FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
Environmental Protection

Northwest District
160 W. Government Street, Suite 308
Pensacola, Florida 32502-5740

Ron DeSantis
Governor

Jay Collins
Lt. Governor

Alexis A. Lambert
Secretary

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

October 21, 2026

Gulf County
c/o Clay Smallwood, P.E.
Assistant County Administrator
1000 Cecil G. Costin St. Boulevard
Port St. Joe, Florida 32456
csmallwood@gulfcounty-fl.gov

Re: First Request for Additional Information (RAI)
Gulf County – Wastewater
Facility Name: Gulf County WWTP
Facility ID: FL0A00110
DEP Application No.: FL0A00110-001-DW1P

Dear Mr. Smallwood:

Thank you for your application for a new Domestic Wastewater Treatment Facility submitted on September 25, 2026 for the above referenced Site. A review of your application and supporting documentation indicates the application is incomplete. Please provide the information in the attached document and refer to this RAI in your response. **The response to this RAI must be signed, sealed, and dated by a registered Florida Professional Engineer.**

To continue the processing of your application, the Department must receive a response within 90 days of this letter, January 19, 2027, unless a written request for additional time to provide the requested information is submitted and approved. It is the Department's desire to provide prompt turnaround times on permit applications, and a quicker response to this RAI shortens the timeframe for which a final decision on the application can be made. Pursuant to Chapter 62-330, F.A.C. and Section 120.60, F.S., failure of an applicant to provide timely requested information by the applicant deadline may result in denial of the application. You are encouraged to contact this office to discuss the items requested to assist you in developing a complete and adequate response.

Your processor, Savannah Cowen, P.E. can be contacted at (850)595-0640, Savannah.Cowen@FloridaDEP.gov. Please submit your response by email to Epost.nwdwf@floridadep.gov, with a copy to Savannah.Cowen@FloridaDEP.gov. Contact Savannah.Cowen@FloridaDEP.gov for a secure sFTP link for very large submittals.

Sincerely,

William A. Evans

William A. Evans, P.E.
Water and Wastewater Permitting Manager

v. 1.9

cc:
Cliff Wilson, P.E., Dewberry (CWilson@Dewberry.com)
Brent White, P.E., Dewberry (bwhite@Dewberry.com)
Savanna Gualtieri, E.I., Dewberry (sgualtieri@Dewberry.com)
Robert Beltran, Dewberry (rbeltran@Dewberry.com)
Keanu Thijm, Domestic Wastewater to Wetlands Program Coordinator, Division of Water Resource Management, FDEP (Keanu.Thijm@FloridaDEP.gov)

Attached: List of Requested Information

Attachment: List of Requested Information

Gulf County
Facility Name: Gulf County WWTP
Facility ID: FL0A00110
DEP Application No.: FL0A00110-001-DW1P

1. An application to construct a domestic wastewater treatment and disposal system may not be filed until after the Department approval of the wetland monitoring plans required by Rule 62-611.700, F.A.C. Therefore, please withdraw this application. Link to Domestic Wastewater to Wetlands Program| Florida Department of Environmental Protection
2. Section 367.031, F.S., provides that new domestic wastewater treatment plants serving an area located in a county regulated by the Public Service Commission must obtain a certificate of authorization prior to being issued a permit by the Department. An application for a permit under this chapter for a new domestic wastewater treatment plant shall include the notification number and a copy of the certificate. Gulf County is listed as being regulated for wastewater treatment.

Form 62-620.910(1) F.A.C.

3. V. Facility Mailing Address: Please revise to provide a current mailing address to communicate with the Facility. This does not have to match the Facility's physical address, particularly if a street address/mailbox is not yet created for the Facility.
4. VII. SIC Codes: Please revise providing an appropriate SIC Code for the Facility, typically 4952 Sewage Systems.
5. VIII. Operator Information: The Status of Operator code is correctly selected as "M" Public (other than F or S), but the (specify) box is filled in "municipality" vs "county". Please revise as necessary.
6. XII. Nature of Business: Section was left blank. Please revise to include a description of the proposed works.

Form 62-620.910(2) F.A.C.

7. Section 1. Applicant and Facility Description:
    a. 3.f. Please revise to include a current mailing address to communicate with the Facility. This does not have to match the Facility's physical address, particularly if a street address/mailbox is not yet created for the Facility.
    b. 9.a. Please clarify how a generated residuals amount of 221.5 dry tons/year was determined since the facility is not yet in operation.
    c. 9.c. and 9.d. The submitted Application states that residuals will be transported to another treatment facility, GreenSouth Solutions, for further treatment. GreenSouth Solutions is NOT a residuals/biosolids treatment facility. If transfer for additional treatment is proposed, please provide the contact information in 9.d. for an authorized residuals/biosolids treatment facility. Otherwise, please select another method of use or disposal (i.e. land application, landfill disposal, etc.). Additional information may be required.

8. Section 2. Treatment Facility Design:
   a. 1.c. and 1.d. Please clarify how the annual average and maximum daily flow rates for the past two years were determined as the facility is not yet in operation.
   b. 4. As mentioned above, GreenSouth Solutions is NOT a residuals/biosolids treatment facility. If biosolids are to be transported to GreenSouth Solutions for land application, residuals must be treated to either Class B, A, or AA standards with an acceptable method of vector attraction. Please provide clarification on which authorized residuals treatment facility residuals will be transported to or please clarify the method of use or disposal. Additional information may be required.
9. Section 3.A. Discharge to Surface Waters (Including Wetlands)
   a. 6. Description of Receiving Waters. d. Name of Watershed: DEP's Map Direct shows the proposed WWTP and discharge location to be in WBID 1277 Depot Creek and not WBID 1272 Horseshoe Creek. Please address.
   b. 10. Additional Information Required for Limited Wet Weather Discharges Permitted in Accordance with Rule 62-610.860, F.A.C.: This project does not meet the rule scenario or receiving water requirements for a limited wet weather discharge. Please revise to delete all entries and mark "NA".
   c. 12. and 13.a. Effluent Testing Information: Since a new WWTP without effluent, you need to mark NA.
   d. 13.b. Please clarify how an estimated average I/I flow was determined since the facility is not yet in operation.
10. Section 8. Documentation Submitted:
   a. 1.a. Process Flow Diagram (PFD):
      i. Please revise the 'Peak Flow Unit Capacity for Initial and Buildout Conditions' table to include ALL unit processes, including the clarifiers, sludge holding basins, and reject pond.
      ii. Please revise to ensure that the listed Phase 1 capacities for each unit process match those provided in the 'Preliminary Design Report'. For example,
      iii. Please revise to clearly identify the proposed mechanical bar screen within the headworks.
      iv. Per the submitted 'Preliminary Design Report', it is stated that only one 5-stage Bardenpho Biological Nutrient Removal Basin (BNR), separated into two trains, is proposed. However, the PFD appears to show 3-trains. Please revise as necessary.
      v. Please revise to show the proposed location of alum and carbon addition to the BNRs and any other units, as necessary.
      vi. Please revise to clearly identify the proposed scum pumps.
      vii. Please revise to include the location of chemical addition for the chlorine contact chambers and dechlorination.
      viii. Please revise the plant effluent to include the discharge to the proposed wetland.

ix. The provided PFD states that liquid sludge will be hauled for land disposal, however, other sections of the Application state that residuals will be transferred to another facility for further treatment, listing a land application company rather than an authorized treatment facility. Please revise as necessary to ensure the final destination(s) of residuals is consistent throughout the Application.

x. Please revise to include all proposed sampling locations.

xi. Please revise to include all sources of backup power.

b. 1.b. Site Plan

i. Please revise to include the location, or otherwise clearly identify, the proposed sludge disposal pump station and sludge holding blowers.

c. 1.c. Location Map: Thank you for providing a Location Map. Please revise this exhibit to include a USGS map extending at least 1-mile beyond the facility boundaries showing the treatment facility location, the location of the proposed wetland disposal system, and the location of each outfall structure/dispersive devices. The Map should also include the location of all surface waters, with the direction of flow/current shown as applicable and the location of all wells, springs, sinkholes, and drinking water wells.

d. 1.d. Agricultural Use Plan or Dedicated Site Plan: This is no longer applicable, and the Form has not been updated. Please unselect this item in Section 8, as it was not attached.

e. 1.e. Capacity Analysis Report: A Capacity Analysis Report is NOT required for applications for new facilities. Please unselect this Report in Section 8, as it was not attached.

f. 2.a. Preliminary Design Report

i. Please revise the 'Preliminary Design Report' to include a wet ink sign/seal from the Engineer of Record.

ii. Please revise to include details regarding the proposed wetland discharge. This should include a location map of the proposed wetland area(s), discharge location, any effluent dispersal structures, wetland outlets, etc. Additional information may be required. [Rules 62-611 and 62-620.410(3) F.A.C.]

iii. Please revise to include details regarding the receiving waterbody classification for the proposed wetland discharge, any corresponding water quality standards, and any applicable water quality based effluent limitations (WQBELs). Additional information may be required. [Rules 62-611 and 62-620.410(3) F.A.C.]

iv. Please revise to include details describing how the proposed wetland discharge meets all applicable criteria of Chapter 62-611 F.A.C. This should include, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Assurance that the discharge will minimize channelized flow and maximize sheet flow to the wetlands; minimize the loss or dissolution of sediments due to erosion or leaching; and will not cause adverse effects on threatened or endangered species

2. Hydraulic loading rates are designed to minimize alteration of the wetland's natural hydroperiod, with the annual average hydraulic loading not exceeding 2 inches/week

3. Assurance that the total ammonia (as N) will not exceed 2.0 mg/L on a monthly average

[Rules 62-611 and 62-620.410(3) F.A.C.]

v. 3. Wastewater Flow and Water Quality Conditions:

1. Please clarify the projected population to be served by the proposed facility. [Rule 62-620.410(3) F.A.C.]
2. Please provide a description of the proposed facility's service area, with an accompanying map and any current/future land use projections. [Rule 62-620.410(3) F.A.C.]
3. Please revise to provide a description of the facility's anticipated domestic, industrial, and I/I contributions. [Rule 62-620.410(3) F.A.C.]
4. Please revise to include an explanation on how flow projections were determined based on the projected population. These should include "new" portions of Gulf County to be served by this facility, not just projections based on current flows to the City of Wewahitchka "Ricky McMillion" WWTP (FL0020125). [Rule 62-620.410(3) F.A.C.]

vi. 4. Regulatory Design Requirements:

1. As mentioned above, please clarify the authorized facility in which biosolids will be transferred to for treatment, as GreenSouth Solutions is NOT a residuals/biosolids treatment facility. Otherwise, please describe another method of use or disposal (i.e. land application, landfill disposal, etc.). [Rule 62-620.410(3) F.A.C.]
2. Please note, it does not appear that the facility, as designed in Phase I, meets Class I reliability as the influent equalization basin is not included in this Phase. To meet Class I reliability, please revise the Application and all associated documents to include this basin. [Rule 62-620.410(3) F.A.C.]
3. Table 4-3 includes an effluent limit of 3 mg/L for nitrate. The advanced waste treatment limit is 3 mg/L for TN, not nitrate. Please revise the appropriate effluent TN limit. [Rule 62-620.410(3) F.A.C.]

vii. 5. Description of Proposed Treatment Facilities:

1. Thank you for providing a hydraulic profile. Please revise to indicate the location of all pumps and ensure that all treatment units (i.e. clarifiers) show the operational high-water level (HWL) and/or lower water level (LWL), as applicable. [Rule 62-620.410(3) F.A.C.]
2. Thank you for providing a hydraulic profile. Please revise to include the appropriate water levels for each section of the BNRs. [Rule 62-620.410(3) F.A.C.]
3. Please revise to include a solids profile for the applicable unit processes. [Rule 62-620.410(3) F.A.C.]
4. Please revise the clarify the number of influent pumps proposed in Phase 1. Please revise the PFD as necessary to ensure this value is consistent. Additionally, please ensure the number of pumps meets Class I reliability. [Rule 62-620.410(3) F.A.C.]
5. Please revise to clearly describe all proposed sampling locations and methods. Please ensure that the influent sampling location will not include recycled flows through the plant. [Rule 62-620.410(3) F.A.C.]
6. Please revise to include more details describing how noise will be controlled at the facility and will not be a nuisance to the surrounding areas, during operation of the WWTP and not just during construction "work" will only be conducted during business hours. [Rule 62-620.410(3) F.A.C.]

7. Please revise to include more details describing how lighting will be controlled at the facility during operation and not just during construction and will not be a nuisance to the surrounding areas. [Rule 62-620.410(3) F.A.C.]
8. Please provide assurance that the discharge to the proposed wetlands, if located adjacent to the facility, will not adversely impact the nearby Five Points Landfill and associated facilities. [Rule 62-620.410(3) F.A.C.]
9. Please revise to include details describing what efforts will be in place to protect the facility from flooding. This can include a description of any stormwater management features, finished elevations of all unit processes, etc. [Rule 62-620.410(3) F.A.C.]
10. Please revise to include details regarding plant upset prevention. [Rule 62-620.410(3) F.A.C.]

viii. 7. Electrical and Instrumentation

1. Please revise to include details describing how SCADA will be used throughout the facility. [Rule 62-620.410(3) F.A.C.]

ix. Appendix C – Preliminary Design Drawings:

1. Please revise to include a wet ink sign/seal from the Engineer of Record.
2. Please revise to include details regarding the proposed wetland discharge, including piping to the discharge, the discharge location, any effluent dispersal structures, outlets, etc. [Rules 62-611 and 62-620.410(3) F.A.C.]

g. 2.b. Documentation of Compliance with Antidegradation Requirements: It does not appear that the required antidegradation documentation demonstrating compliance with the requirements in Rule 62-4.242 F.A.C. was provided. Please provide assurance that the proposed discharge to wetlands, considered to be a surface water discharge, will comply with these requirements.

h. 2.e. *Request for Approval of Monitoring Plans for Discharge of Domestic Wastewater to Wetlands*: It does not appear that the required Monitoring Plan was provided. Please provide a completed Form 62-620.910(16) F.A.C., providing all necessary details and attachments. Please note that DEP approval of these wetland monitoring plans is required before filing this application. [Rule 62-611.600 and .700, F.A.C.]

11. Section 9. Certifications: Please revise to provide a "wet ink" sign and seal from the Engineer of Record for approval of a surface water discharge (including wetlands)

Other Documents

12. Please provide documentation, similar to what was provided for City of Wewahitchka "Ricky McMillion" WWTP (FL0020125), demonstrating that the proposed facility is exempt from the criteria Senate Bill 64 in accordance with Section 403.064(16)(h) F.S. [Section 403.064(16)(e and h) F.S.]
13. Please submit a Biosolids Storage Plan demonstrating that storage capacity is available to provide retention of biosolids onsite under adverse weather conditions when biosolids are unable to be transferred offsite for additional treatment, land application, or disposal. This Plan should include all details required by Rule 62-640.300(4) F.A.C. [Rule 62-640.300(4) F.A.C.]
14. If biosolids will be transferred offsite for land application (NOT for further treatment or disposal), please revise Form 2A, Section 2, 4 Residuals (Biosolids) Treatment for producing Class B biosolids and submit the Treatment Facility Biosolids Plan (Form 62-640.210(2)(a) F.A.C.). [Rule 62-640.210(2) F.A.C.]

WASTEWATER FACILITY OR ACTIVITY PERMIT APPLICATION FORM 1 GENERAL INFORMATION

I IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:

Facility ID NA

II CHARACTERISTICS:

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete the questions below to determine whether you need to submit any permit application forms to the Department of Environmental Protection. If you answer "yes" to any questions, you must submit this form and the supplemental form listed in the parenthesis following the question. Mark "X" in the blank in the third column if the supplemental form is attached. If you answer "no" to each question, you need not submit any of these forms. You may answer "no" if your activity is excluded from permit requirements. See Section B of the instructions. See also, Section C of the instructions for definitions of the terms used here.

SPECIFIC QUESTIONS	YES	NO	FORM ATTACHED
A. Is this facility a domestic wastewater facility which results in a discharge to surface or ground waters?	X		
B. Does or will this facility (either existing or proposed) include a concentrated animal feeding operation or aquatic animal production facility which results in a discharge to waters?		X	
C. Does or will this facility (other than those describe in A. or B.) discharge process wastewater, or non-process wastewater regulated by effluent guidelines or new source performance standards, to surface waters?		X	
D. Does or will this facility (other than those described in A. or B.) discharge process wastewater to ground waters?		X	
E. Does or will this facility discharge non-process wastewater, not regulated by effluent guidelines or new source performance standards, to surface waters?		X	
F. Does or will this facility discharge non-process wastewater to ground waters?		X	
G. Does or will this facility discharge stormwater associated with industrial activity to surface waters?		X	
H. Is this facility a non-discharging/closed loop recycle system?		X	
I. Is this facility a public water system whose primary purpose is the production of potable water for public consumption and which discharges demineralization concentrate to surface water or groundwater?		X	

DEP Form 62-620.910(1)
(Effective July 7, 2006 Revised July 30, 2010)

e. Contact

Name	Clay Smallwood
Title	Assistant County Administrator
Telephone	850.340.1488

f. Facility Mailing Address

Number and Street	Five Points Rd.
City/State/Zip Code	Port St. Joe, FL 32456

g. Year Facility Began Operation: NA

4. Applicant or Authorized Representative

Legal Name	Gulf County Water Department
Number and Street	1000 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd.
City/State/Zip Code	Port St. Joe, FL 32456
Telephone	850.340.1488
Contact Person	Clay Smallwood
Title	Assistant County Administrator
Telephone Number	850.340.1488

Is the applicant the owner or operator (or both) of the facility? ☒ Owner ☒ Operator

Indicate whether correspondence regarding this facility should be directed to the facility or the applicant.
☐ Facility ☒ Applicant

5. Project Name and Description

Gulf County Wastewater Treatment Plant will be an advanced wastewater treatment plant that will be capable of processing 0.5 MGD AADF. See attached preliminary design report for proposed process.

6. Municipalities or Areas Served

Name of Municipality or Area	Ownership	Population Served
Gulf County	County	16,300
City of Wewahitchka	Municipality	2,200
	Total Population Served	18,500

Is the receiving waterbody contiguous to, or identified as, an Outstanding Florida Water (OFW) or an Outstanding National Resource Water? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, name and locate on a USGS map. _____

Does this facility discharge to a receiving water that is either in Indian Country or that is upstream from (and eventually flow through) Indian Country? ☐ Yes ☒ No

d. Name of Watershed (if known) Horseshoe Creek Drainage Basin

United States Soil Conservation Service 14-digit Watershed Code (if known) _____

e. Name of State Management/River Basin (if known) Northwest Florida Water Management District

United States Geological Survey 8-digit Hydrologic Cataloging Unit Code (if known) HUC 8-03130011

f. Critical low flow of receiving stream (if applicable)

acute NA cfs chronic NA cfs

g. Total hardness of receiving stream at critical low flow (if applicable) NA mg/l of $CaCO_3$

7. Outfall Information

Description of Outfall and Diffuser

Discharge into upland spreader swale to simulate natural overland flow.

Construction Materials	Earthen swale with Rip-Rap.	
Length From Shore	25	feet
Diameter	NA	inches
Discharge Depth Below Water Surface	NA	feet
Receiving Water Bottom Depth Below Water Surface	Unknown	feet
Is the outfall equipped with a diffuser? ☒ Yes ☐ No		

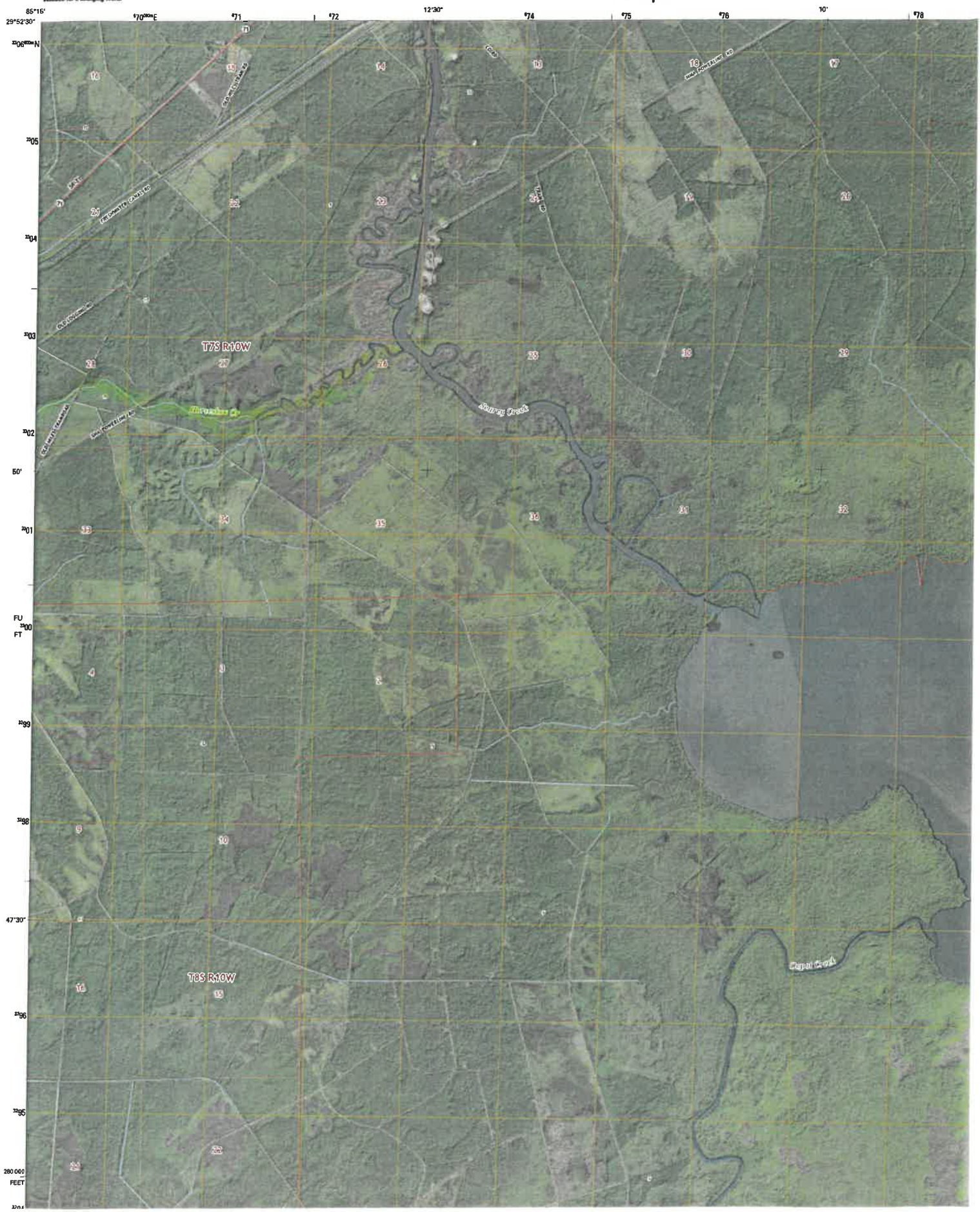
8. Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM)

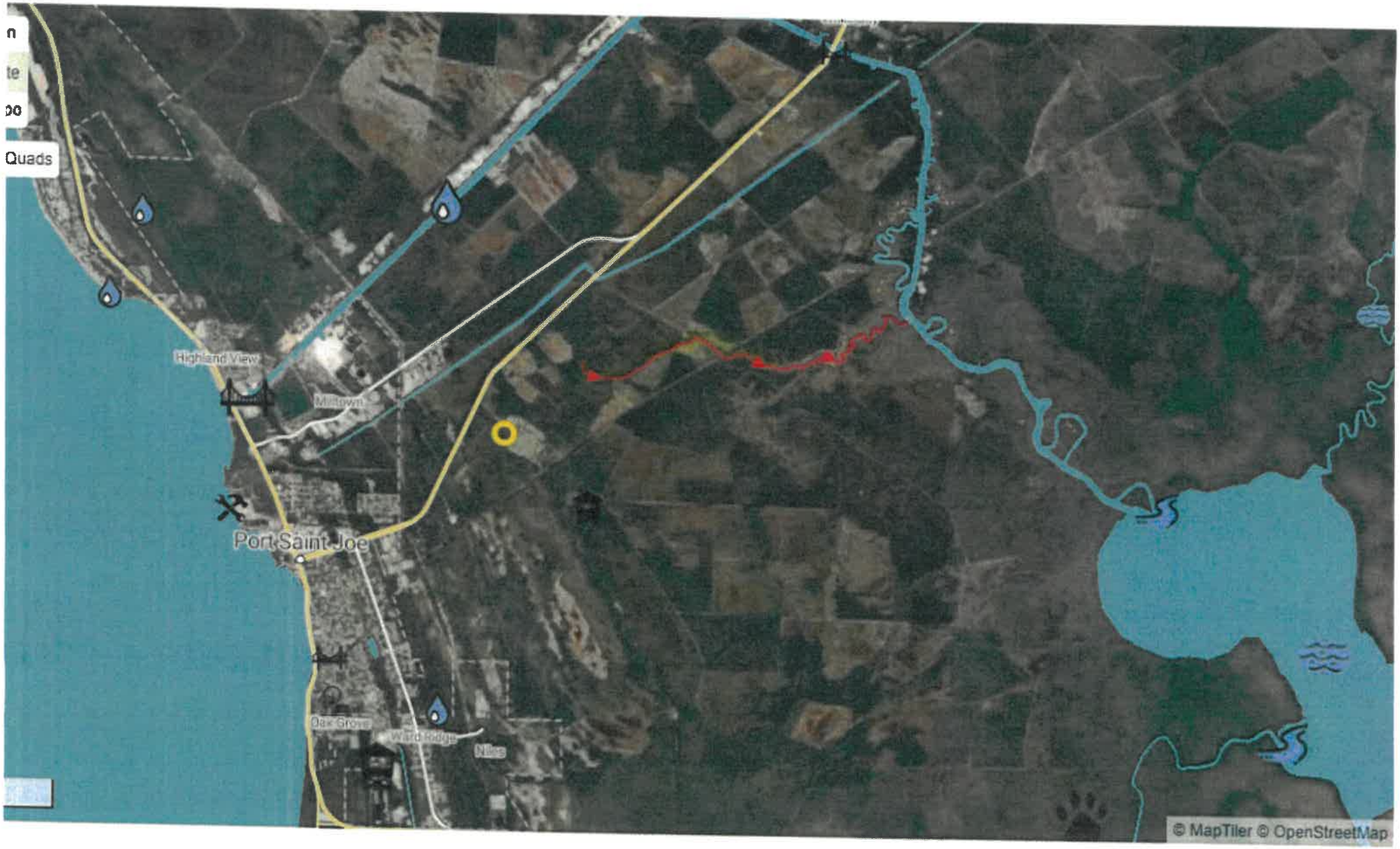
a. Will the discharge affect any SWIM plan waterbodies? ☐ Yes ☒ No

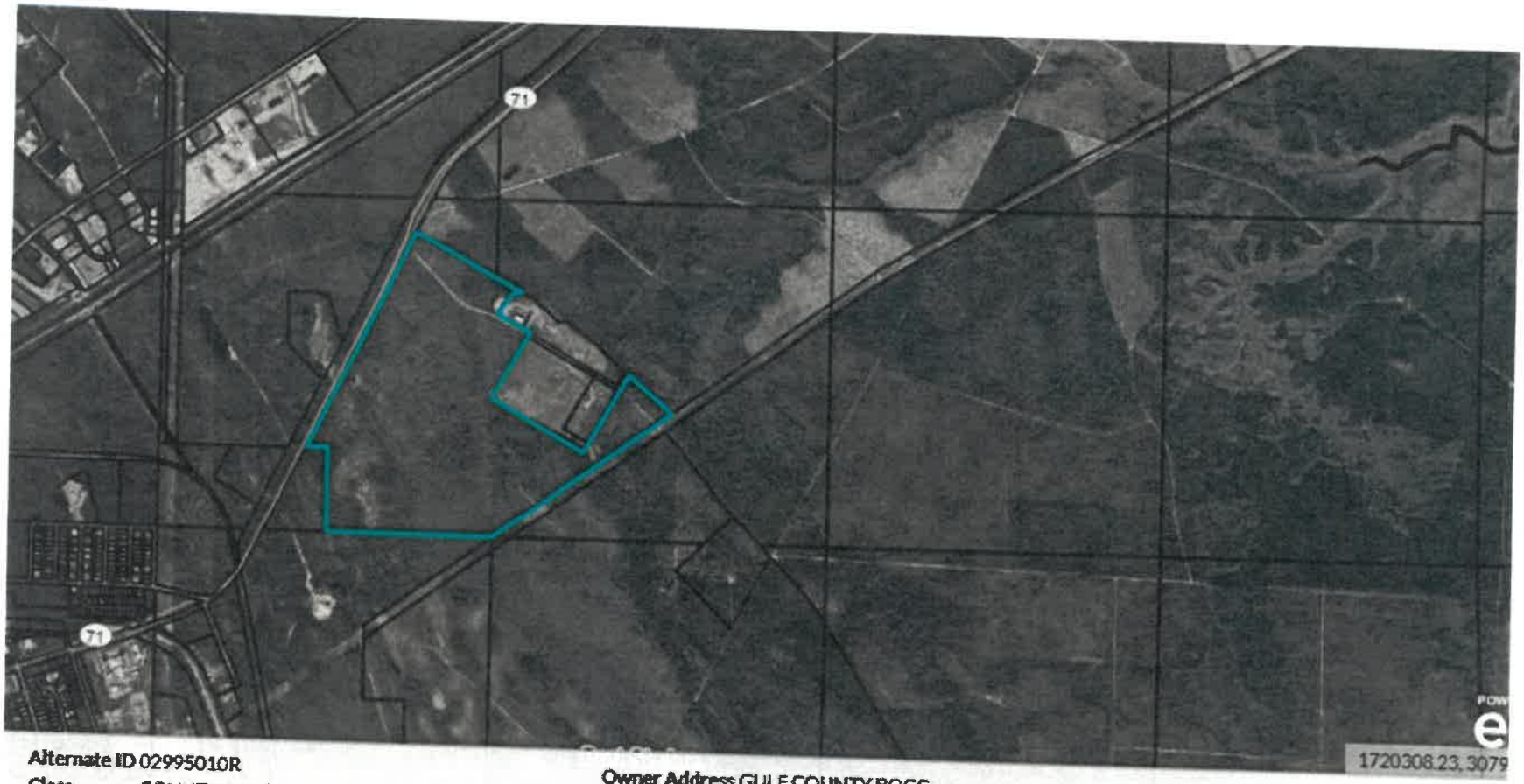
b. If yes, name the waterbody _____

c. Has the SWIM plan been approved by a water management district and the Department? ☐ Yes ☒ No

d. If yes, attach documentation that the proposed discharge is consistent with the SWIM plan.


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
USGS
science for a changing world
The National Map
US Topo
85°15'
29°52'30"
30°N
12'30"
10'
T7S R10W
T8S R10W
Alligator Creek
Rapid Creek
Riverview
Old Powell Line Rd
Old Spanish Trail
Old Pensacola Rd
Powell Line Rd
Old Spanish Trail
Pensacola Blvd


Quads
Highland View
Port Saint Joe
Oak Grove
Wood Ridge
Nine
© MapTiler © OpenStreetMap



Alternate ID 02995010R
Class COUNTY (VAC)
Acreage 308.16

Owner Address GULF COUNTY BOCC
1000 CECIL G. COSTIN SR BLVD
ROOM 302
PORT ST JOE, FL 32456



Alternate ID 02998000R
Class TIMBER SITE INDEX 60
Acreage 276.7

Owner Address ST JOE TIMBERLAND CO OF DE LLC
ATTN TAX DEPARTMENT
130 RICHARD JACKSON BLVD
SUITE 200
PANAMA CITY BEACH, FL 32407



GULF COUNTY WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Effluent Management Alternatives Analysis & Reuse Feasibility Study

AUGUST 7, 2025

Dewberry

DRAFT

SUBMITTED BY
Dewberry Engineers Inc.
800 N Magnolia Ave
Orlando, FL 32803

SUBMITTED TO
Gulf County
1000 Cecil G Costin SR. Blvd
Port St. Joe, FL 32456

1. INTRODUCTION

Gulf County currently does not own or operates an existing wastewater collection system or wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). The City of Port St. Joe owns and operates the collection system and a series of lift stations for County properties located south of Port St. Joe and conveys this to its wastewater treatment plant in Port St. Joe. The county plans to construct a new WWTP located on a Gulf County owned parcel near the existing County landfill and transfer station to initially accept wastewater from the City of Wewahitchka and to accommodate wastewater flows from future growth in the County. Treated effluent management methods have been analyzed to determine the best method of beneficial reuse for plant effluent. It is anticipated that the initial sizing for the WWTP will be .5 MGD and set up to be phased for expansions to 1.0 MGD and 1.5 MGD AADF in the future.

This analysis of the available effluent disposal options to be considered for the new Gulf County WWTP includes:

1. Public Access Reuse (Reclaimed Water Irrigation)
2. Slow Rate Land Application (Spray Fields)
3. Rapid Rate Land Application (Rapid Infiltration Basins aka RIBs)
4. Aquifer Recharging Wells or Aquifer Storage and Recovery Well System
5. Surface Water Discharge

2. REUSE REGULATIONS

In November 2021 Senate Bill 64 (SB64) was passed by the state legislature implanting regulations on surface water discharge for reclaimed water. These regulations were implemented in Florida statute 403.064. The bill was enacted to start slowly eliminating surface water discharge as an effluent disposal method. Florida statute 403.064 however listed several exceptions that would allow certain domestic wastewater treatment plants to utilize surface water discharge. One of the exceptions listed was the bill does not apply to a domestic wastewater facility located in a municipality that is entirely within a rural area of opportunity as designated in Statute 288.0656. This statute defines a rural community as a county with a population of 75,000 or fewer. Gulf County would fall under this definition and therefore be exempt from meeting the requirements of SB64 Florida and statute 403.064. Although the County would classify for this exemption it should be noted that surface water discharge (other than during wet weather events) would require the more stringent treatment criteria of advanced wastewater treatment (AWT) compared to beneficial reuse options.

The wet weather allowance to surface waters allows a 10% annual volume to be discharged to surface waters without requiring the stricter AWT treatment standards.

Although the facility would qualify for this Florida Statute 403.064 (3) states "The permit applicant shall prepare a plan of study for the reuse feasibility study consistent with the reuse feasibility study guidelines adopted by department rule. The plan of study shall include detailed descriptions of applicable treatment and water supply alternatives to be evaluated and the methods of analysis to be used. The plan of study shall be submitted to the department for review and approval. The study required under subsection (2) shall be performed by the applicant, and, if the study shows that the reuse is feasible, **the applicant must give significant consideration to its implementation if the study complies with the requirements of subsections (2) and (3).**"

Review of the Florida Administrative Code

In addition to the Underground Injection Control rule, Chapter 62-528, F.A.C., the Reuse of Reclaimed Water rule, Chapter 62-610, F.A.C., also contains regulations for using aquifer recharge and ASR. Parts III and V of Chapter 62-610, F.A.C., apply to these projects. Below are important considerations contained in parts III and V if injection is to take place in a USDW.

Part V, rule 62-610.560 for aquifer recharge

The rules applicable to ASR above are generally applicable to aquifer recharge projects. One significant difference is that injection into groundwater with a TDS of 3,000 mg/L or less must meet the full treatment and disinfection criteria regardless of the lack of present or future potable water use in the recharge zone. The zone of discharge criteria is the same as for ASR projects, except they cannot be used for any aquifer with a TDS of 3,000 mg/L or less.

Part III, rule 62-610.466 for ASR

Section (9): Reclaimed water injected for ASR into a USDW with a concentration of 3,000 mg/L or less TDS must meet full treatment and disinfection criteria of rule 62-610.563, F.A.C. If the aquifer has a TDS concentration between 1,000 and 3,000 mg/L TDS, and it can be demonstrated that the receiving ground water is not currently and is not reasonably expected to be used in the future for public water supply, less stringent principal treatment and disinfection requirements will apply (rule 62-610.563, F.A.C.). There is a significant increase in cost to upgrade a WWTP or WRF to meet full treatment and disinfection criteria, whereas permitted reclaimed water plants in Florida will usually meet principal treatment and disinfection criteria.

ASR within a USDW greater than 3,000 mg/L TDS requires principal treatment and disinfection. Reclaimed water injection into a non-USDW aquifer is not subject to the above but must meet general treatment requirements of chapters 62-600 and 62-610, F.A.C.

Section (14): Water injected into a USDW must meet the primary and secondary drinking water standards of Chapter 62-550, F.A.C. Secondary drinking water standards and sodium are afforded a zone of discharge for injection into a USDW with greater than 3,000 mg/L TDS, or greater than 1,000 mg/L if it can be demonstrated that the receiving ground water is not currently and is not reasonably expected to be used in the future for public water supply. A zone of discharge for federal primary drinking water standards is not available for injection into any USDW.

The cost of a Class V Well is dependent on depth, site geologic conditions and drilling challenges. Below is a table showing a rough estimated cost of constructed a Class V Well.

Table 3-4 Class V Well Cost Estimate

COMPONENT	COST
Injection Well Construction	$4,200,000
Monitoring Well Construction	$1,000,000
Engineering for Test Well Program	$1,200,000
Permitting	$10,000
	$6,410,000

3.4 Surface Water Discharge

Surface water discharge is an effluent disposal option that could be utilized either as the main source or to be utilized when another source is not sized or cannot take the reclaimed water. Per Chapter 62-600.550, F.A.C states that a new surface water discharge shall only be permitted as back-up to another

effluent disposal system, however based on the rural exemption in the rule the County could pursue a surface water discharge as their main effluent disposal option. If used as the main disposal option the effluent would be needed to be treated to AWT standards of 5 mg/L BOD5, 5 mg/L TSS, 3 mg/L TN, and 1 mg/L TP. Based on sampling at the Wewahitchka WWTP it seems likely that a supplemental carbon feed system (either methanol or glycerin) would be needed to assist in denitrification and meet the lower 3 mg/L effluent nitrogen requirements. Dechlorination of the treated effluent would also be required prior to discharge into the surface waters. Dechlorination is typically achieved using a sulfur dioxide, sodium bisulfite, or sodium metabisulfite chemical injection system downstream of the chlorine contact tanks. The new WWTP site has multiple surrounding wetlands which could be used for the surface water discharge. For a wetlands discharge a spreader swale system would be required to mimic overland flow to the wetland and mitigate erosion.

4. Conclusions and Recommendations

Below is a summary of the various reuse options and pros and cons of each for consideration by the County.

- Slow Rate Land Application - Public Access Reuse
  - Pros
    - High effluent nitrogen and phosphorous limits compared to surface water discharge
    - Reduced WWTP tankage and treatment requirements
    - Reduced risk of non-compliance
    - Ability to supply multiple properties with reclaimed water via a single pipeline
    - Provides potential revenue stream
    - Ability to expand for residential and commercial irrigation, both existing development and new developments
  - Cons
    - Approximate $3.2M offsite pipeline costs south to country club
    - Additional pipeline costs required if utilizing airport
    - Balancing of reclaimed water production during wet weather low irrigation time periods
    - Requires high level disinfection (slightly more chlorine consumption)
  - Public Access Reuse Potential Capacities – 3.39 MGD of large user capacity
    - St. Joseph Bay Country Club – 150 acres available for irrigation; 1.16 MGD capacity
    - Gulf Coast State College – 35 acres available for irrigation; 0.27 MGD Capacity
    - Port St. Joe High School – 14.5 acres available for irrigation; 0.11 MGD Capacity
    - Port St. Joe Elementary School – 25 acres available for irrigation; 0.19 MGD Capacity
    - Port St. Joe Sports Fields – 10 acres available for irrigation; 0.08 MGD Capacity
    - Port St. Joe Baseball Field - 4 acres available for irrigation; 0.03 MGD Capacity
    - Gulf County Airport – Estimated 200 acres available for irrigation; 1.55 MGD Capacity
- Slow Rate Land Application - Restricted Public Access
  - WWTP Onsite Sprayfield - 4 acres available for irrigation; 0.03 MGD Capacity
  - Offsite Sprayfield – 65 acres required for 0.5 MGD capacity
  -
- Rapid Rate Land Application - Rapid Infiltration Basins
  - Pros
    - Small footprint compared to slow rate land application
    - Increased loading rates compared to slow rate land application
    - High effluent nitrogen and phosphorous limits compared to surface water

        - Does not require high level disinfection

    - Cons
        - Limited to quality soils
        - Requires periodic maintenance – scarification and removal of solids
        - Does not provide a revenue stream
- Class V Recharge Wells
    - Pros
        - Extremely small footprint
        - Independent of wet weather time periods, could eliminate the need for large wet weather storage pond.
        - Reduced pipeline costs, could be located near WWTP
        - Monitoring requirements less compared to ASR wells
    - Cons
        - Cost of construction
        - Periodic maintenance and mechanical integrity testing
        - Redundant well is required for capacity
- Aquifer Storage and Recovery Wells
    - Pros
        - Extremely small footprint
        - Independent of wet weather time periods, could eliminate the need for large wet weather storage pond.
        - Reduced pipeline costs, could be located near WWTP
    - Cons
        - Cost of construction, larger than recharge wells
        - Periodic maintenance and mechanical integrity testing
        - Redundant well is required for capacity
        - Increased monitoring and storage costs compared to recharge wells

- Surface Water Discharge
    - Pros
        - Elimination of offsite reuse costs
        - Potential to eliminate wet weather storage pond
        - Does not beneficially reuse effluent
        - Does not provide revenue stream compared to public access reuse
    - Cons
        - AWT effluent treatment requirement
        - Lower effluent requirements increase risk of non-compliance
        - Supplemental carbon (chemical) consumption required to reach low nitrogen requirements
        - Dechlorination (chemical injection) required prior to surface water discharge

GULF COUNTY 0.5 MGD WWTP PRELIMINARY DESIGN REPORT

JULY 31, 2026

Dewberry

SUBMITTED BY
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Table 3-5: Raw Influent Composite Sample Results

Date	Flow (MGD)	COD		TSS		TKN		Total Phosphorus	
		Conc. (mg/L)	Loading (lbs/Day)	Conc. (mg/L)	Loading (lbs/Day)	Conc. (mg/L)	Loading (lbs/Day)	Conc. (mg/L)	Loading (lbs/Day)
4/28/2025	0.076	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4/29/2025	0.088	20 U	-	185	135.8	74.3	54.5	15.0 U	-
4/30/2025	0.071	20 U	-	138	81.7	1.12	0.66	0.15 U	-
5/1/2025	0.074	390	240.7	-	-	83.1	51.3	9.9	6.1
5/2/2025	0.074	260	160.5	290	179	71.2	43.9	9.2	5.7

The proposed Gulf County WWTP design influent quality criteria for flow rate, BOD_5, TSS, TKN, and TP are provided in Table 3-6, along with the current average and maximum monthly values for these parameters. A justification for various peaking factors is also included in the table notes, and these values were similarly calculated from data reported in DMRs.

Table 3-6: Proposed Gulf County WWTP Design Influent Wastewater Quality Criteria

Parameter	Unit	Current		Design			
		Average	Max Month	Average	Max Month	Max Day	Peak Hour[5]
Flow	MGD	0.107	0.164	0.5	0.75[1]	1.25[3]	2
BOD_5	lbs/day	223	446	1043	1460[2]	1877[4]	4170
	mg/L	250		250			
TSS	lbs/day	192	384	897	1255	1614	3586
	mg/L	215		215			
TKN	lbs/day	71	143	334	467	600	1334
	mg/L	80		80			
Total Phosphorous	lbs/day	8	17	40	55	71	158
	mg/L	9.5		9.5			

Note:

1. Max Month flow PF of 1.5 based on the ratio of maximum monthly flow to average monthly flow.
2. Max Month mass PF of 1.7 based on the ratio of maximum monthly BOD_5 loading to average monthly BOD_5 loading calculated from daily flow and concentration values.
3. Max Day flow PF of 2.5 based on 97.5th Percentile of daily flow data.
4. Max Day mass PF of 2.2 based on 99th Percentile of daily BOD_5 loading calculated from daily flow and concentration values.
5. Peak Hour PF of 4 based on 10 States Standards.

4. REGULATORY DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Permitted Facility Discharge

The Gulf County WWTP is proposed to discharge 0.5 MGD annual average daily flow (AADF) to surface water discharge. According to Florida Senate Bill 64, surface water discharge of reclaimed water is restricted, but the GCWWTP is exempted because the plant falls under a municipality that is within a rural area of opportunity as designated in Statute 288.0656. The effluent shall be treated to advanced wastewater treatment (AWT) standards of 5 mg/L BOD5, 5 mg/L TSS, 3 mg/L TN, and 1 mg/L TP before discharging into the nearby wetlands. Additional effluent parameters for surface water discharge include fecal coliform, pH, dissolved oxygen, chlorine residual for disinfection, and chlorine residual for dechlorination. A mercury minimization program is not required as the GCWWTP is discharging less than 1.0 MGD (FAC 62-304.900(1)), however this will be a future permitting requirement as the plant experiences more flows. A future slow-rate public access reuse system will send effluent to the St. Joseph Bay Country Club. The reclaimed water capacity of both effluent management systems are shown in Table 4-1:

Table 5-13: Effluent Pump Station Wet Well Design

Design Criteria	Units	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Total No. of Wet Wells	-	1	2	3
Total No. Pumps	-	3	4	5
Width	ft	10	10	10
Length	ft	27	27	27
Operating Depth	ft	5	5	5
Total Depth[1]	ft	10	10	10
Total Operating Volume	gals	10,100	20,200	30,300

Note:
1. Total Depth includes freeboard, 5 ft operating depth, and 1.5 ft of inoperable depth (bottom of wet well to minimum submergence depth of VTP)

5.3.11 Wet Weather Storage

The exemption from Florida Senate Bill 64 will allow the GCWWTP to send treated effluent to the nearby wetlands. The wetland discharge eliminates the requirement for wet weather storage.

5.3.12 Reject Pond

A reject pond will be constructed for retention of treated effluent that does not meet the permitted effluent quality for discharge to surface water. The pond will be designed to have a volume equivalent to one day's flow at the permitted capacity of the treatment plant.

5.3.13 Sludge Holding Tanks (Process 90)

The RAS/WAS pump station will pump WAS to sludge holding tank. In this process, the waste sludge will be aerated and thickened by periodically decanting supernatant from the sludge holding tanks thereby reducing the volume of sludge to be disposed of. The tank was sized to readily process the design sludge production rates from the biological process. Additional sludge holding tanks of the same dimension are proposed for future phases, and stub-outs will be installed for these future connections.

The sludge holding basins will be aerated and mixed via a surface mechanical aerator. One aerating mixer is sized to provide the necessary air and mixing requirements for the sludge holding tank. The mixer shall consist of a motor, direct-drive impeller driven at a constant speed, an integral flotation unit, impeller volute, diffusion head, intake cone and draft tube assembly. The surface aerator shall be Aqua-Jet or approved equal. A telescoping valve will be provided for decanting of the sludge; decanted supernatant will be returned to the headworks. Table 5-14 displays the sludge holding tank design criteria.

DEWBERRY JOB NO. 50163795

GULF COUNTY WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Environmental Assessment Report

JULY 2026

Dewberry

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1. Introduction

This environmental assessment has been prepared to provide information in support of a permit application for the construction of an Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). Specifically, this document provides pertinent information on the environmental aspects of the project, including existing conditions, proposed conditions, and proposed wetland activities and impacts.

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners (Applicant) is proposing to construct a new Wastewater Treatment Plant to initially be sized for 1.0 MGD AADF with provisions to allow expansion to a buildout capacity of 2.0 MGD AADF. Site planning for advanced wastewater treatment and public access reuse storage will also be provided. The WWTP will be constructed on a county owned undeveloped parcel (Gulf County Parcel ID 02995-010R) which is located northwest of Port St. Joe along State Highway 71, adjacent to the existing county landfill facility. The warranty deed for the parcel can be found in **Exhibit L**. A location map and aerial image for the project site and surrounding areas are included in **Exhibit A**.

2. Project / Property Background

2.1 Project History

The county owns and operates an existing wastewater collection system for county residents. This collection system currently conveys wastewater to the existing City of Port St. Joe WWTP. The county desires to construct a new Wastewater Treatment Plant to serve their county customers and potentially other local wastewater customers in Port St. Joe, Florida. Historical aerials and property documents show the location as vacant and wooded.

2.2 Local Development Approvals

The project is currently funded through Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Rebuild Florida General Infrastructure Repair Program with Gulf County as the project owner and operator. The project has been locally approved for development under current county planning and building ordinances.

2.3 Prior Permits and Authorizations

No prior permits or authorizations were found in relation to this proposed project.

2. Existing Conditions

3.1 Land Use / Vegetative Communities

The proposed project area is located within the Gulf Coastal Plain physiographic region of the United States and the Gulf Coast Lowlands sub-region. The site sits within the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Major Land Resource Area Atlantic and Gulf Coast Lowland Forest and Crop Region (Region T). Soils derived from the Pleistocene/Holocene era stratigraphic layers in the project area are historic beach ridge and dunes. Historical aerials reveal that the project site has previously been used for silviculture as the timberland and wetlands are still present.

Land use and vegetative community types located within the project bounds were identified through the interpretation of aerial photographs, available resources, and field reviewed in November of 2023. Land use within the proposed project area was classified using the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) Florida Land Cover Classification System (FLCCS) and Florida Land Use Cover and Forms Classification System (FLUCFCS), as defined by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT, 1999). A combination of existing FLUCFCS, data from the Northwest Florida Water Management District (NWFWMD), National Wetlands Inventory (NWI), USDA soils, and recent and historical photographs were used to assess and map habitats within the proposed project area. FLUCFCS data was modified and refined based on aerial photograph signatures and field observations. **Exhibit B** illustrates land use and vegetative communities found onsite and adjacent to the proposed project.

8.2 Effect on Water Quality

No short- or long-term adverse impacts to water quality are anticipated for this project. Best management practices will be employed during project construction, including stabilization of grades, silt screens, staked hay bales, and other mechanisms to prevent sedimentation and turbidity. The project's surface water management system has been designed to comply with Chapter 62-330, F.A.C. criteria for water quality treatment.

8.3 Listed Species / Critical Habitat

After a site visit, Dewberry staff believes that the majority of threatened and endangered species considered are not likely to occur in the proposed project area. Additionally, the surrounding area's land use includes industrial developments and are non-conducive to utilization or establishment for a majority of the species considered. The human activity is a strong deterrent for any species to utilize any remaining natural areas within or around the proposed project area.

8.4 Indirect and Cumulative Effects

Indirect effects are a by-product of direct effects or impacts. Indirect effects are manifested in the reasonably foreseeable future or some distance away from the location of direct impacts. Indirect effects could include future development, changes in land use, and/or changes in population dynamics that as a result, have the potential to affect natural resources. Potential indirect effects associated with the preferred alternative could include increased pressures on natural resources resulting from future development, conversion of surrounding natural areas resulting from increased development, and potential changes in wildlife utilization in surrounding areas.

Cumulative impacts are those impacts on the environment that result from the incremental impacts of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (Federal or Non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Potential cumulative effects associated with the preferred alternative could include an increase in development as well as habitat conversion or loss associated with development.

8.5 Effect on Cultural Resources

As part of the Environmental Resource Permitting (ERP) process, the site was reviewed by the State of Florida Department of Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Division of Historic Resources (DHR). Correspondence from SHPO was requested and response received on July 1, 2026, where no effect on eligible historic properties was determined. SHPO negative search findings are provided in **Exhibit J** and Tribal Historic Compliance (THPO) correspondence can be found in **Exhibit K**.

9. Impact Avoidance and Minimization

9.1 Avoidance

The project site is located within Gulf County, Florida, which is located near Saint Joseph Bay, between Apalachicola and Panama City. The proposed WWTP has been sited and designed to provide the required infrastructure while avoiding high quality wetlands and impacting only low quality state regulated isolated wetlands. The project area encompasses approximately 18.12 acres. Through evaluation of layout and design alternatives, approximately 1.68 acres of wetland impacts within the project area have been avoided.

9.2 Minimization

Project planning and design activities have included all practicable efforts to avoid impacts to jurisdictional areas of significant quality. Through evaluation of the project layout and design alternatives, impacts to higher quality jurisdictional wetlands were able to be avoided. While complete avoidance of all wetlands was not practicable, efforts were directed toward minimizing impacts to isolated wetlands.

Numerous impact minimization efforts have been employed during project planning and design activities. Based on those efforts, the proposed impacts to isolated wetland areas represent the

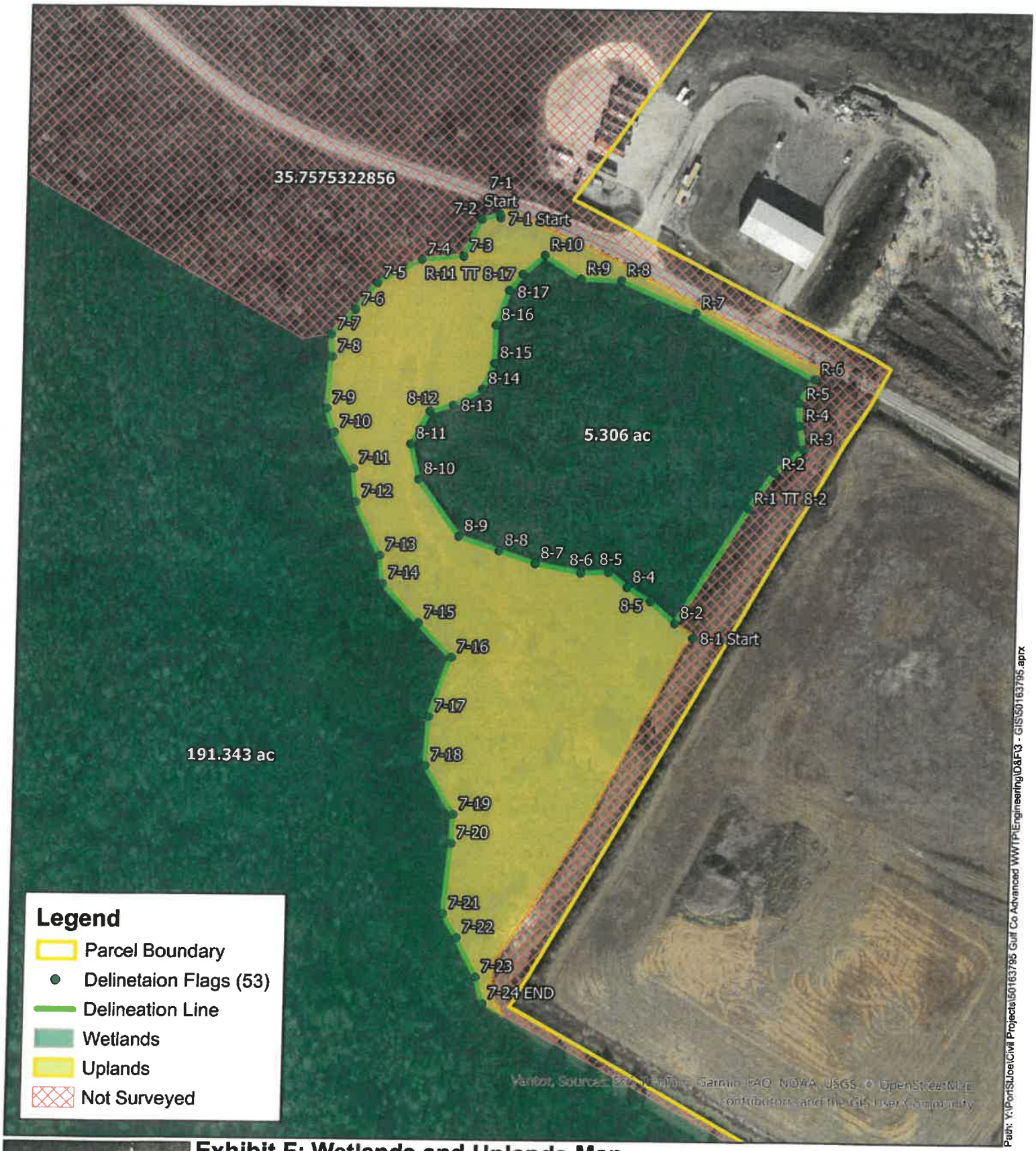


Exhibit F: Wetlands and Uplands Map

Project Number: 50163795

Project: Gulf County WWTP

Port St. Joe, Gulf County, FL

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 2011 StatePlane Florida North FIPS 0903 Ft US

2/12/2026

Data Source: Dewberry
Image Source: Esri

N

0 100 200 Feet

Dewberry

Path: Y:\PortStJoe\Civil Projects\50163795 Gulf Co Advanced WWTP\Engineering\D&F\3 - GIS\50163795.aprx