

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

The Georgia Water Planning and Policy Center (GWPPC) at Albany State University (ASU) 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 installation of deep aquifer wells and groundwater monitoring throughout the Lower Flint River Basin. 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: Georgia Water Planning and Policy Center at Albany
State University
Lower Flint River Basin Deep Aquifer Well Installation
and Monitoring Project
ARPA Grant No. GA-0011368

Project Location: Lower Flint River Basin (Multiple Counties)

Total Project Cost: \$53,590,000

Anticipated ARPA Grant Amount: \$49,870,000

Project Description

The Georgia Water Planning and Policy Center at Albany State University proposes to install approximately 242 deep aquifer wells in the Lower Flint River Basin, which spans across 27 counties, as part of the Georgia Flow Incentive Trust (GA-FIT) program. This project will provide alternative drought water sources for farmers that use surface water in the region. Additionally, 13 of the deep aquifer wells will be used for the purpose of groundwater monitoring and data collection for the Claiborne and Cretaceous Aquifers.

Anticipated Impacts

The proposed project will serve farmers in the Lower Flint River Basin that currently depend on surface water. The project will provide an alternative source of water during drought and restore and protect surface water flows in the Lower Flint River Basin.

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 may be located in the 100-year floodplain, as the final location of the groundwater wells has not yet been finalized. However, the scope of work taking place within the floodplain consists of installation of groundwater wells and will not impact the floodplain. The project will take place primarily on private property (or right-of-way) and/or previously disturbed land and no impacts to existing buildings are anticipated 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

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 from the GWPPC at ASU 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:

August Lutkehus
Environmental Protection Division
Wastewater Regulatory Program
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: Georgia Water Planning and Policy Center at Albany State University
125 Pine Avenue, Suite 240
Albany, Georgia 31701

Issue Date: 05/06/2024



Jeffrey W. Cown
Director
Environmental Protection Division

Figure 8

Potential Augmentation Sites

