



GOMESA PHASE II PROJECT FUNDING

Request for Funding FY2026

Submission ID: #202508281348

PROJECT SUMMARY

1. Title of Project

Escatawpa Septic System Abatement for Pascagoula River Watershed Protection & Water Quality Improvement

2. Location of Project

Located within the Pascagoula River watershed, in the Jackson County, MS, Escatawpa community.

3. Requesting Organization:

Jackson County Utility Authority

4. Requesting Agency Representative

a. Name: Chase Glisson

b. Phone: 228-762-0119

d. Email: cglisson@jcua-ms.us

c. Address: 1225 Jackson Avenue

Pascagoula Mississippi

5. Funding Requested:

\$2800000.00

6. Have any other State or Federal funding sources been identified for the project?

No

7. If yes, enter amount and source of additional funds:

\$

Source of Additional Funds:

8. Total Project Funds

\$2800000.00



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9. Provide Brief Project Description/Overview:

This GOMESA-funded project aims to protect and enhance water quality in the Pascagoula River watershed by addressing critical wastewater infrastructure needs in Escatawpa and surrounding areas of Jackson County, Mississippi. The project targets failing septic systems that are sources of water pollution. These contribute to nutrient enrichment, bacterial contamination, and degraded aquatic habitat within one of the most ecologically intact river systems in the continental United States.

10. LIST Project Goals/Objectives:

Project Goals:

- Improve Coastal Water Quality - Reduce nutrient and pathogen loading into waterways by removing or replacing failing septic systems.
- Protect and Restore Coastal Wetlands and Estuaries - Support healthy aquatic ecosystems by eliminating sources of pollution that contribute to wetland degradation.
- Enhance Community and Infrastructure Resilience - Reduce flood risk and protect built infrastructure by maintaining wetland buffers impaired by pollution.
- Advance Coastal Restoration and Conservation Efforts - Enable successful implementation of nearby coastal restoration projects by improving water quality and ecosystem health.
- Promote Public Health and Environmental Justice - Eliminate human health risks associated with exposure to contaminated groundwater and surface water, especially in underserved areas.

Project Objectives:

- Identify & Prioritize Failing Septic Systems - Targeting high-risk systems near wetlands, water bodies, and flood prone areas.
- Decommission & Remove Failing Septic Systems - Safely remove non-compliant or leaking septic tanks within the targeted watershed, with connections to municipal sewer where feasible.

11. Which of the following authorized uses set forth in the GOMESA Act does this project fall under? Explain SPECIFICALLY and in detail how the project meets the required criteria. Check all that apply - At least one must be checked.

(A) Projects and activities for the purposes of coastal protection, including conservation, coastal restoration, hurricane protection, and infrastructure directly affected by coastal wetland losses

Coastal Protection & Conservation:

- How septic removal fits: Failing septic systems leak nutrients and pathogens into coastal waterways, degrading water quality and harming coastal ecosystems (e.g., oyster reefs, marshes) that naturally buffer storm surge and wave action.
- Protective value: Reducing pollution improves the resilience of natural coastal defenses, contributing to long-term shoreline stabilization. Wetlands act as storm buffers. Their degradation (exacerbated by pollution from failing septic systems) reduces natural hurricane protection.



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(B) Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, or natural resources.

Removing failing septic systems helps mitigate habitat loss from nutrient pollution. Nutrient loading from failing septic systems leads to eutrophication and algal blooms, which can destroy aquatic habitats and biodiversity. Removing these systems supports the conservation of sensitive coastal species and habitats (e.g., estuaries, wetlands, shellfish beds).

(C) Implementation of a federally-approved marine, coastal, or conservation management plan

(D) Mitigation of the impact of Outer Continental Shelf activities through funding of onshore infrastructure projects.

12. Project Timetable/Milestones:

Project Award - TBD
Design - 240 days
Procurement - 120 days
Construction Period - 360 days



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Total - 720 days

13. Project Timing

Short-term (3 year or less)



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APPLICATION SUMMARY QUESTIONNAIRE

14. Current status of architectural/engineering plans & specifications for this project (if applicable):

Group 1:

In Progress

Group 2:

Funds budgeted

15. In what way does this project meet the goals and objectives of the Department of Marine Resources, which includes enhancing, protecting and conserving the marine interest of Mississippi for present and future generations.?

The project is designed to produce tangible improvements in local and downstream water quality. Its focus is on reducing nutrient and pathogen loads entering the Escatawpa River, its tributaries, and ultimately the Pascagoula River and Mississippi Sound. These improvements will help sustain critical estuarine habitats, support shellfish harvesting areas, and protect recreational and commercial fisheries vital to the region.

Environmental best management practices (BMPs) will guide construction and implementation, minimizing disturbance to sensitive habitats while enhancing the long-term resilience of wastewater systems. The project will also engage local residents through education and outreach, helping to build community support and awareness of the benefits of transitioning from failing septic systems to more sustainable alternatives.

Monitoring of key water quality indicators, including nitrogen, phosphorus, and fecal coliform, will demonstrate this project's positive impact desired for this area.

By investing in Escatawpa's wastewater infrastructure, this project supports the broader goal of protecting the Pascagoula River—one of the last free-flowing major rivers in the lower 48 states while improving public health and environmental quality in Jackson County.

16. Estimated number of years to completion:

3

17. Estimated Completion Date:

June 30, 2029

18. Prioritize if your agency has submitted multiple projects:

Yes



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BUDGET

Category	Total
Salaries	25000
Travel	0.00
Architecture & Engineering	0.00
Legal	0.00
Consulting	336000.00
Construction	2414000.00
Site Work	0.00
Equipment	25000.00
Indirects	
Other	
Total	2800000

Attachments

1. jcua--gomesa-eud-septic-abatement.pdf

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury that all information contained in this application packet is true and correct. I have not knowingly or intentionally provided any false information. I understand that a false statement on this application may be grounds for rejection of my application or termination of the award. In addition, a false statement may be punishable under applicable state or federal laws, which may also result in a fine and/or imprisonment.

I certify that the above referenced agency / entity has given me the authority to submit this application.

Name

Phone

Date

Chase Glisson

228-762-0119

08/28/2025



Project Location:

Jackson County, MS

Project Name:

Escatawpa Septic System Abatement for Pascagoula River Watershed Protection & Water Quality Improvement

Project Budget:

\$2,800,000.00

Project may be separated into additional phases for future project considerations.

Project Description:

This project aims to protect and enhance water quality in the Pascagoula River watershed by addressing critical wastewater infrastructure needs in Escatawpa and surrounding areas of Jackson County, Mississippi. The project targets approximately 370 failing septic systems that are sources of water pollution. These contribute to nutrient enrichment, bacterial contamination, and degraded aquatic habitat within one of the most ecologically intact river systems in the continental United States.

Project Benefits:

- Septic tank abandonments
- Reduced pollutants to downstream receiving waters
- Reduced beach closures
- Improved shellfish harvesting potential
- Improved tourism and blue economy
- Improved compliance with MS Onsite Wastewater Regulations and MDEQ Stormwater Permits

Project Estimate:

Construction	\$ 2,240,000.00
Professional Services	\$ 336,000.00
Contingency	\$ 224,000.00
Total Cost	\$ 2,800,000.00

Project Timeline:

Design & Procurement	360 Days
Construction	360 Days
Total Project Time	720 Days

Leveraging Opportunity:

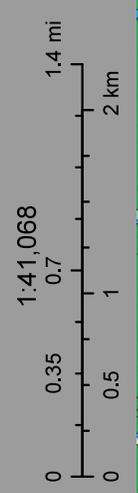
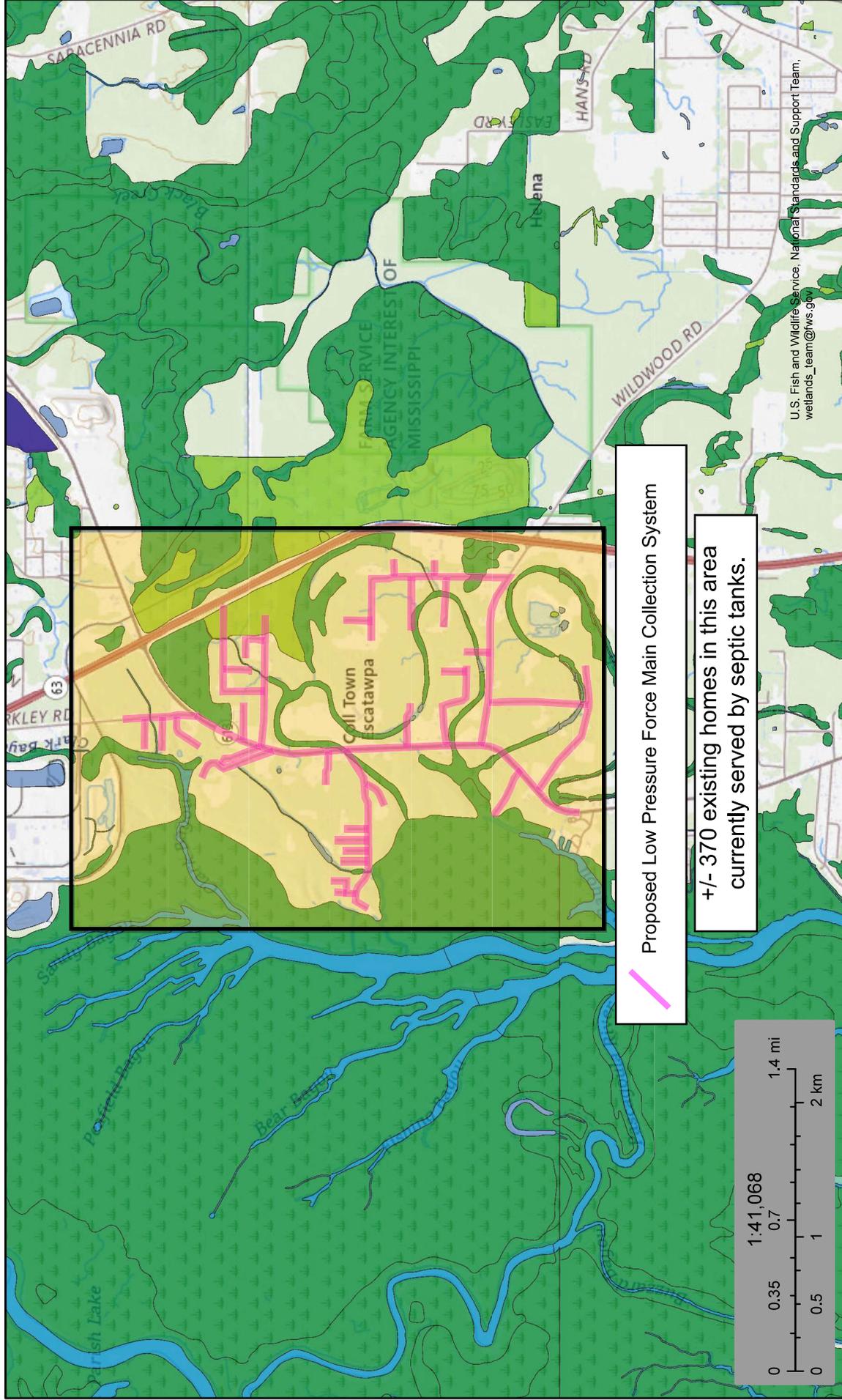
The Jackson County Utility Authority is prepared to match funds with in-house contributions and could perform professional services for the project as well as construction and installation using in-house crews where possible in order to limit construction cost. Any funds remaining at project completion would be returned to the GOMESA Funding Program.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

National Wetlands Inventory

EUD Wetlands Map



June 13, 2025

Wetlands

- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Other
- Riverine

This map is for general reference only. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is not responsible for the accuracy or currentness of the base data shown on this map. All wetlands related data should be used in accordance with the layer metadata found on the Wetlands Mapper web site.