



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
SAVANNAH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3640

OCTOBER 02 2017

Regulatory Branch  
SAS-2008-00241

**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-2008-00241

Applicant: Mr. Patrick Hepner  
Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC  
303 Perimeter Center North, Suite 202  
Atlanta, Georgia 30346

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

Location of Proposed Work: The project site is located on the south side of Colonel's Island, at the Mercedes-Benz auto processing facility, in Glynn County, Georgia (Latitude 31.1084, Longitude -81.5360).

Description of Work Subject to the Jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:  
The applicant is proposing to fill 0.49 acre of freshwater wetland to facilitate the expansion of the existing automobile import/export processing facility. To compensate for the loss in aquatic function associated with the proposed fill, the applicant is proposing to purchase 2.74 wetland credits from the Broxton Rocks Mitigation Bank.

**BACKGROUND**

On October 9, 1998, the Corps verified a jurisdictional determination (JD) for the tract of land in which the existing facility was constructed. Specifically, the JD verified that approximately 5.08 acres of wetland were isolated, non-jurisdictional wetlands. At that time, approximately 3.53 acres of isolated, non-jurisdictional wetlands were filled. The verified JD subsequently expired on February 20, 2006. With the implementation of the Rapanos guidance in June 2007, the Corps concluded that the remaining 1.55 acres of wetland was subject to Corps jurisdiction and regulated subject to Section 404 of the

Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). On June 20, 2008, the Corps issued DA permit SAS-2008-00241 to GPA to fill the remaining 1.44 acres of wetland to expand the automotive processing facility. To offset the loss in aquatic function associated with the fill of the jurisdictional wetland as well as the previously filled isolated wetlands, the applicant purchased 35.1 wetland credits from the Hog Creek Mitigation Bank. The property has been since acquired by the applicant, Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC. As proposed, the applicant would expand this facility to the south.

This Joint Public Notice announces a request for authorizations from both the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 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 31401-3640.

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.

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 C.F.R. § 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 no registered properties or properties listed as eligible for inclusion are 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.

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.

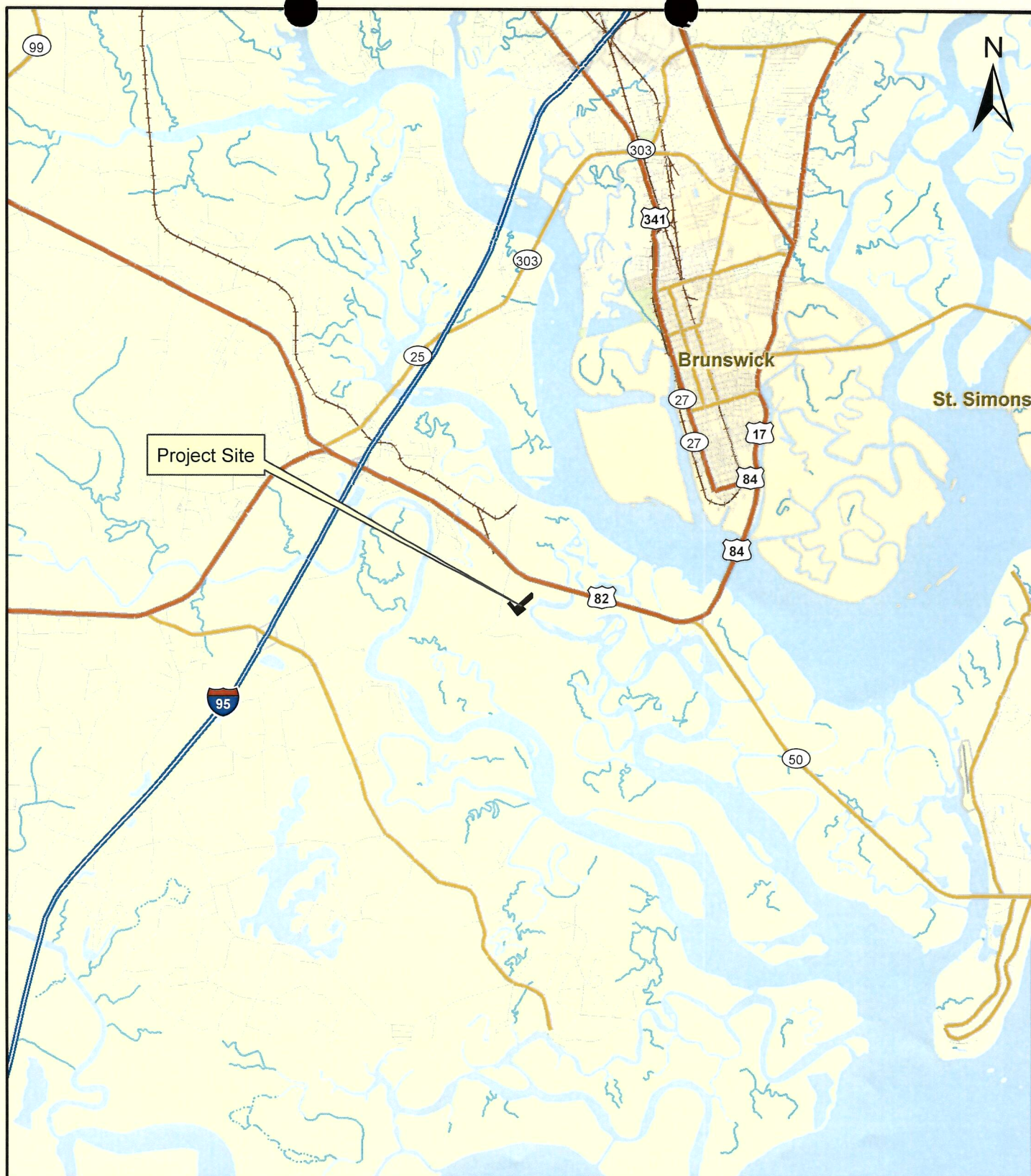
Comment Period: Anyone wishing to comment on this application for a Department of the Army Permit should submit comments in writing to the Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Attention: Mrs. Sarah E. Wise, 100 W. Oglethorpe Avenue, Savannah, Georgia 31401-3640, no later than 30 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 Mrs. Sarah E. Wise, Team Lead, Coastal Section at (912) 652-5550.

### 3 Enclosures

1. Location Map, Mercedes-Benz Expansion, Glynn County, dated May 13, 2016.
2. Phase 3 Vehicle Storage, Wetland Impacts, MBUSA, Colonels Island, Glynn County, Georgia, dated May 24, 2017.
3. Phase 3 Vehicle Storage, Sections, MBUSA, Colonels Island, Glynn County, Georgia, dated May 24, 2017.





Project Area

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

# Location Map Mercedes-Benz Expansion Glynn County, Georgia

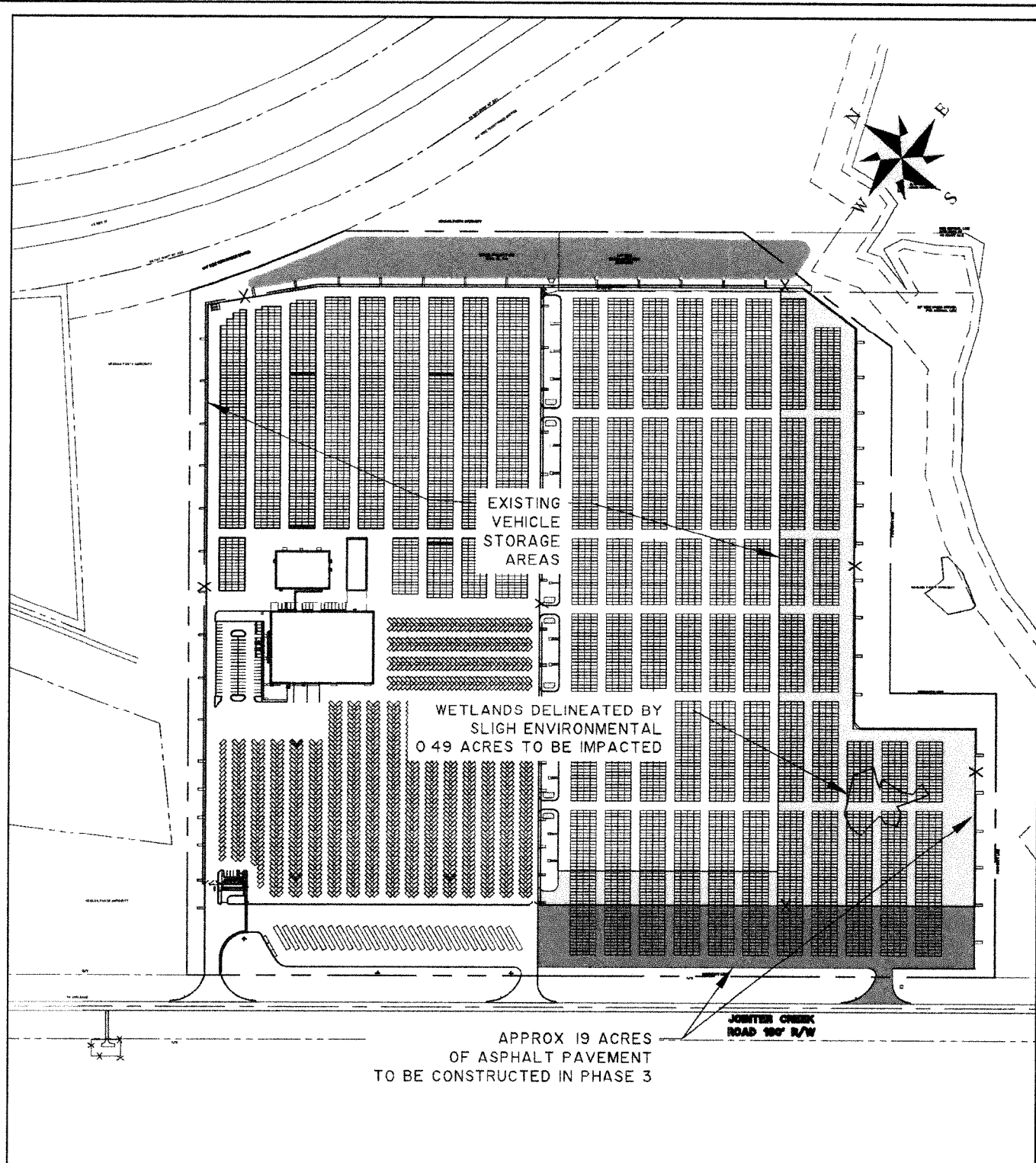
2  
 Miles

Exhibit Date: May 13, 2016

Drawn By: BWV

Reviewed By: DJP

Job Number : 01-16-044



## PHASE 3 VEHICLE STORAGE

### WETLAND IMPACTS

CLIENT:

MBUSA

LOCATION: COLONELS ISLAND / GLYNN COUNTY / GEORGIA

DATE: MAY 24, 2017

DRAWN BY: SF

SHEET: W1

JOB NUMBER: J-26287

REVIEWED BY: KC

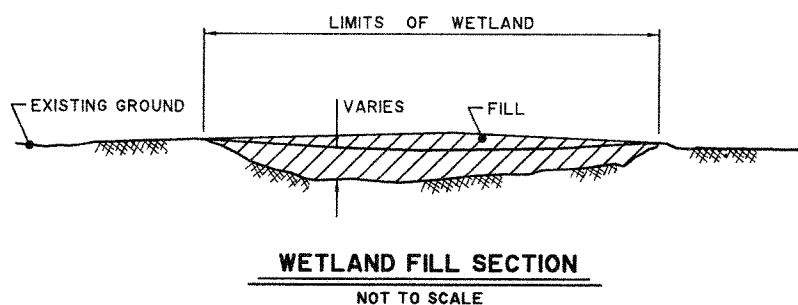
SCALE: 1" = 400'



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## PHASE 3 VEHICLE STORAGE

### SECTIONS

CLIENT:

MBUSA

LOCATION: COLONELS ISLAND / GLYNN COUNTY / GEORGIA

DATE: MAY 24, 2017

DRAWN BY: SF

SHEET: W2

JOB NUMBER: J-26287

REVIEWED BY: KC

SCALE: N.T.S.



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Savannah, GA 31405 • 912.234.5300

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