

**JOINT**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS**  
**69A HAGOOD AVENUE**  
**CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403-5107**

and

**THE S.C. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL**  
**Office of Environmental Quality Control**  
**Water Quality Certification and Wetlands Programs Section**  
**2600 Bull Street**  
**Columbia, South Carolina 29201**

**NOTE: THIS IS A CORPS OF ENGINEERS**  
**CIVIL WORKS PROJECT**

CESAC-PM-TE

July 25, 2003

Refer to: P/N # 2003-1R-213

Lake Marion Regional Water Supply System  
Calhoun, Clarendon, Dorchester, Orangeburg and Sumter Counties  
South Carolina

The Charleston District, Corps of Engineers, Charleston, South Carolina, proposes to perform the work described herein with due consideration and review given to the relevant provisions of the following laws:

1. The Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1251, et. seq.).
2. The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531, et. seq.).
3. The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (U.S.C. 470, et. seq.) and the Preservation of Historical Archeological Data Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 469, et. seq.).
4. The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, (42 U.S.C. 4321).
5. Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403).
6. S.C. Construction in Navigable Waters Permit Program (R. 19-450, et. seq., 1976 S.C. Code of Laws, as amended).

The purpose of this notice is to advise all interested parties of the proposed construction of water transmission lines, and a water treatment plant for providing water to a five county area located around Lake Marion including Calhoun, Clarendon, Dorchester, Orangeburg, and Sumter Counties (Figures 1 & 2).

In order to give all interested parties an opportunity to express their views

## **NOTICE**

is hereby given that written statements regarding the proposed work will be received at this office until

**12 O'CLOCK NOON, TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2003**

from those interested in the activity and whose interests may be affected by the proposed work.

### **PROJECT INFORMATION**

The proposed project involves the construction of an 8-Million Gallon per Day (MGD) drinking water treatment plant (expandable to 12 MGD), the installation of approximately 65 miles of water transmission pipeline, and connection to a new transmission line along U.S. Highway 301. The proposed water treatment plant and its 65-mile water transmission line will follow the existing right-of-way power line easements, existing railroad easements, and adjacent roadways to the towns of Elloree, Holly Hill, Manning, Santee and St. George. The water transmission lines will vary in size from 12 to 36-inches. (The new transmission line along U.S. Highway 301 is being constructed separately by the Lake Marion Regional Water Agency. There is no Corps of Engineers involvement with construction of the Highway 301 project. Environmental permitting for the Highway 301 project was performed under Nationwide #12 permit.)

The water routes have been developed to coincide with the raw water intake and water treatment plant that is to be located on the south side of Lake Marion to the east of Santee. The two main routes are divided into the routes south of Lake Marion (Southern Route) and routes north of Lake Marion (Northern Route). The Northern Route includes installation of approximately 22 miles of potable water transmission pipelines ranging in diameter from 16 – 36 inches. This route will serve the Town of Summerton, City of Manning and portions of Clarendon County, with provisions to serve portions of Sumter County in future phases of the regional water system. The pipeline crossing Lake Marion will be covered for part of the distance near the shorelines, but will resurface and lie on the lake bottom for the central portion of the crossing. The Southern Route includes the installation of approximately 43 miles of potable water transmission pipelines ranging in diameter from 16 to 36 inches. This route will provide service to Orangeburg County, Dorchester County and the Towns of St. George, Elloree, Santee, and Holly Hill, with provisions to serve Calhoun County in the future. Provisions to expand service in the future will be addressed with separate permitting and public notice procedures.

The proposed action for the water treatment plant and raw water intake includes the construction of an 8.0 Million Gallon per Day (MGD) water treatment plant, piping, valves, pumps, raw intake lines and related appurtenances. The proposed location of the raw water intake site is a 1-acre lake front lot in the Bluff Subdivision. The water treatment plant site will be located on a 26-acre site adjacent to the Bluffs subdivision

north of Highway 6 off of Graveyard Rock Road and will be connected to the raw water intake site via a 50-foot dedicated right-a-way (Figures 3, 4 & 5). The raw water intake for the Lake Marion Water Treatment Plant will be located on the channel of the Santee River. The raw water pump station will be located on a lot adjacent to Lake Marion located approximately 2,000 feet from the Santee River Channel. The depth of the river at this location is approximately 24 feet below the normal water level of Lake Marion.

The total acreage of the pipeline right-of-way requirements is approximately 202 acres. Of this total, approximately 30 involve wetlands and approximately 172 are on upland acres. All wetland impacts will be temporary, returning the areas to previous undisturbed conditions with the exception of the Lake Marion crossing where approximately 4100 linear feet of pipeline will rest on the lake bottom. Pipeline in wetland areas will be laid using the cut and cover method and/or directional drilling. All construction will be in compliance with Nationwide Permit #12.

Concerns regarding the decreasing quality and quantity of groundwater resources in the five county area prompted the development of the Lake Marion Regional Water Agency which developed an alternative plan for providing potable water. Subsequently, the purpose and need of this project is to provide potable water to the growing populations in the five county area.

### **ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS**

This document serves as a public notice on behalf of the SCDHEC for water quality certification and a S.C. Construction in Navigable Waters Permit. A certification is required from DHEC stating that the proposed construction will be conducted in a manner consistent with the Clean Water Act. By this notice, the Charleston District requests DHEC to issue that certification. Persons wishing to comment on State Certification are invited to submit same in writing to SCDHEC, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201, within 30 days of the date of this notice.

This project is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Program. By this notice, the Charleston District requests concurrence from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) that the proposed activity, occurring in Dorchester County, is consistent with the State's Coastal Zone Management Program. Concurrence is conclusively presumed if no state action is received within 45 days of receipt of this notice.

The Charleston District is coordinating with the State and specific Federally recognized tribes to determine the presence or absence of archeological and/or historic resources that may be present within the project site boundaries.

The District Engineer has consulted the most recently available threatened and endangered species information and has initiated consultation with the U.S. Fish and

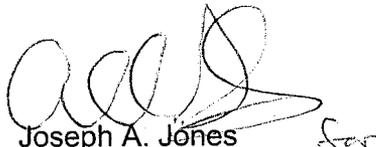
Wildlife Service. This public notice serves as a request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for any additional information they may have on whether any listed or proposed endangered or threatened species or designated or proposed critical habitat may be present in the area which would be affected by the proposed activity, pursuant to Section 7 (c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended).

With respect to the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements, our determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial individual or cumulative adverse impact on EFH or fisheries managed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The NMFS has concurred with our determination. Subsequently the EFH consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act have been completed.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this proposed project. Requests for a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. These requests should be made to DHEC at the address listed above.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to proceed with the project. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Questions or comments concerning this notice should be directed to Mr. Philip Wolf or Mrs. Robin Collier-Socha of the District's Environmental Resources Team (PM-TE) at telephone numbers (843) 329-8069 or (843)329-8167, respectively.

  
Joseph A. Jones  
Chief, Planning Branch

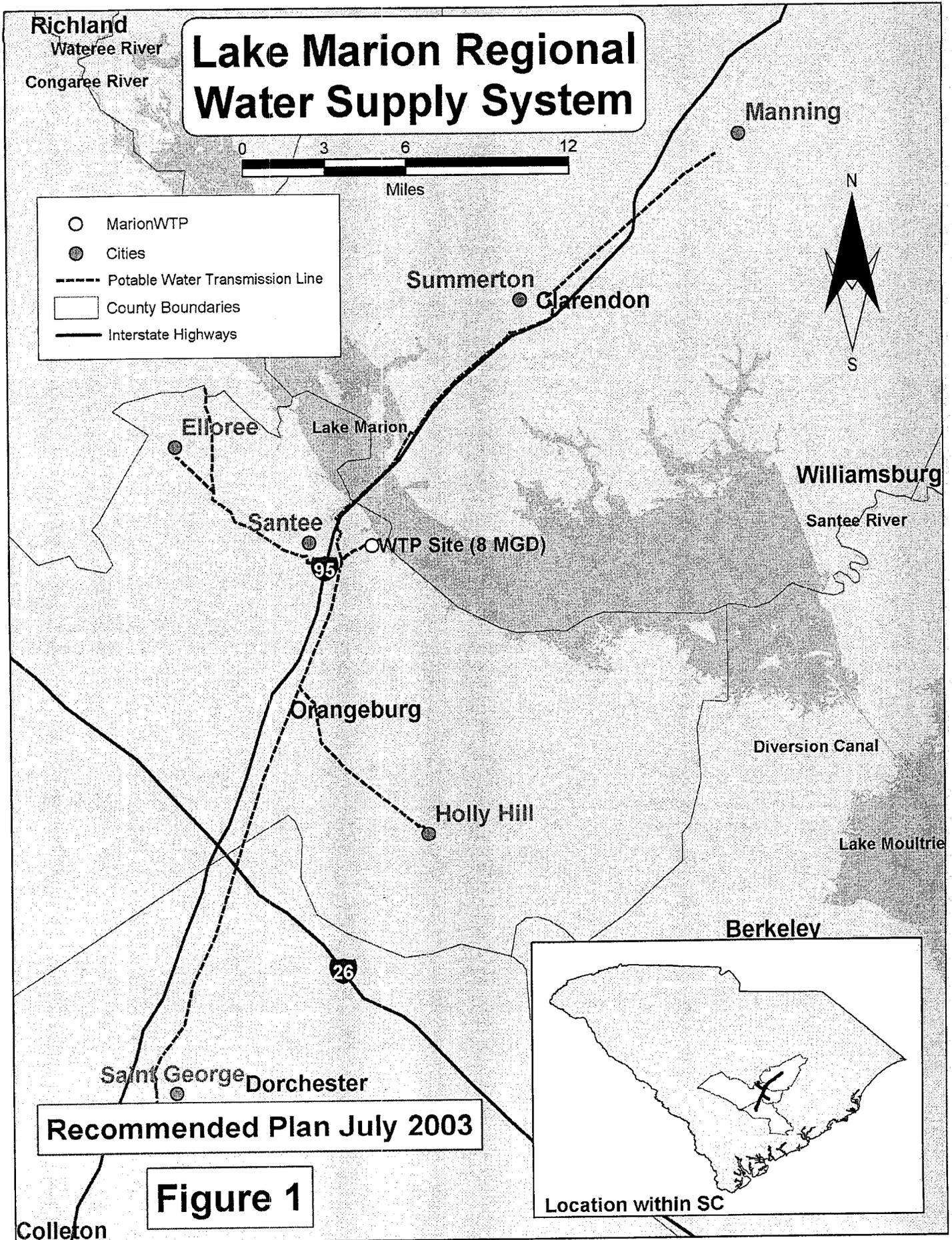
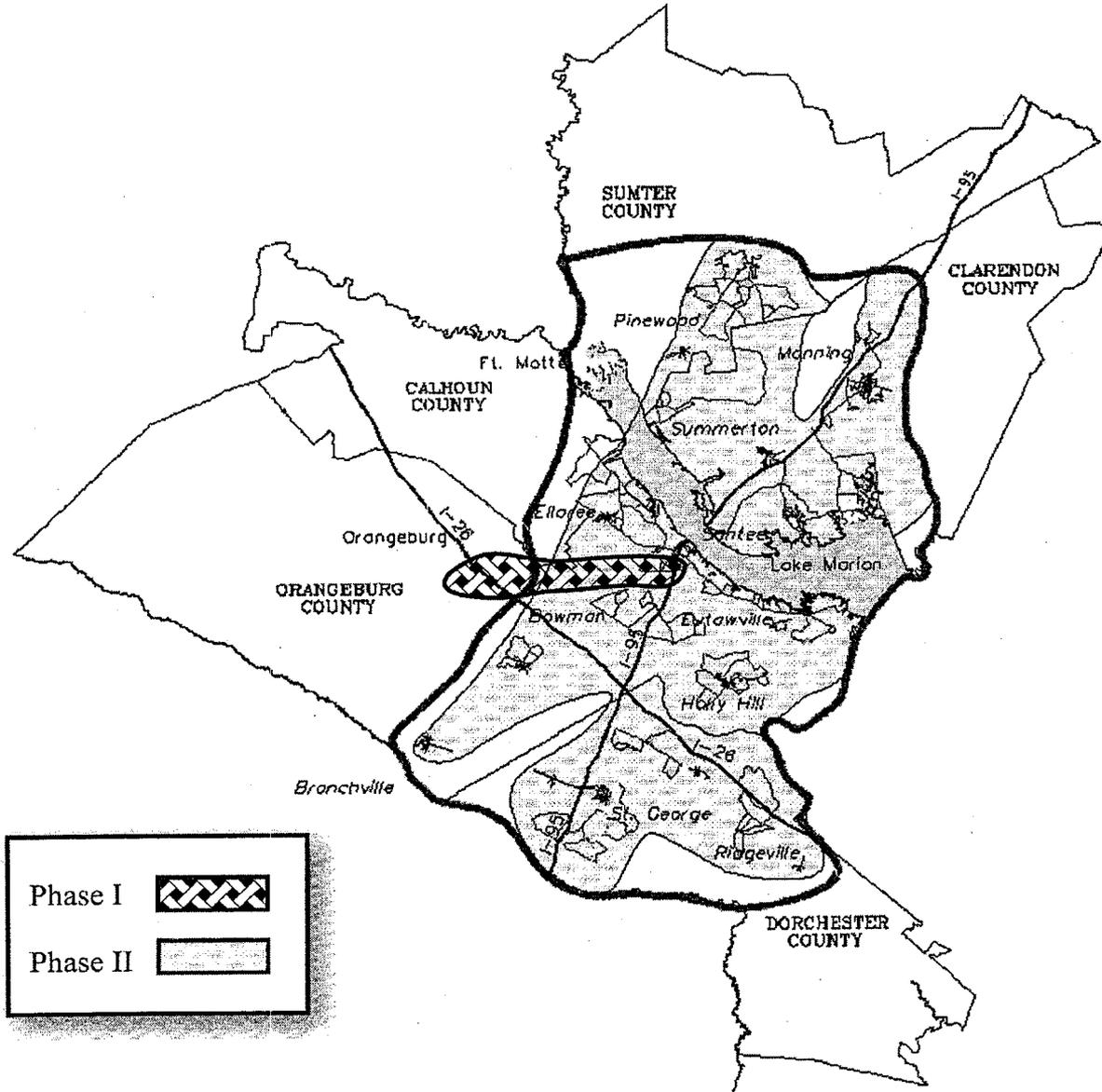


Figure 2: Lake Marion Regional Water Agency "Project Area" Map



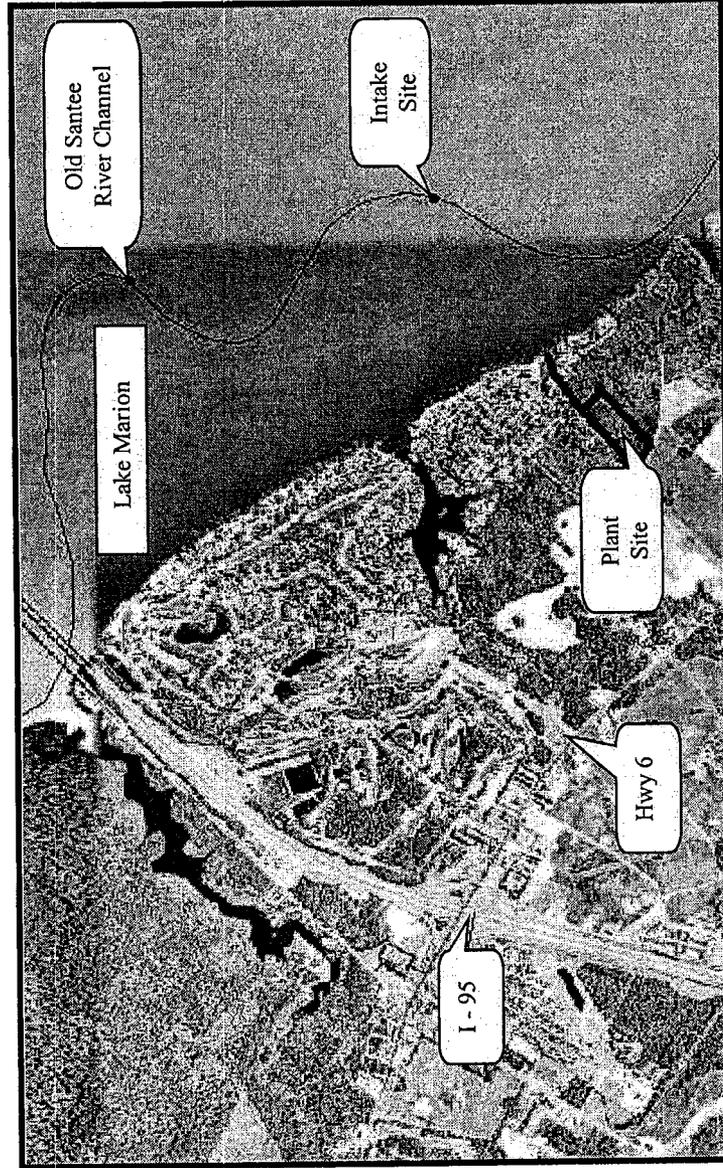


Figure 3: Water Intake & Plant Site

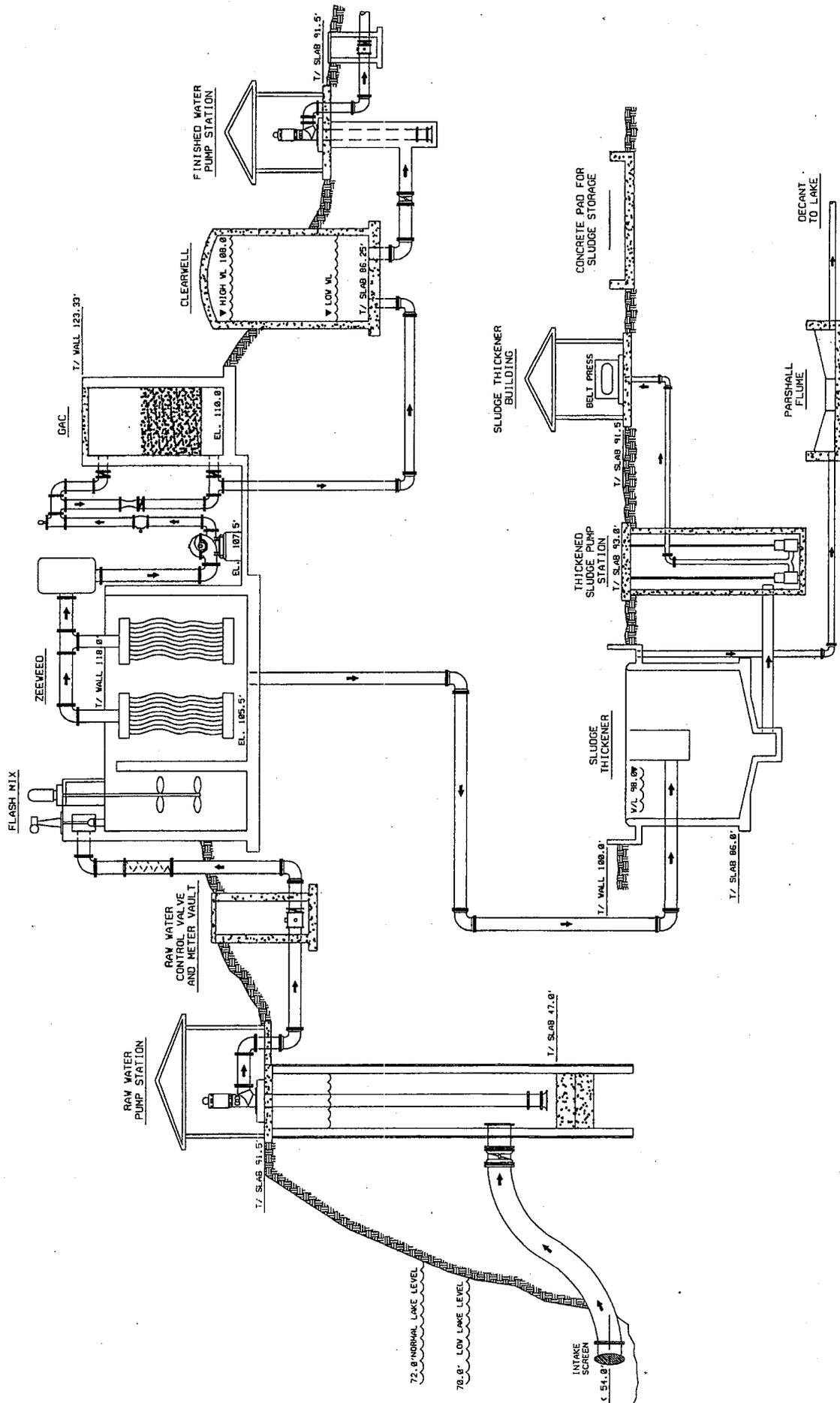
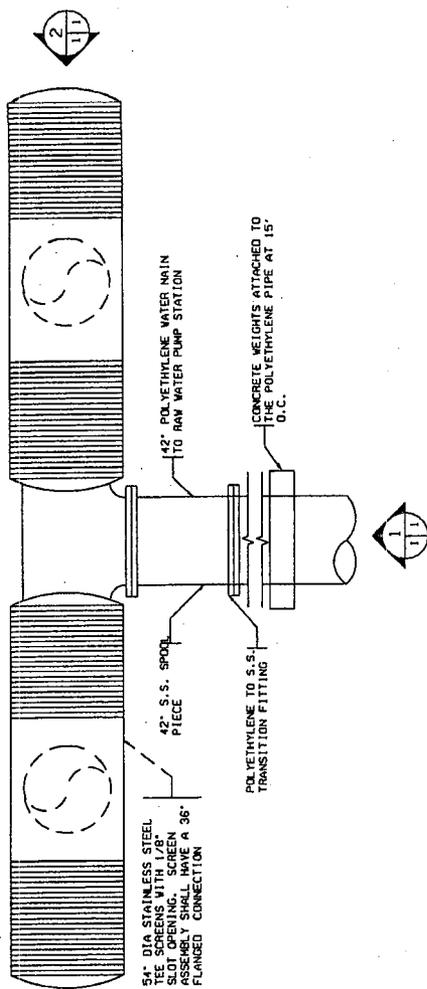
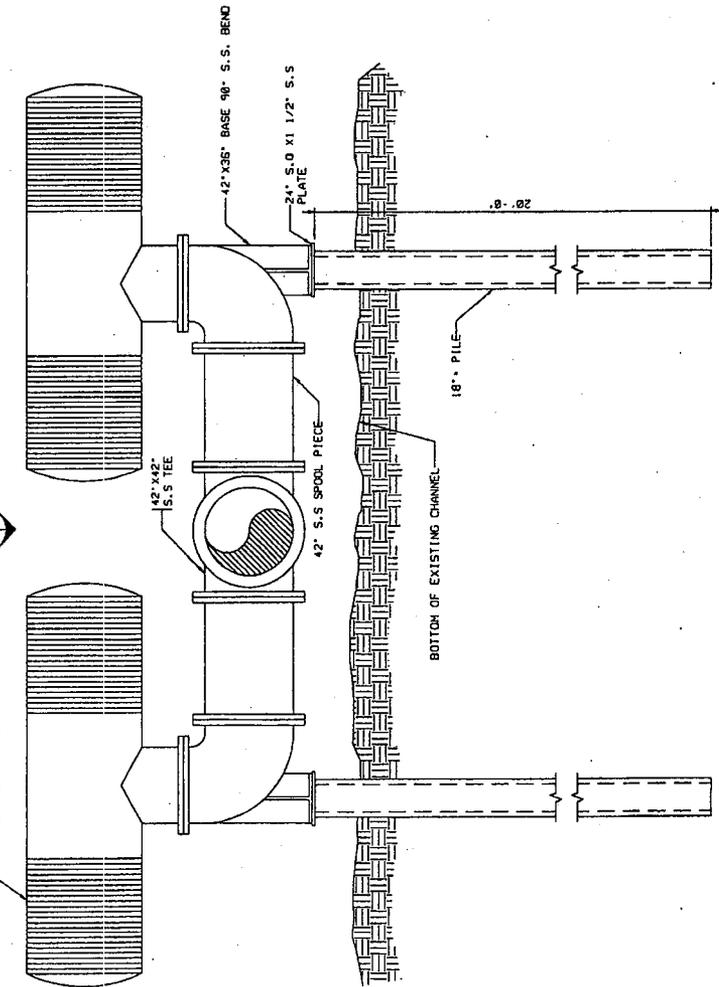


Figure 4: Hydraulic Profile of Water Treatment Plant



3 RAW WATER INTAKE SCREENS  
 1 PLAN VIEW  
 SCALE: 3/8" = 1'-8"



2 RAW WATER INTAKE SCREENS  
 1 SIDE VIEW  
 SCALE: 3/8" = 1'-8"

1 RAW WATER INTAKE SCREENS  
 1 ELEVATION VIEW  
 SCALE: 3/8" = 1'-8"

Figure 5: Raw Water Intake Screens