Jackson County Water & Sewerage Authority

Request for Qualifications (RFQ)
Professional Engineering Services

New Middle Oconee Wastewater Treatment Facility – 3.0 MGD

Issued: April 1, 2026
Statements of Qualifications Due: June 26, 2026, at 4pm ET

1. Purpose

Jackson County Water & Sewerage Authority (the "Authority") is soliciting Statements of Qualifications (SOQs) from qualified engineering firms to provide planning, design, permitting, and construction-phase support services for a new wastewater treatment facility (the "Project"), including coordination with the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) during preconstruction, GMP development, and procurement of trade packages.

The Authority intends to deliver the Project using the Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) method, with the selected firm serving as the Engineer of Record. However, the Authority reserves the right to use any procurement method at its discretion. The Authority also reserves the right to accept or reject any SOQs.

Important: Firms intending to submit an SOQ shall contact the Authority to be added to the SOQ Holders List. Firms that are not on the list may not receive addenda, clarifications, or other updates. The failure to contact the Authority for inclusion on the SOQ Holders List may also be considered during the evaluation scoring process. To be added to the SOQ Holders List, email the consultant's company name, mailing address, email, office phone number, and cell phone number directly to mwyatt@jcwsa.com.

2. Project Overview

2.1 Facility Name

New Middle Oconee Wastewater Treatment Facility 3.0 MGD (the "Facility").

2.2 Existing Facility and Flow Projections

The existing wastewater treatment plant, currently rated at 1.25 MGD, will remain in operation during construction of the new 3.0 MGD (Phase 1), and the project should consider the flexibility of potentially keeping the old plant operational (or portions thereof) during and after construction. The project should also account for a future Phase 2 addition of approximately 3.0 MGD, which may occur concurrently with the abandonment of the existing 1.25 MGD facility and take its existing footprint. However, innovative ideas for repurposing existing plant elements are encouraged.

Based on the wastewater master planning flow projections, the table below summarizes approximately how long various treatment capacity scenarios may serve the Authority.

Total Capacity Scenario	Description	Max Month Flow Planning Horizon
1.25 MGD	Existing Plant (approaching capacity)	2026
4.25 MGD	New 3.0 MGD Facility plus Existing 1.25 MGD Facility	2032
6.0 MGD	New 3.0 MGD Facility (Phase 1) plus New 3.0 MGD Facility (Phase 2)	2042

Planning-level estimates are based on projected flows provided and linear interpolation between planning horizons. Actual timing may vary depending on growth, industrial loading, inflow and infiltration, and peaking conditions.

2.3 New Facility Capacity Requirements

The new 3.0 Facility (Phase 1) shall be designed to:

- Accept and reliably treat flows between 1.0 MGD and 3.0 MGD; and
- Provide expandability and reserved footprint to support future expansion of an additional 3.0 MGD (ultimately approximately 6.0 MGD or more), including hydraulic, electrical, and site provisions.
- The Authority reserves the right to increase Phase 1 expansion design capacity, particularly if additional funding can be incurred. The Authority will contact Jackson County Government to determine whether they (or the Jackson County Industrial Development Authority) are interested in partially funding expanded capacity for county development purposes.

2.4 Process Technology / Process Selection Support

The Authority prefers a Sequencing Batch Reactor (SBR) treatment system due to its small site footprint. The AquaNereda® aerobic granular sludge process by Aqua-Aerobic Systems should also be evaluated for life-cycle costs relative to a conventional SBR. However, the Authority will also consider a Carrousel Oxidation Ditch process for this Project if the design engineer can demonstrate clear, measurable advantages, including the ability to accommodate the system on

our existing site. It is highly preferred that the design engineer have significant experience in all these processes and the capability to support a thorough, impartial selection process for treatment methods. However, the Authority reserves the right to choose other treatment methods.

The selected engineering firm shall evaluate and compare feasible design and treatment process alternatives and lead the Authority to a recommended selection supported by an objective, defensible analysis. Evaluation criteria shall include, at a minimum: life-cycle cost, footprint, constructability and phasing, permit compliance, operability and maintenance, energy use, resiliency, and anticipated performance.

2.5 Waste Load Allocation (WLA)

A copy of the Georgia EPD Waste Load Allocation ("WLA") for the Middle Oconee Water Pollution Control Plant is attached to this RFP for reference and shall be considered by all proposers in development of their recommendations. The WLA provides planning-level effluent limitations for expanded discharge scenarios, including 3.75 MGD at the current outfall. The WLA is not, however, a final permit approval, and proposers shall recognize its stated limitations, conditions, and follow-up requirements.

3. Anticipated Scope of Engineering Services

The selected firm will provide professional services, typically including the items below. The Authority may refine the scope during negotiations.

3.1 Design/Engineering Services Project Management and Coordination

- Project management, schedule control, and stakeholder coordination.
- Coordination with the Authority's engineering staff and other consultants.
- Become the Authority's design engineer for a Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) project.

3.2 Basis of Design and Design Criteria

- Establish design criteria and prepare a Basis of Design Report (BODR).
- Confirm phased-capacity approach (1.0–3.0 MGD, Phase 1) and future +3.0 MGD provision(s).
- Evaluate treatment performance requirements and operational flexibility.
- Evaluate contractor sequencing and ability to keep the existing plant running during construction.
- Evaluate site footprint considerations, best utilizing tight space requirements and underground conflicts.

3.3 Site / Civil / Structural / Architectural

- Land surveying (using a Professional Land Surveyor), site layout, grading, drainage, yard piping, access roads, and security.
- Building design (administration, electrical, process buildings as needed).

- Structural design for tanks, basins, and appurtenances. Considerations may be made for alternative basin construction methods/materials, such as prestressed concrete basins, etc., should they provide life-cycle cost savings.

3.4 Mechanical / Process / Electrical / Instrumentation and Controls

- Influent works. The engineer shall work with the Authority to determine practical screening methods and develop a proper design, which may occur just prior to the Middle Oconee influent pump station.
- SBR, AquaNereda®, or Carrousel basins and associated process systems.
- Air systems and blowers (if applicable) and odor control (if needed).
- Solids handling and storage/hauling interface.
- Electrical service coordination, one-line diagrams, standby power, and arc-flash considerations as applicable.
- Instrumentation, controls, and integration with SCADA.
- Commissioning approach and performance testing requirements to be included in bid documents.

3.5 Permitting and Regulatory Support

- Support for required state and local permitting and approvals (including coordination with Georgia EPD, as applicable).
- Preparation of permit application packages and technical exhibits.
- Design plant to ensure compliance with Waste Load Allocation (WLA) requirements with consideration of potential future changes to WLA limits.

3.6 Construction Documents and Bidding Support

- Preparation of plans, specifications, and bid schedule, including Bid Packages for various trades, based upon CMAR sequencing.
- Engineer's Opinion of Probable Construction Cost (OPCC) at key milestones.
- Bid-phase support including addenda, responses to RFIs, bid tabulation, and recommendation of award.

Construction administration and resident project representative services may be added via separate authorization or optional scope, at the Authority's discretion.

4. Submittal Requirements (SOQ)

4.1 Cover Letter

- Firm name, office location, and primary point of contact.
- Confirmation of ability to meet the schedule and provide the required staff.
- Disclosure of any potential conflicts of interest.
- Brief overview highlighting the team's potential advantages.

4.2 Firm Qualifications and Experience

- Overview of the firm and relevant service lines, stating all subconsultants planned for project.
- Experience with wastewater treatment plant design, including: SBR, AquaNereda/AGS, Carrousel (or comparable) projects; phased expansion designs; and permitting support in comparable regulatory environments. Experience working in tight site conditions while maintaining an existing plant.
- Experience working with CMAR projects.

4.3 Project Team and Key Personnel

Provide an organization chart and identify key staff, including at a minimum:

- Project Manager
- Design Manager
- Process Lead (SBR/AGS/AquaNereda experience emphasized)
- Civil/Site Lead
- Structural Lead
- Mechanical Lead
- Electrical/Instrumentation & Controls Lead
- Permitting Lead
- Specifications Lead / QA-QC Lead
- Land Surveyor and land surveying firm

Include brief resumes and the office location for each key person. Resumes must be for the actual team members who will be working on the project.

4.4 Project Approach

- Developing a preliminary concept of design, confirming design criteria for a facility that operates effectively from 1.25 to 3.0 MGD.
- Preliminary layout/concept for future expansion (+3.0 MGD) without major site rework.
- Preliminary design concept for screening, which may be prior to the Middle Oconee influent pump station.
- Discussion of constructability and phasing to maintain compliance during cutover from the existing plant and keep both plants operating during new plant seeding/transition.
- Discussion of cost control and value engineering measures.
- Discussion of schedule control and stakeholder coordination.

4.5 Relevant Projects (References)

Provide a minimum of 5 representative projects (five most recent preferred), including:

- Owner contact information
- Capacity (MGD)
- Your firm's role (prime/subconsultant)
- Design and construction cost

- Delivery method and schedule
- Lessons learned relevant to SBR/AGS/AquaNereda and phased expansion

4.6 Standard Disclosures

- Litigation/claims history (past 5 years).
- Disclose current insurance limits, Professional Liability, Comprehensive, Workman's Compensation, etc.

4.7 Minimum Qualifications

- Must have completed 5 representative similar projects 1.0 MGD or larger within the past 10 years. Provide a representative list of projects with references.

5. Evaluation Criteria

The Authority will utilize a qualifications-based selection (QBS) process for this procurement. Responding firms will be evaluated and ranked in accordance with the criteria set forth in this RFQ, and the Authority will enter into negotiations with the highest-ranked firm for a contract deemed to be in the Authority's best interest, including scope, schedule, and compensation. Should the Authority be unable to negotiate terms it considers fair, reasonable, and acceptable, the Authority reserves the right to discontinue negotiations with that firm and commence negotiations with the next highest-ranked firm in order of evaluation ranking until an agreement is reached. In evaluating compensation during negotiations, the Authority may consider engineering and design fee information from comparable projects as a general benchmark, without limiting its independent judgment. The Authority expects this entire process to be carried out in a transparent, ethical, and professionally defensible manner, consistent with QBS principles, and to the satisfaction of the Authority's Board.

The Authority anticipates evaluating SOQs using the following scoring criteria:

- Relevant project experience (CMAR, SBR/AGS/AquaNereda, Carrousel and similar) – 30 pts.
- Key personnel qualifications and availability – 25 pts.
- Project approach, conceptual design, and understanding of scope – 35 pts.
- Firm capacity, QA/QC, and ability to deliver on schedule – 10 pts.

The Authority may request interviews from the highest-ranked firms prior to final selection.

Although qualifications-based selection is the Authority's preferred method, the Authority reserves the right, before entering into negotiations, to request pricing proposals from the top two or three highest-ranked firms for consideration as part of the final award decision.

6. Procurement Schedule (Anticipated)

- RFQ issued: April 1, 2026
- Mandatory pre-submittal meeting/site visit: June 10, 2026, 1:00 pm, JCWSA Office, 70 Authority Ave, Jefferson, GA

- Individual site visits: Site visits may be prearranged for access tours alongside wastewater staff. Individual site visits are for observation only; they may not be used for marketing or sales, and any questions must be submitted in writing.
- Questions due: No specific deadline date. Written questions are encouraged.
- Addendum (if needed): Addendums may be issued, so proposing firms must get on the SOQ distribution list to assure receipt of addendums
- SOQs due: June 26, 2026
- Shortlist/interviews (optional at the discretion of the Authority): June 30, 2026, to July 2, 2026
- Selection announced: July 9, 2026

7. Submittal Instructions

- Submit one (1) electronic PDF to: jleslie@jcwsa.com
- Submit five (5) hard copies of SOQ.
- Subject line: SOQ – Middle Oconee WWTF 3.0 MGD Replacement.
- Page limit: The SOQ shall not exceed 50 single-sided pages total (10pt font minimum), including cover letter, project descriptions, resumes, and all other submittal content, excluding only dividers, required forms requested by the Authority, and conceptual design drawings.

8. Authority Reserved Rights

- The Authority reserves the right to reject any and all submittals, waive informalities, request clarifications, modify the procurement schedule, and negotiate final scope and fee.
- All costs to prepare SOQs are the responsibility of Respondents.

9. Single Point of Contact

Questions regarding this proposal shall be directed to the following and will be appropriately handled by the Authority's Engineering staff.

Joey Leslie, PE SE PLS
General Manager

Jackson County Water
& Sewerage Authority
70 Authority Ave.
Jefferson, GA 30549
P 706-367-1741 ext. 227
E jleslie@jcwsa.com

Jackson Water Authority
jcwsa.com

10. Attachments

- Waste Load Allocation
- Project Vicinity Map and Project Vicinity Map - Aerial
- Site Existing Conditions

GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION

Jeffrey W. Cown, Director

Watershed Protection Branch
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
Suite 1470A, East Tower
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
404-463-1511

April 23, 2025

Mr. Joey Leslie, General Manager
Jackson County Water & Sewerage Authority
P.O. Box 869
Jefferson, Georgia 30549

RE: Wasteload Allocation Transmittal
Middle Oconee Water Pollution Control Plant
NPDES Permit No. GA0002712
Phased Expansion to 5.0 MGD
EPD # WLA000281
Jackson County, Oconee River Basin

Dear Mr. Leslie:

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has completed the evaluation of the wasteload allocation request for an expanded discharge of 3.75 and 5.0 MGD of treated domestic wastewater into Middle Oconee River at the current outfall. The following wasteload allocation is valid for one year from the date of this letter unless a written extension is requested and granted. The wasteload is provided for planning purposes only.

Recommended effluent permit limits – Discharge to **Middle Oconee River:**

Constituent/Parameter [(1)]	**Limits**	
Effluent Flow Rate (MGD)	3.75	5.0
Five-Day Biochemical Oxygen Demand (mg/L)	5.0	5.0
Total Suspended Solids (mg/L)	10	10
Ammonia, as N (mg/L)	2.0	1.0
Total Phosphorus, as P (mg/L)	0.25	0.25
Dissolved Oxygen, Minimum (mg/L)	6.0	6.0
Escherichia Coli (#/100 mL)	126	126
pH, Minimum – Maximum (Standard Units)	6.0 – 9.0	6.0 – 9.0

(1) Values are maximum monthly averages except as noted.
(2) If an ultra-violet light or ozone system is used to treat bacteria, the TRC limit will only apply when chlorine is in use at the facility.

Recommended effluent permit limits (continued):

Constituent/Parameter	Limit	
Orthophosphate, as P (mg/L)	Monitor	Monitor
Organic Nitrogen, as N (mg/L)	Calculated	Calculated
Nitrate-Nitrite, as N (mg/L)	Monitor	Monitor
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen, as N (mg/L)	Monitor	Monitor
Total Nitrogen, as N (mg/L)	Calculated	Calculated

Priority pollutant limitations and aquatic toxicity testing requirements will be determined at a later date. Please also be aware that EPD will be developing a Nutrient Permitting Strategy in the upcoming months that may result in a total nitrogen limit.

Jackson County Water & Sewerage Authority will also be required to submit an *Antidegradation Analysis* justifying the proposed discharge, an *Environmental Information Document* to evaluate the direct and indirect environmental impacts of the project, and a *Design Development Report* to describe any process modifications. EPD must concur with all the documents before a draft NPDES permit for the requested flow rates can be issued. Please submit the reports for review to the Wastewater Regulatory Program. Please be aware that construction cannot start until a permit is issued and plans and specifications for the proposed facility are approved.

In addition, the Authority must evaluate if their Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) covers the expanded service area. If this is not the case, the WPP must be revised to include the new area.

If you should have any questions, please contact me at (470) 524-0657, or via email at *alex.gramling@dnr.ga.gov*.

Sincerely,

Alex Gramling
Municipal Permitting Unit
Wastewater Regulatory Program

cc: Joey Leslie, Jackson County Water & Sewerage Authority (*jleslie@jcwsa.com*)
Mark Dudziak, Jackson County Water & Sewerage Authority (*mdudziak@jcwsa.com*)
Josh Welte, EPD Water Quality Modeling Unit (*josh.welte@dnr.ga.gov*)

Project Vicinity Map

Jackson Water Authority

Proposed Screening Location

Middle Oconee Influent Pump Station

Existing Outfall & Location of Future Outfall

Existing Headworks

Influent Pump Station Force Main

Authority Property Boundary

ADELLA DR

ADELLA LN

AUTHORITY AVE

COLONIAL CT

JAMESTON DR

MANCHESTER LN

WINDER HWY

THORNBERRY LN

BRIARCREST DR

- Sewer Manholes
- Sewer Lift Stations
- Sewer Force Mains
- Sewer Gravity Lines
- Authority Property Boundary

NOTE: GIS MAPPING AVAILABLE at JCWSA.COM

Map Created Using JCWSA GIS

0 125 250 500 750 1,000 Feet

Project Vicinity Map
Jackson Water Authority
Proposed Screening Location
Middle Oconee Influent Pump Station
Existing Outfall &
Location of Future Outfall
Existing Headworks
Influent Pump Station Force Main
Authority Property Boundary
BRIARCREST DR
Sewer Manholes
Sewer Lift Stations
Sewer Force Mains
Sewer Gravity Lines
Authority Property Boundary
NOTE: GIS MAPPING AVAILABLE at JCWSA.COM
Map Created Using JCWSA GIS
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125
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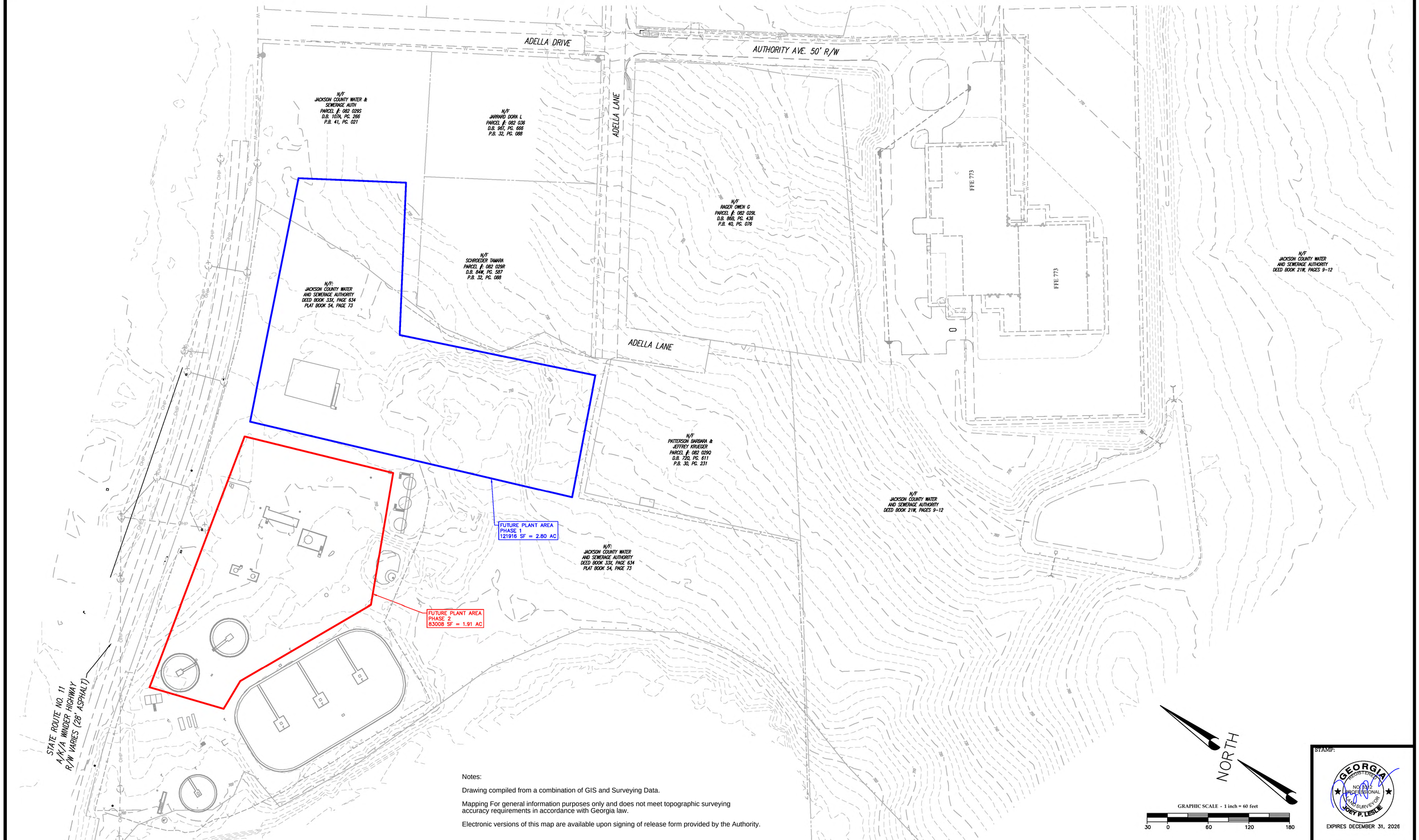

Notes:

Drawing compiled from a combination of GIS and Surveying Data.

Mapping For general information purposes only and does not meet topographic surveying accuracy requirements in accordance with Georgia law.

Electronic versions of this map are available upon signing of release form provided by the Authority.

STAMP:

GEORGIA REGISTERED NO. 3412 PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR JOEY P. LESLIE

EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 2026

JCWSA JOB NUMBER:

CONSULTANTS' JOB NUMBER(S):

DRAWN BY: MJL DATE: 03/31/2026

CHECKED BY: BBM DATE: 03/31/2026

REVISIONS:

NO.	DESCRIPTION	DATE

CONSULTANTS:

Jackson Water Authority

PROJECT NAME:

FUTURE TREATMENT PLANT

SHEET TITLE:

SITE EXISTING CONDITIONS

SHEET NUMBER:

01