Jeffrey W. Cown, 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

The Fitzgerald Water, Light & Bond Commission 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 the expansion of the wastewater treatment facility from 0.3 MGD to 0.6 MGD and replacement of two lift stations and gravity sewer lines. 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: Fitzgerald Water, Light & Bond Commission

Expansion to 0.6 MGD and Lift Station Upgrades

ARPA Grant No. GA-0010092

Project Location: City of Fitzgerald, Ben Hill County, GA

Total Project Cost: \$5,084,696

Anticipated ARPA Grant Amount: \$2,542,350

Project Description

The Fitzgerald Water, Light & Bond Commission proposes to expand the Fitzgerald WPCP land to 0.6 MGD. The project will accommodate flow projections for the industries being served by the facility. The project will include installing approximately 37.3 acres of new sprayfields and upgrading the treatment process. Additionally, two pump stations serving industries will be replaced and upgraded, and gravity sewer will be replaced and installed to support the pump stations.

Anticipated Impacts

The proposed project will primarily serve the Polar Beverage and West Frazier industries, which are projecting an increase in wastewater flow. The project will also provide additional capacity for future businesses in the service area. 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 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 anticipated to increase from \$31,000 to \$35,000 per month for the connected industries.

Notice of No Significant Impact Fitzgerald Water, Light & Bond Commission ARPA Grant No. GA-0010092 Page 2

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 January 5, 2023 at the Fitzgerald Water, Light & Bond Commission office 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 Fitzgerald Water, Light & Bond Commission office 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: Fitzgerald Water, Light & Bond Commission

302 East Central Avenue Fitzgerald, GA 31750

Issue Date: 02/10/2025 Jeffrey W. Cown

Jeffrey W. Cown

Director

Environmental Protection Division

