CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION
Water System Planning – 2027 Water Main Loop
City of Lavonia
Franklin County, Georgia
DWHRF2026046

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 installation of approximately 14,200 linear feet of new 16-inch DIP water mains around I-85 corridor near the rest area, the installation of approximately 6,500 linear feet of new 6-inch PVC water mains at Brittany Harbor Subdivision 1, and approximately 9,000 linear feet of new 6-inch PVC water mains at Brittany Harbor Subdivision 2. It also includes the installation of approximately 6,000 linear feet of new 10-inch DIP interconnections between Brittany Harbor west/south subdivisions to eliminate dead-end mains and add looping to the water distribution system.

This project is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion because it meets the following specific criteria outlined in the DWSRF SERP: Construction of new water lines, valves, hydrants and appurtenances in previously disturbed areas within ½ mile of the existing distribution system and storage facilities for purpose of system reliability, both serving primarily existing residential or commercial users;; 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 United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), State Historic Preservation Division (HPD) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for review. No negative comments have been received from USFWS and HPD. However, the USACE indicated that the project area may contain jurisdictional areas such as waterways and/or wetlands. The project shall coordinate with the USACE to confirm jurisdiction and obtain all required authorizations, including any applicable Nationwide or Standard Permit. Also, The Georgia Wildlife Resources Division found the following seven (7) aquatic species of concern within 10 miles of the project area: *Moxostoma sp., Micropterus pucpuggy, Lampsilis Cariosa, Somatogyrus tenax, Bombus fraternus, Lampropeltis rhomamaculata, and Coreopsis rosea,* and stated that with best management practices (BMPs) during construction and following the recommendations addressed in the division's letter, there should be minimal impact on the surrounding environment.

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 Lavonia, 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 Lavonia area.

DKThakkar

Publish Date: _11/16/2026_

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Disha Thakkar, Environmental Engineer 4
Drinking Water Program
Georgia Environmental Protection Division