



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

1 April 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR Commander, US Army Corps of Engineers (CECW-SAD/Bradd Schwichtenberg), 441 G Street NW, Washington DC 20314-1000

SUBJECT: Savannah River Below Augusta (SRBA) Ecosystem Restoration Study, Modification to 3x3x3 Exemption, Vertical Team Alignment Memorandum (VTAM), Time Exemption Request

1. References:

- a. CESAS-PD memorandum (Savannah River Below Augusta (SRBA) Ecosystem Restoration Study, Modification to 3x3x3 Exemption, Vertical Team Alignment Memo), 15 March 2021.
- b. ASA(CW) memorandum (Savannah River Below Augusta Ecosystem Restoration Study, Georgia, 3x3x3 Rule Exemption) 24 October 2019.
- c. Savannah River Below Augusta (SRBA) Project Review Plan, March 2021.
- d. Savannah River Below Augusta (SRBA Project Management Plan (PMP), May 2019, updated February 2021.

2. Purpose: To provide information on the study scope, schedule, funding, and vertical team alignment serving as the basis for a Time Exemption Request in accordance with Section 1001 of WRRDA 2014, associated implementation guidance and Planning Bulletin 2018-01(S).

3. Study Scope: This study considers modifications to restore hydraulic connectivity for ecosystem restoration to river meanders that were cut off in the late 1800's to aid commercial river navigation.

4. Study Background: The study began in August 2016 with two non-Federal sponsors, the Savannah Riverkeeper, and the Phinizy Center for Water Sciences. The study was suspended in May 2017 when the Phinizy Center withdrew from the project. The study resumed in February 2019 with the Savannah Riverkeeper as the sole non-Federal sponsor. The District documented the study scope, schedule, and costs in the Project Management Plan in May 2019 that was updated February 2021 (enclosed).

An Alternative Milestone Meeting (AMM) was held on 22 May 2019 with the study endorsed to move to the next SMART Planning Milestone, the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP). Due to the study suspension and subsequent resumption, the ASA(CW) approved a 3x3x3 Rule Exemption to extend the maximum study time from 36 months to 61 months with a specific completion date of 1 September 2021; however, the study was not included in the FY20 Work Plan or the FY21 Budget.

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5. Funding Stream. Prior to FY21 Savannah District received \$311,000 in Federal funding. The study was included in the FY21 Work Plan with an allocation of \$940,000 in Federal funds required to complete the study at an estimated Federal total of \$1,250,000. FY20 funds were used to perform supervision and administration of a hydrology/water quality modeling task order awarded at the end of FY19. Significant study progress beyond the modeling was not made due to lack of continuous funding. Therefore, additional study time is required to complete the analysis leading to the TSP Milestone Meeting.

6. Study Schedule: Based on an analysis of the study schedule, the District requests an additional 25 months of study time beyond the study completion date of 1 September 2021 from the existing 3x3x3 Rule Exemption. Milestone dates in the Project Management Plan 25 Feb 2021, have been reviewed and updated:

Milestone	Date	Incremental Federal Funding	Total Federal Funding
Alternatives Milestone	22 May 2019 (A)	\$277,500	\$277,500
Tentatively Selected Plan	01 Oct 2021	\$600,000	\$877,500
Draft Report Release	01 Dec 2021	\$110,000	\$987,500
Agency Decision Milestone	01 Jun 2022	\$102,500	\$1,090,000
Final Report Transmittal	01 Mar 2023	\$100,000	\$1,190,000
Signed Chief's Report	29 Sep 2023	\$60,000	\$1,250,000

7. Vertical Team Alignment and Division Support. Support for the time extension has been expressed by vertical team members engaged in this effort to date. The South Atlantic Division supports the Savannah District request for the Time Exemption.

8. The point of contact for this action is Mr. Daniel Small at (404) 562-5224, daniel.l.small@usace.army.mil.

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1. SAS SRBA Vertical Team Alignment
2. SRBA 3x3x3 Exemption ASA(CW)
3. SRBA-Project Management Plan
4. Savannah River Below Augusta Review Plan

JASON E. KELLY, PMP
Colonel, EN
Commanding