**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION** 

Jeffrey W. Cown, Director

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CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION Cairo Water Pollution Control Plant Improvements City of Cairo (Grady County) GEFA Loan No. CW-2024-001

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has conducted a review of the above project in accordance with the State's Environmental Review Process (SERP). EPD has determined that this project is eligible for a categorical exclusion. Accordingly, no further environmental review is planned. The proposed project consists of completing miscellaneous upgrade at the plant, such as installing a coagulant feed system and a grit removal system, replacing the digester and the aeration system. In addition, the project includes rehabilitation of two pump stations and installation/replacement of sewer lines. Existing buildings will not be impacted as a result of this project. All construction will be located on City-owned property.

This project is eligible for a categorical exclusion because it meets the following specific criteria, outlined in the SERP: functional replacement of equipment. Furthermore: the project will not create a new or relocate an existing discharge to surface or ground waters; the project will not substantially increase the volume of discharge or loading of pollutants; the project will not provide capacity to serve a population 30% greater than the existing population; the project will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment; the action will not directly or indirectly affect cultural resources, habitats of endangered or threatened species, or environmentally important natural resource areas; and the action is cost-effective and should cause no significant public controversy.

This determination is effective immediately. This exclusion may be revoked at any time if: 1) the project is altered and no longer meets the requirements of a categorical exclusion, 2) new evidence shows that serious environmental issues exist, or 3) a local, State or Federal law is being or may be violated. The information which supports this decision is available online at <a href="https://geos.epd.georgia.gov/GA/GEOS/Public/Client/GA\_GEOS/Public/Pages/PublicApplication">https://geos.epd.georgia.gov/GA/GEOS/Public/Client/GA\_GEOS/Public/Pages/PublicApplication</a> nList.aspx or available upon request with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division.

If you have any questions about this determination, please contact Ethan Rhine of my staff at *ethan.rhine@dnr.ga.gov* or (678) 672-6037.

10/01/2023 Issuance Date:

Jeffrey W. Cown

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