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# ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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## CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION SUMMARY AND NOTIFICATION

### **Purpose**

This memo documents for the project file the justification for granting a Categorical Exclusion.

### **Background**

The Southwest White County Public Water Authority (SOWCO), (Project No. 23-021), supplies water from the City of Searcy and Vilonia to residents in rural areas of White County, is proposing the installation of two standpipe water tanks, a multi-column elevated water storage tank, and some modifications to the piping system in an existing booster pump station, all at different locations. Painting of these tanks is also proposed. The proposed standpipes, Romance Tank No. 2 and Floyd Tank No. 2, will be built next to the existing water tanks on adjacent properties and will provide storage in their respective pressure planes as well as adding some storage capacity.

The proposed Hidden Valley elevated water tank will be built on a property that is in an area experiencing growth just outside of Beebe, and the need from existing and normal expected growth will be served by the tank. All construction will take place on property or easements owned by SOWCO.

The construction activities for this project are not expected to affect any critical habitat for threatened or endangered species and will not be constructed within a 100-year floodplain. No degradation of water quality or quantity or public health risk exists due to the proposed project.

This project qualifies as a CE in that is an action relating to existing infrastructure systems (such as sewer systems; drinking water supply systems; and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems) that involve minor upgrading, or minor expansion of system capacity or rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and system components (such as the sewer collection network and treatment system; the system to collect, treat, store and distribute drinking water; and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems) or construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities. This category does not include actions that: involve new or relocated discharges to surface or ground water; will likely result in the substantial increase in the volume or the loading of pollutant to the receiving water; will provide capacity to serve a population 30% greater than the existing population; are not supported by the state, or other regional growth plan or strategy; or directly or indirectly involve or relate to upgrading or extending infrastructure systems primarily for the purposes of future development.

No extraordinary circumstances found in 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §6.204 apply to this proposed action.

### **Key Points**

1. Review completed by Keith Sanders
2. Determination approved by Keith Sanders

### **Recommendation**

The proposed project has been determined to be categorically excluded from the full and substantive environmental review process as part of the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission's State Revolving Fund program. The proposed project meets the requirements for a CE found in 40 CFR Part 6, Subpart B, §6.204 of the Environmental Protection Agency's National Environmental Protection Act Environmental Review Procedures.