



GOMESA PHASE II PROJECT FUNDING

Request for Funding FY2026

Submission ID: #202510141380

PROJECT SUMMARY

1. Title of Project

Western Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility Expansion

2. Location of Project

14100 Hwy. 90 Pearlington, MS 39572

3. Requesting Organization:

Hancock County Utility Authority

4. Requesting Agency Representative

a. Name: David C. Pitalo

b. Phone: 2282165266

d. Email: dpitalo@hcua.ms.gov

c. Address: 401 Gulfside Street

Waveland Mississippi

5. Funding Requested:

\$12000000

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

\$12000000



ENHANCE * PROTECT * CONSERVE

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9. Provide Brief Project Description/Overview:

The Hancock County Utility Authority (HANCUA) is requesting funding for a wastewater treatment improvement and expansion project at the Western Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility (WRWWTF) to increase wastewater treatment capacity to accommodate additional anticipated flows within the Port Bienville (PBIP) and the Pearlington Water and Sewer District (PWSD) service area.

10. LIST Project Goals/Objectives:

1. Provide increased wastewater treatment capacity and improved treatment capabilities to accommodate projected residential and industrial customer growth.
2. Increased treatment capacity and improved treatment capabilities will lessen the probability of environmental impacts to surrounding streams, bayous, rivers and the Mississippi.

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

The project will result in providing improvements necessary for reduction of the possibility of unsatisfactory wastewater discharge impacts to coastal wetland areas adjacent to the Mississippi Sound.

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

The project will help to ensure improved water quality to the surrounding receiving water bodies, as well as, reduction of possible threats from potential discharge of unsatisfactory treated wastewater due to a variety of circumstances which could occur, and result in negative impacts to fish, wildlife and natural resources.



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(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.

Improved capabilities to receive and adequately treat additional planned and expected amounts of wastewater, resulting in reduced probability and unsatisfactorily treated discharge into the environment and waterways. The proposed capacity and treatment improvements at the Western Regional WWTF will provide for advanced treatment prior to discharge of the treated effluent. The improved treatment facility will have ample available capacity to accept additional wastewater flows and to provide advanced levels of treatment well within the limitations of the facility's NPDES permit limits.

12. Project Timetable/Milestones:

FROM AWARD AND AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS:

MONTH 0 - 6: Permitting and Environmental Review

MONTH 7 - 14: Engineering Design Phase, Plan Review, Comments and Approval by MDEQ

MONTH 15 - 18: BID Phase, Award Construction Contract and Issue Notice to Proceed with Construction

MONTH 19 - 36: Construction, Start-Up and Project Close Out Phases

Assuming award and availability of funds in July 2026, project completion will be June 2029.

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:

Prelim Eval Complete

Group 2:

Funds not 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.?

1. The proposed expansion of the Western Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility represents a logical and attainable next phase of infrastructure investment for Hancock County. The concept provides a practical means to expand existing treatment capacity while leveraging established assets and site conditions. By increasing the facility's capacity from 0.2 MGD to 0.5 MGD, the project will strengthen wastewater reliability for the surrounding communities and provide immediate, marketable capacity for future industrial users at Port Bienville Industrial Park.

2. Completion of this project will provide Hancock County Utility Authority with a flexible and expandable treatment facility capable of supporting long-term growth and economic development throughout the western portion of the county. When combined with the County's ongoing coordination with the Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission and other local partners, this initiative demonstrates a continued commitment to providing sustainable, resilient infrastructure that supports industrial recruitment, environmental stewardship, and community progress along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

16. Estimated number of years to completion:

3.0

17. Estimated Completion Date:

June 2029

18. Prioritize if your agency has submitted multiple projects:

1



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BUDGET

| Category | Total |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Salaries | 0 |
| Travel | 0 |
| Architecture & Engineering | 1520000 |
| Legal | 50000 |
| Consulting | |
| Construction | 10430000 |
| Site Work | |
| Equipment | |
| Indirects | |
| Other | |
| Total | 12000000 |

Attachments

1. hcua-wastewater-treatment-alternatives-to-support-pbip.pdf
2. hcua-request-for-funding.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

David C. Pitalo

2282165266

10/14/2025



**Amendment A to
Wastewater Collection and Treatment Alternatives
to support
Industrial Development at Port Bienville Industrial Park**

Prepared for
Hancock County Port & Harbor Commission
14054 Fred and Al Key Rd, Kiln, MS 39556



Prepared by:
Brown, Mitchell & Alexander, Inc.

bma BROWN, MITCHELL
& ALEXANDER, INC.
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

401 Cowan Road – Suite A
Gulfport, MS 39507

October 2025



AMENDMENT A

Revised Conceptual Expansion – Western Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility
Hancock County, Mississippi
October 2025 Addendum to “Port Bienville Industrial Park Wastewater Capacity and
Expansion Analysis” (October 2025)

A-1. Purpose and Background

This document serves as an update and amendment to the Port Bienville Industrial Park Wastewater Capacity and Expansion Analysis (March 2025). The purpose of this addendum is to present a revised conceptual approach to increasing wastewater treatment capacity within the Port Bienville/Pearlington service area. Following coordination meetings with the Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission and the Hancock County Utility Authority (HCUA), an alternative approach was developed that focuses on expansion of the existing Western Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF), rather than construction of an entirely new treatment process. The existing Western Regional WWTF provides secondary treatment for approximately 0.2 million gallons per day (MGD) (200,000 GPD) through a two-cell Sequencing Batch Reactor (SBR) system. The facility includes preliminary screening, aeration, ultraviolet (UV) disinfection, and an effluent pump station that discharges treated effluent to the Pearl River. With planned growth in the Pearlington and Oak Harbor areas, flows are projected to increase to 150,000 GPD, or approximately 75 percent of current capacity. To accommodate both future residential growth and potential industrial customers within Port Bienville Industrial Park, additional capacity is necessary.

A-2. Project Objective

The objective of this amendment is to outline a cost-effective, scalable expansion to the existing WWTF that will:

- Increase total treatment capacity to approximately 0.5 MGD (500,000 GPD)
- Maintain compliance with applicable NPDES permit standards
- Provide operational redundancy and flexibility
- Support ongoing industrial recruitment efforts by providing ready and available treatment capacity.

A-3. Proposed Facility Expansion

The revised expansion concept will provide a new 0.3 MGD two-cell SBR system and associated improvements to achieve a combined capacity of 0.5 MGD.

A-3.1 Headworks and Flow Splitter

The existing headworks structure will be modified to include a flow splitter capable of distributing influent to both the existing and proposed SBR trains. Under normal operation, 40% of flow will be directed to the existing 0.2 MGD SBR and 60% to the new 0.3 MGD SBR.

All influent, including flow from the equalization basin pump station, will pass through the headworks for screening and flow measurement.

A-3.2 New 0.3 MGD SBR Process

A new two-cell SBR system will be constructed adjacent to the existing treatment units. The system will be designed for an average daily flow of 0.3 MGD and include twin basins, aeration, decant mechanisms, and integrated SCADA controls.

A-3.3 Equalization Basin and Pump Station

A new equalization (EQ) basin will be constructed upstream of the headworks to manage wet-weather and high-flow events. The EQ basin will capture and store excess inflow during storm events and pump it back to the headworks during low-flow periods.

A-3.4 Disinfection and Post-Treatment

The existing UV disinfection system will be replaced with a chlorine contact chamber and dichlorination facility. A gravity step-aeration structure will be provided to increase dissolved oxygen in the effluent before discharge.

A-3.5 Effluent Pump Station

A new effluent pump station will be constructed to convey treated effluent to the existing outfall on the Pearl River. It will be sized for the combined 0.5 MGD flow with duplex submersible or vertical pumps for redundancy.

A-4. Opinion of Probable Construction Cost

An opinion of probable costs is included as Exhibit A-2.

A-5. Implementation and Phasing

The proposed improvements will be implemented within the existing WWTF property limits to avoid additional permitting, land acquisition, or off-site utility relocation. The project will be phased to ensure continuous operation of the existing 0.2 MGD SBR system during construction.

A-6. Permitting and Regulatory Requirements

Expansion of the Western Regional WWTF from 0.2 MGD to 0.5 MGD will require a modification of the facility's existing NPDES discharge permit issued by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Environmental Permits Division (EPD). The following outlines the expected regulatory steps and coordination required to obtain approval for the expansion:

- Pre-Application Coordination – Conduct an initial meeting with MDEQ-EPD to confirm scope, anti-degradation requirements, receiving stream data, and submittal expectations.
- NPDES Permit Modification Application – File an individual NPDES permit modification using EPA/MDEQ Form 2A, reflecting the new design flow of 0.5 MGD and describing treatment changes.

- Anti-Degradation Review – Prepare an anti-degradation analysis demonstrating need for expansion, alternatives considered, and effects on receiving stream quality per MDEQ requirements.
- Water Quality & Technology Basis – Provide data to support updated Water Quality-Based Effluent Limits (WQBELs) and confirm compliance with technology-based limits.
- Engineering Report & Plans – Submit an Engineering Report and plans/specifications consistent with MDEQ’s design standards and Ten States Standards for wastewater treatment works.
- Public Notice & Permit Board Action – MDEQ will issue a draft permit and fact sheet for public comment, followed by Mississippi Environmental Permit Board consideration and approval.
- Supporting Documents – Include updated influent/effluent data, hydraulic and mixing zone analyses, and proposed monitoring program updates for final permit issuance.

A-7. Project Schedule

The overall implementation period for the proposed Western Regional WWTF expansion is anticipated to be approximately **thirty-six (36) months** from initiation of permitting and design through completion of construction and start-up. The general sequence of project development is expected to include the following major phases.

The **Permitting and Environmental Review** phase is estimated to require approximately six (6) months. During this period, the project team will prepare and submit the NPDES permit modification application and associated anti-degradation documentation to the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). This phase will also include MDEQ review, coordination with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA Region 4), and the required public notice and comment period leading up to Mississippi Environmental Permit Board action.

The **Engineering Design** phase is expected to require approximately eight (8) months following receipt of preliminary permit concurrence. This effort will include detailed design of the new 0.3 MGD SBR process, equalization basin and pump station, headworks modifications, disinfection improvements, post-aeration, and the new effluent pump station. At the conclusion of this phase, a complete set of construction drawings and specifications will be prepared for bidding in accordance with Mississippi public procurement requirements.

The **Procurement** phase will generally require four (4) months. Activities during this period will include advertisement for bids, bid opening, evaluation of contractor qualifications, award recommendation, and contract execution.

The **Construction and Start-Up** phase is expected to extend over approximately eighteen (18) months. Construction will occur within the boundaries of the existing WWTF site and will be sequenced to maintain continuous operation of the current 0.2 MGD treatment process. Start-up, performance testing, and operator training will occur during the final portion of this phase, culminating in acceptance of the completed improvements.

Based on these durations, the total project implementation period from initiation of permitting through final acceptance is estimated at **approximately thirty-six (36) months**. This schedule represents a reasonable and achievable timeframe for a project of this scope, complexity, and regulatory coordination requirements.

A-8. Summary

The proposed expansion of the Western Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility represents a logical and attainable next phase of infrastructure investment for Hancock County. The concept provides a practical means to expand existing treatment capacity while leveraging established assets and site conditions. By increasing the facility's capacity from 0.2 MGD to 0.5 MGD, the project will strengthen wastewater reliability for the surrounding communities and provide immediate, marketable capacity for future industrial users at Port Bienville Industrial Park.

The improvements described herein—comprising a new two-cell 0.3 MGD SBR, equalization basin and pump station, upgraded headworks, chlorine contact chamber and de-chlorination facilities, post-aeration structure, and new effluent pump station—represent a cost-effective and operationally efficient approach consistent with modern treatment practices and MDEQ design standards.

Completion of this project will provide Hancock County Utility Authority with a flexible and expandable treatment facility capable of supporting long-term growth and economic development throughout the western portion of the county. When combined with the County's ongoing coordination with the Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission and other local partners, this initiative demonstrates a continued commitment to providing sustainable, resilient infrastructure that supports industrial recruitment, environmental stewardship, and community progress along the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Exhibits

Exhibit A-1, A-1.1, A-1.2, & A-1.3 Proposed Western WWTF Expansion Plan (October 2025)

Exhibit A-2. Opinion of Probable Construction Cost (October 2025)

EXHIBITS



SCALE: 1"=100'

s:\3886 - wwf & port blenville wastewater capacity and expansion analysis\01-drawings\01-drafting\01-dwgs\3886 wwf expansion technical drawings.dwg-10/6/2025

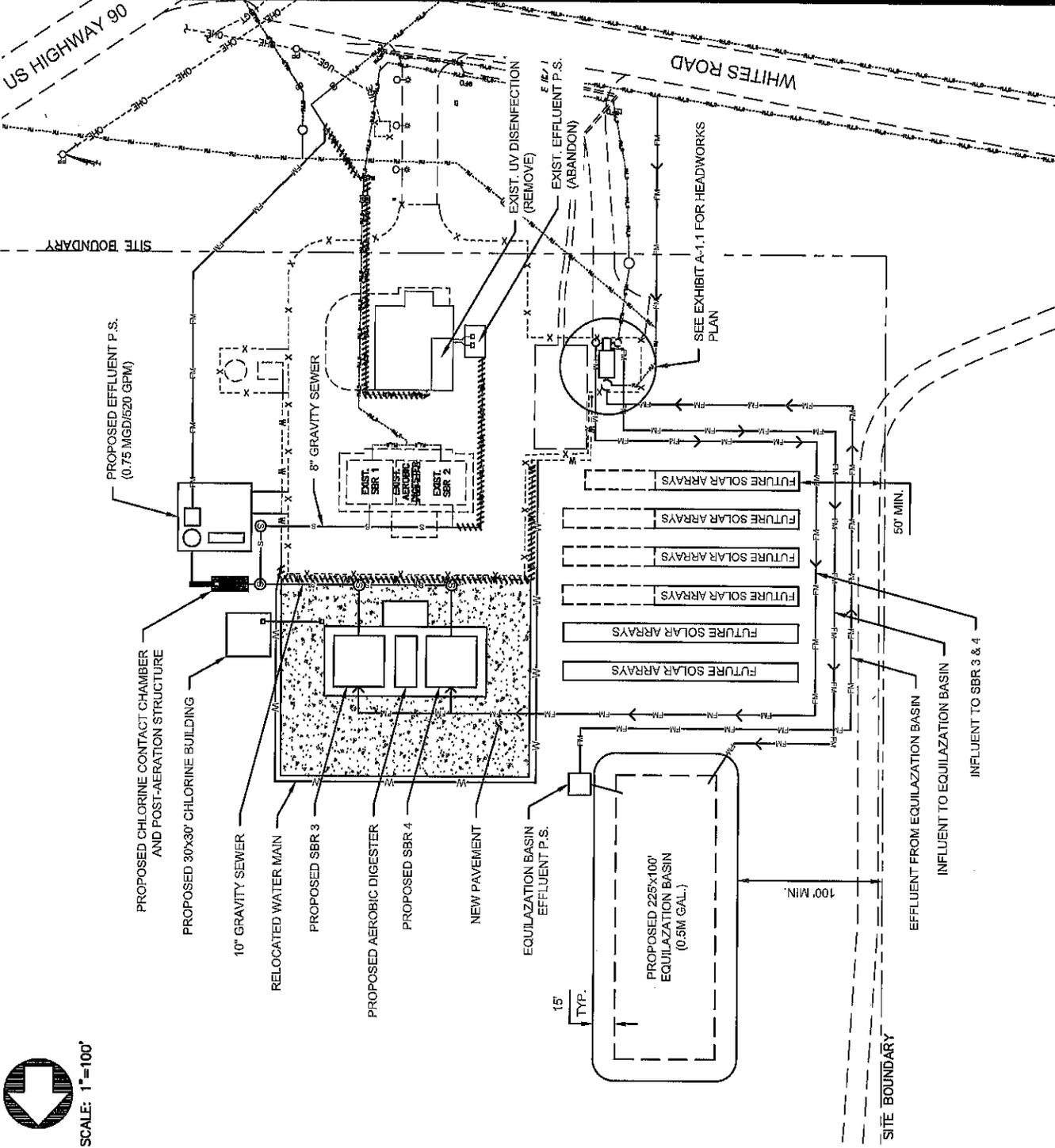


EXHIBIT A-1.0 - OVERALL LAYOUT PLAN

WESTERN REGIONAL WWT EXPANSION

HANCOCK COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

DESIGN INFLUENT FLOWS
 INITIAL AVERAGE DAILY FLOW: 0.5 MGD
 INITIAL PEAK HOURLY FLOW: 0.75 MGD

DESIGN INFLUENT WATER QUALITY
 BOD5: 250 MG/L
 TOTAL SUSPENDED SOLIDS: 250 MG/L
 NH3-N: 33 MG/L
 TKN: 55 MG/L
 TOTAL PHOSPHORUS: 7 MG/L

DESIGN EFFLUENT WATER QUALITY
 BOD5: 10 MG/L
 TOTAL SUSPENDED SOLIDS: 10 MG/L
 NH3-N: 2.0 MG/L

NOTES
 1. THE HEADWORKS, FLOW SPLITTER, CHLORINE CONTACT CHAMBER, CHLORINE STORAGE STRUCTURE & EQUIPMENT, ELECTRICAL/CONTROLS BUILDING AND POST-AERATION STRUCTURE ARE SIZED FOR THE ULTIMATE HYDRAULIC CAPACITY OF AN AVERAGE DAILY FLOW OF 0.5 MGD (PEAK HOURLY FLOW OF 0.75 MGD).



SCALE: 1"=10'

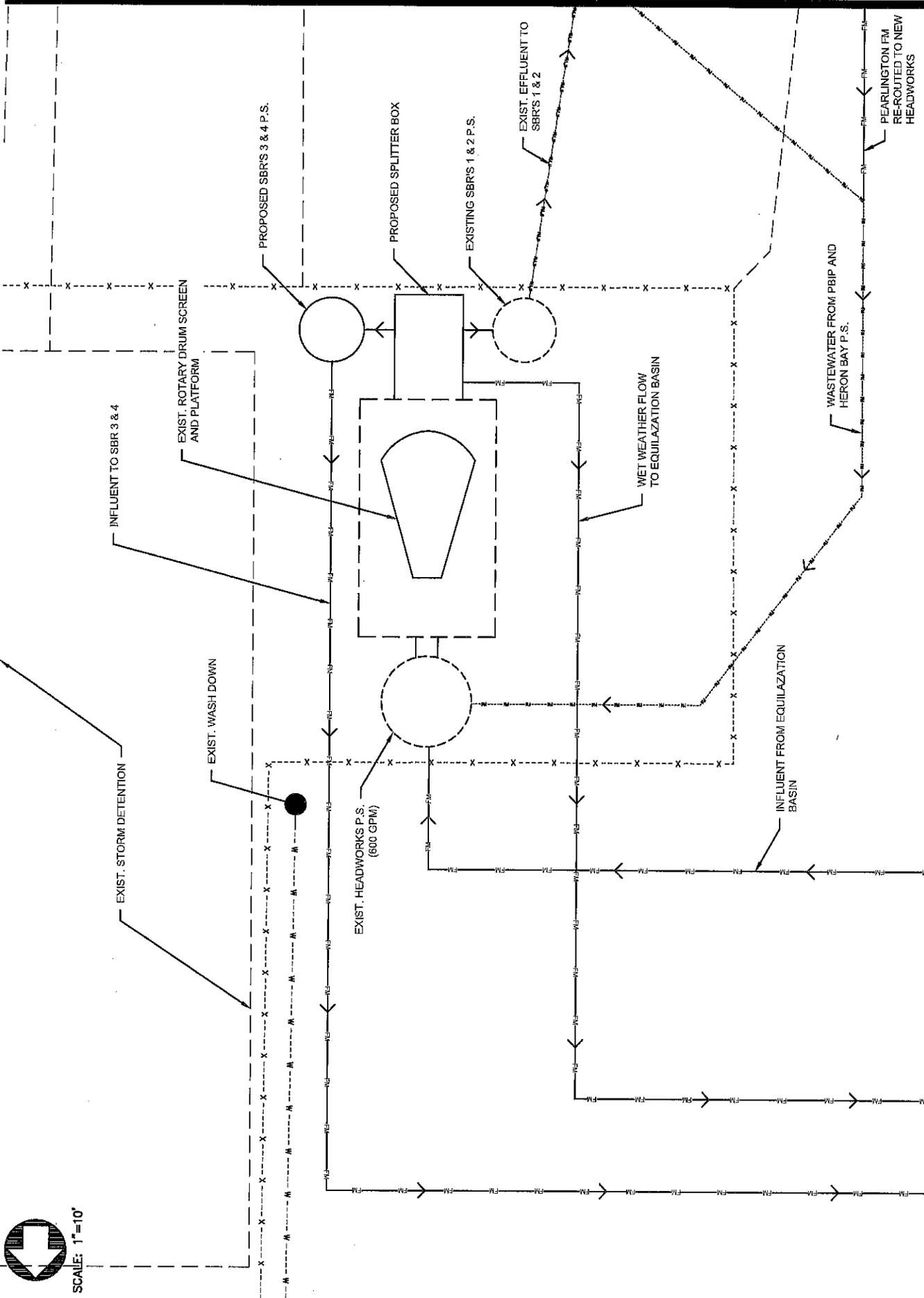


EXHIBIT A-1.1 - HEADWORKS PLAN

WESTERN REGIONAL WWTF EXPANSION

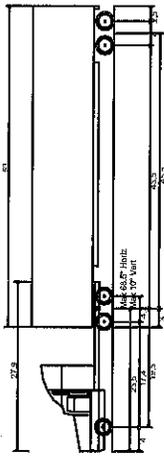
HANCOCK COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI



**BROWN, MITCHELL
& ALEXANDER, INC.**
CONSULTING ENGINEERS



SCALE: 1"=100'



WB-67 - Interstate Semi-Trailer
 Overall Length 73.501ft
 Overall Width 9.550ft
 Overall Height 11.324ft
 Min Body Ground Clearance 8.500ft
 Lock-to-lock time 6.00s
 Max Steering Angle (Virtual) 28.40°

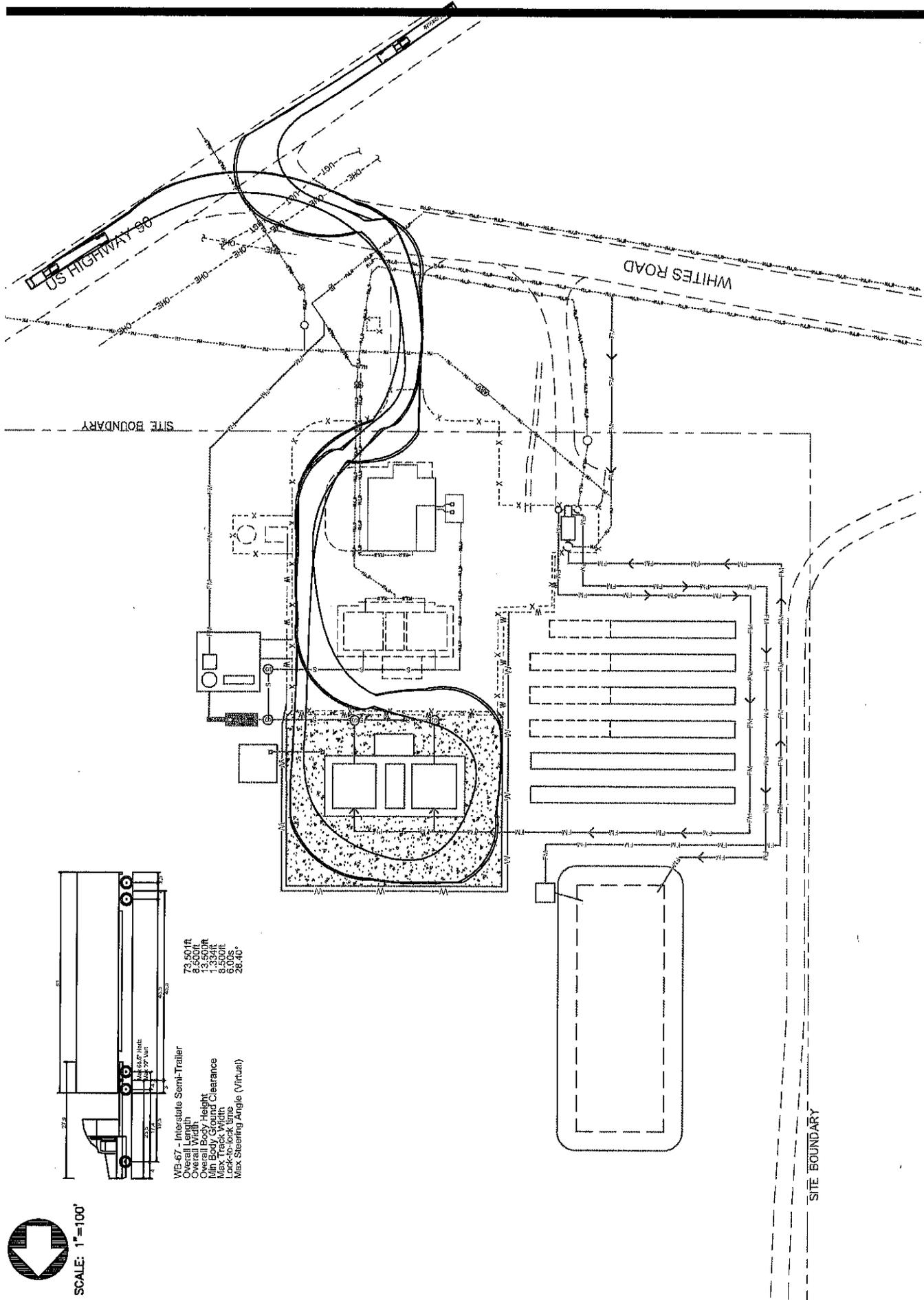


EXHIBIT A-1.2 - TURN ANALYSIS OPTION 1
WESTERN REGIONAL WWTF EXPANSION
 HANCOCK COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

EXHIBIT A-2
OPINION OF PROBABLE COSTS
Western Regional WWTF Expansion
Expansion of 0.3 MGD Treatment Capacity for a total Facility Capacity of 0.5 MGD
OCTOBER 2025

| CONSTRUCTION ITEMS | |
|---|------------------------|
| SITWORK | \$ 500,000.00 |
| EQUILIZATION BASIN & PUMPS | \$ 900,000.00 |
| HEADWORKS IMPROVEMENT | \$ 800,000.00 |
| NEW 0.3 MGD SBR (STRUCTURE, EQUIPMENT & CONTROLS) | \$ 5,900,000.00 |
| NEW CHLORINE CONTACT CHAMBER & EQUIPMENT | \$ 600,000.00 |
| EFFLUENT PUMPS & CONTROLS (0.5 MGD/600 gpm) | \$ 530,800.00 |
| EFFLUENT MAIN FORCE - NO IMPROVEMENTS REQUIRED | |
| ADDITIONAL SOLAR ARRAYS - NOT INCLUDED | |
| <hr/> | |
| CONSTRUCTION SUBTOTAL | \$ 9,230,800.00 |
| CONSTRUCTION CONTIGENCY (10%) | \$ 923,040.00 |
| ENGINEERING ENTITLEMENTS & LEGAL (20%) | \$ 1,846,160.00 |
| <hr/> | |
| TOTAL PROJECT COST | \$ 12,000,000 |