

## CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

Water System Improvements  
City of Elberton  
Elbert County, Georgia  
DW2025018

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has conducted a review of the above subject project in accordance with the State's Environmental Review Process (SERP) for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) projects. The EPD has determined that this project is eligible for a categorical exclusion. Accordingly, the EPD is exempting the project from further substantive environmental review requirements under Georgia's SERP.

The proposed project involves the replacement of approximately 25,000 Linear Feet of galvanized water mains, and looping and internal interconnection within City of Elberton. These improvements are intended to modernize critical infrastructure, enhance system reliability, improve hydraulic efficiency, and support consistent delivery of safe drinking water to customers.

This project is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion because it meets the following specific criteria, outlined in the DWSRF SERP: Replacement of existing water lines, valves, hydrants and appurtenances in existing rights-of-way for streets or utilities to serve existing customers, as well as, modest growth (less than 10%) within the existing service area resulting in no change in existing land use; Furthermore:

- The project will not require issuance of a new or modification of an existing ground water or surface water withdrawal permit;
- The project is not known or expected to have a significant adverse effect on the quality of the human environment, either individually, cumulatively over time, or in conjunction with other Federal, State, local or private actions;
- The project is not known or expected to directly or indirectly have a significant adverse effect on air quality and on/or threatened species; or environmentally important natural resource areas, such as floodplains, wetlands, coastal barriers and zones, important farmlands or aquifer recharge areas; and cultural resource areas, such as archaeological and historic sites; habitats of endangered species.”
- The action is cost-effective and is not expected to cause significant public controversy.

The project has been submitted to the Army Corps of Engineers, State Historic Preservation Division and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for review, and a statement from the Project Engineer certifying no project activities on streams, lakes, or wetlands was issued. No comments have been received from Corps of Engineers and U.S Fish and Wildlife Service, however HPD has provided the condition that adequate protective measures should be utilized to ensure historic resources and features within or adjacent to the Phase I project area, including but not limited to historic stone retaining walls, steps/stairs, historic hexagonal sidewalk blocks, and/or granite curbing, are not damaged by project activities. If historic features are encountered and must be moved to accommodate Phase I project activities, return them to pre-project position/condition or replace damaged portions in-kind.

This determination shall become effective after thirty (30) days following its distribution by EPD and can be revoked if significant adverse information is made available. The documentation to support this decision is on file with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division and is available for public scrutiny upon request. A copy of the proposed project documentation is also available for review at the City Hall in Elberton, Georgia.

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

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

After evaluating the comments received, EPD will make a final decision regarding approval of the project planning documents. No administrative action will be taken on the project for thirty (30) calendar days after publication of this Notice in a local newspaper that serves the City of Elberton area.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Manny Patel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Publish Date: 3/6/2026

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Manny Patel, Program Manager  
Drinking Water Program  
Georgia Environmental Protection Division