

EDWARD F. POOLOS
DIRECTOR

JEFFERY W. KITCHENS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR



KAY IVEY
GOVERNOR

Alabama Department of Environmental Management
adem.alabama.gov

1400 Coliseum Blvd. 36110-2400 ■ Post Office Box 301463
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463
(334) 271-7700 ■ FAX (334) 271-7950

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FROM ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Bessemer Water Services
Jefferson County

SRF Project No. FS010425-01

December 10, 2025

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management has made **\$9,000,000** in financial assistance available to the **Bessemer Water Services** 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 Bessemer Water Services proposes a project to improve the reliability of the drinking water infrastructure. The proposed project consists of rehabilitating storage tanks within the distribution system. Completion of this proposed project will increase the dependability and resiliency of the distribution system and maintain compliance. 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 Branch, 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 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,

Edward F. Poolos
Director

EFP/EME/CRJ/

Attachment



Birmingham Office
110 Vulcan Road
Birmingham, AL 35209-4702
(205) 942-6168
(205) 941-1603 (FAX)

Decatur Office
2715 Sandlin Road, S.W.
Decatur, AL 35603-1333
(256) 353-1713
(256) 340-9359 (FAX)

Coastal Office
1615 South Broad Street
Mobile, AL 36605
(251) 450-3400
(251) 479-2593 (FAX)

Bessemer Water Services

SRF# FS010425-01

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.

Municipal Consultants, Inc.

Civil/Environmental Engineering

200 Century Park South, Suite 212
Birmingham, Alabama 35226
(205) 822-0387

RECEIVED
JAN 15 2025

KR

BY: *[Signature]*

January 15, 2025

Mr. Bill Pearson
United State Department of the Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service
1208-B Main Street
Daphne, AL 36526

Re: **2025-0042441**
City of Bessemer Tank Rehabilitation and Painting
Proposed Water System Improvements
FY 2023 SRF Loan Application

Dear Mr. Pearson:

Please accept this correspondence as notification that the Bessemer Water Service (BWS) has been approved for funding through the SRF program. As part of the funding process, BWS is required to request your Agency's concurrence. The BWS is proposing to repair and recoat several of their existing water storage tanks throughout their system in Jefferson County. Work done relating to this project will be on existing structures and in previously disturbed areas on existing BWS property. A map is enclosed showing the locations included in the project.

BWS respectfully requests a letter of concurrence (and any relevant comments) from your agency regarding these projects. The SRF funding program for these projects requires a full application to be completed and submitted to ADEM prior to letting and therefore beginning construction. As a result, your Agency's prompt response to this request for concurrence is very much appreciated.

Please return your response to my attention at the address above.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Chris Cousins

enclosure

xc: Jerry Yarbrough, Bessemer Water Services



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 <https://www.fws.gov/project/best-management-practices-alabama>).

[Signature]

William J. Pearson
Field Supervisor
Alabama Ecological Services Field Office

JAN 27 2025

Date

#3



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, MOBILE DISTRICT
600 VESTAVIA PARKWAY, SUITE 203
VESTAVIA HILLS, AL 35216

January 22, 2025

North Branch
Regulatory Division

SUBJECT: Department of the Army, No Permit Required, File Number SAM-2025-00022-LET, Bessemer Water Service – water storage tank rehabilitation, Jefferson County, Alabama

Bessemer Water Service
% Municipal Consultants, Inc.
Attention: Chris Cousins
200 Century Park South, Suite 212
Birmingham, Alabama 35226

Transmitted electronically to ccousins@municipalconsultants.org

Dear Mr. Cousins:

This is in response to your letter, on behalf of the Bessemer Water Service, dated January 2, 2025, requesting Department of Army (DA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) review of the proposed rehabilitation of multiple water storage tanks across the water system's service area in Bessemer, Jefferson County, Alabama as depicted on the attached maps. The water system service area is centered near latitude 33.405595 North, longitude -86.966475 West. This project has been assigned file number SAM-2025-00022-LET, which should be referenced in all future correspondence regarding this project.

The USACE has regulatory responsibilities pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA)(33 U.S.C. 1344) and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (RHA) (33 U.S.C. 403). Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) specifically addresses discharges of dredged and/or fill material into waters of the United States (U.S.), 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 U.S. However, the tank rehabilitation activities identified in your letter would consist solely of blasting to remove old paint and protective coatings from the existing tanks, making necessary repairs to the tank structures, and applying new coating systems, which are activities typically not regulated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) as the proposed work types would not involve the discharge of dredged and/or fill material into waters of the U.S. There are no Section 10 RHA regulated traditional navigable waters within the immediate vicinity of the proposed water tank rehabilitation project.

Based on our findings regarding the Bessemer Water Service's proposed water storage tank rehabilitation project, the work as specified herein **will not require** a DA permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. However, you may need to re-coordinate with us in the future regarding DA permit requirements if the scope of work would be modified or increased in such a way that impacts to jurisdictional waters of the U.S. will be required.

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.

We appreciate your cooperation with the USACE Regulatory Program. Please contact me at (205) 213-9623 or at leslie.e.turney@usace.army.mil if you have any questions concerning this matter. For additional information about our Regulatory Program, you may 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 under the Menu header on the right side of our webpage. Your responses are appreciated and will allow us to improve our services.

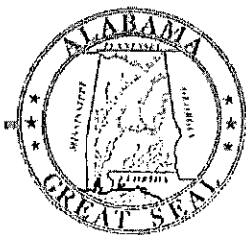
Sincerely,

**Leslie E.
Turney**

Leslie E. Turney
Chief, North Branch
Regulatory Division

Digitally signed by
Leslie E. Turney
Date: 2025.01.22
08:11:55 -06'00'

Enclosures



ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

468 South Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900

Lisa D. Jones
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

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

January 28, 2025

Chris Cousins
Municipal Consultants, Inc.
200 Century Park South Suite 200
Birmingham, AL 35226

Re: AHC 25-0293
Bessemer Water Services Storage Tank Rehabilitation and Painting
Jefferson County

Dear Mr. Cousins:

Upon review of the above referenced project, we concur that project activities will have no effect on cultural resources eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Therefore, we concur with the determination of no effect to historic properties.

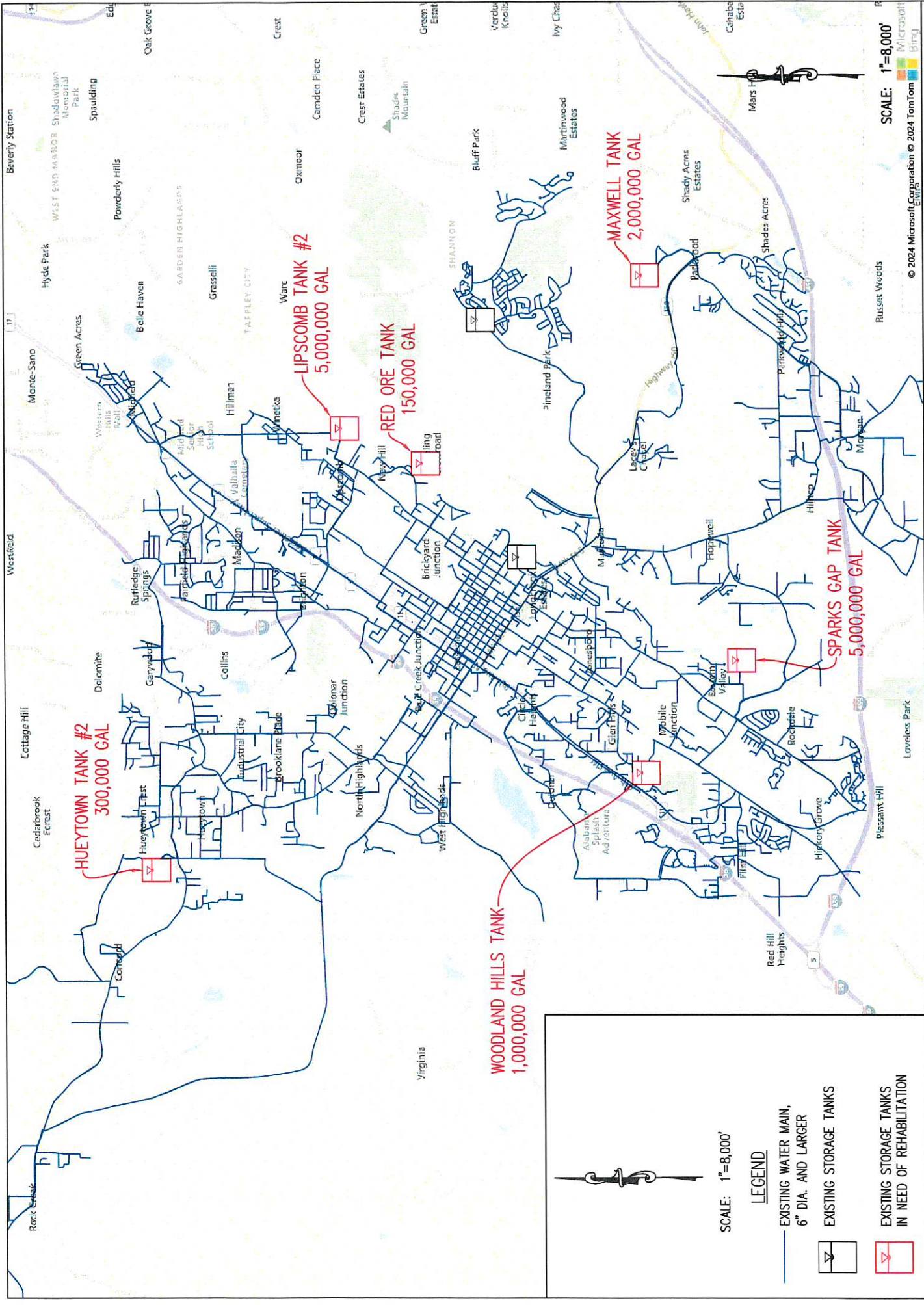
Consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office does not constitute consultation with Tribal Historic Preservation Offices, other Native American tribes, local governments, or the public. If archaeological materials are encountered during construction, the procedures codified at 36 CFR 800.13(b) 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 Eric Sipes at 334.230.2667 or Eric.Sipes@ahc.alabama.gov. Have the AHC tracking number referenced above available and include it with any future correspondence.

Sincerely,

Lee Anne Hewett
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

LAH/EDS/lah



SCALE: 1"=8,000'

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Microsoft Bing

EXHIBIT 1: EXISTING BWS STEEL TANKS IN NEED OF REHABILITATION

National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMette

87°0'44"W 33°27'49"N



Legend

SEE THIS REPORT FOR DETAILED LEGEND AND INDEX MAP FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT



This map complies with FEMA's standards for the use of digital flood maps if it is not void as described below. The basemap shown complies with FEMA's basemap accuracy standards.

The flood hazard information is derived directly from the authoritative NFHL web services provided by FEMA. This map was exported on 5/5/2024 at 1:53 PM and does not reflect changes or amendments subsequent to this date and time. The NFHL and effective information may change or become superseded by new data over time.

This map image is void if the one or more of the following map elements do not appear: basemap imagery, flood zone labels, legend, scale bar, map creation date, community identifiers, FIRM panel number, and FIRM effective date. Map images for unmapped and unmodernized areas cannot be used for regulatory purposes.



87°06'W 33°27'15"N

National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMette



86°55'13"W 33°25'47"N



86°54'35"W 33°25'17"N

0 250 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Feet

1:6,000

Legend

SEE THIS REPORT FOR DETAILED LEGEND AND INDEX MAP FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT



The pin displayed on the map is an approximate point selected by the user and does not represent an authoritative property location.

This map complies with FEMA's standards for the use of digital flood maps if it is not void as described below. The basemap shown complies with FEMA's basemap accuracy standards.

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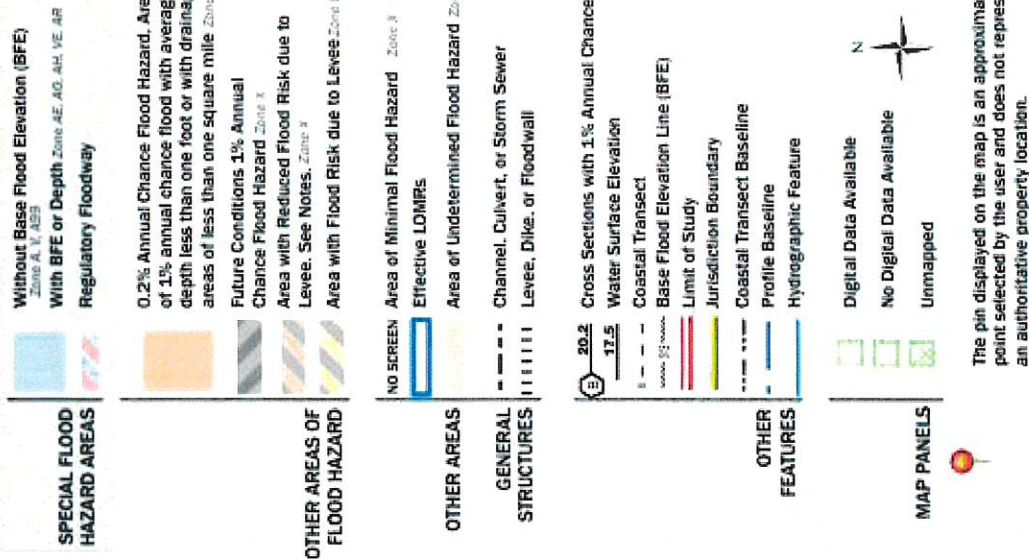
National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMette

86°53'17"W 33°22'33"N



Legend

SEE FIS REPORT FOR DETAILED LEGEND AND INDEX MAP FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT



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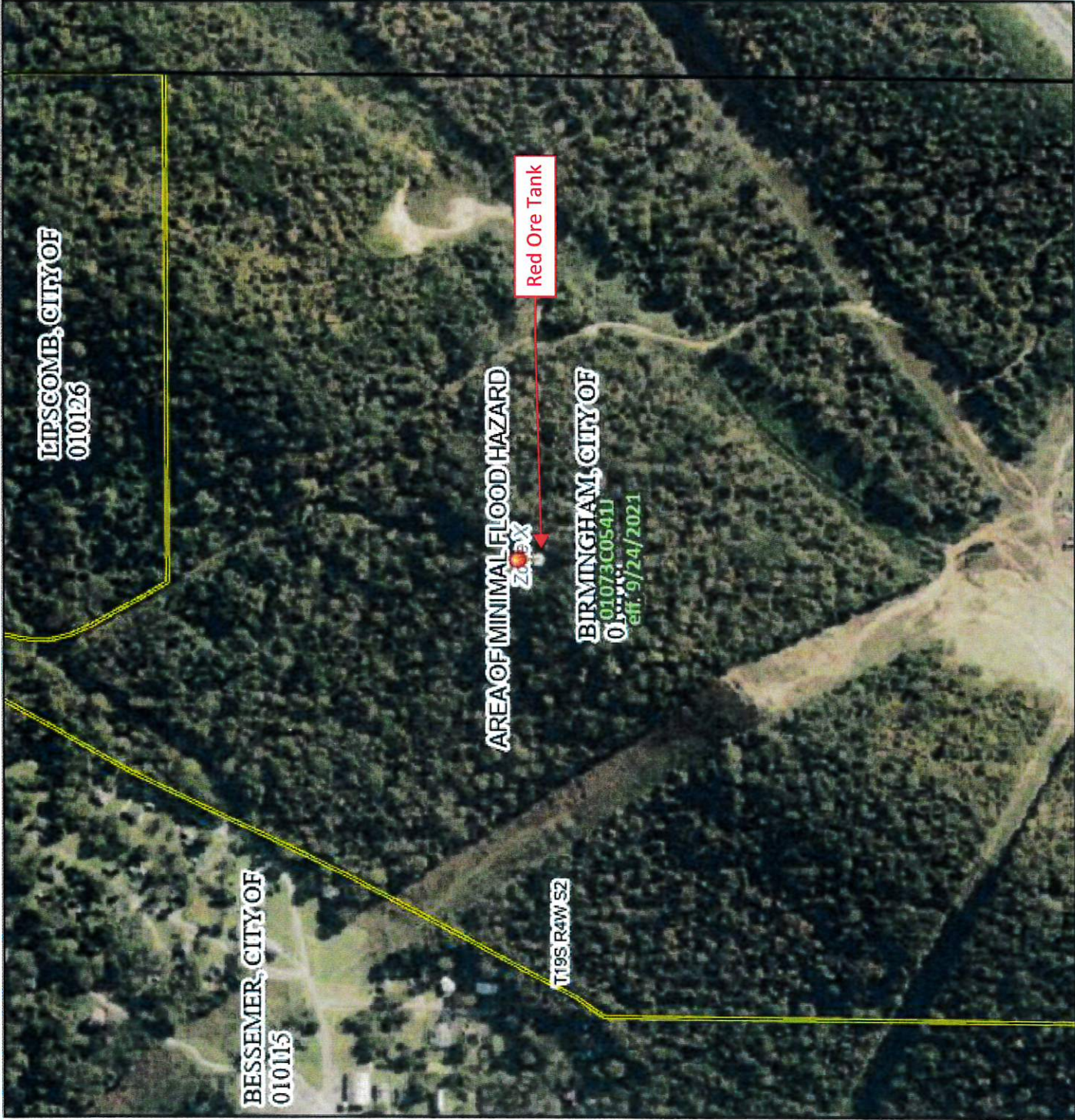
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National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMette



86°55'39"W 33°24'54"N



86°55'1"W 33°24'24"N

Legend

SEE FIS REPORT FOR DETAILED LEGEND AND INDEX MAP FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT

Without Base Flood Elevation (BFE)
Zone A, V, AE

With BFE or Depth
Zone AE, AO, AH, VE, AR

Regulatory Floodway

0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard. Area of 1% annual chance flood with average depth less than one foot or with drainage areas of less than one square mile
Zone X

Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard
Zone X

Area with Reduced Flood Risk due to Levee. See Notes.
Zone X

Area with Flood Risk due to Levee
Zone D

NO SCREEN

Area of Minimal Flood Hazard
Zone X

Effective LOMR

Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard
Zone X

Channel, Culvert, or Storm Sewer

Levee, Dike, or Floodwall

Cross Sections with 1% Annual Chance

Water Surface Elevation

Coastal Transsect

Base Flood Elevation Line (BFE)

Limit of Study

Jurisdiction Boundary

Coastal Transsect Baseline

Profile Baseline

Hydrographic Feature

Digital Data Available

No Digital Data Available

Unmapped

The pin displayed on the map is an approximate point selected by the user and does not represent an authoritative property location.

SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS

OTHER AREAS OF FLOOD HAZARD

OTHER FEATURES

MAP PANELS

This map complies with FEMA's standards for the use of digital flood maps if it is not void as described below. The basemap shown complies with FEMA's basemap accuracy standards.

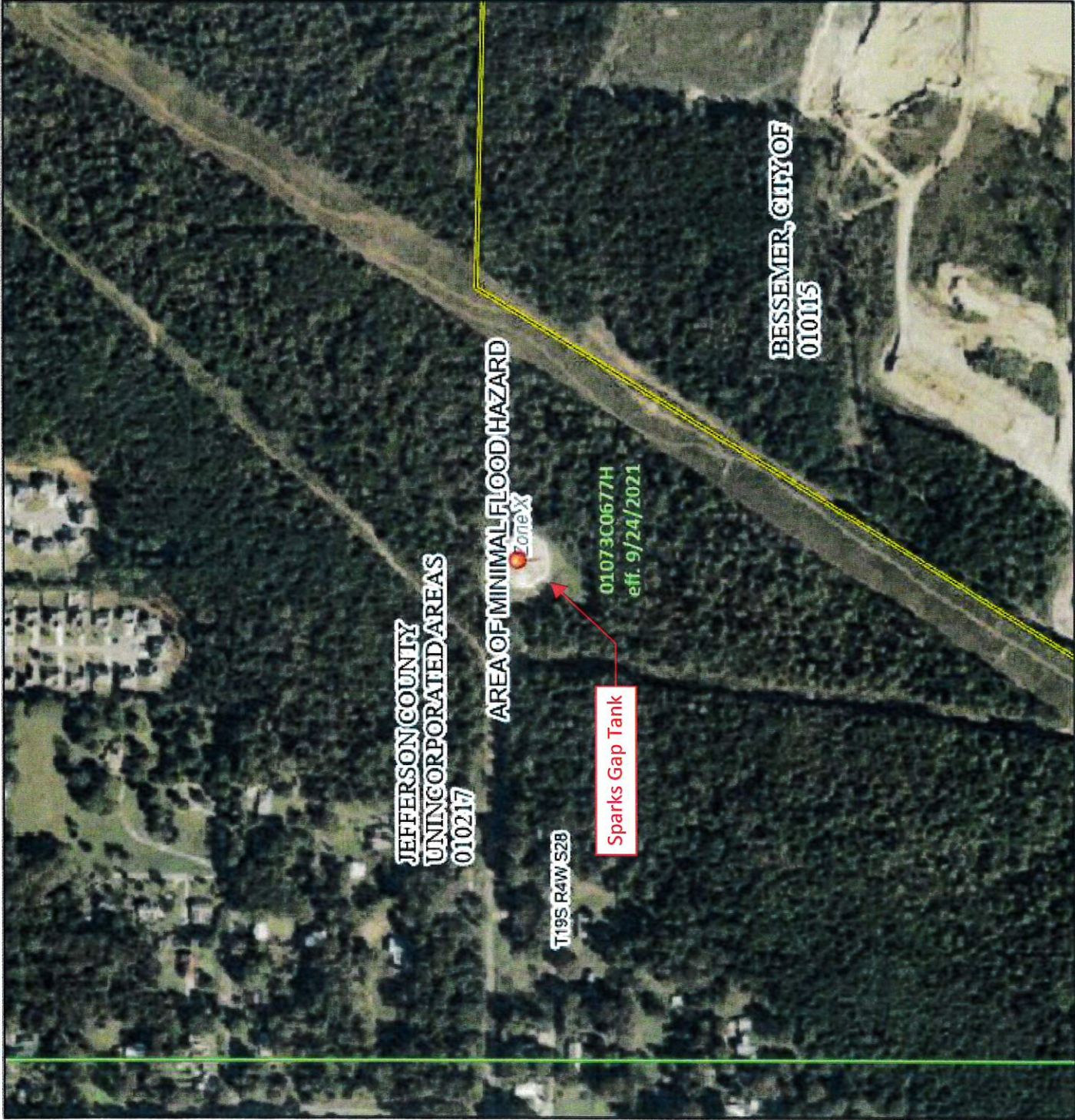
The flood hazard information is derived directly from the authoritative NFHL web services provided by FEMA. This map was exported on **8/5/2024 at 1:45 PM** and does not reflect changes or amendments subsequent to this date and time. The NFHL and effective information may change or become superseded by new data over time.

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National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMette



86°58'9"N 33°21'33"W

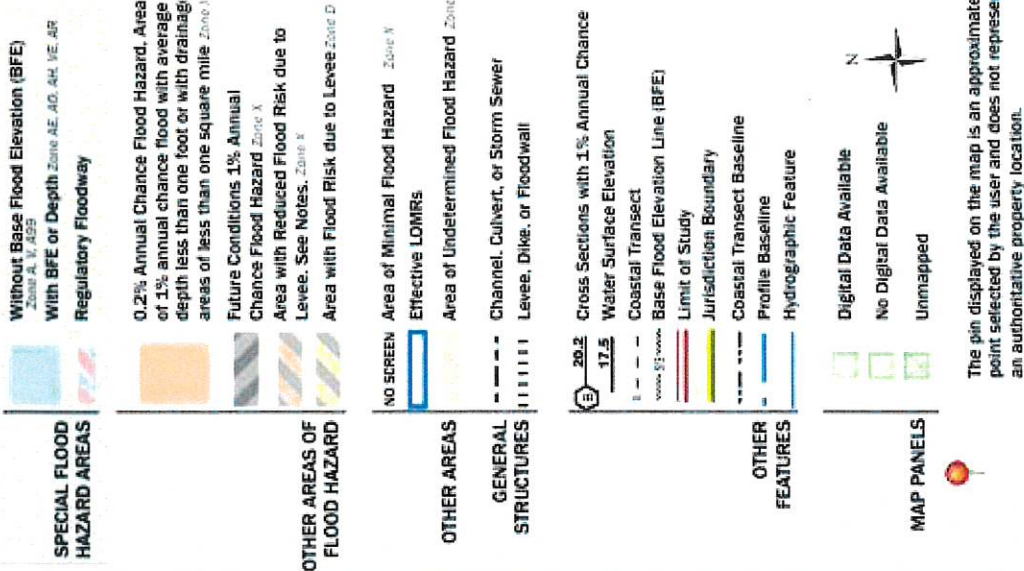


0 250 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Feet 1:6,000

86°57'12\"/>

Legend

SEE FIS REPORT FOR DETAILED LEGEND AND INDEX MAP FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT



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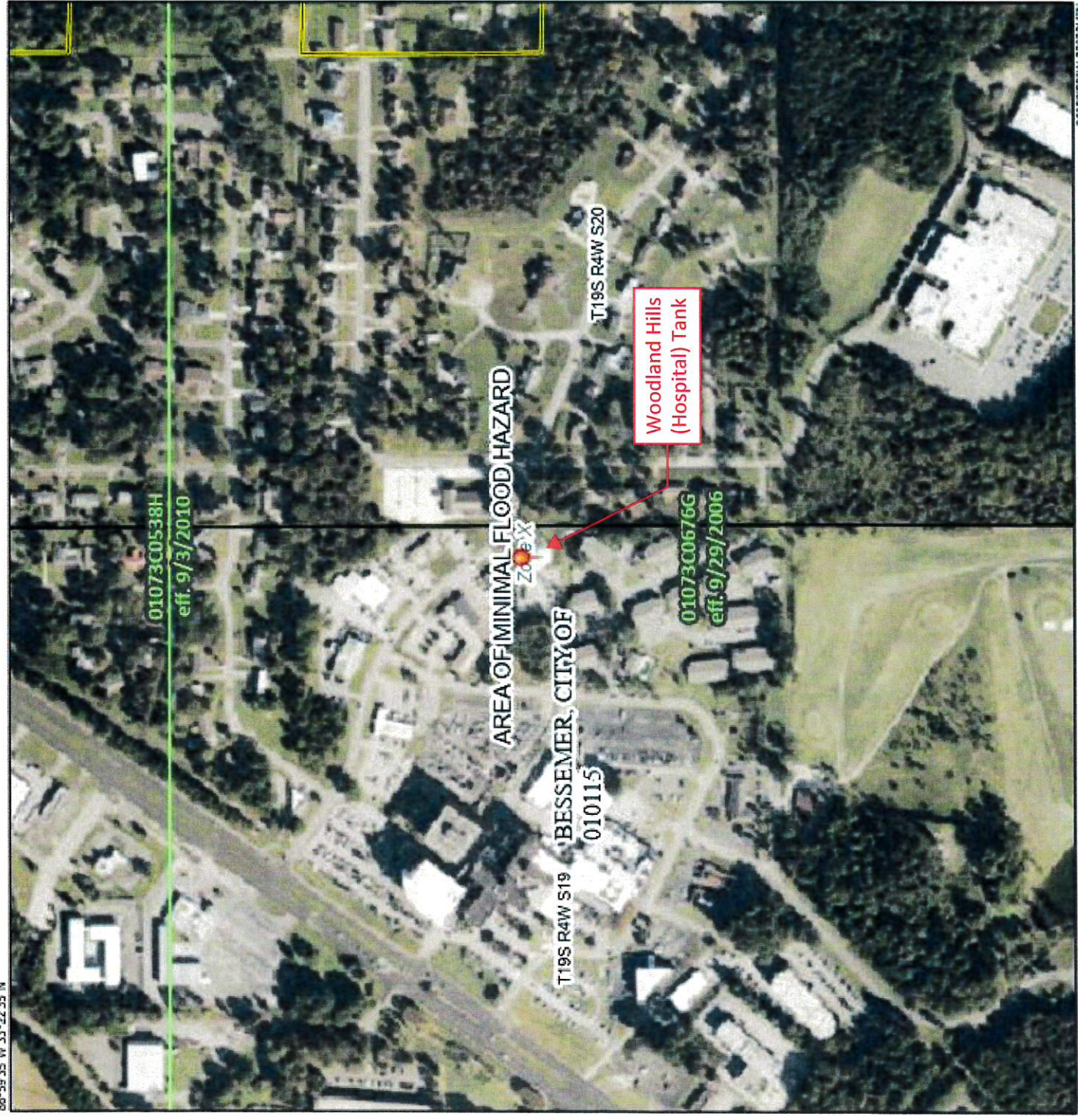
The flood hazard information is derived directly from the authoritative NFHL web services provided by FEMA. This map was exported on **8/5/2024 at 1:39 PM** and does not reflect changes or amendments subsequent to this date and time. The NFHL and effective information may change or become superseded by new data over time.

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National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMette



86°59'35"W 33°22'35"N



0 250 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Feet 1:6,000

86°58'58"W 33°22'4"N

Legend

SEE FIS REPORT FOR DETAILED LEGEND AND INDEX MAP FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT

SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS

Without Base Flood Elevation (BFE)
Zone A, X, AE5

With BFE or Depth *Zone AE, AO, AH, VE, AP*

Regulatory Floodway

OTHER AREAS OF FLOOD HAZARD

0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard, Area of 1% annual chance flood with average depth less than one foot or with drainage areas of less than one square mile *Zone A*

Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard *Zone X*

Area with Reduced Flood Risk due to Levee, See Notes. *Zone X*

Area with Flood Risk due to Levee *Zone D*

OTHER AREAS

No Screen

Area of Minimal Flood Hazard *Zone A*

Effective LOMRS

Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard *Zone D*

GENERAL STRUCTURES

Channel, Culvert, or Storm Sewer

Levee, Dike, or Floodwall

OTHER FEATURES

Cross Sections with 1% Annual Chance

Water Surface Elevation

Coastal Transect

Base Flood Elevation Line (BFE)

Limit of Study

Jurisdiction Boundary

Coastal Transect Baseline

Profile Baseline

Hydrographic Feature

MAP PANELS

Digital Data Available

No Digital Data Available

Unmapped

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