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Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463
(334) 271-7700 • FAX (334) 271-7950

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FROM ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Town of Garden City
Cullman County

SRF Project No. FS010285-01

January 5, 2022

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management has made \$195,200 in financial assistance available to the Town of Garden City using funds from the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) loan program. In accordance with State and Federal regulations that govern the program, the Alabama Department of Environmental Management has conducted a review to assess the potential impacts upon the environment that may result from implementation of this project.

The Town of Garden City proposes a project to provide improved drinking water reliability within its water system. The proposed project will consist of replacement of existing water meters with new AMR meters, installation of SCADA at the existing tank and a replacement valve on the water supply connection from Blount County. Completion of this proposed project will reduce the unaccounted for water loss and decrease overall operational cost associated with labor and transportation.

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management has determined that the project qualifies for a Categorical Exclusion (CE) from further environmental study under the guidelines specified by the State Environmental Review Process (SERP) which specifically include actions which are solely directed toward minor rehabilitation of existing facilities, functional replacement of equipment, or towards the construction of new ancillary facilities adjacent or appurtenant to existing facilities. However, this decision may be reconsidered if significant adverse information concerning the potential environmental impacts of the project is discovered.

Comments relative to this project should be submitted in writing to Mrs. Chavon R. Jones, SRF Section, Permits and Services Division, Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Post Office Box 301463, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463, no later than 30 days after the date of this public notice. The Alabama Department of Environmental Management will not take formal action to proceed with the project without carefully evaluating any public comments opposing the project.

Sincerely,

Lance R. LeFleur,
Director

LRL/EJR/CRJ/kbh
Attachment

Town of Garden City
SRF# FS010285-01

The Categorical Exclusion is promulgated in the State Environmental Review Process (SERP) in Part IV, Section C: Categorical Exclusions for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Projects: (Italicized sections apply.)

1. The following drinking water projects are eligible for categorical exclusions:
 - a. *Actions intended solely for minor rehabilitation, functional replacement, or ancillary facilities adjacent or appurtenant to existing facilities.*
 - b. Minor construction, including:
 - (1) New wells or replacement wells for water supply purposes if ancillary to the existing system;
 - (2) Improvements not intended to increase capacity of the system;
 - (3) Facilities for the disinfection of public water supplies;
 - (4) Facilities such as looping that will result solely in the provision of adequate public water system pressure;
 - (5) *Construction of water tanks;*
 - (6) Construction of new water lines in previously disturbed areas within one mile of the existing distribution system.
 - c. Projects where funding is being provided for planning and/or engineering costs only (in which case the requirements of IV.C.1.a-d do not apply).
2. In order to determine if a drinking water project is eligible for a CE, all of the following must not apply:
 - a. The action is known or expected to directly or indirectly adversely impact any of the following:
 - (1) Cultural or historical resources;
 - (2) Endangered or Threatened Species and/or their critical habitats;
 - (3) Environmentally important natural resource areas such as floodplains, wetlands, prime agricultural land, or aquifer recharge zones.
 - b. The action is not cost effective.
 - c. The action will cause significant public controversy.
 - d. The action will create a new or expanded surface drinking water source.

This project complies with the above requirements and has been determined to be eligible for a Categorical Exclusion.



ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Lisa D. Jones
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

468 South Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900

Tel: 334-242-3184
Fax: 334-242-1083

July 2, 2021

David Haynes
508 First Avenue SE
Cullman, AL 35055

Re: AHC 21-0882
Garden City Water - Meter & Distribution System Improvements
Cullman County

Dear Mr. Haynes:

We concur with the above referenced project provided all construction activities will occur within **existing and previously disturbed** highway right-of-way and/or other previously disturbed areas. For the purposes of this letter, previous disturbance is defined as mechanical disturbance to either culturally sterile subsoil, or the maximum depth of the proposed undertaking. It should be noted that agricultural plowing does not typically meet this threshold of disturbance, nor do previously undisturbed portions of the ROW that require clearing of additional vegetation. Any area that is to be involved and does not fall into one of the above categories will require a cultural resource assessment by a professional archaeologist. Submit the resulting report to our office for review and determination prior to project initiation.

Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office does not constitute consultation with Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, other Native American tribes, local governments, or the public. If archaeological materials are encountered during construction, the procedures codified at 36 CFR 800.13(b) will apply. Archaeological materials consist of any items, fifty years old or older, which were made or used by man. These items include but are not limited to, stone projectile points (arrowheads), ceramic sherds, bricks, worked wood, bone and stone, metal, and glass objects. The federal agency or the applicant receiving federal assistance should contact our office immediately. If human remains are encountered, the provisions of the Alabama Burial Act (*Code of Alabama* 1975, §13A-7-23.1, as amended; Alabama Historical Commission Administrative Code Chapter 460-X-10 Burials) should be followed. This stipulation shall be placed on the construction plans to ensure contractors are aware of it.

We appreciate your commitment to helping us preserve Alabama's historic archaeological and architectural resources. Should you have any questions, please contact Amanda McBride at 334.230.2692 or Amanda.McBride@ahc.alabama.gov. Have the AHC tracking number referenced above available and include it with any future correspondence.

Sincerely,

Lee Anne Wofford
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

LAW/AMH/nj

TA/EP
2021-TA-1124

RECEIVED
JUN 29 2021
BY: Rgh

Wp



ST. JOHN
& ASSOCIATES

June 23, 2021

Mr. William J. Pearson
Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1208-B Main Street
Daphne, Alabama 36526

Re: 2021 DWSRF Application – Town of Garden City
Garden City, Cullman County, Alabama

Dear Mr. Pearson:

St. John & Associates, Inc. has been retained by the Town of Garden City, Alabama to assist in the application for a 2021 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) loan. This loan is intended to finance a distribution system-wide, meter and controls improvements project. Application for funding requires the preparation of an Environmental Information Document (EID). This document reviews and evaluates the environmental impacts of the proposed projects that will be included in the capital improvements program.

Improvements will occur within the existing footprint of the Town's distribution system and will include replacement of traditional meters with automated meter reading (AMR) assemblies. These replacements will occur within areas previously disturbed for construction of water service lines. Meter boxes shall be located on property within public right-of-way and utility easements.

Other items of work will include supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) improvements for improved operations associated with the Town's existing storage tank. Installation of remote terminal units (RTU) at the tank and at a replacement, electronically-controlled, isolation valve will allow department staff to control supply line filling of the tank remotely. The existing tank and valve pit are located on properties either owned by the Town of Garden City or within public right-of-way or utility easements.

A map of the distribution system for the Town of Garden City is provided in Figure 1. The location of the storage tank and existing valve pit associated with the improvements are identified. The location of Town Hall is also identified.

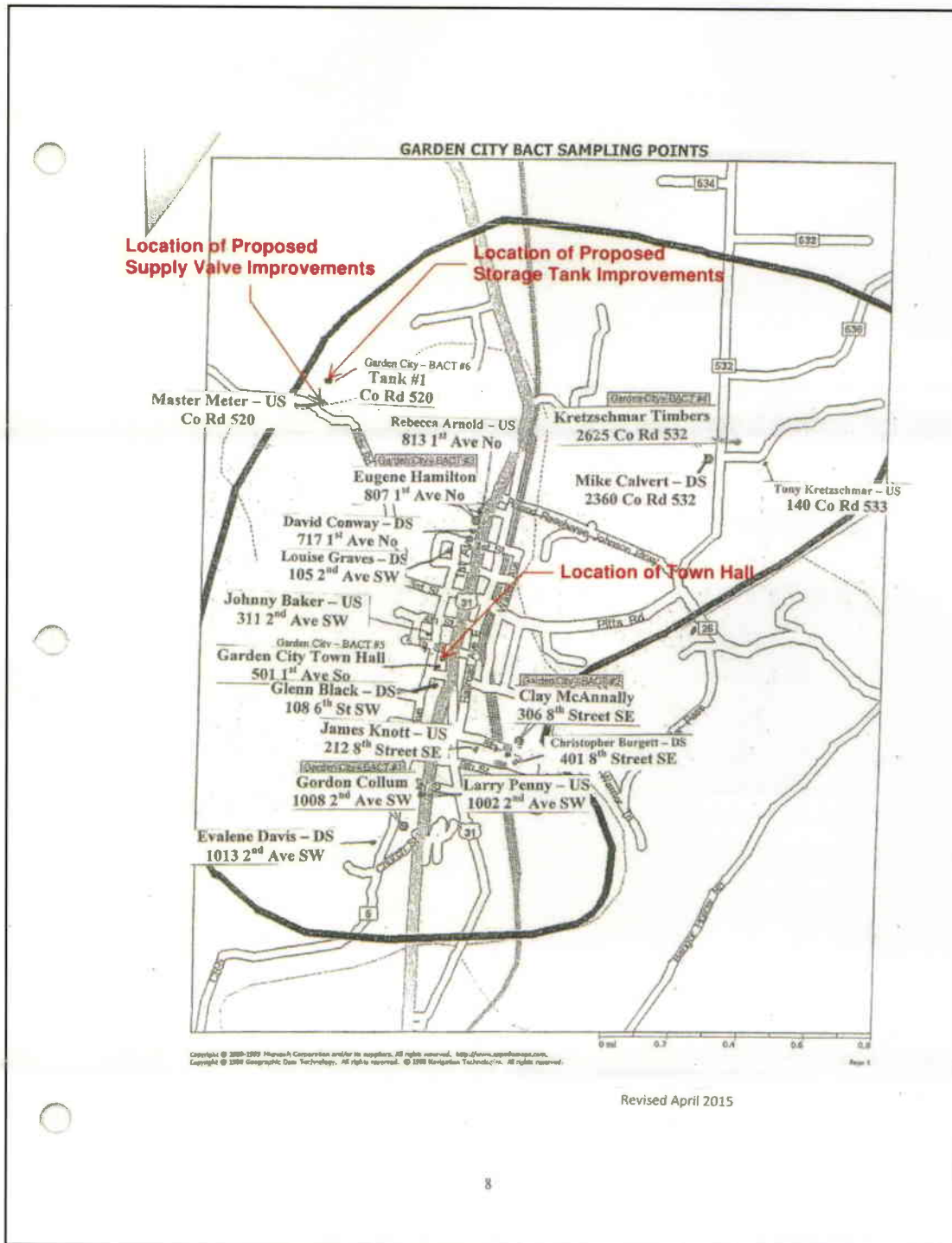


Figure 1: Town of Garden City Water Distribution Map with Proposed DWSRF Improvements

In order to maintain operational costs and ensure effective operation of the system, the proposed improvements in the project are intended to reduce unnecessary operational tasks while improving the dependability and potential accuracy of water distribution management. Best management practices will be implemented and monitored throughout the projects' construction in order to prevent adverse and unnecessary impacts to the environment.

As part of this program's EID, we are requesting your review in the area of concern to your agency. We would also ask that you provide a letter of your concurrence if possible. We would appreciate a response no later than July 9, 2021, in order to meet our deadlines in the SRF loan application process. Please let me know if you have any questions or need any additional information. I may be contacted by office phone or email ((256) 734-2114; david@sjaonline.com).

Sincerely,
St. John & Associates, Inc.



David Q. Haynes, P.E.

cc. Tim Eskew, Mayor
File



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1208-B Main Street - Daphne, Alabama 36526
Phone 251-441-5181 Fax 251-441-6222

No federally listed species critical habitat are known to occur in the project area. As described, the project will have no significant impact on fish and wildlife resources. IF PROJECT DESIGN CHANGES ARE MADE, PLEASE SUBMIT NEW PLANS FOR REVIEW. We recommend use of best management practices specific to your project (See <http://www.fws.gov/daphne/section7/bmp.html>).


William J. Pearson, Field Supervisor

JUL 23 2021

Date

#3



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, MOBILE DISTRICT
600 VESTAVIA PARKWAY, SUITE 203
THE SHELBY BUILDING
VESTAVIA HILLS, ALABAMA 35216

December 8, 2021

North Branch
Regulatory Division

SUBJECT: Department of the Army, No Permit Required, File Number SAM-2021-00828-JEB, Town of Garden City, Cullman County, Alabama

Town of Garden City
c/o St. John and Associates, Inc.
Attention: Mr. David Q. Hayes, P.E.
508 First Ave. S.E.
Cullman, Alabama 35055

Transmitted electronically to DAVID@SJAONLINE.COM

Dear Mr. Hayes:

This letter is in response to your June 23, 2021 request, submitted on behalf of the Town of Garden City, concerning proposed water meter and controls improvements in Section 4, Township 12 South, Range 2 West, Garden City, Cullman County, Alabama (Latitude N 34.01873°, Longitude W -86.75235°). This project has been assigned file number SAM-2021-00828-JEB, which should be referred to in all future correspondence regarding this project.

As stated in your letter the project will consist of upgrades to existing facilities and automated meter reading improvements within the footprint of existing infrastructure, which are activities typically not regulated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Section 404 of the Clean Water Act specifically addresses discharges of dredged and/or fill material into waters of the United States, including wetlands, and requires that a Department of the Army (DA) permit must be obtained prior to conducting any work that would include a discharge of dredged and/or fill material into waters of the United States.

Because the Town of Garden City improvement project does not involve a discharge of dredged and or fill material in areas beyond the existing development footprint, the activity is not regulated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and a DA permit is not required for the project as proposed. However, you may need to coordinate with us in the future if construction activities would be expanded or modified in any way that will impact jurisdictional waters of the U.S.

The statements contained herein do not convey any property rights or any exclusive privileges, and do not authorize any injury to property or obviate the requirements to obtain other local, State, or Federal assents required by law for the activities discussed above. If the scope of work or project location changes, you are urged to contact this office for a verification of this determination.

Thank you for your cooperation with our permit program. If you have any questions concerning this matter, you may contact me at james.e.buckelew@usace.army.mil For additional information about our Regulatory Program, visit our web site at <http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>. Also, please take a moment to complete our customer satisfaction survey located near the bottom of the webpage. Your responses are appreciated and will allow us to improve our services.

Sincerely,

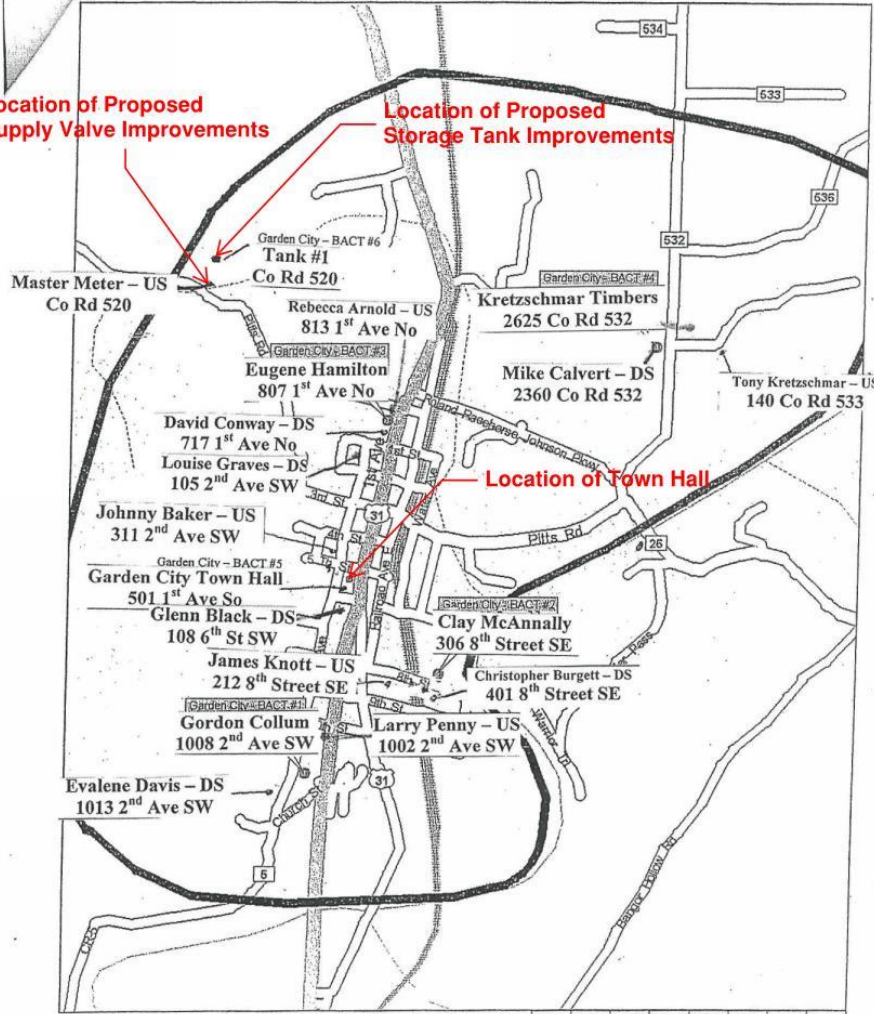
Eric Buckelew
Senior Project Manager
North Branch

Attachment

GARDEN CITY BACT SAMPLING POINTS

Location of Proposed
Supply Valve Improvements

Location of Proposed
Storage Tank Improvements



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Revised April 2015



June 28, 2021

St. John & Associates, Inc.
ATTN: David Q. Haynes, P.E.
508 First Avenue, SE
Cullman, AL 35055


**RE: Letter of Concurrence
Garden City, Cullman County, Alabama
2021 DWSRF Application**

Dear Mr. Haynes:

The North Central Alabama Regional Council of Governments (NARCOG) has reviewed the information provided for the proposed project in Garden City, and we offer our concurrence. NARCOG understands that the proposed project is for a distribution system-wide, meter and controls improvements. These improvements will include replacement of traditional meters with automated meter reading (AMR) assemblies. Other items include supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) associated with the existing storage tank and installation of remote terminal units (RTU) at the tank. Additionally, the proposed project will utilize Best Management Practices (BMP's) and occur within existing public right-of-way and/or utility easements.

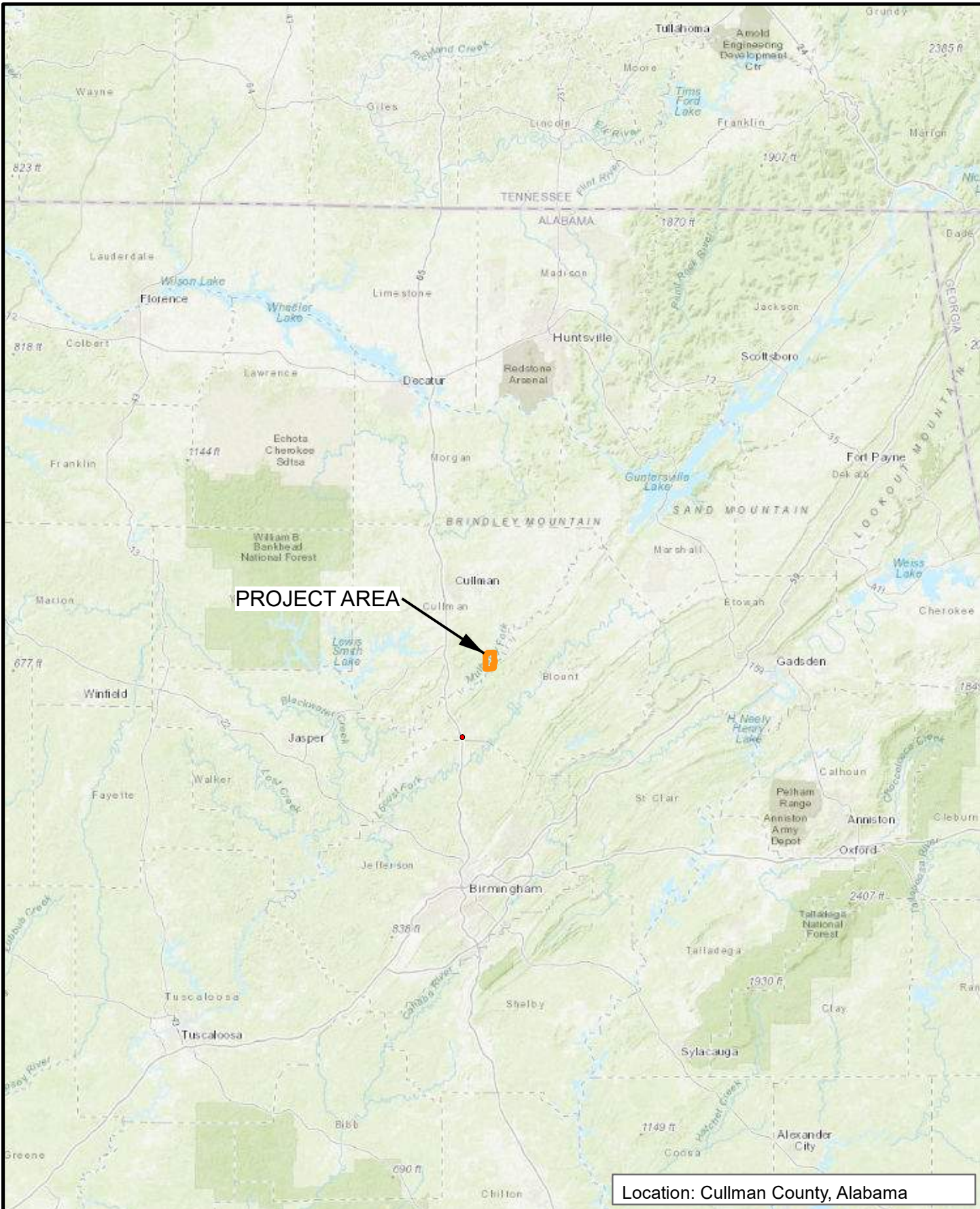
In conclusion, NARCOG finds the proposed project to be consistent and compatible with local, state, and regional plans. Should you need any further assistance, please do not hesitate to call me at (256) 355-4515.

Sincerely,



Joseph F. Hester, AICP
Director of Planning and Development

cc: Robby Cantrell, Executive Director
Tim Eskew, Mayor
File



1:1,500,000

Meter & Distribution System Improvements
 Vicinity Map for DWSRF Application
 Garden City, Alabama

St. John & Associates, Inc
 Consulting Engineers and Planners
 508 First Ave SE, Cullman, AL, 256-734-2114, www.sjaonline.com



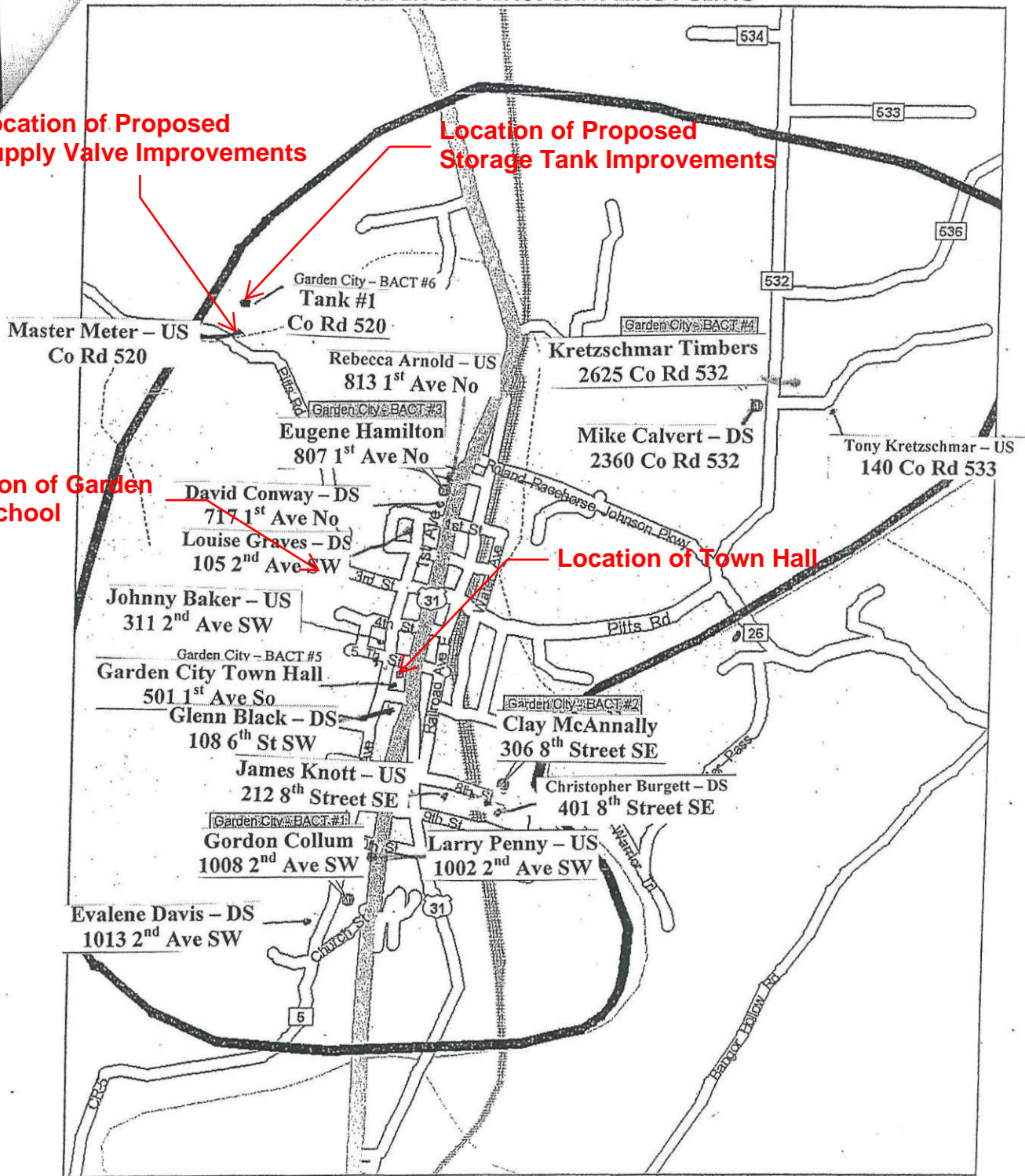
GARDEN CITY BACT SAMPLING POINTS

Location of Proposed Supply Valve Improvements

Location of Proposed Storage Tank Improvements

Location of Garden City School

Location of Town Hall



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Revised April 2015