



## **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION**

**Richard E. Dunn, Director**

**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**

Columbus Water Works 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 replacing sewer lines along Bull Creek and conducting additional basin flow monitoring. 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:	Columbus Water Works Bull Creek Sewer Replacement and Modeling GEFA Loan No. CW-2020-020
Project Location:	City of Columbus, Muscogee County, GA
Total Project Cost:	\$14,300,000
Anticipated SRF Loan Amount:	\$14,300,000

#### **Project Description**

Columbus Water Works proposes to replace approximately 15,400 linear feet of 30-inch sewer line with 54-inch pipes along Bull Creek. Additionally, the City proposes to conduct comprehensive flow monitoring in the Cooper Creek, Standing Boy Creek, and Little Heiferhorn sewer basins. The project will accommodate the increasing population and sewer needs, as well as help to prevent future back-ups in the combined sewer system in the City of Columbus.

#### **Anticipated Impacts**

The proposed project will serve the City of Columbus. The project will provide a more reliable sewer system capable of handling larger flows as a result of an increasing population and high-flow rain events when both stormwater and wastewater is captured in the system. The flow monitoring will further help Columbus Water Works better understand how to address their inflow and infiltration needs in the future.

Minor negative temporary impacts may include noise, dust and erosion/sedimentation associated with construction activities. Best Management Practices will be in place during construction to mitigate these effects. Although within the vicinity of the project, disturbances to the Savannah and Western Railroad and the Georgia and Alabama Railroad will be avoided by using trenchless methods to install the larger pipes. Furthermore, the project will take place primarily within the right-of-way and no impacts to existing buildings are anticipated as a result of the project.

The proposed project is part of a Capital Improvement Program which has been a program implemented by Columbus Water Works since the 1990's. Therefore, the expense of the loan repayment has already been incorporated into the utility's service fee rate models.

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 Information**

A public information meeting was held on June 9, 2020 at the Columbus Water Works offices 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 the Columbus Water Works 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](mailto: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 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: Columbus Water Works  
Post Office Box 1600  
Columbus, GA 31902

**AUG 28 2020**

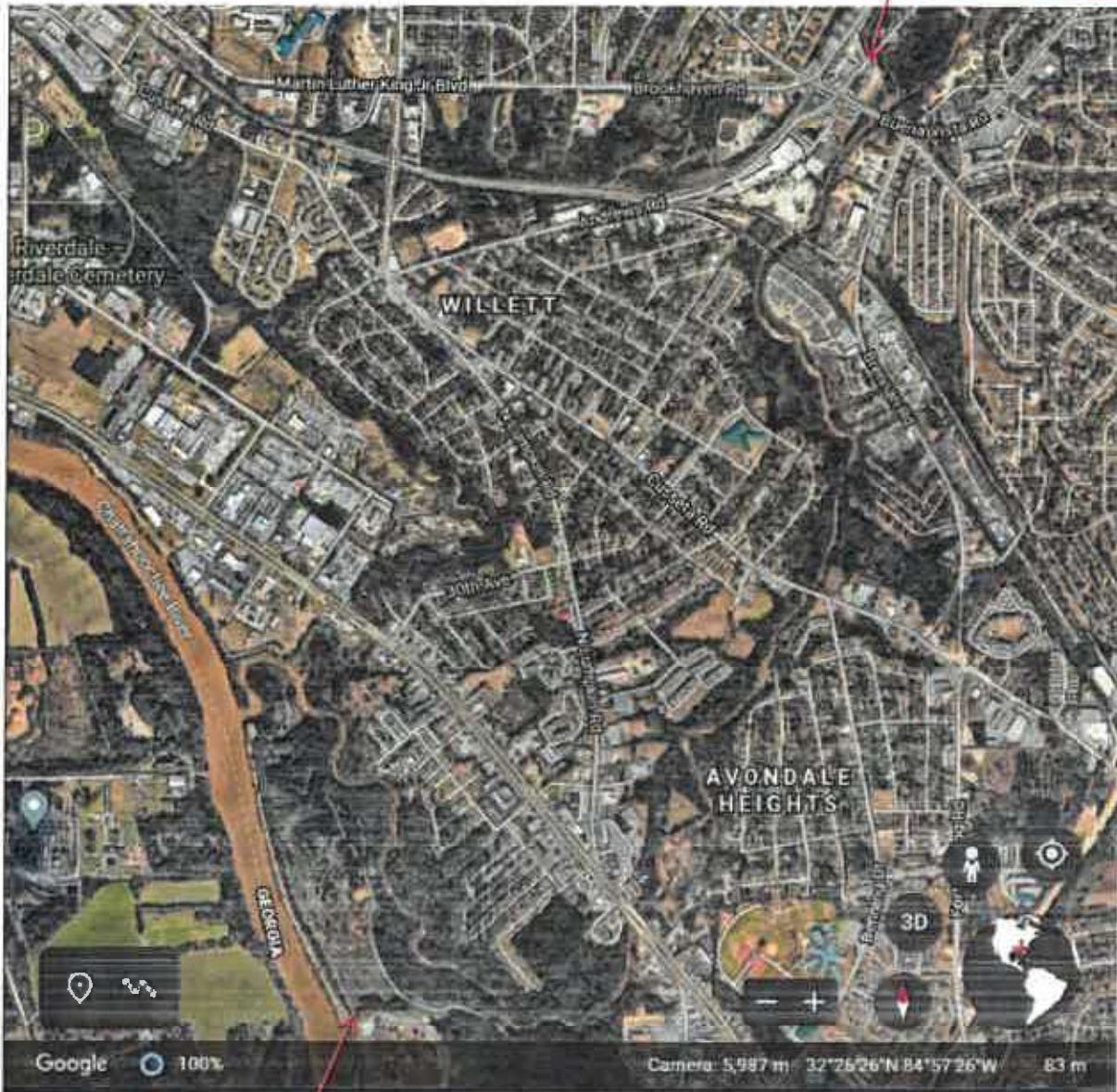
Issue Date: \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard E. Dunn  
Director  
Environmental Protection Division

## Project Location Map

Beginning project location  
32°27'19"N 84°56'36"W



Ending project location  
32°25'35"N 84°57'45"W