

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

The Banks County Board of Commissioners 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 the construction of force main and gravity sewer to serve existing developments currently served by on-site septic systems. The project also includes the installation of three duplex lift stations and three grinder pump stations. 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: Banks County Board of Commissioners
Banks County Phase I Sewer Extension
ARPA Grant No. GA-0011140

Project Location: Banks County, GA

Total Project Cost: \$6,500,000

Anticipated ARPA Grant Amount: \$3,178,702.48

Project Description

The Banks County Board of Commissioners proposes to construct approximately 20,900 linear feet (LF) of 10-in force main, 23,500 LF of 6-in force main, 14,600 LF of 2-in force main, 4,100 LF of 12-in gravity sewer, and 4,000 LF of 8-in gravity sewer to serve existing developments currently served by on-site septic systems. The project will also include three lift duplex lift stations and three grinder pump stations.

Anticipated Impacts

The proposed project will serve Banks County, including the Banks County Primary, Elementary, Middle, and High School, as well as the Banks County Headstart, Senior Center, Health Department, Recreation Department, Adult Education, Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS), Jail, Fire Department, Courthouse and Courthouse Annex . The project will provide a reliable sewer collection system for developments currently served by on-site septic systems.

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. Additionally, a 30-ft environmentally sensitive area (ESA) buffer will be established around Thompson Cemetery, as noted in the letter from the Historic Preservation Division. Detailed mitigation measures will be described in the construction documents (plans and specifications) for the project.

The project will take place primarily on County property (or right-of-way) and/or previously disturbed land and no impacts to existing buildings are anticipated as a result of the project.

The current rates for wastewater are anticipated to increase 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 July 8, 2022 at Banks County Courthouse Annex 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 (ERPD) is available for public review upon request at Banks County Board of Commissioners offices 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 august.lutkehus@dnr.ga.gov or to the following address:

Environmental Protection Division
Watershed Protection Branch
Wastewater Regulatory Program
ATTN: August Lutkehus
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.

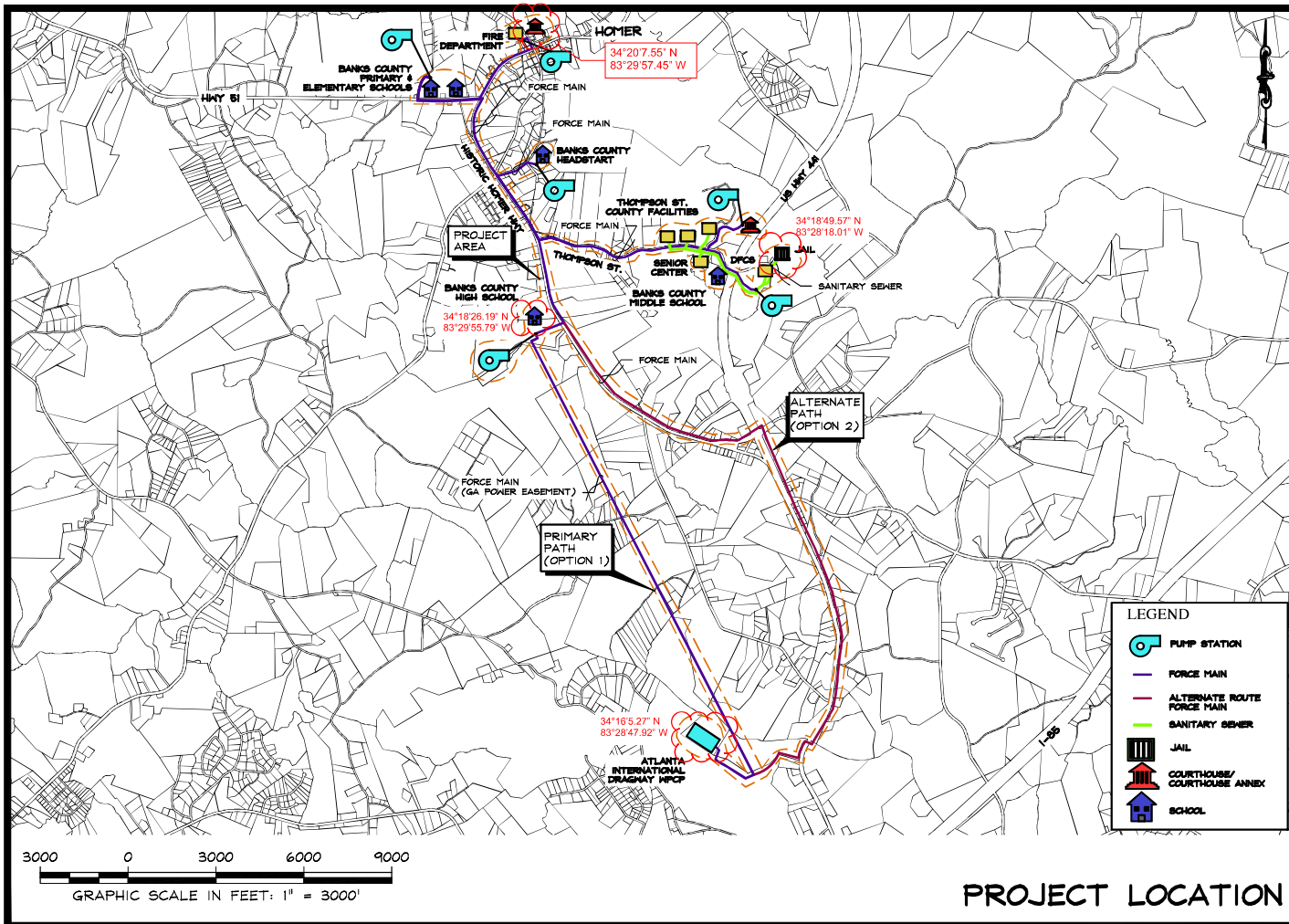
Loan Recipient: Banks County Board of Commissioners
150 Hudson Valley Drive #1
Homer, Georgia 30547

05/17/2023

Issue Date: _____



Richard E. Dunn
Director
Environmental Protection Division



SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENTS PHASE I
FOR THE
BANKS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BANKS COUNTY, GEORGIA

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