

Jeffrey W. Cown, Director

Watershed Protection Branch

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NOTICE OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS, AND PERSONS

The Bryan County Board of Commissioners has made an application to the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division (EPD) for a grant through the State Fiscal Recovery Fund (SFRF). The grant is for the water system improvements to provide additional water supply and transmission infrastructure to serve new industries and development in the surrounding region located in North Bryan County. The applicant has certified that the project is environmentally sound. As required by the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act and the State Environmental Review Process (SERP) Guidelines, an environmental review has been performed on the project described below:

Project Name: Bryan-Bulloch Regional Water Supply and Transmission

System

Project Location: Bryan County, Georgia

Project Number: GA-0005950

Project Description

Under this project, the Bryan – Bulloch Regional Water Supply and Transmission system will construct 88,300 LF of new water mains, five (5) new wells (The wells will be located along GA Highway 46 and on a parcel just south of Highway in Bulloch County through portions of Bryan County where a private drive merges with US Highway 80), one new elevated water storage tank, two (2) new booster pump stations (#1 located on Hwy 80 and the #2 on Old Cuyler Road) and a flow meter station. The water transmission system will be located on GA Highway 46 in Bulloch County, and US highway 80, Old Cuyler Road, and within Interstate 16 Mega-Site in Bryan County. The proposed project will provide water service for the Interstate 16 Mega-Site and additional future development adjacent to the Interstate 16.

Anticipated Impacts

The proposed project will have minimal impact on the environment as construction will be limited to the existing project site. The proposed water main route along GA Highway 46 in Bulloch County, and Old Cuyler Road in Bryan County, will cross forested and non-forested wetlands. It is anticipated that the wetlands will be crossed via horizontal directional drill (HDD) method to eliminate disturbances.

There are two previously recorded archaeological sites located within the project area. One site is a late nineteenth to early twentieth century artifact scatter that was recommended not eligible for the NRHP while the other site is an unknown pre-contact lithic scatter whose NRHP status is unknown. Additionally, seven previously recorded archeological sites are located within a 1.0-km radius of the project area. These sites include six artifact scatters and a cemetery. All seven previously recorded sites have been recommended not eligible for the NRHP. No adverse impacts to cultural, historical and archeological resources are anticipated.

A review of the Engineering Report and Environmental Information Document for the proposed project has been performed by EPD's Drinking Water Permitting and Engineering Program. A copy of these documents is available for public examination upon request at EPD between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The addresses where a copy is available are listed below.

During the development and design of this project, the Bryan County has solicited public input. The project has undergone an Executive Order 12372 Review through the State agencies. The project has also been submitted to the Corps of Engineers, the State Historic Preservation Office, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for review. No adverse comments have been received. No further environmental review of the project is proposed to be conducted prior to the release of loan funds.

All interested agencies, groups, and persons supporting or disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments, within thirty (30) days of the issuance date of this notice to:

Georgia Environmental Protection Division ATTN: Duplex Tchinda, Environmental Engineer Drinking Water Program 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE - Suite 1052 East Atlanta, Georgia 30334-9000

After evaluating all comments received, EPD will make a final decision regarding the approval of the project planning documents. No administrative action will be taken on the project for thirty (30) calendar days after issuance of this Notice.

Issue Date: _4/29/2024 _____

Manny Patel
Drinking Water Program Manager
Watershed Protection Branch
Georgia Environmental Protection Division