

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION** 

**EPD Director's Office** 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive Suite 1456, East Tower Atlanta, Georgia 30334 404-656-4713

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

The City of Bainbridge has made an application to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division (EPD), and the Georgia Office of Budget and Planning for a grant through the State American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The project consists of expanding the City's existing wastewater plant, upgrading two lift stations, and installing gravity sewer, lift station, and force main. 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 Bainbridge Wastewater Plant Expansion and Sewer System Upgrades ARPA Grant No. GA-0011371
Project Location:	City of Bainbridge, Decatur County, GA
Total Project Cost:	\$43,792,854.00
Anticipated ARPA Grant Amount:	\$21,896,427.00

## **Project Description**

The City of Bainbridge proposes to expand the Bainbridge Water Pollution Control Plant from 2.5 MGD to 3.3 MGD with the treated effluent discharged into the Flint River in the Flint River Basin. The project will accommodate flow/population projections and for new industries expected in the area. The expanded plant will include an influent pump station (additional pump), screening (additional mechanical screen and replace grit removal system), biological treatment (aerobic granular sludge reactors), chemical addition for alkalinity control and total phosphorus removal, flocculation tank, tertiary filtration, UV disinfection, and post-aeration. Sludge will be aerobically digested and dewatered before being transported to a landfill. The proposed project will also involve the demolition of the existing operations building.

The project will also include the installation of approximately 2,300 linear feet (LF) of 15-inch gravity sewer, 32,000 LF of 16-inch force main, 2,100 LF of 6-inch force main, and 1,000 LF of 10-inch force main. In addition, one lift station will be replaced (near S.R. 253) while another will be modified to include a permanent bypass pump and connect to the proposed force main (near Church Street). The project will also include the installation of a 12 ft diameter wetwell and two 15-HP submersible pumps, each with a capacity of 1,389 gpm at 66 ft TDH, within the proposed industrial park.

## **Anticipated Impacts**

The proposed project will serve the City of Bainbridge and the proposed industrial park. The project will provide reliable access for future industrial developments in the City to dispose of their wastewater along with reliable treatment and effluent quality for the future population.

Minor negative temporary impacts may include noise, dust and erosion/sedimentation associated with construction activities. Best Management Practices will be in place during construction. The project may be located in 100-year floodplain as indicated by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) map. However, 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.

The project will take place primarily on City property (or right-of-way) and/or previously disturbed land.

There will be no increase to customer sewer rates as a result of the project.

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 August 17, 2022 at Bainbridge City Hall 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 Environmental Review and Planning Document is available for public review upon request at Bainbridge 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* or to the following address:

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, 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 Bainbridge 101 South Broad Street Bainbridge, GA 39818

02/14/2023

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

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Richard E. Dunn Director Environmental Protection Division



