



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SAVANNAH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
1590 ADAMSON PARKWAY, SUITE 200
MORROW, GEORGIA 30260-1777

AUGUST 15 2012

Regulatory Division
SAS-2009-01210

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-2009-01210

Applicant: Georgia Department of Transportation
Office of Environmental Services
One Georgia Center, 16th Floor
600 W. Peachtree Street, NW
Atlanta, GA, 30308-3607

Location of Proposed Work: The project site is located on State Route 20, beginning at Samples Road (County Road 80) in Forsyth County and ending at Peachtree Industrial Boulevard in Gwinnett County, Georgia (Latitude 34.1258, Longitude -84.0811). The site is in the Upper Chattahoochee Watershed (Hydrologic Unit Code 03130001). The proposed project is associated with Georgia Department of Transportation PI numbers 0002392, 132985, and 0004430.

Description of Work Subject to the Jurisdiction of the US Army Corps of Engineers: The applicant proposes to discharge fill material into waters of the United States during the widening of State Route 20 from Samples Road to Peachtree Industrial Boulevard. The existing two-lane facility would be widened to four (4) 12-foot lanes with a 44-foot grassed median, designed to accommodate two (2) additional lanes in the future. The proposed roadway would utilize an urban typical section with curb and gutter, as well as sidewalks on both sides of the road. Median openings would be located at major side street intersections, as well as several other locations. The right-of-way would be increased from the existing 60- to 80-foot width to approximately 120 feet.

The existing bridge over the Chattahoochee River would be replaced with two separate bridge structures with a 160-foot right-of-way. Each bridge typical section would include a 10-foot paved inside shoulder, 12-foot travel lanes, and 12-foot outside shoulders. Within the outside shoulders, there would be a 2-foot paved separation from the outside travel lane and 10-foot wide raised concrete sidewalk.

The proposed widening project would permanently impact 6,236 linear feet of perennial and intermittent stream, and 0.519 acre of wetlands and open water ponds. To mitigate for these impacts, the applicant proposes to purchase 32,619.1 stream credits and 2.35 wetland credits from Jenny Creek, Big Creek, Southern Cross Ranch, Wauka Mountain, Wauka Mountain II, Demorest Lake, Three Creeks, and/or Seven Branches Farms Mitigation Banks.

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, 1590 Adamson Parkway, Suite 200 Morrow, Georgia 30260-1777.

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 one National Register eligible historic property, the Mauldin House (Resource FO-5), is located within the proposed project's area of potential effect. During the Phase I field survey, completed in 2005, a previously unrecorded portion of a National Register eligible archaeological site (Site 9FO247) was identified within the proposed right-of-way; however, a Phase II study determined that the previously unrecorded portion was

not eligible for inclusion in the National Register. The applicant determined, and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division concurred via letter dated November 9, 2006, that the proposed project would have no adverse effect to the Mauldin House, as defined in 36 CFR Part 800.5(d)(1).

Endangered Species: A review of the US Fish and Wildlife Service listing of threatened and endangered species, and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources listing of locations of special concern animals, plants, and natural communities has identified the following Federally and/or State listed threatened and endangered species as occurring in Gwinnett and Forsyth Counties: Goldenseal (*Hydrastis canadensis*), Ozark Bunchflower (*Veratrum woodii*), amber darter (*Percina antesella*), Cherokee darter (*Etheostoma scotti*), Etowah darter (*Etheostoma etowahae*), black-spored quillwort (*Isoetes melanospora*), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), and pool sprite (*Amphianthus pusillus Torr*). Based on surveys conducted by the applicant in March 2011, the project would have no effect on these species. The applicant also surveyed for the Georgia aster (*Symphyotrichum georgianum*), a Federal candidate species. No plants were observed and no suitable habitat for the species was found near the project corridor. 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.

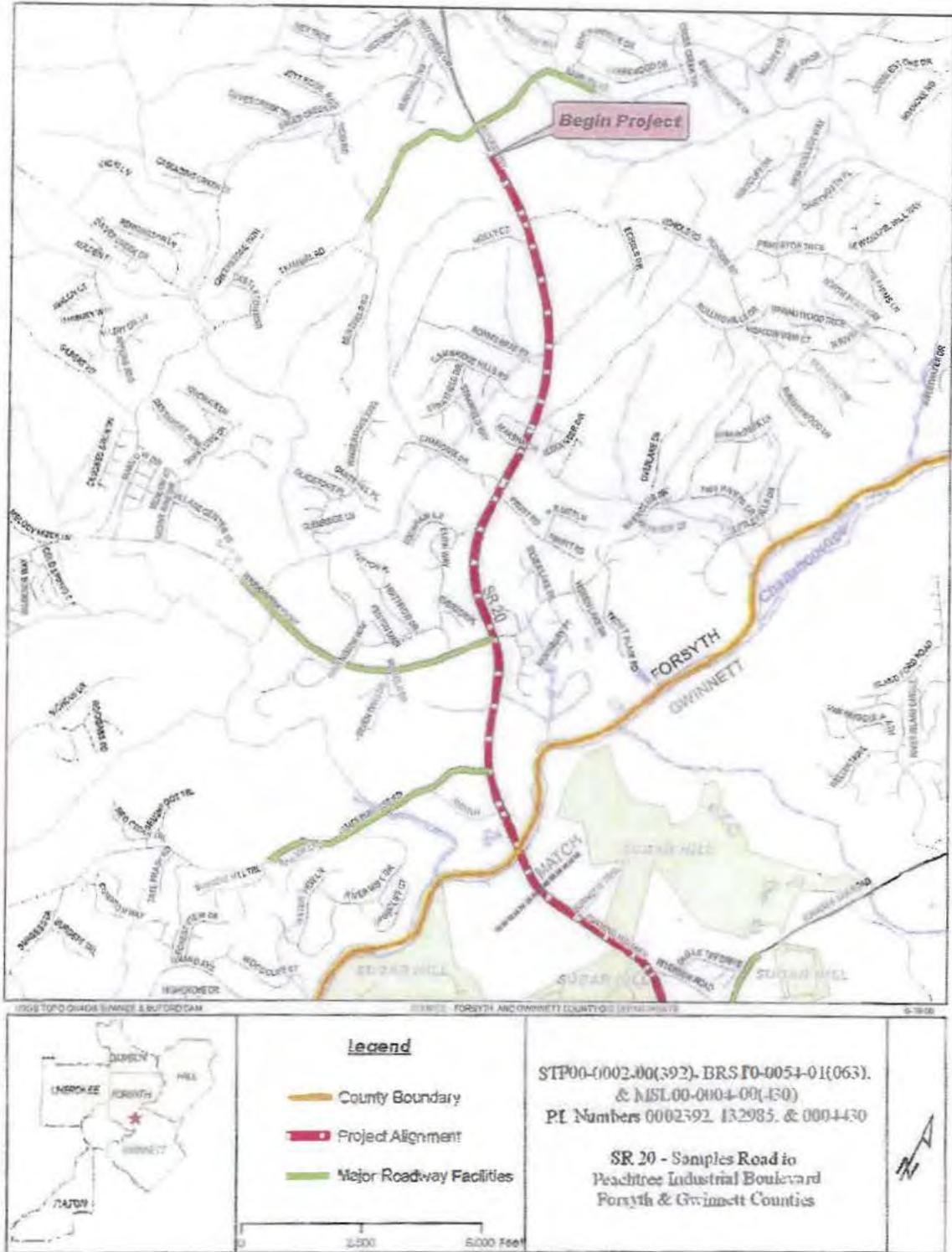
Comment Period: Anyone wishing to comment on this application for a Department of the Army Pennit should submit comments in writing to the Commander, US Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Attention: Ms. Kathrine Freas, 1590 Adamson Parkway, Suite 200 Morrow, Georgia 30260-1777, no later than 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 Ms. Kathrine Freas, Project Manager, Piedmont Branch at 678-804-5226.

Enclosures

1. Project Location Map (2 pages: Figure 1A -Figure 1B)
2. Location of Waters of the US to be Impacted (7 pages: Figures 2A through 2G)
3. Stream, Wetland, and Open Water Impacts Table (2 pages: i-ii)

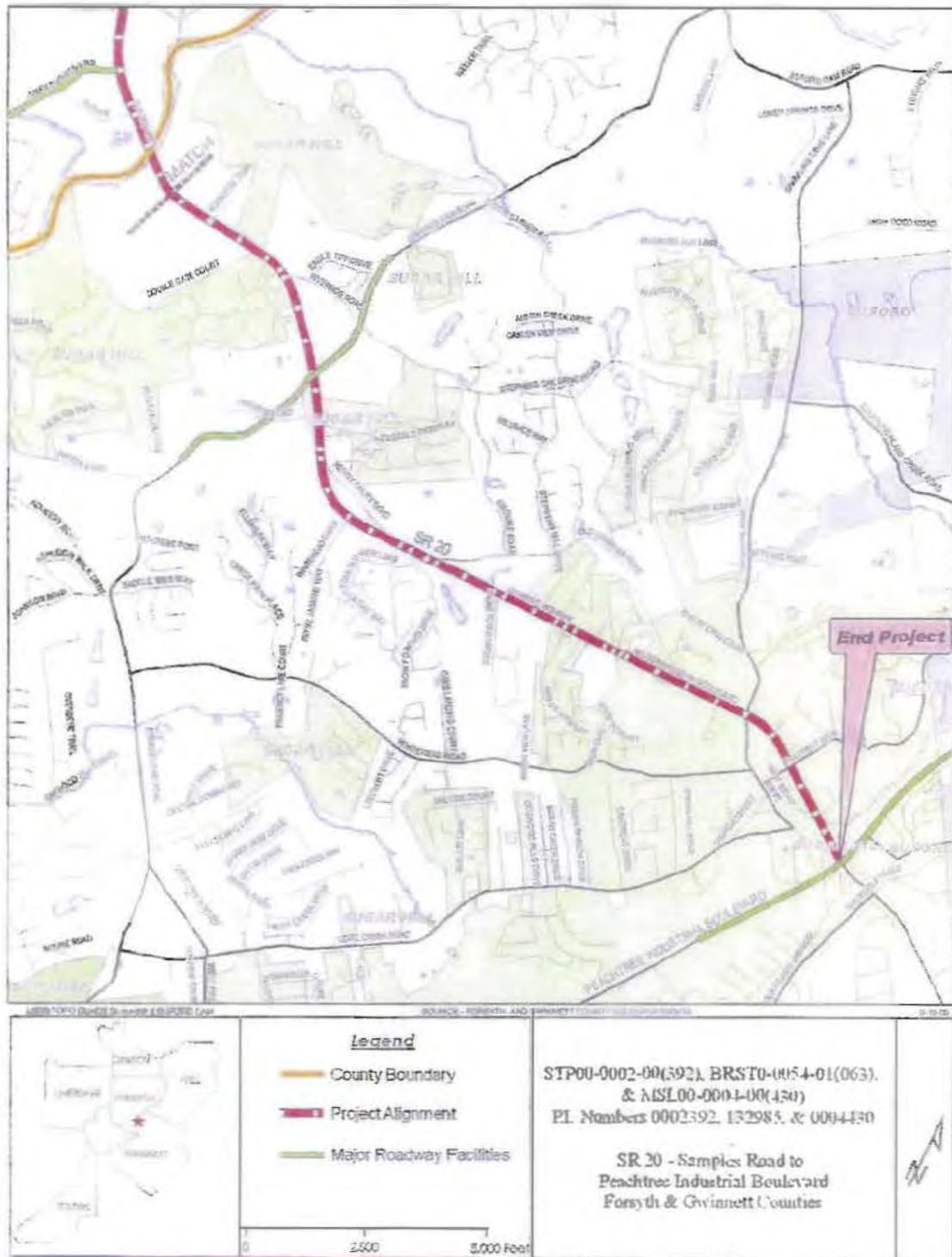
Figure 1A. Project Location Map, Samples Rd to the Chattahoochee River



STP00-0002-00(392), BRST0-0054-01(063) & PEMSL00-0004-00(430)
 PI# 0002392, 132985 & 0004430
 Gwinnett/Forsyth Counties
 Ecology Addendum

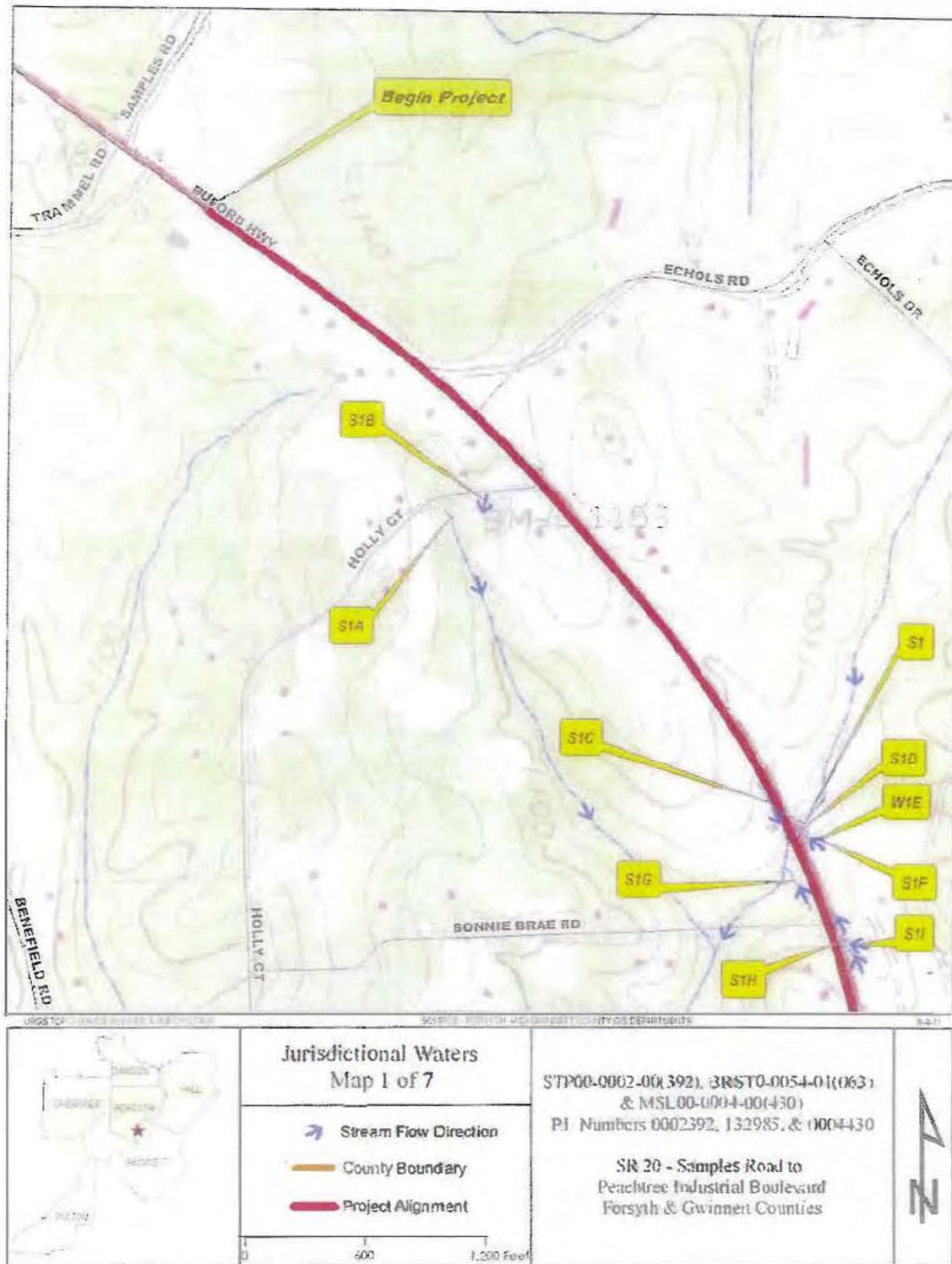


Figure 1B. Project Location Map, Chattahoochee River to Peachtree Industrial Blvd



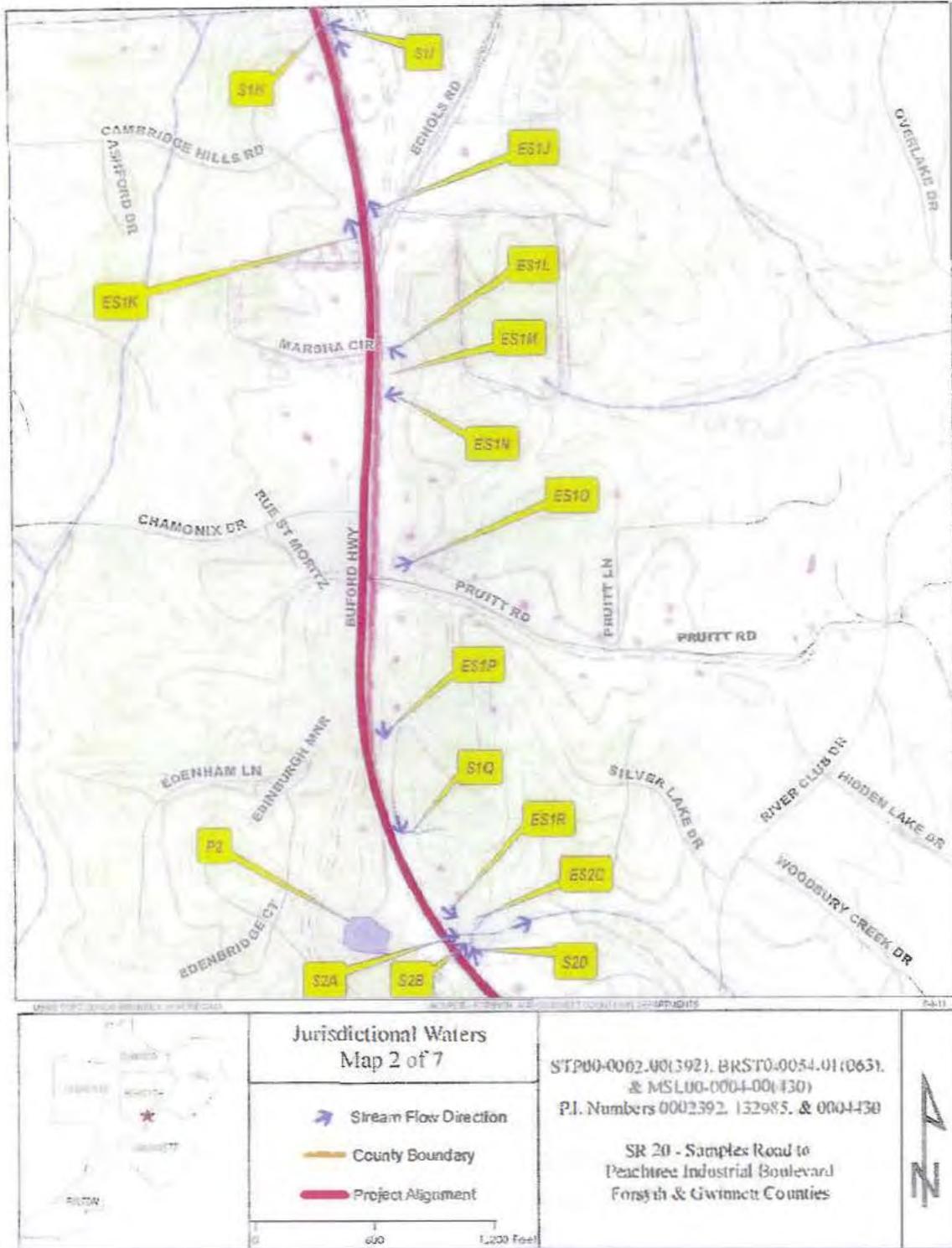
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Figure 2A. Project Waters Map



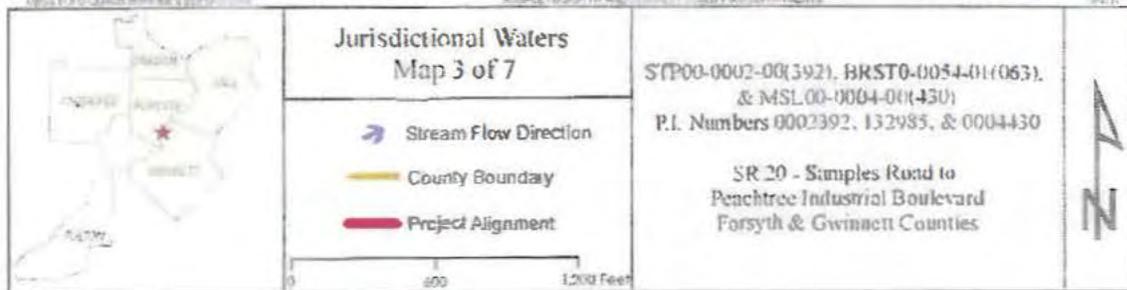
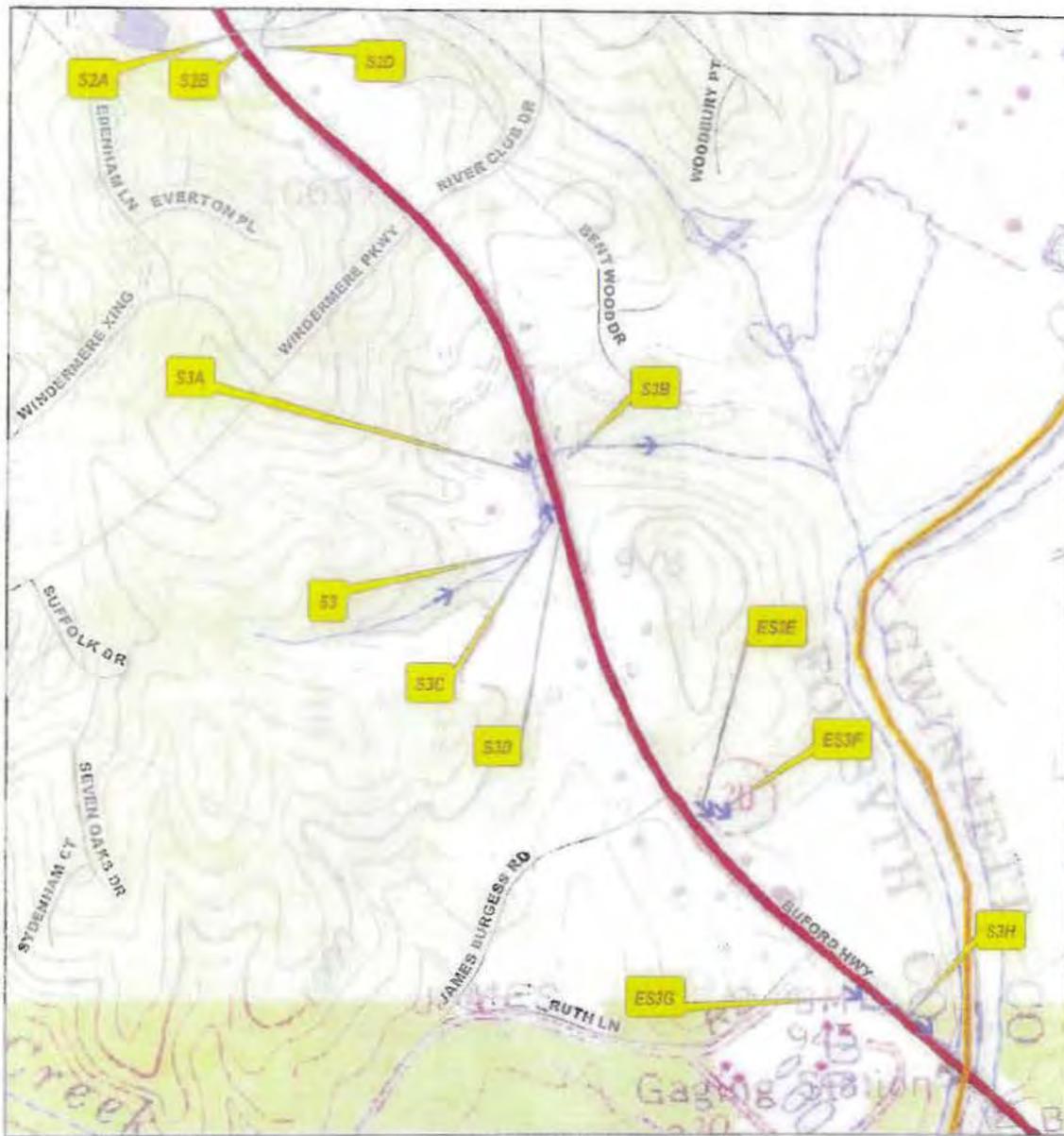
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Figure 2B. Project Waters Map



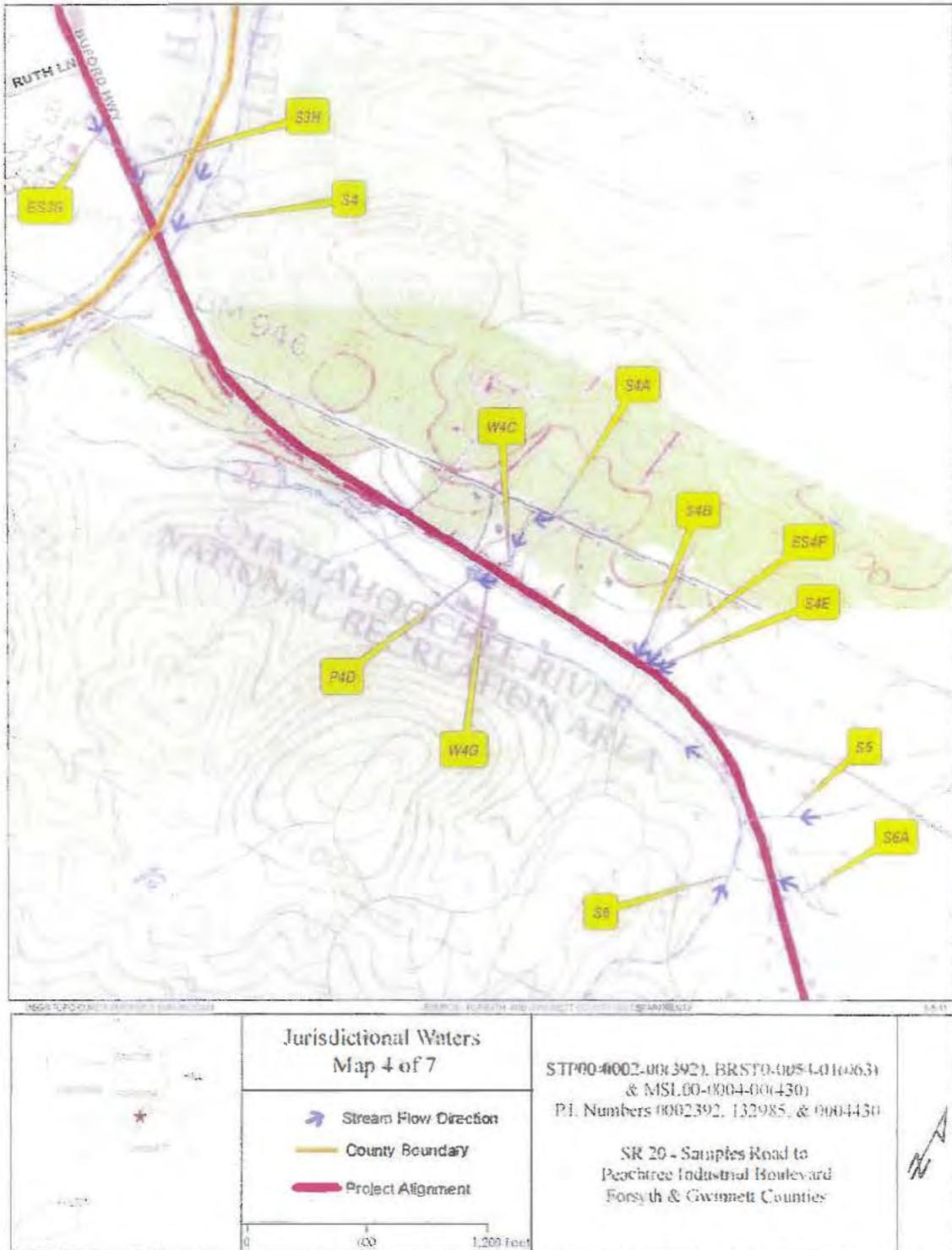
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Figure 2C. Project Waters Map



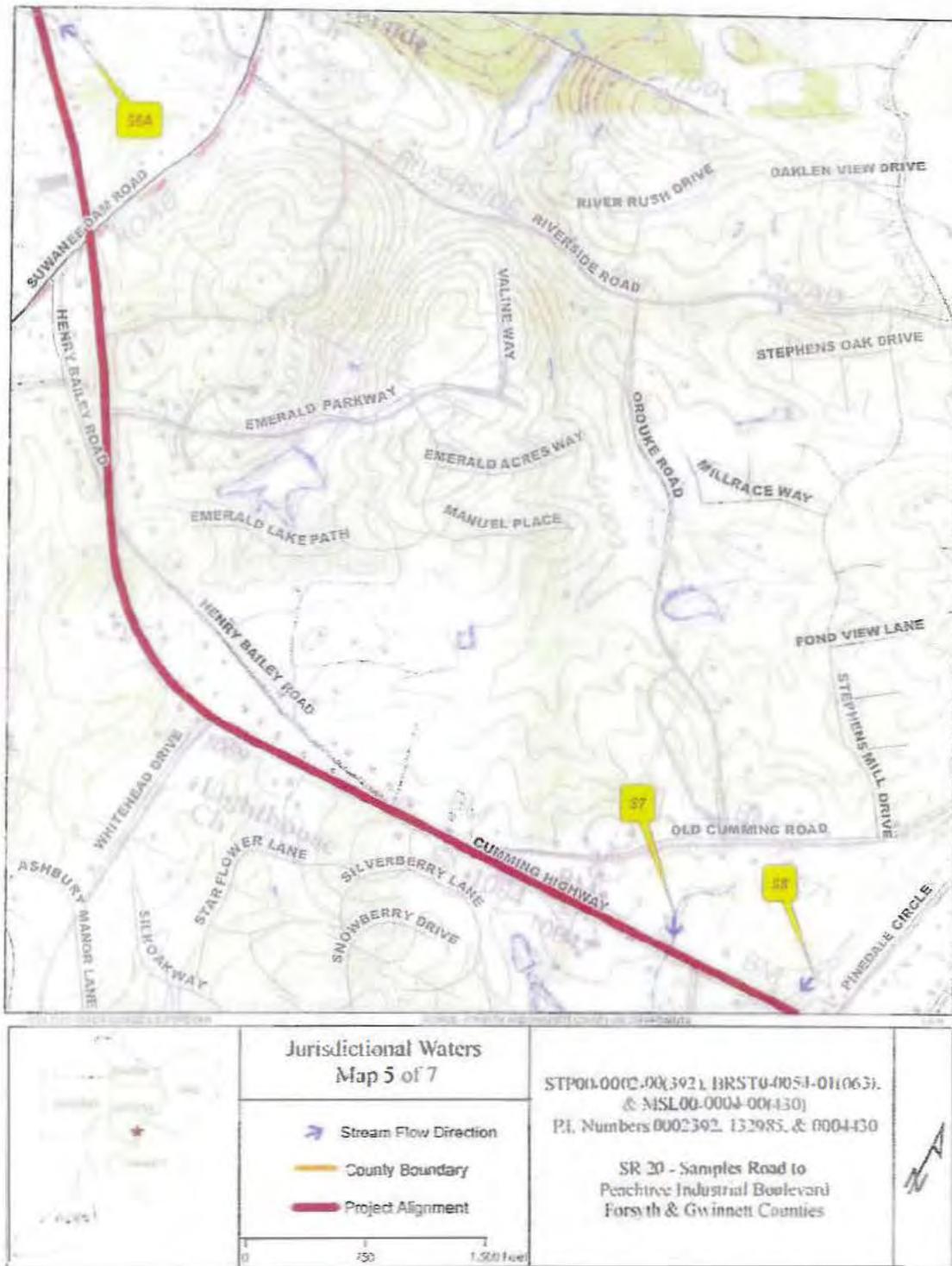
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Figure 2D. Project Waters Map



STP00-0002-00(392), BRST0-0054-01(063) & PEMSL00-0004-00(430)
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Figure 2E. Project Waters Map



STP00-0002-00(392), BRST0-0054-01(063) & PEMSL00-0004-00(430)
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Figure 2F. Project Waters Map



STP00-0002-00(392), BRST0-0054-01(063) & PEMS00-0004 00(430)
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Figure 2G. Project Waters Map



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Stream, Wetland, and Open Water Impacts

Resource #	Resource Type	Stream Buffer Variance	Protected Species Habitat	Length of Impact (ft)	Area of Impact (acres)	FWCA
Stream 1	Intermittent Stream	No	No	205	0.02	Yes
Stream 1A	Intermittent Stream	No	No	0	0	No
Stream 1B	Intermittent Stream	No	No	0	0	No
Stream 1C	Intermittent Stream	Yes	No	980	0.067	Yes
Stream 1D	Intermittent Stream	Yes	No	78	0.004	Yes
Wetland 1E	Wetland	No	No	--	0.04	No
Stream 1F	Intermittent Stream	Yes	No	42	0.001	Yes
Stream 1G	Intermittent Stream	Yes	No	620	0.06	Yes
Stream 1H	Intermittent Stream	No	No	0	0	No
Stream 1I	Intermittent Stream	Yes	No	114	0.008	Yes
*Stream 1J	Non-Jurisdictional Ephemeral	No	No	95	0.004	No
*Stream 1K	Non-Jurisdictional Ephemeral	No	No	129	0.003	No
*Stream 1L	Non-Jurisdictional Ephemeral	No	No	120	0.008	No
*Stream 1M	Non-Jurisdictional Ephemeral	No	No	81	0.007	No
*Stream 1N	Non-Jurisdictional Ephemeral	No	No	378	0.017	No
*Stream 1O	Non-Jurisdictional Ephemeral	No	No	56	0.003	No
*Stream 1P	Non-Jurisdictional Ephemeral	No	No	33	0.001	No
Stream 1Q	Intermittent Stream	No	No	291	0.013	Yes
*Stream 1R	Non-Jurisdictional Ephemeral	No	No	46	0.003	No
Pond 2	Open Water Pond	Yes	No	--	0.06	No
Stream 2A	Intermittent Stream	Yes	No	65	0.003	No
Stream 2B	Intermittent Stream	No	No	24	0.001	No
*Stream 2C	Non-Jurisdictional Ephemeral	No	No	15	0.001	No
Stream 2D	Intermittent Stream	No	No	220	0.02	Yes
Stream 3	Intermittent Stream	No	No	138	0.016	Yes
*Non-jurisdictional ephemeral channels not added into mitigation cost						

Stream, Wetland, and Open Water Impacts

Resource #	Resource Type	Stream Buffer Variance	Protected Species Habitat	Length of Impact (ft)	Area of Impact (acres)	FWCA
Stream 3A	Intermittent Stream	Yes	No	56	0.04	Yes
Stream 3B	Intermittent Stream	Yes	No	109	0.003	Yes
Stream 3C	Perennial Stream	Yes	No	228	0.016	Yes
Stream 3D	Intermittent Stream	Yes	No	35	0.002	Yes
*Stream 3E	Non-Jurisdictional Ephemeral	No	No	127	0.003	No
*Stream 3F	Non-Jurisdictional Ephemeral	No	No	0	0	No
*Stream 3G	Non-Jurisdictional Ephemeral	No	No	0	0	No
Stream 3H	Intermittent Stream	No	No	85	0.01	Yes
Stream 4	Perennial Stream	No	No	20	0.002	No
Stream 4A	Intermittent Stream	Yes	No	225	0.01	Yes
Stream 4B	Intermittent Stream	No	No	76	0.005	No
Wetland 4C	Wetland	No	No	-	0.12	No
Pond 4D	Open Water Pond	Yes	No	-	0.23	No
Stream 4E	Intermittent Stream	No	No	31	0.001	No
*Stream 4F	Non-Jurisdictional Ephemeral	No	No	80	0.002	No
Wetland 4G	Wetland	No	No	-	0.10	No
Stream 5	Perennial Stream	No	No	97	0.01	No
Stream 6	Intermittent Stream	Yes	No	442	0.041	Yes
Stream 6A	Intermittent Stream	Yes	No	60	0.006	No
Stream 7	Perennial Stream	Yes	No	403	0.05	Yes
Stream 8	Perennial Stream	No	No	188	0.009	Yes
Stream 9	Perennial Stream	Yes	No	76	0.005	No
Stream 10	Intermittent Stream	Yes	No	937	0.065	Yes
*Stream 10A	Non-Jurisdictional Ephemeral	No	No	136	0.03	No
Wetland 10B	Wetland	No	No	-	0.014	No
*Non-jurisdictional ephemeral channels not added into mitigation cost						