

EDWARD F. POLOS
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

**Calhoun County Water
Authority Calhoun County**

SRF Project No. FS010456-02

October 14, 2026

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management has made financial assistance available to the **Calhoun County Water Authority**. 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 Calhoun County Water Authority proposes to make improvements to the drinking water storage and transmission mains with an estimated total project cost of **\$3,685,000.00**. The proposed project includes the construction of a new ground storage tank and construction of new transmission mains. The new transmission mains will create looping in the system and create connections to a recently constructed well and the proposed ground storage tank. These improvements will allow for improved hydraulics in the system and provide resiliency in the operation of the system.

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 Mrs. Kelly Bibb, 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/KMB/kmb
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)

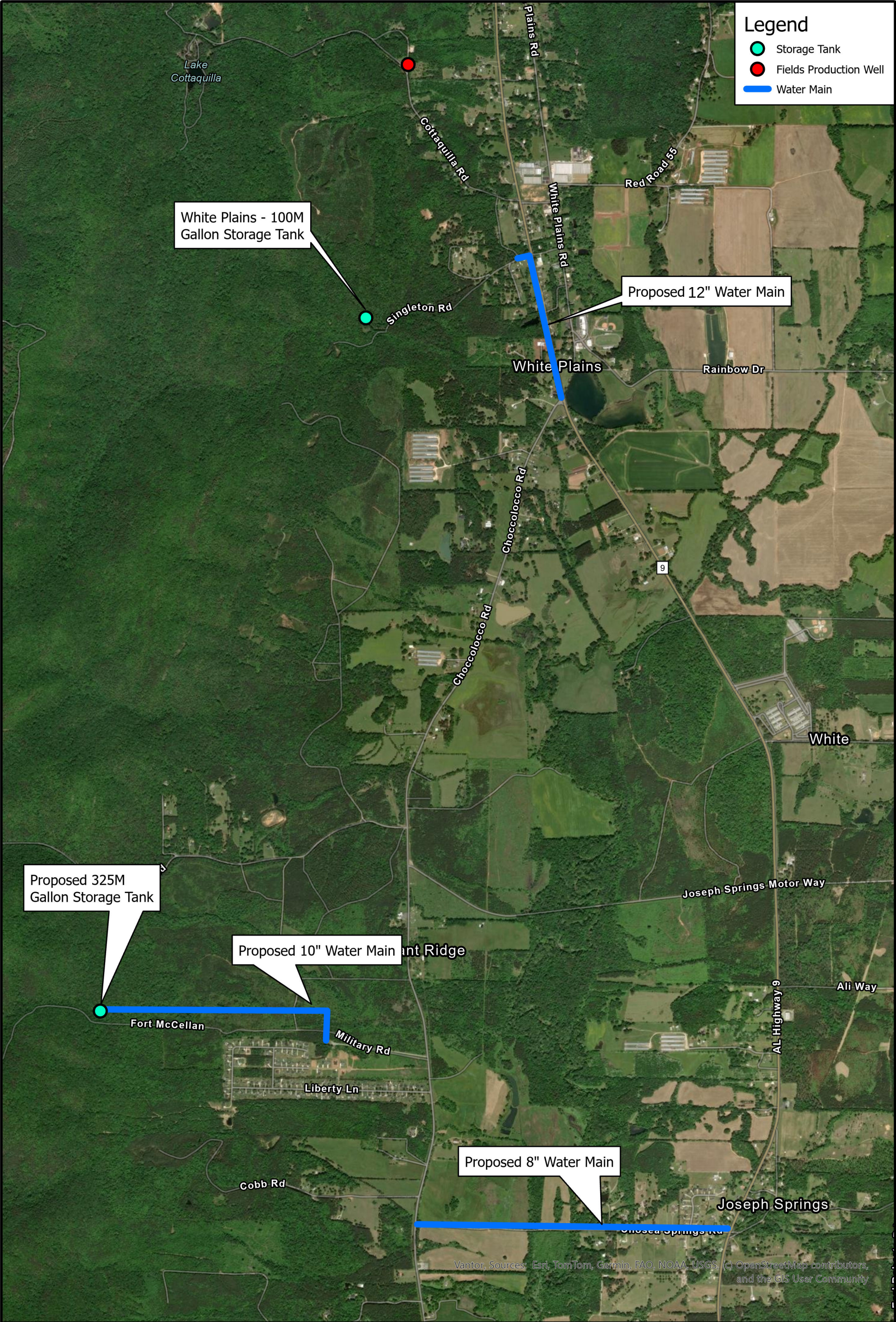
Coastal Office
1615 South Broad Street
Mobile, AL 36605
(251) 450-3400
(251) 479-2593 (FAX)

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.



NOTES TO USERS

is for use in administering the National Flood Insurance Program. It does not identify all areas subject to flooding, particularly from local drainage of small size. The community map repository should be consulted for updated or additional flood hazard information.

more detailed information in areas where **Base Flood Elevations (BFEs)** have been determined, users are encouraged to consult the Flood and Floodway Data and/or Summary of Stillwater Elevations tables contained in the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report that accompanies this FIRM. Users are aware that BFEs shown on the FIRM represent rounded whole-foot values. These BFEs are intended for flood insurance rating purposes only and should not be used as the sole source of flood elevation information. Accordingly, flood data presented in the FIS report should be utilized in conjunction with the purposes of construction and/or floodplain management.

es of the floodways were computed at cross sections and interpolated cross sections. The floodways were based on hydraulic considerations with requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program. Floodway widths and floodway floodway data are provided in the Flood Insurance Study report for this panel.

areas not in Special Flood Hazard Areas may be protected by flood control measures. Refer to Section 2.4 "Flood Protection Measures" of the Flood Insurance Study report for information on flood control structures for this jurisdiction.

ection used in the preparation of this map was Universal Transverse Mercator zone 16. Horizontal datum was NAD 83, GRS80 spheroid. Differences in spheroid, projection or UTM zones used in the production of FIRMs for adjacent panels may result in slight positional differences in map features across panel boundaries. These differences do not affect the accuracy of this FIRM.

ations on this map are referenced to the North American Vertical Datum of 1988. Flood elevations must be compared to structure and ground elevations and to the same vertical datum. For information regarding conversion between the National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 and the North American Datum visit the National Geodetic Survey website at <http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/> or the National Geodetic Survey at the following address:

Information Services
NWS12
Geodetic Survey
#9202
West Highway
Ft. Belvoir, Maryland 20910-3282
1-800-324-2422

current elevation, description, and/or location information for **bench marks** on this map, please contact the Information Services Branch of the National Survey of the United States, or visit its website at <http://www.nws.gov/>.

ap information shown on this FIRM was derived from multiple sources, but the base map files were provided by Calhoun County, including the digital topography. Stream centerlines were downloaded from the National Hydrography Dataset provided by the US Geological Survey. Users of this FIRM should be aware that minor adjustments may have been made to specific base map features.

updated topographic information, this map reflects more detailed and up-to-date channel configurations and floodplain delineations than those shown on previous maps for this jurisdiction. As a result, the Flood Profiles and Floodway maps may reflect stream channel changes that differ from what is shown on the ground, to the floodplain relationships for unreviewed streams may differ from those on previous maps.

Profile base lines depicted on this map represent the hydraulic modeling used to determine flood elevations. As a result, the Flood Profiles and Floodway maps may reflect stream channel changes that differ from what is shown on the ground, to the floodplain relationships for unreviewed streams may differ from those on previous maps.

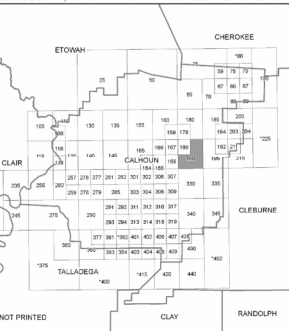
to limits shown on this map are based on the best data available at the time of publication. Because changes due to annexations or de-annexations may have occurred after this map was published, map users should contact appropriate local officials to verify current corporate limit locations.

refer to the separately printed **Map Index** for an overview map of the county showing the layout of map panels; community map repository addresses; and a listing of communities table containing National Flood Insurance Program dates for each community as well as a listing of the panels on which each community is located.

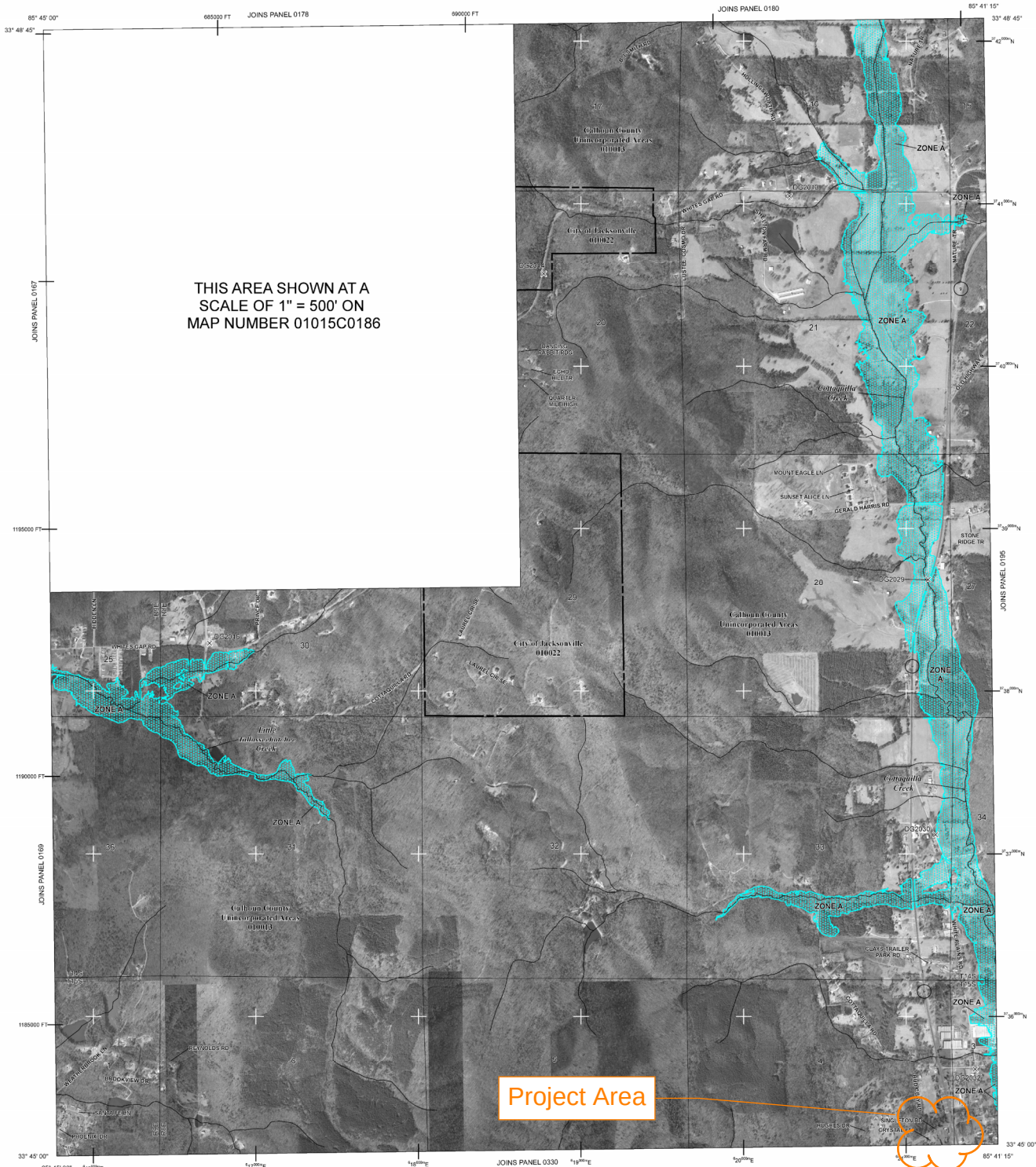
information on available products associated with this FIRM visit the **FEMA Map Center** website at <http://www.fema.gov/>. Available products may include: 1) Issued Letters of Map Change, a Flood Insurance Study Report, and/or 2) Flood Insurance Study Report. Many of these products can be ordered or obtained directly from the MSC website.

ive questions about this map, how to order products or the National Flood Insurance Program in general, please call the FEMA Map Information eXchange at 1-800-354-6242 (FEMA-MAP) or visit the FEMA website at <http://www.fema.gov/>.

CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA FIRM PANEL LOCATOR DIAGRAM



operation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the State of Alabama, this Flood Insurance Rate Map was developed by the Alabama Office of Water Resources in a digital statewide format to assist communities in their efforts to minimize the loss of property and life through floodplain management. The State of Alabama has a long-term approach to floodplain management to reduce the risk of flooding. This is demonstrated by the State's commitment to map flood areas at the local level. As part of this effort, the Alabama Office of Water Resources is working closely with FEMA as a Cooperating Technical Provider to produce and maintain this digital FIRM.



Project Area

LEGEND

SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS (SFHAs) SUBJECT TO INSURANCE BY THE 1% ANNUAL CHANCE FLOOD

Zone A: 1% annual chance flood (100-year flood); also known as the base flood, is the flood that has a 1% chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. The Special Flood Hazard Area is the area subject to flooding by the 1% annual chance flood. Areas of Special Flood Hazard include Zones A, AE, AH, AD, AR, AP, V, and VE. The Base Flood Elevation is the water-surface elevation of the 1% annual chance flood.

Zone AE: No Base Flood Elevations determined.

Zone AH: Base Flood Elevations determined.

Zone AD: Flood depths of 1 to 3 feet (usually sheet flow on sloping terrain); areas determined. For areas of actual or potential flooding, velocities also determined.

Zone AR: Special Flood Hazard Area formerly protected from the 1% annual chance flood by a flood control system that was subsequently determined to be obsolete. The former flood control system is being removed to provide protection from the 1% annual chance or greater flood.

Zone AP: Area to be protected from 1% annual chance flood by a Federal flood control system under construction; no Base Flood Elevations determined.

Zone V: Coastal flood zone with velocity hazard (wave action); no Base Flood Elevation determined.

Zone VE: Coastal flood zone with velocity hazard (wave action); no Base Flood Elevation determined.

FLOODWAY AREAS IN ZONE AE

The floodway is the channel of a stream plus any adjacent floodplain areas that must be free of encroachment so that the 1% annual chance flood can be carried without increases in flood heights.

OTHER FLOOD AREAS

Zone X: Areas of 0.2% annual chance flood; areas of 1% annual chance flood with depths of less than 1 foot or with drainage areas less than 1 square mile are protected from the 1% annual chance flood.

OTHER AREAS

Zone X: Areas determined to be outside the 0.2% annual chance floodplain.

Zone D: Areas in which flood hazards are undetermined, but possible.

COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM (CBRS) AREAS

OTHERWISE PROTECTED AREAS (OPAs)

CBRS areas and OPAs are normally located within or adjacent to Special Flood Hazard Areas.

1% annual chance floodplain boundary

0.2% annual chance floodplain boundary

Floodway boundary

Zone D boundary

Boundary of Special Flood Hazard Areas of different Base Flood Elevations, flood depths, or flood velocities

CBRS and OPA boundary

International, State, or County boundary

Corporate, Extrajurisdictional, or Urban Growth boundary

Area Not Included boundary

Historical Reservation, Native American Lands boundary

Base Flood Elevation line and value; elevation in feet (EL. 987)

Base Flood Elevation value where uniform within zone; elevation referenced to the North American Vertical Datum of 1988

Cross section line

Transect line

Geographic coordinates referenced to the North American Datum 1983 (NAD 83)

600000 FT

5000-foot grid ticks; Alabama State Plane coordinate system (FIPS 5003), Lambert Conformal Conic projection

Bench mark (see explanation in Notes to Users section of panel)

1:5

Apex, Culvert, Flume, Penstock, or Storm Sewer

Railroad Bridge

MAP REPOSITORY

Refer to listing of Map Repositories on Map Index

EFFECTIVE DATE OF COUNTYWIDE FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP

SEPTEMBER 28, 2007

EFFECTIVE DATE(S) OF REVISION(S) TO THIS PANEL

MARCH 16, 2016, to reflect updated topographic information; to incorporate previously issued Letters of Map Revision; to change Special Flood Hazard Areas; to update map format; to update road names; to incorporate previously issued Letters of Map Amendment; and to update limits.

For community map revision history prior to countywide mapping, refer to the Community History table located in the Flood Insurance Study report for this jurisdiction.

To determine if flood insurance is available in this community, contact your insurance agent or the National Flood Insurance Program at 1-800-354-6242.

MAP SCALE 1" = 1000'

500 1000 2000 FEET

300 600 METERS

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

PANEL 0190

FIRM

FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP

CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA AND INCORPORATED AREAS

PANEL 190 OF 450

(SEE LOCATOR DIAGRAM OR MAP INDEX FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT)

CONTAINS:

COMMUNITY	NUMBER	PANEL
CALHOUN COUNTY	019013	0190
JACKSONVILLE, CITY OF	019022	0190

NOTES TO USER: This Map Number shown below only when placing map orders. The Community Number should be used on all requests for information or for the purchase of a map.

MAP REVISED

MARCH 16, 2016

MAP NUMBER

01015

State of Alabama

Federal Emergency Management Agency

NOTES TO USERS

is for use in administering the National Flood Insurance Program. It does not identify all areas subject to flooding, particularly from local drainage of small size. The community map repository should be consulted for updated or additional flood hazard information.

more detailed information in areas where **Base Flood Elevations (BFEs)** have been determined, users are encouraged to consult the Flood and Floodway Data and/or Summary of Stillwater Elevations tables contained in the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report that accompanies this FIRM. Users are aware that BFEs shown on the FIRM represent rounded whole-foot values. These BFEs are intended for flood insurance rating purposes only and are not to be used as the sole source of flood elevation information. Accordingly, flood data presented in the FIS report should be utilized in conjunction with the purposes of construction and/or floodplain management.

es of the floodways were computed at cross sections and interpolated cross sections. The floodways were based on hydraulic considerations with requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program. Floodway widths and stream floodway data are provided in the Flood Insurance Study report for this panel.

Areas not in Special Flood Hazard Areas may be protected by flood control structures. Refer to Section 2.4 "Flood Protection Measures" of the Flood Insurance Study report for information on flood control structures for this jurisdiction.

ection used in the preparation of this map was Universal Transverse Mercator zone 16. Horizontal datum was NAD 83, GRS80 spheroid. Differences in spheroid, projection or UTM zones used in the production of FIRMs for adjacent panels may result in slight positional differences in map features across panel boundaries. These differences do not affect the accuracy of this FIRM.

ations on this map are referenced to the North American Vertical Datum of 1988. These flood elevations must be compared to structure and ground elevations and to the same vertical datum. For information regarding conversion between the National Geodetic Survey website at <http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/> or the National Geodetic Survey at the following address:

Information Services
NIMS-2
Geospatial Survey
#9202
West Highway
Baltimore, Maryland 20910-3282
301-761-3242

current elevation, description, and/or location information for **bench marks** on this map, please contact the Information Services Branch of the National Geodetic Survey at (201) 713-3242, or visit its website at <http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/>.

ap information shown on this FIRM was derived from multiple sources, but the base map files were provided by Calhoun County, including the digital topography. Stream centerlines were downloaded from the National Hydrography Dataset provided by the US Geological Survey. Users of this FIRM are aware that minor adjustments may have been made to specific base map features to improve map accuracy.

Profile base lines depicted on this map represent the hydraulic modeling used to determine flood elevations. These lines are not necessarily the same as the match flood profiles in the FIS report. As a result of improved hydraulic data, the "profile base line" in some cases, may deviate significantly from the centerline or appear outside the SFHA.

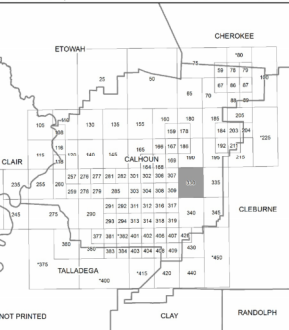
Panel limits shown on this map are based on the best data available at the time of publication. Because changes due to annexations or de-annexations may have occurred after this map was published, map users should contact appropriate local officials to verify current corporate limit locations.

Refer to the separately printed **Map Index** for an overview map of the county showing the layout of map panels; community map repository addresses; and a listing of communities table containing National Flood Insurance Program dates for each community as well as a listing of the panels on which each community is located.

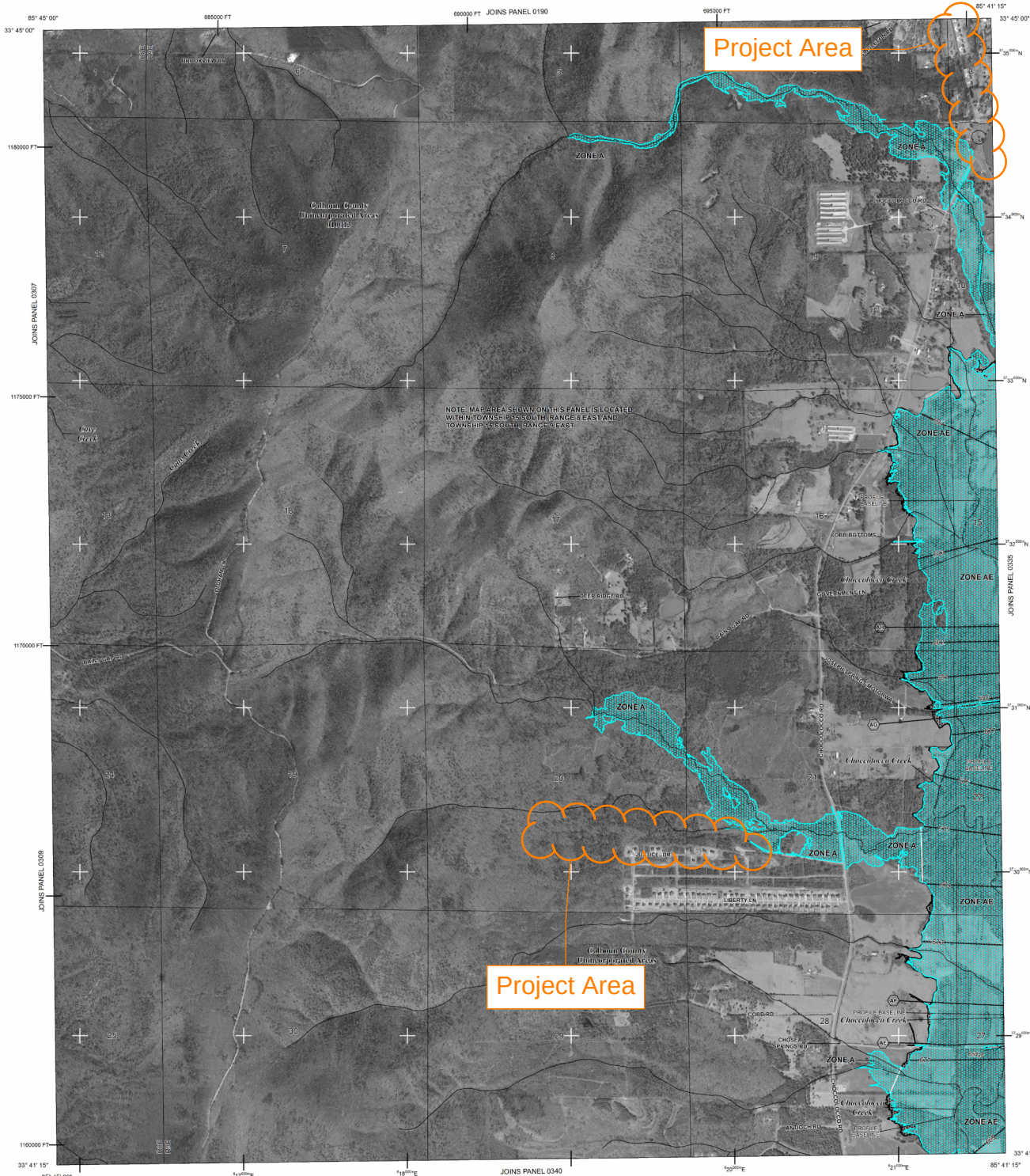
Information on available products associated with this FIRM visit the **FEMA Map Center** website at <http://www.fema.gov/>. Available products may include: Flood Insurance Study Report, Flood Insurance Study Report, and/or Flood Insurance Study Report. Many of these products can be ordered or obtained directly from the FEMA website.

For questions about this map, how to order products or the National Flood Insurance Program in general, please call the FEMA Map Information eXchange at 1-800-451-3636 or visit the FEMA website at <http://www.fema.gov/>.

CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA FIRM PANEL LOCATOR DIAGRAM



operation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). This Flood Insurance Rate Map was developed by the Alabama Office of Water Resources in a digital statewide format to assist communities in their efforts to minimize the loss of property and life through floodplain management. The State of Alabama has adopted a long-term approach to floodplain management to reduce the risk of flooding. This is demonstrated by the State's commitment to map flood areas at the local level. As part of this effort, the Alabama Office of Water Resources is working closely with FEMA as a Cooperating Technical Panel to produce and maintain this digital FIRM.



Project Area

Project Area

LEGEND

SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS (SFHAs) SUBJECT TO INUNDATION BY THE 1% ANNUAL CHANCE FLOOD

The 1% annual chance flood (100-year flood), also known as the base flood, is the flood that has a 1% chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. The Special Flood Hazard Area is the area subject to flooding by the 1% annual chance flood. The Special Flood Hazard includes Zones A, AE, AH, AD, AR, AV, V, and VE. The Base Flood Elevation is the water-surface elevation of the 1% annual chance flood.

- ZONE A** No Base Flood Elevations determined.
- ZONE AE** Base Flood Elevations determined.
- ZONE AH** Flood depths of 1 to 3 feet (usually areas of ponding); Base Flood determined.
- ZONE AD** Flood depths of 1 to 3 feet (usually sheet flow on sloping terrain); areas determined. For areas of sheet flow, floodway widths also determined.
- ZONE AR** Special Flood Hazard Area formerly protected from the 1% annual chance flood by a control system that was subsequently determined to be inadequate. The former flood control system is being retained to provide protection from the 1% annual chance or greater flood.
- ZONE AV** Area to be protected from 1% annual chance flood by a Federal Flood system under construction; no Base Flood Elevations determined.
- ZONE V** Coastal flood zone with velocity hazard (wave action); no Base Flood determined.
- ZONE VE** Coastal flood zone with velocity hazard (wave action); Base Flood determined.

FLOODWAY AREAS IN ZONE AE

The floodway is the channel of a stream plus any adjacent floodplain areas that must be free of encroachment so that the 1% annual chance flood can be carried without increases in flood heights.

OTHER FLOOD AREAS

ZONE X Areas of 0.2% annual chance flood; areas of 1% annual chance flood with depths of less than 1 foot or with drainage areas less than 1 square mile are protected from the 1% annual chance flood.

OTHER AREAS

ZONE X Areas determined to be outside the 0.2% annual chance floodplain.

ZONE D Areas in which flood hazards are undetermined, but possible.

COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM (CBRS) AREAS

OTHERWISE PROTECTED AREAS (OPAs)

CBRS areas and OPAs are normally located within or adjacent to Special Flood Hazard Areas.

1% annual chance floodplain boundary

0.2% annual chance floodplain boundary

Floodway boundary

Zone D boundary

Boundary defining Special Flood Hazard Areas of different Base Flood Elevations, flood depths, or flood velocities

CBRS and OPA boundary

International, State, or County boundary

Corporate, Extrajurisdictional, or Urban Growth boundary

Area Not Included boundary

Historical Reservation, Native American Lands boundary

Base Flood Elevation line and value; elevation in feet

Base Flood Elevation value uniform within zone; elevation referenced to the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (EL 987)

Cross section line

Transect line

Geographic coordinates referenced to the North American Datum 1983 (NAD 83)

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid values, zone 16

500-foot grid ticks; Alabama State plane coordinate system (FIPS 5003), Lambert Conformal Conic projection

Bench mark (see explanation in Notes to Users section of panel)

Map

Apex, Culvert, Flume, Penstock, or Storm Sewer

Railroad Bridge

MAP REPOSITORY

Refer to listing of Map Repositories on Map Index

EFFECTIVE DATE OF COUNTYWIDE FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP

SEPTEMBER 28, 2007

EFFECTIVE DATE(S) OF REVISION(S) TO THIS PANEL

MARCH 16, 2016, to reflect updated topographic information; to incorporate previously issued Map Revision; to change Special Flood Hazard Areas; to update map format; to update cost names; to incorporate previously issued Letters of Map Amendment; and to update limits.

For community map revision history prior to countywide mapping, refer to the Community History table located in the Flood Insurance Study report for this jurisdiction.

To determine if flood insurance is available in this community, contact your insurance agent or the National Flood Insurance Program at 1-800-451-3636.

MAP SCALE 1" = 1000'

500 0 500 1000 2000 FEET

300 0 300 600 METERS

NFIP

PANEL 0330E

FIRM

FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP

CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA AND INCORPORATED AREAS

PANEL 330 OF 450

(SEE LOCATOR DIAGRAM OR MAP INDEX FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT)

CONTAINS:

COMMUNITY: CALHOUN COUNTY

NUMBER: 0330E

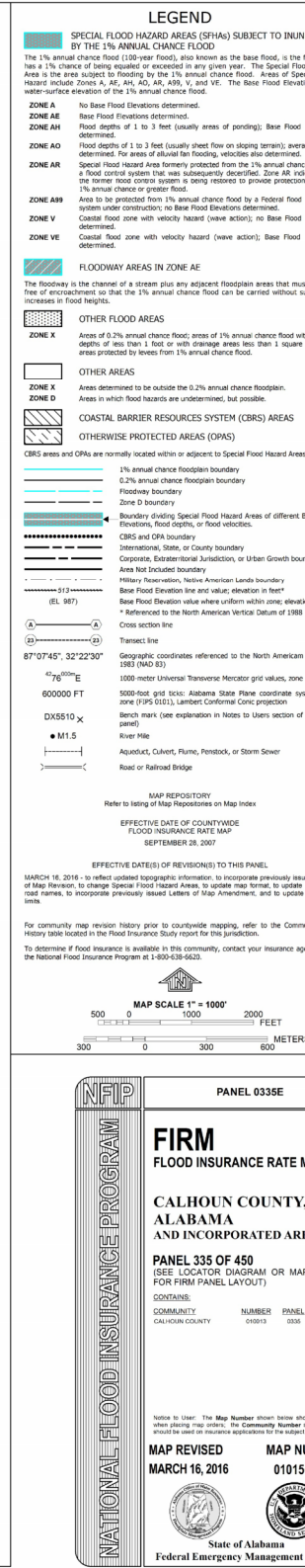
PANEL: 0330E

MAP REVISED

MARCH 16, 2016

MAP NUMBER: 01015

State of Alabama Federal Emergency Management Agency





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

May 15, 2026

Sam Ford
1200 1st Avenue S. #100
Birmingham, AL 35233

Re: AHC 26-0595
CRA
CCWA - Choccolocco Transmission Mains
Calhoun County

Dear Mr. Ford:

Upon review of the cultural resource assessment conducted for the above referenced project, we concur with the author's finding 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 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



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1208-B Main Street
Daphne, AL 36526



2026-0035032

FEB 10 2026

Mr. Logan Dunnaway
1200 1st Ave S #100
Birmingham, AL 35233

Dear Mr. Dunnaway,

Thank you for your letter dated January 15, 2026, in which you requested comments on behalf of the Calhoun County Water Authority for the Choccolocco area water system improvement project in White Plains, Alabama. The following comments are provided in accordance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

Federally Listed Species

According to our records, the following Federally listed species may occur in your project area:

- Tricolored bat *Perimyotis subflavus* – Proposed Endangered
- Gray Bat *Myotis grisescens* – Endangered
- Indiana Bat *Myotis sodalis* – Endangered
- Northern Long-eared Bat *Myotis septentrionalis* – Endangered
- Blue shiner *Cyprinella caerulea* – Threatened
- Fineline Pocketbook *Hamiota altilis* – Threatened
- Southern Pigtoe *Pleurobema georgianum* – Endangered
- Tennessee Yellow-Eyed Grass (*Xyris tennesseensis*) – Endangered
- Georgia rockcress *Arabis georgiana* – Threatened
- White fringeless orchid *Platanthera integrilabia* – Threatened
- Mohr's Barbarea buttons *Marshallia mohrii* – Threatened

After reviewing the information provided in your letter dated January 15, 2026, and additional information received by email on January 27, 2026, it is our understanding that activities associated with the water improvements project include open-trench cutting along rights-of-way and previously disturbed areas, directional boring under Choccolocco Creek, and approximately 3.47 acres of tree clearing.

We have provided the following comments and recommendations as they are related to the project area and associated actions:

Bats

Indiana bat

Suitable summer habitat for Indiana bat consists of a wide variety of forested/wooded habitats where they roost, forage, and travel and may also include some adjacent and interspersed non-forested habitats such as emergent wetlands and adjacent edges of agricultural fields, old fields and pastures. This includes forests and woodlots containing potential roosts including live trees and/or snags greater than 5 inches (12.7 centimeters) diameter at breast height (dbh) that have exfoliating bark, cracks, crevices, and/or hollows, as well as linear features such as fencerows, riparian forests, and other wooded corridors. These wooded areas may be dense or loose aggregates of trees with variable amounts of canopy closure. Individual trees may be considered suitable habitat when they exhibit the characteristics of a potential roost tree and are located within 1,000 feet (305 meters) of other forested habitat.

Northern long eared bat

Suitable summer habitat for northern long-eared bat (NLEB) consists of a wide variety of forested/wooded habitats where they roost, forage, and travel. Although they may also traverse habitat adjacent and interspersed with forest habitat, such as emergent wetlands and field edges, they are predominantly found in forest/wooded habitat. This includes forests and woodlots containing potential roosts including live trees and/or snags ≥ 3 inches (7.6 centimeters) dbh that have exfoliating bark, cracks, crevices, and/or cavities, as well as linear features such as fencerows, riparian forests, and other wooded corridors. These wooded areas may be dense or loose aggregates of trees with variable amounts of canopy closure. NLEB often prefer intact mixed-type forests with small gaps (i.e., forest trails, small roads, or forest-covered creeks) in forest with sparse or medium vegetation for foraging and commuting rather than fragmented habitat or areas that have been clear cut. Individual trees may be considered suitable habitat when they exhibit the characteristics of a potential roost tree and are located within 1,000 feet (305 meters) of other forested habitat.

Tricolored bat

On September 14, 2022, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced a proposal to list the tricolored bat as endangered under the ESA. The bat faces severe population declines and possible extinction due to the impacts of white-nose syndrome, a deadly disease affecting cave-dwelling bats across North America. The tricolored bat's status is currently under range-wide review and could be listed in the future. While ESA Section 7 consultation requirements generally do not apply to proposed species, the Service encourage all agencies to take advantage of any opportunity to conserve the species.

Suitable summer habitat for the tricolored bat may be present within the project area. Based on the best scientific information available, suitable habitat includes a wide variety of forested/wooded habitats – such as emergent wetlands and edges of agricultural fields, old fields, and pastures may be used.

Suitable habitat also includes forests and woodlots containing trees with potential roost substrate, such as live and dead leaf clusters of live and recently dead deciduous trees, Spanish moss, and

beard lichen, and linear features including fencerows, riparian forests, and other wooded corridors. Occasional summer roosts also include clusters of dead pine needles of large live pines, eastern red cedar, abandoned gray squirrel nests, and areas beneath exfoliating birch bark. Tricolored bats will roost in a variety of tree species, particularly oaks (*Quercus* spp.), and often select tall, large-diameter trees, although smaller but will roost in smaller diameter trees (as small as 4-inch dbh) may be used when suitable roost substrate is present.

Tricolored bats commonly roost in the mid to upper canopy, although males will occasionally roost in dead leaves at lower heights (e.g., less than 16 feet above the ground) and females may roost in Spanish moss within understory trees. The species prefer to forage along forested edges, large forest openings, riparian edges, and over water, and generally avoids dense, unbroken forests, and narrow road cuts through forested areas.

In addition to the natural habitats mentioned above, tricolored bats may also roost in human-made structures, such as bridges and culverts, and occasionally in barns or the underside of open-sided shelters (e.g., porches and pavilions). These structures should therefore be considered potential summer habitat. The species occupies similar forest habitats in the spring, summer, and fall. In the southern portion of its range, where individuals may remain active year-round and exhibit shorter torpor bouts, tricolor bats may also roost during the winter in culverts, bridges, cavities in live trees, live and dead leaf clusters, and Spanish moss.

Tricolored bats may also roost and forage in forested areas near anthropogenic structures and buildings, including suburban neighborhoods and parks. However, highly developed urban areas lacking native vegetation – such as parking lots, industrial buildings, shopping centers - are considered unsuitable.

Recommendations:

Based on our records, summer roosting habitat for the Indiana, northern long-eared, and tricolored bats are present within the project area. **If tree clearing occurs during the protective window of October 1 to March 14, we have no additional concerns for these bat species.** If this timing is not achievable and no other measures to avoid adverse effects are possible, then we recommend that the project proponent proceeds to acoustic and/or mist-net survey to determine presence or probable absence of Indiana, northern long-eared, and tricolored bats at the project site. Surveys should be conducted in accordance with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2024 Range-wide Indiana Bat & Northern Long-eared Bat Survey Guidelines:

<https://www.fws.gov/media/range-wide-indiana-bat-and-northern-long-eared-bat-survey-guidelines>

Aquatic Species

We have several records for the federally listed blue shiner, southern pigtoe and finelined pocketbook within or adjacent to the project area. These species are very sensitive to changes in water chemistry and pollutants. Their decline is largely attributed to habitat modification and degradation. Parcel clearing and open trench cutting – particularly conducted without proper best

management practices (BMPs) implementation – may result in increased sedimentation and runoff into adjacent streams.

Recommendations:

To avoid impacts on aquatic species and their habitat, we recommend implementing the following BMPs:

- Maintain a natural vegetated buffer of 300 ft or more between development and natural waters. Preferably, buffers should consist of native perennial vegetation and include trees, shrubs, grasses, and other herbaceous types.
- Develop an erosion and stormwater control plan tailored to the site. All erosion controls should be inspected routinely, especially during and immediately following significant rain events, to ensure no impacts to nearby aquatic resources. Immediate corrective action should be taken if erosion or sedimentation is observed.
- Immediately revegetate any disturbed areas with a native species or annual grasses.
- To the extent feasible, complete any work that results in exposed earth during periods when significant rainfall is not predicted.

For specific techniques, see “The Alabama Handbook for Erosion Control, Sediment Control and Stormwater Management on Construction Sites and Urban Areas” (2018), available from the Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Committee or on-line at:

<https://alabamasoilandwater.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/2018-Handbook-Vol-1.pdf>

Your January 27th email indicated that Choccolocco Creek is the only stream within the project area and no impacts to streams are proposed. According to the National Hydrography Dataset, there appears to be an unnamed stream potentially being crossed near Military Rd (Fig. 1).

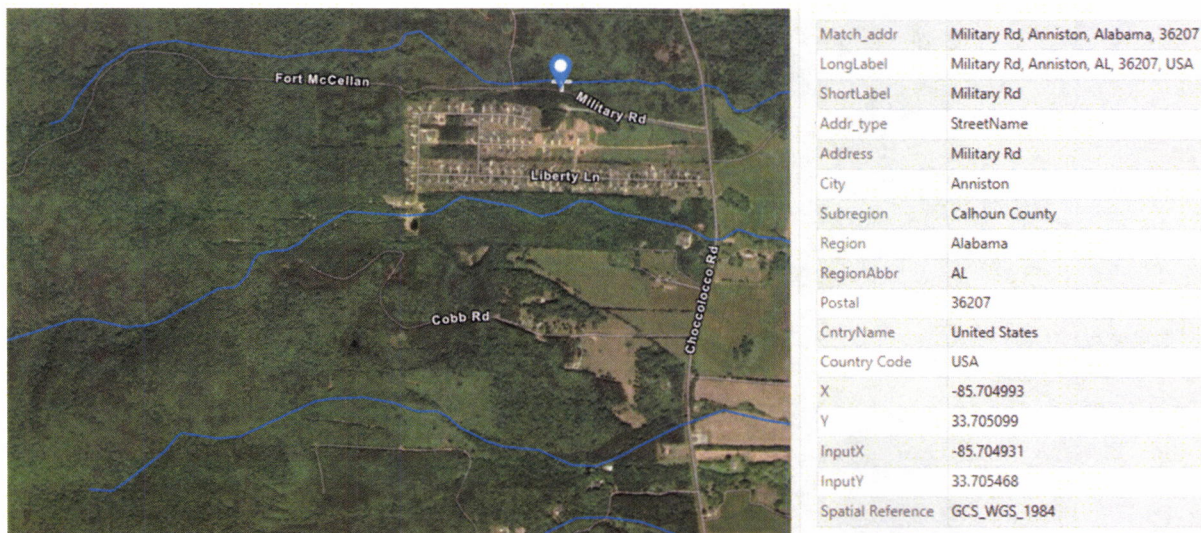


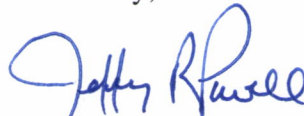
Figure 1. Screenshot of unnamed NHD tributary to Choccolocco Creek near Military Road at approximately 33.705468, -85.704993.

If the installation of water main across this unnamed tributary of Choccolocco Creek is proposed,

we recommend utilizing directional boring techniques to remove direct impacts to the stream and federally listed aquatic species. Open trenching on streams can introduce excessive sedimentation, destabilize substrates, and negatively impact geomorphology of streams.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Ms. Brittany Barker-Jones of my staff at (251) 401-8974 or via email at Brittany_barker-jones@fws.gov. Please refer to the reference number located at the top of this letter in future phone calls or written correspondence.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey R. Powell,
Acting Field Supervisor
Alabama Ecological Services Field Office



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, MOBILE DISTRICT
100 CANAL STREET
MOBILE, ALABAMA 36602

February 20, 2026

Special Projects Branch
Regulatory Division

SUBJECT: Department of the Army, Scoping Request, SAM-2026-00095-MNS, Choccolocco Area Water System Improvements, Calhoun County Water Authority (CCWA), Alexandria, Calhoun County, Alabama

Calhoun County Water Authority
Three Notch Group, Inc.
Attention: Mr. Logan Dunnaway
2256 Alexandria-Wellington Road
Alexandria, Alabama 36250

Transmitted electronically to: logan.dunnaway@3notch.com and maint@calhouncwa.com.

Dear Mr. Dunnaway:

This is in response to your request on behalf of the Calhoun County Water Authority (CCWA), dated January 16, 2026, requesting Department of Army (DA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) review of the proposed capital improvements to includes three potable transmission water mains and a looping connector to link existing wells with a proposed 325,000 Gallon water storage tank located at latitude 33.751 North, longitude 85.691 West, Calhoun County, Alabama. This project has been assigned file number SAM-2026-00095, which should be referred to in all future correspondence regarding this project.

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. The proposed work will involve the following:

1. Construction of new 325,000-gallon, glass-fused to steel ground storage tank with yard piping, altitude valve control pit, and telemetry
2. Construction of a 10-inch transmission main connecting the new Fields Production Well to an existing transmission main along Choccolocco Road,
3. Construction of a 10-inch water main linking the Choccolocco Well to the new tank,
4. Construction of an 8-inch water main along Chosea Springs Road to connect the existing main on Choccolocco Road to the 6-inch main along Alabama Highway 9.

Based on the information submitted in your letter and follow-up correspondence on February 19, 2026, that Directional Boring will be utilized to cross any creeks or wetlands

within the project area to avoid any disturbances, a DA permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act **will not be required**, at this time, to implement the new distribution line installations. Directional boring beneath jurisdictional waters is an activity typically not regulated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) as this method of installation would not involve the discharge of dredged and/or fill material into waters of the U.S. **If no discharges of dredged and/or fill material in waters of the U.S. including wetlands, then a DA permit would not be required.**

Should any Waters of the U.S (Wetlands and streams) resources be identified within the project alignment, during construction, that would be impacted by pipeline installation, such as open trench methods, Nationwide Permit 58 (NWP 58) for *Utility Line Activities for Water and Other Substances* may be applicable to the proposed work. A copy of NWP 58 is enclosed for reference as further planning for project implementation is undertaken. NWP 58 Notification requires applicants to submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity if the discharge will result in the loss of greater than 1/10-acre of waters of the U.S. including wetlands.

You may need to coordinate with us in the future if the scope of work and/or construction activities and methods would be modified or increased in such a way that impacts to jurisdictional waters of the U.S. will be required. Section 404 of the Clean Water Act requires that a Department of the Army (DA) permit be obtained for the placement or discharge of dredged and/or fill material into waters of the U.S., including wetlands, prior to conducting the work (33 U.S.C. 1344).

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 locations change, 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 munther.n.sahawneh@usace.army.mil or (251) 318-4373, if you have any questions concerning this matter. 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 under the Menu header on the right side of our webpage. Your responses are appreciated and will allow us to improve our services.

Sincerely,

SAHAWNEH.MUNTH
ER.NAJI.1230711808

Digitally signed by
SAHAWNEH.MUNTER.NAJI.1230711
808
Date: 2026.02.20 08:15:16 -06'00'

Munther N. Sahawneh
Mobile District
Regulatory Division

Enclosures



EAST ALABAMA

Regional Planning and Development Commission

January 21, 2026

Logan Dunnaway
Three Notch Group
1200 1st Ave S
#100
Birmingham, AL 35233

RE: **Chattahoochee Valley Water Supply District (CVWSD)
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)
CVWSD Raw Water Intake Replacement
Lanett, Chambers County, Alabama**

Dear Mr. Dunnaway

The East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission is aware that the Calhoun County Water Authority is applying for Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (DWSRF) through the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) to complete the Choccolocco Area Water System Improvements in Calhoun County, Alabama.

We understand that this project includes capital improvements to the potable water system, including construction of a new 325,000-gallon glass-fused-to-steel ground storage tank with associated yard piping, altitude valve control pit, and telemetry. We understand that the project also includes construction of multiple transmission mains, including a 10-inch transmission main connecting the Fields Production Well to an existing transmission main along Choccolocco Road, a 10-inch PVC transmission main linking the Choccolocco Well to the new storage tank, and an 8-inch PVC water main along Chosea Springs Road to connect the existing main on Choccolocco Road to the 6-inch main along Alabama Highway 9.

On behalf of the Board of the East Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission, our planning staff has evaluated the effects of this project and any other planned projects occurring in the project area. We have determined that this project is compatible with the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for the East Alabama Region, and we concur with the application for Drinking Water State Revolving Funds for the Choccolocco Area Water System Improvements for the Calhoun County Water Authority, as reflected in the documents provided to us.

Good luck with this project.

Sincerely,

Lori Sokol

Lori Sokol
Executive Director

EAST ALABAMA CALHOUN CHAMBERS CHEROKEE CLAY CLEBURNE COOSA ETOWAH RANDOLPH TALLADEGA TALLAPOOSA
Regional Planning and Development Commission | 1130 Quintard Avenue Suite 300 Quintard Tower P.O. Box 2186 Anniston, AL 36202
Phone (256) 237-6741 | Fax (256) 237-6763 | Email earpdc@earpdc.org | Website www.earpdc.org

CHAIR
RICHARD DEAN
PROBATE JUDGE, COOSA COUNTY

VICE CHAIR
WILLIAM "BILL" BAKER
MAYOR, CITY OF PIEDMONT

SECRETARY
DANA SNYDER
MAYOR, CITY OF SOUTHSIDE

TREASURER
TOBY BENNINGTON
DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
& CITY PLANNING

KAY IVEY
GOVERNOR



STATE OF ALABAMA

KENNETH W. BOSWELL
DIRECTOR

February 2, 2026

Logan Dunnaway
Three Notch Group, Inc.
1200 1st Ave S #100
Birmingham, Alabama 35233

**RE: REQUEST FOR CONCURRENCE
CHOCOLOCCO AREA WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS
CALHOUN COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA**

Dear Mr. Dunnaway,

We have reviewed your letter dated January 15, 2026, concerning the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) project for capital improvements for Calhoun County Water Authority (CCWA). We concur with the proposed project.

Please be advised, however, that one condition of the Certificate of Use (COU # 15) that was issued to Calhoun County Water & FPA by our office on November 27, 2017, requires any change to the withdrawal infrastructure (i.e., the addition of a new well or a change in pump capacity) will require modification to that COU.

We will be glad to assist with the modification process, if needed. By law, we cannot issue the modification until the well is within 90 days of being in operation. Please contact our office at that time and we will help initiate the modification process.

Let us know if you have any questions. The staff for water management issues can be reached at (334) 242-5499 or via e-mail at water@adeca.alabama.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Weidler", is written over a horizontal line.

Ron Weidler, P.E.
OWR Division Chief
ADECA Office of Water Resources