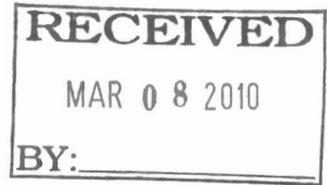


**THE JOINT
BLECKLEY COUNTY
SOLID WASTE
MANAGEMENT PLAN
2019**



April, 2010



The Joint Bleckley County Solid Waste Management Plan 2019

Prepared For:
Bleckley County and the City of Cochran

Prepared By:
Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission
September, 2009
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Section 1 Introduction

1.1 General Description of Planning Area

Bleckley County is located in South Central Georgia along U.S. Highway 23 and Interstate 16 less than one hour southeast of Macon. Created by a State Legislative act in 1912, making it one of Georgia's youngest counties (145th in creation), Bleckley County is a community that has experienced slow but steady growth since 1990. With Interstate 16 traversing the northeast corner of the county and seven state routes traversing throughout the county, Bleckley County has good transportation routes connecting the County to several of Georgia's major cities as well as other parts of the state. These transportation routes serve as major thoroughfares through Bleckley County. Many motorists traveling east to west from Savannah to Macon utilize I-16 as an efficient means of transportation. U.S. 23 provides the County with excellent access north to Macon as well as south towards Florida and South Georgia. Georgia Highway 26 bisects the County and links the area to both I-16 to the east and I-75 to the west.

While its landscape remains a rural, verdant paradise of forests predominated by southern yellow pines and livestock and small grain based agriculture, this agricultural and forestry base, coupled with being located along I-16 and near Warner Robins and Robins Air Force Base, as well as being home to Middle Georgia College, recognized as the nation's oldest two-year college, give the County a firm foundation for continued growth. The City of Cochran, the county seat and lone municipality, has a population of about 5,200 persons, and is the principal location of county commercial, industrial, governmental and social activity.

Growth has been steady since the 1990s because of the County's location on I-16 near Macon and Warner Robins, with their many available facilities and services. The County's diversity of educational and employment opportunities, favorable location, much available land for all uses, and excellent community facilities and quality-of-life continues to portend steady and ongoing future growth and development. Location, transportation, natural and cultural resources, and quality of life, along with much economic opportunity continue to figure prominently in future growth and development.

1.2 Description of Topography

The elevation of Bleckley County ranges from about 440 feet in the far northwestern portion of the county to about 305 feet in the southern portion of the county. Most of the county lies in the Southern Coastal Plain, with well drained, gently to strongly sloping soils along irregular ridges as well as poorly drained lowlands characterized by broad, sluggish streams. The northwestern portion of the county lies in the Fall Line Hills, an area of transition between the Coastal Plain and the Piedmont of Middle Georgia. This area has rolling hills with little level land. Most of the soils throughout the county feature a sandy surface layer with a sandy to loamy subsoil, although clay subsoil is sometimes present. A vast majority of Bleckley County's land area consists of agriculture and forestland (92 percent). The total square mileage of land area in Bleckley County is 219 miles.

1.3 Description of Population

With an estimated 2008 population of 12,683, the County's population increased 17.8 percent from 1980 to 2008, and is estimated to have increased 8.7 percent between 2000 and 2008. Current population projections by the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission for Bleckley County show an estimated 2020 total population of 14,313 and an estimated 2030 total population of 15,685. Households countywide have increased by just over 23 percent over the last two decades, slightly higher as a percentage than that of the overall population. The county seat and lone incorporated city, Cochran, had an estimated population of 5,211 in 2008, an increase of just 1.8 percent from 1980, the result of a small decrease in population during the 1980s, but some 17 percent since 2000, due mainly to the growth of Middle Georgia College as well as spillover growth from nearby Bibb and Houston counties. The following population and household estimates shown in Tables 1-1 and 1-2, respectively, are from the U.S. Census Bureau and are the most recent data available.

Table 1-1
Total Population (2000 and 2008)
Bleckley County Governments

	2000	2008	2000-2008 Percentage Change
Bleckley County	11,666	12,683	8.7%
Cochran	4,455	5,211	17.0%

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission Staff, 2009

Table 1-2
2000 Total Number of Households
Bleckley County Governments

	2000
Bleckley County	4,372
Cochran	1,632

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2009

1.4 Employment Information

There were 5,989 employed workers in Bleckley County as of 2007, which is only about five percent of the jobs in the County's labor market area, due to the presence of much larger populated counties nearby such as Houston and Laurens. The number of employed workers in the County, however, is an increase of some 32.5 percent since 1990. The largest employer in Bleckley County is Lithonia Lighting, which is located at 1001 West Dykes Street in Cochran. The company, a manufacturer of fluorescent lighting fixtures, at its peak employed over 1,000 people. However, it is expected to employ just over 200 by the end of 2010, after an expected layoff of some 500 people during the year, due to the ongoing economic slowdown. Middle Georgia College, a two-year unit of the University System of Georgia and the oldest

two-year college in the U.S., has approximately 2,600 students at its main campus in Cochran. Although no employment projections are currently available, it is expected that current trends will continue, barring the closure or continued further reductions of any large-scale establishments in the county.

Section 2 Waste Disposal Stream Analysis

2.1 Inventory of Waste Stream Generators

Contributing to the overall waste stream in Bleckley County are households and one institution (Bleckley County Jail). In the City of Cochran, industries (Lithonia Lighting), households, institutions (Middle Georgia College, 4 county public schools), and commercial businesses contribute to the overall waste stream.

Table 2-1 highlights a breakdown of the estimated current overall waste stream in Bleckley County by specific categories. The percentages shown are based on a regional waste characterization study that was part of a broader statewide study done for the Georgia Department of Community Affairs in 2005. The data are percentages for the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Region, of which Bleckley County is a part. Local percentages are assumed to be the same as that for the Region since no specific local data is available.

According to the study, paper and organic waste are by far the largest estimated contributors to the overall waste stream, both about one-third each, with plastic about another one-sixth, and glass, metal, construction and demolition (C&D) waste, and inorganic waste contributing much smaller amounts.

Table 2-1
2009 Bleckley County Disposed MSW Waste Composition
(In Percentages)

Paper	Plastic	Glass	Metal	Organic	C&D	Inorganic
32.3	14.9	3.1	5.9	30.9	8.1	4.9

Source: Georgia Department of Community Affairs Waste Characterization Study, Heart of Georgia Altamaha Region, 2005

2.2 Anticipated Waste Amounts

Because solid waste collection and disposal in Bleckley County is a joint operation among the County and the City of Cochran, projections for the anticipated waste amounts of the municipalities are included in the countywide projections that are shown in Table 2-2. Several steps were required to determine the amount of municipal solid waste that is disposed in

Bleckley County in terms of pounds per person per day through the years of 2008 to 2019. First, the population estimate for 2008 was utilized, while the total population for the County was projected from 2009 through 2019. Once the population was projected, the amount of waste that was disposed of by Bleckley County and the City of Cochran from 2008-2009 was recorded for each year. The total tonnage of waste disposed for 2008-2009 was then divided by 365 to get the total tons per day. Then the total tons per day was divided by the population totals for 2008-2009 to get a per capita tons disposed per day. Next, the total tons per capita were multiplied by 2,000 (2,000 lbs. equals one ton) to get the total pounds per person per day. Bleckley County and the City of Cochran are projected to dispose approximately 3.6243 pounds per person per day from 2008 to 2019. This 3.6243 pounds per person per day figure calculated for 2008 is assumed to remain static throughout the planning period to better assure proper disposal capacity, even though it may well change. According to the State of Georgia's 2008 Annual Solid Waste Report, the statewide disposal rate in FY 2008 was 6.07 pounds/per person/per day. Therefore, the disposal rate for Bleckley County and the City of Cochran is presently below the state disposal rate.

The composition of the municipal solid waste generated each year from 2008-2019 is also broken down in tons based upon tonnage figures during 2008 and the regional waste characterization study mentioned earlier. Again, local percentages are assumed to be the same as that for the Region since no specific local figures are available that would break down the local waste composition by type. The projections are based on those made for total tonnage disposed from 2008-2019 in Table 2-2. The estimated composition of solid waste for each year is given from 2008 through 2019 in Table 2-3.

Table 2-2
Annual Projections of Bleckley County
Municipal Solid Waste 2008-2019 (in Tons)

Year	Population	Tons Disposed	Lbs./Person/Day Disposed
2008	12,683	8,389	3.6243
2009	12,776	8,450	3.6243
2010	12,869	8,512	3.6243
2011	13,012	8,607	3.6243
2012	13,155	8,701	3.6243
2013	13,298	8,796	3.6243
2014	13,441	8,890	3.6243
2015	13,582	8,984	3.6243
2016	13,728	9,080	3.6243
2017	13,874	9,177	3.6243
2018	14,020	9,273	3.6243
2019	14,166	9,370	3.6243

Sources: US Bureau of the Census (2008 population data),
www.census.gov, Heart of Georgia Altamaha RC Staff (population
projections), Georgia Department of Community Affairs, 2009
Note: Projections were based on most recent data available

Table 2-3
Annual Projections of Bleckley County
Municipal Solid Waste Separated by Type 2008-2019 (in Tons)

Year	Paper	Plastic	Glass	Metal	Organic	C&D	Inorganic
2008	2,710	1,250	260	495	2,592	680	411
2009	2,729	1,259	262	499	2,611	684	414
2010	2,749	1,268	264	502	2,630	689	417
2011	2,780	1,282	267	508	2,660	697	422
2012	2,810	1,296	270	513	2,689	705	426
2013	2,841	1,311	273	519	2,718	712	431
2014	2,871	1,325	276	525	2,747	720	436
2015	2,902	1,339	279	530	2,776	728	440
2016	2,933	1,353	281	536	2,806	735	445
2017	2,964	1,367	284	541	2,836	743	450
2018	2,995	1,382	287	547	2,865	751	454
2019	3,027	1,396	290	553	2,895	759	459

Sources: Heart of Georgia Altamaha RC Staff, Georgia Department of Community Affairs, 2009

Section 3 Waste Reduction Element

3.1 Source Reduction Programs

Bleckley County and Cochran do not have any formal waste reduction programs through reuse programs, financial incentives, waste audits, waste exchanges, or industrial process changes.

3.2 Recycling Programs

3.2.1 Public Programs

As part of local efforts to address the State of Georgia's goals to reduce the amount of waste disposed by 23% by 2017, Bleckley County has dedicated containers located at its transfer station to accept recyclable materials. The transfer station is open Mondays through Saturdays from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Separate receptacles are available at the transfer station to accept paper, cardboard, and aluminum cans, and the County is looking toward accepting plastic items in the future. Scrap metal, batteries, tires, yard waste, white goods (appliances, etc.), and brown goods (furniture, etc.) are collected in separate containers. An area of one-half (0.5) acre at the Bleckley County Transfer Station is permitted to receive collected scrap tires. Papers are collected and taken by the Bleckley County Training Center to be properly recycled. As a sufficient amount of aluminum is collected, it is bagged and taken by the County to Johnson's Recycling in Eastman, Georgia to be recycled. Once a sufficient amount of tires has accumulated, they are collected and transported by Quality Tire Recycling in Jackson, Georgia for proper disposal. Scrap metal and white goods are collected and transported by Macon Iron of Macon, Georgia. Macon Iron will also start accepting cardboard in upcoming months, and, as the County begins to accept plastic, it will also be collected and transported by Macon Iron for disposal. Used batteries are collected and transported by Diamond Battery of Albany, Georgia. Yard waste is stored in a 100 x 50 ft designated area at the transfer station. Once a sufficient amount of brown goods is collected, they are taken by the County to the C&D portion of the Houston County MSW Landfill. The County has a composting program for yard waste, which will be described further under Section 4.3.1 "Yard Trimmings Collection Program."

The City of Cochran has not developed a household recycling program. The City utilizes curbside collection to collect non-household waste such as batteries, white goods, brown goods, scrap metal, and tires. The City collects these items once per week, as well as on a call basis. The City of Cochran has a holding facility to accept these items located on North Street at the city's wastewater treatment plant. The holding facility has a fork lift, two limb trucks, and a backhoe. It is manned from 8:00AM to 5:00PM Monday through Friday. Citizens are also allowed to bring these items voluntarily to the holding facility. The City's non-household recycling program will be described further under Section 3.2.4 "Special Management Items." A more comprehensive recycling program needs to be developed concerning household recyclables, and it has the potential for growth and success if additional funding were available.

According to the figures obtained from Bleckley County, a total of 83 tons of recyclables (scrap metal was only data available) were collected in 2008. The total amount of recyclables (scrap metal) from 2006-2009 is shown in Table 3-1 and is based on local data. The figures for 2009 were extrapolated from the first 9 months of the year to get an amount for the entire year.

The projected increase of recyclables from 2008-2019 are based on the countywide population projection because the City of Cochran is also included in the County's population projection. The total amount of the recyclables for each year from 2008-2019 is also shown in tons based upon the projected amount of waste to be disposed in Bleckley County in 2008-2019. Two different amounts are shown for each year for comparison purposes. The first projection is based on the current percentage of the total amount of disposed waste that is recycled in Bleckley County as of 2008 (0.989%). This percentage was then multiplied by the projected amount of waste disposed for each year from 2008-2019 for planning purposes. The second projection is based on the County's goal of achieving the state's 23% waste disposal reduction goal by 2017 and shows how much waste would be recycled for each year if that 23% goal were to be met for each year. Again these projections are for planning purposes, and these amounts and percentages may vary well

change. The estimated amounts for recyclables from 2008 through 2019 can be found in Table 3-2.

Table 3-1
Bleckley County Current Recyclables Separated by Type
2006-2009 (in Tons)

Year	Scrap Metal
2006	82
2007	83
2008	83
2009	84

Source: Bleckley County, 2009.

Table 3-2
Annual Projections of Bleckley County Recyclables
2008-2019 (in Tons)

Year	Total Tons Disposed	Total Amount of Recyclables Based on Current Percentage of Materials Recycled (0.989%)	Total Amount of Recyclables Based on 23% State Waste Reduction Goal by 2017
2008	8,389	83	1,930
2009	8,450	84	1,944
2010	8,512	84	1,958
2011	8,607	85	1,980
2012	8,701	86	2,001
2013	8,796	87	2,023
2014	8,890	88	2,045
2015	8,984	89	2,066
2016	9,080	90	2,088
2017	9,177	91	2,111
2018	9,273	92	2,133
2019	9,370	93	2,155

Sources: Heart of Georgia Altamaha RC Staff, Georgia Department of Community Affairs, 2009

3.2.2 Private Programs

Rozier Auto Parts of Cochran encourages citizens to return their used batteries purchased from the store, and it also accepts batteries collected by the City of Cochran for proper disposal. Lithonia Lighting, through its corporate recycling and green procurement policy, has estimated that its impact on landfills has been reduced by some 40% since 2006. The use of office paper has been reduced by 47% since September 2006. The company also contributes revenue it receives from recycling aluminum to community projects.

3.2.3 Assessment of Recycling Programs

Bleckley County has developed an adequate recycling and collection program for the unincorporated area with some effectiveness. The recycling program targets all residents of the County and encourages the recycling of items through proper disposal. The utilization of recycling efforts through containers for several types of recyclables at the County's transfer station has resulted in more citizens being able to participate in the local recycling program. Cochran has not developed a recycling and collection program, other than that for non-household and construction and demolition (C&D) waste items mentioned earlier. A more comprehensive recycling program needs to be developed concerning household recyclables and other items, and it has the potential for growth and success if additional funding were available. Although funding is limited due to a small tax base, a limited program that would accept such items as newspapers, magazines, plastics, and/or aluminum cans would help the community to move towards furthering state and local waste reduction goals. An expanded program in terms of the types of recyclables accepted by the City, particularly if coupled with perhaps the formation of a partnership with Middle Georgia College in terms of recycling and waste reduction education, would help to make current collection methods in the City more adequate and help to better meet state waste reduction goals.

3.2.4 Special Management Items

Bleckley County has a program to collect tires, batteries, scrap metal, white goods, and brown goods. Batteries, scrap metal, white goods, and brown goods are collected in separate containers at the county transfer station. Once a sufficient amount of tires has accumulated, they are collected and transported by Quality Tire Recycling in Jackson, Georgia for proper disposal. As a sufficient amount of scrap metal and white goods are collected, they are collected and transported by Macon Iron of Macon, Georgia. Brown goods are transported by the County to the C&D portion of the Houston County MSW Landfill. Used batteries are collected and transported by Diamond Battery of Albany, Georgia. Those with household hazardous waste may contact the County, who will work with them on a case-by-case basis to determine the proper method for disposal.

The City of Cochran also has a program to collect scrap metal, tires, batteries, white goods, and brown goods. The City utilizes curbside collection to collect these items once per week, as well as on a call basis. These items are taken to the Wastewater Treatment Plant on North Street, until a sufficient amount has been collected for proper disposal. Citizens may also bring these items to the Wastewater Treatment Plant on a voluntary basis. There is a fee charged for the collection of white goods. White goods and scrap metal are collected by the City and taken first to the Wastewater Treatment Plant and then to Johnson's Recycling in Eastman, Georgia for proper disposal. Batteries are taken by the City to Rozier Auto Parts in Cochran. The City transports the brown goods to the C&D portion of the Houston County MSW Landfill. Tires are taken by the City to the Bleckley County Transfer Station where they are placed in a designated area and then collected and transported by Quality Tire Recycling in Jackson, Georgia.

3.2.5 Waste Reduction Needs and Goals

Goals:

1. Work towards meeting and/or exceeding the state waste reduction goal of 23% by 2017.

2. Encourage the expansion of recycling activities countywide, and continue to upgrade recycling facilities as appropriate.
3. Seek to establish a partnership among the County, City, and Middle Georgia College concerning recycling and other waste reduction activities as appropriate.
4. Implement a household recycling program in Cochran.

Needs:

1. The County needs to purchase an additional tub grinder.
2. Expand the recycling program in the unincorporated area to include the acceptance of plastics as appropriate.
3. Work with Cochran to expand recycling efforts as appropriate and feasible.
4. Purchase additional containers to accept recyclable materials as appropriate.
5. Pursue additional recyclable materials available for collection in the community.
6. Meet with local businesses and industries as needed to increase business community participation in local recycling efforts.
7. Meet with Middle Georgia College to increase participation in local recycling and waste reduction activities.

Section 4 Collection Element

4.1 Solid Waste Collection

4.1.1 Solid Waste Collection Programs

At the present time, Bleckley County operates a collection system for residents of the unincorporated area, as well as for the limited number of commercial establishments in the unincorporated area, utilizing the County's transfer station. Citizens in the unincorporated area must bring their household solid waste to the transfer station, located at 794 Georgia Highway 26 East near Cochran. There are no green box sites or convenience center sites in the unincorporated area at the current time. The transfer station is manned and is open from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Saturday each week. Containers are available at the transfer station to receive several types of recyclables, which will be discussed further under Section 4.2 "Recycling Collection Programs." The County does not charge its residents a fee for solid waste collection. Once the garbage is collected, the County transports the collected household waste to the Houston County Subtitle D Municipal Solid Waste Landfill, while recyclables are taken to the appropriate recycling facility, depending on the type of material. The Houston County Subtitle D Municipal Solid Waste Landfill has a permitted capacity in its current number of cells to operate for approximately 9.88 more years. Its remaining capacity is 3,429,998.00 cubic yards.

The City of Cochran utilizes curbside collection once a week to collect household garbage within its city limits. The City charges a fee of \$20.00 dollars per month to residents to furnish them a cart for solid waste collection. Once the household garbage is collected, it is taken by the City to the Houston County Subtitle D Municipal Solid Waste Landfill. The City also has a curbside collection program to collect batteries, white goods, brown goods, tires, and scrap metal. The City collects these items once per week, as well as on a call basis. The City of Cochran has a holding facility to temporarily store these items located on North Street at the City's wastewater treatment plant. Citizens may also bring these items to the Wastewater Treatment Plant on a voluntary basis. There is a fee charged for the collection of white goods. White goods and scrap metal

are collected by the City and taken first to the Wastewater Treatment Plant and then to Johnson's Recycling in Eastman, Georgia for proper disposal. Batteries are taken by the City to Rozier Auto Parts in Cochran. The City transports the brown goods to the C&D portion of the Houston County MSW Landfill. Tires are taken by the City to the Bleckley County Transfer Station where they are placed in a designated area and then collected and transported by Quality Tire Recycling in Jackson, Georgia.

The City of Cochran also provides commercial solid waste collection for local businesses. Businesses may contract with the City to have a bin onsite that can be either four, six, or eight yards in size. The City will pick up the solid waste in the bins on a call basis. Once the bins are collected, the waste is taken by the City to the Houston County Subtitle D Municipal Solid Waste Landfill.

4.1.2 Assessment of Solid Waste Collection Programs

The collection methods utilized to collect solid waste by Bleckley County and the City of Cochran are adequate to serve its citizens. With the Houston County Subtitle D Municipal Solid Waste Landfill, Telfair County Municipal Solid Waste Landfill, and several other regional landfills located in close proximity to Bleckley County, the accessibility of a landfill for solid waste collection purposes by the County and the City is adequate. There are plans within the next five years to expand the current number of cells at the Houston County Landfill which, given the total amount of space available for the landfill, should extend the life of the landfill beyond 100 years and provide the County and Cochran ample disposal capacity assurance beyond the upcoming ten-year planning period. Collection programs are also adequate to meet future needs as well. The County needs to expand its collection program for household recyclables as appropriate and feasible, while a curbside collection program for household recyclables needs to be established in the City. In addition, the County and Cochran need to continue to expand their respective collection programs, through the acquisition of new or additional equipment and/or by other means as appropriate.

4.1.3 Solid Waste Collection Needs and Goals

Goal:

1. Maintain current standards of collecting solid waste in both the unincorporated areas of the County and the municipalities.

Needs:

1. The City of Cochran needs to pursue acquiring new containers as needed and appropriate.
2. The City of Cochran needs to pursue the purchase of a front end loader and rear end loader as appropriate.

4.1.4 Contingency Strategy

In case of a natural disaster or another event that may interrupt the flow of garbage pickup, Bleckley County and the City of Cochran would seek the assistance of nearby local governments to have access to solid waste collection equipment, if an excessive amount of waste is generated. The City has two backup trucks in reserve to collect residential and commercial waste as needed. The County has three cement pad loaders that can be utilized for the temporary storage of debris in the event of an emergency that results in a large volume of waste. If one of these options is necessary to adequately serve Bleckley County, the local governments would be required to go through the proper procedures to be able to put an option into operation. The time frame required would probably require at least one week to be able to go through the proper procedures to continue solid waste collection. If the collection program should become interrupted in case of a natural disaster or other event, the public will be notified on what procedures will take place via the media. This notification will take place through the *Cochran Journal*, public service announcements on the radio, the County's website (www.bleckley.org) and the City of Cochran's website (www.cityofcochran.com). In the event of the loss of electrical service and these options were to not be available, the County and City would communicate with county and municipal officials via cellular communications to help spread notification to the public that either the County and/or the City would not be able to accept

municipal solid waste until such time as their respective collection and disposal capabilities could be returned to full operational status.

4.2 Recycling Collection

4.2.1 Recycling Collection Programs

Bleckley County has a program to collect paper, aluminum, cardboard, scrap metal, batteries, tires, white goods, and brown goods throughout the unincorporated area. Each of these items are placed in separate bins located at the Bleckley County Transfer Station. An area of one-half (0.5) acre at the Bleckley County Transfer Station is permitted to receive collected scrap tires. Citizens are allowed to bring these various items voluntarily to the transfer station. There are also future plans to accept plastics. Papers are collected and taken by the Bleckley County Training Center to be properly recycled. As a sufficient amount of aluminum is collected, it is bagged and taken by the County to Johnson's Recycling in Eastman, Georgia to be recycled. Once a sufficient amount of tires has accumulated, they are collected and transported by Quality Tire Recycling in Jackson, Georgia for proper disposal. The white goods and scrap metal are collected and transported by Macon Iron in Macon, Georgia to be properly disposed. Brown goods are transported by the County to the C&D portion of the Houston County Subtitle D Municipal Solid Waste Landfill where they are disposed. Batteries are collected and transported by Diamond Battery of Albany, Georgia for proper disposal. The County does not have a formal plan for handling household hazardous waste at this time, but instead will work with citizens to come up with a method to properly dispose of the waste on a case-by-case basis.

The City of Cochran has a holding facility to accept recyclables located on North Street at the City's wastewater treatment plant. The holding facility has a fork lift, two limb trucks, and a backhoe. It is manned from 8:00AM to 5:00PM Monday through Friday. The City accepts the following items for recycling: batteries, brown goods, scrap metal, tires, and white goods. Citizens are allowed to bring these items voluntarily to the holding facility, and the City does not charge its citizens a fee, with the exception of white goods. All batteries that are collected are taken by the City to Rozier's Auto Parts in Cochran to be properly disposed. Scrap metal and

white goods are taken by the City to Johnson's Recycling in Eastman, Georgia for proper disposal. Brown goods are taken by the City directly to the C&D portion of the Houston County Subtitle D Municipal Solid Waste Landfill. All tires are taken by the City to the Bleckley County Transfer Station.

4.2.2 Assessment of Recycling Collection Programs

The collection methods utilized to collect recycling by Bleckley County and the City of Cochran are somewhat adequate to serve the citizens for the current needs of recyclables.

Bleckley County and the City of Cochran have developed a recycling and collection program for their respective jurisdictions with some effectiveness. The County's program is adequate to facilitate the state's waste disposal reduction goal, and would be even more so if plastics are accepted in the future as proposed. The County has separate bins to collect various recyclables, both household items in addition to special management items, which has encouraged growth with more citizens being willing to participate in the recycling program. The current facilities are adequate to meet the needs of the program. Future expansion of the local recycling program may be needed to further facilitate the State of Georgia's waste reduction goal of 23% by 2017.

The City of Cochran needs to establish a formal household recycling collection program to go along with the current collection of special management items. The current program is not adequate to facilitate the state's waste disposal reduction goal minus the collection of household recyclables. Although funding is limited due to a small tax base, a limited program that would accept such items as newspapers, magazines, plastics, and/or aluminum cans would help the community to move towards furthering state and local waste reduction goals. An expanded program in terms of the types of recyclables accepted by the City, particularly if coupled with perhaps the formation of a partnership with Middle Georgia College in terms of the utilization of recycling and the promotion of recycling education, would help to make current collection methods in the City more adequate and help to better meet state waste reduction goals.

4.2.3 Recycling Collection Needs and Goals

Goals:

1. Maintain current method of collection and voluntary drop-off of recyclables and special management items countywide.
2. Work towards meeting the state waste reduction goal of 23% by 2017.
3. Encourage the increased utilization of recycling by all citizens.
4. Implement a household curbside recycling program in the City of Cochran.
5. Encourage the expansion of recycling activities countywide, and continue to upgrade recycling facilities as appropriate.

Needs:

1. The County needs to pursue the purchase of additional recycling containers as appropriate.
2. Expand the recycling program in the unincorporated area to include the acceptance of plastics as appropriate.
3. Work with Cochran to expand recycling efforts as appropriate and feasible.
4. Pursue additional recyclable materials available for collection in the community.

4.3 Yard Trimmings Collection

4.3.1 Yard Trimmings Collection Programs

Bleckley County has a mulching program. Citizens are allowed to voluntarily bring their yard trimmings to the Bleckley County Transfer Station, located at 794 Georgia Highway 26 East near Cochran. Citizens are not charged a special fee for yard trimmings collection. The County has an area 100' x 50' wide at the transfer station that is set aside for the

temporary storage of yard trimmings. Once a sufficient amount of trimmings are collected, the County has a chipper that is utilized to grind up the yard waste. Citizens may pick up the resulting mulch on a voluntary basis for free. If a sufficient amount of mulch is not collected by citizens, the County takes the leftover waste to the C&D portion of the Houston County Subtitle D Municipal Solid Waste Landfill.

The City of Cochran does not have a composting/mulching program. The City utilizes curbside collection once per week for yard trimmings and does not charge residents a special fee. Once yard trimmings are collected, it is taken by the City to a 5-acre Georgia EPD permitted inert landfill, located on the northwest side of School Road in Cochran. Citizens are also encouraged to bring their yard trimmings on a voluntary basis to the inert landfill.

4.3.2 Assessment of Yard Trimmings Collection Program

Residents in the unincorporated area are encouraged to bring their yard trimmings to the Bleckley County Transfer Station, located at 794 Georgia Highway 26 East near Cochran. The County has a 100' x 50' wide holding area at the transfer station for the temporary storage of yard trimmings. Once a sufficient amount of yard waste is collected, the County utilizes a chipper to grind up the debris, and the resultant mulch is given away to citizens upon request. Any mulch that is uncollected by citizens is taken by the County to the C&D portion of the Houston County Subtitle D Municipal Solid Waste Landfill. Once trimmings are collected in Cochran, they are taken by the City to a 5-acre GA EPD permitted inert landfill, located on the northwest side of School Road in Cochran. Residents in Cochran are also encouraged to take yard trimmings to the City's inert landfill.

The current needs of the County and Cochran can be met with their respective facilities. The transfer station has a holding area for the temporary storage of yard debris. A chipper is utilized as needed to chip up the accumulated yard trimmings, and the resulting mulch is given away to citizens upon request. The City's inert landfill has adequate space to

receive residential yard trimmings from city residents for the foreseeable future.

4.3.3 Yard Trimmings Collection Needs and Goals

Goals:

1. Maintain the current collection method of yard trimmings by the County and the City of Cochran.
2. Maintain current mulching program in the County as a means of proper disposal of yard trimmings, and seek to expand as appropriate.

Needs:

1. The County needs to pursue the purchase of a new tub grinder and chipper for inert material/yard waste.
2. Purchase additional equipment for yard trimmings collection in both jurisdictions as appropriate.

4.4 Illegal Dumping/Littering

4.4.1 Problem Areas

Bleckley County does not have a problem with illegal dumping at this time. If it should become a problem, the County would utilize the local Georgia Department of Natural Resources Game Warden to combat the problem, in addition to the Georgia EPD in cases of a large amount of illegally dumped waste.

There is a problem in Cochran with illegal dumping. The problem appears to be most prevalent where commercial solid waste containers are located. Various items such as tires, couches, and chairs are frequently being placed in commercial cans being utilized by local businesses. The City utilizes its Police Department to handle cases involving illegal dumping.

4.4.2 Prevention/Enforcement Implementation Strategy

Bleckley County's implementation strategy to limit/prevent illegal dumping and littering involves the local DNR Conservation Officer and the County's Sheriff's Department following regular monitoring practices,

especially at more remote, isolated locations in the unincorporated area where illegal dumping may be more difficult to detect than in more developed areas. As violators are determined and/or cited, citations will be issued and violators handed over to the local Magistrate Court. The lack of the presence of green box sites in the county likely goes a long way to reducing the problem of illegal dumping in the unincorporated areas.

The City of Cochran is working with citizens and businesses to get a better handle on the problem. The City is presently discussing the option of increasing the penalties, particularly monetary, for violators, and the City's Police Department is planning to increase patrols in commercial areas. Commercial businesses are also being encouraged to place locks on their solid waste containers to make it more difficult for potential violators to have access to open garbage containers. These enforcement measures should help to create more effective obstacles to deter illegal dumping than is presently the case.

4.4.3 Illegal Dumping/Littering Needs and Goals

Goal:

1. Develop an active codes enforcement program countywide with an increased emphasis on litter control, promoting recycling, source reduction, and reuse where appropriate. Additional funds to expand the program's scope should be pursued as necessary.

Needs:

1. Develop additional ordinances as needed and appropriate to strengthen illegal dumping enforcement and prevention efforts.

2. Establish an environmental codes enforcement program and pursue funding to expand the program as appropriate.

4.5 Inventory of Haulers of Solid Waste Serving Bleckley County

Houston County Subtitle D Municipal Solid Waste Landfill
2080 Georgia Highway 247 South
Kathleen, GA 31047

Houston County Subtitle D C&D Landfill
2080 Georgia Highway 247 South
Kathleen, GA 31047

Bleckley County Sole Commissioner
112 North Second Street
P.O. Box 272
Cochran, GA 31014

City of Cochran
P.O. Box 8
Cochran, GA 31014

Section 5 Disposal Element

5.1 Disposal

5.1.1 Disposal Facilities

The Houston County Subtitle D Municipal Solid Waste Landfill is a public municipal solid waste landfill located at 2080 Georgia Highway 247 South near Kathleen, Georgia in the southeastern part of the county. According to GA EPD, in 2008, Houston County's landfill had a remaining capacity of 3,429,998.0 cubic yards. Its average daily tons disposed in 2008 were 512, and it has a rate of fill of 853 cubic yards per day. Its estimated fill date is August 15, 2019, which means that the landfill has approximately 9.88 years of remaining permitted capacity in its current allotment of cells. However, only 200 acres out of approximately 2,400 acres of total space available is currently being utilized, and there are plans within the next five years to pursue the expansion of cells beyond the present 200 acres currently in use. It is estimated that the life of the total site should exceed 100 years with the future expansion. Therefore, there is ample room for growth and sufficient disposal capacity to meet the disposal needs of both Bleckley County and the City of Cochran for the upcoming 10-year planning period. The landfill accepts waste ranging from household to industrial waste.

The C & D portion of the Houston County Subtitle D Municipal Solid Waste Landfill is also located at 2080 Georgia Highway 247 South near Kathleen, Georgia. According to GA EPD, in 2008, the C&D portion of Houston County's landfill had a remaining capacity of 3,254,568.0 cubic yards. Its average daily tons disposed in 2008 were 202, and it has a rate of fill of 404 cubic yards per day. Its estimated fill date is January 15, 2034, which means that the landfill has approximately 25 years of remaining capacity.

It is estimated that Bleckley County and the City of Cochran will dispose approximately 3.6243 pounds per person per day from 2008 to 2019, as described previously in Section 2 "Waste Reduction Element." This 3.6243 pounds per person per day figure calculated for 2008 is assumed to remain static throughout the planning period to better assure proper

disposal capacity, even though it may well change. According to the State of Georgia's 2007 Annual Solid Waste Report, the statewide disposal rate in FY 2008 was 6.07 pounds/per person/per day. Therefore, the disposal rate for Bleckley County and the City of Cochran is presently below the state disposal rate.

5.1.2 Thermal Treatment Technologies

Neither Bleckley County nor the City of Cochran have any thermal treatment technologies, nor are any planned in the future.

5.1.3 Assessment of Solid Waste Disposal Facilities

The current municipal solid waste disposal needs for Bleckley County for the upcoming ten-year planning period can be met by continuing to utilize the Houston County Subtitle D Municipal Solid Waste Landfill.

According to GA EPD, in 2008, Houston County's landfill had a remaining capacity of 3,429,998.0 cubic yards. It is estimated that the County will dispose a total of approximately 106,229 tons of municipal solid waste from 2008-2019 (see Table 2-2). Currently, the landfill has an estimated fill date of August 15, 2019. However, with 2,400 acres of available landfill space and only some 200 acres currently being utilized, there is ample room for growth in addition to plans for future expansion within the next five years. With the future expansion, the life of the total site should exceed 100 years. For the present time, there is adequate capacity to meet the waste disposal needs of Bleckley County. However, should capacity become an issue in the future, the County can utilize several other regional landfills in close proximity to Bleckley County, located in Taylor, Telfair, and Wayne counties. Future expansion of the local recycling program will further facilitate the State of Georgia's waste reduction goal of 23% waste reduction by 2017.

The current C & D needs of Bleckley County can be met with continuing to utilize the Houston County landfill. The C & D portion of the Houston County Subtitle D Landfill has an estimated fill date of January 15, 2034. With only brown goods being transported from Bleckley County to the landfill in Houston County at this time, there is more than adequate

capacity for Bleckley County's C&D needs throughout the upcoming ten-year planning period.

5.1.4 Assurance of Ten-year Disposal Capacity (See Attachment A)

Continue to utilize the current method of solid waste disposal throughout the county.

5.1.5 Contingency Strategy

In case of a natural disaster or another event (e.g. the closure of the Houston County MSW Landfill or should that facility be unable to receive permitting for future expansion) that may interrupt current disposal methods or generate a large amount of extra waste, Bleckley County and the City of Cochran have access to a number of regional landfill facilities in close proximity to Bleckley County to handle the excess waste that such an event might generate. These facilities are located in Taylor, Telfair, and Wayne counties. The Broadhurst Environmental Landfill in Wayne County would be the principal option and most likely alternative destination. The County also has an area located at the County's transfer station that may be utilized for the temporary storage of debris resulting from natural disasters or other similar events, and the City of Cochran can utilize its inert landfill to assist with temporary storage in the event of an emergency also. Should it become necessary, one or more local governments would also seek to borrow equipment from nearby local governments to assist in the continuation of disposal services in the event of an emergency.

If these options are necessary to adequately serve Bleckley County, the County and/or City would be required to go through the proper procedures to be able to put the options into operation. The time frame required would probably require at least three to four days to be able to go through the proper procedures to continue disposal. If disposal should become interrupted in case of a natural disaster or other event, the public will be notified on what procedures will take place via the media. This notification will take place through the *Cochran Journal*, www.cityofcochran.com, www.bleckley.org, and through public service announcements on the radio. In the event of the loss of electrical service

and these options were to not be available, county and municipal officials would communicate via cellular communications to help spread notification to the public that the County and/or City would not be able to accept municipal solid waste until such time as local collection and disposal capabilities could be returned to full operational status.

In the event of a natural disaster that generates an excessive amount of vegetative storm debris to the degree that it would not be feasible or practical to store such debris at the County's transfer station, the City's inert landfill, or transport to any neighboring facility, Bleckley County and the City of Cochran may request a variance to EPD's open burning requirements. The disaster would be of such a nature that it would require the local Emergency Management Agency or State Emergency Operations Center to activate, thereby meeting EPD's guidelines for a qualifying event. The vegetative storm debris will be solely generated within Bleckley County and exceed 300 cubic yards in order for it to become necessary for one or both of the County's local governments to request a variance for burning the overload/excess material. No Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste or other types of waste shall be included with the vegetative storm debris. Should a variance for open burning of vegetative storm debris be granted, the County and/or the City will follow the proper procedures so as to maintain compliance with Section 391-3-1-.02 (5) of EPD's Air Quality Rules.

5.1.6 Disposal Needs and Goals

Goals:

1. Maintain current method of solid waste disposal throughout the county.
2. Maintain current method of disposal of recyclables county-wide.
3. Maintain current method of disposal of special management items

county-wide.

Needs:

1. Do an analysis on additional recyclable materials available for collection in the community.
2. Create a plan for expansion of recycling efforts, household curbside recycling and otherwise, into the City of Cochran as feasible.

Section 6 Land Limitation Element

6.1 Natural Environmental Areas

Bleckley County's abundant natural resources are becoming recognized by its citizens as an increasingly important asset to the County's future growth and development. A growing interest is emerging in protecting the area's fragile resources while balancing the need for growth. The following discussion highlights the natural environmental limitations of Bleckley County.

6.1.1 Water Supply Watersheds

Water supply watersheds are not present in Bleckley County and thus are not applicable. However, should a water supply watershed be found to be in existence within the County, DNR Rule 391-3-16.01(7)(c)1 requires that at any location within a small water supply watershed, solid waste handling facilities must include synthetic liners and leachate collection systems. It is desired by the County that no such solid waste handling facility locate within one-half mile of any water supply watershed, should one be found to be located within the County.

6.1.2 Groundwater Recharge Areas

According to the 1989 Hydrologic Atlas 18 of the Georgia Geologic Survey, Bleckley County's significant groundwater recharge areas are mostly contained in the Floridan/Jacksonian Aquifer in the western and southwestern portions of the county adjacent to the Ocmulgee River, with a sliver of the eastern portion of the county lying in the Miocene/Pliocene Recent Unconfined Aquifer (See Attachment C). These areas have been identified by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources in a companion pollution susceptibility map as having average/medium pollution susceptibility. An ordinance modeled after the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Part V Environmental Planning Criteria, "*Environmental Conservation, On-Site Sewage Management, and Permit Ordinance*," has been in effect both in the County as well as the City of Cochran since October, 1999, and groundwater recharge areas are located within the City's jurisdiction.

6.1.3 Wetlands

A sizable portion of Bleckley County (approximately 20 percent) has also been designated as wetlands on the National Wetlands Inventory prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (See Attachment C). Much of the wetlands in the County are located along the Ocmulgee River, the Gum Swamp Creek Corridor, the Jordan Creek Corridor, and other major creeks, but not all of the wetlands in the County are confined to these areas. A sizable area of wetlands is located just to the west of Cochran and adjacent to the city limits along Jordan Creek. These areas of the County are known to contain a variety of habitats of protected flora and fauna, as well as nesting and breeding grounds for a number of protected animals. DNR Rule 391-3-16-.03(3)(e) maintains that solid waste landfills may constitute an unacceptable use of a wetland, and hazardous sanitary solid waste landfills are prohibited in a wetland area under Section 6.5 of the local *“Environmental Conservation, On-Site Sewage Management, and Permit Ordinance”* that was adopted locally in October, 1999. DNR Rule 391-3-4.05(1)(e) requires that no solid waste handling facility be located in a wetlands area, as defined by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, unless evidence is provided by the applicant to EPD that the use of such wetlands has been permitted or otherwise authorized under all other applicable state and federal laws and rules. The owner or operator of the solid waste handling facility must place a demonstration of compliance in the operating record and give notification that it has been placed in the operating record. Any solid waste handling facility must also demonstrate consistency with the locally adopted *“Environmental Conservation, On-Site Sewage Management, and Permit Ordinance”* (October, 1999), *The Bleckley County Joint Comprehensive Plan Partial Update* (2008), and *The Bleckley County Joint Comprehensive Plan* (1994, Full Plan Update to occur in 2011).

6.1.4 Protected River Corridors

The County also has one river, the Ocmulgee River, which is identified for protection under the 1991 River Corridor Protection Act (See Attachment C). The Ocmulgee River flows on the western end of the county, forming the County’s northwestern boundary with Houston County. Flowing south and east from Bleckley County, the Ocmulgee River combines with the Oconee River in Telfair County, southeast of Bleckley County, to form the Altamaha River, the largest free flowing river (unobstructed by dams) on the East Coast

of the United States. From the confluence of the Oconee and Ocmulgee rivers, the Altamaha River flows southeast before emptying into the Atlantic Ocean just north of Brunswick at Altamaha Sound. It is Georgia's largest river-swamp system and is vitally important in maintaining the ecological balance of the state's estuarine coast.

A variety of hunting and fishing opportunities are located along the river, making it very popular for recreational uses. A portion of the Ocmulgee Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is located in the northern part of the county, along with the Ocmulgee Public Fishing Area, both of which offer the potential for tourism opportunities. The Ocmulgee WMA is situated in the northwest part of the county on the eastern side of the river, encompassing some 20,560 acres. The area is one of three locations in Georgia that is home to the black bear, with an estimated 300 black bears inhabiting the area. In addition, the Ocmulgee WMA Gum Swamp Creek Tract is located in the southeastern portion of the county. It is used primarily for hunting, with the tract having the designation as one of the few bird dog training areas in the state. The Ocmulgee Public Fishing Area is located within the Ocmulgee WMA in northwestern Bleckley County and is a 106 acre lake that was completed in June, 2006. Although there currently are no public boat landings in the County, there likely are a number of private boat landings in existence along the river. Development along the Ocmulgee River in Bleckley County has been minimal, generally limited to weekend hunting/fishing dwellings. Any development in these areas would likely be based largely on adequate access to roads.

These resources are somewhat protected throughout Bleckley County under a River Corridor Protection Plan that was adopted countywide in 1991, as well as a model ordinance that was based on DNR's Part V Environmental Planning Criteria, "*Environmental Conservation, On-Site Sewage Management, and Permit Ordinance*" (October, 1999). This ordinance provides for strict limitations on the use of land near these identified resources. However, because the community wishes to utilize the Ocmulgee River and the Ocmulgee Wildlife Management Area for recreation, tourism, and natural resource conservation, it is desired that no solid waste handling facility locate within one-half mile of either the Ocmulgee River or Ocmulgee

WMA. Any proposed solid waste handling facility must demonstrate compliance with the above cited Environmental Conservation Ordinance and consistency with *The Bleckley County Joint Comprehensive Plan Partial Update* (2008) and *The Bleckley County Joint Comprehensive Plan* (1994, Full Plan Update to occur in 2011).

6.1.5 Protected Mountains

One other environmental resource identified by DNR under the Part V Environmental Planning Criteria, protected mountains, is not present in Bleckley County and thus is not applicable.

6.2 Criteria for Siting Solid Waste Facilities

Because of the County's abundant natural resources and the intent of the County's Community Vision to utilize these resources in the County's future growth and development, the County does not believe that the location of any additional solid waste handling facilities, with the exception of those local government facilities that may be necessary in the future, would be compatible with the community's vision for its future growth and development.

6.2.1 Local Zoning

While Bleckley County does not currently have a zoning ordinance in place, the unincorporated area of the County has only limited land use regulations, such as building/construction codes and manufactured housing regulations, in place at this time. The City of Cochran does have a zoning ordinance in place covering its jurisdiction. The County recognizes the need for more adequate land use regulation, but generating and maintaining a sufficient level of public support towards adoption and implementation has been difficult. DNR Rule 391-3-4.05(1)(a) requires that a site must conform to all local zoning and land use ordinances. Any applicant proposing to locate a solid waste handling facility must provide written verification to EPD demonstrating that the proposed site complies with all local zoning and land use regulations, if any. This must also include a letter from the local government stating whether the proposed site complies with all local zoning and land use regulations, if any. The verification must be provided at the time a permit application is submitted to EPD and reaffirmed by the local government prior to a permit being issued.

Any proposed solid waste handling facility must show how it is compatible and consistent with the local adopted joint comprehensive plan, *The Bleckley County Joint Comprehensive Plan Partial Update*, (2008), *The Bleckley County Joint Comprehensive Plan* (1994, Full Plan Update to occur in 2011), and its expressed community vision and desired future land development patterns, as well as compliance with all local ordinances.

There are several factors to be taken into consideration when determining the compatibility of solid waste handling facilities to the surrounding area. The Natural and Cultural Resources Element and other portions of the Bleckley County Joint Comprehensive Plan, as well as this Solid Waste Management Plan, identify areas where such a facility may or may not be acceptable. DNR Rule 391-3-4.05(1)(b) requires a local government to provide documentation which demonstrates compliance with O.C.G.A. 12-8-26(a) when beginning the site selection process for a municipal solid waste disposal facility, as well as when a local government takes action resulting in a publicly- or privately-owned municipal solid waste disposal facility. The community has designated a Greater Cochran Growth Area, which extends one mile beyond the city limits of Cochran and the U.S. 23 Cochran Bypass, as the appropriate location for intense urban growth in the local comprehensive plan.

It is the community's presumption that any proposed solid waste handling facility is not a compatible location if proposed for a location within, or within one mile of, any designated city limit or the Bypass, and would be inconsistent with the community's expressed community vision and adopted comprehensive plan. Any proposed solid waste handling facility must demonstrate consistency with *The Bleckley County Joint Comprehensive Plan* and *The Bleckley County Joint Comprehensive Plan Partial Update* and why the community presumption of incompatibility of location in or near a municipal growth area is incorrect.

6.2.2 Airport Safety

Other considerations include airport safety. It is the County's intention that no solid waste handling facility locate within at least 5,000 feet of the Cochran Municipal Airport to ensure the safety of incoming and outgoing aircraft from interference caused by birds that might be attracted to the solid waste facility.

This airport is presently a Level II airport, and DNR Rule 391-3-4.05 (1) (c) requires “that new solid waste landfill units or lateral expansions of existing units shall not be within 5,000 feet of any public use or private airport runway end used by only piston type aircraft.

6.2.3 Flood Plains

Flood plains are another consideration (See Attachment C). The County does not desire that such a facility locate in the 100-year flood plain. In fact, DNR Rule 391-3-4-.05 (1) (d) states that a facility cannot restrict the flow of the 100-year flood. The protection of natural functioning rural landscapes and natural resources are an expressed and important element of the future Bleckley County identified in the community’s joint comprehensive plan.

6.2.4 Wetlands

Wetlands are protected by the countywide Environmental Conservation Ordinance that was adopted in October, 1999 that is based on DNR’s Part V Environmental Planning Criteria. The County presumes that any solid waste handling facility within one-half mile of any stream located in or near a wetland is not consistent with the local adopted county joint comprehensive plan. DNR Rule 391-3-4.05(1)(e) requires that no solid waste handling facility be located in a wetlands area, as defined by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, unless evidence is provided by the applicant to EPD that the use of such wetlands has been permitted or otherwise authorized under all other applicable state and federal laws and rules. The owner or operator of the solid waste handling facility must place a demonstration of compliance in the operating record and give notification that it has been placed in the operating record. The owner or operator must also show compliance and compatibility with the policies, community vision, and other facets of the community’s joint comprehensive plan.

6.2.5 Fault Areas, Seismic Impact Zones, and Unstable Areas

Other considerations such as fault areas, seismic impact zones, and unstable areas do not apply to Bleckley County at this time. However, should such entities be found to be existence in Bleckley County at a later date, all applicable DNR rules concerning such entities will be followed. DNR Rule 391-3-4-.05(1)(f) requires that new solid waste handling facilities shall not be

located within 200 feet of a fault that has had displacement in the Holocene Epoch unless the owner or operator can demonstrate that an alternative setback distance of less than 200 feet will prevent damage to the structural integrity of the facility and will be protective of human health and the environment. DNR Rule 391-3-4-.05(1)(g) prohibits the location of new solid waste handling facilities in seismic impact zones unless the owner or operator can demonstrate that all containment structures are designed to resist the maximum horizontal acceleration in lithified earth material for the site. DNR Rule 391-3-4-.05(1)(h) requires owners or operators of new solid waste handling facilities located in unstable areas to demonstrate that engineering measures have been incorporated in the facility's design to ensure that the structure's integrity will not be disrupted. It is desired by Bleckley County that no solid waste handling facilities locate within one-half mile of any such fault area, seismic impact zone, or unstable area that may be found to be in existence in Bleckley County in the future.

6.2.6 Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas

Groundwater recharge areas are protected by the countywide ordinance that was adopted that is based on DNR's Part V Environmental Planning Criteria. The County also desires that no facility locate within two miles of any significant groundwater recharge areas. DNR Rule 391-3-4-.05(1)(j) requires such facilities within two miles of significant groundwater recharge areas to have liners and leachate collection systems, except for facilities accepting waste generated from outside the county in which the facility is located. In that case, the facility must be totally outside of any area that is designated as a significant groundwater recharge area. The owner or operator must also show compliance and compatibility with the policies, community vision, and other facets of the community's joint comprehensive plan.

6.2.7 Other Environmentally Sensitive Areas

The County is also desirous of protecting the many and various natural streams that dot the area's landscape. Solid waste handling facilities are also discouraged from locating near any area of the county that is identified as prime farmland or as an area having either archaeological or historical significance. The owner or operator must also show compliance and

compatibility with the policies, community vision, and other facets of the community's joint comprehensive plan.

6.3 Local Procedures for Siting Solid Waste Facilities

6.3.1 Required Procedures

As part of the site selection process, an applicant must prepare an engineering report detailing how the solid waste handling facility will comply with all applicable local, state, and federal regulations, as well as compliance and compatibility with the policies, community vision, and other facets of the community's joint comprehensive plan and this solid waste management plan. The report must also discuss how the facility will be compatible with surrounding land uses and community facilities, including detailing the impact on roads and any required improvements, the uses of land in close proximity, adjacent properties, required water system improvements, wastewater management systems, and erosion control measures. It should also articulate information pertaining to the operation of the facility, such as the hours of operation, location and size of the facility, capacity, types of materials to be accepted, disposal fees, private or public usage, and number of employees. This would also be required should one or both of the local governments propose such a facility. Finally, the applicant must provide certification that all State and Federal agencies and departments that regulate landfills have been timely notified of the application and the intent to construct a landfill.

Upon the submittal of a completed application to the County or City, whichever is applicable, the applicant must notify all adjoining property owners and all property owners where any portion of their property is within 1,000 feet of the proposed landfill's boundaries via first class mail. Certification of the notification, along with a list of all property owners, must be provided to the County and/or City, whichever is applicable.

6.3.2 Public Notification

Along with an engineering report, the applicant must prepare a Public Participation Plan. This plan will highlight to the County and/or the City how the applicant will inform the public, businesses, and interested parties of the proposed facility. The plan must identify the order in which these parties will be notified and the manner in which such notification will be conducted. The

County and/or the City would then review the plan, and upon approval, the applicant would execute the plan and prepare a Public Participation Report that would document the results of the Public Participation Plan. A Public Hearing would then be held at the applicant's expense to solicit the views and concerns of local citizens. Should one or both of the local governments propose such a facility, they would also be required to follow these public notification procedures. The applicant is also required to provide at their expense for notice of a public hearing to be published in the local newspaper no less than seven days prior to the required public hearing.

6.3.3 Impact of Proposed Facility on Solid Waste Management Infrastructure, Solid Waste Management Collection and Disposal, Solid Waste Management Local and State Waste Reduction Goals, and The Bleckley County Joint Comprehensive Plan

Finally, the applicant must provide an Impact Statement and an Environmental Assessment prior to any action by the County and/or the City or any public hearing. This is so that the proposed impact on the current solid waste management infrastructure, collection capability and disposal capacity, and the County's ability to meet the state's 23% per capita waste disposal reduction goal can be adequately addressed, along with the potential impact on the surrounding natural environment. The Impact Statement should also address compliance and compatibility of the project with this Solid Waste Management Plan as well as the policies and community vision outlined in the Bleckley County Joint Comprehensive Plan. Upon the completion and submittal of all required documentation, public hearings, and public meetings, the County and/or the City will then conduct a review and issue its findings as to the approval or denial, based on all applicable local, state, and federal regulations, and compatibility with local plans. Should one or both of the local governments propose such a facility, they would also have to conduct an Impact Statement and Environmental Assessment to ensure the facility's compatibility with the aforementioned criteria.

6.4 Land Limitation Needs and Goals:

Goal:

1. Implement a formal application process with rules and procedures updated regarding solid waste handling facilities that are consistent with the newly adopted Solid Waste Management Plan.

Need:

1. Meet with all applicable stakeholders to establish a formal application process that will insure that solid waste handling facilities are located in areas that are suitable for such facilities, are compatible with surrounding land uses, are in compliance with applicable local, state, and federal regulations, preserve the existing rural character and maintain/enhance the current quality of life while providing for compatible and quality future growth and development, prevent nuisances and uses disruptive to the community's plans and vision, and are not considered for location in areas that have been identified as unsuitable due to environmental or land use limitations.

Section 7 Education and Public Involvement Element

7.1 Public Education Programs

The local governments in Bleckley County have been limited in their efforts to educate the public concerning solid waste management. Bleckley County does not have sufficient funding at the present time for a full-time Environmental Codes Enforcement officer, who would be responsible for enforcing a local codes enforcement program to combat the problems of littering and illegal dumping countywide. However, the County does have a building codes program in place, which does present the possibility that environmental codes could be placed under the duties of that program at least until such time as sufficient funds were to become available for a separate environmental codes program. This merits further exploration. The City of Cochran would also be covered by this program.

In addition to enforcing the countywide codes ordinance, the local code enforcement officer would have the responsibility of educating the general public about proper solid waste management and source reduction. Realizing that educating the youth of the County is essential to any public education effort, the code enforcement officer could periodically give presentations to the local schools and distribute literature and other materials promoting the use of recycling and the proper disposal of household waste and other materials. Informational articles could be periodically submitted to the local media to help reach out to the public at large. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources previously offered funds under the Scrap Tire Management Program for the hiring of a Code Enforcement officer, but funding is unavailable at this time. This is a potential avenue that merits some exploration by local officials should the program become active once again at the state level or local funds become sufficient enough to sustain such a program.

Without some form of environmental codes enforcement program, the County has had very limited effectiveness to date in helping to reduce the amount of illegal dumping, particularly in the City, due to the lack of abundant and available resources, although the lack of green boxes has likely helped the problem at least somewhat in the unincorporated areas. As a result, of its

limited effectiveness on both the enforcement front and the education side, Bleckley County needs to pursue the establishment of an environmental code enforcement program and investigate any available avenues of funding to expand the program as appropriate.

In addition to the lack of an environmental codes enforcement program, there is no formal household recycling program in Cochran. The County does have a limited household recycling program. Separate containers for various recyclable items are available at the County transfer station. Items that are accepted for recycling include paper, cardboard, aluminum cans, and scrap metal (C&D waste). The County plans to start accepting plastic in the near future. The only recycling that takes place at the present time in Cochran involves the recycling of construction and demolition (C&D) and non-household items. Cochran collects scrap metal, tires, batteries, white goods, and brown goods on a once per week basis.

The lack of available resources due to the County's small tax base creates limits on the scope of any program that is undertaken. The County and City recognize the need to foster increased utilization of recycling activities countywide and will continue to pursue avenues to expand their recycling operations and increase its use by the local citizenry.

Local government participation in local or regional public involvement programs is rather active. The City of Cochran has an active Garden Club and Red Hat Society. The City of Cochran also has two annual cleanup days, as well as an annual roadside cleanup day that extends into the County. The City collects Christmas trees each year and takes them to a five-acre EPD permitted inert landfill. Bleckley County and Cochran currently participate in the annual "Let's Keep Georgia Peachy Clean" cleanup week. The local governments plan to continue their participation in the future.

7.2 Solid Waste Advisory Committee/Task Force

This is not applicable currently in either of the local governments in Bleckley County. There are no plans to establish such a committee in the near future.

7.3 School System Programs

There currently is no organized education program through either the Bleckley County School System or Middle Georgia College. Any such program that is established in the future would likely be in conjunction with a countywide environmental codes enforcement program. A partnership between the local governments, Middle Georgia College, and the local school system focusing on recycling and source reduction education would likely go a long way towards providing needed education and outreach efforts within the community.

7.4 Litter Control Programs

Bleckley County and Cochran utilize inmate labor from local law enforcement to conduct roadside pickups and other cleanup methods. Bleckley County presently uses those sentenced to community service detail to conduct cleanup activities on an as needed basis, as well as inmates from Bleckley Probation Detention Center four days per week. The City of Cochran also utilizes local inmate detail from the Bleckley Probation Detention Center Monday through Thursday for the same purpose in their jurisdiction.

7.5 Regional RC Programs

There currently are no RC programs in effect in Bleckley County, nor are there any plans to establish a program(s) in the near future.

7.6 Education and Public Involvement Needs and Goals

Goals:

1. Develop a countywide education and technical assistance program as a joint effort among Bleckley County and the City of Cochran in source reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting; and seek funding as appropriate to expand the program.
2. Increase the voluntary recycling and reduction opportunities for businesses and industries.
3. Maintain and increase participation in local, regional, and state beautification efforts, both in the incorporated and unincorporated areas, and form additional local programs as appropriate.

4. Increase efforts to educate citizens as to the benefits of recycling and mulching.

5. Seek to establish a partnership among the County, City, and Middle Georgia College concerning recycling and waste reduction education as appropriate.

Needs:

1. Increase the promotion and utilization of recycling activities county-wide through establishing an environmental codes enforcement program, possibly in conjunction with the building codes program as warranted.

2. Pursue funding to establish an environmental codes enforcement program as appropriate.

3. Meet with local industries as needed to increase industry participation in local recycling efforts.

4. Work with Middle Georgia College to increase participation in local recycling and waste reduction activities.

Section 8 Implementation Strategy

8.1 Summary of Needs and Goals

8.1.1 Waste Reduction Needs and Goals

Goals:

1. Work towards meeting and/or exceeding the state waste reduction goal of 23% by 2017.
2. Encourage the expansion of recycling activities countywide, and continue to upgrade recycling facilities as appropriate.
3. Seek to establish a partnership among the County, City, and Middle Georgia College concerning recycling and other waste reduction activities as appropriate.
4. Implement a household recycling program in Cochran.

Needs:

1. The County needs to purchase an additional tub grinder.
2. Expand the recycling program in the unincorporated area to include the acceptance of plastics as appropriate.
3. Work with Cochran to expand recycling efforts as appropriate and feasible.
4. Purchase additional containers to accept recyclable materials as appropriate.
5. Pursue additional recyclable materials available for collection in the community.
6. Meet with local businesses and industries as needed to increase business community participation in local recycling efforts.
7. Meet with Middle Georgia College to increase participation in local recycling and waste reduction activities.

8.1.2 Collection Needs and Goals

Goals:

1. Maintain current standards of collecting solid waste in both the unincorporated areas of the County and the municipalities.
2. Maintain current method of collection and voluntary drop-off of recyclables and special management items countywide.
3. Work towards meeting the state waste reduction goal of 23% by 2017.
4. Encourage the increased utilization of recycling by all citizens.
5. Implement a household curbside recycling program in the City of Cochran.
6. Encourage the expansion of recycling activities countywide, and continue to upgrade recycling facilities as appropriate.
7. Maintain the current collection method of yard trimmings by the County and the City of Cochran.
8. Maintain current mulching program in the County as a means of proper disposal of yard trimmings, and seek to expand as appropriate.
9. Develop an active codes enforcement program countywide with an increased emphasis on litter control, promoting recycling, source reduction, and reuse where appropriate. Additional funds to expand the program's scope should be pursued as necessary.

Needs:

1. The City of Cochran needs to pursue acquiring new containers as needed and appropriate.
2. The City of Cochran needs to pursue the purchase of a front end loader and rear end loader as appropriate.

3. The County needs to pursue the purchase of additional recycling containers as appropriate.
4. Expand the recycling program in the unincorporated area to include the acceptance of plastics as appropriate.
5. Work with Cochran to expand recycling efforts as appropriate and feasible.
6. Pursue additional recyclable materials available for collection in the community.
7. The County needs to pursue the purchase of a new tub grinder and chipper for inert material/yard waste.
8. Purchase additional equipment for yard trimmings collection in both jurisdictions as appropriate.
9. Develop additional ordinances as needed and appropriate to strengthen illegal dumping enforcement and prevention efforts.
10. Establish an environmental codes enforcement program and pursue funding to expand the program as appropriate.

8.1.3 Disposal Needs and Goals

Goals:

1. Maintain current method of solid waste disposal throughout the County.
2. Maintain current method of disposal of recyclables county-wide.
3. Maintain current method of disposal of special management items county-wide.

Needs:

1. Do an analysis on additional recyclable materials available for collection in the community.

2. Create a plan for expansion of recycling efforts, household curbside recycling and otherwise, into the City of Cochran as feasible.

8.1.4 Land Limitation Needs and Goals

Goal:

1. Implement a formal application process with rules and procedures updated regarding solid waste handling facilities that are consistent with the newly adopted Solid Waste Management Plan.

Need:

1. Meet with all applicable stakeholders to establish a formal application process that will insure that solid waste handling facilities are located in areas that are suitable for such facilities, are compatible with surrounding land uses, are in compliance with applicable local, state, and federal regulations, preserve the existing rural character and maintain/enhance the current quality of life while providing for compatible and quality future growth and development, prevent nuisances and uses disruptive to the community's plans and vision, and are not considered for location in areas that have been identified as unsuitable due to environmental or land use limitations.

8.1.5 Education and Public Involvement Needs and Goals

Goals:

1. Develop a countywide education and technical assistance program as a joint effort among Bleckley County and the City of Cochran in source reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting; and seek funding as appropriate to expand the program.
2. Increase the voluntary recycling and reduction opportunities for businesses and industries.
3. Maintain and increase participation in local, regional, and state beautification efforts, both in the incorporated and unincorporated areas, and form additional local programs as appropriate.

4. Increase efforts to educate citizens as to the benefits of recycling and mulching.

5. Seek to establish a partnership among the County, City, and Middle Georgia College concerning recycling and waste reduction education as appropriate.

Needs:

1. Increase the promotion and utilization of recycling activities county-wide through establishing an environmental codes enforcement program, possibly in conjunction with the building codes program as warranted.

2. Pursue funding to establish the environmental codes enforcement program as appropriate.

3. Meet with local industries as needed to increase industry participation in local recycling efforts.

4. Work with Middle Georgia College to increase participation in local recycling and waste reduction activities.

Attachment A
Assurance of Ten-year Disposal
Capacity and Thermal Treatment
Technology

HOUSTON COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

2018 Kings Chapel Road
Perry, Georgia 31069-2528
(478) 987-4280 • Fax (478) 988-6007



April 5, 2010

Mr. Randy Hartmann, Director
Office of Waste Management
Georgia Department of Community Affairs
60 Executive Park South, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30329-2231

Dear Mr. Hartmann:

This letter serves as a disposal capacity assurance for waste generated by Bleckley County and the City of Cochran. Waste is hauled by the City of Cochran directly to the Houston County Municipal Solid Waste Landfill. Citizens in the unincorporated areas of the county haul their waste to the Bleckley County Transfer Station. Waste is then hauled by the County from the transfer station to the Houston County Municipal Solid Waste Landfill, and the Georgia EPD permit number for this facility is 076-020D(SL). This facility has a remaining capacity of 9.88 years, but the life of the total site should exceed 100 years with additional property planned for future expansion.

Thus, the Houston County Municipal Solid Waste Landfill has more than the required 10 years capacity assurance to receive and properly dispose of the municipal solid waste from all of the governments in Bleckley County. This assurance is based upon the estimated total disposal of approximately 106,229 tons of municipal solid waste from 2008-2019 by unincorporated Bleckley County and the City of Cochran.

Sincerely,


Terry Dietsch
Solid Waste Superintendent
Houston County Public Works

Attachment B
Implementation Strategy &
Short Term Work Program

BLECKLEY COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN
SHORT TERM WORK IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE
2008-2019

		WASTE REDUCTION ELEMENT			
ACTIVITY	YEARS THE PLAN IS COVERING	PARTY OR PARTIES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE ACTIVITY	ESTIMATED COST OF PROPOSED PROGRAMS	FUNDING SOURCE	
Seek to purchase an additional tub grinder and chipper	2012-2013	Bleckley County	\$10,000 (total)	SPLOST	
Seek to expand the recycling program to include plastics as appropriate	2010-2011	Bleckley County	\$10,000 (total)	General Fund	
Pursue the expansion of recycling efforts into the City of Cochran as appropriate and feasible	2008-2019	City of Cochran	NA	NA	
Meet with local industries as needed to increase industry participation in local recycling efforts	2008-2019	Bleckley County Codes Enforcement, Local Industries	NA	NA	
Work with Middle Georgia College to increase participation in local recycling and waste reduction activities	2008-2019	Bleckley County, City of Cochran, Bleckley County Codes Enforcement, Middle Georgia College	NA	NA	
COLLECTION ELEMENT					
ACTIVITY	YEARS THE PLAN IS COVERING	PARTY OR PARTIES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE ACTIVITY	ESTIMATED COST OF PROPOSED PROGRAMS	FUNDING SOURCE	
Purchase a new tub grinder and chipper	2012-2013	Bleckley County	\$10,000 (total)	SPLOST	
Purchase additional containers for recyclable materials as appropriate	2008-2019	Bleckley County	\$10,000 (total)	General Fund	
Seek to expand the recycling program to include plastics as appropriate	2010-2011	Bleckley County	\$10,000 (total)	General Fund	

BLECKLEY COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN
SHORT TERM WORK IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE
2008-2019

ACTIVITY	YEARS THE PLAN IS COVERING	COLLECTION ELEMENT	PARTY OR PARTIES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE ACTIVITY	ESTIMATED COST OF PROPOSED PROGRAMS	FUNDING SOURCE
Pursue funding to expand the environmental codes enforcement program as appropriate	2008-2019		Bleckley County	\$20,000 (total)	General Fund, DCA, GEFA
Explore as appropriate the feasibility of pursuing additional recyclable materials available for collection in the community	2008-2019		Bleckley County, City of Cochran	NA	NA
Develop additional ordinances as needed and appropriate to strengthen illegal dumping enforcement and prevention efforts	2008-2019		Bleckley County, City of Cochran	NA	NA
Purchase additional equipment for yard trimming collection as appropriate	2008-2019		Bleckley County, City of Cochran	\$10,000 (total)	General Fund
Pursue acquiring new containers as needed	2009-2019		City of Cochran	\$54/individual can	Enterprise Fund
Acquire an additional front end loader and rear end loader	2014		City of Cochran	\$200,000/vehicle	Enterprise Fund
Pursue the expansion of recycling efforts into the City of Cochran as appropriate and feasible	2008-2019		City of Cochran	NA	NA

BLECKLEY COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN
SHORT TERM WORK IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE
2008-2019

	DISPOSAL ELEMENT				
ACTIVITY	PARTY OR PARTIES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE ACTIVITY	YEARS THE PLAN IS COVERING	ESTIMATED COST OF PROPOSED PROGRAMS	FUNDING SOURCE	
Explore as appropriate the feasibility of pursuing additional recyclable materials available for collection in the community	Bleckley County, City of Cochran	2008-2019	NA	NA	NA
Create a plan for the expansion of recycling efforts into the City of Cochran as appropriate and feasible	City of Cochran	2008-2019	\$5,000 (study)	General Fund	
	LAND LIMITATION ELEMENT				
ACTIVITY Meet with all applicable stakeholders as appropriate to establish a formal application process for the location of solid waste handling facilities	PARTY OR PARTIES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE ACTIVITY Bleckley County, City of Cochran	YEARS THE PLAN IS COVERING 2008-2019	ESTIMATED COST OF PROPOSED PROGRAMS NA	FUNDING SOURCE NA	
	PUBLIC EDUCATION AND INVOLVEMENT ELEMENT				
ACTIVITY Develop a countywide education and technical assistance program as a joint effort among the County and the City of Cochran in source reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting, and pursue funding to establish the program as appropriate	PARTY OR PARTIES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE ACTIVITY Bleckley County, City of Cochran	YEARS THE PLAN IS COVERING 2008-2019	ESTIMATED COST OF PROPOSED PROGRAMS \$20,000 (total)	FUNDING SOURCE General Fund	

BLECKLEY COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN
SHORT TERM WORK IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE
2008-2019

ACTIVITY	YEARS THE PLAN IS COVERING	PARTY OR PARTIES RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGING THE ACTIVITY	ESTIMATED COST OF PROPOSED PROGRAMS	FUNDING SOURCE
Meet with local industries as needed to increase industry participation in local recycling efforts	2008-2019	Bleckley County Codes Enforcement, Local Industries	NA	NA
Work with Middle Georgia College to increase participation in local recycling and waste reduction activities	2008-2019	Bleckley County, City of Cochran, Bleckley County Codes Enforcement, Middle Georgia College	NA	NA

**Bleckley County Solid Waste Management Plan
Report of Accomplishments**

Bleckley County – Waste Stream Element

STWP ITEM: **Maintain an ongoing data collection system/procedure addressing collection, reduction, transfer, and disposal.**

COMPLETE: Yes.

PROJECT STATUS: A data collection system regarding solid waste collection and disposal will be continued on an ongoing basis. This item will not be relisted in the New STWP.

STWP ITEM: **Manage the data collection system.**

COMPLETE: Yes.

PROJECT STATUS: Bleckley County will continue to manage its data collection system for solid waste on an ongoing basis. This item will not be relisted in the New STWP.

STWP ITEM: **Monitor waste quantity and composition annually.**

COMPLETE: Yes.

PROJECT STATUS: Bleckley County will continue to monitor waste quantity and composition on an annual basis. This item will not be relisted in the New STWP.

**Bleckley County Solid Waste Management Plan
Report of Accomplishments**

Bleckley County – Collection Element

STWP ITEM: **Continued status quo for solid waste collection.**

COMPLETE: Yes.

PROJECT STATUS: The current system of citizens bringing their residential solid waste to the County's Transfer Station will continue on an ongoing basis. This item will not be relisted in the New STWP.

STWP ITEM: **Maintain drop-off system for recyclable materials.**

COMPLETE: Yes.

PROJECT STATUS: The County will continue to have citizens voluntarily bring their recyclables to the Transfer Station on an ongoing basis. This item will not be relisted in the New STWP.

STWP ITEM: **Operate and maintain convenience station.**

COMPLETE: Yes.

PROJECT STATUS: The County will continue to maintain and operate its Transfer Station on an ongoing basis. This item will not be relisted in the New STWP.

**Bleckley County Solid Waste Management Plan
Report of Accomplishments**

Bleckley County – Waste Reduction Element

STWP ITEM: **Develop drop-off system for recyclable materials.**

COMPLETE: Yes.

PROJECT STATUS: The County will continue to have citizens voluntarily bring their recyclables to the Transfer Station on an ongoing basis. This item will not be relisted in the New STWP.

STWP ITEM: **Determine additional drop-off sites for recyclable materials.**

COMPLETE: Yes.

PROJECT STATUS: The County continues to investigate potential additional drop-off areas for recyclables as needed. Citizens can also take their recycled newspapers to the Bleckley County Training Center. This item will be continued on an as needed basis and will not be relisted in the New STWP.

STWP ITEM: **Procure private services for collection of recyclables at drop-off sites.**

COMPLETE: Yes.

PROJECT STATUS: The County has a contract with Macon Iron to properly dispose of various recyclables. This item will continue on an ongoing basis and will not be relisted in the New STWP.

STWP ITEM: **Operate drop-off program.**

COMPLETE: Yes.

PROJECT STATUS: The County will continue to have citizens voluntarily bring their recyclables to the Transfer Station on an ongoing basis. This item will not be relisted in the New STWP.

STWP ITEM: **Target specific recyclables for commercial collection.**

COMPLETE: Yes.

PROJECT STATUS: This item will be continued on an ongoing basis and will not be relisted in the New STWP.

STWP ITEM: **Examine economic incentives for reduction and recycling for industries.**

COMPLETE: Yes.

PROJECT STATUS: This item will be continued on an ongoing basis and will not be relisted in the New STWP.

STWP ITEM: Operate a yard waste recovery program.
COMPLETE: Yes.
PROJECT STATUS: The County will continue to accept and dispose of yard waste at its Transfer Station. This item will be continued on an ongoing basis and will not be relisted in the New STWP.

STWP ITEM: Develop disposal fee incentives for reduction and recycling for industries.
COMPLETE: Yes.
PROJECT STATUS: This item will be continued on an ongoing basis and will not be relisted in the New STWP.

STWP ITEM: Operate a mulching program at the landfill site.
COMPLETE: No.
REASON NC: The County does not operate a mulching program at this time due to a lack of feasibility and adequate funding.
PROJECT STATUS: This item will not be relisted in the New STWP.

**Bleckley County Solid Waste Management Plan
Report of Accomplishments**

Bleckley County – Disposal Element

STWP ITEM: **Establish ongoing data collection system for monitoring disposal quantities.**

COMPLETE: Yes.

PROJECT STATUS: A data collection system regarding solid waste collection and disposal will be continued on an ongoing basis. This item will not be relisted in the New STWP.

**Bleckley County Solid Waste Management Plan
Report of Accomplishments**

Bleckley County – Joint Education Element

STWP ITEM: **Develop a countywide education and technical assistance program as a joint effort among the County and the City of Cochran in source reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting.**

COMPLETE: No.

REASON NC: The development of an education program is contingent upon the development of a sufficient level of interest that is not present at the current time.

PROJECT STATUS: This item will be restated in the New STWP.

STWP ITEM: **Coordinate educational activities through media opportunities.**

COMPLETE: No.

REASON NC: The development of an education program is contingent upon the development of a sufficient level of interest that is not present at the current time.

PROJECT STATUS: This item will not be restated in the New STWP.

STWP ITEM: **Coordinate special promotions for recycling activities.**

COMPLETE: No.

REASON NC: The development of an education program is contingent upon the development of a sufficient level of interest that is not present at the current time.

PROJECT STATUS: This item will not be restated in the New STWP.

**Bleckley County Solid Waste Management Plan
Report of Accomplishments**

Bleckley County – Financing Element

STWP ITEM: Determine the most effective methods of revenue recovery for solid waste management programs.

COMPLETE: Yes.

PROJECT STATUS: This item will be continued on an ongoing basis and will not be restated in the New STWP.

STWP ITEM: Determine tipping fees for disposal facility.

COMPLETE: Yes.

PROJECT STATUS: This item will be continued on an as needed basis and will not be restated in the New STWP.

STWP ITEM: Update user fees for waste collection and drop-off system.

COMPLETE: Yes.

PROJECT STATUS: This item will be continued on an as needed basis and will not be restated in the New STWP.

STWP ITEM: Continue to monitor economic incentives for commercial and industrial sectors considering solid waste disposal and recycling.

COMPLETE: Yes.

PROJECT STATUS: This item will be continued on an ongoing basis and will not be restated in the New STWP.

STWP ITEM: Engage in full cost accounting for solid waste management activities.

COMPLETE: Yes.

PROJECT STATUS: This item will be continued on an ongoing basis and will not be restated in the New STWP.

**Bleckley County Solid Waste Management Plan
Report of Accomplishments**

City of Cochran – Waste Stream Element

STWP ITEM: **Maintain an ongoing data collection system/procedure
addressing collection, reduction, transfer, and disposal.**

COMPLETE: Yes.

PROJECT STATUS: A data collection system regarding solid waste collection and disposal will be continued on an ongoing basis. This item will not be relisted in the New STWP.

**Bleckley County Solid Waste Management Plan
Report of Accomplishments**

City of Cochran – Collection Element

STWP ITEM: **Continued status quo for solid waste collection.**

COMPLETE: Yes.

PROJECT STATUS: The City will continue its once per week curbside collection system on an ongoing basis. This item will not be relisted in the New STWP.

STWP ITEM: **Maintain drop-off system for recyclable materials.**

COMPLETE: Yes.

PROJECT STATUS: The City allows citizens to bring scrap metals and white goods on a voluntary basis to a facility at the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant. This item will be continued on an ongoing basis and will not be relisted in the New STWP.

**Bleckley County Solid Waste Management Plan
Report of Accomplishments**

City of Cochran – Waste Reduction Element

STWP ITEM: **Develop drop-off system for recyclable materials.**
COMPLETE: Yes.
PROJECT STATUS: The City allows citizens to bring scrap metals and white goods on a voluntary basis to a facility at the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant. This item will be continued on an ongoing basis and will not be relisted in the New STWP.

STWP ITEM: **Examine economic incentives for reduction and recycling for industries.**
COMPLETE: Yes.
PROJECT STATUS: This item will be continued on an ongoing basis and will not be relisted in the New STWP.

STWP ITEM: **Operate a mulching program at a centralized site.**
COMPLETE: No.
REASON NC: The County does not operate a mulching program at this time due to a lack of feasibility and adequate funding.
PROJECT STATUS: This item will not be relisted in the New STWP.

**Bleckley County Solid Waste Management Plan
Report of Accomplishments**

City of Cochran – Joint Education Element

STWP ITEM: **Develop a countywide education and technical assistance program as a joint effort among the County and the City of Cochran in source reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting.**

COMPLETE: No.

REASON NC: The development of an education program is contingent upon the development of a sufficient level of interest that is not present at the current time.

PROJECT STATUS: This item will be restated in the New STWP.

STWP ITEM: **Coordinate educational activities through media opportunities.**

COMPLETE: No.

REASON NC: The development of an education program is contingent upon the development of a sufficient level of interest that is not present at the current time.

PROJECT STATUS: This item will not be restated in the New STWP.

STWP ITEM: **Coordinate special promotions for recycling activities.**

COMPLETE: No.

REASON NC: The development of an education program is contingent upon the development of a sufficient level of interest that is not present at the current time.

PROJECT STATUS: This item will not be restated in the New STWP.

**Bleckley County Solid Waste Management Plan
Report of Accomplishments**

City of Cochran – Financing Element

STWP ITEM: Determine the most effective methods of revenue recovery for solid waste management programs.

COMPLETE: Yes.

PROJECT STATUS: This item will be continued on an ongoing basis and will not be relisted in the New STWP.

STWP ITEM: Update user fees for waste collection and drop-off system.

COMPLETE: Yes.

PROJECT STATUS: This item will be continued on an as needed basis and will not be relisted in the New STWP.

STWP ITEM: Continue to monitor economic incentives for commercial and industrial sectors considering solid waste disposal and recycling.

COMPLETE: Yes.

PROJECT STATUS: This item will be continued on an ongoing basis and will not be relisted in the New STWP.

STWP ITEM: Engage in full cost accounting for solid waste management activities.

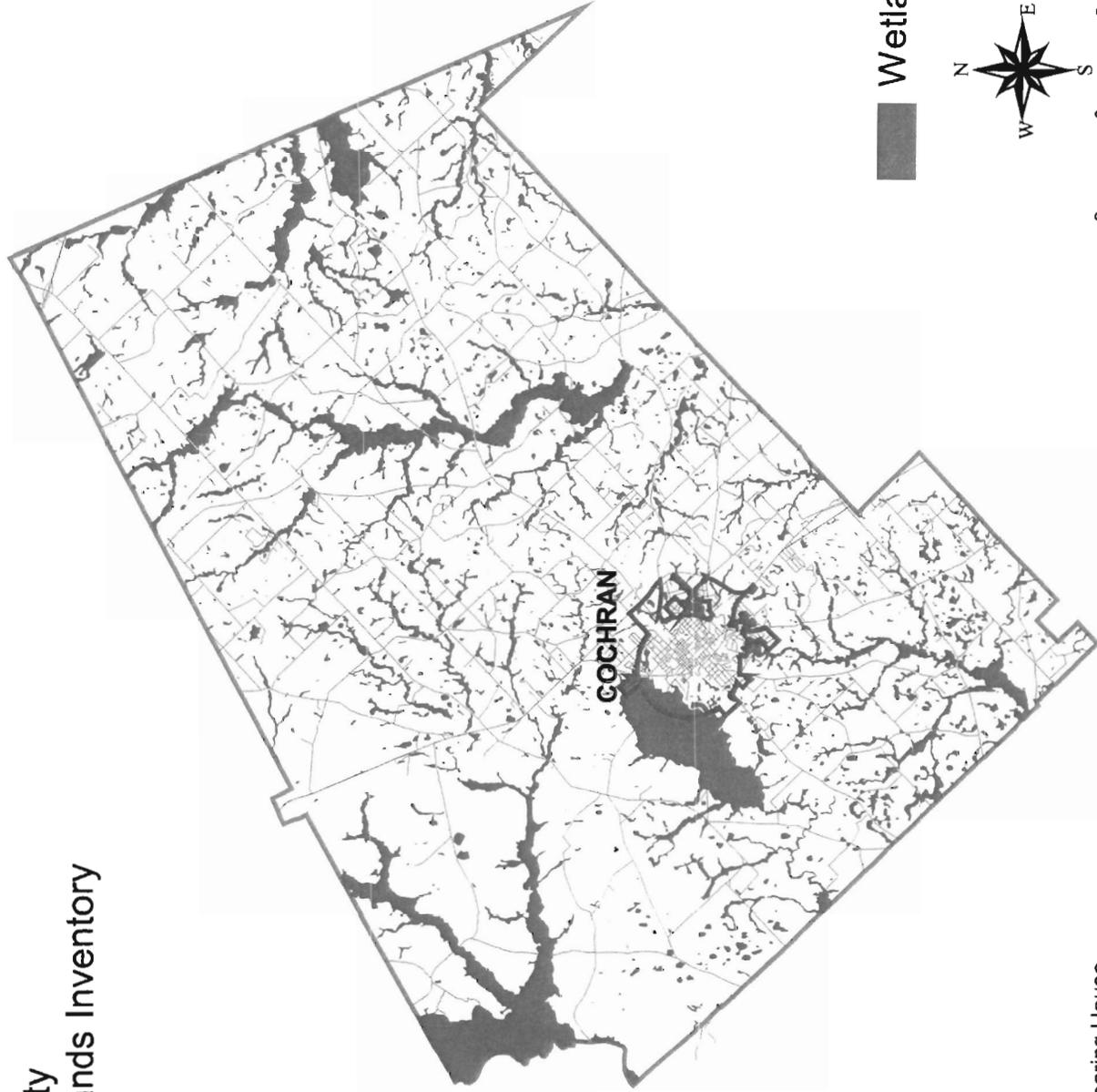
COMPLETE: Yes.

PROJECT STATUS: This item will be continued on an ongoing basis and will not be relisted in the New STWP.

Attachment C

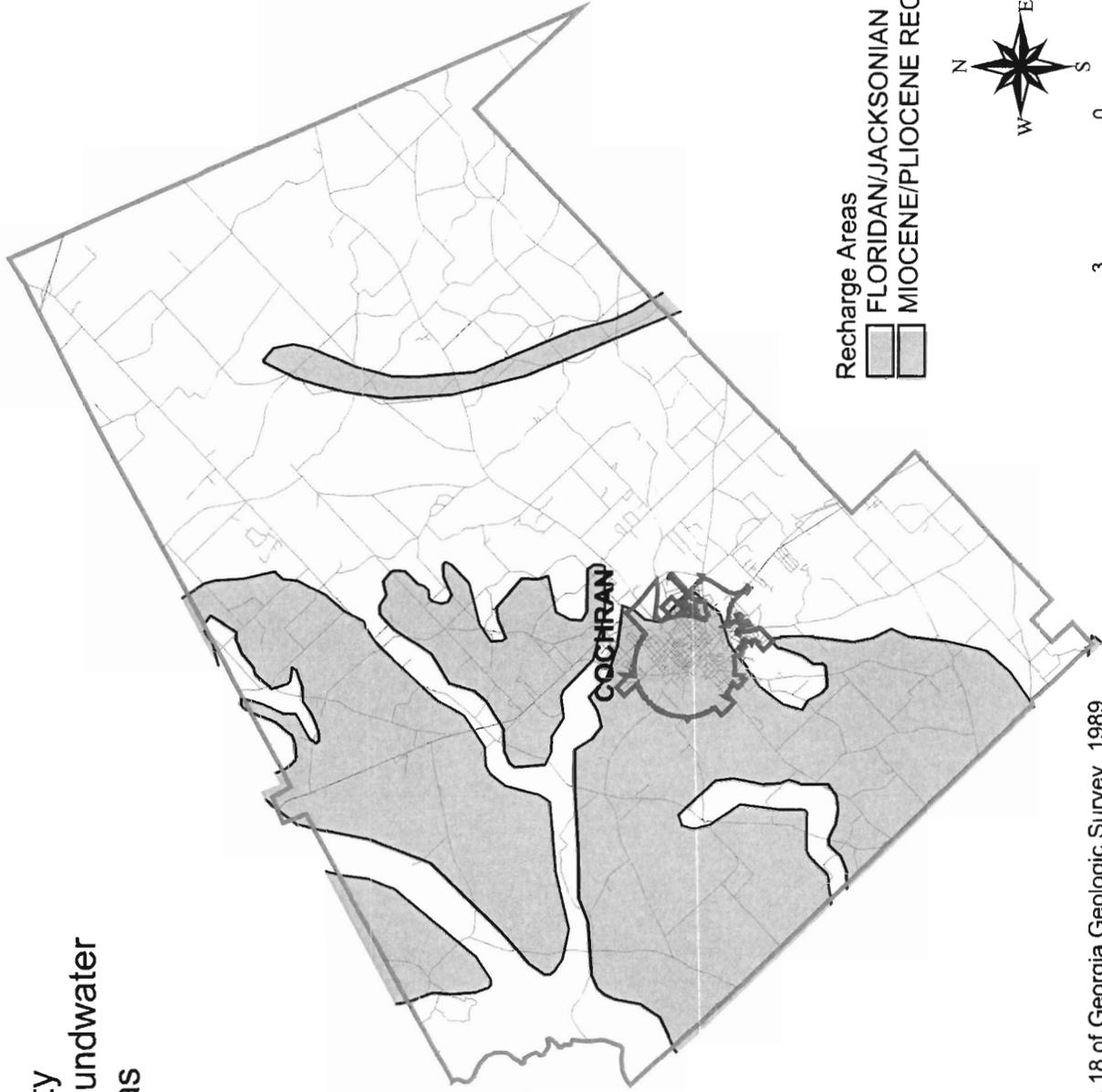
Maps

MAP SWP-1
Bleckley County
National Wetlands Inventory



Source: Georgia GIS Clearing House
Heart of Georgia Altamaha RC, 2009

**MAP SWP-2
Bleckley County
Significant Groundwater
Recharge Areas**



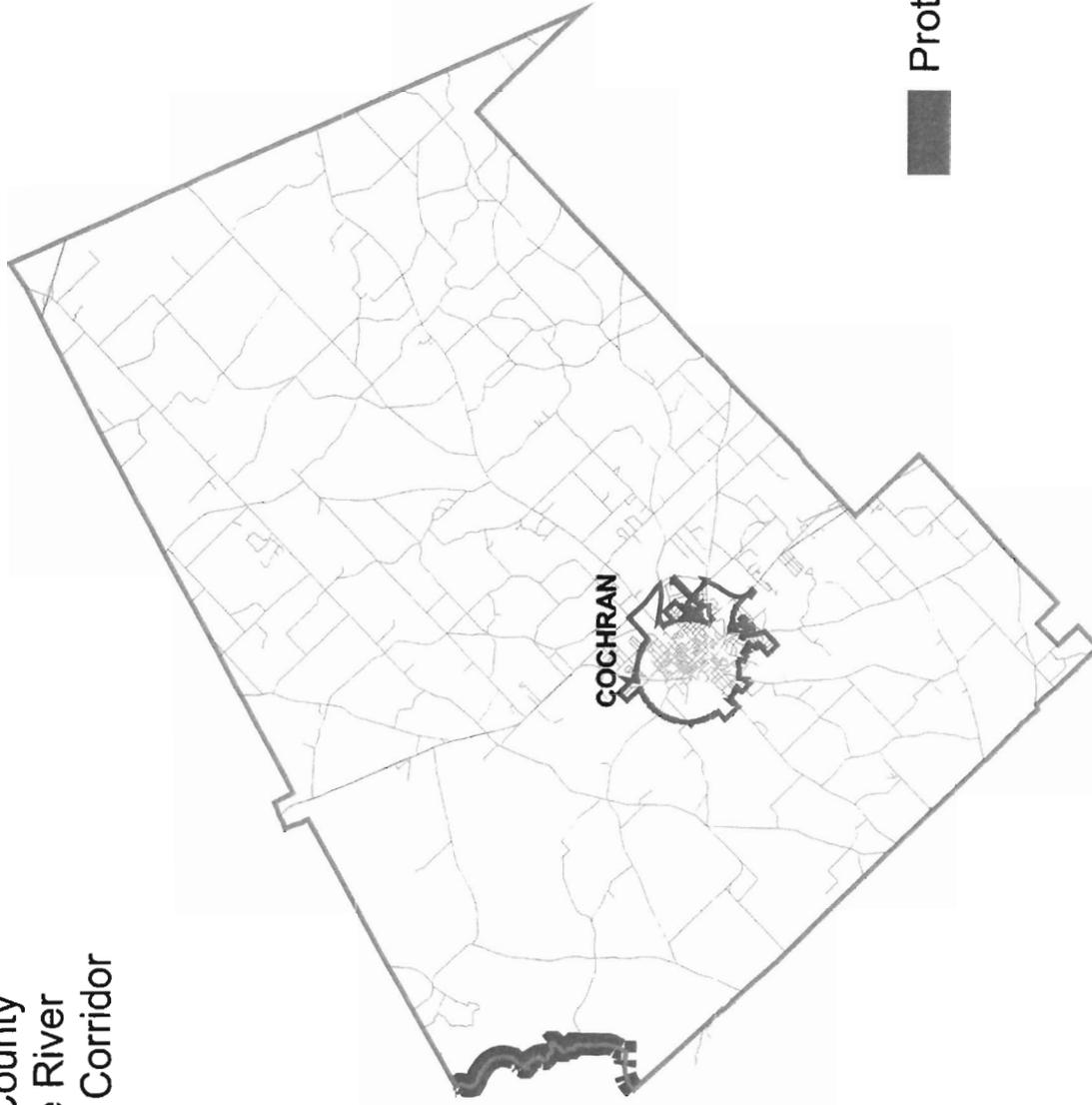
Recharge Areas
FLORIDAN/JACKSONIAN
MIOCENE/PLIOCENE RECENT UNCONFINED



3 0 3 6 Miles

Source: Hydrologic Atlas 18 of Georgia Geologic Survey, 1989
Heart of Georgia Altamaha RC, 2009

**MAP SWP-3
Bleckley County
Ocmulgee River
Protected Corridor**

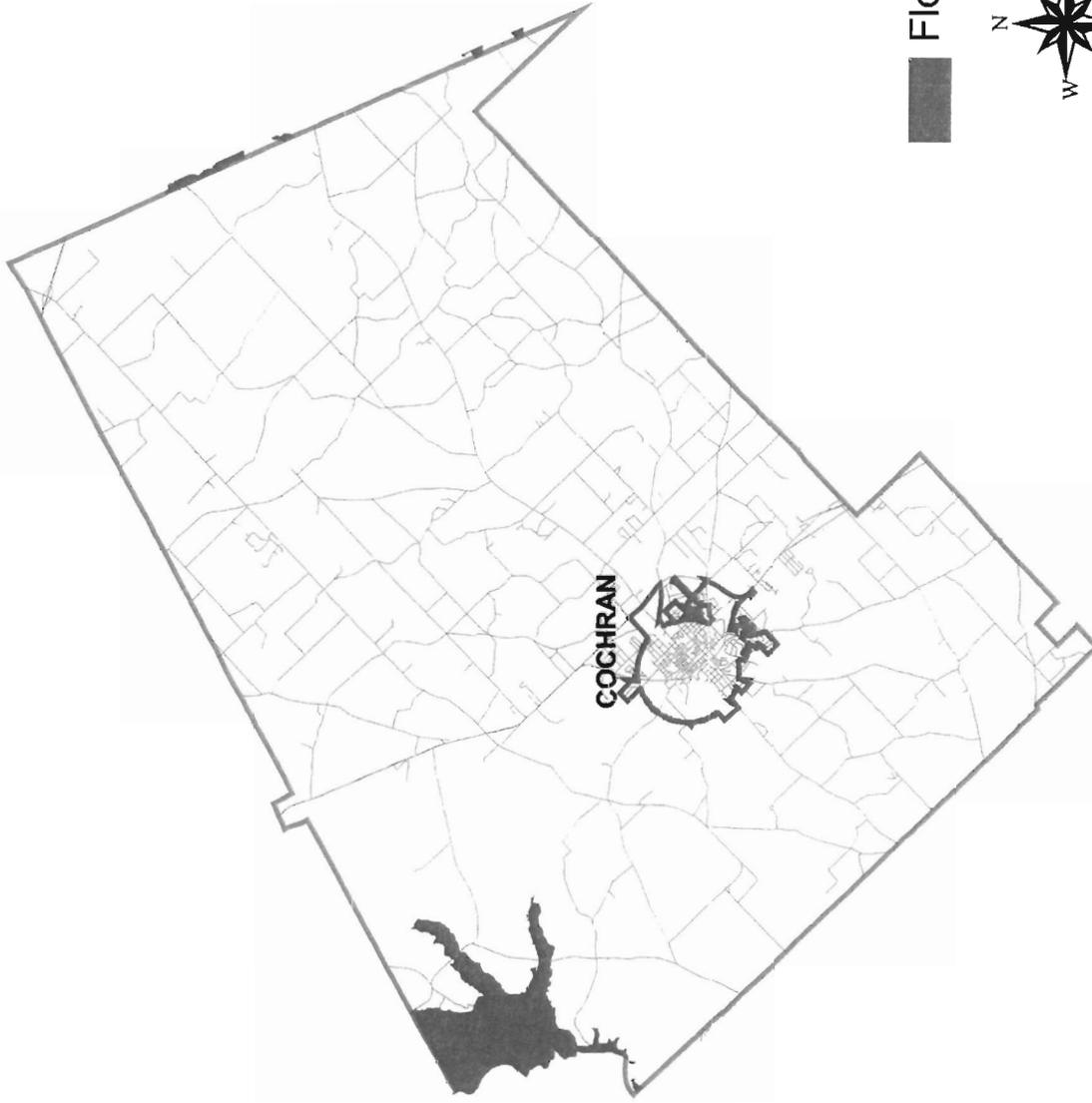


Protected River Corridor



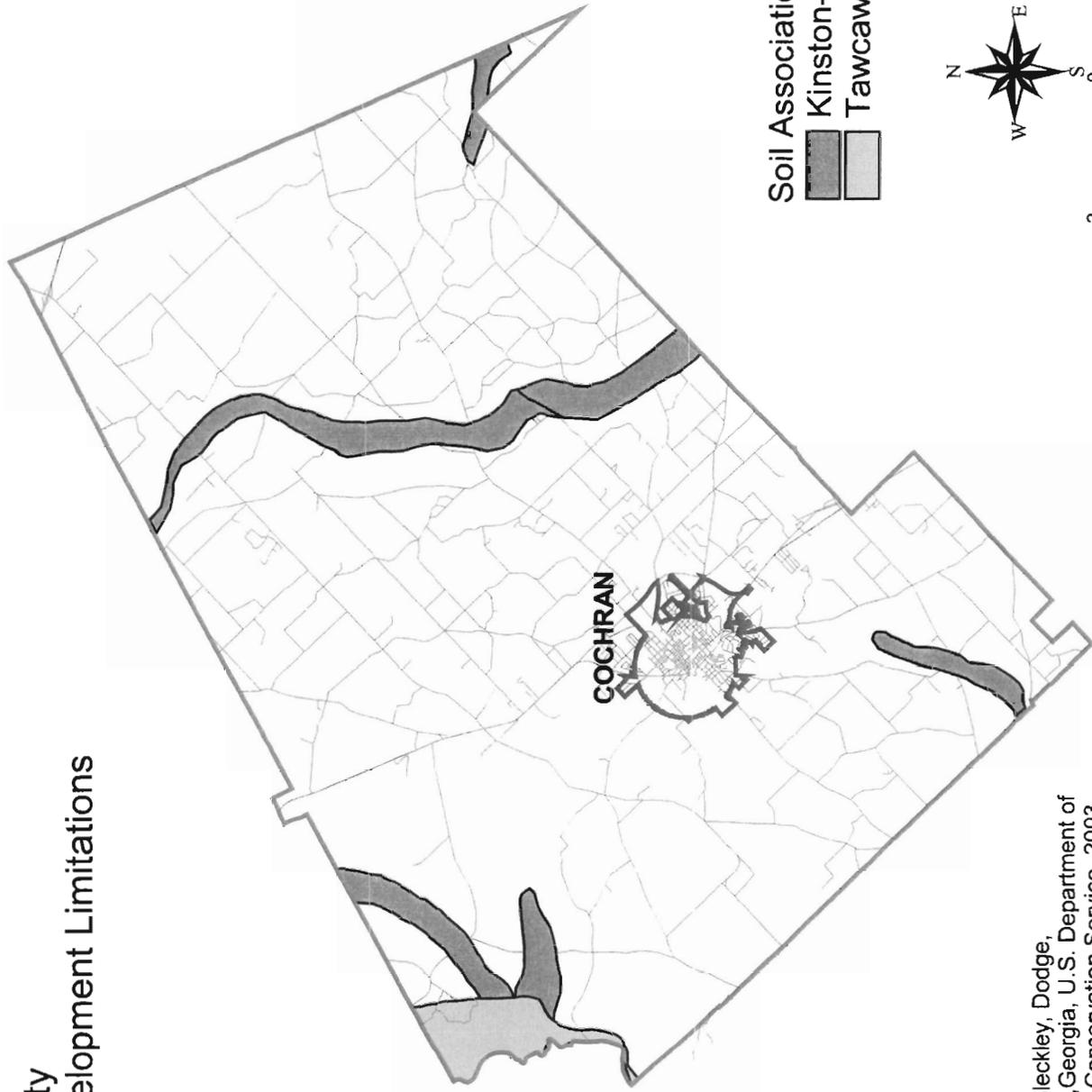
Source: Georgia GIS Clearing House
Heart of Georgia Altamaha RC, 2009

**MAP SWP-4
Bleckley County
Flood Zones**



Source: Georgia GIS Clearing House
Heart of Georgia Altamaha RC, 2009

MAP SWP-5
Bleckley County
Soils with Development Limitations

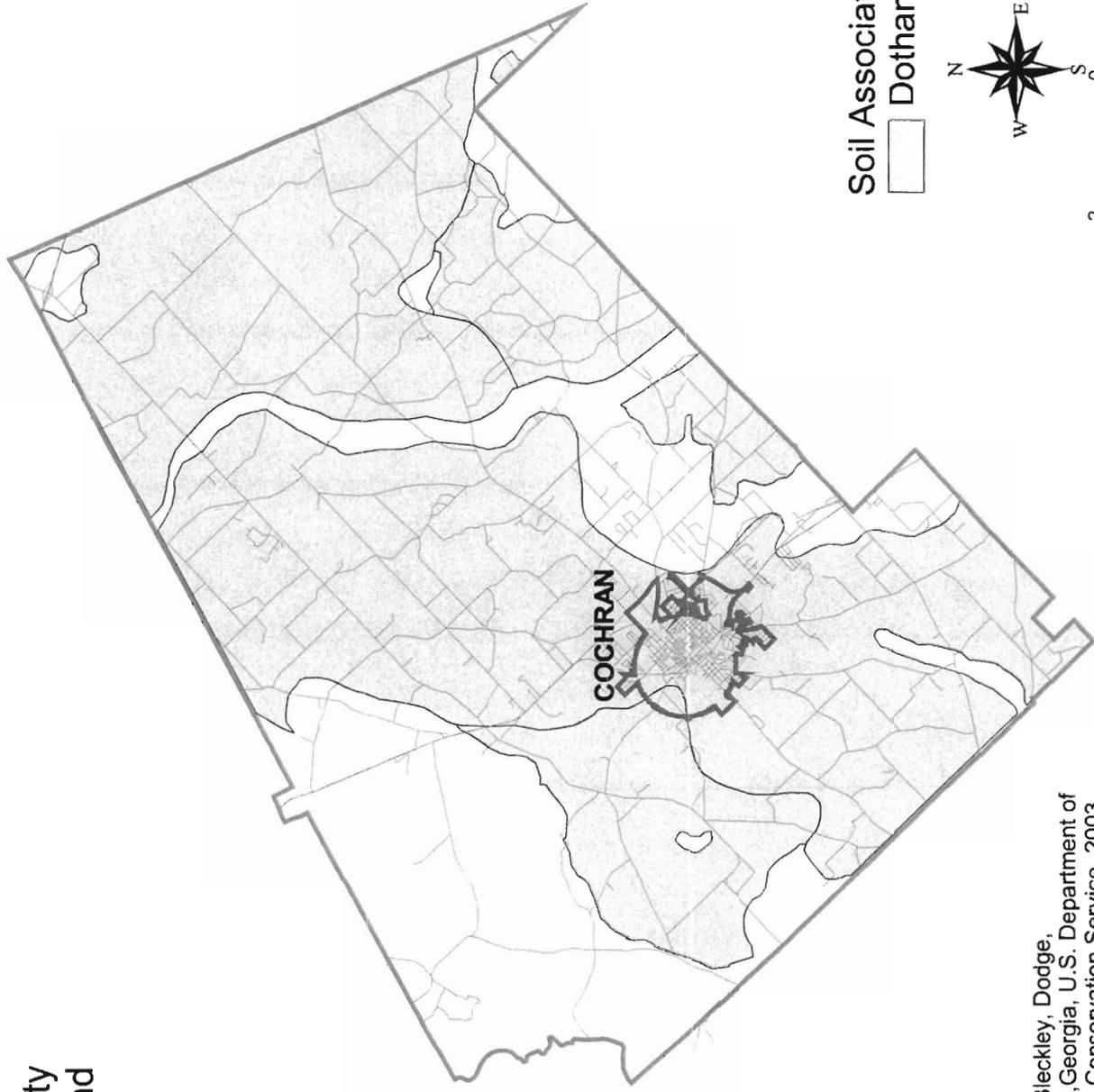


Soil Associations
Kinston-Bibb
Tawcaw-Chastain



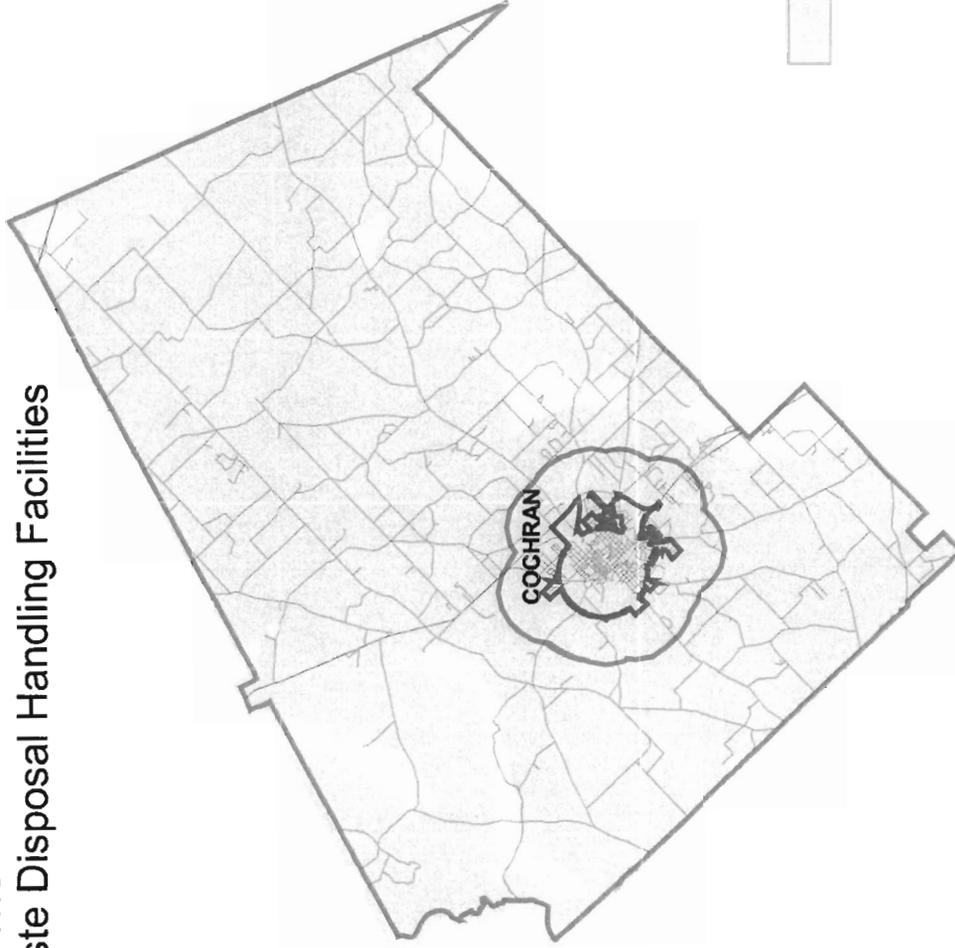
Source: Soil Survey of Bleckley, Dodge,
Telfair Counties, Georgia, U.S. Department of
Agriculture Soil Conservation Service, 2003
Heart of Georgia Altamaha RC, 2009

**MAP SWP-6
Bleckley County
Prime Farmland**



Source: Soil Survey of Bleckley, Dodge,
Telfair Counties, Georgia, U.S. Department of
Agriculture Soil Conservation Service, 2003
Heart of Georgia Altamaha RC, 2009

**MAP SWP-7
Bleckley County
Areas Unsuitable For The
Location of Solid Waste Disposal Handling Facilities**



Attachment D
Bleckley County Environmental
Conservation, On-Site Sewage
Management, and Permit Ordinance

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, ON-SITE
SEWAGE MANAGEMENT, AND PERMIT ORDINANCE**

AN ORDINANCE PURSUANT TO THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA PROVIDING FOR HOME RULE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROTECTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES TO PROVIDE MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR DEVELOPMENT IN CERTAIN ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS; TO REQUIRE PERMITS FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT; TO REGULATE INSTALLATION OF ON-SITE SEWAGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO PRESCRIBE PENALTIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the Georgia Comprehensive Planning Act of 1989 and pursuant regulations by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources charge local governments with the protection of certain natural resources and the environment; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Human Resources' "Rules of Public Health for On-Site Sewage Management Systems" (Chapter 290-5-26) regulates installation of individual septic tank systems, including those in the regulated natural resource areas; and

WHEREAS, wetlands, groundwater recharge areas, and protected river corridors are among the critically sensitive environmental areas defined and mandated to be protected by local governments in the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Environmental Protection Division's "Rules for Environmental Planning Criteria Chapter 391-3-15" and the Georgia River Corridor and Mountain Protection Act of 1991; and

WHEREAS, there is need for local coordination of the requirements for on-site installation of sewage management systems and the local protection of certain environmentally sensitive areas.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, ESTABLISHED, AND DIRECTED BY THE BLECKLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONER BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA AS GRANTED THEREOF AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Short Title. This Ordinance shall be known, referred to, and may be cited as “The Environmental Conservation, On-site Sewage Management, and Permit Ordinance of Bleckley County.”

Section 2. Purpose. It is the intent and policy of the Bleckley County Commissioner to promote the health, safety, convenience, order, prosperity, and general welfare of Bleckley County and its residents; to protect the natural resources, the environment, and the public health of Bleckley County; to facilitate the adequate provision of on-site sewage management for all development in the local jurisdiction; to protect significant groundwater recharge areas from pollution by spills, discharges, leaks, impoundments, applications of chemicals, injections, and other development; to promote the wise use of wetlands and protect them from alterations that will significantly affect or reduce their primary functions for water quality, flood plain and erosion control, groundwater recharge, aesthetic natural areas, and wildlife habitat areas; to establish measures to preserve an adequate supply of safe drinking water and a quality for state waters which is necessary to protect the health and welfare of the public as well as to provide for future growth; to protect the environment, including the soils, air quality, and water resources, from pollution and inappropriate development; to assist in the orderly, efficient, and integrated development of the county; and to require permits for new development or location within the county.

Section 3. Definitions. When used in this Ordinance the following words and phrases shall have meanings given in this section.

- A. **Hazardous Waste.** Any solid waste which has been defined as a hazardous waste in regulations, promulgated by the administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) pursuant to the federal act, which are in force and effect on February 1, 1988, codified as 40 C.F.R. Section 261, and as amended.
- B. **Lot.** The contiguous land in the same ownership which is not divided by any public highway or alley, including any part thereof subject to any easement for any purpose other than a public highway or alley, but excluding any part thereof severed from another lot where the severance creates any nonconformity of size or use.
- C. **Perennial River/Stream.** A river/stream or section of a river/stream that normally flows continuously throughout the whole year.
- D. **Protected River Corridor.** All land, inclusive of islands, in areas of a protected river within a distance of one hundred (100) feet horizontally on both sides of the river measured from the uppermost part of the river bank; the area between the top of the bank and the edge of the water is included in the protected area.
- E. **River/Stream Bank.** The rising ground, bordering a river or a stream, which serves to confine the water to the natural channel during the normal course of flow.

- F. **Subdivision:** All divisions of a tract or parcel of land into two or more lots, building sites, or other divisions for the purpose of sale, legacy, or building development, whether immediate or future. This shall include all divisions or re-subdivisions of land involving a new road or change in existing roads. Excluded from this definition is the combination or recombination of portions of previously platted lots where the total number of lots is not increased.
- G. **Utility.** Public or private water or sewer piping systems, water or sewer pumping stations, electric power lines, fuel pipelines, telephone lines, roads, driveways, bridges, river/lake access facilities, stormwater systems and railroads or other utilities identified by a local government.
- H. **Wetlands.** Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas. The ecological parameters for designating wetlands include hydric soils, hydrological vegetation, and hydrological conditions that involve a temporary or permanent source of water to cause soil saturation.

Section 4. General Provisions.

4.1. Permit Required. No building, mobile home, structure, or land within the jurisdiction of the Bleckley County Commissioner shall hereafter be erected, constructed, located, moved, used, subdivided, altered or disturbed except in conformity with the regulations herein and without first obtaining a permit from

the Bleckley County Commissioner. This provision does and shall apply to the location of all manufactured housing and industrialized buildings in the county.

4.2. Minimum Lot Size. All lots intended for residential or other use within the county shall be of such size as is specified by the Bleckley County Health Department according to the “Rules of Georgia Department of Human Resources Public Health for On-Site Sewage Management Systems” Manual for On-site Sewage Management and/or this Ordinance, whichever is stricter.

4.3. On-Site Sewage Management Permit Required. No person or business shall construct an on-site sewage management system on any lot within the county until site approval and an on-site sewage management construction permit has been obtained from and issued by the Bleckley County Health Department.

4.4. Permit Coordination. The required permit under Section 4.1 of this Ordinance shall not be issued, and no construction, erection, move, or other activity regulated by this Ordinance may proceed, until the Bleckley County Health Department issues an on-site sewage management construction permit or a site approval letter, whichever is appropriate, so that all lots proposed to be used or subdivided would satisfy the requirements of this Ordinance, including the “Rules of Georgia Department of Human Resources for On-Site Sewage Management Systems.” If the Bleckley County Health Department is delegated the responsibility for administering this Ordinance, the permit or letter under this Section 4.4 shall suffice as the permit required under Section 4.1.

4.5. Requirements are Minimum. The regulations and requirements set by this Ordinance shall be the minimum requirements.

4.6. Compliance with State and Federal Regulations. All developments, structures, and uses within the county shall also meet the requirements of all other local, federal and state regulations in effect, including but not limited to, Department of Transportation regulations, State Fire Marshal regulations, Georgia's Uniform Construction Codes, and Georgia Department of Natural Resources and Georgia Environmental Protection Division environmental rules and regulations. Issuance of a permit under this Ordinance does not constitute certification of compliance with such codes or regulations, and does not abrogate responsibility of the owner to so comply.

4.7. Map Interpretation. If there is any uncertainty as to whether a lot, portion of lot, or a proposed construction or location impacts an environmental resource regulated by this Ordinance because of interpretation of the applicable map, the decision of the Bleckley County Commissioner, or the Bleckley County Health Department if it is delegated the responsibility for administering this Ordinance, shall take precedent and be considered correct and final, but may be appealed as set forth in Section 4.8.

4.8. Map Appeal. Any person who feels aggrieved by a decision of the Bleckley County Commissioner or the Bleckley County Health Department, as appropriate, regarding map interpretation may at their own expense request reconsideration. Such reconsideration shall include submission of scientific evidence for reversal of the alleged error in map interpretation, and such evidence must be documented by a state registered engineer, geologist, or soils scientist. To obtain a reversal of the decision of map interpretation, the evidence must be acceptable to Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Environmental Protection Division, and the Bleckley County Commissioner, or and the Bleckley County Health Department if the Bleckley County Health Department is delegated responsibility for administering this Ordinance. Any costs for submission of evidence to the Georgia

Department of Natural Resources' Environmental Protection Division shall be borne by the person requesting reconsideration.

4.9. Coordination with Zoning and Other Regulation. This Ordinance shall be coordinated with any zoning or other regulations adopted by the Bleckley County Commissioner, and if there is any conflict with those zoning or other regulations, the stricter provisions shall apply. If zoning is or has been adopted, the provisions of this Ordinance shall be considered an overlay, or additional requirement(s) to the requirements of underlying zoning regulations and district.

4.10. Fees. Any fees for applications, inspections, and the issuance of permits or certificates required or issued under the provisions of this Ordinance shall be paid by the person seeking such permit at the time of application in advance of the issuance of such permits or certificates.

The amount of such fees, if any, shall be those established by the Bleckley County Commissioner from time to time.

Section 5. Delegation of Ordinance Administration. The Bleckley County Commissioner because of the need for coordination hereby charges the Bleckley County Health Department with responsibility for administering this Ordinance and ensuring compliance with its provisions.

Section 6. Wetlands Protection Regulations.

6.1. Findings of Fact. The wetlands within Bleckley County are indispensable and fragile natural resources with significant development constraints due to flooding, erosion and soil limitations. In their natural state, wetlands serve man and nature. They provide habitat areas for fish, wildlife, and vegetation; water quality maintenance and pollution control; flood control; erosion control; natural resource education; scientific study; open space; and recreational opportunities.

6.2. Reference Map. The official maps to be used as the determinant for location of wetlands in Bleckley County and to be regulated areas under this Ordinance will be the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wetlands Inventory Maps for Bleckley County.

6.3. Wetlands Development Permit Requirements. No activity or use except those identified in Section 6.4 shall be allowed within wetlands areas without a permit under this Ordinance. If there appear to be wetlands on any site under consideration for a permit which any proposed development may disturb and which appears to be under the jurisdiction of Section 404 of the U.S. Clean Water Act, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' determination shall be required. No local permit will be issued until the person requesting the permit at their own expense obtains a Section 404 permit or Letter of Permission from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. If the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determines there are no jurisdictional wetlands involved, this determination will take precedence over the National Wetlands Inventory Map and the permit issuance under Sections 4.1 and 4.4 of this Ordinance may proceed as if no wetland areas are involved.

6.4. Permitted Uses Not Requiring a Permit. The following uses are permitted without permit within the wetlands of the county to the extent they are not

prohibited by any other ordinance or law and provided they do not require structures, grading, fill, draining, or dredging except as provided herein.

- A. Forestry practices applied in accordance with best management practices approved by the Georgia Forestry Commission. (Section 404 does not require permits for normal, ongoing silvicultural activities. However, Section 404 does list some required road construction best management practices that must be followed in order to qualify for such an exemption.).
- B. Conservation or preservation of soil, water, vegetation, fish, or other wildlife, provided they do not affect waters of the State of Georgia or of the United States in such a way that would require an individual 404 Permit.
- C. Outdoor passive recreational activities, including fishing, bird watching, hiking, boating, horseback riding, and canoeing.
- D. Natural water quality treatment or purification.
- E. Normal agriculture activities including the planting and harvesting of crops and pasturing of livestock. Such activities shall be subject to best management practices approved by the Georgia Department of Agriculture.

6.5. Prohibited Uses. In compliance with the Georgia “Rules for Environmental Planning Criteria,” the following uses are prohibited entirely and no permit shall be issued for them.

- A. Receiving areas for toxic or hazardous waste or other contaminants.

- B. Hazardous sanitary landfills.

Section 7. Groundwater Recharge Areas Protection Regulations.

7.1. Findings of Fact. Recharge areas are vulnerable to urban development activities as well as agricultural activities. Pesticides and herbicides sprayed on crops and animal waste, like septic tank effluents, contribute to a deterioration in the groundwater quality and can threaten the health of residents relying on well water. Development usually means an increase in the amount of land covered with impervious surfaces. Paving land in recharge areas can alter or impair their recharge characteristics thereby decreasing groundwater supplies.

7.2. Reference Map. The official map for delineation of significant groundwater recharge areas in Bleckley County to be regulated areas under this Ordinance is the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' "Significant Recharge Areas, Hydrological Atlas 18 (1989 edition)."

7.3. Groundwater Recharge Areas Development Permit Requirements. All new uses except those identified in Section 7.4 and those subject to further restriction by any underlying zoning district are allowed. The following are additional requirements for specific uses:

- A. All new above ground chemical or petroleum storage tanks, having a minimum volume of 660 gallons, shall have secondary containment for 110 percent of the volume of such tanks or 110 percent of the largest tank in a cluster of tanks, and shall otherwise meet the requirements of U.S. EPA rules for oil pollution prevention, 40 CFR 112. Such tanks used for

agricultural purposes are exempt, provided they comply with all federal requirements.

- B. All new single-family dwellings, multi-family dwellings, mobile home parks, or other uses located within a groundwater recharge area and not served by both public water and sewer systems shall be required to have a minimum lot or space size at least 150 percent of normal requirements of the Georgia Department of Human Resources according to its Manual for On-Site Sewage Management Systems for the particular location and soil characteristics involved, but said minimum lot or space size shall not be in any case less than the minimum lot or space size specified by any underlying zoning district. The regulations specifying the largest minimum lot or space size shall apply.
- C. All lots shall have a minimum width of 150 feet, or as specified in any underlying zoning district if stricter (larger), in the area where an approved on-site sewage management system is to be located.
- D. All new wastewater treatment basins shall have an impermeable liner except for the construction of mining settling basins.
- E. All new agricultural waste impoundment sites shall be lined. As a minimum, the liner shall be constructed of compact clay having a thickness of one-foot and a vertical hydraulic conductivity of less than 5×10^{-7} cm/sec or other criteria established by the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service.

7.4. Prohibited Uses. The following uses are prohibited entirely and no permit shall be issued for them.

- A. All hazardous waste storage, treatment and disposal facilities, and those facilities handling 10,000 pounds or more of hazardous materials of the types listed in Section 312 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, as amended, excluding underground storage tanks, on any one day.
- B. Permanent stormwater infiltration basins.

Section 8. Major River Corridor Protection District Regulations.

8.1. Findings of Fact. Perennial river or water courses with an average annual flow of at least four hundred (400) cubic feet per second are of vital importance to Georgia in that they help preserve those qualities that make a river suitable for habitat for wildlife, a site for recreation, and a source for clean drinking water. These river corridors also allow the free movement of wildlife from area to area within the state, help control erosion and river sedimentation, and help absorb flood waters.

8.2. District Delineation. Protected Rivers as defined under the Rules for Environmental Planning Criteria, adopted by Georgia Department of Natural Resources pursuant to Section 12-2-8 of Article 1, Chapter 2, Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, includes any perennial river or water courses with an average annual flow of at least four hundred (400) cubic feet per second. The Ocmulgee River through Bleckley County meets this criteria. A protective one hundred (100) foot vegetation buffer is hereby established along this river(s). The buffer area is measured horizontally from each river bank within the County jurisdiction. Under the method prescribed by the Rules for Environmental Planning Criteria, no development or other land disturbing activity will be allowed

to occur within a one hundred (100) foot buffer of the river bank except for the following permitted uses.

8.3. Permitted Uses. No development, or construction, or other land disturbing activity will be allowed to occur within the one hundred (100) foot buffer from the protected river except for the following uses, and the natural vegetative buffer shall be restored as quickly as possible following any land-disturbing activity or construction permitted within the river corridor for these acceptable uses.

- A. Single-family dwellings, if any underlying zoning district so permits, provided each dwelling is located on a lot with a minimum size as specified by the Bleckley County Health Department or the underlying zoning district regulations, but shall be the greater of these requirements; however, in any case the lot for each dwelling shall not be less than two (2) acres, not including any area between the river banks; and provided the septic tank drainfield is located outside of the one hundred (100) foot buffer area.
- B. Any industrial or commercial uses existing prior to the adoption of these local protection ordinances, providing they do not impair the drinking quality of the river water as defined by the federal Clean Water Act, as amended, and meet all other federal and state environmental regulations.
- C. Road and utility crossings, providing the construction of these crossings meets the requirements of the Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Act of 1975, as amended, or any local requirements, if stricter.
- D. Timber production and harvesting, providing it is consistent with the best management practices established by the Georgia Forestry Commission,

and does not impair the drinking quality of the river water as defined by the federal Clean Water Act, as amended.

- E. Agricultural production and management, provided it is consistent with the best management practices established by the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission, and all other state and federal regulations; and does not impair the drinking quality of the river water as defined by the federal Clean Water Act, as amended.
- F. Wildlife and fisheries management activities consistent with the purposes of Section 12-2-8 (as amended) of Article 1, Chapter 2, Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A.).
- G. Natural water quality treatment or purification.
- H. Wastewater treatment.
- I. Recreational usage consistent with the maintenance of a natural vegetative buffer or with river dependent recreation.

8.4. Prohibited Uses. In compliance with the Georgia “Rules for Environmental Planning Criteria,” the following uses are prohibited entirely and no permit shall be issued for them.

- A. Facilities or areas used for the handling, receiving, storing, or disposal of hazardous wastes.
- B. Hazardous or solid waste landfills.

- C. Septic tanks and septic tank drainfields within the 100-foot buffer, except as related to permitted single-family dwellings.

Section 9. Variances. When due to a particular hardship or extraordinary circumstance of the property involved which is not easily corrected, it is impractical for an owner or developer to comply with all of the requirements of this Ordinance, the Bleckley County Commissioner shall be authorized to vary such requirements (under its jurisdiction) only to such extent as to provide fairness to the owner or developer and as to not violate the intent and purposes of this Ordinance. Such variances shall only be granted in an official public meeting, and the reasons for granting them shall be entered into the minutes of the public meeting.

Section 10. Violations and Penalties. Violation of these provisions, prohibitions, and installation restrictions by any private individual, land owner, builder, remodeler, contractor, licensed electrician, licensed plumber, septic tank dealer or installer, mobile or manufactured home dealer or mover, or developer; or installation and delivery of any utility services by a public or private utility to any property which holds a septic tank system installed against these prohibitions and restrictions, shall be a violation of this Ordinance.

Any person violating, neglecting, or refusing to comply with any provision of this Ordinance shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to such penalties as are provided by law. The Bleckley County Commissioner may take other actions or remedies as available at law to ensure compliance with or to prevent violation of provisions of this Ordinance.

Section 11. Court of Jurisdiction. The Bleckley County Commissioner or the Bleckley County Board of Health, as appropriate, may bring complaints of violation of any provision of this Ordinance before the Magistrate Court of Bleckley County.

Section 12. Legal Status Provisions. Should any section or provision of this Ordinance be declared by the courts to be unconstitutional or invalid, for any reason, such declaration shall not affect the Ordinance as a whole, or any part thereof, other than the part so declared to be unconstitutional or invalid.

Section 13. Conflicting Ordinances. Whenever the provision of this Ordinance and those of some other ordinance or statute apply to the same subject matter, that ordinance requiring the highest, or more strict, standard shall govern. All other ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance, to the extent of such conflict and not further, are hereby repealed to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

Section 14. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force on the date that is enacted and ordained by the Bleckley County Commissioner, Bleckley County, Georgia.

Approved, enacted, ordained, and so resolved by the Bleckley County Commissioner this 21st day of Oct., 1999.

BLECKLEY COUNTY COMMISSIONER

BY: Billy R. Godfrey

ATTEST:

Andrea S. Hege

County Clerk

COPY

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, ON-SITE
SEWAGE MANAGEMENT, AND PERMIT ORDINANCE**

AN ORDINANCE PURSUANT TO THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA PROVIDING FOR HOME RULE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROTECTION OF NATURAL RESOURCES TO PROVIDE MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR DEVELOPMENT IN CERTAIN ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS; TO REQUIRE PERMITS FOR NEW DEVELOPMENT; TO REGULATE INSTALLATION OF ON-SITE SEWAGE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS; TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; TO PRESCRIBE PENALTIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the Georgia Comprehensive Planning Act of 1989 and pursuant regulations by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources charge local governments with the protection of certain natural resources and the environment; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Human Resources' "Rules of Public Health for On-Site Sewage Management Systems" (Chapter 290-5-26) regulates installation of individual septic tank systems, including those in the regulated natural resource areas; and

WHEREAS, wetlands, groundwater recharge areas, and protected river corridors are among the critically sensitive environmental areas defined and mandated to be protected by local governments in the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Environmental Protection Division's "Rules for Environmental Planning Criteria Chapter 391-3-15" and the Georgia River Corridor and Mountain Protection Act of 1991; and

WHEREAS, there is need for local coordination of the requirements for on-site installation of sewage management systems and the local protection of certain environmentally sensitive areas.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, ESTABLISHED, AND DIRECTED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COCHRAN BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA AS GRANTED THEREOF AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Short Title. This Ordinance shall be known, referred to, and may be cited as “The Environmental Conservation, On-site Sewage Management, and Permit Ordinance of the City of Cochran.”

Section 2. Purpose. It is the intent and policy of the City of Cochran to promote the health, safety, convenience, order, prosperity, and general welfare of Cochran and its residents; to protect the natural resources, the environment, and the public health of Cochran; to facilitate the adequate provision of on-site sewage management for all development in the local jurisdiction; to protect significant groundwater recharge areas from pollution by spills, discharges, leaks, impoundments, applications of chemicals, injections, and other development; to promote the wise use of wetlands and protect them from alterations that will significantly affect or reduce their primary functions for water quality, flood plain and erosion control, groundwater recharge, aesthetic natural areas, and wildlife habitat areas; to establish measures to preserve an adequate supply of safe drinking water and a quality for state waters which is necessary to protect the health and welfare of the public as well as to provide for future growth; to protect the environment, including the soils, air quality, and water resources, from pollution and inappropriate development; to assist in the orderly, efficient, and integrated development of the city; and to require permits for new development or location within the city.

Section 3. Definitions. When used in this Ordinance the following words and phrases shall have meanings given in this section.

- A. **Hazardous Waste.** Any solid waste which has been defined as a hazardous waste in regulations, promulgated by the administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) pursuant to the federal act, which are in force and effect on February 1, 1988, codified as 40 C.F.R. Section 261, and as amended.
- B. **Lot.** The contiguous land in the same ownership which is not divided by any public highway or alley, including any part thereof subject to any easement for any purpose other than a public highway or alley, but excluding any part thereof severed from another lot where the severance creates any nonconformity of size or use.
- C. **Perennial River/Stream.** A river/stream or section of a river/stream that normally flows continuously throughout the whole year.
- D. **Protected River Corridor.** All land, inclusive of islands, in areas of a protected river within a distance of one hundred (100) feet horizontally on both sides of the river measured from the uppermost part of the river bank; the area between the top of the bank and the edge of the water is included in the protected area.
- E. **River/Stream Bank.** The rising ground, bordering a river or a stream, which serves to confine the water to the natural channel during the normal course of flow.

- F. **Subdivision:** All divisions of a tract or parcel of land into two or more lots, building sites, or other divisions for the purpose of sale, legacy, or building development, whether immediate or future. This shall include all divisions or re-subdivisions of land involving a new road or change in existing roads. Excluded from this definition is the combination or recombination of portions of previously platted lots where the total number of lots is not increased.

- G. **Utility.** Public or private water or sewer piping systems, water or sewer pumping stations, electric power lines, fuel pipelines, telephone lines, roads, driveways, bridges, river/lake access facilities, stormwater systems and railroads or other utilities identified by a local government.

- H. **Wetlands.** Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas. The ecological parameters for designating wetlands include hydric soils, hydrological vegetation, and hydrological conditions that involve a temporary or permanent source of water to cause soil saturation.

Section 4. General Provisions.

4.1. Permit Required. No building, mobile home, structure, or land within the jurisdiction of the City of Cochran shall hereafter be erected, constructed, located, moved, used, subdivided, altered or disturbed except in conformity with the regulations herein and without first obtaining a permit from the City of Cochran.

This provision does and shall apply to the location of all manufactured housing and industrialized buildings in the city.

4.2. Minimum Lot Size. All lots intended for residential or other use within the city shall be of such size as is specified by the Bleckley County Health Department according to the “Rules of Georgia Department of Human Resources Public Health for On-Site Sewage Management Systems” Manual for On-site Sewage Management and/or this Ordinance, whichever is stricter.

4.3. On-Site Sewage Management Permit Required. No person or business shall construct an on-site sewage management system on any lot within the city until site approval and an on-site sewage management construction permit has been obtained from and issued by the Bleckley County Health Department.

4.4. Permit Coordination. The required permit under Section 4.1 of this Ordinance shall not be issued, and no construction, erection, move, or other activity regulated by this Ordinance may proceed, until the Bleckley County Health Department issues an on-site sewage management construction permit or a site approval letter, whichever is appropriate, so that all lots proposed to be used or subdivided would satisfy the requirements of this Ordinance, including the “Rules of Georgia Department of Human Resources for On-Site Sewage Management Systems.” If the Bleckley County Health Department is delegated the responsibility for administering this Ordinance, the permit or letter under this Section 4.4 shall suffice as the permit required under Section 4.1.

4.5. Requirements are Minimum. The regulations and requirements set by this Ordinance shall be the minimum requirements.

4.6. Compliance with State and Federal Regulations. All developments, structures, and uses within the city shall also meet the requirements of all other local, federal and state regulations in effect, including but not limited to, Department of Transportation regulations, State Fire Marshal regulations, Georgia's Uniform Construction Codes, and Georgia Department of Natural Resources and Georgia Environmental Protection Division environmental rules and regulations. Issuance of a permit under this Ordinance does not constitute certification of compliance with such codes or regulations, and does not abrogate responsibility of the owner to so comply.

4.7. Map Interpretation. If there is any uncertainty as to whether a lot, portion of lot, or a proposed construction or location impacts an environmental resource regulated by this Ordinance because of interpretation of the applicable map, the decision of the City of Cochran, or the Bleckley County Health Department if it is delegated the responsibility for administering this Ordinance, shall take precedent and be considered correct and final, but may be appealed as set forth in Section 4.8.

4.8. Map Appeal. Any person who feels aggrieved by a decision of the City of Cochran or the Bleckley County Health Department, as appropriate, regarding map interpretation may at their own expense request reconsideration. Such reconsideration shall include submission of scientific evidence for reversal of the alleged error in map interpretation, and such evidence must be documented by a state registered engineer, geologist, or soils scientist. To obtain a reversal of the decision of map interpretation, the evidence must be acceptable to Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Environmental Protection Division, and the City of Cochran, or and the Bleckley County Health Department if the Bleckley County Health Department is delegated responsibility for administering this Ordinance. Any costs for submission of evidence to the Georgia Department of

Natural Resources' Environmental Protection Division shall be borne by the person requesting reconsideration.

4.9. Coordination with Zoning and Other Regulation. This Ordinance shall be coordinated with any zoning or other regulations adopted by the City of Cochran, and if there is any conflict with those zoning or other regulations, the stricter provisions shall apply. If zoning is or has been adopted, the provisions of this Ordinance shall be considered an overlay, or additional requirement(s) to the requirements of underlying zoning regulations and district.

4.10. Fees. Any fees for applications, inspections, and the issuance of permits or certificates required or issued under the provisions of this Ordinance shall be paid by the person seeking such permit at the time of application in advance of the issuance of such permits or certificates.

The amount of such fees, if any, shall be those established by the Mayor and Council of the City of Cochran from time to time.

Section 5. Delegation of Ordinance Administration. The City of Cochran because of the need for coordination hereby charges the City of Cochran Zoning Administrator with responsibility for administering this Ordinance and ensuring compliance with its provisions.

Section 6. Wetlands Protection Regulations.

6.1. Findings of Fact. The wetlands within the City of Cochran are indispensable and fragile natural resources with significant development constraints due to flooding, erosion and soil limitations. In their natural state, wetlands serve man and nature. They provide habitat areas for fish, wildlife, and vegetation; water quality maintenance and pollution control; flood control; erosion control; natural resource education; scientific study; open space; and recreational opportunities.

6.2. Reference Map. The official maps to be used as the determinant for location of wetlands in the City of Cochran and to be regulated areas under this Ordinance will be the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wetlands Inventory Maps for Bleckley County.

6.3. Wetlands Development Permit Requirements. No activity or use except those identified in Section 6.4 shall be allowed within wetlands areas without a permit under this Ordinance. If there appear to be wetlands on any site under consideration for a permit which any proposed development may disturb and which appears to be under the jurisdiction of Section 404 of the U.S. Clean Water Act, a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' determination shall be required. No local permit will be issued until the person requesting the permit at their own expense obtains a Section 404 permit or Letter of Permission from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. If the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determines there are no jurisdictional wetlands involved, this determination will take precedence over the National Wetlands Inventory Map and the permit issuance under Sections 4.1 and 4.4 of this Ordinance may proceed as if no wetland areas are involved.

6.4. Permitted Uses Not Requiring a Permit. The following uses are permitted without permit within the wetlands of the city to the extent they are not prohibited

by any other ordinance or law and provided they do not require structures, grading, fill, draining, or dredging except as provided herein.

- A. Forestry practices applied in accordance with best management practices approved by the Georgia Forestry Commission. (Section 404 does not require permits for normal, ongoing silvicultural activities. However, Section 404 does list some required road construction best management practices that must be followed in order to qualify for such an exemption.).
- B. Conservation or preservation of soil, water, vegetation, fish, or other wildlife, provided they do not affect waters of the State of Georgia or of the United States in such a way that would require an individual 404 Permit.
- C. Outdoor passive recreational activities, including fishing, bird watching, hiking, boating, horseback riding, and canoeing.
- D. Natural water quality treatment or purification.
- E. Normal agriculture activities including the planting and harvesting of crops and pasturing of livestock. Such activities shall be subject to best management practices approved by the Georgia Department of Agriculture.

6.5. Prohibited Uses. In compliance with the Georgia “Rules for Environmental Planning Criteria,” the following uses are prohibited entirely and no permit shall be issued for them.

- A. Receiving areas for toxic or hazardous waste or other contaminants.

- B. Hazardous sanitary landfills.

Section 7. Groundwater Recharge Areas Protection Regulations.

7.1. Findings of Fact. Recharge areas are vulnerable to urban development activities as well as agricultural activities. Pesticides and herbicides sprayed on crops and animal waste, like septic tank effluents, contribute to a deterioration in the groundwater quality and can threaten the health of residents relying on well water. Development usually means an increase in the amount of land covered with impervious surfaces. Paving land in recharge areas can alter or impair their recharge characteristics thereby decreasing groundwater supplies.

7.2. Reference Map. The official map for delineation of significant groundwater recharge areas in the City of Cochran to be regulated areas under this Ordinance is the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' "Significant Recharge Areas, Hydrological Atlas 18 (1989 edition)."

7.3. Groundwater Recharge Areas Development Permit Requirements. All new uses except those identified in Section 7.4 and those subject to further restriction by any underlying zoning district are allowed. The following are additional requirements for specific uses:

- A. All new above ground chemical or petroleum storage tanks, having a minimum volume of 660 gallons, shall have secondary containment for 110 percent of the volume of such tanks or 110 percent of the largest tank in a cluster of tanks, and shall otherwise meet the requirements of U.S. EPA rules for oil pollution prevention, 40 CFR 112. Such tanks used for

agricultural purposes are exempt, provided they comply with all federal requirements.

- B. All new single-family dwellings, multi-family dwellings, mobile home parks, or other uses located within a groundwater recharge area and not served by both public water and sewer systems shall be required to have a minimum lot or space size at least 150 percent of normal requirements of the Georgia Department of Human Resources according to its Manual for On-Site Sewage Management Systems for the particular location and soil characteristics involved, but said minimum lot or space size shall not be in any case less than the minimum lot or space size specified by any underlying zoning district. The regulations specifying the largest minimum lot or space size shall apply.
- C. All lots shall have a minimum width of 150 feet, or as specified in any underlying zoning district if stricter (larger), in the area where an approved on-site sewage management system is to be located.
- D. All new wastewater treatment basins shall have an impermeable liner except for the construction of mining settling basins.
- E. All new agricultural waste impoundment sites shall be lined. As a minimum, the liner shall be constructed of compact clay having a thickness of one-foot and a vertical hydraulic conductivity of less than 5×10^{-7} cm/sec or other criteria established by the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service.

7.4. Prohibited Uses. The following uses are prohibited entirely and no permit shall be issued for them.

- A. All hazardous waste storage, treatment and disposal facilities, and those facilities handling 10,000 pounds or more of hazardous materials of the types listed in Section 312 of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, as amended, excluding underground storage tanks, on any one day.
- B. Permanent stormwater infiltration basins.

Section 8. Major River Corridor Protection District Regulations.

8.1. Findings of Fact. Perennial river or water courses with an average annual flow of at least four hundred (400) cubic feet per second are of vital importance to Georgia in that they help preserve those qualities that make a river suitable for habitat for wildlife, a site for recreation, and a source for clean drinking water. These river corridors also allow the free movement of wildlife from area to area within the state, help control erosion and river sedimentation, and help absorb flood waters.

8.2. District Delineation. Protected Rivers as defined under the Rules for Environmental Planning Criteria, adopted by Georgia Department of Natural Resources pursuant to Section 12-2-8 of Article 1, Chapter 2, Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, includes any perennial river or water courses with an average annual flow of at least four hundred (400) cubic feet per second. The Ocmulgee River through Bleckley County meets this criteria. A protective one hundred (100) foot vegetation buffer is hereby established along this river(s). The buffer area is measured horizontally from each river bank within the City jurisdiction. Under the method prescribed by the Rules for Environmental Planning Criteria, no development or other land disturbing activity will be allowed

to occur within a one hundred (100) foot buffer of the river bank except for the following permitted uses.

8.3. Permitted Uses. No development, or construction, or other land disturbing activity will be allowed to occur within the one hundred (100) foot buffer from the protected river except for the following uses, and the natural vegetative buffer shall be restored as quickly as possible following any land-disturbing activity or construction permitted within the river corridor for these acceptable uses.

- A. Single-family dwellings, if any underlying zoning district so permits, provided each dwelling is located on a lot with a minimum size as specified by the Bleckley County Health Department or the underlying zoning district regulations, but shall be the greater of these requirements; however, in any case the lot for each dwelling shall not be less than two (2) acres, not including any area between the river banks; and provided the septic tank drainfield is located outside of the one hundred (100) foot buffer area.
- B. Any industrial or commercial uses existing prior to the adoption of these local protection ordinances, providing they do not impair the drinking quality of the river water as defined by the federal Clean Water Act, as amended, and meet all other federal and state environmental regulations.
- C. Road and utility crossings, providing the construction of these crossings meets the requirements of the Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Act of 1975, as amended, or any local requirements, if stricter.
- D. Timber production and harvesting, providing it is consistent with the best management practices established by the Georgia Forestry Commission,

and does not impair the drinking quality of the river water as defined by the federal Clean Water Act, as amended.

- E. Agricultural production and management, provided it is consistent with the best management practices established by the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission, and all other state and federal regulations; and does not impair the drinking quality of the river water as defined by the federal Clean Water Act, as amended.
- F. Wildlife and fisheries management activities consistent with the purposes of Section 12-2-8 (as amended) of Article 1, Chapter 2, Title 12 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated (O.C.G.A.).
- G. Natural water quality treatment or purification.
- H. Wastewater treatment.
- I. Recreational usage consistent with the maintenance of a natural vegetative buffer or with river dependent recreation.

8.4. Prohibited Uses. In compliance with the Georgia “Rules for Environmental Planning Criteria,” the following uses are prohibited entirely and no permit shall be issued for them.

- A. Facilities or areas used for the handling, receiving, storing, or disposal of hazardous wastes.
- B. Hazardous or solid waste landfills.

- C. Septic tanks and septic tank drainfields within the 100-foot buffer, except as related to permitted single-family dwellings.

Section 9. Variances. When due to a particular hardship or extraordinary circumstance of the property involved which is not easily corrected, it is impractical for an owner or developer to comply with all of the requirements of this Ordinance, the City of Cochran shall be authorized to vary such requirements (under its jurisdiction) only to such extent as to provide fairness to the owner or developer and as to not violate the intent and purposes of this Ordinance. Such variances shall only be granted in an official public meeting, and the reasons for granting them shall be entered into the minutes of the public meeting.

Section 10. Violations and Penalties. Violation of these provisions, prohibitions, and installation restrictions by any private individual, land owner, builder, remodeler, contractor, licensed electrician, licensed plumber, septic tank dealer or installer, mobile or manufactured home dealer or mover, or developer; or installation and delivery of any utility services by a public or private utility to any property which holds a septic tank system installed against these prohibitions and restrictions, shall be a violation of this Ordinance.

Any person violating, neglecting, or refusing to comply with any provision of this Ordinance shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to such penalties as are provided by law. The City of Cochran may take other actions or remedies as available at law to ensure compliance with or to prevent violation of provisions of this Ordinance.

Section 11. Court of Jurisdiction. The City of Cochran or the Bleckley County Board of Health, as appropriate, may bring complaints of violation of any provision of this

Ordinance before either the Magistrate Court of Bleckley County, or the City of Cochran Municipal Court, as so desired.

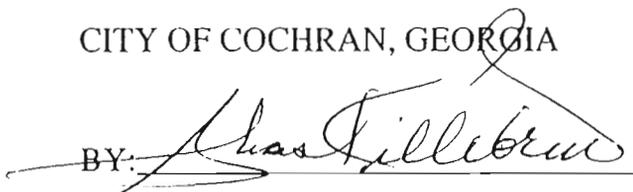
Section 12. Legal Status Provisions. Should any section or provision of this Ordinance be declared by the courts to be unconstitutional or invalid, for any reason, such declaration shall not affect the Ordinance as a whole, or any part thereof, other than the part so declared to be unconstitutional or invalid.

Section 13. Conflicting Ordinances. Whenever the provision of this Ordinance and those of some other ordinance or statute apply to the same subject matter, that ordinance requiring the highest, or more strict, standard shall govern. All other ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict with this Ordinance, to the extent of such conflict and not further, are hereby repealed to the extent necessary to give this Ordinance full force and effect.

Section 14. Effective Date. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force on the date that is enacted and ordained by the Mayor and Council of the City of Cochran, Georgia.

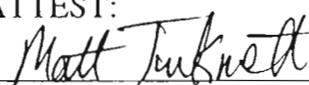
Approved, enacted, ordained, and so resolved by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Cochran this 12th day of October, 1999.

CITY OF COCHRAN, GEORGIA

BY: 

Chas. D. Killebrew
Mayor, City of Cochran

ATTEST:



Matt Turknett
City Clerk

City of Cochran

CITY SEAL

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act of 1990 requires all local governments to prepare a solid waste management plan; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs has established "Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures" under the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act of 1990, including standards and procedures for the preparation of these plans and implementation thereof, public participation, and coordinated review; and

WHEREAS, Bleckley County, Georgia has participated with the City of Cochran in a coordinated and comprehensive planning process under the Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act of 1990, and with the assistance of the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission, to update its existing adopted solid waste management plan with a new full plan update;

WHEREAS, this coordinated and comprehensive planning process has resulted in the new joint plan, *The Joint Bleckley County Solid Waste Management Plan 2019*, including a separate "Ten-Year Work Program" for Bleckley County in the plan;

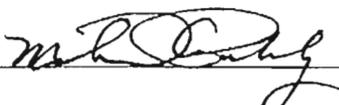
WHEREAS, requirements for public participation in the development of this solid waste management plan as mandated by the appropriate Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures have been met, including an initial joint public hearing prior to development of the plan held on June 30, 2009 to receive input, and a final public hearing held on September 8, 2009 to brief the public on the draft plan and receive further input prior to submission of the plan for review and comment; and

WHEREAS, Bleckley County has participated in the development, reviewed, and approved *The Joint Bleckley County Solid Waste Management Plan 2019*, including the Bleckley County Work Program, as its solid waste management plan under the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act of 1990.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Bleckley County Sole Commissioner certifies that public participation and other requirements of the Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures for its solid waste management plan have been met, and that the *Joint Bleckley County Solid Waste Management Plan 2019* is hereby authorized to be submitted to the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for formal review, comment, and recommendation before formal adoption of the plan by the Bleckley County Sole Commissioner as mandated by Georgia law and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

SO RESOLVED, this 8th day of September, 2009.

BY: _____



ATTEST: _____



RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act of 1990 requires all local governments to prepare a solid waste management plan; and

WHEREAS, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs has established "Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures" under the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act of 1990, including standards and procedures for the preparation of these plans and implementation thereof, public participation, and coordinated review; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cochran, Georgia has participated with Bleckley County in a coordinated and comprehensive planning process under the Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act of 1990, and with the assistance of the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission, to update its existing adopted solid waste management plan with a new full plan update;

WHEREAS, this coordinated and comprehensive planning process has resulted in the new joint plan, *The Joint Bleckley County Solid Waste Management Plan 2019*, including a separate "Ten-Year Work Program" for the City of Cochran in the plan;

WHEREAS, requirements for public participation in the development of this solid waste management plan as mandated by the appropriate Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures have been met, including an initial joint public hearing prior to development of the plan held on June 30, 2009 to receive input, and a final public hearing held on September 8, 2009 to brief the public on the draft plan and receive further input prior to submission of the plan for review and comment; and

WHEREAS, the City of Cochran has participated in the development, reviewed, and approved *The Joint Bleckley County Solid Waste Management Plan 2019*, including the City of Cochran Work Program, as its solid waste management plan under the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act of 1990.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Cochran certify that public participation and other requirements of the Minimum Planning Standards and Procedures for its solid waste management plan have been met, and that the *Joint Bleckley County Solid Waste Management Plan 2019* is hereby authorized to be submitted to the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs for formal review, comment, and recommendation before formal adoption of the plan by the City of Cochran as mandated by Georgia law and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

SO RESOLVED, this 6th day of September, 2009.

BY: Edward E. Towns
Mayor Edward E. Towns

ATTEST: Matt Turknett
City Clerk Matt Turknett



HEART OF GEORGIA ALTAMAHA REGIONAL COMMISSION

5405 Oak Street, Eastman, Georgia 31023
Ph. 478-374-4771 - Fax 478-374-0703

331 West Parker Street, Baxley, Georgia 31513
Ph. 912-367-3648 - Fax 912-367-3640

September 18, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Potentially Interested or Affected Local Governments, State and Federal Agencies, and Regional Commissions

FROM: Heart of Georgia Altamaha RC

SUBJECT: Bleckley County/City of Cochran Joint Solid Waste Management Plan Update Submittal under Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act of 1990

Bleckley County and the City of Cochran have submitted their joint full solid waste management plan update, *The Joint Bleckley County Solid Waste Management Plan, 2019*, for formal review and comment under the Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act of 1990. The formal "Notification of Local Plan Submittal and Regional Review Hearing/Comment Opportunity" form is attached as your official notice of local plan update review.

The purpose of this notification is to allow surrounding local governments, Regional Commissions, state agencies, and other potentially interested parties to present their view on the submitted document. For those persons wishing to review and comment, a complete copy of the solid waste management plan update is available at the Bleckley County Commissioner's Office, Cochran City Hall, and the offices of the Heart of Georgia Altamaha Regional Commission. Copies cannot be mailed. Formal comments must be made in writing in order to be accepted.

Please submit any comments that you wish to have taken into consideration to either Bill Lindsey (lindsey@hogarc.org) or the Heart of Georgia Altamaha RC's general e-mail address (HEARTOGA@bellsouth.net) by no later than October 9, 2009.

Enclosure

File: 300.001.18, 400.002

**NOTICE OF LOCAL PLAN SUBMITTAL
AND HEARING/COMMENT OPPORTUNITY**

Submitting Local Government: Bleckley County/City of Cochran

Date plan Received: September 14,
2009

Local Contact: County: Mike Polsky, Sole Commissioner; Cochran: Matt Turknnett, City Clerk

Phone: County: (478) 934-3200; Cochran: (478) 934-6346

Address: County: 112 North Second Street, P.O. Box 272, Cochran, GA 31014; Cochran: P.O. Box 8, Cochran, GA 31014

New Local Plan (Solid Waste Management Plan) **Plan Amendment**

Full Plan Update

Short Term Work Program Update

Public Hearing Date and Time: N/A

Location: N/A

Description of General Nature of Plan:

The local Solid Waste Management Plan consists of a Full Solid Waste Management Plan Update, including Report of Accomplishments and a new ten-year Short Term Work Program, for each government involved in the joint plan titled *The Joint Bleckley County Solid Waste Management Plan, 2019*. The Solid Waste Management Plan consists of an inventory and assessment of the local waste stream, local government collection and disposal programs, efforts at waste reduction, current land limitations in locating any new solid waste handling facilities, and joint countywide solid waste education programs. In addressing significant inter-jurisdictional issues, the Solid Waste Management Plan identifies continuing intra-county cooperation, especially in the areas of reducing the waste stream and solid waste disposal programs. The promotion of recycling activities and the continued promotion of the county's solid waste management program are among several identified areas for inter-county coordination and cooperation. A regional review public hearing is not required, and one will be held only if there is sufficient interest among potentially affected parties to warrant a hearing taking place. Formal comments must be made in writing in order to be accepted. To submit any comments you may wish to have taken into consideration, please notify the RC by no later than October 9, 2009 by e-mail at HEARTOGA@bellsouth.net, or lindsey@hogarc.org.

Reviewing Regional Commission: Heart of Georgia Altamaha RC

Contact Persons: Bill Lindsey

Address: 331 West Parker Street
Baxley, Georgia 31513

Phone: 912-367-3648