



# Annual Members' Meeting

January 4, 2024

Chris Eleazer, Executive Director





# OJRSA Board of Commissioners



**Seat 1 Seneca** *Bob Faires*

**Seat 2 Seneca** *Scott Moulder*

**Seat 3 Seneca** *Scott McLane*

**Seat 4 Seneca (at large)** *Marty McKee*



**Seat 5 Walhalla** *Celia Myers*

**Seat 6 Walhalla** *Scott Parris*



**Seat 7 Westminster** *Brian Ramey*

**Seat 8 Westminster** *Kevin Bronson*

**Seat 9 Walhalla/Westminster (at large)** *David Dial*

# Remembrances

**LAMAR BAILES** was one of five original appointees to the Oconee County Sewer Commission by South Carolina Governor John C. West, where he served as a representative of Walhalla during the first meeting of the Commission on January 2, 1973. In the decades since, Mr. Bailes served on the OJRSA and OCSC Board during four separate appointments totaling nearly 25 years.

The OJRSA Board Room was named in Mr. Bailes' honor upon his retirement as Commissioner in 2022 in recognition of his contributions to improving the quality of life for those in Oconee County.

Mr. Bailes passed away on July 13, 2023.



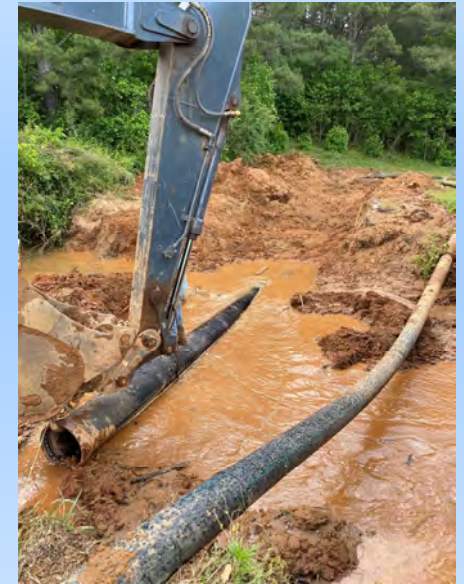
# A Few Photos



*Cleaning grit and debris from 36-inch sewer along Coneross Creek*



↑ PAA study   ↓ Repair of Speeds Creek force main



↑ Replacing pipe beneath Miller Branch  
↓ Signing contract for Sewer South Phase II Construction



Photo credits on this page: Kyle Lindsay (OJRSA) for all except signing contract, which was taken by Norm Cannada (The Journal)

# Compliance

## SAFETY

- Employees worked a total of 30,075 hours during 2023
- Lost-time accidents – 0
- OSHA violations – 0
- Hazardous chemical release drill



*Simulated hazardous chemical release conducted October 19, 2023*



# Compliance (continued)

## CONVEYANCE SYSTEM

- 2021 CONSENT ORDER...More on this later
- Sanitary Sewer Overflows
  - 5 total spills totaling approximately 42,850 gallons
    - 1 Significant Spill (42,000 gallons)
    - 1 reportable to DHEC (by R.61-9 and NPDES Permit requirements)
    - 3 on Speeds Creek pump station force main



Repairing gravity sewer

# Compliance (continued)

## WATER RECLAMATION FACILITY

- DHEC inspection April 2023 – SATISFACTORY with no deficiencies noted
- Completed study to convert from chlorine gas/sodium bisulfate to peracetic acid for disinfection with goal of having this in new NPDES Permit to be issued later in 2024

# Compliance (continued)

## PRETREATMENT PROGRAM

- No DHEC or EPA inspection of OJRSA program in 2023 (has not been one in 11 years)
- 19 Significant Industrial Wastewater Discharge Permit facilities on system
  - 14 facilities in full compliance
  - 3 Significant Non-Compliance (SNC) and 4 minor violations issued to 5 industries *[there were multiple violations at some sites]*
  - 1 Consent Order issued to permitted users
- 1 Nonsignificant Source Wastewater Discharge Permit issued in 2023
  - Continuing corrective action on a Consent Order issued in 2022
- Compliance assistance offered to FOG facilities



# Compliance (continued)

## LABORATORY

- DHEC inspection ... awaiting results
- Have outsourced some functions to independent lab

## STORMWATER

- No DHEC inspection
- Continue to make site improvements to comply with  
*2022 NPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges  
Associated with Industrial Activities*

# DHEC Enforcement

## CONSENT ORDER (issued 2021 but still active)

- Cause of Order: SSOs in 2019-2020 and Unsatisfactory Collection System Inspection
  - Two non-Act of God, vandalism, or third party caused (61,500 gal)
    - *Violation of SC Code § 48-1-90(A)(1) and SC Code §48-1-95(D)(1)*
  - Four Acts of God caused (736,000 gal)
  - Flat Rock Pump Station – overflows, structural issues, and trash in wet well
  - Failure to enforce Sewer Use Regulation – I/I removal and fats, oils, and grease (FOG)
- Required to:
  - Perform capacity, management, operation, and maintenance (CMOM) assessment
  - Reduce inflow and infiltration (I/I)
  - Update and enforce Sewer Use Regulation on upstream systems and users
- Fined \$7,000 by DHEC



# DHEC Enforcement (continued)

## CONSENT ORDER (issued 2021 but still active)

### Significant progress made on requirements in 2023

- Completed approximately 30,000 linear feet of pipe cleaning and inspection
- Completed ±120 NASCCO Level One manhole inspections
- Smoke tested 3,300 linear feet of gravity sewer
- Begin making in-house repairs on Choestoea gravity sewer south of Westminster
- Completed CMOM and submitted to DHEC
- Began repairing defects identified during 2021 CCTV/inspection
- Worked with WK Dickson to begin design for pipeline defects as identified during FY 2023
- Completed substantial revision to Sewer Use Regulation
- Completed design for Seneca Creek PS/FM and Flat Rock PS replacements
- Rates were addressed to increase funds for O&M and/or capital needs

## DHEC Enforcement (continued)

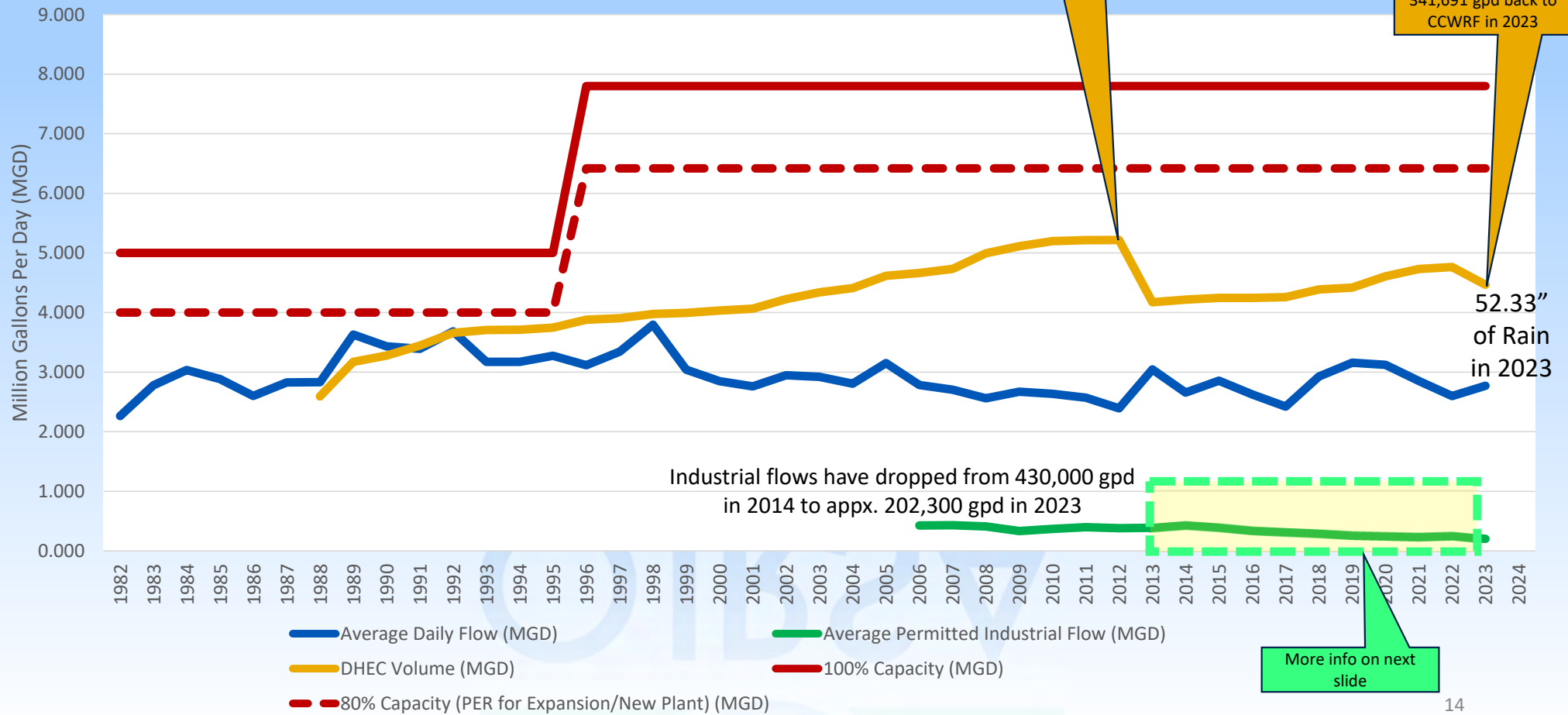
**CONSENT ORDER** (issued 2021 but still active)

### Anticipated projects for 2024

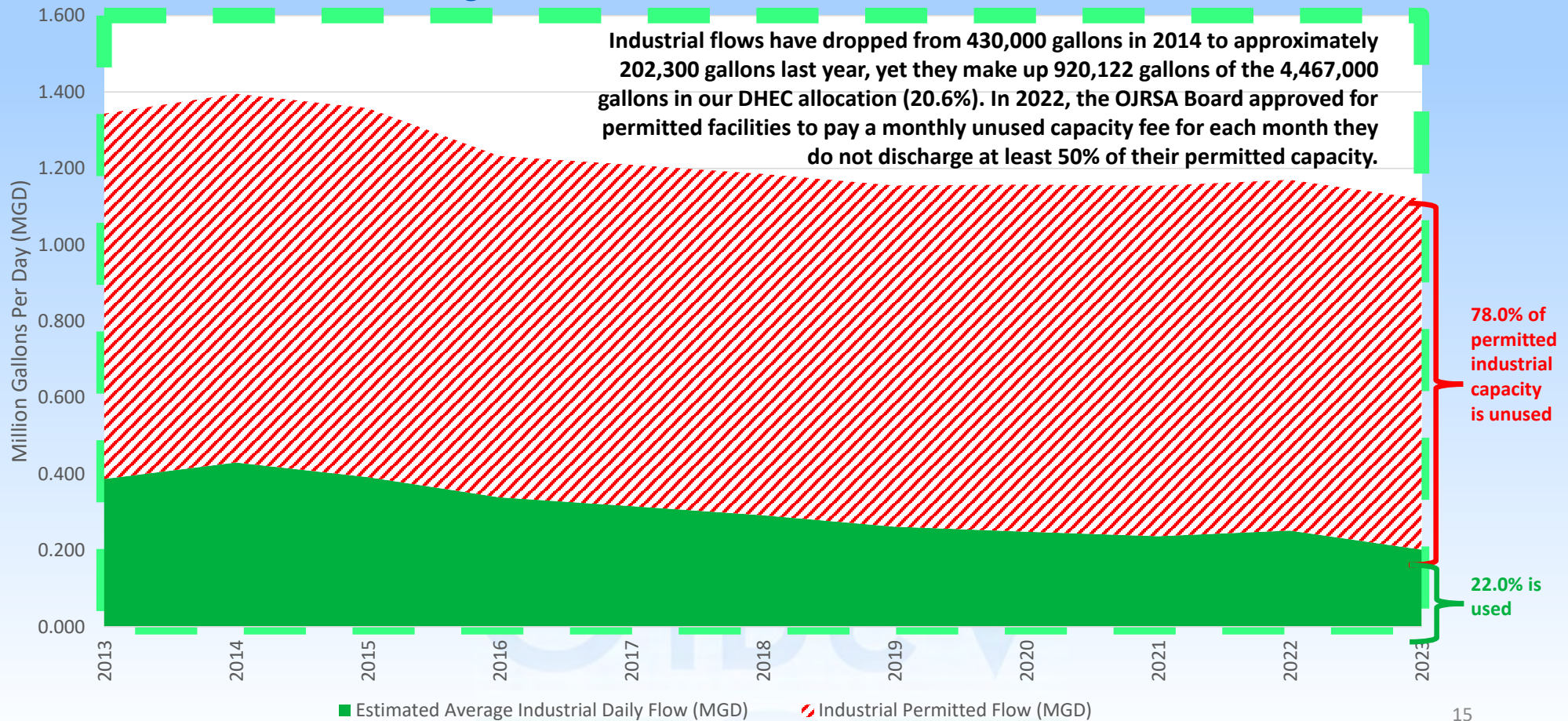
- Complete design for rehabilitation for up to 29,000 linear feet of pipe and perform as much of the work as possible using SCIP grant funds
- Construction to begin/end for Flat Rock Pump Station replacement
- Budget for next phase of CCTV/clean/inspection based on CMOM
- Establish regular progress meetings with cities to address I/I on their systems
- Possibly begin replacement of Seneca Creek force main



# Flows



## Flows *(Industry Focused)*





# Financial Information

- FY 2023 audit findings: Clean audit with unmodified opinion
- All information below available at [www.ojrsa.org/info](http://www.ojrsa.org/info)
  - **Financial Reports** – Included monthly with Finance & Administration Committee meeting minutes (or Board meeting minutes for months the F&A Committee does not meet)
  - **Annual budgets**
  - **Audits**

# User Rates

- Board approved use of base + volumetric rate for sewer (charge per 1,000 gallons), became effective July 1, 2023

## O&P COMMITTEE to BOARD 10/19/2022: RESIDENTIAL BASE + VOLUME, NONRESIDENTIAL BASE + VOLUME; MASTER METERS BILLED AS NONRESIDENTIAL

### F&A Worksheet: November 21, 2022

Average TOTAL sewer gallons billed by cities FY 2022  
RESIDENTIAL sewer gallons billed by cities FY 2022  
Nonresidential sewer gallons billed by cities FY 2022

56,457,682  
30,446,358  
26,011,324

OJRSA Revenue/Year from Cities \$5,077,763  
Includes Contingency % of 0.00%  
Months/Year 12  
Revenue Needed/Month \$423,147  
% Collected from Residential 53.93%  
% Collected from Nonresidential (w master) 46.07%

DATA COLLECTED FROM CITIES WEEK OF JUNE 20, 2022  
# Residential Customers 7,938  
# Commercial Customers 888 81.17%  
# Industrial Customers 31 2.83%  
# Institutional Customers 175 16.00%  
TOTAL NON-RES CUST 1,094  
TOTAL CUST 9,032

### Residential User Rates

Residential Volume/Month 30,446,358 gallons = RESIDENTIAL sewer gallons billed by cities  
Res 1,000 GAL/MONTH 30,446 x 1,000 gallons = Residential Volume/Month / 1,000 gallons  
Revenue Needed/Month for Residential \$228,193.61 = Revenue/Month x % Collected from Residential  
Base Residential Rate/Month \$10.00 /month = As set by OJRSA  
Residential Total Fees Collected from Base Rate \$79,380.00 = Base Residential Rate/Month x # Residential Customers  
Residential Volumetric Cost/1,000 GAL \$4.89 /1,000 gallons = (Revenue Needed/Month for Residential - Residential Total Fees Collected from Base Rate) / Res 1,000 GAL/MONTH  
Amount Revenue Generated from Residential Volumetric \$148,882.69 = Res 1,000 GAL/MONTH x Residential Volumetric Cost/1,000 GAL

### Nonresidential User Rates

Nonresidential Volume/Month 26,011,324 gallons = Nonresidential sewer gallons billed by cities  
Non-Res 1,000 GAL/MONTH 26,011 x 1,000 gallons = Nonresidential Volume/Month / 1,000 gallons  
Revenue Needed/Month for Nonresidential \$194,953.30 = Revenue/Month x % Collected from Nonresidential  
Base Nonresidential Rate/Month \$15.00 /month = As set by OJRSA  
Nonresidential Total Fees Collected from Base Rate \$16,410.00 = Base Nonresidential Rate/Month x TOTAL NON-RES CUST  
Nonresidential Volumetric Cost/1,000 GAL \$6.87 /1,000 gallons = (Revenue Needed/Month for Nonresidential - Nonresidential Total Fees Collected from Base Rate) / Non-Res 1,000 GAL/MONTH  
Amount Revenue Generated from Nonresidential Volumetric \$178,697.80 = Non-Res 1,000 GAL/MONTH x Nonresidential Volumetric Cost/1,000 GAL

### TEST

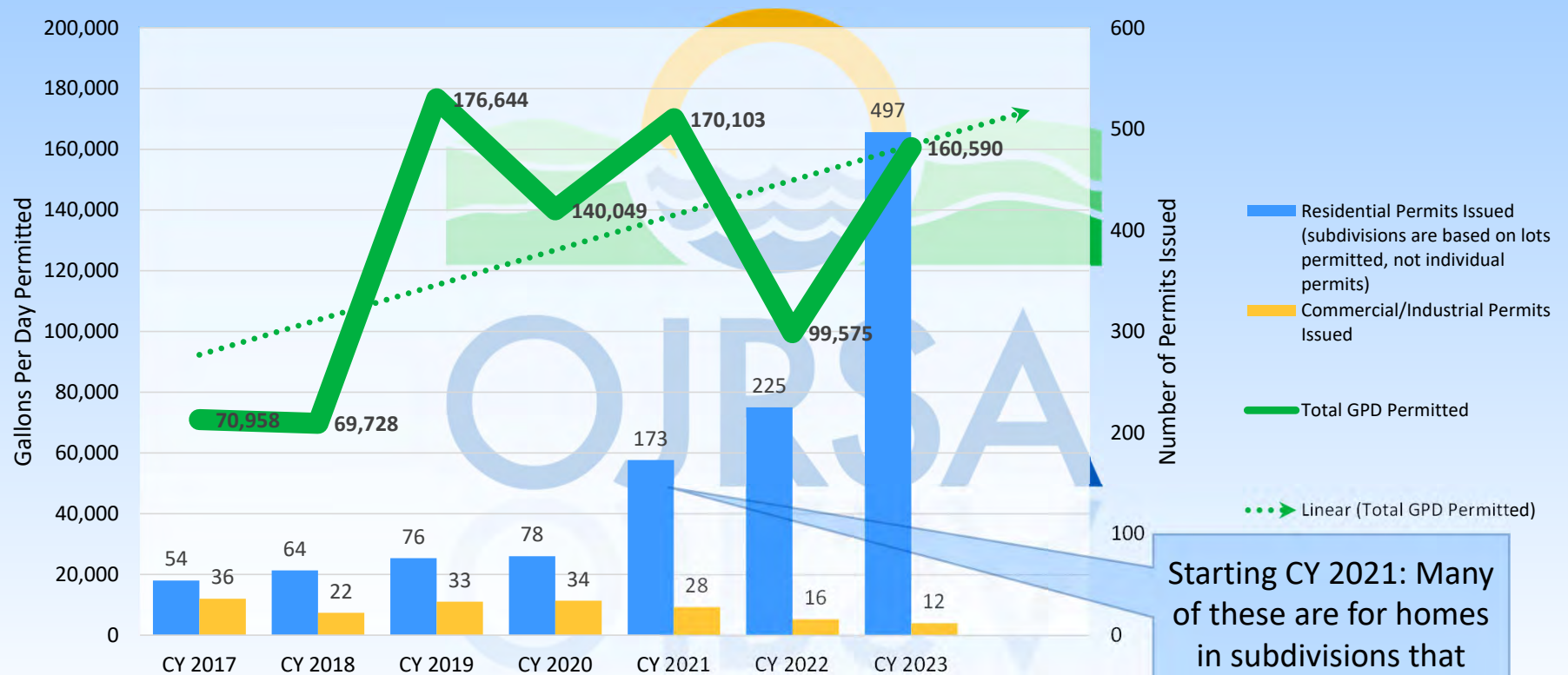
Revenue Needed/Month \$423,147 = Revenue/Month  
TOTAL RESIDENTIAL REVENUE RECEIVED/MONTH \$228,263 = Residential Total Fees Collected from Base Rate + (Res 1,000 GAL/MONTH x Residential Volumetric Cost/1,000 GAL)  
TOTAL NONRESIDENTIAL REVENUE RECEIVED/MONTH \$195,108 = Nonresidential Total Fees Collected from Base Rate + (Non-Res 1,000 GAL/MONTH x Nonresidential Volumetric Cost/1,000 GAL)  
TOTAL REVENUE/MONTH \$423,370 = TOTAL RESIDENTIAL REVENUE RECEIVED/MONTH + TOTAL NONRESIDENTIAL REVENUE RECEIVED/MONTH  
TEST -- Balance Must Be ≤ \$0 -\$223.58 = Revenue Needed/Month - TOTAL REVENUE/MONTH

### Residential Base + Volume, Nonresidential Base + Volume; Master Meters Billed as Nonresidential

	Gallons of Wastewater Billed Per Month										
	0	1,000	2,000	3,000	4,000	5,000	10,000	15,000	20,000	25,000	30,000
Residential	\$10.00	\$14.89	\$19.78	\$24.67	\$29.56	\$34.45	\$58.90	\$83.35	\$107.80	\$132.25	\$156.70
Nonresidential	\$15.00	\$21.87	\$28.74	\$35.61	\$42.48	\$49.35	\$83.70	\$118.05	\$152.40	\$186.75	\$221.10

# Growth

Flow Permitted and Types of Permits Issued by Year



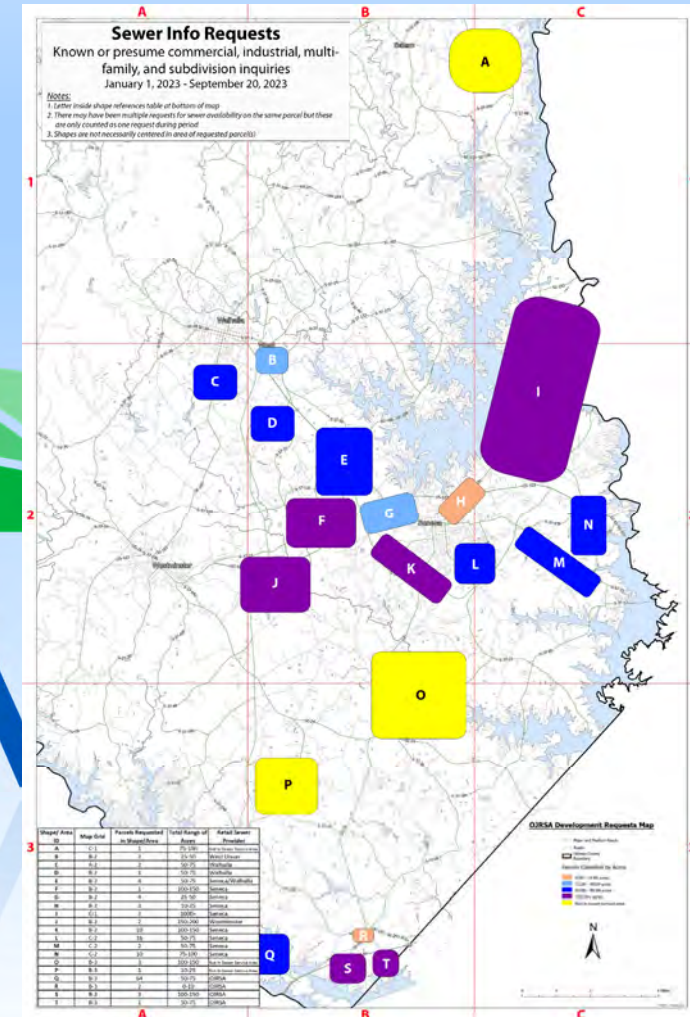


# Growth (continued)

## REQUESTS FOR SEWER AVAILABILITY TO SPECIFIC PARCELS DURING 2023...

- 203 inquiries answered by OJRSA Executive Director (some may be to the same parcel)
- Requests per general area of sewer provider
  - Seneca – 103
  - OJRSA (all in Fair Play area) – 73\*
  - Walhalla – 9
  - Westminster – 7
  - West Union – 1
  - Anderson County – 1
  - Undefined Service Area – 9 (e.g., Tokeena Crossroads, Salem, etc.)

\* 60+ of these are for one subdivision



# Growth (continued)

## IMPACT FEES

- OJRSA Board approved increase of \$4 per gallon to OJRSA sewer impact fees, which now makes the fee \$15.25 per gallon of sewer capacity
- Study performed during summer by engineer recommended \$24.50 per gallon
- Ultimate decision that policymakers must ask is ... who do we want to pay for growth ...
  - Those causing the growth (builders/developers/new homeowners)
  - The "ancestral user" that may have paid impact fees already and now pays monthly user fees
  - A combination of each (and what should that percentage be?)

# Regional Feasibility Study

This project consists of the development of a comprehensive feasibility study to determine if regionalizing sewer collection, conveyance, and treatment in Oconee County, South Carolina and a portion of Anderson County\* will streamline service delivery and enhance the success of the community and its quality of life.



OJRSA

\* Area west of Seneca River portion of Lake Hartwell to Exit 4/Oconee County line

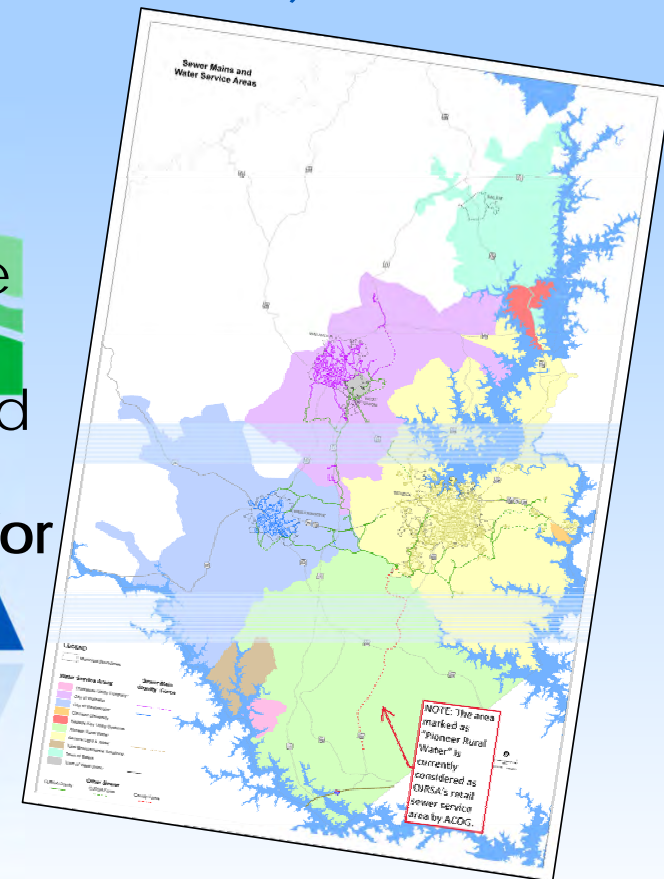


# Regional Feasibility Study (continued)

## EVALUATES:

- Governance structure
- Revenues and finance
- Environmental compliance
- Utility Resources
- Efficiency in operations and service

Develops recommendations for organizational structure(s)



# Regional Feasibility Study (continued)

## ORGANIZATIONS AND TERRITORIES INCLUDED IN STUDY

- OJRSA
- City of Seneca
- City of Walhalla
- City of Westminster
- Town of West Union
- Oconee County
- Pioneer Rural Water District
- Town of Salem
- Anderson County



*Tentative schedule (subject to change as necessary)*

# Regional Feasibility Study (continued)



**ANGIE METTLEN**

Vice President and Director of Strategic Funding & Regulatory Affairs  
W.K. Dickson & Company

**Katherine Amidon, AICP**  
Senior Environmental Planner  
Bolton & Menk

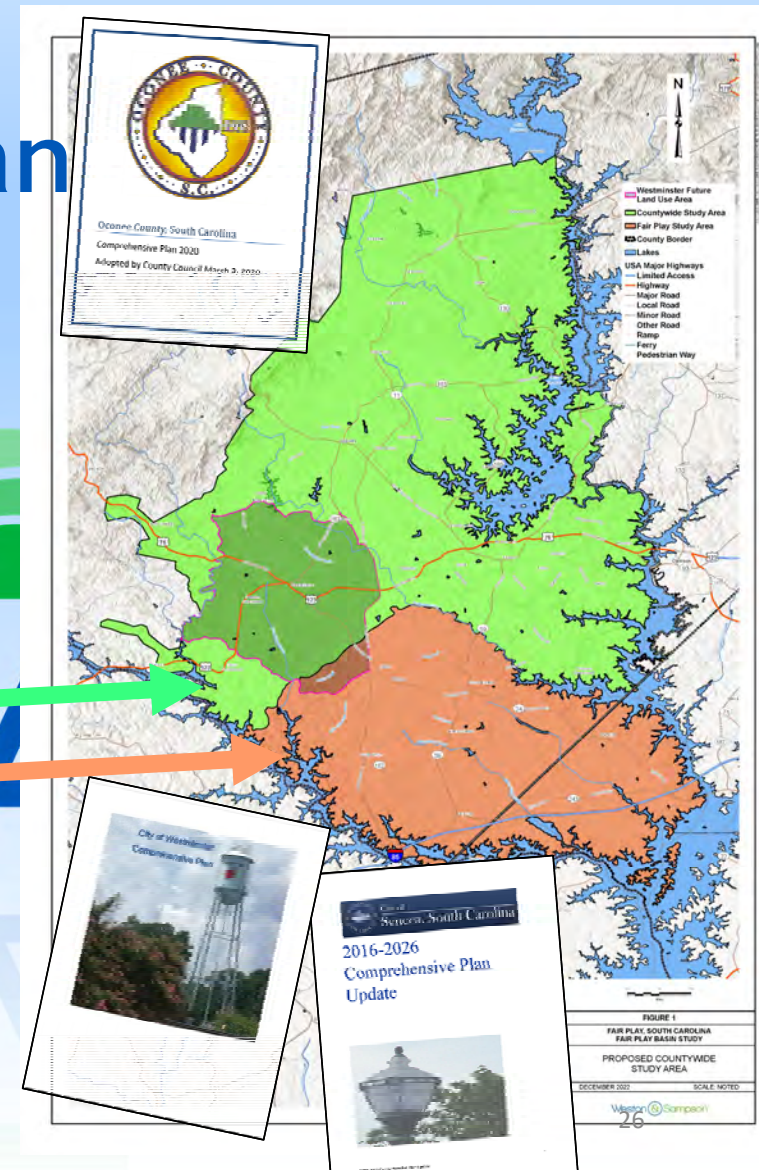
**Daryll Parker**  
Principal Consultant  
Willdan Financial Services

**Lawrence Flynn III, Esq.**  
Member  
Pope Flynn



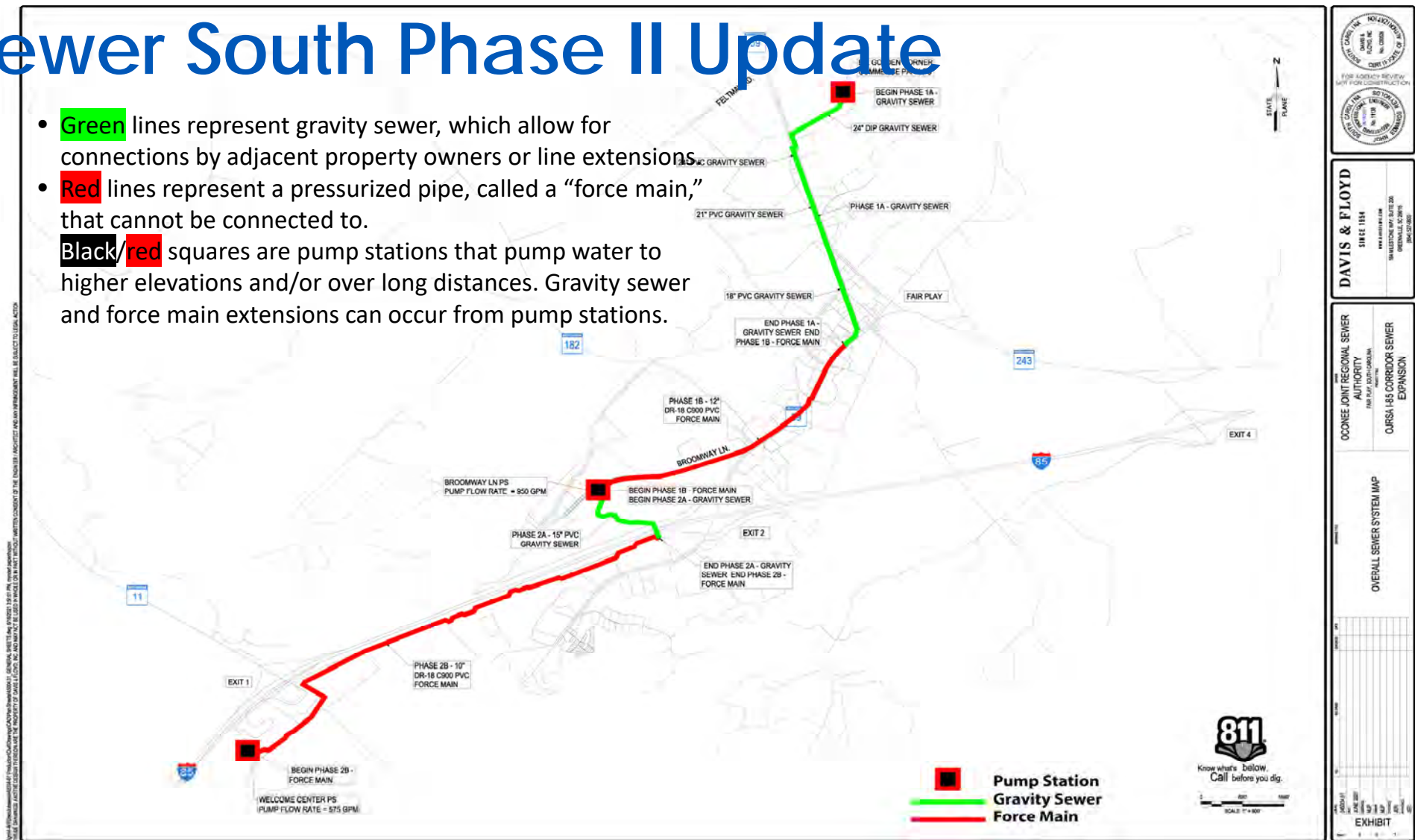
# County Sewer Master Plan

- OJRSA, cities, and county aware that growth will continue
  - Where will it happen?
  - Where won't it happen?
  - Where do you not want it to happen?
- Study currently underway in area shaded green
- Study for orange area complete and report available at [www.ojrsa.org/resources](http://www.ojrsa.org/resources)

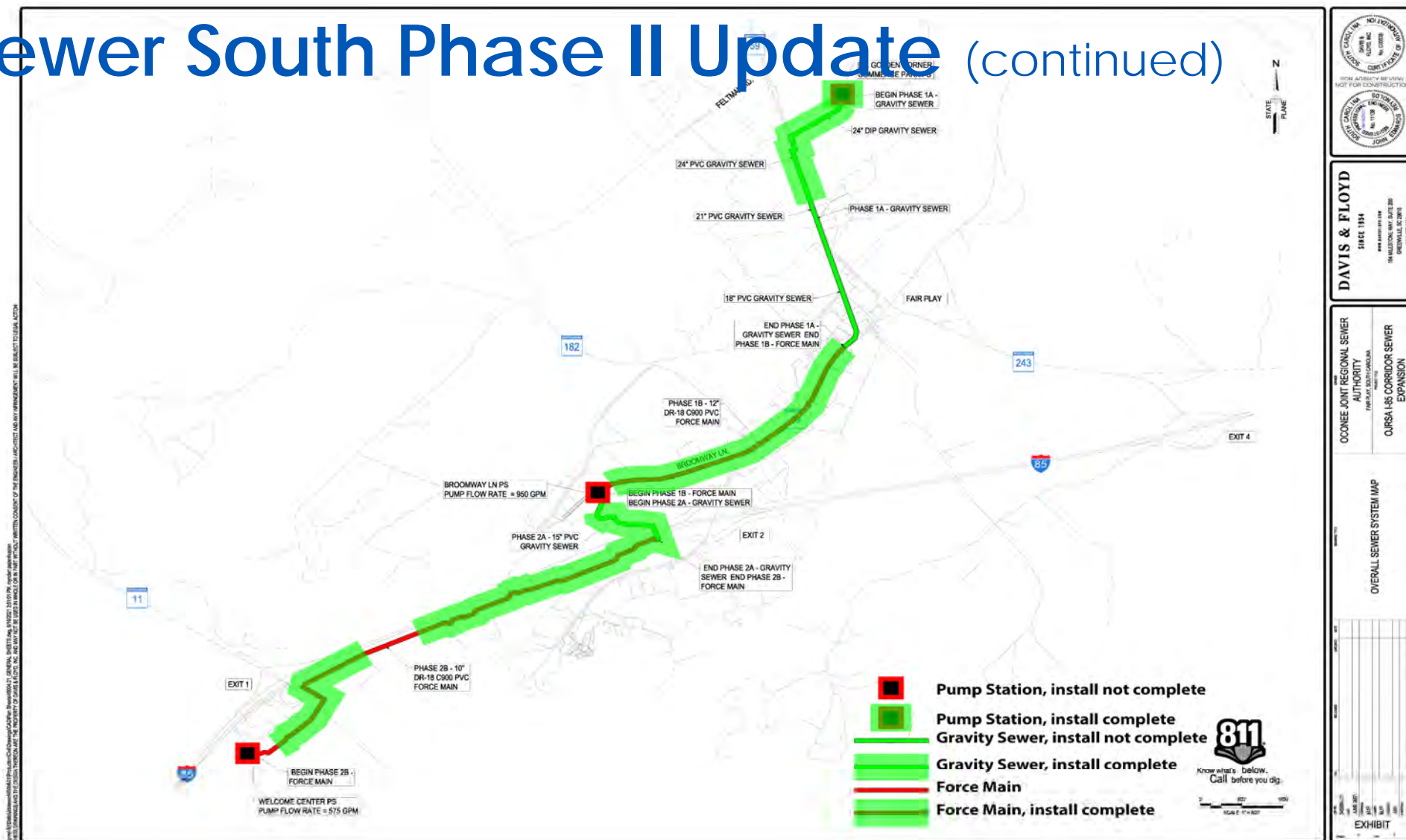


# Sewer South Phase II Update

- **Green** lines represent gravity sewer, which allow for connections by adjacent property owners or line extensions.
  - **Red** lines represent a pressurized pipe, called a “force main,” that cannot be connected to.
- Black/red** squares are pump stations that pump water to higher elevations and/or over long distances. Gravity sewer and force main extensions can occur from pump stations.



(continued)





# Sewer South Phase II Update (continued)



# Southern Oconee County Sewer

1. A lot of discussion about the \$25 million bond issue by Oconee County
2. The plan that has been discussed by Oconee County Council is based on this sheet of paper
3. The OJRSA is working with Oconee County and its consultant to design sewer to a parcel near Exit 4, which will connect to the system that is being constructed
4. Other than Item 3 above, the OJRSA is not aware of any other design for I-85 in Oconee or Anderson counties

## PROPOSED BUILDOUT FOR I-85 CORRIDOR

Information compiled by Chris Eleazer, OJRSA Executive Director, in January 2023. Estimated project prices were determined by Eleazer and cross-checked and modified by Jason Gillespie, PE, Weston & Sampson Senior Project Engineer, in March 2023.

### IMPORTANT NOTES

- **THIS IS TO BUILD THE TRUNK SEWER SYSTEM NEEDED TO SERVE THE BULK OF THESE PROPERTIES.** It may be necessary to install gravity extensions to serve additional large parcels, which could greatly influence costs.
- All costs included are in March 2023 dollars.
- Costs include construction, engineering, easement acquisition, and other costs.
- Information was utilized from the Weston & Sampson 2022-2023 sewer basin study that looked at the likely 20 year needs for Oconee and Anderson counties.
- This assumes Sewer South Phase II is built as designed.

### 2023 THROUGH 2029 POSSIBLE BUILDOUT

#### Exits 2 and "3" (Durham Road)

Estimated cost \$5,500,000 - \$6,500,000 *(increased from Eleazer's January estimate by \$0.5 million for both low and high estimated cost range)*

- Gravity sewer along Lakeshore Drive near Hideaway Bar to southwest down to county park at lake. Pump back up to Phase II gravity sewer at Exit 2 going under interstate.
- Gravity sewer around Exit 2 in order to serve all four quadrants of interchange.
- Would still have gravity for "Exit 3" (Durham Road) that flows from SOUTHWEST CORNER of Exit 3 along lowland (creek?) that adjoins several large parcels near Tugaloo Heights Cir. May see what would need to be done to get Carolina Landing Campground to connect their WWTP to this gravity sewer. Will need a pump station somewhere near lake to get flow from Hyde Cove Dr over to a new pump station at county park at west end of Lakeshore Drive.

#### Exit 4 (Serves both Oconee and Anderson counties)

Estimated cost - \$4,500,000 - \$5,500,000 *(increased by \$0.5 million for low and high estimated cost range)*  
(cumulative... \$10 million to \$12 million)

- Gravity sewer from southern side of 65 acre parcel along E Fairplay Blvd that will also connect adjacent properties, including Spire parcels. Gravity beneath I-85 towards Shore Drive via draw in land (creek???) to pump station in area near lake. This will pump back across interstate to center of Fair Play to gravity sewer on Doctors Road, which will connect with Phase II gravity sewer at SC 59 intersection.
- Gravity on Durham Road (southern end). Possible to pump Carolina Landing up to this line and cross country via gravity to pump station near Shore Drive mentioned above.
- May also be able to have gravity sewer from SOUTHWEST QUADRANT of Exit 4 to come cross-country to Shore Drive pump station.

#### Exit 1 (SC 11)

Estimated cost: \$2,000,000 - \$4,000,000 *(remained the same as previous estimate)* (cumulative... \$12 million to \$16 million)

- Install pump station on north side of interstate and pump across to Welcome Center PS.
- Install gravity on northern side of interchange to serve commercial (and existing residential?) users.



# OJRSA Requests for Satellite Systems

- When cleaning lines, do not push debris into OJRSA lines. Remove it using baskets, vac truck, or other such methods as part of cleaning process.
- Continue participation in Regional Feasibility Study and Central Oconee Sewer Basin Study
- Actively participate in regularly scheduled I/I remediation progress meetings (to begin late January/early February)
- Continue finding I&I and make necessary repairs
- Ordinance enforcement
  - Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG)
  - Non-woven "flushable" wipes
  - If assistance is needed, contact Allison McCullough, OJRSA Regulatory Services Coordinator, at 864-972-3900 x. 4 or [allison.mccullough@ojrsa.org](mailto:allison.mccullough@ojrsa.org)



*Grease build up on an OJRSA line that was "jetted" from a Member City line into the trunk sewer (October 2023)*

# Schedule a Tour!



The Coneross Creek Water Reclamation Facility provides an essential service that powers our community's economic engines and improves our quality of life!

Contact me or Kyle Lindsay  
[chris.eleazer@ojrsa.org](mailto:chris.eleazer@ojrsa.org)  
[kyle.lindsay@ojrsa.org](mailto:kyle.lindsay@ojrsa.org)  
864-972-3900



# Questions, Comments, and Closing



**Brian Ramey**  
OJRSA Board Chair

**Chris Eleazer**  
Executive Director