

Richard E. Dunn, Director

Watershed Protection Branch

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

The Rabun County Water and Sewer Authority has made an application to the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (GEFA) and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division (EPD) for a loan through the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRF). The loan is for the the installation of 14,500 LF of new 8" water main as well as valves, fire hydrants on Wolffork to Church Road along Wolffork Rd to the Authority's systems on US 441. In addition to augmenting the US 441 redundancy water main project, the proposed extension will provide new water service to an estimated population of about 350 people who use individual well which does not provide a reliable and safe drinking water source. The applicant has certified that the project is environmentally sound. As required by the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program Guidelines, an environmental review has been performed on the project described below:

Project Name: Wolffork Valley Water System Expansion

Project Location: Rabun County, Georgia

Total Project Cost: \$1,800,000

Anticipated DWSRF Loan Amount: \$1,800,000

Project Description

Under this project, The Rabun County Water and Sewer Authority will install approximately 14,500 LF of new 8" water main as well as valves, fire hydrants on Wolffork to Church Road along Wolffork Rd to the Authority's systems on US 441. In addition to augmenting the US 441 redundancy water main project, the proposed extension will provide new water service to an estimated population of about 350 people who use individual well which does not provide a reliable and safe drinking water source. The project will have far reaching benefits to other residents of Rabun County since it enhances the overall redundancy of the water system.

Anticipated Impacts

The proposed project will have minimal impact on the environment. The extension and improvements of the water system are needed to provide redundancy and water service to unincorporate areas of Rabun County. The overall impact of the proposed project will be beneficial. There will be no significant adverse

A review of the Engineering Report and Environmental Information Document for the proposed project has been performed by EPD's Drinking Water Permitting and Engineering Program. A copy of these documents is available for public examination upon request at EPD between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The addresses where a copy is available are listed below.

During the development and design of this project, Rabun County has solicited public input. The project has undergone an Executive Order 12372 Review through the State agencies. The project has also been submitted to the Corps of Engineers, State Historic Preservation Office, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for review. No adverse comments have been received. No further environmental review of the 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 thirty (30) days of the issuance date of this notice to:

Georgia Environmental Protection Division ATTN: Duplex Tchinda, Environmental Engineer Drinking Water Program 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE - Suite 1362 East Atlanta, Georgia 30334-9000

After evaluating all comments received, EPD will make a final decision regarding approval of the project planning documents. No administrative action will be taken on the project for thirty (30) calendar days after issuance of this Notice.

Issue Date: 10/21/2022

Manny Patel

Drinking Water Program Manager Watershed Protection Branch Georgia Environmental Protection Division

Loan Recipient:

Rabun County Water and Sewer Authority 1650 Yorkhouse RD Rabun Gap, GA 30568