



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SOUTH ATLANTIC DIVISION  
60 FORSYTH STREET SW, ROOM 10M15  
ATLANTA, GA 30303-8801

CESAD-PDP

29 March 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District,  
(CESAM-PM-C/Mr. Peter Taylor), 109 St. Joseph Street, Mobile, AL 36602

SUBJECT: Approval of Section 219 Environmental Infrastructure Letter Report for  
Jackson County, Mississippi, Gautier Water Treatment Plant Expansion Project

1. Reference Mobile District, CESAM-PM-C memorandum (Approval of Section 219 Environmental Infrastructure Letter Reports for Jackson County, Mississippi—Cities of Gautier, Mississippi and Ocean Springs, Mississippi), November 2020.
2. Section 219 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 and subsequent amendments authorizes the Environmental Infrastructure Program for design and construction assistance in Jackson County, Mississippi. The City of Gautier, Mississippi is the non-Federal sponsor for the Gautier Water Treatment Plant Expansion Project in Jackson County.
3. South Atlantic Division completed a thorough review of the Section 219 Letter Report, with the final version for approval received 24 March 2021. I approve the Letter Report (enclosed) for design and construction assistance for the Jackson County, Mississippi Gautier Water Treatment Plant Expansion Project.
4. The Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) must be submitted for my approval as set forth in the instructions for the Section 219 model agreement dated 22 June 2020. After approval, the District Commander, Mobile District is authorized to execute the agreement.
5. The point of contact for this action is Mr. David Bauman at (404) 562-5202 or David.J.Bauman@usace.army.mil.

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JASON E. KELLY, PMP  
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**Letter Report for  
Environmental Infrastructure Assistance Program  
Section 219 of WRDA 1992**

**Design and Construction Assistance for  
Jackson County, Mississippi,  
Gautier Water Treatment  
Plant Expansion Project**

**PROJECT AUTHORIZATION.** The project is authorized by Section 219(c)(5) of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1992, as amended by technical corrections in Public Law 106-109; Section 331 of WRDA 1999; Section 5158 of WRDA 2007, and Section 352(b)(6) of WRDA 2020 as follows: “JACKSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI. – Provision of an alternative water supply, projects for stormwater and drainage systems, and projects for the design, installation, enhancement, or repair of sewer systems for Jackson County, Mississippi.”

The authorization of appropriations for construction assistance is provided in Section 219(e)(1), as amended by Section 504 of WRDA 1996; technical corrections in Public Law 106-109; Section 5158, and Section 352 as follows: “AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR CONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE. – There are authorized to be appropriated for providing construction assistance under this section – (1) \$57,500,000 for the project described in subsection (c)(5).”

A compilation of the above cited WRDA provisions is provided in Appendix A.

**EXPENDITURE HISTORY.** Federal and Non-Federal expenditure history and the remaining Federal amount available before the authorized Federal appropriations limit is reached is shown in Table 1.



**Jackson  
County**

**Table 1. Expenditure History**

<b>Cost Share</b>	<b>Federal Allocations</b>	<b>Non-Federal Cash</b>	<b>Non-Federal WIK &amp; LERRDs</b>	<b>Unexpended Balance (Federal)</b>	<b>Unexpended Balance (Non-Federal)</b>
CS #498 Big Hill Acres (closed)	\$12,970,695	\$3,772,814	\$551,885	\$0	\$0
CS #535 Water Reclamation	\$3,200,000	\$1,066,667	\$0	\$446,200	\$89,400
Ocean Springs (CS #600)	\$4,000,000 (\$25K is outside the CS)	\$1,380,000	\$0	\$3,960,000	\$1,380,000
<b>Gautier (future CS)</b>	<b>\$2,500,000</b> <b>(\$25K is outside the CS)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$2,489,401</b>	<b>N/A</b> <b>(no non-Federal funds received to date; awaiting CS agreement)</b>
Total as of 5 Mar 2021:	\$22,670,695	\$6,219,481	\$551,885	\$6,895,601	\$1,469,400
	<b>\$34,829,306</b>	<b>Remaining Authority to reach uninflated Federal Limit</b>			

**NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR.** The City of Gautier (City), Mississippi is the Non-Federal Sponsor for this project. Gautier has requested assistance from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to design and construct a nanofiltration treatment unit that will treat the water using newer technology than the existing Ion Exchange Plant.

**BACKGROUND.** Initial authorization was provided by Section 219(c)(5) of WRDA 1992. In 1998 initial funds were appropriated. The first project for Jackson County (Big Hill Acres) was design assistance that was provided under an agreement for the Environmental Evaluation of the Jackson County Industrial Water Supply, which was executed with the County in October 2001 at a total cost of \$178,697.

Design and construction assistance was provided for the Big Hill Acres Water and Sewer System under an agreement that was executed with Jackson County in December 2012. The project was completed in March of 2017 at a total cost of \$17,295,394.

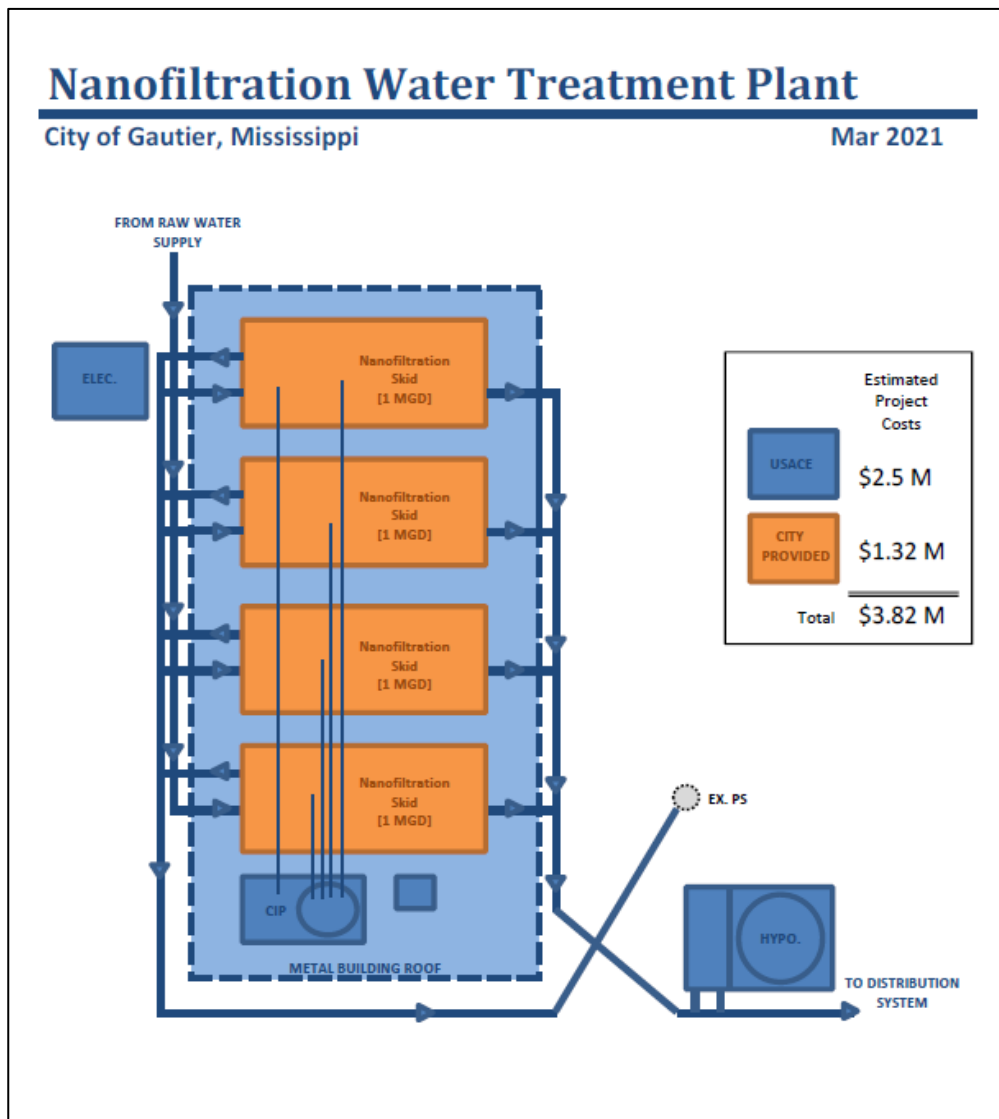
Design assistance for the Jackson County Water Reclamation Project was provided under an agreement executed with the JCUA in June 2018. The project is active and will continue design efforts during FY2021.

The FY20 allocation for projects under Section 219(c)(5) for Jackson County is \$6,500,000, of which \$2,500,000 is for the Gautier Water Supply Improvements Project.

The City of Gautier is the owner of the public water supply system for Gautier, MS and is responsible for operating and maintaining the public water system. The City has an existing Ion Exchange Water Treatment Plant that is capable of treating 1 million gallons per day (MGD) of water and is located at the public works department on Vancleave Road.

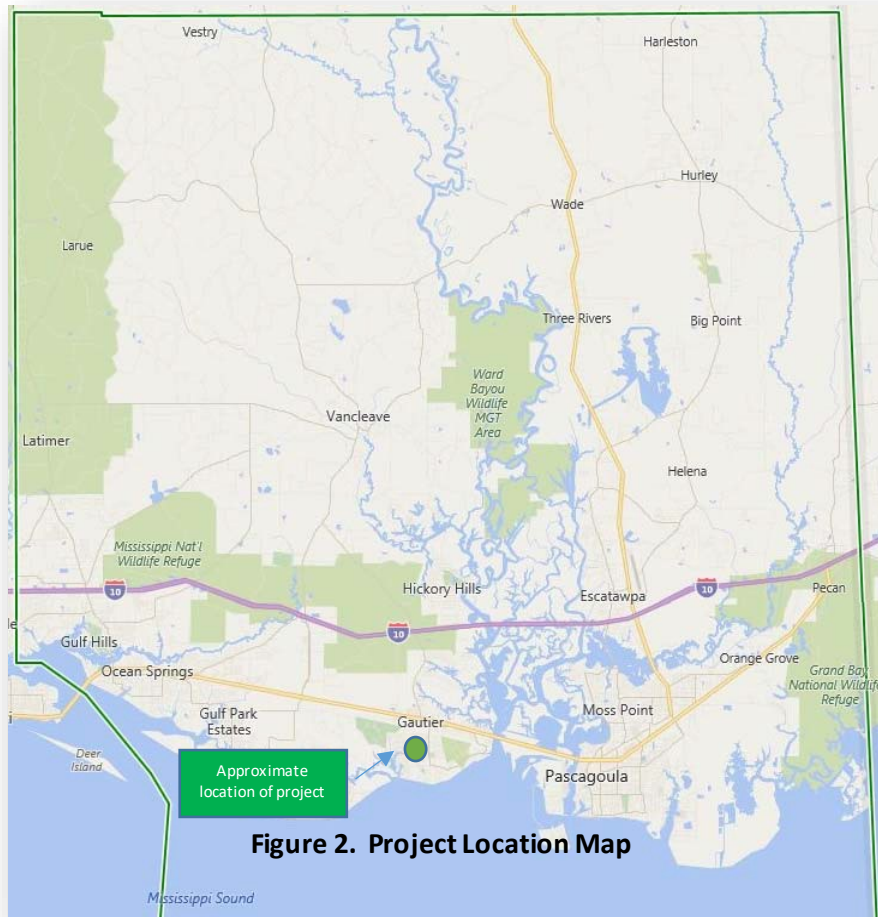
At times, during system regeneration (approximately 4 hours or more per day) of the Ion Exchange Plant, the treated water has a distinct brown tint. The City plans to add a nanofiltration unit as a treatment alternative to the Ion Exchange Plant. Nanofiltration is a relatively new technology for potable water generation that uses a membrane filtration process to remove contaminants. A Nanofiltration Water Treatment Pilot Project was performed at the City’s facility, and the results in color removal were deemed successful by City Management and Operations personnel.

**DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT (Increment of Work).** The Jackson County, Mississippi, Gautier Water Treatment Plant Expansion Project, shown in Figure 1, will consist of the design and construction of a Nanofiltration Water Treatment Plant. The Nanofiltration Treatment Plant will be housed within a new building, on a new concrete pad adjacent to the existing Ion Exchange Plant.



**Figure 1. Nanofiltration Treatment Plant Diagram**

The City of Gautier will purchase the 4 treatment trains (skids) and will store them until ready for installation. USACE will install the skids, install the underground piping, construct the building enclosure and the concrete pad, construct the clean-in-place system, and install the sodium hypochlorite system (disinfection) and the electrical components necessary to run the Nanofiltration treatment trains. This proposed water treatment plant expansion project, as authorized in the USACE 2020 Work Plan for the City of Gautier, is located within Jackson County, in southeastern Mississippi. The project location map is depicted in Figure 1. The project area is within Congressional District No. 4.



This project includes design plans and analysis, construction cost estimates, and Mississippi permit coordination documents as provided by the City of Gautier, and environmental compliance to include NEPA documentation, agency coordination, and identification of state permits. USACE will use the design plans and design analysis provided by the City of Gautier as the basis for design-bid-build contract scope development and project construction. All construction will occur within public rights-of-way of public property already owned by the City of Gautier.

**BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT.** This project will improve the color of the public drinking water in the City of Gautier. Color is an aesthetic consideration, and the contaminants causing the brownish tinge are not deemed to present a risk to human health. However, people will stop using water from the public water system if it has a color tinge, tastes bad, or smells bad – even if it is safe to drink. The nanofiltration treatment trains are expected to remove a sufficient amount of contaminants causing the water color to be brownish at times so that water does not look dirty and the people who rely on the City’s public water system will have greater confidence in the public drinking water and not unnecessarily use alternative water sources.

**FINANCIAL CAPABILITY OF THE NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR.** The City of Gautier is a governmental entity responsible for the daily management, operation, and maintenance of City-wide public water systems within its boundaries. The City’s cost share of the project funding will be cash sourced from water and sewer revenue bond proceeds obtained for improvements within the City of Gautier. In accordance with Section 219 of WRDA 1992, as amended, cost sharing is a maximum of 75% Federal and a minimum of 25% non-Federal. Therefore, the City’s share of the project is estimated to be \$1,320,000 in cash which is slightly more than 25% of the non-Federal project cost share.

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE.** In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), impacts to the environment from the proposed action and alternatives will be considered. An Environmental Assessment was prepared by the City of Gautier in October 2019. The Mobile District will facilitate any other required environmental coordination as part of the NEPA process. Additionally, the Mobile District Regulatory Division has determined that this project will not discharge into the waters of the United States; therefore, a Department of Army permit will not be required. Any required permits will be in place before the design is accepted and construction is allowed to begin.

**COST.** The total project cost is estimated to be \$3,820,000. Of this amount, \$2,500,000 in Federal funds have been appropriated in FY2020 and are available for this project. The non-Federal Sponsor is estimated to be paying slightly more than 25% of the project cost share. Table 2 provides a breakdown of estimated expenditures and cost for this project element.

**Table 2: Estimated Expenditures and Costs**

	<b>Section 219 WRDA 1992 Cost Share (75/25)</b>	<b>FY20 Appropriation Cost Share</b>
<b>Federal Cash:</b>	<b>\$2,865,000</b>	<b>\$2,500,000</b>
<b>Non-Federal Cash:</b>	<b>\$955,000</b>	<b>\$1,320,000</b>
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>\$3,820,000</b>	<b>\$3,820,000</b>

**REAL ESTATE.** The Non-Federal Sponsor has the responsibility to provide Lands, Easements, Rights-Of-Way, Relocations, and Disposal Areas (LERRD), and the value of any LERRD is included in the total project cost and credited against the required non-Federal share. All lands provided by the Non-Federal Sponsor for implementation of the project shall be valued for crediting purposes in accordance with the applicable rules of just compensation, as specified by the Government.

The project will be constructed on property owned by the City of Gautier. There are three parcels of land that total 0.76 acres with an assessed land value totaling \$120,010.

The planned design will, to the fullest extent possible, incorporate existing utility rights-of-way, easements, and public lands. The Non-Federal Sponsor shall not receive credit for the value of lands, easements, or rights-of-way that are part of the land on which the facility or structure to be improved is located, but any new or additional real estate interest that must be acquired for the project may be credited. At this time, no real estate or permanent easements have been identified for this project.

**OPERATION, MAINTENANCE, REPAIR, REPLACEMENT, AND REHABILITATION (OMRR&R).** OMRR&R is a 100 percent non-Federal responsibility.

**SCHEDULE.** The basic execution schedule for this work is provided below.

29 March 2021	Execute PPA for Design and Construction Assistance (CW130)
29 May 2021	Ready to Advertise (CW400)
29 September 2021	Contract Award (CC800)
12 June 2022	Project Physical Completion (CW450)
23 January 2023	Project Financial Completion (CW470)

**APPENDIX A**

Compiled Authorization Language – Sec 219  
Environmental Infrastructure, Jackson County, Mississippi

**1. SECTION 219 AUTHORIZATION, WRDA 1992**  
**SEC. 219. ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE.**

(a) IN GENERAL.--The Secretary is authorized to provide assistance to non-Federal interests for carrying out water-related environmental infrastructure and resource protection and development projects described in subsection (c), including waste water treatment and related facilities and water supply, storage, treatment, and distribution facilities. Such assistance may be in the form of technical and planning and design assistance. If the Secretary is to provide any design or engineering assistance to carry out a project under this section, the Secretary shall obtain by procurement from private sources all services necessary for the Secretary to provide such assistance, unless the Secretary finds that--

- (1) the service would require the use of a new technology unavailable in the private sector; or
- (2) a solicitation or request for proposal has failed to attract 2 or more bids or proposals.

(b) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.--The non-Federal share of the cost of projects for which assistance is provided under this section shall not be less than 25 percent, except that such share shall be subject to the ability of the non-Federal interest to pay, including the procedures and regulations relating to ability to pay established under section 103(m) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986.

(c) PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS.--The projects for which the Secretary is authorized to provide assistance under subsection (a) are as follows:...

... (5) JACKSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI.--Provision of an alternative water supply for Jackson County, Mississippi.

...

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated for providing assistance under this section \$30,000,000. Such sums shall remain available until expended.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR CONSTRUCTION ASSISTANCE.—

There are authorized to be appropriated for providing construction assistance under this section—

- (1) \$20,000,000 for the project described in subsection (c)(5)...



## 2. AUTHORIZATION AMENDMENTS

The project was authorized for design and construction assistance by Section 219 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1992 (Public Law 102-580) as amended by Section 504 of WRDA 96 (Public Law 104-303), Sections 331 of WRDA 99 (Public Law 106-53), and Section 1(a) WRDA 99 corrections (Public Law 106-109), Section 3103 and 5158 WRDA 2007 (PUBLIC LAW 110-114—NOV. 8, 2007) which state:

“WRDA 1996 - SEC. 504. ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE.

Section 219 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 is amended by adding at the end of the following “(e) Authorization of Appropriations for Construction Assistance. – There are authorized to be appropriated for providing construction assistance under this section - (1) \$10,000,000 for the project described in subsection (c) (5).”

“WRDA 1999 - SEC. 331. JACKSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

The project for environmental infrastructure, Jackson County, Mississippi, authorized by Section 219(c)(5) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835) and modified by section 505 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (110 Stat. 3757), is further modified to direct the Secretary to provide a credit, not to exceed \$5,000,000, against the non-Federal share of the cost of the project for the costs incurred by the Jackson County Board of Supervisors since February 8, 1994, in constructing the project if the Secretary determines that such costs are for work that the Secretary determines is compatible with and integral to the project.”

“WRDA 1999 CORRECTIONS - SEC. 1(a). ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE.

(1) in subsection (c), by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the following:

“(5) JACKSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI.—Provision of an alternative water supply and a project for the elimination or control of combined sewer overflows for Jackson County, Mississippi.”;

and

(2) Section 219 (e) (1) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835, 110 Stat. 3757) by striking \$10,000,000 and inserting \$15,000,000.”

“WRDA 2007 - SEC. 3103. JACKSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI.

(a) MODIFICATION.—Section 331 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (113 Stat. 305) is amended by striking “\$5,000,000” and inserting “\$9,000,000”.

(b) APPLICABILITY OF CREDIT.—The credit provided by section 331 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (113 Stat. 305) (as amended by subsection (a) of this section) shall apply to costs incurred by the Jackson County Board of Supervisors during the period beginning on February 8, 1994, and ending on the date of enactment of this Act for projects authorized by section 219(c)(5) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 110 Stat. 3757; 113 Stat. 1494).

“WRDA 2007 – SEC. 5158(2). ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR CRITICAL PROJECTS.

Section 219 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 110 Stat. 3757; 113 Stat. 334; 113 Stat. 1494; 114 Stat. 2763A–219; 119 Stat. 2255) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(5) by striking “a project for the elimination or control of combined sewer overflows” and inserting “projects for the design, installation, enhancement, or repair of sewer systems”;

(2) in subsection (e)(1) by striking “\$20,000,000” and inserting “\$32,500,000”; ...

WRDA 2020 – SEC. 352. ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR CRITICAL PROJECTS.

(a) CONSISTENCY WITH REPORTS.—Congress finds that the project modifications described in this section are in accordance with the reports submitted to Congress by the Secretary under section 7001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2282d), titled “Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development”, or have otherwise been reviewed by Congress.

(b) MODIFICATIONS.—

(6) JACKSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI.—Section 219 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 110 Stat. 3757; 113 Stat. 1494; 121 Stat. 1258) is amended—

(A) in subsection (c)(5), by striking “water supply and” and inserting “water supply, projects for stormwater and drainage systems, and”; and

(B) in subsection (e)(1), by striking “\$32,500,000” and inserting “\$57,500,000”.