



## U.S. Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit Approved for Rivian Project

**ATLANTA** – December 28, 2022 – The Georgia Department of Economic Development, in conjunction with the Joint Development Authority of Jasper, Morgan, Newton, and Walton Counties (JDA), has received a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit for the Rivian project from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – an expected and significant step in the development of the site.

To earn this approval, the State and JDA have demonstrated that the project planning has avoided and minimized impacts to wetlands and streams to the maximum extent practicable and that all unavoidable impacts will be fully mitigated for. As part of its standard public interest review, the Corps sought and received public comments on the permit application, which the State and JDA carefully reviewed and provided [detailed responses](#) to.

“The approval of the Section 404 permit is another critical step for the community and the State in the development of this exciting and transformational project,” **said Georgia Department of Economic Development Commissioner Pat Wilson**. “Environmental protection forms the backbone of Rivian’s corporate philosophy, and from the start, the State has been committed to protecting local groundwater and minimizing environmental impact by following established law. Rivian’s planned facilities will support conservation efforts while adding great value to the local community, and we applaud their dedication to good environmental stewardship through every step of the development. The excitement surrounding Rivian’s new Georgia home is growing daily as we continue to create the future together.”

In addition to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Section 404 permit application was reviewed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources-Environmental Protection Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources-Wildlife Resources Division, and the Georgia Historic Preservation Division.

Consistent with its environmentally conscious mission, Rivian’s site designs show some of the ways the company aims to minimize the environmental impact of the facility footprint: Half of the site acreage will be permeable, vegetative surface that absorbs stormwater, creates wildlife habitat and stores carbon, with building placement and impermeable infrastructure on higher ground where possible to avoid impacting wetland areas. Rivian intends to preserve as much of the existing tree growth as possible. Rainwater will be collected and used on-site, reducing the need for traditional potable water supply. Following the company’s philosophy for new construction, the mature site will take into account best practices to limit lighting, stormwater runoff, water quality, and noise impacts and to preserve scenic views and natural systems.

Although the project is not subject to local regulations by virtue of the State owning the property, the State and JDA included site development guidelines and environmentally driven requirements in the overarching agreement between the State of Georgia, the JDA, and Rivian. Rivian will be required to comply with the Stanton Spring Business Park Ordinance’s threshold regulations as well as limit impervious surfaces to 50% of the site versus the 70% otherwise permitted, perform additional hydrology studies, design the stormwater detention for a 100-year storm, comply with the Walton County tree ordinance, coordinate with the local observatory regarding outdoor lighting plans, maintain

a 500-foot setback from Old Mill Road, and comply with all federal and state environmental permitting requirements. As demonstrated by these extra requirements, conserving buffers, wildlife habitat, and outdoor recreation around the site is a priority for the State, JDA, and Rivian.

The Section 404 permit application was submitted pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1344 (§ 404) to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on April 29, 2022, and had an expected standard processing time of six to nine months. A copy of the permit is [here](#) and the site sign is [here](#).

Additional permits received to-date include:

- Stream Buffer Variance; Issued November 2, 2022
- EPD 401 Water Quality Certification Concurrence (no impact to neighboring jurisdiction concurrence); Issued October 31, 2022
- Phase 1 of the permit area is released for construction by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; September 28, 2022
- Construction Stormwater Permit; Issued by EPD September 6, 2022
- Land disturbance permit; Issued July 2022

###

**Media Contact:**

[Marie Gordon](#), 404-962-4075