



Sarah Huckabee Sanders
Governor

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Wes Ward
Secretary of Agriculture

Date: January 9, 2026

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES AND PUBLIC GROUPS

In accordance with the Arkansas Department of Agriculture's "Arkansas Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund State Environmental Review Process," an environmental review has been performed on the proposed Arkansas Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) project:

Southwest Water Users Public Water Authority

Saline and Garland County, Arkansas

Project Number: 23-135

Total Project Expenses: \$5,549,878.00

Total DWSRF Funding: \$5,549,878.00

Loan DWSRF Funding: \$5,549,878.00

Funding for the eligible expenses of the above project was determined to be in accordance with the requirements of the Arkansas DWSRF Program, Project Priority List, and Arkansas Natural Resources Commission Title 15. The city is planning to use these funds through a state revolving fund loan administered by the Department.

An analysis of the financial capability of the project entity has been performed based upon the latest applicable financial information.

The Southwest Water Users Public Water Authority (SWUPWA) proposes to construct a water transmission line along Highway 70 to connect the SWUPWA system to the North Garland County Water System. Also proposed is a water storage tank in the vicinity of Highway 70 and Highway 128 to provide pressure stability and storage for this area. An emergency connection between the low-pressure side of the SWUPWA System and the high-pressure side is proposed by crossing Interstate 30 near the existing 1.4 million-gallon-water tank at Brody Crossing. The proposed project is designed to provide major improvement in water system capacity, redundancy and reliability for the entire SWUPWA System.

The project area is currently served by the SWUPWA water distribution system utilizing the present water supply source by purchasing treated water from the city of Benton and from Salem Public Water Authority, whose supply is Central Arkansas Water. The water purchased from Benton serves the southeastern portion of SWUPWA's service area and the Salem Public Water Authority provides water to the remainder of SWUPWA's service area.

The proposed project has met all the requirements to be in compliance with Arkansas's State Water Plan.

Construction will begin in the winter of 2026 and be completed by the spring of 2028. The environmental review process, which is documented by the associated Environmental Assessment, indicates that no significant adverse environmental impacts would result from the proposed action. Consequently, a preliminary decision not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement has been made. This decision is based on a careful review of the Water Wastewater Advisory Committee application, the Environmental Information Document, and other supporting data which is on file at the above office and available for public review upon request. Therefore, the Department is issuing this Finding of No Significant Impact.

The comment period for this FNSI has concluded with either no comments or no unresolved comments and this decision is considered final by the Department.

Sincerely,



Debra H. Dickson
Water Development Section Manager
Arkansas Department of Agriculture

For more information regarding the Finding of No Significant Impact contact:

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