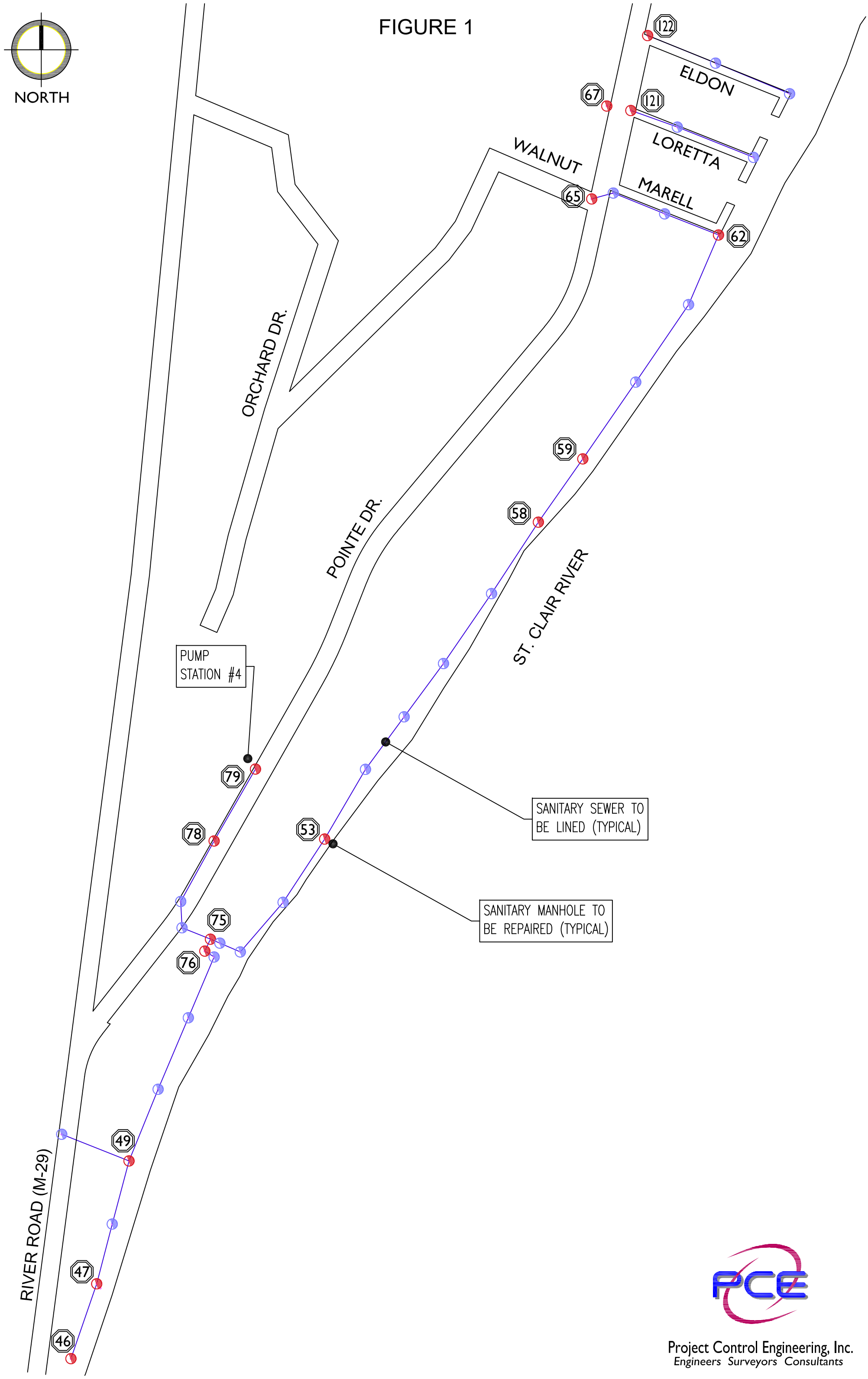
REASONS FOR CONCLUDING NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

The proposed project will address deficiencies and increase the reliability of the sanitary sewer collection system. Minor construction impacts will be temporary and can be mitigated with sound construction practices and adherence to permit requirements. Any impacts to the environment will be mitigated by strictly adhering to the requirements outlined in the Joint Permit issued by EGLE.

Questions regarding this Environmental Assessment should be directed to:

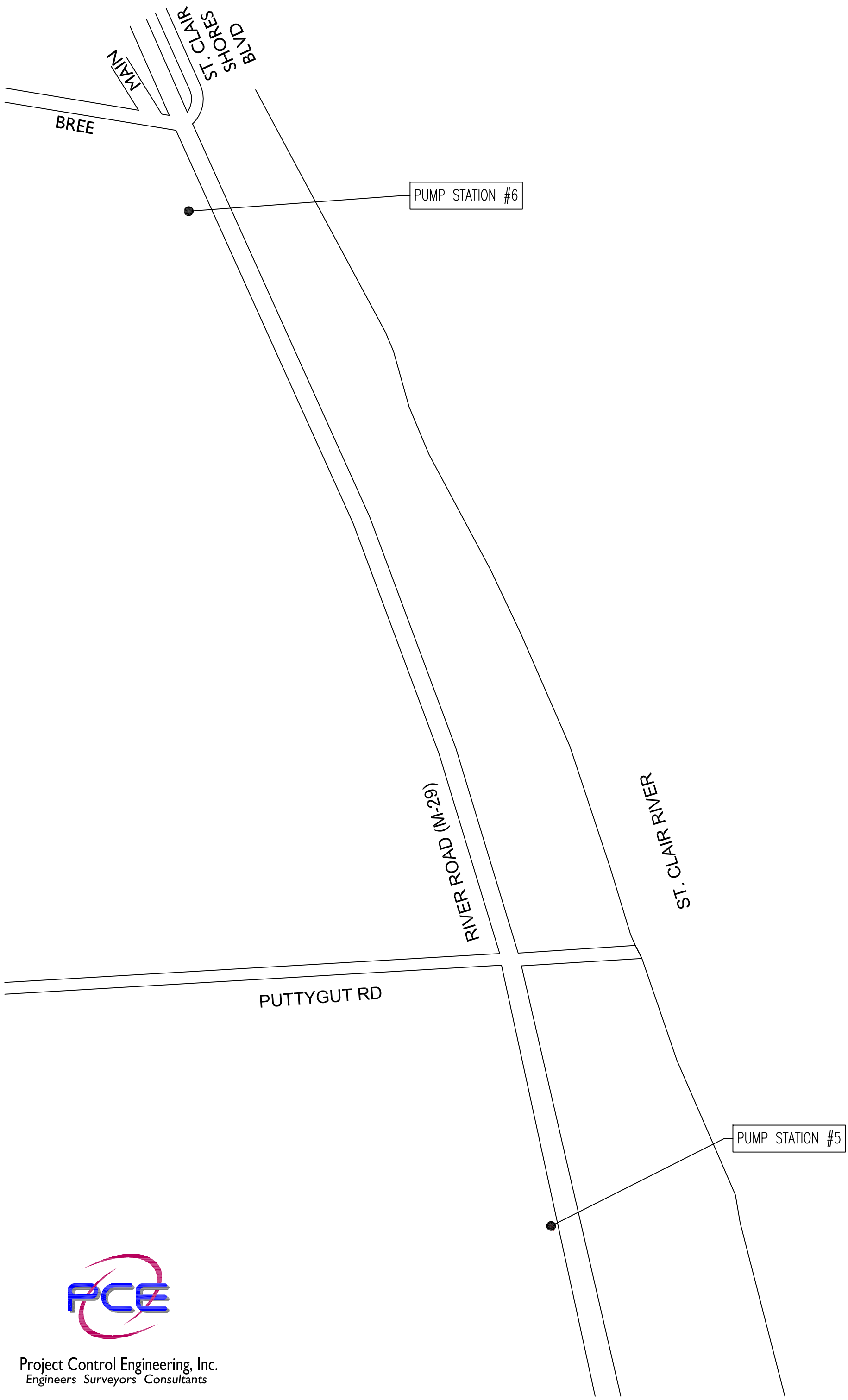
Ms. Leni Steiner- Zehender
Water Infrastructure Financing Section
Finance Division
Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
P.O. Box 30457
Lansing, Michigan 48909-4957
Telephone: 517-231-9913
E-Mail: Steinerl@michigan.gov

FIGURE 1



Project Control Engineering, Inc.
Engineers Surveyors Consultants

FIGURE 2



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