

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

The Bryan County Board of Commissioners has made an application to the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division (EPD) for a grant through the State Fiscal Recovery Fund (SFRF). The grant is intended for the North Bryan County Surface Water Extension. 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:

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| Project Name: | North Bryan County Surface Water Extension |
| Project Location: | Bryan County, Georgia |
| Project Number: | ARPA GA-0013624 |

Project Description

The proposed project includes the installation of approximately 14,250 linear feet of water transmission main, one (1) new booster pump station, and chemical upgrades to seven (7) wells located in Bulloch and Bryan County. The purpose of this Project is to extend service to anticipated developments within the region, to connect the North Bryan distribution system to the Effingham County water distribution system, to allow for regional distribution of a future surface water source while maintaining adequate pressure, to reduce groundwater withdrawal within the region, and to establish groundwater treatment that is compatible with surface water treatment from the future water source.

Anticipated Impacts

Construction of the proposed project will occur primarily within the road rights-of-way and utility easements and is therefore not anticipated to significantly impact environmental or cultural resources in the surrounding area. It is anticipated that the project will have a minor impact on wetlands, endangered species, stormwater, wastewater, air quality, solid waste, energy use, water, water withdrawal, and noise. However, the project's impact will be mitigated, and, in most cases, temporary. The proposed project will significantly contribute to the groundwater conservation efforts in the Floridan aquifer by substantially reducing the amount of water withdrawn from the four Bryan and Bulloch County wells.

The proposed water main route along Interstate 16 in Bryan County will cross forested wetlands. It is anticipated that the wetlands will be crossed using horizontal directional drilling (HDD) to minimize disturbance. Coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Savannah District project manager has been initiated, and the environmental consultant is preparing a request for "Jurisdictional Determination (JD)" and "Nationwide Permit (NWP) 58" for utility line activities crossing a wetland. Upon receiving approvals, the letters will be forwarded to the state. After review by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), it was found that suitable habitat for Tricolored Bat (*Perimyotis Subflavus*), Eastern Indigo Snake (*Drymarchon Couperi*), and Southern Hognose Snake (*Heterodon Simus*), are present within the project area. The County has developed preventive, protective measures and best practice management, which will be implemented during the construction activities. The USFWS concurred that the measures will not only help to minimize the impact on the listed Endangered Species but also prevent any potential secondary impact on suitable habitat. Moreover, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recommended that the project areas be surveyed for Gopher Tortoise Burrows (*Gopherus Polyphemus*) before the beginning of construction. The survey was completed, and, based on the results of the survey,

the project vicinity does not currently, and has at no time recently, contained Gopher Tortoises or burrows. If Gopher Tortoise Burrows are found during construction, the county shall contact the USFWS and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources for consultation.

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 and the Bryan County Community Development Offices 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, the Bryan County Board of Commissioners 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, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and the USFWS for review. No comments of adverse effect have been received from SHPO or USFWS. If the USACE were to provide any comments in the future, the applicant must provide all mitigation measures for these comments, including applying for all necessary permits if applicable. No further environmental review of the project is proposed to be conducted before 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 1052 East
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-9000

After evaluating all comments received, EPD will make a final decision regarding the 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.

Grant Recipient: Bryan County Board of Commissioners

Community Development Office
51 N Courthouse St
Pembroke, GA 31321

Community Development Office
66 Captain Matthew Freeman Drive
Richmond Hill, Georgia 31324