

EDWARD F. POOLOS
DIRECTOR

JEFFERY W. KITCHENS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR



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

KAY IVEY
GOVERNOR

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FROM ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Butler County Water Supply District
Butler County

FS010435-01

October 7, 2026

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management has made financial assistance available to the **Butler County Water Supply District**. 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 Butler County Water Supply District proposes a three-phase water system improvement project with an estimated total project cost of \$12,974,375. The current Phase I portion of the project has been funded by a **\$3,243,595.00 ARPA Grant Award** and a proposed **SRF Drinking Water Loan for \$2,479,323.00**. This project includes three (3) phases of work intended to decrease the demand on the Greenville cone of depression zone within the underlying aquifer. Phase I would involve completing the construction of the Blackmon Production Well. This phase would also involve the installation of 16" finished water main, running from the Blackmon Production Well and tying into the existing Butler County Water Authority infrastructure. Phase II involves completing the construction of the Hardwood Ridge Production Well and also the construction of a 500,000-gallon elevated water tank. Phase III involves the construction of a new 1.5 million gallon per day water treatment plant.

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 identified in Attachment 1 (attached). However, this decision may be reconsidered if significant adverse information concerning the potential environmental impacts of the project is discovered.

Comments related to this project should be submitted in writing to Geoff McDuffie, 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 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,

Edward F. Poolos
Director

EFP/MDM/GMC/kmb



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)

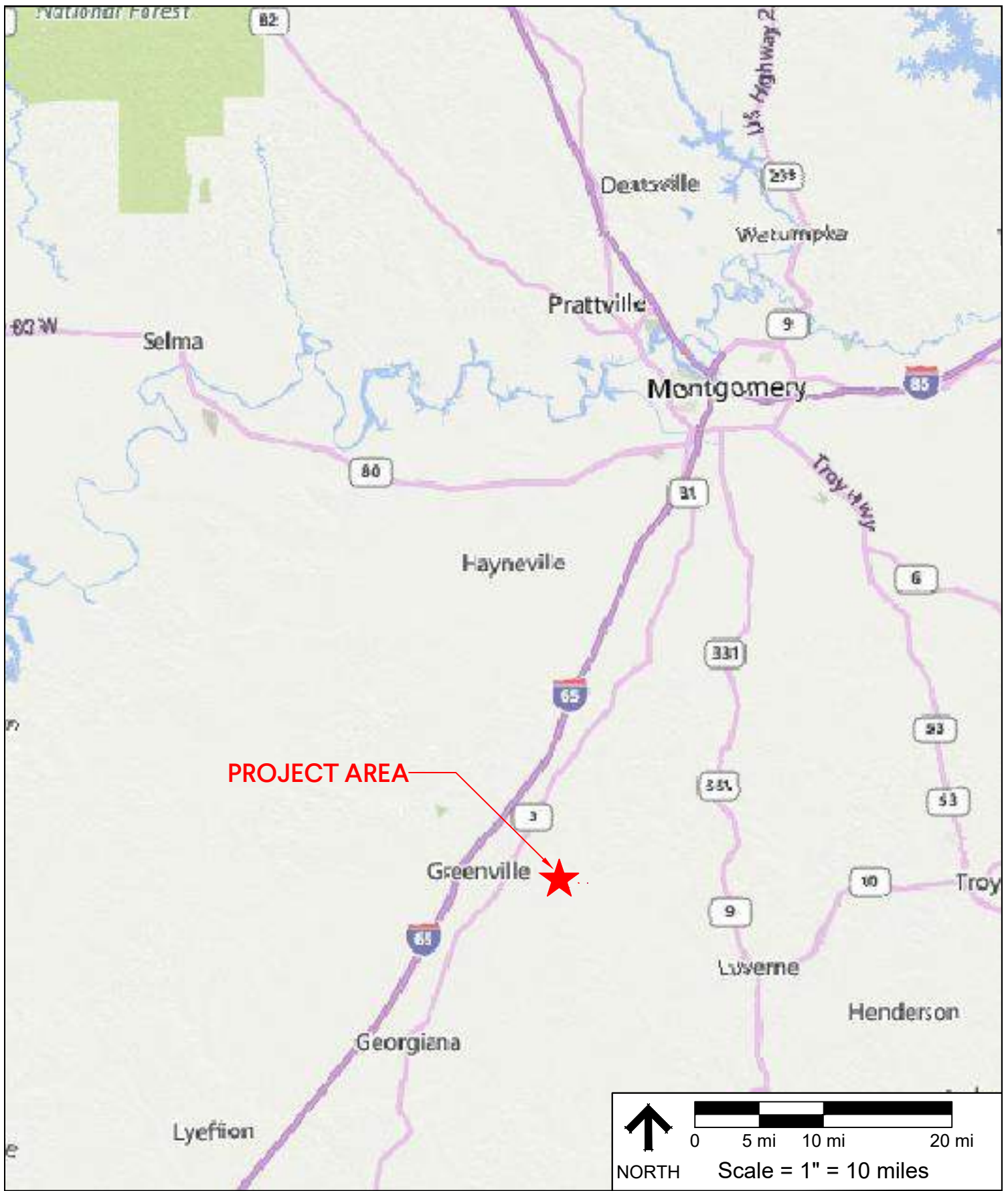
Coastal Office
1615 South Broad Street
Mobile, AL 36605
(251) 450-3400
(251) 479-2593 (FAX)

Attachment 1

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.



REF. SHEET: BING STREET MAPS
DESCRIPTION: ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION DOCUMENT

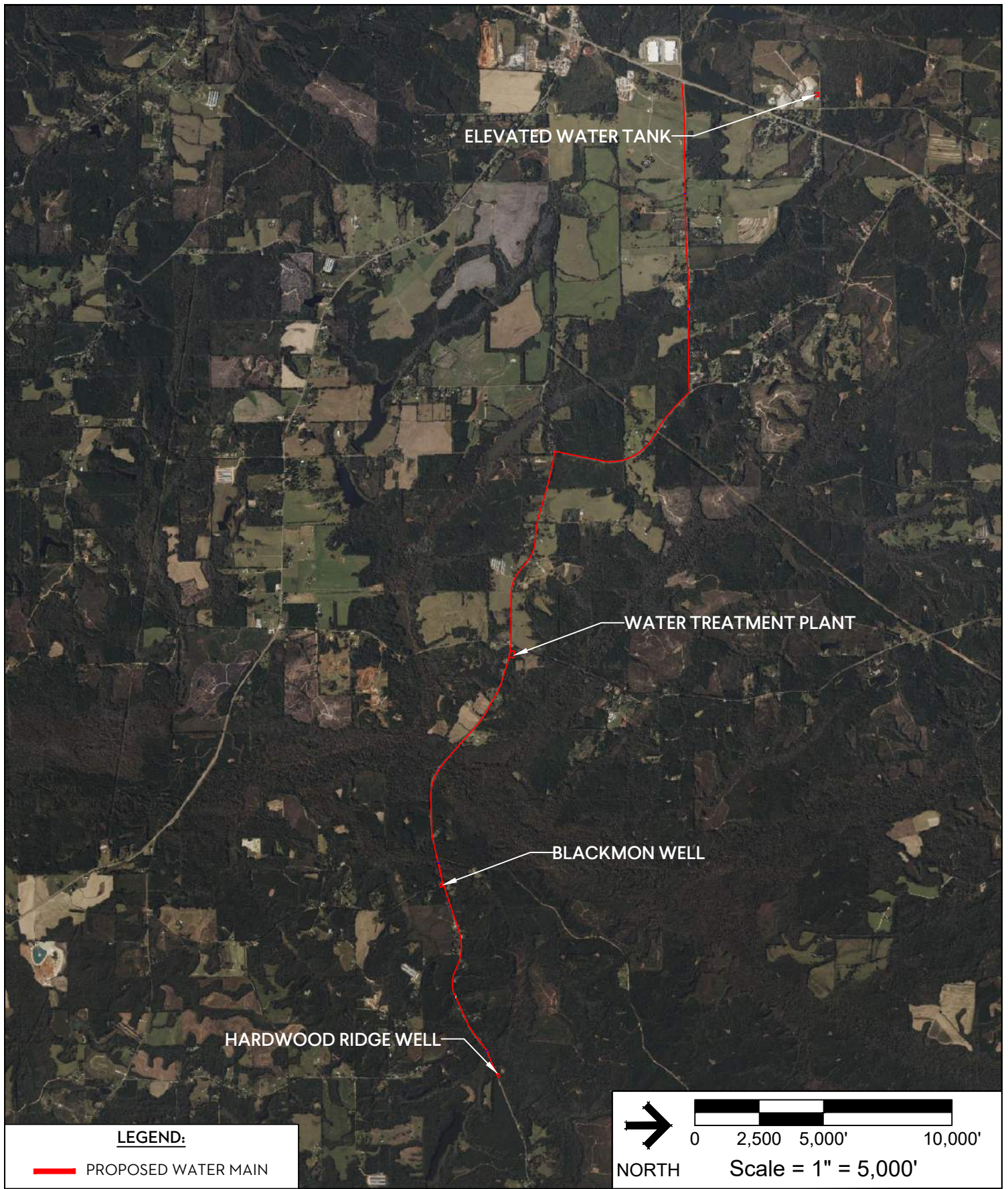
FIGURE 1

GENERAL LOCATION MAP
GMC # EMGM240011
DATE: 01/17/2024
DRAWN BY: SMR

2660 East Chase Lane, Suite 200
Montgomery, AL 36117
T 334.271.3200
GMCNETWORK.COM

GMC

► **BCWSD DWSRF EID**
Butler County, Alabama



REF. SHEET: BING SATELLITE IMAGERY
DESCRIPTION: ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION DOCUMENT

► **BCWSD DWSRF EID**
Butler County, Alabama

FIGURE 2a

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH
GMC # EMGM240011
DATE: 01/17/2024
DRAWN BY: SMR

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GMC



LEGEND:

PROPOSED EWT LOCATION



NORTH



Scale = 1" = 100'

REF. SHEET: BING HYBRID IMAGERY
DESCRIPTION: ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION DOCUMENT

BCWSD DWSRF
Butler County, Alabama

FIGURE 2b

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH
GMC # EMGM240011
DATE: 01/18/2024
DRAWN BY: SMR

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REF. SHEET: BING HYBRID IMAGERY
DESCRIPTION: ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION DOCUMENT

BCWSD DWSRF
Butler County, Alabama

FIGURE 2c

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH
GMC # EMGM240011
DATE: 01/18/2024
DRAWN BY: SMR

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Montgomery, AL 36117
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LEGEND:



PROPOSED BLACKMON
WELL LOCATION



NORTH



Scale = 1" = 100'

REF. SHEET: BING HYBRID IMAGERY
DESCRIPTION: ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION DOCUMENT

BCWSD DWSRF
Butler County, Alabama

FIGURE 2d

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH
GMC # EMGM240011
DATE: 01/18/2024
DRAWN BY: SMR

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Montgomery, AL 36117
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LEGEND:

 PROPOSED HARDWOOD RIDGE
WELL LOCATION



NORTH



Scale = 1" = 100'

REF. SHEET: BING HYBRID IMAGERY
DESCRIPTION: ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION DOCUMENT

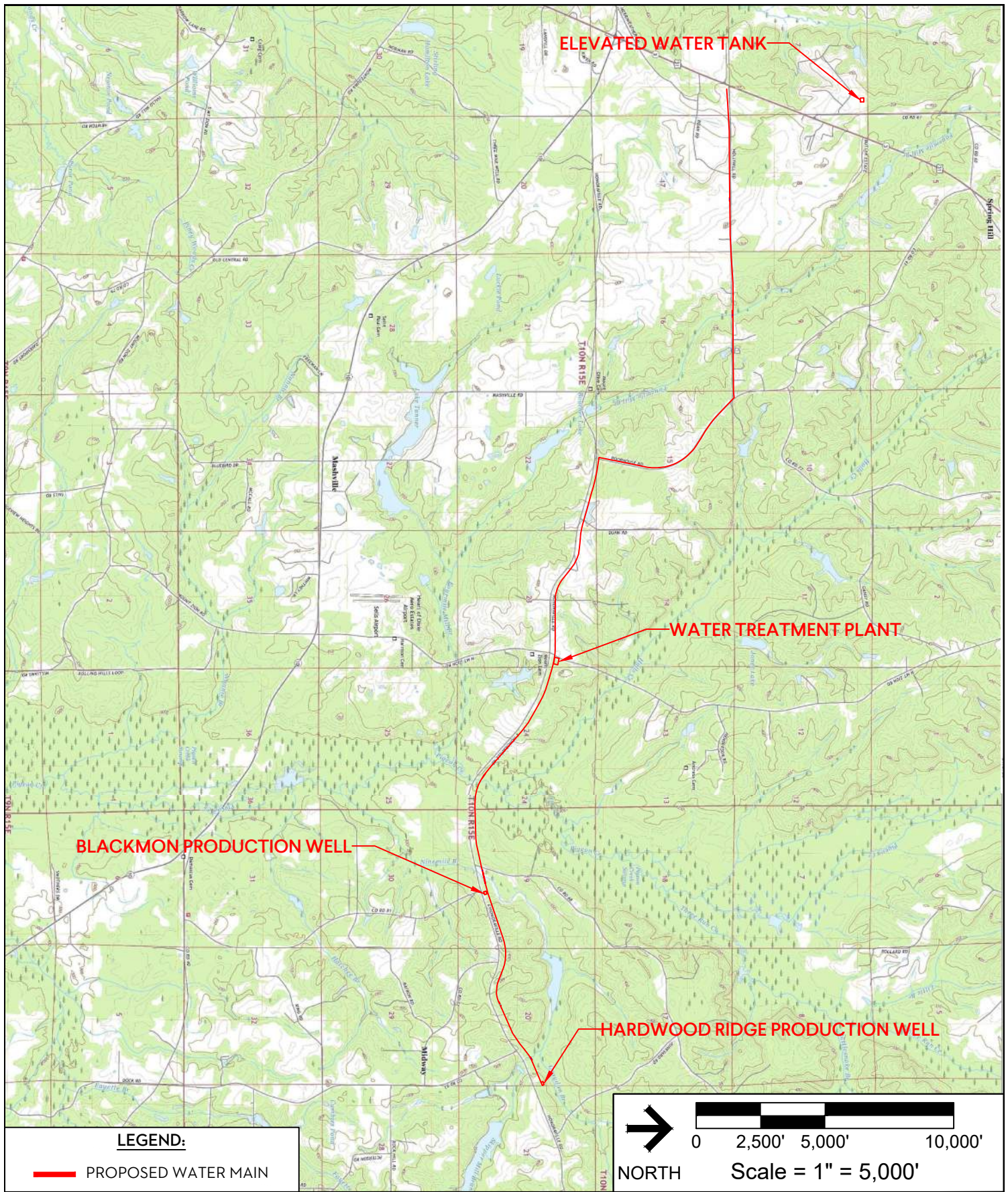
BCWSD DWSRF
Butler County, Alabama

FIGURE 2e

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH
GMC # EMGM240011
DATE: 01/18/2024
DRAWN BY: SMR

2660 East Chase Lane, Suite 200
Montgomery, AL 36117
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GMC



REF. SHEET: 2020 EAST GREENVILLE & HONORVILLE, AL QUADRANGLE MAPS
DESCRIPTION: ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION DOCUMENT

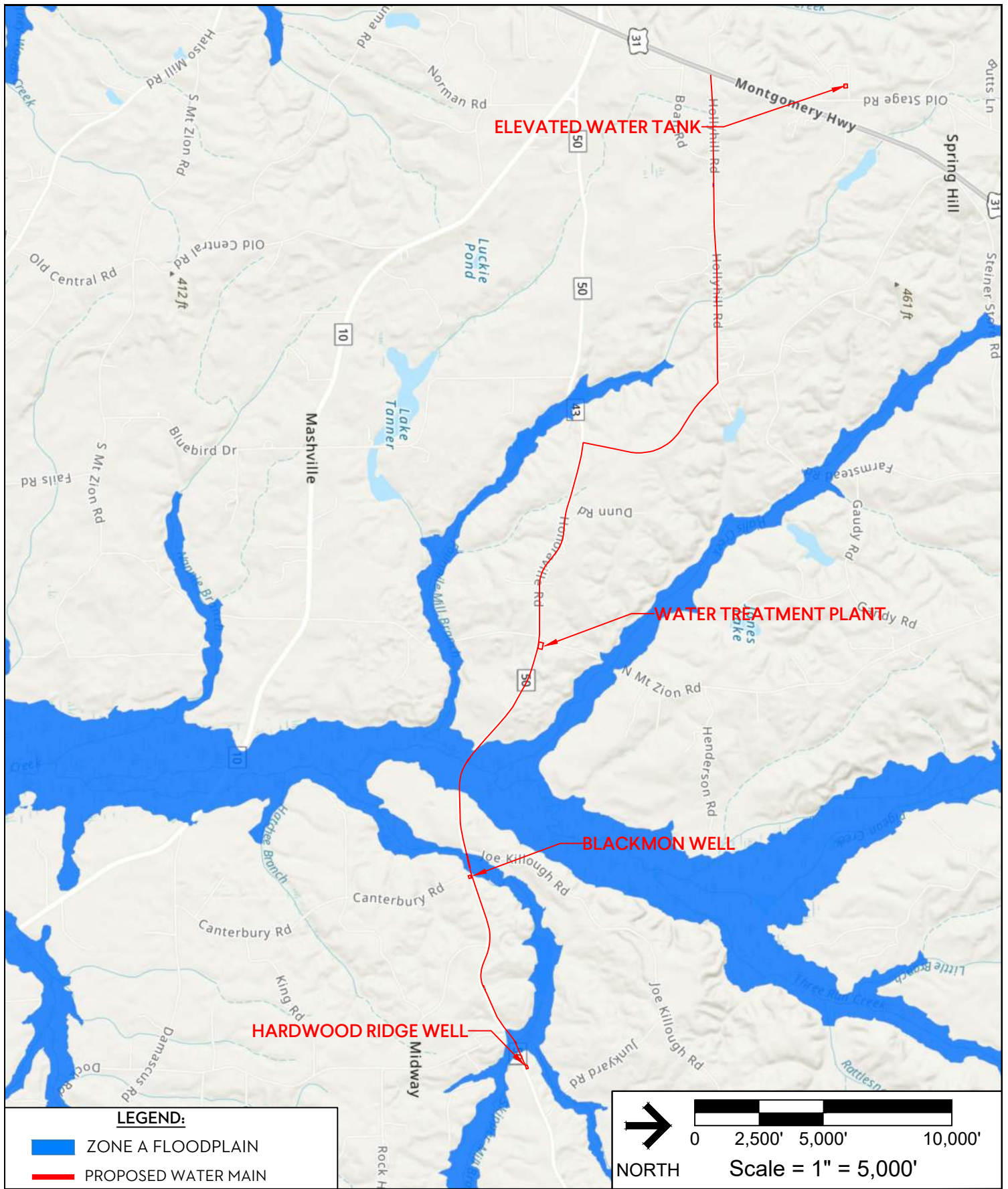
BCWSD DWSRF
Butler County, Alabama

FIGURE 3

USGS QUADRANGLE MAP
GMC # EMGM240011
DATE: 01/18/2024
DRAWN BY: SMR

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Montgomery, AL 36117
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REF. SHEET: FEMA FIRM PANEL 01013C0210C
 DESCRIPTION: ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION DOCUMENT

BCWSD DWSRF
 Butler County, AL

FIGURE 4

FLOOD MAP
 GMC # EMGM240011
 DATE: 01/22/2024
 DRAWN BY: SMR

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 Montgomery, AL 36117
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 GMCNETWORK.COM

GMC

February 23, 2024

Goodwyn Mills Cawood, LLC
Sean Rice, Environmental Scientist
sean.rice@gmcnetwork.com

Re: Butler County Water Systems Improvements; Butler County, AL

Mr. Rice,

This letter is in response to a request for comment on *Butler County Water Systems Improvements* project in *Butler County, AL*. This project is *located within existing easement and pertaining to water storage/treatment* and is therefore exempt from the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) per activities listed below:

Activities not subject to FPPA include:

- * Federal permitting and licensing
- * Projects planned and completed without the assistance of a Federal agency
- * Projects on land already in urban development or used for water storage
- * Construction within an existing right-of-way purchased on or before August 4, 1984
- * Construction for national defense purposes
- * Construction of on-farm structures needed for farm operations
- * Surface mining, where restoration to agricultural use is planned
- * Construction of new minor secondary structures such as a garage or storage shed.

Erosion and sediment control measures should be implemented and maintained during the construction phases of this project to protect land, water, and other related resources. Plans for construction should include sediment basins/traps and other erosion control practices, including coverage of bare soil as soon as possible by temporary/permanent vegetation and/or physical structures. If you have any questions, contact me at 334-744-2091 or robert.gossett@usda.gov.

Thanks in Advance,

**ROBERT
GOSSETT**

Digitally signed by
ROBERT GOSSETT
Date: 2024.02.23
15:25:45 -06'00'

Robert Wade Gossett
Resource Soil Scientist
USDA-NRCS Alabama

February 22, 2024

Sean Rice
Environmental Specialist
Goodwyn Mills Cawood
P.O. Box 242128
Montgomery, AL 36124

RE: **Butler County Water Supply District
Water System Improvements
Butler County, Alabama**

Mr. Rice,

Acting as the area clearinghouse for projects having regional impact, this agency has reviewed the materials submitted to our agency regarding a current application to be funded by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). The South Central Alabama Development Commission supports the Butler County Water Supply District's efforts to make the proposed improvements and considers these improvements to be a significant need for those who utilize this system.

This agency has determined that the proposed project is in accordance with current regional plans, programs and objectives, and will not duplicate ongoing efforts. Further review of this project by this agency will not be necessary unless a substantial change in the scope of the project occurs. SCADC reserves the right to review and comment on any changes to the project prior to construction. We would like to extend our full support of the project and offer any assistance we can provide to help with this endeavor. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Tyson Howard

Tyson Howard
Executive Director



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

March 14, 2024

Sean Rice
Goodwyn Mills Cawood
2660 Eastchase Lane
Montgomery, AL 36117

Re: AHC 24-0505
BCWSD Water System Improvements
Buter County

Dear Mr. Rice:

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 Hewett
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

LAH/AMH/nj



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, MOBILE DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 2288
MOBILE, ALABAMA 36628-0001

March 18, 2024

South Alabama Branch
Regulatory Division

SUBJECT: Department of the Army, No Permit Required Request, File Number SAM-2024-00164-ANB, Butler County District Water System Improvements, Butler County, Alabama

Butler County District Water Supply System
Goodwyn Mills Cawood
Attn: Sean Rice
Email Address: sean.rice@gmcnetwork.com
P. O. Box 242128
Montgomery, AL 36124

Dear Mr. Rice,

Reference is made to your request for a Department of the Army (DA) review of a proposed project to replace water lines, build a new elevated water tower, construct new wells, and a new water treatment plant near Greenville, Alabama. This project has been assigned File Number SAM-2024-00164-ANB, which should be referred to in all future correspondence with this office concerning this project. The project is located near Montgomery Hwy, and along Mount Zion, Honoraville and Canterbury Roads; within Sections 07 and 23, Township 10 North, Range 15 East; and Sections 19 and 21, Township 10 North, Range 16 East; centered near Latitude 31.826113, Longitude -86.523967; west of Greenville, Butler County, Alabama.

A desktop evaluation by this office revealed that a Department of the Army permit, pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, will not be required for the proposed Butler County District Water system improvements. We have determined this proposed work, to replace and repair water mains, using directional drill methods for any installations under wetlands and streams as described in the submitted documents (attached), to construct new water wells, elevated water tower and a treatment plant are non-regulated activities with regard to Department of the Army regulations and necessitates no further review.

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 authorizations required by law for the activities discussed above. If the scope of work of your project changes, you are urged to contact

this office for a verification of this determination. Thank your for your cooperation with our permit program.

You are receiving an electronic copy only of this letter. If you wish to receive a paper copy, you should send a written request to this office at the following address: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, Regulatory Division, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628.

You can contact the project manager Ms. Adrienne Berg at adrienne.n.berg@usace.army.mil or at (251) 387-1063, should you have any questions. Please visit our web site at www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx for additional information about our Regulatory Program. 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,

**Philip A.
Hegji**

Digitally signed
by Philip A. Hegji
Date: 2024.03.25
09:37:07 -05'00'

Philip A. Hegji
Chief, South Alabama Branch
Regulatory Division

Attachments



Goodwyn Mills Cawood

PO Box 242128
Montgomery, AL 36124

T (334) 271-3200
F (334) 272-1566

www.gmcnetwork.com

February 14, 2024

Mr. Bill Pearson
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1208-B Main Street
Daphne, AL 36526

**RE: Butler County Water Supply District
Water System Improvements
Project Code 2024-0039180
Butler County, Alabama**

2024-0039180

BBJ

RECEIVED
FEB 15 2024

BY: *an*
MP

Dear Mr. Pearson:

The Butler County Water Supply District (BCWSD), with the help of Goodwyn Mills Cawood, LLC (GMC), is in the process of performing an environmental review pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. The BCWSD is applying for Drinking Water State Revolving Funds through the Alabama Department of Environmental Management for the purpose of completing improvements to the water system servicing Butler County.

This project includes three (3) phases of work intended to decrease the demand on the Greenville cone of depression zone within the underlying aquifer. A 1992 U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) study of water wells in Butler County indicated that the water level in the majority of the Ripley aquifer formation wells in the Greenville area were falling at a rate of 10 feet per year and has recommended that pumpage from the Greenville cone of depression zone be reduced by at least 50% for the next ten years. To avoid depleting Greenville's water source, and allow the stabilization and recharge of the water table, the construction of a well field along County Road 50 is proposed. A more detailed description of the project activities is below. Please refer to the attached maps and photographs to view the proposed project locations.

Phase I

Phase I would involve completing the construction of the Blackmon Production Well, which was drilled to a depth of 817 feet in 2018. This phase would also involve the installation of 37,750 linear feet (LF) of 16" finished water main, running from the Blackmon Production Well and tying into existing Butler County Water Authority infrastructure adjacent to Highway 31. All new water main installations would occur within existing and maintained easements and rights-of-way.

Phase II

Phase II would involve completing the construction of the Hardwood Ridge Production Well, which was drilled to a depth of 2,970 feet in 2009. The water present in the Tuscaloosa Aquifer at that depth is unpotable due to its high salinity, though potable water is present at an approximate depth of 700 feet in the Ripley Aquifer. Phase II would also include the construction of a 500,000-gallon elevated water tank directly adjacent to the existing Dees Tank. Additionally, 6,750 LF of 16" finished water main would be installed between the Hardwood Ridge Production Well and the Blackmon Production Well. All new water main installations would occur within existing and maintained easements and rights-of-way.



Phase III

Phase III would involve the construction of a new 1.5 million gallon per day water treatment plant (WTP). Additionally, Phase III would include the conversion of a portion of the existing 16" finished water main, installed in Phases I & II, to raw water main.

According to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Environmental Conservation Online System, accessed January 22, 2024, the endangered and threatened species listed within the project areas for Butler County, Alabama include:

Group	Common Name	Scientific Name
Mammals	Tricolored Bat	<i>Perimyotis subflavus</i>
Reptiles	Alligator Snapping Turtle	<i>Macrochelys temminckii</i>
Clams	Choctaw Bean	<i>Obovaria choctawensis</i>
Clams	Fuzzy Pigtoe	<i>Pleurobema strodeanum</i>
Clams	Narrow Pigtoe	<i>Fusconaia escambia</i>
Clams	Southern Kidneyshell	<i>Ptychobranchus jonesi</i>
Clams	Southern Sandshell	<i>Hamiota australis</i>
Insects	Monarch Butterfly	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>

There are six (6) critical habitats at this location. The species included in the critical habitats are all clams. Because all streams will be directionally bored, it is GMC's opinion that the project will have no effect on the critical habitats.

Tricolored Bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*)

The tricolored is a species of microbat native to eastern North America. During the summer, the tricolored bat will roost in tree foliage. Trees used for this purpose include oak, maple, the eastern cottonwood, and American tulip tree. In the winter, the tricolored bat hibernates in mines, caves, or other human structures. GMC intends for any tree clearing activities to be conducted between October 15 to March 31; therefore, it is GMC's opinion that the project will have no effect on the tricolored bat or its habitat. However, if tree clearing becomes necessary outside of those dates, GMC will further correspond with your office for guidance.

Alligator Snapping Turtle (*Macrochelys temminckii*)

The alligator snapping turtle is primarily found in freshwaters of the southeastern US. They are typically found in bodies of water that drain into the Gulf of Mexico, and usually do not occur in isolated wetlands or ponds. They prefer places with canopy cover, overhanging trees, shrubs, dead submerged trees, and beaver dens. All streams and wetlands within the proposed project site will be directionally bored and undisturbed; therefore, it is GMC's opinion that the project will have no effect on the alligator snapping turtle or its habitat.

Choctaw Bean (*Obovaria choctawensis*)

Adults are sessile, and only move to burrow deeper into the substrate. The Choctaw bean is found in larger creeks and rivers with moderate current over sand to silty-sand substrates. All streams and wetlands within the proposed project site will be directionally bored and undisturbed; therefore, it is GMC's opinion that the project will have no effect on the Choctaw bean or its habitat.

Fuzzy Pigtoe (*Pleurobema strodeanum*)

Adults are sessile, and only move to burrow deeper into the substrate. Fuzzy pigtoes are found in medium-sized creeks and rivers, in sand and silty sand substrates with slow to moderate current. All streams and wetlands within the proposed project site will be directionally bored and undisturbed; therefore, it is GMC's opinion that the project will have no effect on the fuzzy pigtoe or its habitat.



Narrow Pigtoe (*Fusconaia escambia*)

Adults are sessile, and only move to burrow deeper into the substrate. Narrow pigtoes are found primarily in the channels of small to medium-sized streams in sand, silty sand, or gravel and in muddy sand in slight current. All streams and wetlands within the proposed project site will be directionally bored and undisturbed; therefore, it is GMC's opinion that the project will have no effect on the narrow pigtoe or its habitat.

Southern Kidneyshell (*Ptychobranhus jonesi*)

The southern kidneyshell is a freshwater mussel. Adult are essentially sessile, and only move to burrow deeper into the substrate although passive movement downstream may occur during high flow. This species is found in medium-sized creeks to rivers in silty sand substrates with slow current and woody debris. All streams and wetlands within the proposed project site will be directionally bored and undisturbed; therefore, it is GMC's opinion that the project will have no effect on the southern kidneyshell or its habitat.

Southern Sandshell (*Hamiota australis*)

Adults are sessile, and only move to burrow deeper into the substrate. The southern sandshell occurs in clean medium-sized creeks to rivers with slow to moderate current and sandy substrates. All streams and wetlands within the proposed project site will be directionally bored and undisturbed; therefore, it is GMC's opinion that the project will have no effect on the southern sandshell or its habitat.

Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)

Monarchs lay their eggs on their obligate milkweed host plant. Milkweed is frequently found in fence rows, on roadsides, in fields, and in prairies and pastures. It is tolerant of light shade, but generally is a full sun species. In some regions, monarchs breed year-round and some, in eastern and western North America, undergo long-distance migration. During the site visit, no milkweed was noted. The project area consisted of regularly mowed rights-of-way and forested areas; therefore, it is GMC's opinion that the project will have no effect on the monarch butterfly or its habitat.

GMC biologists visited the project area in January 2024 to assess the sites for potential habitat. The portion consisting of the planned water main can be described as cleared and regularly mowed rights-of-way adjacent to roads. The portions of the project including the new wells and water treatment plant can be described as undeveloped, forested land. Finally, the portion of the project including the new elevated water tank can be described as a fallow field. **It is GMC's opinion that none of the species listed above or their habitat will be impacted by the proposed project.**

We would appreciate a response as soon as possible. If you need any further information or wish to discuss this project, please let us know. To help expedite the review process, your response can be e-mailed to sean.rice@gmcnetwork.com.

Sincerely,

GOODWYN MILLS CAWOOD, LLC

Sean Rice

Environmental Scientist



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. IF PROJECT DESIGN CHANGES ARE MADE, PLEASE SUBMIT NEW PLANS FOR REVIEW. SITE MAY CONTAIN WETLANDS. Contact U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for a jurisdictional wetlands determination. We recommend the use of best management practices specific to your project (See <https://www.fws.gov/project/best-management-practices-alabama>).

William J. Pearson, Field Supervisor

Alabama Ecological Services Field Office

FEB 27 2024

Date

#4