



March 4, 2024

Limited Environmental Review and Finding of No Significant Impact

**Village of Malta - Morgan County
2022 Water Distribution System Improvements
Loan number: FS390561-0008**

The attached Limited Environmental Review (LER) is for a water line replacement project in Malta which the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency intends to finance through its Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) below-market interest rate revolving loan program. The LER describes the project, its costs, and expected environmental benefits. Making available this LER 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 WSRLA program review and approval process. We have concluded that the proposed project should not result in significant adverse environmental impacts. This project's relatively narrow scope and lack of environmental impacts qualifies it for the LER rather than a more comprehensive Environmental Assessment. More information can be obtained by calling or writing the person named at the end of the attached LER.

Upon issuance of this 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**

Attachment

LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Project Identification

Project: 2022 Water Distribution System Improvements

Applicant: Village of Malta
449 Main Street
Malta, Ohio 43758

Loan Number: FS390561-008

Project Summary

The Village of Malta in Morgan County has requested \$78,595 from the Ohio Water Supply Revolving Loan Account (WSRLA) to replace antiquated water lines, valves, and fire hydrants to improve the water distribution system and allow the Village of Malta to better serve residents.

The project is intended to replace an inefficient and deteriorated existing water main in place. The project limits include no sensitive environmental resources. Project construction will occur within existing road rights-of-way.

History & Existing Conditions

The Village of Malta owns a water treatment plant which sources water through wells from the Muskingum River Aquifer. Malta provides about 300,000 gallons a day to serve approximately 671 residents within the village as well as an additional 1,072 service accounts from the Village of McConnellsville and surrounding areas, including Morgan-Meigs and Morgan-West water districts. Therefore, Malta is a regional water provider for a large portion of Morgan County.

A portion of Malta's existing water distribution system consists of thousands of feet of 4-inch, 6-inch, and 8-inch water lines, valves, and fire hydrants that are beyond their useful life and require increased maintenance. The village has replaced many of the lines over the past two decades, but the remaining lines need to be addressed. Additionally, improved security is needed around the village's wellfield, which can be accomplished by the addition of fencing.

Project Description

Due to the presence of outdated water distribution system components, the most viable option to address this problem is to address the areas in Malta with the greatest need. This will involve replacing deteriorated water lines on Front Street, Main Street, 3rd Street, 4th Street, 5th Street, 9th Street, 11th Street, 13th Street, and by the system's north water tower. The project will also include the replacement of fire hydrants and meter vaults in the project area, and installation of fencing around the wellfield.

The construction footprint for this project will remain within the previously disturbed rights-of-way within roadways and existing water lines, therefore minimizing effects on environmental resources.

Planned stream crossings will be conducted by horizontal directional drill to avoid impacts to waterways. The contractor is responsible for best management practices to control dust, erosion, and sedimentation, and maintain local traffic during construction.

Maps of the project location are provided in the exhibits below.

Implementation

Project Costs

In addition to funding provided by Appalachian Regional Commission, Ohio Public Works Commission, and Community Development Block Grant, Malta plans to borrow \$78,595 from the WSRLA. During the 30-year loan period Malta will save approximately \$28,014 at the small system rate of 2.27% compared to the market rate of 4.07%. WSRLA interest rates are set monthly and may change for a later loan award.

Local Economy

The current annual Malta residential water bill is approximately \$295. Projected residential water bills with the implementation of this and other associated water projects are expected to increase to approximately \$389, or 1.2% of median household income (MHI) of Malta, which is \$31,875.

By using WSRLA financing for this project, Malta has minimized the economic impact on customers.

Project Schedule

The anticipated loan award will occur in March 2024. Construction is expected to be completed by January 2025.

Public Participation

The water system improvements have been discussed at the Village of Malta council meetings. Residents are aware of the need to continue replacing the antiquated system so the village can meet the water demands of residents well into the future.

Ohio EPA will make a copy of this document available to the public on its web page: <https://epa.ohio.gov/divisions-and-offices/environmental-financial-assistance/announcements> and will provide it upon request to interested parties. Information supporting this Limited Environmental Review (LER) is available from the project contact named below.

Conclusion

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

Has no significant environmental effect, no effect on high value environmental resources, and does not require extensive specific impact mitigation.

The project replaces water lines within the previously disturbed rights-of-way and within roadways, areas lacking important environmental features. No in-wetland work is scheduled to occur, and all stream crossings will involve horizontal directional drilling to avoid impacts to waterways. There will be no new construction within prime farmland or within the floodplain. If necessary, tree clearing is to occur within seasonal clearing dates to protect endangered bat species located in the

area. The contractor is responsible for dust control, sedimentation and erosion control, and maintenance of traffic during construction.

Is cost effective and not controversial.

The proposed project is cost effective, as the overall costs and benefits of replacement of the water mains outweigh the temporary advantages of rehabilitation. Taking no action would allow the flow and water quality of the existing main to decrease, resulting in water line breaks, increased water loss, and the continued accumulation of maintenance costs. Ohio EPA is unaware of any specific opposition to or controversy about this project that will improve the safety and efficiency of a continuous supply of potable water to customers.

Does not create a new or relocate an existing discharge to surface or ground waters, does not create a new source of water withdrawals from either surface or ground waters, significantly increase the amount of water withdrawn from an existing water source, or substantially increase the volume of discharge or loading of pollutants from an existing source or from new facilities to receiving waters.

This project involves the replacement of the existing water line which services the area. It does not otherwise alter Malta's public water system (withdrawal, treatment, distribution, or usage of potable water).

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

This project will help to ensure the safety and efficiency of water distributed to the Malta area.

Contact Information

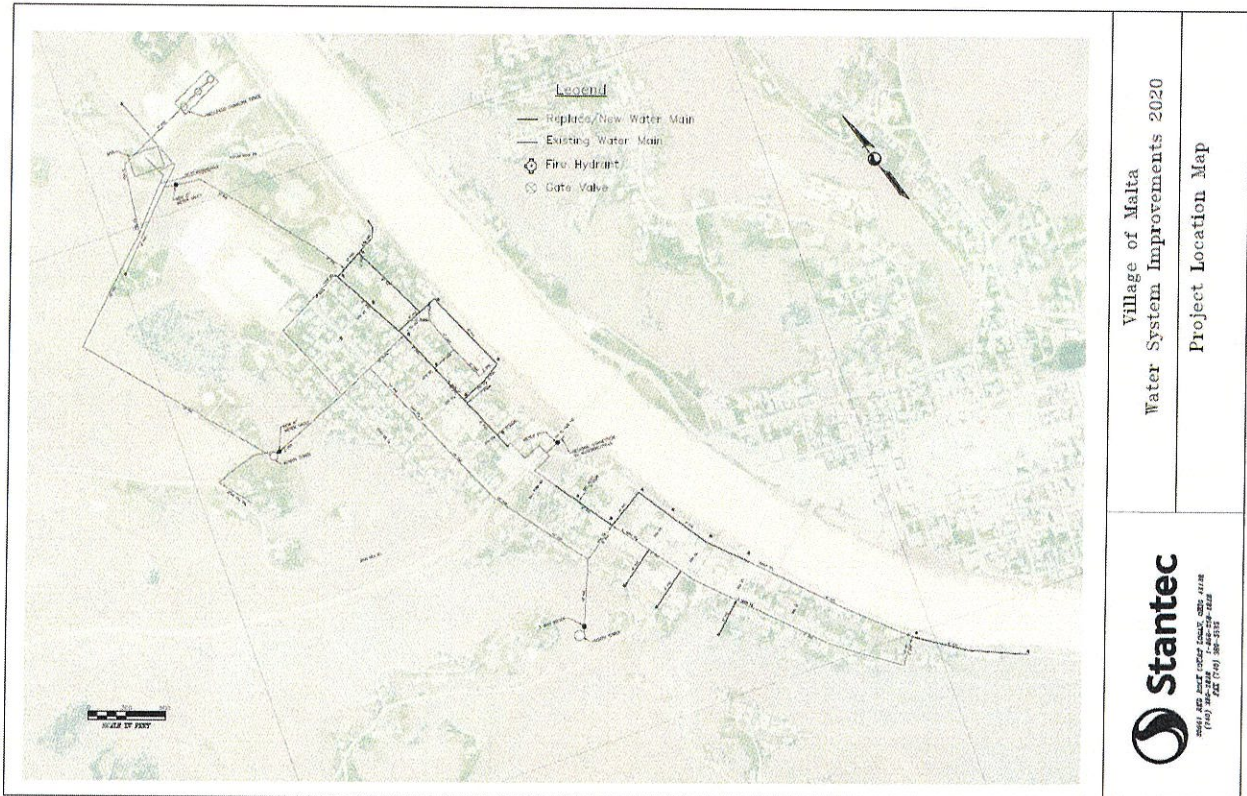
Kristin Parrish
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Exhibit 1: Project location map



Exhibit 2: Project location map



Village of Malta
Water System Improvements 2020
Project Location Map

