



# ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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JB PRITZKER, GOVERNOR

JOHN J. KIM, DIRECTOR

## Project Summary and Notice of Categorical Exclusion from Detailed Environmental Review

Date: *SEP 27, 2023*

Loan Applicant: Evanston

IEPA Loan Project Number: L176577

To all interested persons:

Section 662.330 of the Procedures for Issuing Loans from the Public Water Supply Loan Program requires that the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) publish a Notice of Categorical Exclusion for proposed drinking water projects which have little or no potential for causing negative environmental impacts related to their construction. Prior to granting its approval of the project plan, the Agency requires that the public be granted an opportunity to comment as to whether in fact the project should be precluded from the formal environmental review process and public hearing.

The IEPA has reviewed the above cited project plan and concurs with the applicant's finding that the proposed project is technically appropriate and cost effective. Unless new information provided through the public comment process causes reconsideration, the Agency will approve planning for this project at the close of the public comment period.

The applicant is required to publish a public notice that the Agency has issued the attached Notice of Intent to Issue a Categorical Exclusion. This document, along with the project plan, must be made available for public inspection, allowing 10 days for public comment. During this comment period, written comments may be provided to the applicant or directly to the IEPA contact person identified in the attached document.

For information purposes only, a copy of this document is being provided to your local newspaper of record.

Your interest and participation in this process are appreciated.

Sincerely,

Gary Bingenheimer, P.E.

Manager

Infrastructure Financial Assistance Section

Bureau of Water

GB: lc, evanston 1176577 drinking water catex 021522.docx

### Attachment

2125 S. First Street, Champaign, IL 61820 (217) 278-5800  
1101 Eastport Plaza Dr., Suite 100, Collinsville, IL 62234 (618) 346-5120  
9511 Harrison Street, Des Plaines, IL 60016 (847) 294-4000  
595 S. State Street, Elgin, IL 60123 (847) 608-3131

2309 W. Main Street, Suite 116, Marion, IL 62959 (618) 993-7200  
412 SW Washington Street, Suite D, Peoria, IL 61602 (309) 671-3022  
4302 N. Main Street, Rockford, IL 61103 (815) 987-7760

## **Project Summary and Notice of Intent to Issue a Categorical Exclusion**

In accordance with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) Loan Rules, Title 35, Subtitle F, Chapter II, Part 662.330 (State Environmental Review), the IEPA has determined that the proposed project, described below, may be excluded from a detailed environmental impacts review. The Agency may categorically exclude certain types of projects from environmental review if no potential for negative environmental impacts exists. This project qualifies for a Categorical Exclusion due to being constructed in a previously disturbed area located near or in the location of the existing water treatment plant.

This report is based on information submitted to the IEPA by the City of Evanston. Sources of information include the following documents: Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Public Water Supply Loan Program, Project Plan, Water Plant 4160V Electrical System Reliability Project prepared by the City of Evanston dated March 10, 2023.

### **Part I – Project Information**

**Project Name:** Water Plant 4160V Electrical System Reliability Project

**Loan Applicant:** City of Evanston

**County:** Cook

**Project Number:** L176577

**Current Population:** 504,000

**Future Population (20 year):** 549,000

**Project Description:** The City of Evanston is located in Cook County on Lake Michigan and just north of Chicago. Evanston operates and maintains a water system that serves the City of Evanston and additionally provides water service to customers in the Village of Skokie, Lincolnwood, Morton Grove-Niles Water Commission (Morton Grove and Niles) and the communities within the Northwest Water Commission, which consist of Arlington Heights, Buffalo Grove, Palatine, Wheeling, and Des Plaines. The City is responsible for providing water to over 504,000 total customers.

This project will include the following items:

- Decommission the 500 kW natural gas driven generator and 250 kW diesel driven trailer mounted generator and provide adequate new standby power to the water plant.
- Replace equipment related to the Medium Voltage (4160V) system located in the Transformer Room which includes a switchgear, transformers, pump starter units, cables, conductors, conduits, and a new 4160 connection point.
- Expand Garage 4 to maintain existing garage space.

- Upgrade miscellaneous distribution system items throughout the Water Plant to increase electrical reliability. This will include panel replacement, additional electrical metering, and uninterruptable power supply (UPS) systems replacement.
- Install SCADA Integration.
- Complete an Arc Flash Safety Program update and switchgear maintenance.

**Project Location:** This project will be completed at the Water Treatment Plant for Evanston located at 555 Lincoln Street Evanston, Illinois. See attached map for project location.

**Project Justification:** The medium voltage switchgear located in the Transformer Room (built in 1964) and both generators are beyond their useful life and need to be replaced. In addition, the generators are undersized for current and future demands of the system. This project will install new and replace electrical equipment to maintain and improve the reliability of the water treatment plant's electrical system.

**Estimated Construction Start Date:** June 1, 2024

**Estimated Construction Completion Date:** June 1, 2027

**Project Cost Estimate:** \$11,953,000.00

## **Part II – Project Affordability for Residents and Utility Customers**

The applicant is proposing to finance the project costs with a loan from the Public Water Supply Loan Program (PWSLP). A \$11,953,000.00 loan with an estimated interest rate of 1.81% for a twenty (20) year period, would have an annual repayment of approximately \$712,783.00. The interest rate adjusts annually on July 1st. All loans are subject to the interest rate in effect at the time a loan agreement is issued. A rate increase is not necessary to repay the loan.

**Source of Loan Repayment:** User fees

**Current Average Monthly Residential Cost of Service:** \$23.09

**Projected Average Monthly Residential Cost of Service:** \$24.32 (Increase not related to this project)

**Average Monthly Residential Water Use:** 15.3 Bi-monthly or 7.7 CCF (100 cubic feet) or 5,760 gallons monthly

**Number of Customers or Service Connections:** 10,912 (City of Evanston alone)

**How is the monthly residential rate/cost of service calculated?** Customers are billed bi-monthly for potable water. The proposed rate increase shown in this Categorical Exclusion is due to Evanston's Lead Service Line Replacement Program and is not related to this project.

Minimum charge for 5 CCF is \$11.88 with an additional use of water being \$3.33 per 1 CCF.

For the average user, this calculates to:

$10.3 \times \$3.33 = \$34.30$ , so  $\$11.88 + \$34.30 = \$46.18/2 = \$23.09$  monthly

**Median Household Income (MHI):** \$87,345.00

**Percentage of MHI needed to pay the projected average annual residential cost of service:**  
0.33%

**Financial evaluation of the proposed project:** To evaluate the costs of the proposed project for the community, a percentage comparison of the MHI to the average, annual cost for water service is utilized. The MHI listed above is from the current fiscal year's census information. The proposed annual water cost of \$291.84 is 0.33% of the MHI for the area. The percentage is for comparison only and has no impact on whether a project qualifies for funding from the IEPA. The percentage comparison and MHI are two of several criteria used to determine whether a loan project qualifies for interest rate reductions or principal forgiveness.

**Public comments are invited on the proposed project. For further information contact:**

Lanina Clark, Project Manager  
Infrastructure Financial Assistance Section  
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
Bureau of Water  
P.O. Box 19276  
1021 North Grand Avenue East  
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276  
(217)782-2027

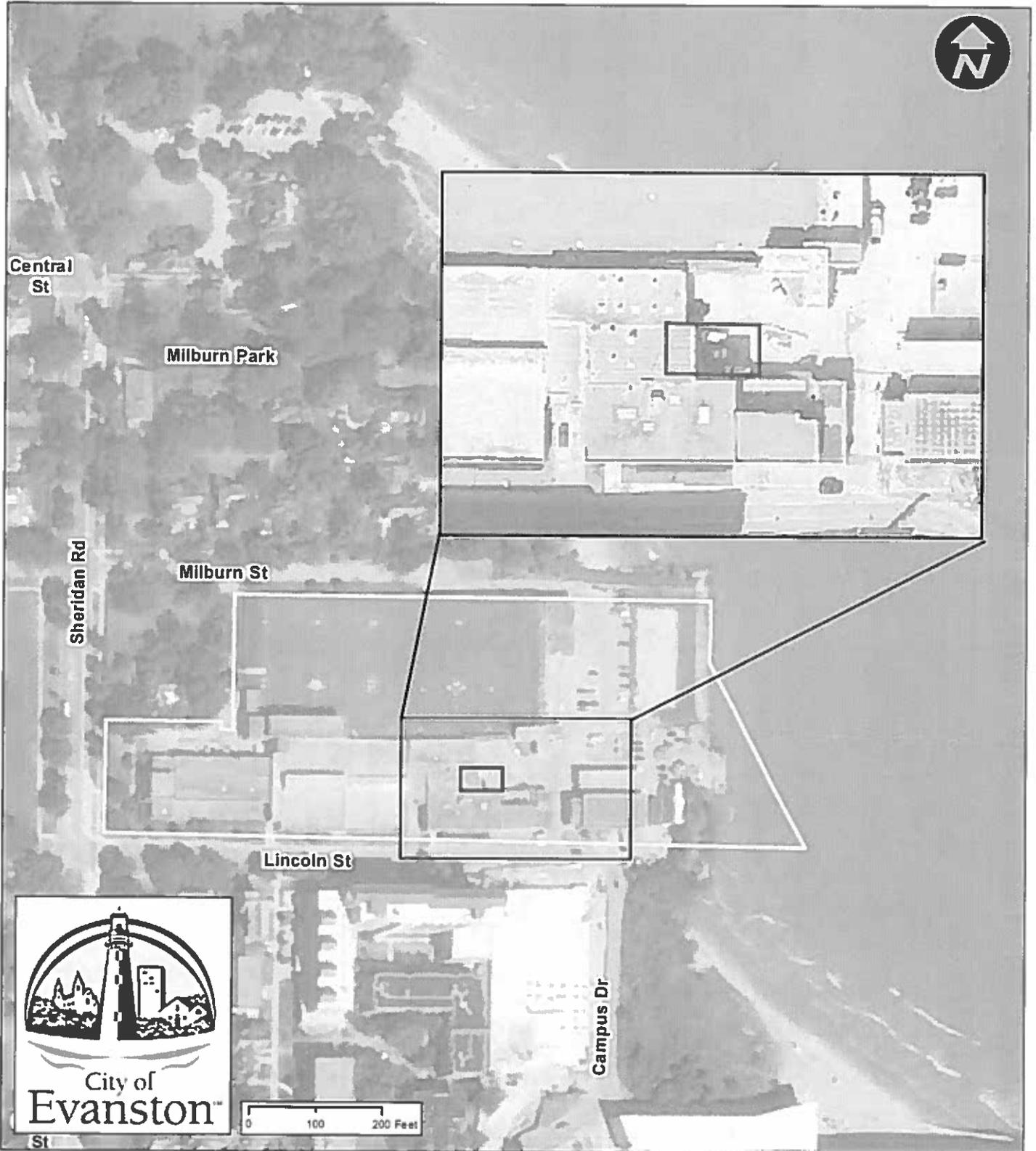
# Project Location

## LEGEND



Project Location

Water Treatment Plant Parcel



# National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMette

87°40'47"W 42°3'58"N



## Legend

SEE FIS REPORT FOR DETAILED LEGEND AND INDEX MAP FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT

<b>SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS</b>	Without Base Flood Elevation (BFE) <i>Zone A, VE, A99</i>
	With BFE or Depth <i>Zone AE, AO, AH, VE, AR</i>
	Regulatory Floodway
<b>OTHER AREAS OF FLOOD HAZARD</b>	0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard, Areas of 1% annual chance flood with average depth less than one foot or with drainage areas of less than one square mile <i>Zone X</i>
	Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard <i>Zone X</i>
	Area with Reduced Flood Risk due to Levee. See Notes. <i>Zone X</i>
	Area with Flood Risk due to Levee <i>Zone B</i>
<b>OTHER AREAS</b>	NO SCREEN Area of Minimal Flood Hazard <i>Zone X</i>
	Effective LOMRs
<b>GENERAL STRUCTURES</b>	Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard <i>Zone B</i>
	Channel, Culvert, or Storm Sewer Levee, Dike, or Floodwall
<b>OTHER FEATURES</b>	Cross Sections with 1% Annual Chance Water Surface Elevation
	Coastal Transect
	Base Flood Elevation Line (BFE)
	Limit of Study
	Jurisdiction Boundary
	Coastal Transect Baseline
	Profile Baseline
	Hydrographic Feature
<b>MAP PANELS</b>	Digital Data Available
	No Digital Data Available
	Unmapped

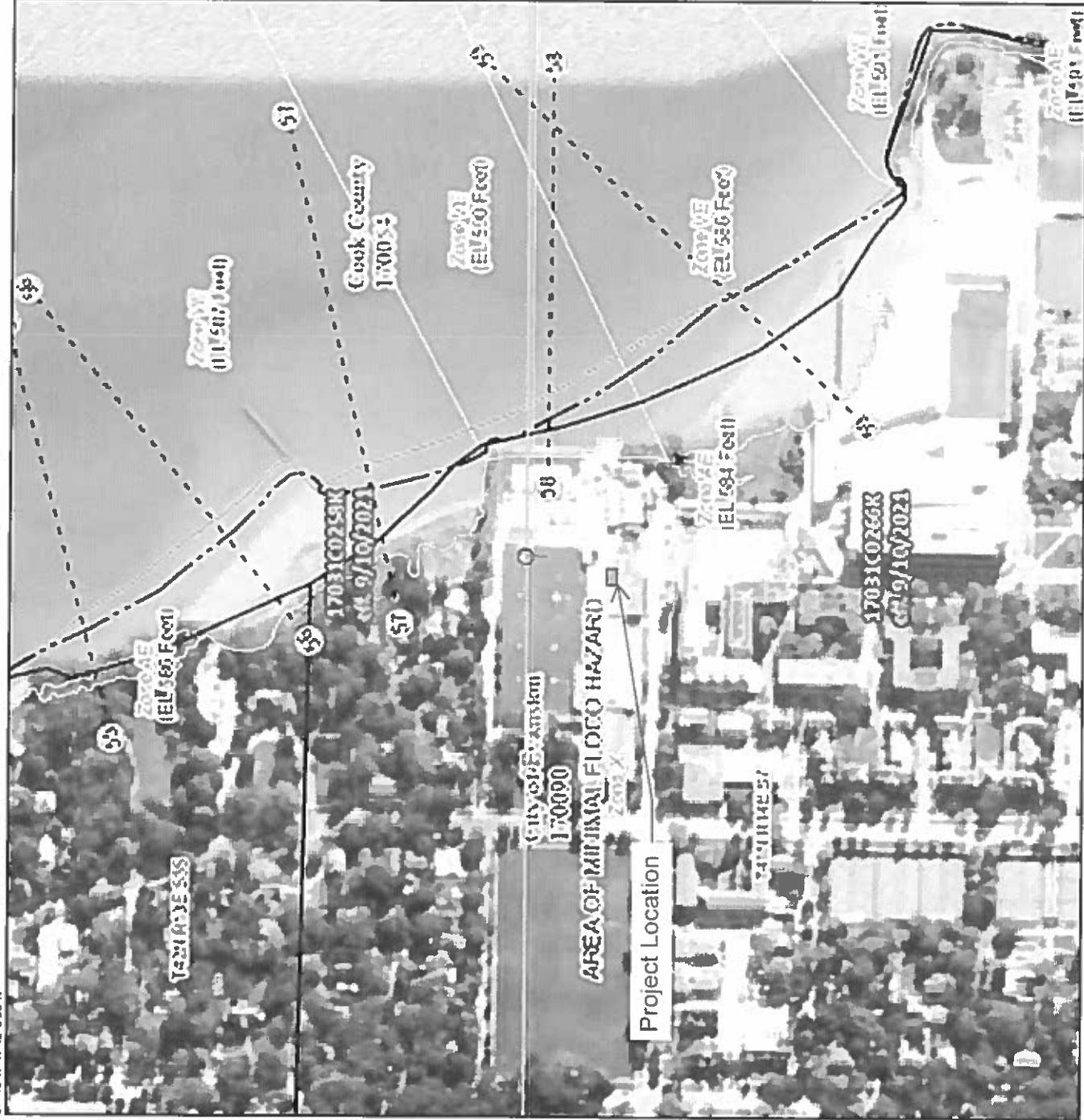


The pin displayed on the map is an approximate point selected by the user and does not represent an authoritative property location.

This map complies with FEMA's standards for the use of digital flood maps if it is not void as described below. The basemap shown complies with FEMA's basemap accuracy standards.

The flood hazard information is derived directly from the authoritative NFHL web services provided by FEMA. This map was exported on 2/1/2023 at 12:37 PM and does not reflect changes or amendments subsequent to this date and time. The NFHL and effective information may change or become superseded by new data over time.

This map image is void if the one or more of the following map elements do not appear: basemap imagery, flood zone labels, legend, scale bar, map creation date, community identifiers, FIRM panel number, and FIRM effective date. Map images for unmapped and unmodernized areas cannot be used for regulatory purposes.



1:6,000

Basemap: USGS National Imagery Orthorectification; Data refreshed October, 2020

# National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMette

87°40'47"W 42°3'58"N



## Legend

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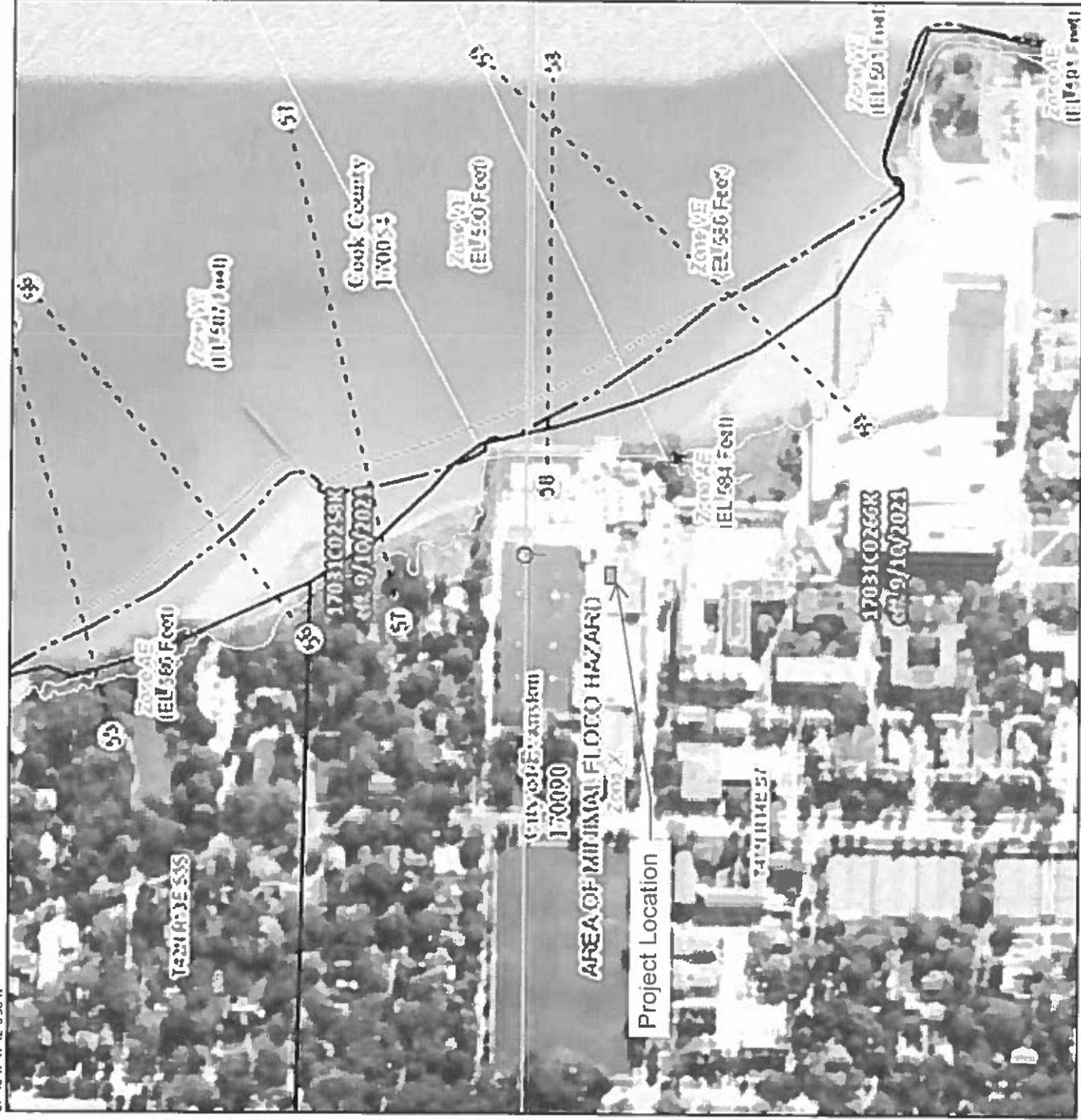
<b>SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS</b>	Without Base Flood Elevation (BFE) <i>Zone A, VE, A99</i>
	With BFE or Depth <i>Zone AE, AO, AH, VE, AR</i> Regulatory Floodway
<b>OTHER AREAS OF FLOOD HAZARD</b>	0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard, Areas of 1% annual chance flood with average depth less than one foot or with drainage areas of less than one square mile <i>Zone X</i> Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard <i>Zone X</i> Area with Reduced Flood Risk due to Levee. See Notes. <i>Zone X</i> Area with Flood Risk due to Levee <i>Zone D</i>
<b>OTHER AREAS</b>	NO SCREEN Area of Minimal Flood Hazard <i>Zone X</i> Effective LOMRs <i>Zone D</i> Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard <i>Zone D</i>
<b>GENERAL STRUCTURES</b>	Channel, Culvert, or Storm Sewer Levee, Dike, or Floodwall
<b>OTHER FEATURES</b>	Cross Sections with 1% Annual Chance Water Surface Elevation Coastal Transect Base Flood Elevation Line (BFE) Limit of Study Jurisdiction Boundary Coastal Transect Baseline Profile Baseline Hydrographic Feature
<b>MAP PANELS</b>	Digital Data Available No Digital Data Available Unmapped

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0 250 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Feet  
1:6,000  
Basemap: USGS National Imagery Orthorectification; Data refreshed October, 2020  
87°40'10"W 42°3'31"N