



August 20, 2026

Wes Byne, P.E.
Director, Augusta Utilities Department
452 Walker Street
Augusta, GA 30906
WByne@augustaga.gov

Re: Proposal for Environmental Services
Woodlake Sewer and Water Replacement Project
Project #695.4

Dear Mr. Byne:

Bluewater Engineering Services is pleased to submit this proposal to provide professional environmental consulting services for the Woodlake Sewer and Water Replacement Project. The project involves the proposed replacement and relocation of sanitary sewer infrastructure, associated streambank restoration or stabilization, and replacement of portions of the existing water distribution system. The project is located within the Woodlake and Quail Hollow neighborhoods near Tobacco Road, Windsor Spring Road, and the Gate 5 entrance to Fort Gordon. The broader project area encompasses approximately 1,800 parcels, as described in the Preliminary Engineering Report prepared for the Augusta Utilities Department in December 2025.

Wetlands, streams, and other aquatic resources are anticipated within the project area. The proposed environmental services will include an aquatic resources delineation, GPS location and mapping of delineated resources, preparation of an Aquatic Resources Delineation Report, and coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to obtain a Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination. Based on the currently anticipated project activities, Bluewater will also prepare and submit the documentation necessary to seek authorization under an applicable Department of the Army Nationwide Permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. If the final design includes encroachments within Georgia's State-mandated 25-foot stream buffer, Bluewater will prepare and submit a Stream Buffer Variance application to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division. A detailed scope of services is provided below.



Scope of Services

I. Aquatic Resources Delineation and Location/Mapping

- Review any available maps, aerial imagery, and other relevant documentation of the project area prior to site visit.
- Perform a site visit to evaluate the project area for wetlands, streams, and other aquatic resources.
- Delineate and flag the boundaries of wetlands, streams, and other aquatic resources within the project area, if present.
- Evaluate delineated streams and other waters for potential classification as State waters subject to Georgia's stream-buffer requirements.
- Locate the delineated aquatic resource boundaries using survey-grade GPS/GNSS equipment.
- Prepare GIS mapping depicting the location and extent of delineated aquatic resources within the project area.

***Note:** GPS/GNSS accuracy may be affected by dense vegetation, tree canopy, terrain, satellite reception, and other field conditions. Professional land surveying and preparation of a signed or certified aquatic-resources plat by a licensed land surveyor are not included in this scope. If required by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or another regulatory agency, those services may be provided under a separate proposal.*

II. Aquatic Resources Delineation Report (ARDR)

- Prepare applicable wetland determination data forms, stream assessment forms, photographs, maps, and other supporting documentation.
- Prepare an Aquatic Resources Delineation Report describing the evaluation methods, existing site conditions, and aquatic resources identified within the project area.
- Provide a preliminary professional assessment of the potential federal and State regulatory status of the identified aquatic resources.
- Prepare and submit the final Aquatic Resources Delineation Report and associated mapping to the client.

***Note:** The regulatory status and jurisdictional limits of aquatic resources are subject to verification by the applicable regulatory agencies. The ARDR does not constitute a jurisdictional determination by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.*



III. Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination (PJD)

- Prepare the maps, forms, and supporting documentation required for a Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination request.
- Coordinate with the client and project engineer to obtain available project information necessary for the submittal.
- Prepare and submit the PJD request package to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for review of the delineated aquatic-resource boundaries within the project area.
- Coordinate with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers during its review of the PJD request.

***Note:** A Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination (PJD) is a non-binding tool for planning and permitting and does not assert or concede Clean Water Act jurisdiction. A PJD assumes aquatic resources may be jurisdictional solely to advance the project. This scope does not include an Approved Jurisdictional Determination (AJD), which is the only binding jurisdictional decision under current guidance and the Sackett v. EPA (2023) standard. An AJD would require a separate scope and additional coordination with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.*

IV. Section 404 Pre-Construction Notification (PCN)/ Nationwide Permit (NWP)

If the final project design results in impacts to waters of the United States requiring Department of the Army authorization, Bluewater will perform the following services:

- Review the proposed project plans and calculate temporary and permanent impacts to aquatic resources.
- Prepare the project description, purpose and need, avoidance and minimization narrative, impact tables, photographs, location maps, and other supporting documentation required for the PCN package.
- Perform a qualitative assessment of aquatic-resource functions and adverse impacts in accordance with applicable U.S. Army Corps of Engineers compensatory-mitigation guidance, if required.
- Coordinate with mitigation banks to determine credit availability and prepare an estimated mitigation-credit cost, if compensatory mitigation is required.
- Coordinate with the Augusta Utilities Department Engineer regarding impact calculations, construction details, plan sheets, and supporting exhibits. Required impact sketches and engineering exhibits will be prepared by the Augusta Utilities Department Engineer.



- Prepare and submit the PCN package to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers requesting authorization under the applicable Nationwide Permit.

***Note:** This scope assumes that the proposed impacts qualify for authorization under a Nationwide Permit. Preparation of an Individual Permit application, purchase of mitigation credits, agency fees, substantive responses to Requests for Additional Information, and revisions resulting from changes to the project design are not included in this scope.*

V. Stream Buffer Variance

If the final project design results in encroachment within Georgia's State-mandated 25-foot stream buffer, Bluewater will perform the following services:

- Coordinate with the Augusta Engineering Department, acting as the Local Issuing Authority, and request written confirmation that a Stream Buffer Variance is required for the proposed buffer encroachments.
- Review the proposed design and calculate temporary and permanent impacts within the State-mandated stream buffer.
- Prepare the Stream Buffer Variance application, alternatives analysis, project justification, photographs, impact calculations, and other supporting documentation required by the Georgia Environmental Protection Division.
- Coordinate with the client and Augusta Utilities Department Engineer regarding the proposed buffer impacts, construction details, and supporting exhibits. Stream-buffer impact exhibits and engineering plan sheets will be prepared by the Augusta Utilities Department Engineer.
- Prepare and submit the completed Stream Buffer Variance application package to Georgia EPD for review.

***Note:** This scope does not include application fees, public-notice costs, substantive responses to agency Requests for Additional Information, or revisions resulting from changes to the project design. These services may be provided under a separate scope or on a time-and-materials basis.*



Fee Structure

Fees are based on the scope of services described above. Tasks I through III constitute the base environmental services for the project. Tasks IV and V are contingent services that will be performed only if required by the final project design and authorized by the client. Unless otherwise stated, services outside the defined scope will be performed on a time-and-materials basis in accordance with the attached Terms and Conditions.

<u>Base Environmental Services</u>		Fee
I.	Aquatic Resources Delineation and Survey-Grade GPS Mapping	\$ 10,000
II.	Aquatic Resources Delineation Report (ARDR)	\$ 3,000
III.	Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination (PJD)	\$ 4,500
Base Services Subtotal		\$ 17,500
<u>Contingent Permitting Services</u>		
IV.	Section 404 PCN/Nationwide Permit	\$ 8,000
V.	Georgia EPD Stream Buffer Variance	\$ 5,000
Contingent Services Subtotal		\$ 13,000
Total Proposed Fee, if all services are required		\$ 30,500

Requests for Additional Information

Following submission of the PJD, PCN/Nationwide Permit, or Stream Buffer Variance application, the reviewing regulatory agency may issue one or more Requests for Additional Information (RAIs). Routine administrative coordination and project-status inquiries are included in the applicable task fee. However, substantive RAI responses requiring additional analysis, fieldwork, meetings, revised calculations, revised exhibits, or coordination resulting from changes to the project design are not included in the fixed-fee scope.

If requested and authorized by the client, Bluewater will prepare substantive RAI responses on a time-and-materials basis in accordance with the attached Terms and Conditions. Bluewater will not exceed the authorized budget without prior approval from the client.

Estimated Budget for Regulatory RAI Responses: \$ 2,500-\$5,000



Exclusions

Except as listed herein, work outside the stated scope of services is excluded from this proposal. Additional services may be provided at the request of the owner. Services may be secured through a separate contract, or on an hourly rate basis as described in the Terms & Conditions section herein. Unless specifically identified in this proposal, the following services are excluded:

- Approved Jurisdictional Determination (AJD)
- Individual Permit applications
- Georgia EPD Section 401 Water Quality Certification
- Endangered species surveys or consultation
- Cultural resource investigations
- NEPA documentation
- Survey-grade wetland/aquatic resources plats
- Boundary or topographic surveying
- Construction staking or wetland flag certification by a licensed surveyor
- Permit modifications resulting from project redesign after submittal
- Construction-phase environmental compliance or monitoring
- Mitigation bank credit purchases or associated fees
- Federal, state, or local agency review fees

We appreciate the opportunity to provide these services and look forward to working with the Augusta Utilities Department on this project. If you have any questions or need additional information, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Bluewater Engineering Services

Nate Hobbs, PWS
Environmental & Field Services Manager



Terms & Conditions:

1. Cost for application and/or permit fees has not been included in this proposal. Payment of such fees shall be the responsibility of the owner.
2. Invoices will be submitted monthly for work performed during the previous month. Payment is due within 30 days of the date of the invoice. Beyond 30 days, interest on accounts due will be assessed at 1.5% per month for each month of delinquency.
3. Unless other arrangements are made, additional services beyond the scope of this proposal may be obtained on a cost + 15% basis. Cost for hourly work shall be determined as follows:

Principal Engineer, P.E.	\$ 200.00/hr.
Project Manager	\$ 175.00/hr.
Design Engineer	\$ 150.00/hr.
Environmental Specialist	\$ 130.00/hr.
Field Technician/Inspector	\$ 75.00/hr.
Draftsman/CAD Technician	\$ 75.00/hr.
Administrative	\$ 55.00/hr.
Survey Crew	Request Quote

Mileage will be billed at the Federal rate (\$0.76/mile)

4. This proposal shall be valid for 30 days from the date of preparation. If the proposal has not been signed after such time, Bluewater Engineering Services reserves the right to modify the terms and fees in this proposal as needed.
5. The client agrees to limit the liability of Bluewater Engineering Services to the owner, contractor, and subcontractors on this project due to negligent acts, errors or omissions such that the total aggregate liability to all those named shall not exceed the total fee for services rendered on this project.
6. Client agrees, to the fullest extent permitted by law, to indemnify and hold Bluewater Engineering Services, LLC harmless from any damage, liability or cost (including reasonable attorney's fees and costs of defense) to the extent caused by the Client's negligent acts, errors or omissions and those of his or her contractors, subcontractors, consultants or anyone for whom the Client is legally liable, and arising from the project which is the subject of this proposal.
7. Bluewater Engineering Services shall not incur any liability associated with failure by the owner or contractor to adhere to the approved plans for this project. Further, Bluewater Engineering Services shall not be liable for use of the plans for purposes other than the construction of the project scope.
8. By signing below, you authorize Bluewater Engineering Services to proceed with the Scope of Services as presented herein.

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____