



March 2, 2026

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

Summit County

Q-836-1: Pump Station #82 and Force Main Improvements

Loan Number: CS390078-0123

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a wastewater project in Summit County which the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) intends to finance through its Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) below-market interest rate revolving loan program. The LER describes the project, costs, and expected environmental benefits. Making available this LER fulfills the 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. In accordance with Ohio Administrative Code 3745-150-05, this project meets the criteria for an LER rather than the more comprehensive Environmental Assessment. More information can be obtained by contacting the person named at the end of the attached LER.

Upon issuance of this Final Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) determination, award of funds may proceed without further environmental review or public comment unless new information shows that environmental conditions of the proposed project have changed significantly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Courtright".

Kathleen Courtright, Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification

Project: Q-836-1: Pump Station #82 and Force Main Improvements

Applicant: Summit County
175 South Main Street
Akron, Ohio 44308-1314

Loan Number: CS390078-0123



Figure 1. Summit County

Project Summary

Summit County (see Figure 1) requested funding from the Ohio Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) for the Q-836-1: Pump Station #82 and Force Main Improvements project. The project involves improving and replacing infrastructure at Summit County's Pump Station #82 and an associated force main. No significant adverse impacts are anticipated based on the nature and location of construction, thoughtful design, and proposed protection measures to be implemented, as discussed in the conclusion.

History & Existing Conditions

Summit County operates and maintains a wastewater collection, transportation, and treatment system in unincorporated portions of the county and in certain municipalities. These areas comprise a district known as the Summit County Metropolitan Sewer District. Summit County is responsible for five wastewater treatment facilities, 115 wastewater pumping stations, and nearly 1,010 miles of sanitary sewers that convey wastewater to county-owned treatment plants and to those owned by Akron, Barberton, Twinsburg, the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, and Stark and Portage counties. Wastewater treatment facilities owned by Summit County include the Fishcreek and Springfield plants, which have operating capacities of 8 million gallons daily (MGD) and 4 MGD, respectively.

Summit County regularly reviews their infrastructure to determine what improvements, repairs, and upgrades are needed to maintain reliability of their system. One such area identified is a pump station, Pump Station #82, and an associated force main located on Howe Road in the City of Tallmadge. Summit County determined that the force main requires replacing due to repeated breaks over its recent history.

Pump Station #82 is on a small, county-owned parcel located on the northern side of Howe Road and adjacent to Carter Lake. The pump station site is surrounded on three sides with a chain-link fence

and is composed of little more than the pump station infrastructure itself and a small asphalt parking area. The associated force main connects to the pump station and travels eastward along Howe Road. The pump station and force main ultimately convey flows to the Fishcreek Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Summit County hired a consultant to inspect, evaluate, and provide recommendations on repair or replacement alternatives for Pump Station #82. Alternatives considered in this evaluation included rehabilitating the existing pump station and replacing the pump station at its current location. Consideration of these alternatives was largely based on the condition of the station's wet and dry wells, which dictated whether they could be salvaged or converted.

Both the wet well and dry well were found to be in varying states of deterioration. The dry well's concrete flat top and first riser are severely deteriorated with exposed rebar. Its interior walls are cracked and exhibit signs of water infiltration. Interior piping and pumps are corroded. The wet well's exterior is in better condition than the dry well but still exhibits cracking and exposed aggregate. The access hatch is also rusted. The interior of the wet well is severely damaged and has extensive exposed rebar. There are also signs of failing joints.

Despite these issues, both the wet well and dry well are salvageable, making rehabilitation of the existing pump station and replacing the pump station viable alternatives. Summit County considered both viable alternatives based on monetary and non-monetary factors and determined to proceed with replacing Pump Station #82. Summit County intends to correct the degraded force main through a single contract with the pump station work. Summit County determined its best to replace the force main with new along with rehabilitation of a short section of the sewer directly downstream of the force main.

Project Description

Summit County will replace Pump Station #82 at its existing location. The new site plan is larger than the available space in the pump station's current configuration. Summit County acquired a 25-foot by 41-foot piece of property to expand the county-owned parcel to accommodate the new design. A temporary construction easement has also been acquired for use of an area adjacent to the pump station site for staging and mobilization. The existing wet well was found to be salvageable during the inspection; therefore, its structure will be repaired and converted to a submersible wet well rather than having to completely replace it. The degraded force main will be replaced as well, along with a short section of sewer that will be rehabilitated. See Figure 2 for an overview of the project location.

These improvements include the following work:

Dry Well and New Control Building

- Remove the dry well concrete flat top and first riser.
- Remove mechanical, electrical, and instrumentation components. Salvage the existing pumps and other associated components for use at other pump stations currently utilizing the same pumps.

- Fill the dry well with low strength mortar and backfill over.
- Construct a new masonry block building adjacent to the abandoned dry well to serve as the pump station control building. The control building will contain electrical service, power distribution equipment, control panel, and various other infrastructure for controlling the station.
- Install a standby generator to be housed in the masonry block building.

Wet Well

- Remove the existing piping and fill the resulting holes in the wall left from removal of the piping.
- Pour a new concrete invert.
- Install a new interior liner to correct the wet well interior deterioration and exposed rebar.
- Install new submersible pumps.
- Replace the concrete flat top and hatch.

Site Work

- Install a gas service line for the new backup generator.
- Clear and grub the area and complete site grading with drainage improvements.
- Remove a portion of the existing guard rail, entrance, and parking area.
- Install a new concrete drive entrance and asphalt parking area.
- Remove the eastern portion of the chain link fence and extend the fencing to capture the property addition.
- Complete final landscaping.

Force Main

- Install an estimated 2,555 linear feet (LF) of 8-inch polyvinyl chloride force main along Howe Road.
- Rehabilitate an estimated 355 LF of existing 8-inch sewer main using cured-in-place pipe lining. The new section of force main will connect the pump station to the lined section of sewer main.
- Utilize the existing force main to conduct bypass pumping during construction of the new pump station and force main. The existing force main will be abandoned upon project completion.

Implementation

Summit County requested \$2,145,078 from the Ohio WPCLF at the standard rate, currently set at 3.18%, to finance the project. Interest rates are set monthly and may change for a later loan award. Borrowing this amount in WPCLF monies could save Summit County roughly \$341,000 over the 20-year loan term compared to the current market rate of 4.43%.

Back-up power principal forgiveness is available through the WPCLF for procurement and installation of back-up power for wastewater treatment facilities. Principal forgiveness functions much like a grant in which the eligible capital costs of a project are reduced by the principal forgiveness amount,

thereby eliminating a portion of the principal, and interest, that the borrower must repay. Back-up power principal forgiveness is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis while funds remain and are limited to one award per entity up to \$50,000. Any back-up power principal forgiveness awarded to Summit County, should any project costs be determined eligible for this funding, would increase Summit County's expected savings.

The debt associated with the project will be recovered from monthly user charges. The sewer charges for Summit County are driven by the total indebtedness of the system and annual operation and maintenance costs. Summit County last raised rates by 6.5% at the beginning of 2026, and they report that future rate increases between 2027 and 2031 will be inflationary based. Summit County charges customers based on metered water usage or by flat rate in the case of customers whose water consumption is not measured by meter readings. The annual water bill for Summit County customers who have a metered water usage of 4,000 gallons is \$702. This represents 1.02% of the median household income for Summit County (MHI; \$68,360) and is greater than the Ohio average annual sewer bill of \$528.

Construction is anticipated to begin following loan award and take nine months to complete.

Public Participation

Summit County provides resources and information on proposed and ongoing wastewater projects to customers via the Summit County Department of Sanitary Sewer Services webpage and on Summit County's website. Summit County Council meets every other Monday at 4:30 in council chambers. These meetings are open to the public, and agendas and minutes for the meetings are available on the county's website. Summit County has discussed the Q-836-1: Pump Station #82 and Force Main Improvements project at these meetings. Summit County has not conducted direct communication with customers regarding this project since it will not directly impact individual sanitary sewer services or sewer bills.

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

Conclusion

The proposed project meets the criteria for an LER; namely, it is an action within an existing public wastewater system, which involves the functional replacement of and improvements to existing infrastructure. Furthermore, the project meets the other qualifying criteria for an LER; specifically, the proposed project:

Will have no significant environmental effect, will require no specific impact mitigation, and will have no effect on high-value environmental resources. The pump station site, including the

additional property to be acquired and the area including the temporary construction easement, contain no unique, sensitive, or valuable environmental resources; however, the project site is located directly adjacent to Carter Lake. The contractor will be responsible for implementing erosion and sediment control measures such that no sediment-laden stormwater runoff leaves the project site. These measures also apply to the work necessary for installation of the new section of force main.

Construction will temporarily impact Howe Road, which is a main thoroughfare. The contractor will be responsible for implementing traffic maintenance measures to ensure open, safe traffic flow is maintained throughout the duration of the project. Howe Road is composed of four lanes, which permits two lanes of traffic traveling in either direction. This layout will aid the contractor with maintaining two-way traffic flow.

All other standard construction best management practices (e.g., proper dewatering practices, noise and dust control, storage and handling of materials, worker and public safety, legal disposal of waste and excess materials) will also be the responsibility of the contractor to implement during construction.

Is cost effective. Summit County compared viable alternatives based on monetary and non-monetary factors. The estimated cost of the selected alternative is less than the alternative of rehabilitating the existing pump station. Replacing the pump station allows Summit County to change Pump Station #82 to match the style and type of station the county has standardized in their system. This will reduce operation and maintenance complexity. The selected alternative has the advantage of requiring a reduced duration of bypass pumping needed during construction. Additionally, design of the selected alternative includes enclosure of the backup generator, rather than installation outdoors, which provides protection of the equipment from weather elements and vandalism. Summit County ultimately determined the selected alternative to be the most cost-effective alternative for these reasons.

Is not a controversial action. The project is such that there will be no adverse impacts on residents or the environment, and no controversy has been reported.

Does not create a new or relocate an existing discharge to surface or ground waters, will not result in substantial increases in the volume of discharge or the loading of pollutants from an existing source or from new facilities to receiving waters, and will not provide capacity to serve a population substantially greater than the existing population. The project is not intended to address, nor will it inadvertently affect, the listed features. Rather, the project is merely intended to restore reliability and improve operating efficiency of Pump Station #82 and the associated force main.

Based upon Ohio EPA's review of the planning information and the materials presented in this LER, we have concluded that there will be no significant adverse impacts from the proposed project as it relates to environmental features. 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.

Summit County designed the project to be effective and affordable, the results of which will ensure Pump Station #82 continues to provide safe, reliable wastewater handling for the service area and which will reduce long-term costs by eliminating a source of frequent repairs.

Contact Information

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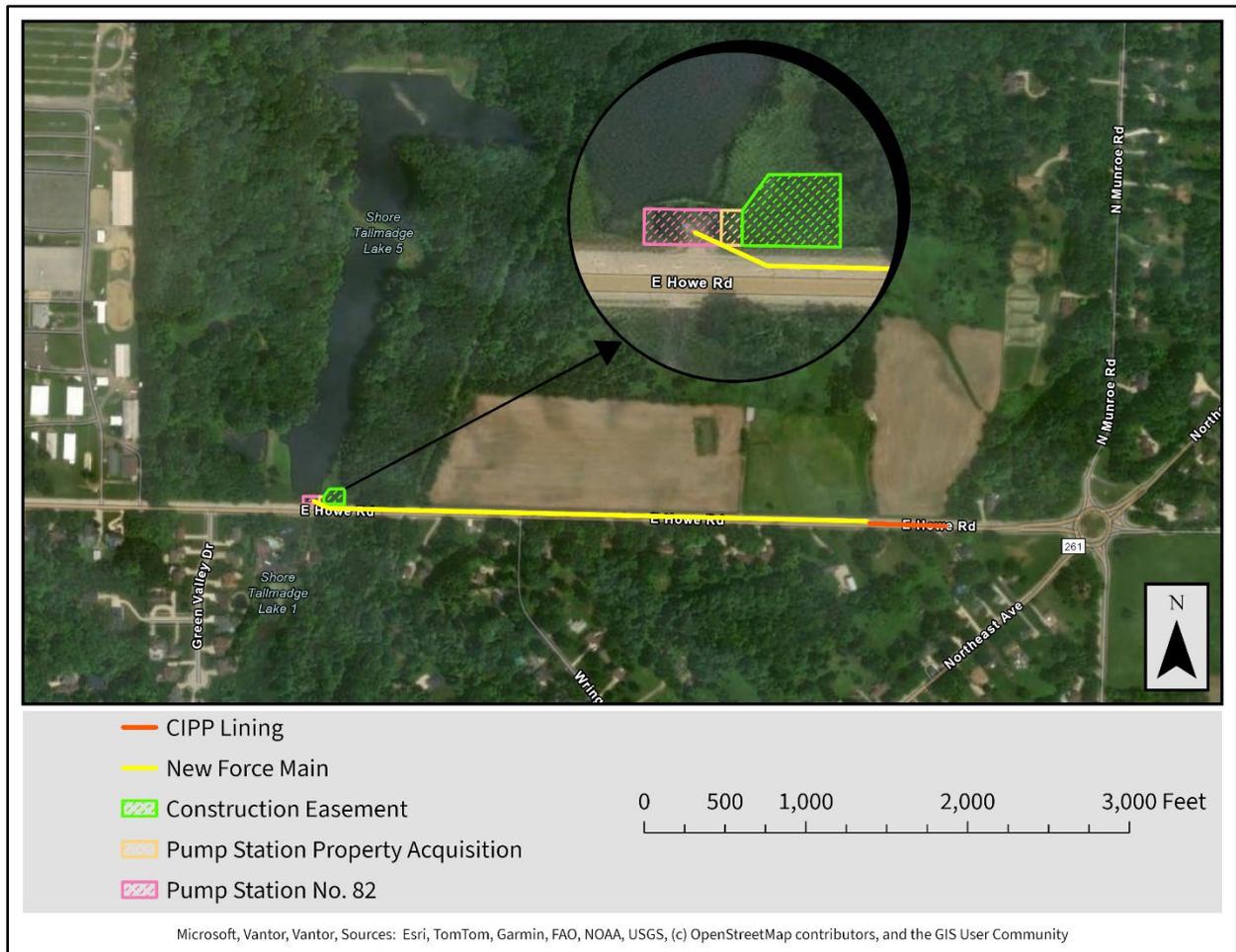


Figure 2. Project location