

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

The City of Covington 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 sewer extensions, pump station upgrades, and upgrades at the Covington Water Reclamation Facility (WRF). 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:	City of Covington Eastside Sewer Extension, Pump Station Upgrades, and Covington Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) Upgrades GEFA Loan No. CW-2021-035
Project Location:	City of Covington, Newton County, GA
Total Project Cost:	\$28,682,600
Anticipated SRF Loan Amount:	\$26,238,700

Project Description

The City of Covington proposes to install approximately 17,000 linear feet (LF) of 42-inch gravity sewer, 2,400 LF of 30-inch gravity sewer, and 7,600 LF of 24-inch gravity sewer, to replace existing 24-inch, 18-inch, 15-inch and 12-inch gravity sewer. The Bridgestone lift station will be abandoned and two pumps will be upgraded and a third pump will be added to the existing Eastside lift station. The City also proposes to install a new bar screen, odor control for the headworks, additional aerators, and an equalization basin with flow control and aeration/mixing at the existing Covington WRF. The project will accommodate flow/population projections for the area by providing sewer service for future developments.

Anticipated Impacts

The proposed project will serve the City of Covington. The project will provide reliable treatment and effluent quality for the future population, as well as infrastructure to serve future developments. The project will also provide energy efficiency by upgrading the main lift station and abandoning another lift station in the system.

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 City has also applied for a wetlands permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. A wetlands delineation was conducted to determine the impact. 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 the flood elevation, as determined from one of the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) methods. Detailed mitigation measures will be described in the construction documents (plans and specifications) for the project. For construction of sewer line that will take place in the floodplain, water-tight manhole lids will be installed, and proper erosion control measures will be taken. Additionally, in accordance with the requirements requested by the Historic Preservation Division, an environmentally sensitive area, in which construction activities will not occur, will be delineated by an archeologist at the boundary of the archeological site 9NE293 that was identified in the survey. Finally, a stream buffer variance will be permitted from EPD for the sewer extensions. All permits will be submitted to EPD prior to approval of the plans & specifications.

The project will take place primarily on City 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 not 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 May 4, 2022 at Covington City Hall 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 Covington City Hall 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.

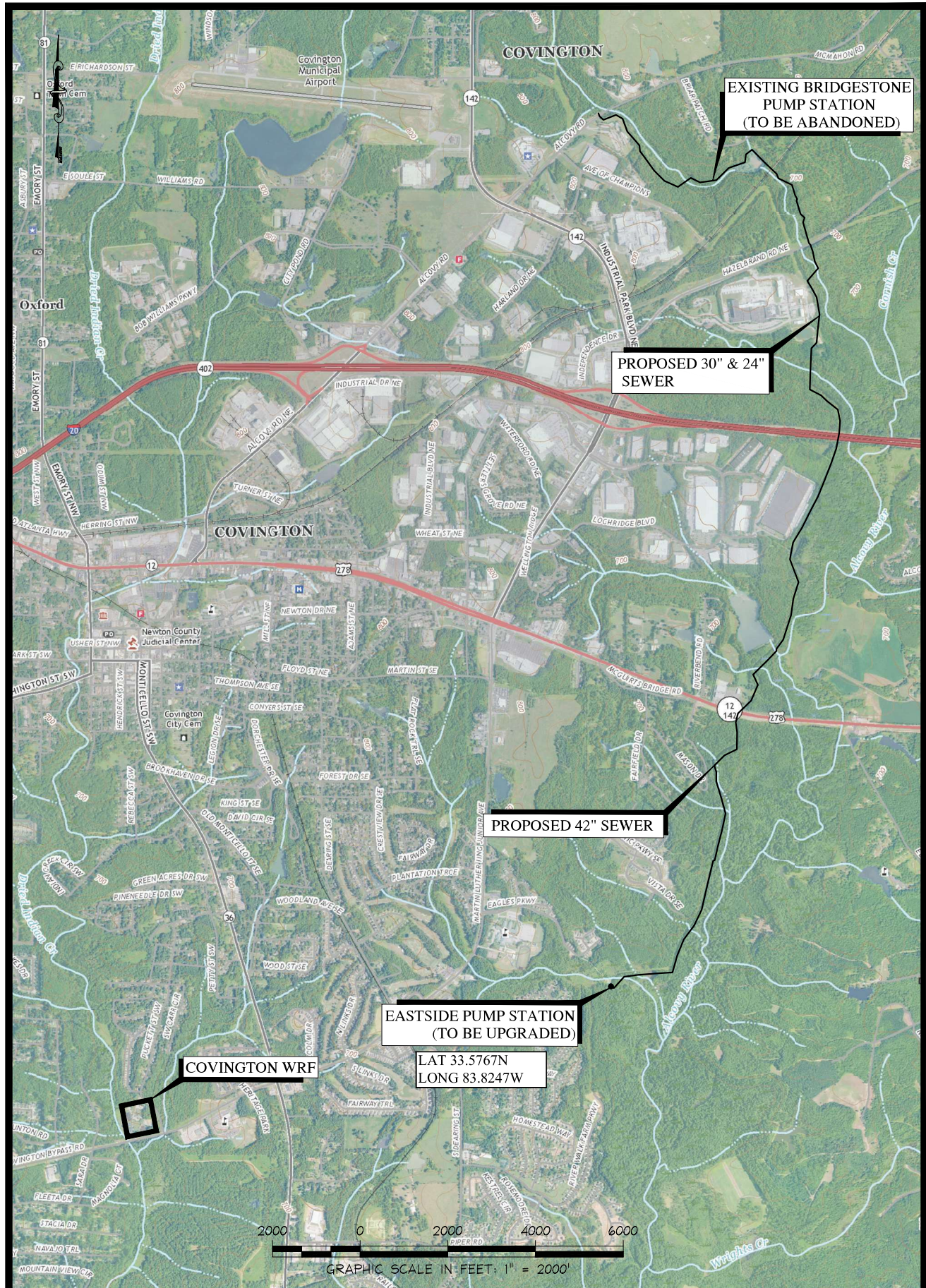
Loan Recipient: City of Covington
2194 Emory Street
Covington, GA 30014

01/26/2023

Issue Date: _____



Richard E. Dunn
Director
Environmental Protection Division



Carter & Sloope

CONSULTING ENGINEERS

MACON ◆ ATHENS ◆ CANTON ◆ MOULTRIE

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FIGURE 2.2.2