FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

CAPE FEAR PUBLIC UTILITY AUTHORITY
48" PARALLEL RAW WATER MAIN PROJECT

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY: NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Article I, Chapter 113A of the North Carolina General Statutes requires an action to be subject to the requirements of the North Carolina Environmental Policy Act (NCEPA) if it involves the expenditure of public funds and if a potential impact is anticipated to the environment. The project has been evaluated for compliance with the NCEPA and is determined to be a major agency action, which will affect the environment.

Project Applicant:	Cape Fear Public Utility Authority, North Carolina
Project Description:	The proposed project includes the installation of a new 3-mile long 48-inch to 54-inch raw water main section parallel to the LCFWSA' s existing 49-inch raw water main. This parallel section will extend just south of the existing Pender County, NC AWWTP to the CFPUA meter vault at the US-421 right -of way in New Hanover County. A portion of the proposed raw water main will be funded by CFPUA; however, the LCFWASA will own and operate the proposed raw water main.
Project Number:	WIF-1990
Project Cost:	$18,280,037
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund:	$11,676,831
LCFWASA (NC SL HB 529):	$6,172,078
421 Industries:	$431,128

The review process indicated that significant adverse environmental impacts should not occur if mitigative measures are implemented, and an environmental impact statement will not be required. The decision was based on information in the Engineering Report/Environmental Information Document (ER/EID) submitted by the applicant and reviews by governmental agencies. The attached Environmental Assessment (EA), prepared by the Division based on the ER/EID, supports this action and outlines mitigative measures that must be followed. This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) completes the environmental review record, which is available for inspection at the State Clearinghouse.

No administrative action will be taken on the proposed project for at least 30 days after notification that the FONSI has been published in the North Carolina Environmental Bulletin.

Sincerely,

Kavitha Ambikadevi

Kavitha Ambikadevi, Chief
Water Infrastructure Fund Section
Division of Water Infrastructure

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ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

A. Proposed Facilities and Actions

The proposed project includes the installation of a new 3-mile long 48-inch to 54-inch raw water main section parallel to the LCFWSA' s existing 49-inch raw water main. This parallel section will extend just south of the existing Pender County, NC AW WTP to the CFPUA meter vault at the US-421 right -of way in New Hanover County. A portion of the proposed raw water main will be funded by CPPUA; however, the LCFWASA will own and operate the proposed raw water main.

The starting point of the proposed raw water main section is the meter vault just outside of the Pender County, NC AWWTF. From this point, the proposed raw water main extends southeast before turning northeast along an industrial parcel at 5401 HWY 421. The proposed water main then turns southeast and remains on the south side of US HWY 421 for approximately 1.75 miles before crossing the highway and connecting to the existing raw water main on the north side of US HWY 421. This will consist of approximately 15,400 LF of 48-inch to 54-inch raw water main and all associated appurtenances.

The installation of a parallel pipeline of identical size would provide system redundancy and ensure a safe, reliable, and continuous supply of water to meet the community's public health needs. The proposed project will not alter or expand the distribution system; the proposed project will increase system reliability. The maximum daily treated water supply and maximum daily demand are not expected to change due to the proposed project.

It should be noted that the proposed section of raw water main represents Phase 3 of a three phase project. Phase 1, which was completed in 2022, included the installation of a new 14-mile long steel 54-inch raw water main extending from the LCFWASA Kings Bluff Raw Water Pump Station to the existing LCFWASA 3.0 MG raw water ground storage tank. Phase 2, which is underway, includes the installation of a new 7-mile-long 54-inch raw water main extending from the existing 3 MG raw water ground storage tank to the meter vault just outside of the Pender County, NC AWWTF. The proposed section of raw water main will connect the Phase 2 raw water main to the existing raw water main along US HWY 421 at the CFPUA meter vault.

Funding Status: The total cost of the project is $18,280,037. The sources of funding include the CFPUA (SRF), LCFWASA (NC SL HB 529), and 421 Industries in the amounts of $11,676,831, $6,172,078, and $431,128 respectively. The current residential rate for water is $16.21 for a 5/8-inch meter and $4.74 per 1,000 gallons of water. This project will increase the current residential rate by about 4.50%, or $0.73 per month to get a total average rate of $16.94 per month.

B. Existing Environment

Topography and Soils. Within the specific project service area there are several low-lying areas associated with the Cape Fear River and Northeast Cape Fear River that are included in the 100-year flood zone (Zone AE) shown on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM).

The project will have no permanent impact on topography. Any impacts to topography along the proposed raw water main route will be temporary to facilitate construction of the pipeline. All surface elevations within the raw water main corridor will be returned to existing, preconstruction conditions. The project will have no permanent impact on topography. Any impacts to topography along the proposed raw water main route will be temporary to facilitate construction of the pipeline. All surface elevations within the raw water main corridor will be returned to existing, preconstruction conditions. The project will have no permanent impacts to the 100-year floodplain or floodway. All impacts from the installation of the pipeline at wetland crossings will be temporary; these areas will be restored to pre-construction conditions. Temporary construction impacts will be limited to the width of the raw water main easement. There are no practicable alternatives to locating the proposed raw water main that would not temporarily impact the floodplain.

An erosion and sedimentation control plan will be submitted to and approved by the North Carolina Division of Energy, Mineral and Land Resources, and Land Quality Section prior to construction. Erosion and sedimentation controls (silt fence, check dams, traps, etc.) will be installed and maintained between the construction site and any nearby down-gradient surface waters.

A more reliable raw water supply could support additional growth, which could alter the topography of the region; however, the project will occur in previously disturbed areas and does not expand the service area.

Soils in the project area consist of borrow pits (2.4%), Kureb sand (69.8%), Leon sand (3.1%), Murville fine sand (19.4%), Rimini sand (5.0%), and urban land (0.3%). The raw water main will be constructed such that impacts will be temporary. Permanent impacts to soil are anticipated to be minimal for this project. Soils will be excavated during construction to install the underground pipeline but then return to their original condition and be used to cover the pipeline.

Soil may need hauling to the Sampson landfill. A subconsultant, S&ME, who has extensive experience with contaminated sites in this region, will provide soil and groundwater testing and a mitigation plan, should it be required. An erosion and sedimentation control plan will be submitted to and approved by the North Carolina Division of Energy, Mineral and Land Resources, Land Quality Section prior to construction. Erosion and sedimentation controls will be installed and maintained between the construction site and any nearby downgradient surface waters.

A more reliable raw water supply could support additional growth, which could alter soils of the region; however, the project will occur in previously disturbed areas and does not expand the service area.

Surface Water. The proposed project sits in the lower Cape Fear region of the Cape Fear River Basin. The Cape Fear River is classified as Class SC waters by the State. Class SC waters are

tidal salt waters protected for secondary recreation. Class C waters are waters protected for uses such as secondary recreation; fishing; wildlife; fish consumption; aquatic life including propagation, survival, and maintenance of biological integrity; and agriculture. The Cape Fear River is listed in the 2022 North Carolina 303d List for exceeding the dissolved oxygen (DO) parameter at the SSWWTP discharge point and downstream of the SSWWTP discharge point. The Cape Fear River is also designated as a Fishery Nursery Area (FNA) and Primary Nursery Area (PNA) by the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF).

Water Supply. The local government unit (LGU) water supply for the proposed project area is the Cape Fear River. The Cape Fear Public Utility Authority and the Lower Cape Fear Water and Sewer Authority maintain two separate raw water river intakes and pump stations that withdraw raw water in Bladen County, NC (near Lock and Dam #1) and convey it approximately 14 miles to southeastern NC, where it is treated and conveyed to Authority customers.

C. Existing Drinking Water Treatment Facilities

The Cape Fear Public Utility Authority - Wilmington (CFPUA) (NC PWSID 04-65-010) and the Lower Cape Fear Water and Sewer Authority – Kings Bluff (LCFWASA) (NC PWSID 50-09 013) own and operate separate raw water supply systems that withdraw and convey raw water from the Cape Fear River above Lock & Dam No. 1. The CFPUA raw water supply system provides approximately 10 MGD of raw water to CFPUA customers and consists of the following components:

· Intake canal
· CFPUA's Kings Bluff raw water pump station (KBPS)
· 30-inch diameter raw water main

The LCFWASA's raw water supply system currently provides 62 MGD of raw water to its customers and is comprised of the following components:

· LCFWASA raw water pump station (62 MGD firm capacity)
· Parallel 54-inch and 60-inch screened intakes
· 24 miles of 48-inch raw water transmission main
· 14 miles of 54-inch raw water transmission main (parallels the 48-inch raw water transmission line from the intake to the raw water ground storage tank)
· 29-MGD intermediate booster pump station
· 3-million-gallon ground raw water storage tank

The existing 24 miles of LCFWASA 48-inch raw water main, which was constructed in the 1980s, has experienced three significant failures. The first occurred in the mid-late 1990s; second in 2016; and the most recent took place in November 2021. Limited information is available regarding the 1990s failure, but the recent 2016 and 2021 incidents cost around $2.5 million for the temporary bypass system and required repairs and significantly impacted customer water supplies. In addition, approximately 500 feet of the existing raw water main is installed beneath the Cape Fear River. Failure of this section could result in a complete loss of water supply to customers. Moreover, replacing, paralleling, or repairing the pipeline under the Cape Fear River would be a daunting task (due to the permitting and construction challenges involved). Constructing a new parallel raw water main for the raw water supply system would alleviate this

risk. Such an approach would effectively expand raw water capacity, provide redundancy and reliability, and support regional growth for nearby counties, industries, and existing CFPUA and LCFWASA customers.

D. Need for Proposed Facilities and Actions

The CFPUA, additional utilities and industries along US HWY 421 heavily rely on the existing 48-inch raw water main for their water supply. The installation of a parallel pipeline of identical size would provide system redundancy and ensure a safe, reliable, and continuous supply of water to meet the community's public health needs.

The proposed project will not alter or expand the distribution system; the proposed project will increase system reliability. The maximum daily treated water supply and maximum daily demand are not expected to change due to the proposed project.

E. Alternatives Analysis

No-Action: A "No Action" alternative was evaluated for feasibility. The "No Action" alternative perpetuates the risk of a break in the existing 48-inch pipeline and the loss of essential water to many customers; therefore, this alternative was deemed infeasible and is not recommended.

Alternative 1 – Parallel raw water main installed along southern side of US HWY 421. (Preferred Alternative): The starting point of the proposed raw water main section is the meter vault just outside of the Pender County, NC AWWTF. From this point, the proposed raw water main extends southeast before turning northeast along an industrial parcel at 5401 HWY 421. The proposed water main then turns southeast and remains on the south side of US HWY 421 for approximately 1.75 miles before crossing the highway and connecting to the existing raw water main on the north side of US HWY 421. This alternative consists of approximately 15,400 LF of 48-inch to 54-inch raw water main and all associated appurtenances. This is the most cost efficient and shortest route.

Alternative 2 – Parallel raw water main installed along southern side of US HWY 421 and through CSX Transportation easement.: The starting point of the proposed raw water main section is the meter vault just outside of the Pender County, NC AWWTF. From this point, the proposed raw water main extends southeast before turning northeast along an industrial parcel at 5401 HWY 421. The proposed water main then turns southeast and remains on the south side of HWY 421 for approximately 1.15 miles before turning southwest and southeast to follow an existing CSX Transportation railroad easement. This proposed alternative then turns northeast to connect to the existing raw water main on the north side of US HWY 421. This alternative consists of approximately 16,200 LF of 48-inch to 54-inch raw water main and all associated appurtenances. This proposed alternative is feasible; however, it would require additional capital, compared to Alternative No. 1. For this reason, this alternative is not preferred.

F. Environmental Consequences and Mitigative Measures

Topography and Soils: The project will have no permanent impact on topography. Any impacts to topography along the proposed raw water main route will be temporary to facilitate construction of the pipeline. All surface elevations within the raw water main corridor will be returned to existing, preconstruction conditions. The project will have no permanent impacts to the 100-year floodplain or floodway. All impacts from the installation of the pipeline at wetland crossings will be temporary; these areas will be restored to pre-construction conditions. Temporary construction impacts will be limited to the width of the raw water main easement. There are no practicable alternatives to locating the proposed raw water main that would not temporarily impact the floodplain.

A more reliable raw water supply could support additional growth, which could alter the topography of the region; however, the project will occur in previously disturbed areas and does not expand the service area. An erosion and sedimentation control plan will be submitted to and approved by the North Carolina Division of Energy, Mineral and Land Resources, Land Quality Section prior to construction. Erosion and sedimentation controls (silt fence, check dams, traps, etc.) will be installed and maintained between the construction site and any nearby down-gradient surface waters.

The raw water main will be constructed such that impacts to soils will be temporary. Permanent impacts to soils are anticipated to be minimal for this project. Soils will be excavated during construction to install the underground pipeline but then returned to their original condition and be used to cover the pipeline. A more reliable raw water supply could support additional growth, which could alter soils of the region; however, the project will occur in previously disturbed areas and does not expand the service area. Soil may need hauling to the Sampson landfill. A subconsultant, S&ME, who has extensive experience with contaminated sites in this region, will provide soil and groundwater testing and a mitigation plan, should it be required. An erosion and sedimentation control plan will be submitted to and approved by the North Carolina Division of Energy, Mineral and Land Resources, Land Quality Section prior to construction. Erosion and sedimentation controls will be installed and maintained between the construction site and any nearby downgradient surface waters.

Land Use: A portion of the project site is adjacent to an existing raw water main and within an existing 75 ft utility easement. Most of the project site is situated between industrial parcels and US HWY 421. The land use in the vicinity of the project area is entirely industrial. Major zoning classifications along the project corridor include I-2 (Heavy Industrial). The project area consists of the project corridor and immediate adjacent surroundings where impacts might be noticeable, as the project does not expand service area. Major zoning classifications for the project area are the same as those in the project site. The raw water main will be constructed such that impacts to industry will be temporary. Upon completion of installation, pre-existing conditions of the construction area will be re-established; however, any trees located within the existing utility easement shall be removed to allow for installation. The proposed project does not change zoning or land use within the project corridor. A more reliable raw water supply could support additional growth, which could alter the land use of the region; however, the project will occur in

previously disturbed areas and does not expand the service area. Upon completion of installation, pre-existing conditions of the construction area will be re-established.

Wetlands: The Cape Fear River and Northeast Cape Fear River are near the project area. These rivers are classified as C;Sw, which is reserved for swamp waters with low velocities that are protected for uses such as secondary recreation, fishing, etc. Wetlands within the project area are associated with these rivers and are classified as Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetlands. A wetland delineation conducted by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Appendix K) revealed 9 wetlands and 2 relatively permanent waters (RPWs) within the project corridor. It should be noted that this wetland delineation was conducted for all phases of the proposed project. The raw water main will be installed such that construction impacts to the existing wetlands and streams will be temporary. The existing wetlands and streams will be open cut for installation of the raw water main. Upon installation completion, pre-existing conditions of the construction area will be re-established. There are no expected operational impacts, as the raw water main should not affect the area once in service. A more reliable raw water supply could support additional growth, which could alter wetlands and streams of the region; however, the project will occur in previously disturbed areas and does not expand the service area. USACE Section 404 permit, CAMA permit, and NC DWR 401 permit will be applied for upon substantial completion of construction drawings. It will be noted on final plans that all conditions of these permits will be adhered to during construction.

Important Farmlands: Significant impacts to important farmlands are not anticipated. Zoning laws and regulations will mitigate potential impacts.

Public Lands and Scenic, Recreational, and State Natural Areas: Temporary construction impacts to nearby areas are expected to be limited to easements and/or right of ways. Due to the nature of this project, no impacts to classified areas outside of the project site are anticipated. Zoning laws and regulations enforced by each specific governing body will mitigate potential impacts.

Cultural Resources: Direct impacts to cultural and historic resources are not anticipated.

Air Quality: No significant impacts to air quality are anticipated. The general air quality of the area is moderate to good, according to the North Carolina Division of Air Quality. The primary pollutant in the area is PM2.5. The project area is in attainment for ozone, lead, PM2.5, PM10, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide. Emissions at the project site and immediate surrounding area are generated from vehicular traffic, industries, and the New Hanover County landfill. Odors have not been a problem. Air quality within the project site and adjacent properties will be impacted by equipment and machinery emissions as construction efforts progress; however, these impacts are temporary in nature and will return to existing conditions upon completion of the project. A more reliable raw water supply could support additional growth, which could negatively affect air quality. The impacts associated with development and population growth shall be managed by the specific governing body associated with each area. To aid in overcoming temporary dust problems associated with excavation of soil, dust control procedures such as water spraying and sweeping will be implemented as the raw water main is constructed.

Noise Levels: No significant noise impacts are anticipated. Currently, land use along the proposed raw water main is dominated by industry. Noise in these areas is primarily associated with road traffic along US HWY 421.

Construction will obey the restrictions outlined in the New Hanover County Noise Ordinance. Chapter 23 Environment, Article II – Noise of the New Hanover County Codies of Ordinances states, "For nonresidentially zoned districts, it shall be unlawful for any person to cause or create any sound which, when combined with the ambient noise, exceeds 75 decibels re 0.0002 microbars on the "A" weighting scale. If the ambient noise level exceeds 75 decibels re 0.0002 microbars on the "A" weighting scale, a violation of this article shall occur only when such sound exceeds the ambient noise level by three decibels. Between the hours of 10:00 pm and 7:00 am, the above sound level shall be reduced to 70 decibels."

A modest increase in noise levels within the project corridor and adjacent properties may occur as construction efforts progress. Construction will be primarily limited to weekdays (7 a.m. to 7 p.m. or sunset, whichever is later). Work is not anticipated to take place on holidays or weekends unless specifically approved in advance by the County. A more reliable raw water supply could support additional growth, which could result in increased noise levels. The impacts associated with development and population growth shall be managed by the specific governing body associated with each area.

Water Resources: No significant negative impacts to water resources are anticipated. The Castle Hayne and Peedee aquifers are the source of groundwater in the central to southeastern portion of the coast. The Peedee aquifer is present in the central to southeastern portions of the coastal plain at elevations of 114 to -1,842 feet, averaging -143 feet. The Peedee aquifer ranges from 2 to 1,001 feet thick and averages 142 feet thick. Wells typically yield up to 200 gallons per minute. The Castle Hayne Aquifer is widely utilized in the eastern portions of the coastal plain at elevations of 56 to -1091 feet, averaging -143 feet. The Castle Hayne Aquifer ranges from 6 to 1,105 feet thick and averages 165 feet thick. Wells typically yield 200-500 gallons per minute but can exceed 2,000 gallons per minute. No impacts to groundwater quality are anticipated because of the proposed project. There is potential for surface water quality degradation that may result from temporary construction activities.

An erosion and sedimentation control plan will be submitted to and approved by the North Carolina Division of Energy, Mineral and Land Resources, Land Quality Section prior to construction. Erosion and sedimentation controls will be installed and maintained between the construction site and any nearby down-gradient surface waters.

Forest Resources: No significant negative impacts to forest resources are anticipated. Minimal forest resources are present in the project site, as the project site is situated within an existing utility easement and within the shoulder of US HWY 421, both of which are maintained. Wildlife habitat within the project area consists of Tidal Freshwater Marshes, Tidal Swamps, and Xeric Sandhill Scrub. Biodiversity and wildlife habitat assessment relative conservation value within the project site and area range from 5 – 10, including areas of impervious surfaces.

A more reliable raw water supply could support additional growth, which could alter forest resources of the region; however, the project will occur in previously disturbed areas and does not expand the service area. An approved tree removal permit will be required prior to commencement of construction.

Shellfish or Fish and Their Habitats: No impacts to threatened and endangered species are anticipated as a result of this project. Shellfish and fish within the project corridor are characteristic of southeastern North Carolina. The Cape Fear River is recognized by Fish and Wildlife Services as an Anadromous Fish Spawning Area. The water main is, or will be, located within County owned easements or NCDOT rights-of-way. There are closed beds, primary nursery areas, and anadromous fish spawning areas within the project area. The Cape Fear River and Northeast Cape Fear River (which surround the project area), contain closed beds, primary nursery areas, and anadromous fish spawning areas. The habitat area and potential presence of all wildlife and natural vegetation listed are not anticipated to be permanently disturbed by installation of this project. Construction impacts to fish, shellfish, and their habitats will be limited as this section of the proposed water main will not cross any bodies of water.

The project area is located near the confluence of the Cape Fear River and the Atlantic Ocean. Due to its position near the outlet of the Cape Fear River Basin, the project area has historically experienced secondary and cumulative impacts of upstream construction projects. For example, development within the 9,000 mi2 Cape Fear River Basin can increase the area of impervious surfaces within the basin, which can increase the quantity of runoff and pollution that ultimately reaches the Cape Fear River Basin and project area.

Although fish, shellfish, and their habitats are located in the project area, no direct impacts are expected, given all applicable permit regulations and mitigation measures are followed. Examples of such measures include installing erosion and sedimentation controls; following best management practices to avoid accidental spills of oils, chemicals, and other materials into aquatic habitats; limiting grading, excavation, and filling activities; and revegetating the disturbed area with native plants.

A more reliable raw water supply could boost regional development which could lead to additional increased runoff and pollution into the Cape Fear River. On the contrary, increased regional development could also increase public support for protecting and restoring Cape Fear River and other aquatic habitats within the project area. The water main will be installed below grade, and preconstruction contours will be restored in all affected areas once construction is completed. Disturbed areas will be reseeded within 15 days of project completion wherever possible. An erosion and sedimentation control plan will be submitted to and approved by the North Carolina Division of Energy, Mineral and Land Resources, Land Quality Section prior to construction. Erosion and sedimentation controls will be installed and maintained between the construction site and any nearby down-gradient surface waters.

Wildlife and Natural Vegetation: No significant impacts to wildlife and natural vegetation are expected. Wildlife and natural vegetation within the utility corridor (where the water main will be constructed) were previously removed when the existing energy infrastructure was installed. Since this installation, routine trimming of overgrowth and mowing within the right-of-way

has prevented the regrowth of natural vegetation and repopulation of wildlife.
Wildlife and natural vegetation within the project area and outside the extents of the utility corridor are typical of the coastal plains of North Carolina. According to historical Google Earth images, it appears that the tree canopy within the project area has remained largely unchanged since 1985, except for some industrial growth along the US HWY 421 corridor.

The habitat area and potential presence of all wildlife and natural vegetation listed are not anticipated to be permanently disturbed by installation of this project. There will be no impacts to red-cockaded woodpecker nesting or foraging habits. No large pine trees (greater than or equal to 8 inches DBH) will be removed during construction. The project area is within an existing (previously cleared) utility easement. Any clearing work will be limited to trimming of overgrowth in the right-of-way and routine mowing. Any impacts associated with the raw water main installation would be temporary in nature and would return to pre-construction conditions following completion of the new raw water main. The project will be installed primarily within the previously cleared corridor, leaving minimal areas that would require clearing.

A more reliable raw water supply could boost regional development which could push wildlife into smaller areas, increase competition, and decrease populations. Additionally, an increase in regional development could reduce space for natural vegetation to exist. On the contrary, increased regional development could also increase public support for protecting and restoring wildlife populations and natural vegetation. The water main will be installed below grade, and preconstruction contours and vegetation will be restored in all affected areas once construction is completed. Replanting any natural vegetation removed during construction.

Introduction of Toxic Substances: The project is not expected to introduce toxic substances into the environment. Fuels, lubricants, and any other toxic substances used during construction will be stored and handled in a manner that minimizes the potential for releases in the environment. All Federal, State, and local regulations should be strictly followed, and all permit approvals be acquired prior to future development activities that may introduce toxic substances. Contractors will be informed that toxic substances or changing/ dumping of oil onsite is not allowed. All maintenance for construction equipment will be completed in a maintenance area and fluids will be disposed of properly in the designated disposal receptacle.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was consulted and did not object to the project. The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, Natural Heritage Program, and DWR Wilmington Regional Office do not object to the proposed project. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was consulted and provided guidance (December 4, 2024). The North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources is aware of no historic resources which will be impacted by the proposed project (January 13, 2025, ER 24-2867).

G. Public Participation, Sources Consulted

The Cape Fear Public Utility held a public meeting on July 14, 2024. The meeting included a presentation about the proposed project and opportunity for public comments.

The total cost of the project is $18,280,037. The sources of funding include the CFPUA (SRF), LCFWAWA (NC SL HB 529), and 421 Industries in the amounts of $11,676,831, $6,172,078, and $431,128 respectively. The current residential rate for water is $16.21 for a 5/8-inch meter and $4.74 per 1,000 gallons of water. This project will increase the current residential rate by about 4.50%, or $0.73 per month to get a total average rate of $16.94 per month.

Sources consulted about this project for information or concurrence included:

1) Cape Fear Public Utility Authority
2) New Hanover County
3) North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality
   -Wildlife Resources Commission
   -Natural Heritage Program
   -DEQ Wilmington Regional Office
   -Division of Air Quality
   -Division of Water Resources
   -Division of Forest Resources
   -Division of Environmental Assistance and Customer Service
   -Division of Waste Management
4) North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
5) North Carolina State Clearinghouse
6) North Carolina Department of Public Safety
7) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
8) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

H. Maps and Figures

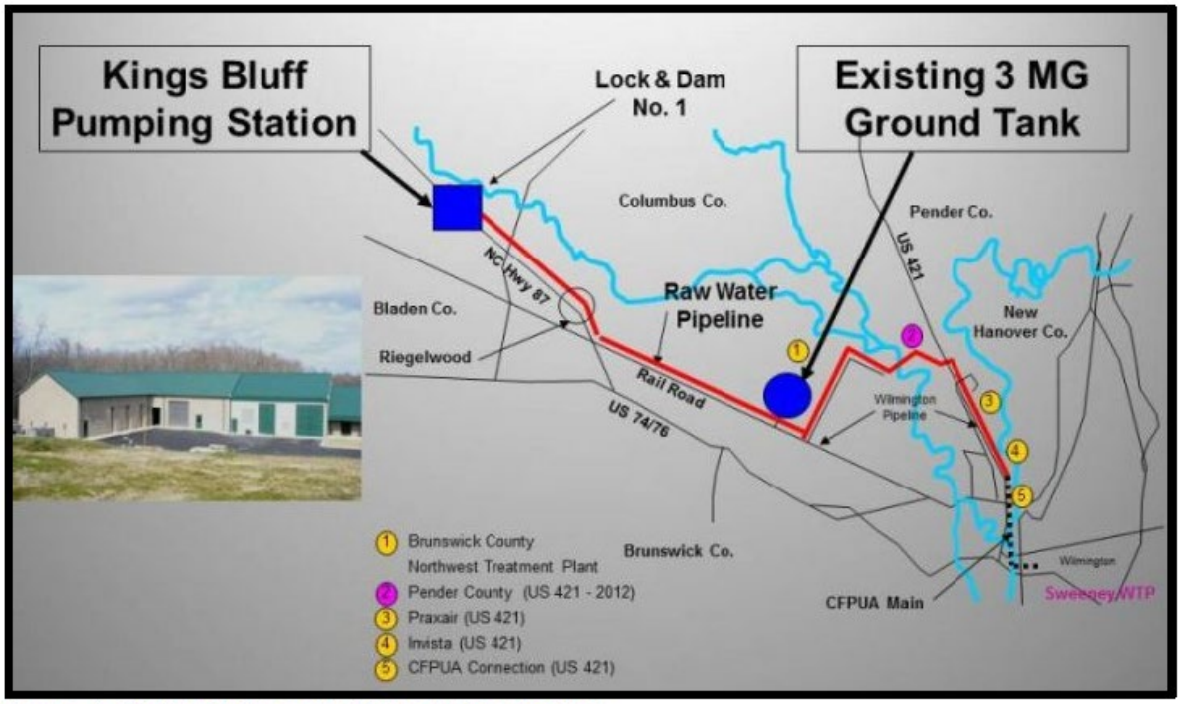

Figure 1. LCFWASA Kings Bluff Raw Water System

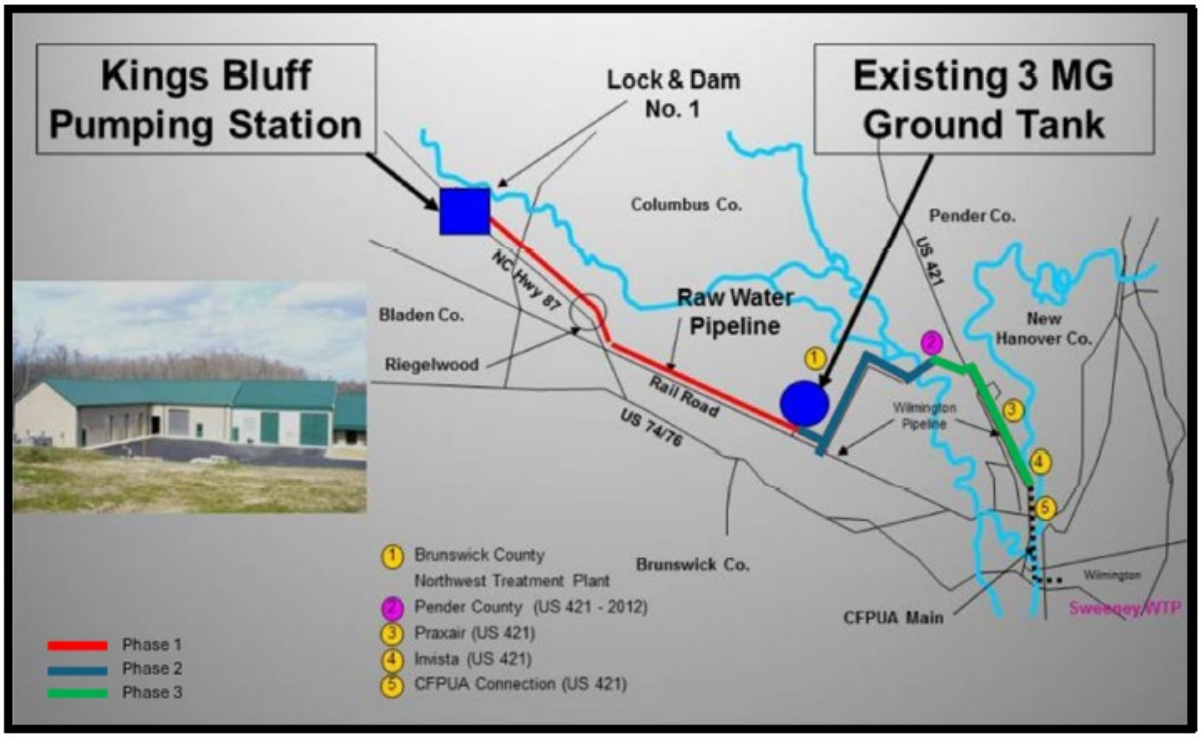

Figure 2. Phases of LCFWASA Parallel Raw Water Main Installation

Figure 4. Proposed Raw Water Main Alternative No. 1