



Richard E. Dunn, Director

Watershed Protection Branch

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

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners has made an application to the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (GEFA) and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division (EPD) for a loan through the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRF). The loan is for renovations to the Franklin County's water system including improvements to the water supply and withdrawal, water storage and distribution system to keep the facilities in a good working order. The applicant has certified that the project is environmentally sound. As required by the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program Guidelines, an environmental review has been performed on the project described below:

Project Name:	Water and Distribution system Improvements
Project Location:	Franklin County, Georgia
Total Project Cost:	\$2,500,000
Anticipated DWSRF Loan Amount:	\$2,500,000

Project Description

The proposed project involves water supply and withdrawal improvements such as: repair wells as needed and install treatment equipment; develop additional new wells and install new well house, pumps and all related appurtenances; renovate Carnesville spring and well house; replace Lavonia booster pump station; obtain an agreement with Royston for water supply and revise Toccoa agreement for increasing supply. The project will also repair storage tanks as needed and install treatment equipment; construct a new 1.5 MG ground storage tank and remove Carnesville standpipe; install water mains, sampling stations and remote terminal units and pressure gauges in all master meters; replace old meters, old mains, valves, hydrants, service lines; and enhance SCADA system.

Anticipated Impacts

The proposed project will have a minor impact on farmlands as some existing pasturelands may be affected by the location of the future well developments. As wells are developed, small amounts of acreage (0 to 3 acres) are utilized by the well sites and these allotments can no longer be used as pasturelands. This project will improve the water system from raw water withdrawal to the service end users and meet the demand of growing population in the area.

A review of the Preliminary Engineering Report and Environmental Information Document for the proposed project has been performed by EPD's Drinking Water Permitting and Engineering Program. A copy of these documents is available for public examination upon request at EPD between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and at the Franklin County Board of Commissioners office during normal business hours.

On January 19, 2023, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners conducted a public meeting in accordance with the requirements of DWSRF guidance in order to inform the public about the project. The County received no adverse comments. The project has undergone an Executive Order 12372 Review through the State agencies. The project has also been submitted to the Corps of Engineers, State Historic Preservation Office, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for review. No adverse comments have been received. No further environmental review of the 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 thirty (30) days of the issuance date of this notice to:

Georgia Environmental Protection Division
ATTN: Asmita Patel, Environmental Engineer
Drinking Water Program
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE - Suite 1470A East
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

After evaluating all 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 issuance of this Notice.

Issue Date: 01/27/2023



Manny Patel
Drinking Water Program Manager
Watershed Protection Branch
Georgia Environmental Protection Division

