

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION

Joshua Street Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP)
Plant Rehabilitation and Upgrades
City of Albany (Dougherty County)
GEFA Loan No. CW-2022-033

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has conducted a review of the above project in accordance with the State's Environmental Review Process (SERP). EPD has determined that this project is eligible for a categorical exclusion. Accordingly, no further environmental review is planned. The proposed project consists of rehabilitating the grit collectors, primary and secondary clarifiers, return- and waste activated sludge pumping facilities, and chlorination and dechlorination systems. The project will also include converting the existing dissolved air flotation (DAF) sludge thickener tanks to sludge equalization tanks, building a new sludge processing facility, and other miscellaneous process improvements throughout the plant. Existing buildings will not be impacted as a result of this project and all construction will be located on City-owned property. The project may be located in 100-year floodplain as indicated by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) map. However, the proposed improvements will not create any increase to the 100-year flood elevation, floodway elevations, and floodway widths on the Flint River. In addition, all proposed structures and mechanical equipment will be constructed or installed above flood elevation, as determined from one of the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) methods. Detailed mitigation measures will be described in the construction documents (plans and specifications) for the project.

This project is eligible for a categorical exclusion because it meets the following specific criteria, outlined in the SERP: functional replacement of equipment, minor rehabilitation of existing facilities, and construction of new ancillary facilities adjacent to existing facilities that do not affect the degree of treatment or capacity of the existing facility. Furthermore: the project will not create a new or relocate an existing discharge to surface or ground waters; the project will not substantially increase the volume of discharge or loading of pollutants; the project will not provide capacity to serve a population 30% greater than the existing population; the project will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment; the action will not directly or indirectly affect cultural resources, habitats of endangered or threatened species, or environmentally important natural resource areas; and the action is cost-effective and should cause no significant public controversy.

This determination becomes effective after thirty (30) days following its distribution by EPD. This exclusion may be revoked at any time if: 1) the project is altered and no longer meets the requirements of a categorical exclusion, 2) new evidence shows that serious environmental issues exist, or 3) a local, State or Federal law is being or may be violated. The information which supports this decision is on file with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division and is

available for public review upon request. A copy of the proposed project documentation is also available for review at Albany City Hall in Dougherty County, Georgia.

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

Georgia Environmental Protection Division
Watershed Protection Branch
Wastewater Regulatory Program
ATTN: Chris Bruegge
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Suite 1470A East
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

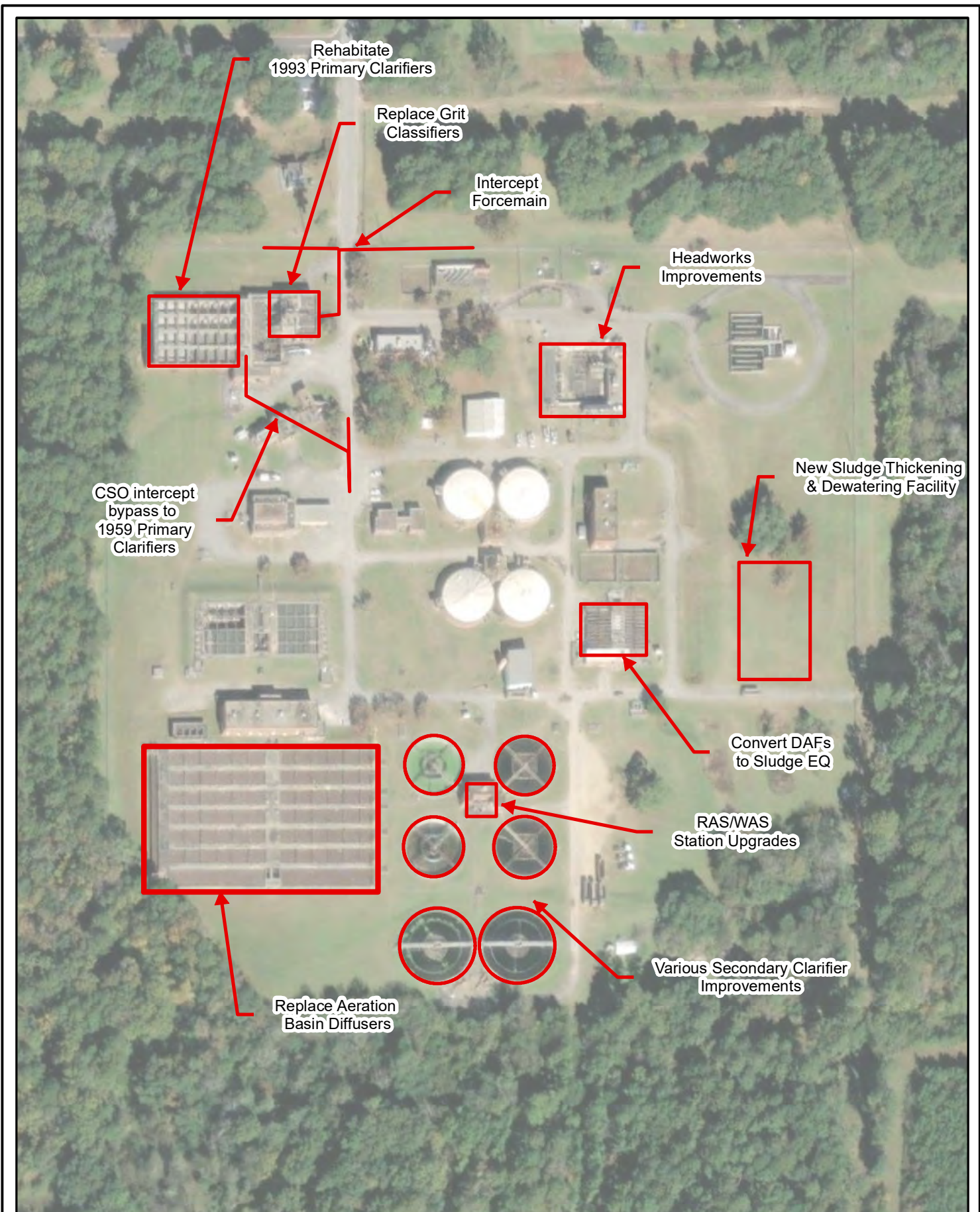
After evaluating the comments received, EPD will make a final decision regarding approval of the project. No administrative action will be taken on the project for thirty (30) calendar days after publication of this Notice.

04/03/2023

Publish Date: _____



Richard E. Dunn, Director
Environmental Protection Division



SCALE 1 in = 200 ft



JOSHUA STREET WPCP UPGRADES
CITY OF ALBANY
ALBANY, GEORGIA

FIGURE 7-1

JAN 2023