

Protecting Our Water Environment



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

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TARP STATUS REPORT AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2025

This report presents construction progress, cost, and State/Federal grant and revolving loan funding information on the Tunnel and Reservoir Plan (TARP). Figures 1 through 4 are maps showing TARP facilities, and Tables I through III contain data on TARP contracts. Project reference numbers appearing in Table II correspond to the numbers shown on Figures 2, 3, and 4.

TARP Phase I

TARP, or “Deep Tunnel,” was selected in 1972 as the Chicago area’s plan for cost-effectively complying with Federal and State water quality standards with respect to the approximately 360 square mile combined sewer area consisting of Chicago and 51 suburbs. TARP’s main goals are to protect Lake Michigan – the region’s drinking water supply - from raw sewage pollution; improve the water quality of area rivers and streams; and provide an outlet for floodwaters to reduce street and basement sewage backup flooding. TARP Phase I projects are primarily for pollution control. These projects capture and enable treatment of about 85% of the combined sewer overflow (CSO) pollution from TARP’s service area. TARP Phase I includes 110 miles of deep, large diameter, rock tunnels. Construction of TARP Phase I was completed in 2006 and the entire system is now in operation. The table below summarizes the tunnel system.

TARP SYSTEM	TUNNEL LENGTH	TUNNEL VOLUME	TUNNEL DIAMETER
Mainstream	40.5 mi.	1,200 MG	8 to 33 ft.
Calumet	36.7 mi.	630 MG	9 to 30 ft.
O’Hare (UDP)	6.6 mi.	70 MG	9 to 20 ft.
Des Plaines	26.6 mi.	420 MG	10 to 33 ft.
TOTALS	110.4 mi.	2,320 MG	8 to 33 ft.

TARP Phase II/CUP

TARP Phase II/CUP consists of reservoirs intended primarily for flood control for the Chicagoland combined sewer area, but it will also considerably enhance pollution control benefits being provided under Phase I. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Chicagoland Underflow Plan (CUP), Final Phase I General Design Memorandum of 1986 defined the Federal interest in TARP Phase II based on the Federal National Economic Development Plan criteria. The three reservoirs proposed under TARP Phase II/CUP are the Gloria Alitto Majewski Reservoir, the Thornton Reservoir, and the McCook Reservoir.

Gloria Alitto Majewski Reservoir

As the local sponsor of TARP Phase II/CUP, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (District) acquired land rights for the reservoir. The USACE designed and constructed the reservoir, which was completed in 1998. The District has since assumed its operation, and to date the reservoir has captured roughly 8 billion gallons of combined sewage and prevented flood damages in the three communities it serves.

Thornton Reservoir

On September 18, 2003, the USACE and the District signed a Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) for the construction of the Thornton Reservoir. Under the agreement, the Corps would construct the reservoir, and the District would assume operational responsibility. However, due to inadequate USACE funding and the urgent need for the reservoir to become operational, the District assumed responsibility for its design and construction in June 2004. The District is pursuing reimbursement of funds through the Water Resources Development Act.

The Thornton Reservoir was constructed in two stages. The first stage, a temporary flood control reservoir called the Thornton Transitional Reservoir (TTR), was completed in March 2003 in the West Lobe of the Thornton Quarry. The TTR provided overbank flood relief for nine communities and captured more than 58 billion gallons of floodwater during 83 fill events. It was decommissioned in September 2022, following the installation of the east plug in the Thorn Creek Diversion Tunnel.

The second stage is the permanent combined Thornton Reservoir, constructed in the North Lobe of the Thornton Quarry. It provides 7.9 billion gallons of storage: 4.8 billion gallons for water collected via the Calumet TARP Tunnels and 3.1 billion gallons for Thorn Creek overflow floodwaters. In accordance with a 1998 agreement, a local mining company completed the Thornton Reservoir excavation in 2013. Construction continued, and the reservoir became operational at the end of 2015. The Thorn Creek Overflow Tunnel was connected to the Thornton Reservoir in September 2022, directing storm flows from Thorn Creek and completing the system.

The Thornton Reservoir benefits 556,000 people in 14 communities. Since becoming operational, it has prevented approximately 65 billion gallons of combined sewage from entering local waterways.

McCook Reservoir

A PCA with the USACE was signed on May 10, 1999, for the construction of the McCook Reservoir. The USACE is responsible for designing and constructing the reservoir features, and the District is responsible for providing the massive hole for the reservoir. Several construction contracts were completed by the USACE to turn the hole into a reservoir, including construction of a groundwater cutoff wall and grout curtain around the reservoir perimeter, a construction shaft for the connecting tunnel, stabilization of rock highwalls, stabilization of soil and construction of retaining walls, distribution tunnels between the reservoir and the pumping station, main tunnels to connect the reservoir to the existing Mainstream Tunnel, the Final Reservoir Prep Contract to complete the distribution tunnel connection to the reservoir and install an aeration system, and addition of pumps and motors at the pumping station.

In October 2003, the District signed an agreement with a local mining company to mine out the limestone to the limits of the McCook Reservoir. The District completed several contracts to connect the quarry to the reservoir site and procure and construct required mining equipment to crush and convey the rock to the quarry for processing. Overburden removal was completed in 2015. Full production mining at the site began in March 2008 and is expected to take approximately 20 years. In order to receive the partial benefits of Stage 1 sooner, the reservoir was planned to be mined and constructed in two stages. Mining of Stage 1 was completed in 2016, and the first stage of the reservoir was made operational at the end of 2017, providing 3.5 billion gallons for storage of combined sewage. Since becoming operational, Stage 1 of the McCook Reservoir has captured approximately 138 billion gallons of combined sewage.

With Stage 1 now operational, Stage 2 construction will continue over the next several years while mining progresses. In 2006, the District decided to expand the federally-authorized 3.5 billion gallon capacity of Stage 2 of the reservoir to 6.5 billion gallons. Stage 2 of the reservoir is currently being mined and is approximately 72% excavated, and is expected to be operational in 2032. The completed McCook Reservoir is estimated to provide more than \$175 million per year in benefits to 3.1 million people in 37 communities. Reservoir storage volumes are presented in the table below.

PHASE II/CUP RESERVOIR	VOLUME (in billion gallons)
Majewski	0.35
Thornton	4.8 *
McCook	10.0
TOTAL STORAGE	15.15

* Does not include portion designated for non-TARP overbank flood relief.

TARP/CUP Costs

Current TARP/CUP costs, details of which are provided in Tables I through III, are summarized as follows:

(A) Phase I Tunnels & Appurtenant Facilities (Construction Costs)		
(1)	Completed	\$2,332,000,000
(2)	Remaining	\$ 0
	Total Tunnels & Appurtenant Facilities	\$2,332,000,000
(B) Phase II/CUP Reservoirs (Total Project Costs)		
(1)	<u>Majewski Reservoir:</u>	
	Completed	\$ 45,000,000
	Remaining	\$ 0
	Sub-Total Majewski Reservoir	\$ 45,000,000
(2)	<u>Thornton Reservoir:</u>	
	Completed/Under Construction	\$ 450,000,000
	Remaining	\$ 0
	Sub-Total Thornton Reservoir	\$ 450,000,000
(3)	<u>McCook Reservoir:</u>	
	Completed/Under Construction	\$1,024,000,000
	Remaining	\$ 7,000,000
	Sub-Total McCook Reservoir	\$1,031,000,000
	Total Reservoirs	\$1,526,000,000
	Total Tunnel and Reservoir Plan	\$3,858,000,000

Very truly yours,

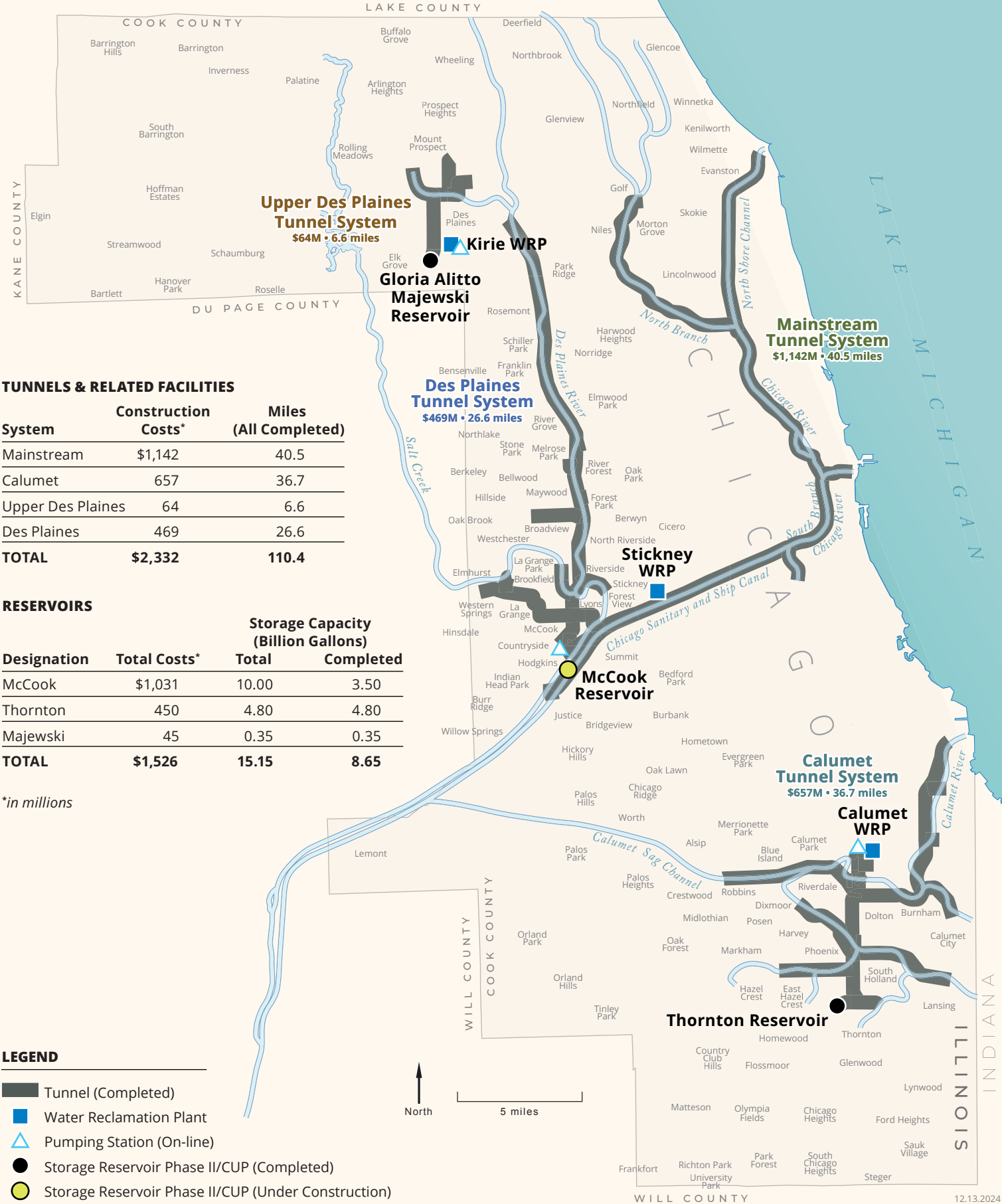
Catherine A. O'Connor
Director of Engineering

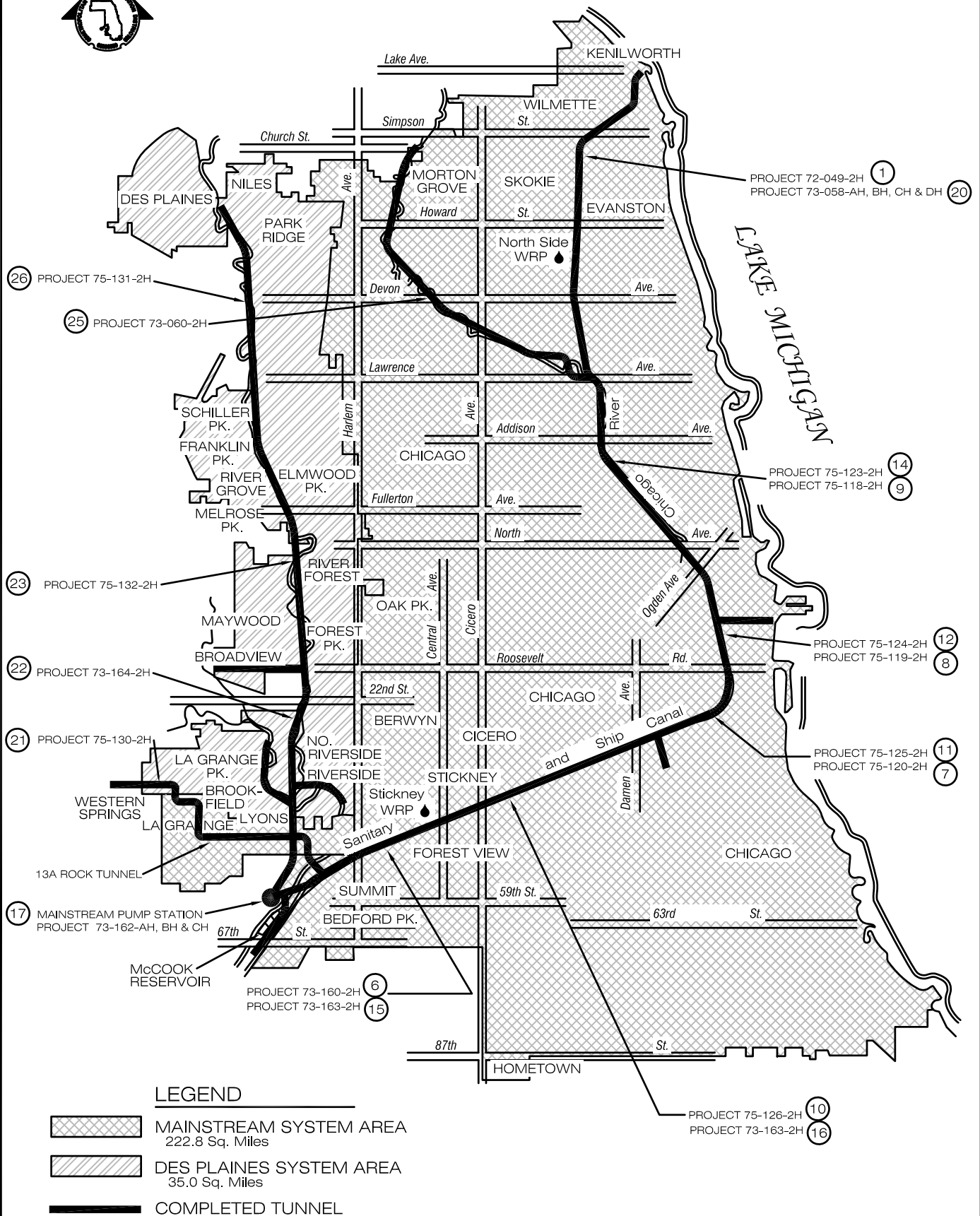
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Attachments



TUNNEL and RESERVOIR PLAN PROJECT STATUS

Figure 1

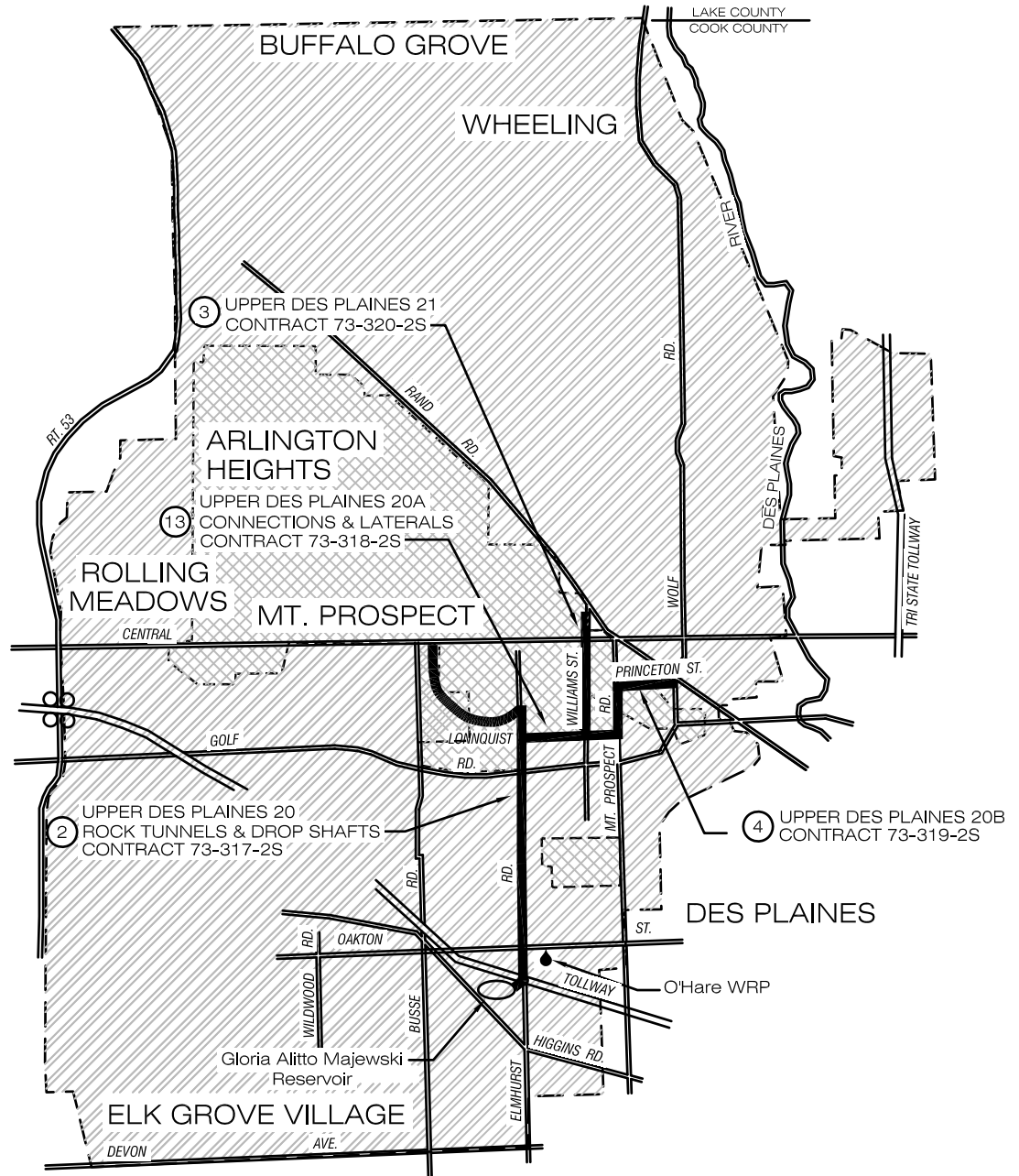







TARP - MAINSTREAM and DES PLAINES SYSTEMS

METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION
DISTRICT OF GREATER CHICAGO
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
TARP & PROJECT SUPPORT KMF:JJK

Figure 2



LEGEND

-  COMPLETED TUNNEL
-  Kirie WRP Service Area
-  Upper Des Plaines TARP Service Area

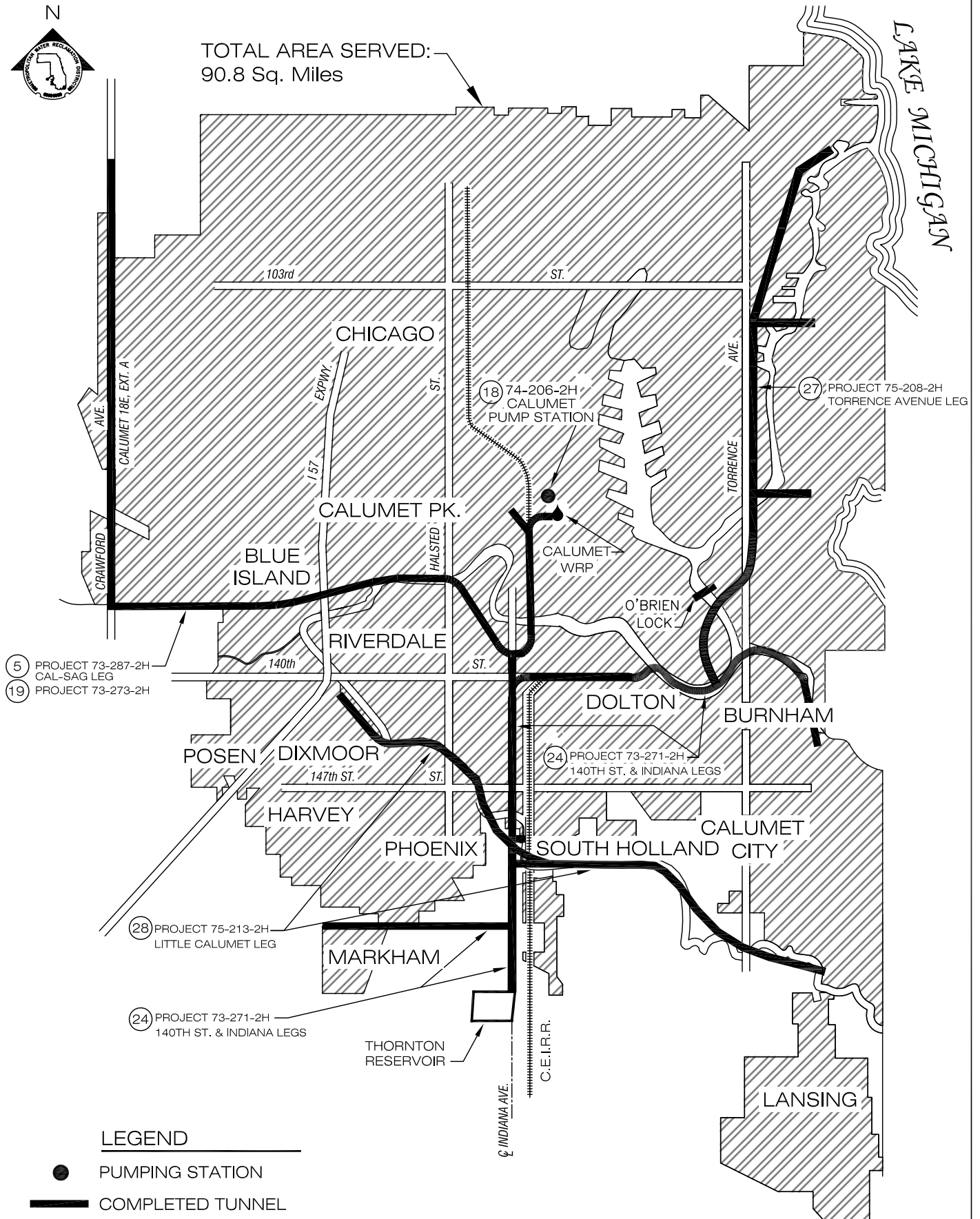
TARP - UPPER DES PLAINES (O'HARE) SYSTEM

METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION
DISTRICT OF GREATER CHICAGO
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
TARP & PROJECT SUPPORT KMF:JJK

Figure 3



TOTAL AREA SERVED:
90.8 Sq. Miles



TARP - CALUMET SYSTEM

METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION
DISTRICT OF GREATER CHICAGO
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
TARP & PROJECT SUPPORT KMF:JJJ

Figure 4

TABLE I
TARP Phase I Funding

<i>TARP System</i>	<i>Construction Cost (1)</i>
<i>Mainstream</i>	<i>\$1,142</i>
<i>Calumet</i>	<i>\$657</i>
<i>Upper Des Plaines</i>	<i>\$64</i>
<i>Des Plaines</i>	<i>\$469</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$2,332</i>

(1) Costs are in millions and represent contract award costs and are not in today's dollars.

Additional TARP Phase 1 related contracts excluded from above for various reasons:

1. <i>Mainstream System Bulkhead Removal</i> <i>Contract (82-178-2H)</i>	<i>\$2,937,462</i>
2. <i>Mainstream System Groundwater</i> <i>Monitoring Wells-Contract (73-162-DH)</i>	<i>\$674,600</i>
3. <i>Calumet System Bulkhead Removal</i> <i>Contract (82-243-2H)</i>	<i>\$335,728</i>
4. <i>Calumet System Groundwater</i> <i>Monitoring Wells (Contract 74-206-BH)</i>	<i>\$128,900</i>
5. <i>Mainstream Pitney Ct. Sewer</i> <i>(Contract 75-120-KH)</i>	<i>\$278,856</i>
6. <i>Mainstream Drop Shafts-Installation</i> <i>of Louvers (Contract 85-122-2H)</i>	<i>\$496,600</i>
7. <i>Mainstream Side Gate Installation</i> <i>(Contract 86-131-2H)</i>	<i>\$673,000</i>
8. <i>S.W. 13-A Groundwater Monitoring Wells</i> <i>(Contract 73-172-2H)</i>	<i>\$27,750</i>
9. <i>Mainstream Oxygen Injection System</i> <i>(Contract 85-113-AM)</i>	<i>\$247,700</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>\$5,800,596</i>

TABLE II
TARP Phase I Contracts Completed

Ref. No. (1)	Project Name	Project Number	Contractor	Project Cost (2)
	<u>Mainstream System</u>			
1	Addison-Wilmette Tunnel	72-049-2H	Kenny-Paschen, S & M J.V.	\$63,140,480
6	59th to Central Tunnel	73-160-2H	Morrison-Knudsen, S & M, Paschen J.V.	\$86,493,975
7	Damen to Roosevelt Connecting Structures	75-120-2H	Awarded to Various Contractors	\$19,877,570
8	Roosevelt to Ogden Connecting Structures	75-119-2H	Awarded to Various Contractors	\$16,901,774
9	Ogden to Addison Connecting Structures	75-118-2H	Awarded to Various Contractors	\$11,162,159
10	Central to Damen Tunnel	75-126-2H	Healy, Ball, Horn J.V.	\$98,985,250
11	Damen to Roosevelt Tunnel	75-125-2H	Paschen, Morrison-Knudsen, Kenny J.V.	\$107,837,300
12	Roosevelt to Ogden Tunnel	75-124-2H	Shea Inc, P. Kiewit & Sons	\$101,970,680
14	Ogden to Addison Tunnel	75-123-2H	Ball, Healy, Horn J.V.	\$85,205,910
15,16	59th to Damen Connecting Structures	73-163-2H	Awarded to Various Contractors	\$26,440,052
17	Mainstream Pumping Station Part I	73-162-AH	P.Kiewit & Sons, J F Shea, Kenny Cnstr J.V.	\$168,811,300
17	Mainstream Pumping Station Part II (3)	73-162-BH	Healy, Ball, Grow Tunneling Corp J.V.	\$64,755,000
17	Mainstream Pumping Station Part III	73-162-CH	Morrison-Knudsen, Paschen Contractors J.V.	\$28,012,400
20	Addison-Wilmette Connecting Structures	73-058-AH	Granite Construction Co.	\$34,966,450
20	Addison-Wilmette Connecting Structures	73-058-BH	Granite Construction Co.	\$27,613,300
20	Addison-Wilmette Connecting Structures	73-058-CH	Kenny, Paschen J.V.	\$19,571,740
20	Addison-Wilmette Connecting Structures	73-058-DH	G H Ball Co, Dew & Sons J.V.	\$12,220,875

(1) Chronological order of awards

(2) Bid price

(3) 57th to 73rd Street Tunnel is included in this contract

TABLE II (cont.)

TARP Phase I Contracts Completed

Ref. No. (1)	Project Name	Project Number	Contractor	Project Cost (2)
25	<u>Mainstream System (cont.)</u> North Branch Chicago River, Tnl & Conn Str.	73-060-2H	Perini, ICA, O&G J.V.	\$167,907,130
2	<u>Upper Des Plaines System</u> Upper Des Plaines #20 Tunnel	73-317-2S	Healy, Ball, Greenfield J.V.	\$35,749,664
3	Upper Des Plaines #21 Tunnel	73-320-2S	McHugh Construction Co.	\$21,371,607
4	Upper Des Plaines #20B Tunnel	73-319-2S	Jay-Dee, Kenny J.V.	\$2,683,943
13	Upper Des Plaines #20A Connecting Structures	73-318-2S	Jay-Dee, Jay-Dee of Illinois	\$4,598,650
5	<u>Calumet System</u> Crawford to Calumet Plant Tunnel	73-287-2H	Traylor Bros, Ferrera & Resco, Inc J.V.	\$79,256,370
18	Calumet Tunnel And Pump Station	74-206-2H	Healy, Atlas-Gest International Inc J.V.	\$54,841,825
19	Crawford Ave to Calumet Plant Connecting Str.	73-273-2H	S. A. Healy Co	\$19,173,509
24	Calumet Tnl Sys, Tnl, Sfts, Con Str, 140th St & Ind	73-271-2H	Kenny, P Kiewit, Shea J.V.	\$194,530,500
27	Torrence Ave. Leg, Tunnels, Shfts & Conn Str.	75-208-2H	Kenny, P Kiewit, Shea J.V.	\$140,666,650
28	Little Calumet Leg, Tunnels, Shfts & Conn Str.	75-213-2H	Jay-Dee, Affholder J.V.	\$168,700,000
21	<u>Des Plaines System</u> 13A Ext. Tunnel, Shafts & Connecting Structures	75-130-2H	Kenny Construction Co.	\$23,292,759
22	59th to Cermak, Tunnel, Shafts, & Connecting Str.	73-164-2H	Morrison-Knudsen, Paschen Contractors J.V.	\$156,631,000
23	Cermak to Fullerton, Tnl, Sfts & Conn Struct.	75-132-2H	Impregilo, Ebasco, Losinger J.V	\$147,665,000
26	Fullerton to Prairie, Tnl, Sfts & Conn Struct.	75-131-2H	Kenny, P Kiewit, Shea J.V.	\$141,120,000
Total Phase I Contracts Completed:				\$2,332,154,822

(1) Chronological order of awards

(2) Bid price

TABLE III
TARP Phase II/CUP
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Chicagoland Underflow Plan (CUP)

<i>Project Name</i>	<i>Project Number</i>	<i>Design/Construction Status</i>	<i>Project Costs (4)</i>	<i>Funded by USACE</i>
Gloria Alitto Majewski Reservoir				
<i>I - USACE Contract</i>	73-315-2S	Construction completed in 1998	\$40,819,000	75%
<i>II - Betterments (1)</i>	93-339-2F	Construction completed in 1998	\$3,992,000	No
Thornton Reservoir				See Note 3
<i>I - Vincennes Avenue Relocation</i>	77-235-AF	Construction completed in 2001	\$4,398,000	
<i>II - Transitional Reservoir GW Monitoring Wells</i>	77-235-CF	Construction completed in 2002	\$529,000	
<i>III - Transitional Reservoir (2)</i>	77-235-BF	Construction completed in 2003	\$54,707,000	
<i>IV - Mining, Land, and Corps Costs</i>	77-235-2F	Mining completed in 2013	\$65,210,000	
<i>V - Tollway Dam and Grout Curtain</i>	04-201-4F	Construction Completed in 2015	\$80,750,000	
<i>VI - TARP Inlet/Outlet Tunnels and Gates</i>	04-202-4F	Construction Completed in 2015	\$147,000,000	
<i>VII - Final Reservoir Preparation</i>	04-203-4F	Construction Completed in 2015	\$63,479,000	
<i>VIII - Surface Aeration</i>	04-203-AF	Construction Completed in 2017	\$1,921,000	
<i>IX - Decommissioning the Thornton Transitional Reservoir</i>	15-266-4H5	Construction Completed in 2023	\$25,979,000	No
<i>X - Thornton Rock Dam Treatment and Geotechnical Instrumentation</i>	21-260-4H	Construction Completed in 2023	\$6,101,000	No
McCook Reservoir				
<i>I - Stages 1 and 2 - USACE Contracts, land and engineering</i>	73-161-2H	Stage 1 completed in 2017, Stage 2 underway	\$615,937,000	75%
<i>II - Site Preparation, Lagoons 1-10</i>	73-161-BH	Construction completed in 2000	\$889,000	\$307,000 Credited
<i>III - 73rd Street Tunnel Relocation</i>	97-156-2H	Construction completed in 2002	\$15,132,000	Credited
<i>IV - Willow Springs Berm</i>	96-249-2P	Construction completed in 2002	\$3,593,000	No
<i>V - Vulcan Primary Crusher Furnish and Deliver</i>	PO3030920	Crusher Purchased in 2005	\$1,626,000	No
<i>VI - Conveyance Tunnel</i>	73-161-AH	Construction completed in 2006	\$5,428,000	No
<i>VII - Vulcan Mining Trucks and Loaders</i>	73-161-HH	Vehicles delivered in 2007	\$11,105,000	No
<i>VIII - Vulcan Miscellaneous Mining Vehicles</i>	73-161-GH	Vehicles delivered in 2007 and 2008	\$4,409,000	No
<i>IX - Conveyance System and Maintenance Facilities</i>	73-161-FH	Construction completed in 2008	\$32,381,000	\$1.84 M Credited
<i>X - LASMA Overburden Removal</i>	73-161-CH	Construction completed in 2010	\$66,316,000	No
<i>XI - Vulcan Rock Mining Hard Costs Less Royalty</i>	73-161-EH	Mining Stage 2 underway	\$81,585,000	No
<i>XII - Stage 2 Misc. Overburden Removal</i>	73-161-JH	Construction completed in 2012	\$6,510,000	No
<i>XIII - Expanded Stage 2 Overburden Removal</i>	73-161-DH	Construction completed in 2016	\$18,743,000	No
<i>XIV - Des Plaines Inflow Tunnel</i>	13-106-4F	Construction completed in 2022	\$109,906,000	No
<i>XV - Expanded Stage 2 Slope Stabilization</i>	16-125-4F	Construction completed in 2019	\$8,897,000	No
<i>XVI - McCook Reservoir Stage 2 Rock Wall Stabilization</i>	17-131-4FR	Construction completed in 2025	\$21,862,000	53%
<i>XVII - McCook Reservoir Stage 2 Final Reservoir Prep</i>	17-132-4F	Future	\$24,796,000	69%
<i>XVIII - Professional Services for Geotechnical Work with McCook & Thornton Reservoirs</i>	19-151-4C	Underway	\$1,491,000	75%
Total Project Cost			\$1,525,491,000	

(1) Betterment includes a control building, reservoir outflow control gates, and monitoring system.

(2) Cost shown is total cost of Transitional Reservoir. Facilities re-used for the Thornton Reservoir account for \$30,337,000 of the cost.

(3) The District designed and constructed the Thornton Reservoir in anticipation of receiving reimbursement or credits from the Corps.

(4) Includes land, engineering, and construction costs.