



GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

Jeffrey W. Cown, Director

Watershed Protection Branch

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

December 29, 2025

Mr. Scott Adams, Director
Forsyth County Department of Water and Sewer
110 East Main Street, Suite 150
Cumming, Georgia 30040

RE: Notice of No Significant Impact
Fowler Water Reclamation Facility (WRF)
Return Flow to Lake Lanier Project
Phase 1 – Effluent Pipeline
NPDES Permit No. GA0038695
ARPA Grant No. GA-0008846
EPD # 2024-086
Forsyth County, Chattahoochee River Basin

Dear Mr. Adams:

A *Notice of No Significant Impact (NONSI)* for the above-referenced project was previously issued on October 30, 2024 and on June 12, 2025. A revised Environmental Review and Planning Document was submitted to reflect the design changes (maintenance connection). Attached is a copy of an updated NONSI, which reflect the changes. The public comment period for this NONSI is 30 days. **Please ensure that the NONSI is posted at a conspicuous location at the County for public review for 30 days from the date of this letter.** Within ten days of receiving this, please notify us where and what date the NONSI was posted.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (470) 524-0657 or alex.gramling@dnr.ga.gov.

Sincerely,

Alex Gramling
Municipal Permitting Unit
Wastewater Regulatory Program

Attachment: NONSI

cc: Governor's Office of Budget and Planning (OPB) – Grants Division (grants@opb.georgia.gov)
David Luker, RSM US (david.luker@rsmus.com)
Jennifer Mathis, HDR, Inc. (Jennifer.Mathis@hdrinc.com)
Scott Williams, HDR, Inc. (Scott.Williams@hdrinc.com)
Scott Adams, Forsyth County Department of Water and Sewer (SHAdams@forsythco.com)
Lynnette Ramirez, Forsyth County Capital Projects (lmramirez@forsythco.com)

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

The Forsyth County Department of Water and Sewer 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 installing approximately 47,200 linear feet (LF) of 36" ductile iron pipe (DIP) to serve the future return flow project to Lake Lanier, an additional 2,000 LF of 12" DIP to serve as a temporary maintenance connection, and 16" DIP as needed to connect to the storage tank. 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: Forsyth County Department of Water and Sewer
Fowler Water Reclamation Facility (WRF)
Return Flow to Lake Lanier Project
Phase 1 – Effluent Pipeline
ARPA Grant No. GA-0008846

Project Location: Forsyth County, GA

Total Project Cost: \$75,000,000

Anticipated ARPA Grant Amount: \$75,000,000

Project Description

The Forsyth County Department of Water and Sewer proposes to install approximately 47,200 LF of 36" DIP pipe. The County intends to use this pipeline in the future to discharge treated wastewater to Lake Lanier from Fowler WRF. The County must complete the permitting process and obtain a NPDES permit allowing such discharge before the proposed pipeline can be used. The County also plans to install approximately 2,000 LF of 12" DIP pipe as a temporary connection. The County will periodically use the maintenance connection to flush the main pipeline with drinking water in order to moisten the interior liner and maintain its integrity. Drinking water used for maintenance purposes will be discharged to the existing equalization tank at the Fowler WRF where it will be recirculated through the wastewater treatment process.

Anticipated Impacts

The proposed project will accommodate planned residential and commercial growth in Forsyth County by providing an adequate conveyance system for the treated effluent from Fowler WRF to Lake Lanier. 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 will be located in the 100-year floodplain as indicated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) map. However, the scope of work taking place within the floodplain consists of the installation of sewer lines and will not impact the floodplain. 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 customers are not anticipated to increase as a result of this 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 June 26, 2024 at the Forsyth County Administration Building 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 the Forsyth County Administration Building 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 alex.gramling@dnr.ga.gov or to the following address:

Alex Gramling
Municipal Permitting Unit
Environmental Protection Division
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.

Grant Recipient: Forsyth County Department of Water and Sewer
110 East Main Street, Suite 150
Cumming, Georgia 30040

Issue Date: 12/22/2025



Jeffrey W. Cown
Director
Environmental Protection Division

Forsyth County Return Flow Pipeline: Temporary Maintenance Connection

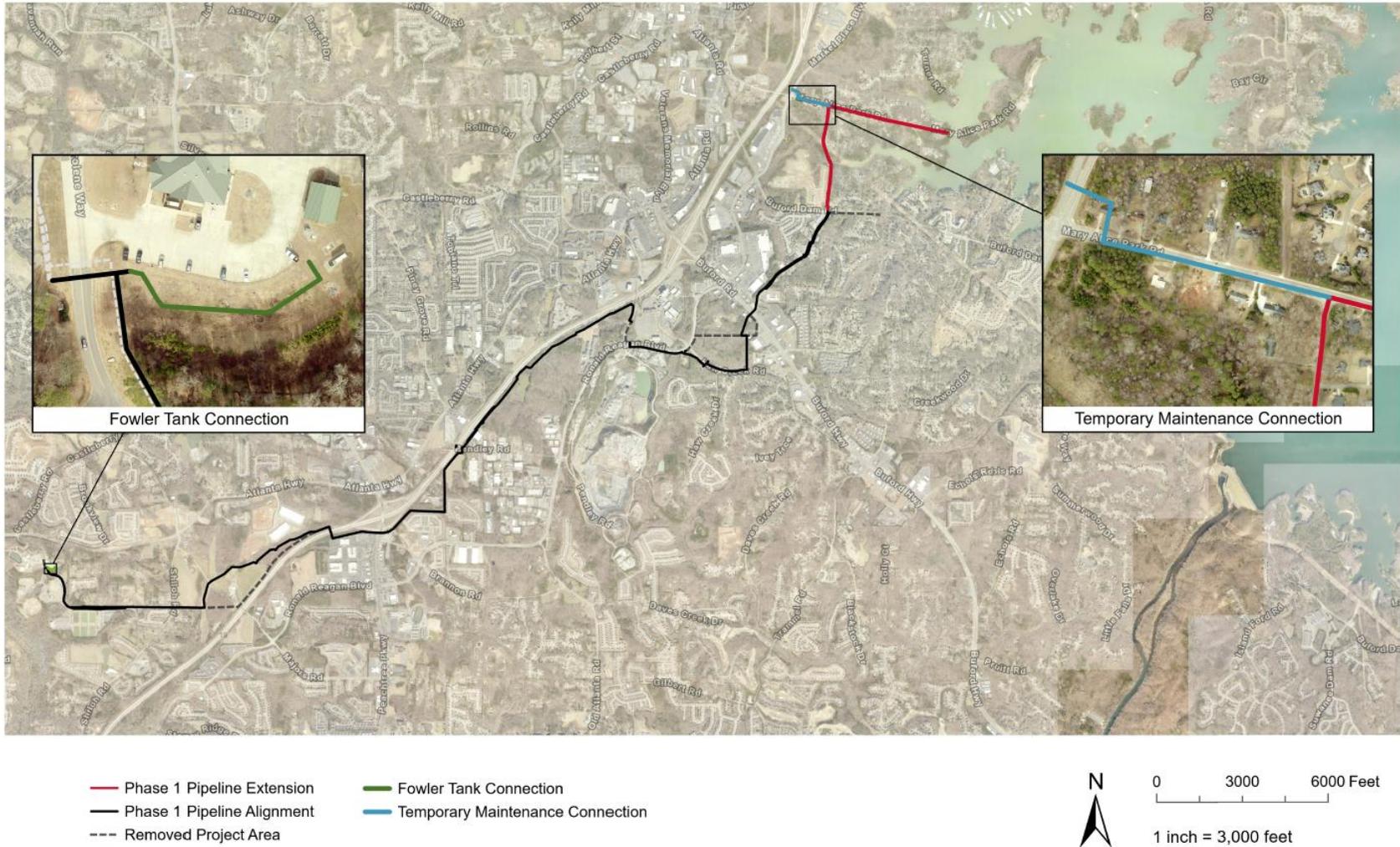


Figure 2. Forsyth County Return Flow Pipeline: Temporary Maintenance Connection