

# Richard E. Dunn, Director

#### **Watershed Protection Branch**

2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive Suite 1470A, East Tower Atlanta, Georgia 30334 404-463-1511

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

The Long County has made an application to the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division (EPD) for a grant through the State Fiscal Recovery Fund(SFRF). The grant is for the water system improvements in the target area of Long County to provide adequate water pressure and fire protection. The applicant has certified that the project is environmentally sound. As required by the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act and the State Environmental Review Process (SERP) Guidelines, an environmental review has been performed on the project described below:

Project Name: Water System Improvements, Phase 1 Countywide Water

System

Project Location: Long County, Georgia

Total Project Cost: \$6,000,000.00

SFRF Grant Amount: \$3,000,000.00

### **Project Description**

The Long County is proposing to construct an Elevated tank, deep well and water lines. These improvements are to fill the need of water to underserved citizens or unserved citizens. The new mains are needed to provide adequate pressures under all conditions of flow throughout the system to comply with the Environmental Protection Division's minimum standards.

# **Anticipated Impacts**

The proposed project will have minimal impact on the environment as construction will be limited to the existing disturbed areas or along existing rights of way outside of any wetlands, floodplains, or critical habitats. This project improvements will upgrade the water infrastructure to provide safe, clean, potable water with adequate supply and provide fire protection to the entire target area. This project will further provide customers a safe and reliable water source and protect them from possible groundwater contamination which is occurring because of septic tanks located near private wells.

A review of the 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. The addresses where a copy is available are listed below.

During the development and design of this project, the Long County has solicited public input. 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 were received from them. If there are no public objections, then this Notice of No Significant Impact (NONSI) will be adopted without further public notice and Georgia Environmental Protection Division Drinking Water Permitting and Engineering program will issue final approval of the project planning document. 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: Disha Thakkar, Environmental Engineer Drinking Water Program 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE - Suite 1470A East Atlanta, Georgia 30334-9000

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: <u>01/31/</u>2023

Manny Patel

Drinking Water Program Manager Watershed Protection Branch Georgia Environmental Protection Division