SUGAR CREEK JOINT COUNTY PETITION No. 162

Ottawa, Sandusky, and Wood Counties

FINAL HEARING
ENGINEER'S REPORT

At the First Hearing, the joint board of county commissioners approved the project to continue, the approved project location is as follows. The proposed project begins at the bridge on T.R. 115, in or near the center of Section 2 in T5N and R13E, Woodville Township, Sandusky County, Ohio, approx. 1,283 ft. east of the intersection of T.R. 93 and T.R. 115; thence heading in a northerly direction for approx. 7,955 ft. before crossing U.S. Route 20 and heading in a northeasterly direction for approx. 8,098 ft. until crossing T.R. 56; thence continually heading in a northeasterly direction for approx. 4,905 ft. until crossing T.R. 62; thence at approx. 245 ft. exits Sandusky County through Section 25, Woodville Twp. and entering into Section 24, in T6N and R13E, Harris Township, Ottawa County, Ohio; thence heading into a northeasterly direction for approx. 3,937 ft. until crossing S.R. 51; thence heading in a northeasterly direction for approx. 2,316 ft. until crossing the Ohio Turnpike; thence heading in a northerly direction for approx. 2,638 ft. until crossing T.R. 48; thence heading into an easterly direction for approx. 1,386 ft. until crossing the North Coast Inland Bike Path; thence heading in a northeasterly direction on the southeastern side of Elmore, Ohio for approx. 2,621 ft. until crossing T.R. 47; thence heading in a northeasterly direction for approx. 1,528 ft. until crossing Elmore Eastern Rd. (C.R. 6); thence continuing in a northeasterly direction for approx. 4,987 ft. until crossing T.R. 46; thence following along the north side of T.R. 151, in a northeasterly direction, for approx. 8,062 ft. until crossing T.R. 45; thence continuing along the north side of T.R. 151 for approx. 3,839 ft. until crossing T.R. 18; thence continuing for approx. 55 ft. until terminating into the Portage River, Section 10, Harris Township, T6N R14E, Ottawa County, Ohio.

The total petitioned portion of Sugar Creek is approximately 10.36 miles long and drains approximately 40,000 acres of farm ground and residential lots between Wood, Sandusky, and Ottawa Counties. The petition as-filed pursuant to ORC 6131.01 (C) (4), requests an improvement for the removal of obstructions such as silt bars, log jams, debris, and drift from the creek to make the channel adequate to serve its watershed as-is reasonable and feasible. The section petitioned flows mostly through wooded areas of Sandusky and Ottawa Counties.

It is the opinion of the engineers the existing conditions of the creek are not adequate to carry the water as stated in the prayer of the petition. Upon the project's completion, Sugar Creek will flow naturally into the Portage River, efficiently carrying away water from agricultural runoff and alleviating standing water. This will also enhance the overall drainage for the entire watershed.

In accordance with the petition, the proposed improvements to Sugar Creek will focus on removing log jams, debris, and other obstructions. Brush will be cleared, disposed of and removed from at least one side of the creek, creating at least a 10-foot-wide maintenance path including any leaning trees. This maintenance path will be seeded to support future maintenance work. Any damaged drainage tiles will be extended, fixed and fitted with animal guards. Additionally, riprap will be placed in areas prone to erosion to mitigate its effects. It is important to emphasize this project is primarily for logjam and debris removal, with minimal excavation during construction, ensuring minimal disruption to the creek and its natural habitat satisfying The Ohio Department

of Natural Resources (ODNR) recommendations. It is the opinion of the engineers that upon removal of the logjams and debris, the improvement in the hydraulic flow of the channel will alleviate the existing silt bar obstructions. A contingency item has been added to the project to remove any silt bars impeding the flow in the channel.

The proposed project right-of-way widths shall be in accordance with Sections 6131.14 and 6137.12 of the Ohio Revised Code. The construction right-of-way shall be the minimum width necessary to accomplish the work. For future maintenance, the permanent right-of-way shall be 25 feet from the top of the bank on at least one side of the creek or as shown on the plans. The permanent maintenance length shall be a total of approximately 54,750 feet or 10.36 miles as described on the project plans.

The estimated total cost for the project is $670,000.00, which includes the construction cost ($569,444.00), the contingency fund ($35,056.00), the Commissioners' expense ($10,000.00), first year's maintenance ($20,000.00), and the engineering cost ($35,500.00).

While preparing the assessments for this project, much consideration was given to account for all property owners who have been paying assessments for the other two previous Sugar Creek petition projects. The majority of the affected property owners will only be paying a minimal assessment of $25. The number of acres, the type of land used, the percentage of project used or how much of the channel your property is using, and a remote factor used for properties upstream or south of this project were all considered when calculating these assessments. The estimated assessments sent to property owners are based on *estimated* costs. Final assessments would be based on *actual* costs and cannot exceed the estimated assessments.

It is the opinion of the County Engineers the proposed project is feasible, it is conducive to the public welfare, there is a sufficient outlet, and the benefits will exceed the cost.

Respectfully submitted,

P.E., P.S. 12/9/2025

Daniel Toris, Jr., P.E., P.S. Ottawa County Engineer Date:

12/09/2025

Carlos A. Baez Sr., P.E., P.S. Sandusky County Engineer Date:

11 DEC 2025

John M. Musteric, P.E., P.S. Wood County Engineer Date: