



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
SAVANNAH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3604

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

DECEMBER 23 2015

Regulatory Division  
SAS-2015-00824

**JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Savannah District/State of Georgia**

The Savannah District has received an application for a Department of the Army Permit, pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), as follows:

Application Number: SAS-2015-00824

Applicant: Mr. Christopher B. Novack  
Georgia Ports Authority  
Post Office Box 2406  
Savannah, Georgia 31402

Agent: Mr. Brandon W. Wall  
Sligh Environmental Consultants, Inc.  
31 Park of Commerce Way, Suite 200B  
Savannah, Georgia 31405

Location of Proposed Work: The project site is located at the eastern terminus of Grange Road, east of Georgia Highway 25 in the City of Port Wentworth, Chatham County, Georgia (Latitude 32.1402, Longitude -81.1457).

Description of Work Subject to the Jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps): The applicant proposes to impact 0.397 acres of jurisdictional wetlands associated with the expansion of a cargo storage yard at Container Berth 9 (CB9) in the Garden City Terminal. As proposed, the 2.010 acre Grange Road right-of-way would be paved to provide a contiguous container storage area that links the abutting storage yards located to the north and south of the project area. The applicant states that the proposed expansion would provide increased container storage space at CB9 to keep up with the constantly increasing container throughput volume at the terminal.

As compensatory mitigation for the project related impacts, the applicant is proposing to purchase 1.9 wetland mitigation credits. The applicant is proposing to purchase the wetland mitigation credits from a Corps approved mitigation bank located within the projects primary service area.

## **BACKGROUND**

A wetland delineation was completed for the project area on December 15, 2015. The delineation identified 0.397 acre of jurisdictional wetlands. This Joint Public Notice announces a request for authorizations from both the Corps and the State of Georgia. The applicant's proposed work may also require local governmental approval.

## **STATE OF GEORGIA**

Water Quality Certification: The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, intends to certify this project at the end of 30 days in accordance with the provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, which is required for a Federal Permit to conduct activity in, on, or adjacent to the waters of the State of Georgia. Copies of the application and supporting documents relative to a specific application will be available for review and copying at the office of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, Watershed Protection Branch, 2 MLK Jr. Drive, Suite 418, Atlanta, Georgia 30334, during regular office hours. A copier machine is available for public use at a charge of 10 cents per page. All coastal projects are filed at our Brunswick office and will need to be requested from Mr. Bradley Smith at [Bradley.Smith@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:Bradley.Smith@dnr.ga.gov). Any person who desires to comment, object, or request a public hearing relative to State Water Quality Certification must do so within 30 days of the State's receipt of application in writing and state the reasons or basis of objections or request for a hearing. The application can be reviewed in the Savannah District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Division, 100 W. Oglethorpe Avenue, Savannah, Georgia 31401-3604.

State-owned Property and Resources: The applicant may also require assent from the State of Georgia, which may be in the form of a license, easement, lease, permit or other appropriate instrument.

Marshland Protection: This notice also serves as notification of a request to alter coastal marshlands (under the provision of the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act, Georgia Laws, 1970, p. 939 and as amended), if required. Comments concerning this action should be submitted to the Ecological Services Section, Coastal Resources Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, 1 Conservation Way, Brunswick, Georgia 31523-8600 (Telephone 912-264-7218).

Georgia Coastal Management Program: Prior to the Savannah District Corps of Engineers making a final permit decision on this application, the project must be certified by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Resources Division, to be consistent with applicable provisions of the State of Georgia Coastal Management Program (15 CFR 930). Anyone wishing to comment on Coastal Management Program certification of this project should submit comments in writing within 30 days of the date of this notice to the Federal Consistency Coordinator, Ecological Services Section,

Coastal Resources Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, One Conservation Way, Brunswick, Georgia 31523-8600 (Telephone 912-264-7218).

## **U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

The Savannah District must consider the purpose and the impacts of the applicant's proposed work, prior to a decision on issuance of a Department of the Army Permit.

Cultural Resources Assessment: Review of the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places indicates that there are no sites listed on the register within or immediately adjacent to the project area. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, we request the Georgia Historical Preservation Division (HPD) or any other interested party review the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) to determine if the property has or has not any registered properties or properties listed as eligible for inclusion located at the site or in the area affected by the proposed work. Presently unknown archaeological, scientific, prehistorical, or historical data may be located at the site and could be affected by the proposed work.

Endangered Species: Pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), we request information from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service; or, any other interested party, on whether any species listed or proposed for listing may be present in the area.

According to the applicant, the USFWS Information, Planning, and Conservation (IPaC) System was consulted to determine the potential impacts of the proposed project on federally listed species. SECI completed a threatened and endangered species survey within the project area where plant communities and habitats were observed and noted to determine if they match the habitat types where the listed species have potential to occur. Due to the lack of suitable habitat and because no listed species were observed during the survey, the applicant concluded that the proposed activities associated with the project are not expected to impact any individual or population of a listed threatened or endangered species. The Corps has determined that the proposed project would have no effect on any Federally listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat that are under the purview of U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

Public Interest Review: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection

and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

Consideration of Public Comments: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Native American 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 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement 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.

Application of Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines: The proposed activity involves the discharge of dredged or fill material into the waters of the United States. The Savannah District's evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under the authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

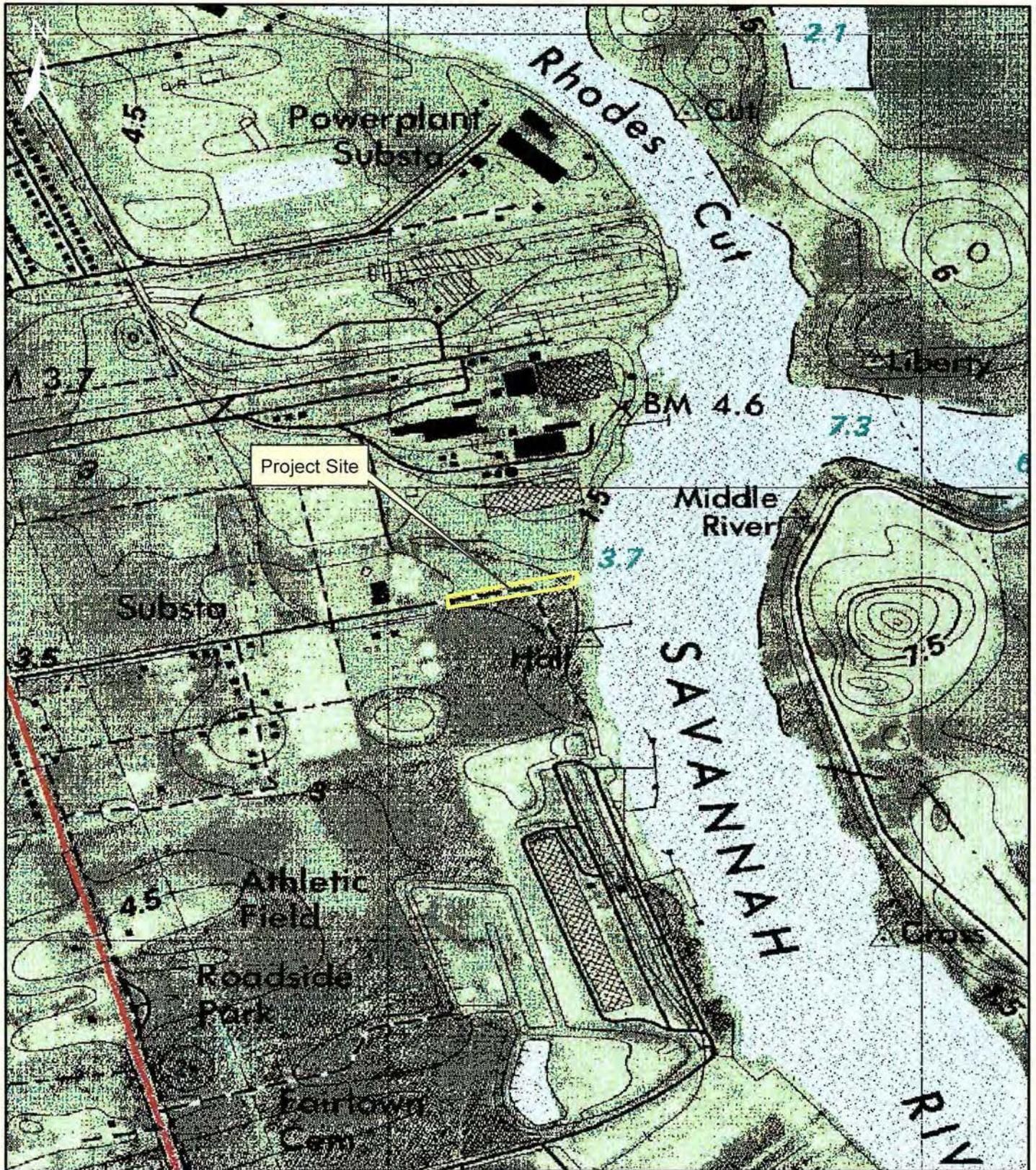
Public Hearing: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application for a Department of the Army permit. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for requesting a public hearing. The decision whether to hold a public hearing is at the discretion of the District Engineer, or his designated appointee, based on the need for additional substantial information necessary in evaluating the proposed project.

Comment Period: Anyone wishing to comment on this application for a Department of the Army Permit should submit comments in writing to the Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Attention: Jared M. Lopes, 100 W. Oglethorpe Avenue, Savannah, Georgia 31401-3604, no later than 30 days from the date of this notice. Please refer to the applicant's name and the application number in your comments.

If you have any further questions concerning this matter, please contact Mr. Jared M. Lopes, Regulatory Specialist, Coastal Branch at 912-652-5348.

4 Encls

1. USGS Topographic Map
2. 2013 Aerial Photograph
3. Wetland Survey
4. Proposed Wetland Impacts



 Approximate Project Limits

Prepared By:

**sligh** environmental consultants, inc.  
 31 Park of Commerce Way, Suite 200B  
 Savannah, Georgia 31405  
 phone (912) 232-0451  
 fax (912) 232-0453

US Geological Survey  
 Grange Road Pavement Extension  
 Chatham County, Georgia

1,000

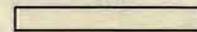
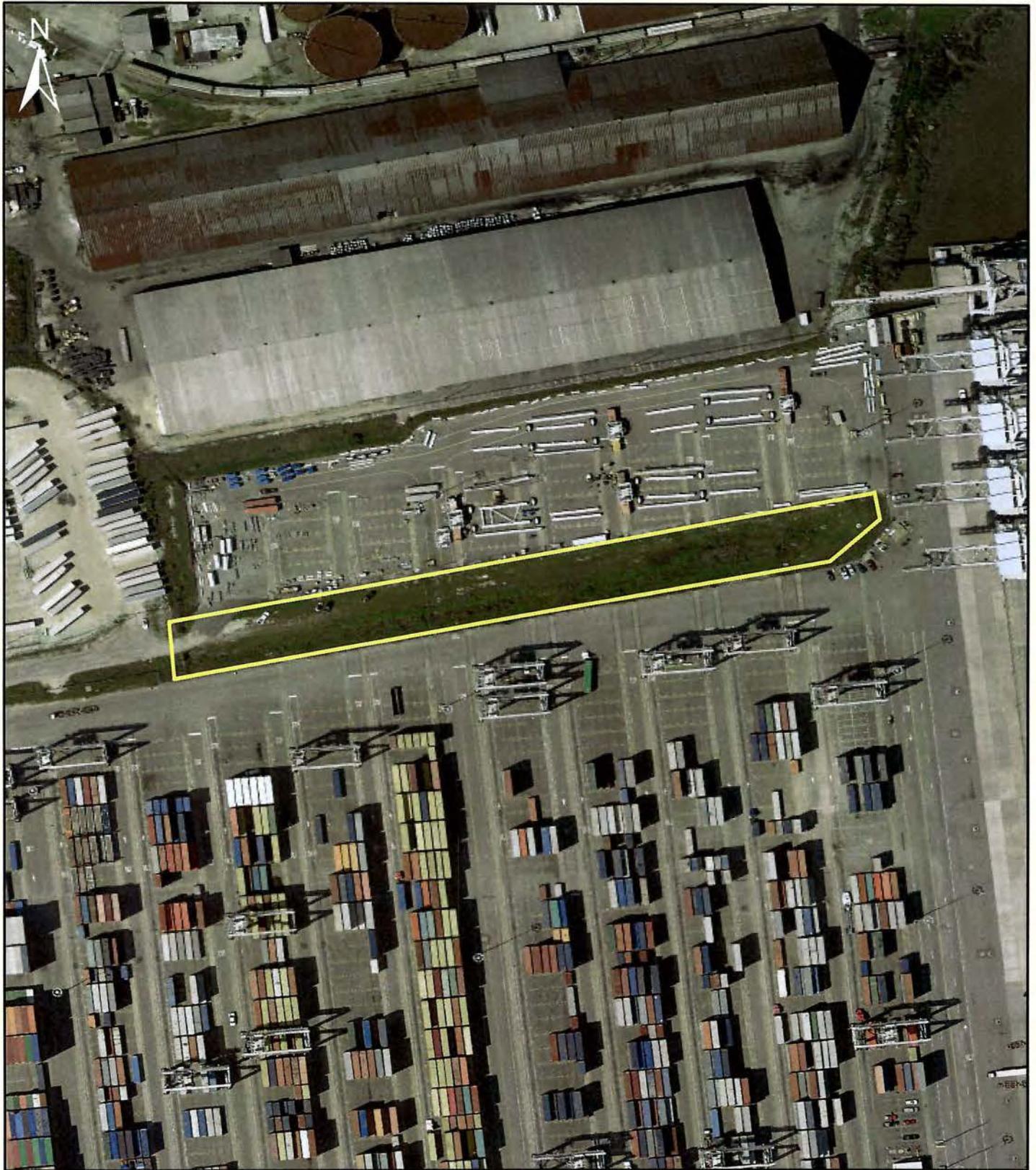
 Feet

Exhibit Date: October 5, 2015

Drawn By: BWW

Reviewed By: DJP

Job Number : 01-14-071



 Approximate Project Limits

Prepared By:

**sligh** environmental consultants, inc.  
31 Park of Commerce Way, Suite 200B  
Savannah, Georgia 31405  
phone (912) 232-0451  
fax (912) 232-0453

2013 Aerial Photograph  
Grange Road Pavement Extension  
Chatham County, Georgia

200

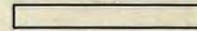
 Feet

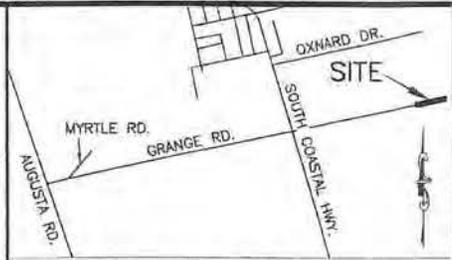
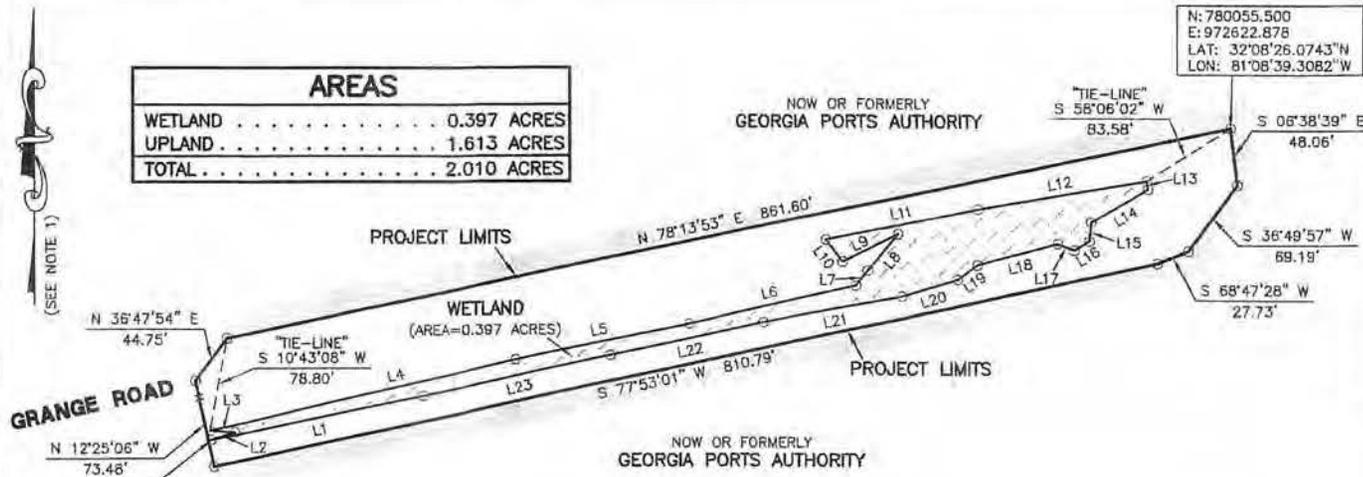
Exhibit Date: October 5, 2015

Drawn By: BWW

Reviewed By: DJP

Job Number : 01-14-071

| AREAS   |             |
|---------|-------------|
| WETLAND | 0.397 ACRES |
| UPLAND  | 1.613 ACRES |
| TOTAL   | 2.010 ACRES |

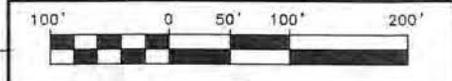


VICINITY MAP (NOT TO SCALE)

THIS DOCUMENT AND ALL REPRODUCIBLE COPIES OF THIS DOCUMENT ARE THE PROPERTY OF SHUPE SURVEYING COMPANY, P.C. REPRODUCTION OF THIS DOCUMENT IS NOT PERMITTED WITHOUT WRITTEN CONSENT OF SHUPE SURVEYING COMPANY, P.C. UNLESS THIS DOCUMENT BECOMES A MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD. ALTERATIONS TO THIS DOCUMENT ARE NOT PERMITTED.

A WETLAND SURVEY OF:  
**A PORTION OF  
 GRANGE ROAD**  
**GARDEN CITY TERMINAL  
 GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY**  
 8TH G.M.D., GARDEN CITY,  
 CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA  
 PREPARED FOR:  
**GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY**

  
**SHUPE SURVEYING COMPANY, P.C.**  
 3837 DARIEN HIGHWAY  
 BRUNSWICK, GA 31525  
 912-285-0562  
 CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORIZATION: LSF317



|         |           |            |          |
|---------|-----------|------------|----------|
| SCALE   | 1" = 100' | PLAT DATE  | 10/26/15 |
| FILE    | 15344     | DRAWN BY   | S.A.C.   |
| DRAWING | 15344     | CREW CHIEF | G.G.     |

(SEE NOTE 1)

N: 779794.600  
 E: 971765.875  
 LAT: 32°08'23.5731"N  
 LON: 81°08'49.3034"W

N: 780055.500  
 E: 972622.878  
 LAT: 32°08'26.0743"N  
 LON: 81°08'39.3082"W

**NOTES:**

- BEARINGS AND COORDINATES SHOWN ON THIS SURVEY ARE BASED ON THE GEORGIA STATE PLANE COORDINATE SYSTEM, EAST ZONE, NAD83 AND WERE ESTABLISHED USING RTK GPS WITH A VRS NETWORK (eGPS SOLUTIONS).
- FIELD EQUIPMENT USED FOR THIS SURVEY: CHAMPION TKO RECEIVER
- THIS MAP OR PLAT HAS BEEN CALCULATED FOR CLOSURE AND IS FOUND TO BE ACCURATE WITHIN ONE FOOT IN 82,000+ FEET.
- THIS SURVEY AND ALL SUBSEQUENT REVISIONS ARE BASED SOLELY ON FIELD WORK THAT WAS COMPLETED ON 10/8/15 (UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED). SHUPE SURVEYING COMPANY, P.C. IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY CHANGES TO SITE CONDITIONS AFTER THIS DATE.
- WETLANDS ARE UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS. LOT OWNERS AND THE DEVELOPER MAY BE SUBJECT TO PENALTY BY LAW FOR DISTURBANCE TO THESE PROTECTED AREAS WITHOUT PROPER PERMIT APPLICATIONS AND APPROVAL. WETLANDS WERE DELINEATED BY SLUG ENVIRONMENTAL IN OCTOBER, 2015 AND FIELD LOCATED IN OCTOBER, 2015.

| LINE | BEARING       | DISTANCE |
|------|---------------|----------|
| L1   | S 78°23'43" W | 182.48'  |
| L2   | N 71°40'29" E | 20.94'   |
| L3   | N 86°51'13" W | 21.06'   |
| L4   | N 77°01'21" E | 264.55'  |
| L5   | N 78°17'58" E | 148.32'  |
| L6   | N 77°14'44" E | 144.74'  |
| L7   | N 37°49'34" E | 15.89'   |
| L8   | N 39°23'44" E | 39.51'   |
| L9   | S 63°07'14" W | 51.28'   |
| L10  | N 37°49'42" W | 23.25'   |
| L11  | N 78°37'47" E | 130.45'  |
| L12  | N 80°27'50" E | 142.24'  |
| L13  | S 08°04'06" E | 7.03'    |
| L14  | S 59°35'56" W | 54.47'   |
| L15  | S 05°19'33" W | 16.17'   |
| L16  | S 59°00'19" W | 14.58'   |
| L17  | N 68°34'59" W | 14.67'   |
| L18  | S 75°23'15" W | 69.47'   |
| L19  | S 54°30'02" W | 20.70'   |
| L20  | S 73°13'19" W | 49.15'   |
| L21  | S 79°25'23" W | 118.28'  |
| L22  | S 77°50'29" W | 131.16'  |
| L23  | S 77°47'44" W | 161.69'  |

**LEGEND:**

-  ASPHALT
-  WETLAND
-  CHAIN LINK FENCE



SAVANNAH FOODS  
AND INDUSTRIES  
WAREHOUSE

GRANGE RD

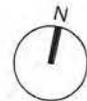
PROPOSED PAVEMENT

WETLAND IMPACT  
0.397 ACRES

CB-9 (DOCK)

GARDEN CITY TERMINAL  
GRANGE ROAD PAVEMENT EXTENSION  
WETLAND IMPACTS

DATE: 29-OCT-2015



1" = 80'