



United States Department of Agriculture

September 21, 2022

Boyd Austin, Executive Director
Northwest Georgia Regional Commission
P.O. Box 1798
Rome, Georgia 30162

Re: Development Regional Impact 3599 Request for Canebreak West, a Residential Development, Paulding County REVISION 1

Dear Mr. Frasier:

This letter is in reference to your request for information on the possible impacts the proposed residential development project may have on land use, conservation, water quality and other general environmental concerns that may be of interest to our agency. The following outlines our concerns with the proposed project with regards to farmland protection, and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) watershed dams and project easements. **NOTE, this revision provides the appropriate information on watershed dams.**

Farmland Protection

The Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) is intended to minimize the impact federal programs have on the unnecessary and irreversible conversion of farmland to nonagricultural uses. Projects are subject to FPPA requirements if they may irreversibly convert farmland (directly or indirectly) to nonagricultural use and are completed by a federal agency or with assistance from a federal agency. For the purpose of FPPA, farmland includes areas located within soil map units rated as prime farmland, unique farmland, and land of statewide or local importance. Farmland subject to FPPA requirements does not have to be currently used for cropland. It can be forest land, pastureland, cropland, or other land uses, but not water or urban built-up land. It should be noted that the FPPA does not authorize the Federal Government to regulate the use of private or nonfederal land or, in any way, affect the property rights of owners.

NRCS uses a Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) system to establish a farmland conversion impact rating score on proposed sites of federally funded and assisted projects. This score is used as an indicator for the project sponsor to consider alternative sites if the potential adverse impacts on the farmland exceed the recommended allowable level. It is our understanding that the proposed project involves federal funds or assistance, and thus could be subject to this assessment. Please note, FPPA considers indirect as well as direct conversion. The acres directly converted will be the project area. Areas planned for direct or indirect conversion should be indicated on plans or maps included in the packet of materials for the project. **However, this project does not involve soil map units rated as prime, unique, or statewide importance and is thus exempt from this assessment. You need take no further action for FPPA purposes.**

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Georgia State Office
355 East Hancock Avenue - Athens, GA - 30601-2775
Voice: 706-546-2272 Fax: 855-417-8490

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NRCS Watershed Dams

More than 50 years ago, the U.S. Department of Agriculture was authorized by Congress to help local communities with flood control and watershed protection through the Watershed Program (PL-534 Flood Control Act of 1944 and PL-566 Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act). As a result, local communities, with NRCS assistance, have constructed over 11,000 dams in 47 states since 1948. These dams were originally constructed for protection of farmlands from flooding impacts. In 2000, PL-566 was amended to provide NRCS authorization to assist communities with rehabilitation of their aging dams. The legislation authorizes NRCS to work with local communities and watershed project sponsors to address public health and safety concerns and potential environmental impacts of aging dams.

We have reviewed our records and have determined that there is such a structure downstream of the proposed project that could be affected by these activities. NRCS's watershed structure Pumpkinvine Creek 50 is approximately half a mile downstream of this project. Their location is shown on the accompanying screenshot, p.3 of this letter. Please contact the Coosa River Soil & Water Conservation District through Shemekia Mosely, shemekia.mosley@usda.gov, District Conservationist. Information about development near such structures in general is located here:

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/ga/technical/engineering/?cid=nrcs144p2_021864

NRCS Easements

NRCS easements relate to our Wetland Reserve Program and the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program. **We have reviewed our records and have determined that there are no such easements downstream or in the near vicinity of the proposed project that could be affected by these activities.**

NRCS appreciates this opportunity to comment. If you have questions or need any additional information, please contact me at (706) 546-2244 or dan.wallace@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

DANIEL WALLACE Digitally signed by DANIEL WALLACE
Date: 2022.09.21 09:27:58 -04'00'

DANIEL F. WALLACE
STATE RESOURCE INVENTORY COORDINATOR

cc: Mike Watson, Assistant State Conservationist (FO), NRCS, Griffin, GA
Shemekia Mosley, District Conservationist, NRCS, Marietta, GA
Michael Henderson, Resource Soil Scientist, NRCS, Griffin, GA
Nelson Velazquez Gotay, Soil Scientist, NRCS, Athens, GA
Julianne Meadows, NWGRC
Eric Harris, Engineer, NRCS, Athens, GA



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