

**NOTICE OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT  
TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS AND PERSONS**

The City of Jefferson has made an application to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division (EPD), and the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) for a loan through the State Revolving Fund (SRF). The project consists of expanding the City's existing I-85 Water Pollution Control Plant to 1.386 million gallons per day (MGD). The applicant has certified that the project is environmentally sound. As required by the Federal Clean Water Act, an environmental review has been performed on the project described below:

Project Name: City of Jefferson  
I-85 WPCP Expansion  
GEFA Loan No. CW-2022-002

Project Location: City of Jefferson, Jackson County, GA

Total Project Cost: \$16,500,000.00

Anticipated SRF Loan Amount: \$11,580,000.00

**Project Description**

The City of Jefferson proposes to expand the I-85 Water Pollution Control Plant, an existing 0.386 MGD land treatment system, by constructing a new 1.0-MGD mechanical plant, increasing its total design capacity to 1.386 MGD. The treated effluent from the new facility will be discharged into Opossum Creek in the Oconee River Basin. The project will accommodate flow/population projections and for the local commercial and apartment projects that are expected in the area. The new mechanical plant will include an influent pump station, screening, oxidation ditch, clarifiers, tertiary filters, and UV disinfection. Sludge will be treated in an aerobic digester and dewatered before being transported to a landfill.

The project will also include the installation of approximately 2,250 linear feet (LF) of 24-inch gravity sewer to transport the treated effluent from I-85 Water Pollution Control Plant to Opossum Creek.

### **Anticipated Impacts**

The proposed project will serve the City of Jefferson. The project will provide reliable treatment and effluent quality for the future population and additional flow to Opossum Creek which is a tributary of the Middle Oconee River.

Minor negative temporary impacts may include noise, dust and erosion/sedimentation associated with construction activities. Best Management Practices will be in place during construction. A portion of the proposed gravity sewer will cross a wetland; however, the construction of the sewer will be covered under a permit administered by the United States Army Corp of Engineers. The project will take place primarily on City property and/or previously disturbed land. No impacts to existing buildings are anticipated as a result of the project.

The current rates for wastewater are anticipated to increase to approximately \$134.00 per residential customer per year.

No anticipated adverse secondary impacts are associated with the project. Consequently, a preliminary decision not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement has been made.

The reason for the decision not to prepare such a statement is as follows: Project activity is not anticipated to result in adverse environmental impacts beyond those that can be easily mitigated with minimal extra expense or delay in project implementation.

### **Public Notice**

A public information meeting was held on November 2, 2021 at the Jefferson Station to discuss the proposed project. No adverse comments were received during the 30-day advertisement period or during the meeting.

An Environmental Review Record concerning the proposed project has been made by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division that documents the environmental review of the project and provides more detail explaining why an environmental impact statement is not required. The Environmental Review Record is on file at the Division's address listed below. A copy of the SRF planning document is available for public review upon request at Jefferson City Hall during business hours and at the Division between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

No further environmental review of this project is proposed to be conducted prior to the release of loan funds.

All interested agencies, groups and persons supporting or disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments within 30 days of the issuance date of this notice via email to [chris.bruegge@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:chris.bruegge@dnr.ga.gov) or to the following address:

Environmental Protection Division  
Watershed Protection Branch  
Wastewater Regulatory Program  
ATTN: Chris Bruegge  
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive  
Suite 1152 East  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

After evaluating the comments received, a final decision regarding the loan will be made. No administrative action will be taken on the project for thirty (30) calendar days after issuance of this Notice.

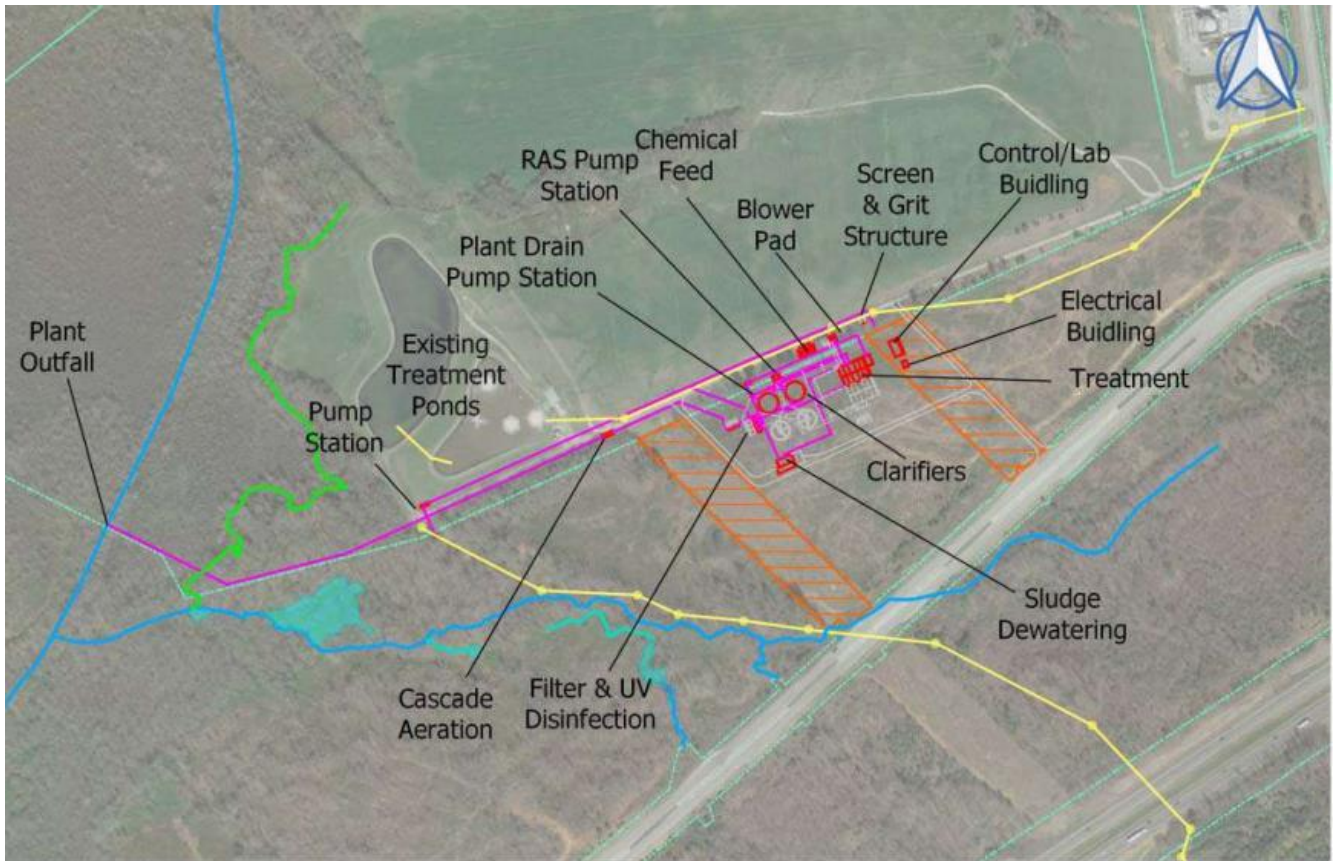
Loan Recipient: City of Jefferson  
147 Athens Street  
Jefferson, GA 30549

06/06/2022



Issue Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Richard E. Dunn  
Director  
Environmental Protection Division

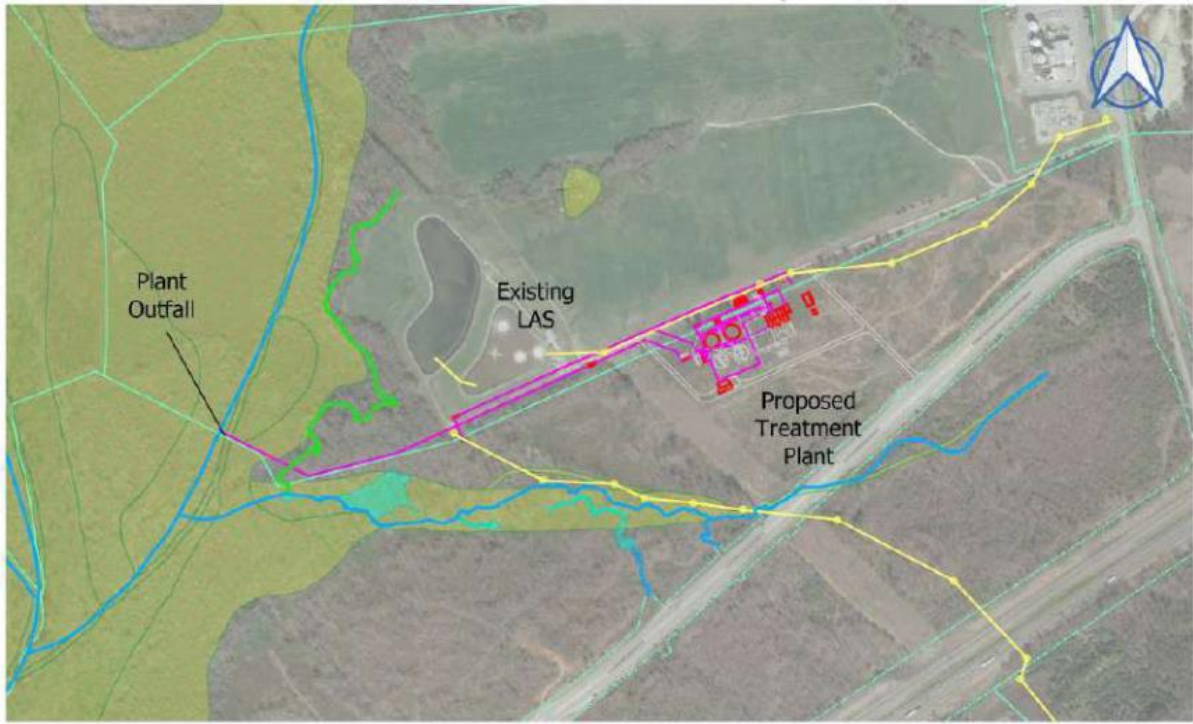


Source: CEC, inc.

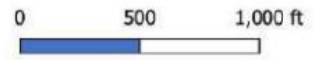


Source: Google, 2022





- Existing Sewer
- NWI Wetlands
- Delineated Wetlands
- Delineated Wetlands Boundary
- Intermittent Steams
- Perennial Streams



Source: CEC, Inc.