

## CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

Water System Improvements

City of Sparta

Hancock County, GA

**DWSRF GEFA Project No.: DW2023034**

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 City of Sparta proposed project will include: a new storage tank for treated water, repairing corroded pipes, valves, and tanks, repairing leaking and inoperable pumps, tubes, and gauges, repairing and updating monitors and control panels to more modern technology, separating the chemical feed and storage to its own enclosure for safety purposes, replacing and repairing multiple failing components within the Trident filter system, repairing a stress crack in the clear well, dredging the backwash lagoon, and providing operators a training room and rest area. This project is eligible for a Categorical Exclusion because it meets the following specific criteria, outlined in the DWSRF SERP: Improvements to existing surface or ground water treatment plants, including improvements to enhance security, which do not add a significant change in treatment capacity. 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: or threatened species; or environmentally important natural resource areas, such as floodplains, wetlands, 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.

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 County Courthouse Annex in the City of Sparta, 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: Tamika Samaroo, Environmental Engineer  
Drinking Water Program  
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE, Suite 1052 East Tower  
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 Sparta area.

Publish Date: 7/19/2023



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