

## **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION**

Water Distribution System Improvements

City of Sparta

Hancock County, GA

**DWSRF GEFA Project No.: DW2024026**

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 plans to replace approximately 22,000 linear feet of aging cast iron and asbestos-cement (AC) water lines, along with customer connection lines and 48 obsolete fire hydrants. Most of the water lines being replaced will consist of aged 8-inch and 12-inch cast iron pipes with some addition of AC pipes. The new water main will consist of a ductile iron pipe (DIP) and C-900 PVC pipe. The project also includes installing isolation valves and constructing a 250,000-gallon elevated water storage tank.

This project is eligible for 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/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 Historic Preservation Division (HPD) has concluded that project HP-250501-007 will have no adverse effect provided that these conditions are met: Protecting historic features, avoiding Macon & Augusta Railroad and submitting the elevated water tank plans for HPD's review. 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 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 Sparta area.



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