

**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 four vertical turbine pumps with a total capacity of 25 MGD with one unit of service and one 30,000-gal surge tank to serve the future return flow project to Lake Lanier. 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 2 – Pump Station
ARPA Grant No. GA-0008846

Project Location: Forsyth County, GA

Total Project Cost: \$10,700,000

Anticipated ARPA Grant Amount: \$73,800,000 ⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾ The ARPA grant amount exceeds the project cost because it includes funding for additional project phases that are not included in this NONSI.

Project Description

The Forsyth County Department of Water and Sewer proposes to install four vertical turbine pumps with a total capacity of 25 MGD with one unit of service and one 30,000-gal surge tank. The County intends to use this pump station in conjunction with the pipeline in Phase 1 of the project to discharge treated wastewater to Lake Lanier from Fowler WRF in the future. The County must complete the permitting process and obtain a NPDES permit allowing such discharge before the proposed pump station can be used.

Anticipated Impacts

The proposed project will accommodate planned residential and commercial growth in Forsyth County by providing an adequate return flow pump capacity 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 not be located in the 100-year floodplain as indicated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) map.

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: 02/17/2025

Jeffrey W. Cown

Jeffrey W. Cown
Director
Environmental Protection Division

Fowler Water Reclamation Facility
Return Flow to Lanier Project
Phase 2 – Effluent Pump Station



Project Location

Fowler Water Reclamation Facility
Return Flow to Lanier Project
Phase 2 – Effluent Pump Station



Area Map