

**NRCS/CCWA: Response to Comments Received from May 1, 2023 Public Meeting**

Question 1: Have you considered the flow in the creek downstream of the dam during times of drought? How will the low flow be compared to pre-construction?

Response to Question 1:

Flow in the creek downstream of the dam during times of drought has been considered by the project team, as well as the applicable federal and state agencies responsible for issuance of permits to construct the project. Based upon the requirements stipulated in the issued permits, measures to address flow in Indian Creek downstream of the proposed Indian Creek dam during periods of low inflow are being incorporated into the design of the spillway outlet works for the proposed dam. More specifically, a series of gates or valves at various elevations will allow for the release of water from the reservoir into Indian Creek during periods of low inflow or drought.

The pre- and post-construction flows will be compared using the data from a stream gage which was installed in Indian Creek between Teague Road and the location of the proposed dam as a condition of the Georgia Environmental Protection Division’s Water Withdrawal Permit (“Water Withdrawal Permit”). The stream gage, having a USGS identification number of 02413215, was installed in November 2021. This gage has been collecting data, including flow rates and other pertinent water quality information (including dissolved oxygen, pH, specific conductance, and temperature), which is reported in real time on the USGS public website. Flows will be protected in accordance with the Water Withdrawal Permit which stipulates that releases from the proposed Indian Creek Reservoir Dam must be at least the lesser of natural streamflow or the non-depletable flows as measured at the gage referenced above and as shown in Table 1 below.

**Table 1**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Low Flow Protection Threshold Below Dam (cfs)</b>
January	2.52
February	3.03
March	3.93
April	3.54
May	2.21
June	1.04
July	1.12
August	0.62
September	0.40
October	0.60
November	0.98
December	2.02

These low flow protection thresholds will improve the flows during droughts. Currently, in times of drought, the water in Teague Lake may drop below the crest of the reservoir creating a condition in which no water is released from the impoundment. Based upon the above thresholds, flows in Indian Creek downstream of the proposed dam will be like those that exist today during periods of normal and above normal rainfall and greater than those that exist during periods of drought.

In addition, the flood protection provided by the existing NRCS Teague Lake Dam (Lower Little Tallapoosa Dam Number 25) will be matched by the proposed spillway for the new Indian Creek Reservoir Dam thereby providing the same amount of discharge in times of excess rainfall/runoff (i.e. flood conditions).