



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

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

JULY 11 2012

Regulatory Division  
SAS-2012-00517

**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-2012-00517

Applicant: Mr. William J. Yearta, Mayor  
City of Sylvester  
101 North Main Street  
Sylvester, Georgia 31791

Agent: Mr. Stephen Modica  
Register-Nelson Environmental Consultants  
45 Parkland Drive  
Stockbridge, Georgia 30281

Location of Proposed Work: The project site is located on the north end of the existing Sylvester Airport, between Pineknoll Road and US Highway 82, in Sylvester, Worth County, Georgia (Latitude 31.5577, Longitude -83.8939).

Description of Work Subject to the Jurisdiction of the US Army Corps of Engineers:  
Improvement of capacity and safety of an existing airport. Improvement of the airport includes an extension of the current 3,293-foot runway to 5,000 feet. The recommended extension would lengthen Runway 1 on the south end by 350 feet and Runway 19 on the north end by 1,357 feet, giving the ultimate runway a net dimension of 5,000 feet long by 75 feet wide as indicated in the Airport Layout Plan (Enclosure I). The construction of a parallel taxiway is also proposed in order to separate aircraft taxi movement from the takeoff and landing strip. This runway expansion would require the relocation of a portion of Pineknoll Road and require approximately 2.15 acres of fill (e.g., a box culvert, clean fill material, aggregate, etc.) in wetlands and piping of 928 linear feet of an unnamed intermittent stream. Impacts to wetlands and waters will require 14.2 wetland and 4,176 stream mitigation credits, respectively. Per the USACE's 2008 Final Mitigation Rule, the City of Sylvester will satisfy their compensatory mitigation requirements through the purchase of required credits from a USACE- approved mitigation bank.

## **BACKGROUND**

This Joint Public Notice announces a request for authorizations from both the US 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, Water Protection Branch, 4220 International Parkway, Suite 101, Atlanta, Georgia 30354, during regular office hours. A copier machine is available for public use at a charge of 25 cents per page. 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, US Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Division, 1104 N. Westover Blvd, Suite 9, Albany, Georgia 31707.

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.

### **US 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.

As no new archaeological sites or historic structures were recorded within the project area, it is recommended that the proposed project be allowed to proceed without concern for impacts to significant cultural resources.

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 US Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, the US Department of Commerce, the National Oceanic and

Atmospheric Administration, and the 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 US 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 US 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.

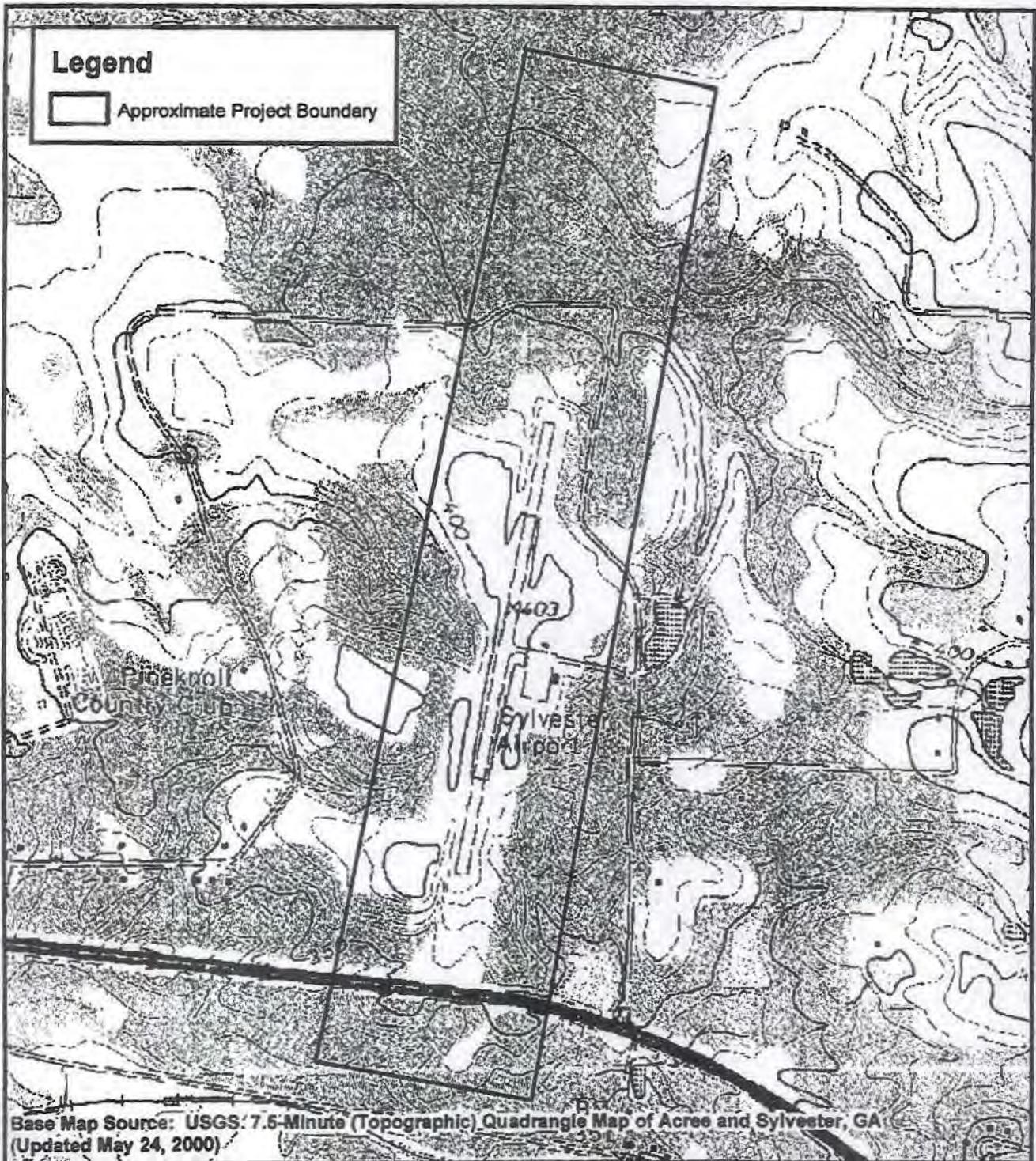
Public Hearing: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application for a Department of the Army Permit. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for requesting a public hearing. 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, US Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Attention: Alan J. Miller, 1104 N. Westover Blvd, Suite 9, Albany, Georgia 31707, 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 Alan Miller, Project Manager, Coastal Branch, Albany Field Office at 229-430-8566.

\*\*Encls

1. Site Location Map
2. Wetland Impacts Map



**Legend**

 Approximate Project Boundary

Base Map Source: USGS 7.5-Minute (Topographic) Quadrangle Map of Acree and Sylvester, GA (Updated May 24, 2000)

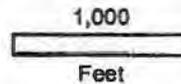
Prepared:  
May 21, 2012  
By:

**REGISTER & NELSON**  
Environmental Consultants

45 Parkland Drive, Stockbridge, GA 30252  
Office: 678-432-2636 Fax: 678-432-2464

**Figure 1**  
**USGS Topographic Map**

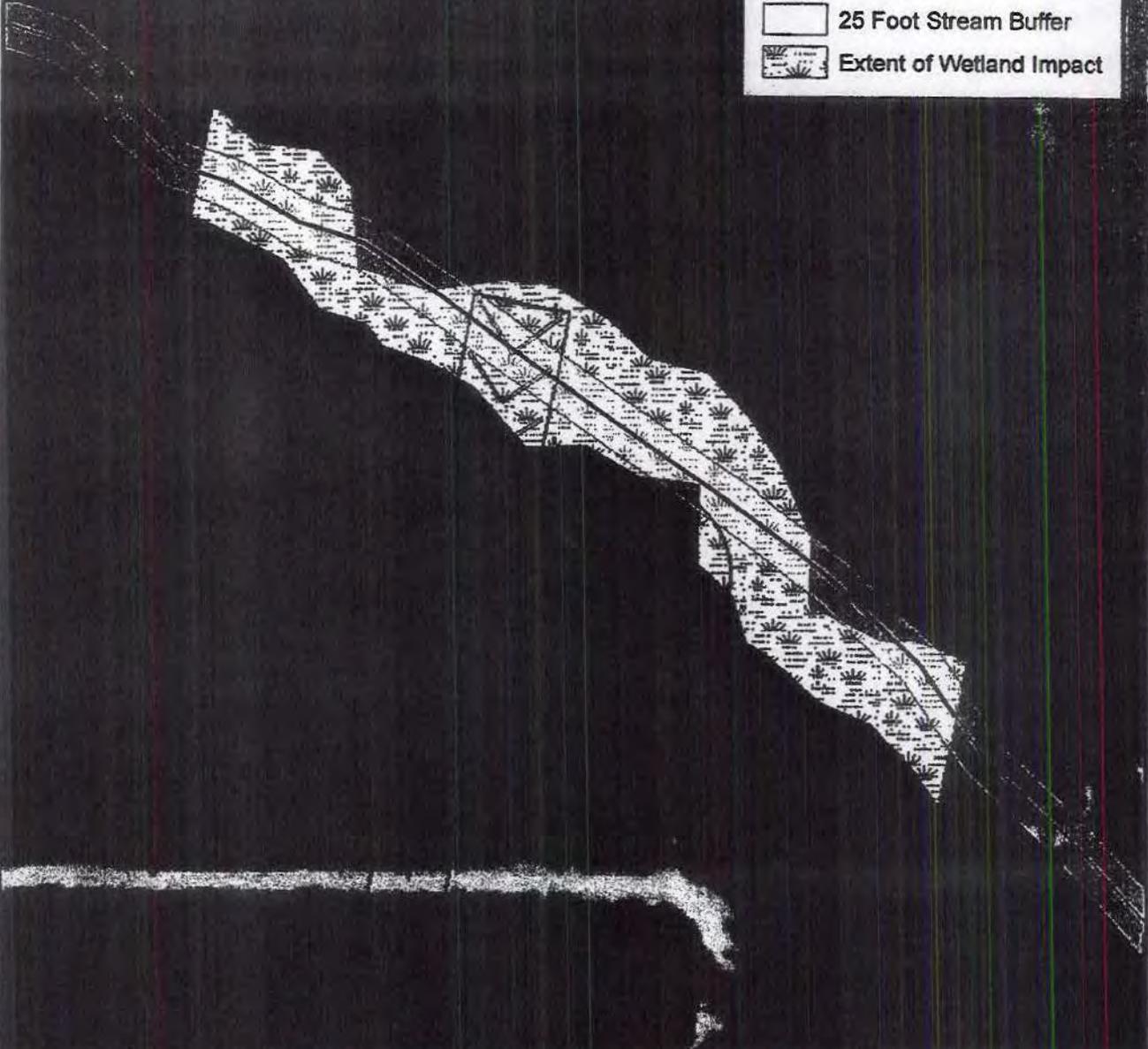
**Sylvester Airport Extension**  
**Worth County, Georgia**  
**For**  
**The City of Sylvester**



*Encl 1*

### Legend

-  Extent of Stream Impact
-  Stream
-  25 Foot Stream Buffer
-  Extent of Wetland Impact



Base Map: Georgia GIS Clearinghouse, Worth County, Georgia—NAIP 2009. Accessed May 9, 2012.  
AND Robert and Company DWG of Sylvester Airport.

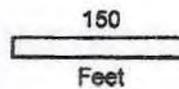
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### Figure 2 Wetland & Stream Impact Map

Sylvester Airport Extension  
Worth County, Georgia  
for  
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*Encl 2*