



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

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

**MARCH 12 2014**

Regulatory Division  
SAS-2003-12720

**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-2003-12720

Applicant: Mr. Leon Davenport  
Chatham County Department of Engineering  
Post Office Box 8161  
Savannah, Georgia 31412

Agent: Mr. Brandon W. Wall  
Sligh Environmental Consultants, Inc.  
41 Park of Commerce Drive, Suite 303  
Savannah, Georgia 31405

Location of Proposed Work: The project site is located south from Marshall Avenue to the Red Gate Canal, east of Veteran's Parkway, west of Garrard Avenue, in Chatham County, Georgia (Latitude 32.0332, Longitude -81.1634).

Description of Work Subject to the Jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:  
The applicant proposes to impact 0.749 acres of jurisdictional waters on a 7.5 acre project site to improve the Louis Mills Canal. The proposed impacts are associated with replacing three existing culverts, installing an at grade pervious access road, minor canal widening and deepening, removal of accumulated sediments, and minor canal bank grading. The 0.749 acres of impacts to waters of the United States include 0.536 acre of canal and side ditch excavation/grading; 0.178 acre of fill to a canal, side ditches, and forested wetland to construct an at grade pervious access road; and, 0.035 acre of rip-rap to a canal for culvert stabilization. The application did not contain information about any potential secondary effects including the possible drainage of adjacent wetlands.

As compensatory mitigation for the project related jurisdictional waters impacts, the applicant is proposing to debit 2.57 wetland mitigation credits from the approved Chatham County Mitigation Bank.

## **BACKGROUND**

A jurisdictional determination (JD) for a portion of the proposed project area was verified by letter dated November 22, 2013. A jurisdictional delineation will be required for the remaining portion(s) of the proposed project area.

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, 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, 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 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: 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.

The agent stated: "A cultural resources survey has not been completed within the project area; however, an online database search of the National Register of Historic Places concluded that there are no sites listed on the register within or immediately adjacent to the project area. A print out of the National Register of Historic Places in Chatham County is attached. Also, an online historic resources search of the Georgia's Natural, Archeological, and Historic Resources GIS database concluded that there are no historic resources identified by area- or county-wide historic architectural surveys within or immediately adjacent to the project area. Because the above database searches yielded no known cultural resources within or adjacent to the project area, and due to the small size of the project area and the nature of the proposed activities (culvert replacement, vegetation clearing, minor excavation, and at-grade road construction), it is our opinion that the amount of disturbance associated with this project is minimal, and the project should not impact any sites eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places."

No cultural resource survey was provided for the proposed project area; however, after reviewing the information provided, and considering the proposed impacts, we have determined that a Phase I Cultural Resource Survey is not required.

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, 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.

The applicant states: "SECI completed a threatened and endangered species survey within the project corridor 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. The upland areas consist of maintained residential area and existing roads as well as mixed pine-hardwood forest. Jurisdictional areas consist of a man-made canal and hardwood wetland. The habitats on-site are very typical throughout Chatham County and the Georgia Coastal Plain region and are not suitable to support any of the listed species for Chatham County. Due to the lack of suitable habitat and because no listed species were observed during the survey, it was

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.”

After review of the application and supporting information, the Savannah District has determined that the proposed project would not affect any Federally listed threatened or endangered species that are under the purview of U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service. Pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), we request concurrence with this effects determination.

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

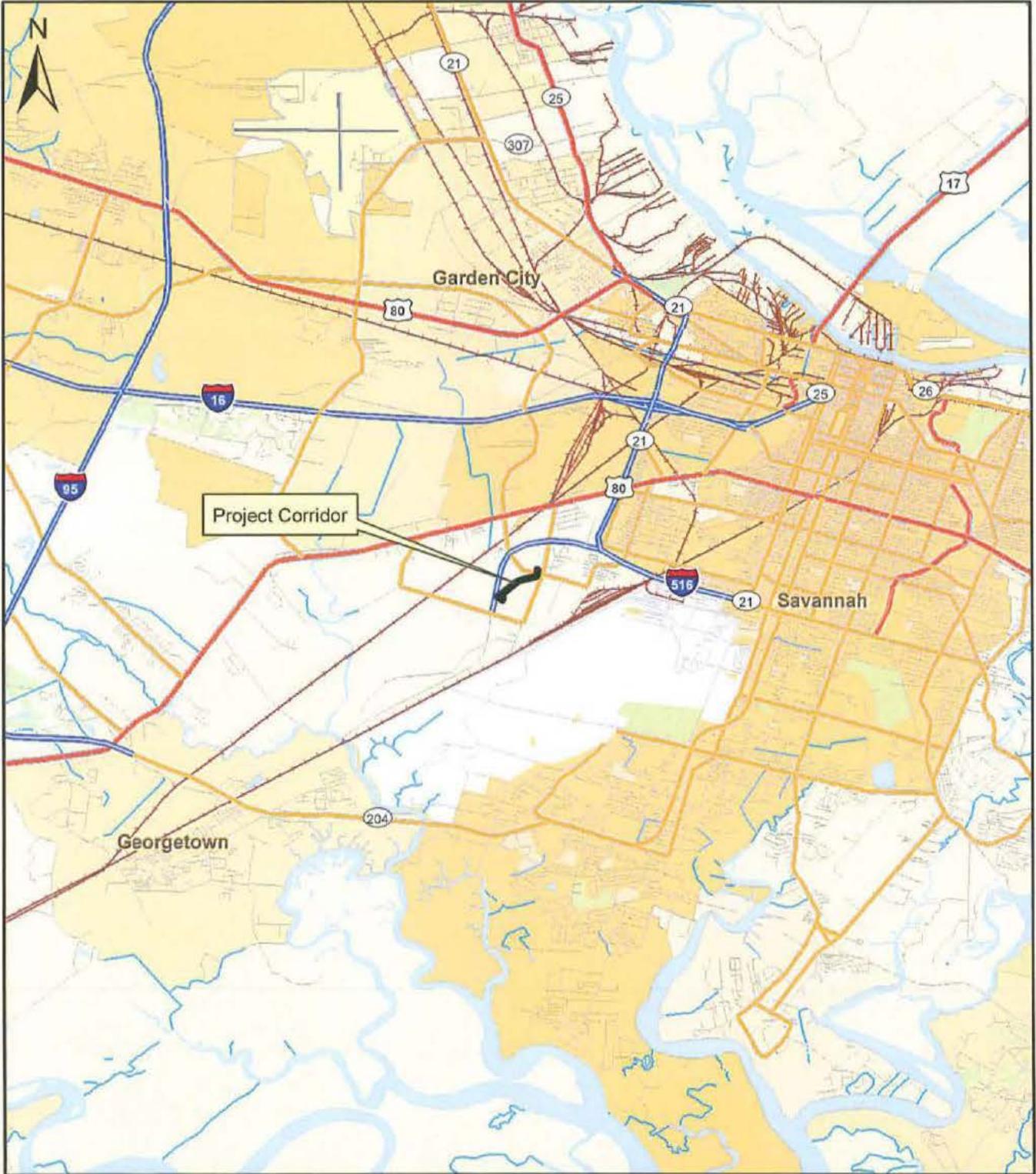
a public hearing is at the discretion of the District Engineer, or his designated appointee, based on the need for additional substantial information necessary in evaluating the proposed project.

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, Mr. Shaun Blocker, 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 Mr. Shaun Blocker, Project Manager, Coastal Branch at 912-652-5086.

7 Encls

1. Project Location Map USGS
2. US Geological Survey
3. 2013 Aerial Photograph
4. National Wetland Inventory Map
5. NRCS Soil Survey Map
6. FEMA Flood Zone Map
7. Permit Drawings (12 pages)
8. Site Photographs (5 pages)



■ 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

**Project Location Map**  
 Louis Mills Branch Canal Improvements  
 Chatham County, Georgia

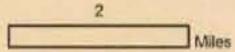
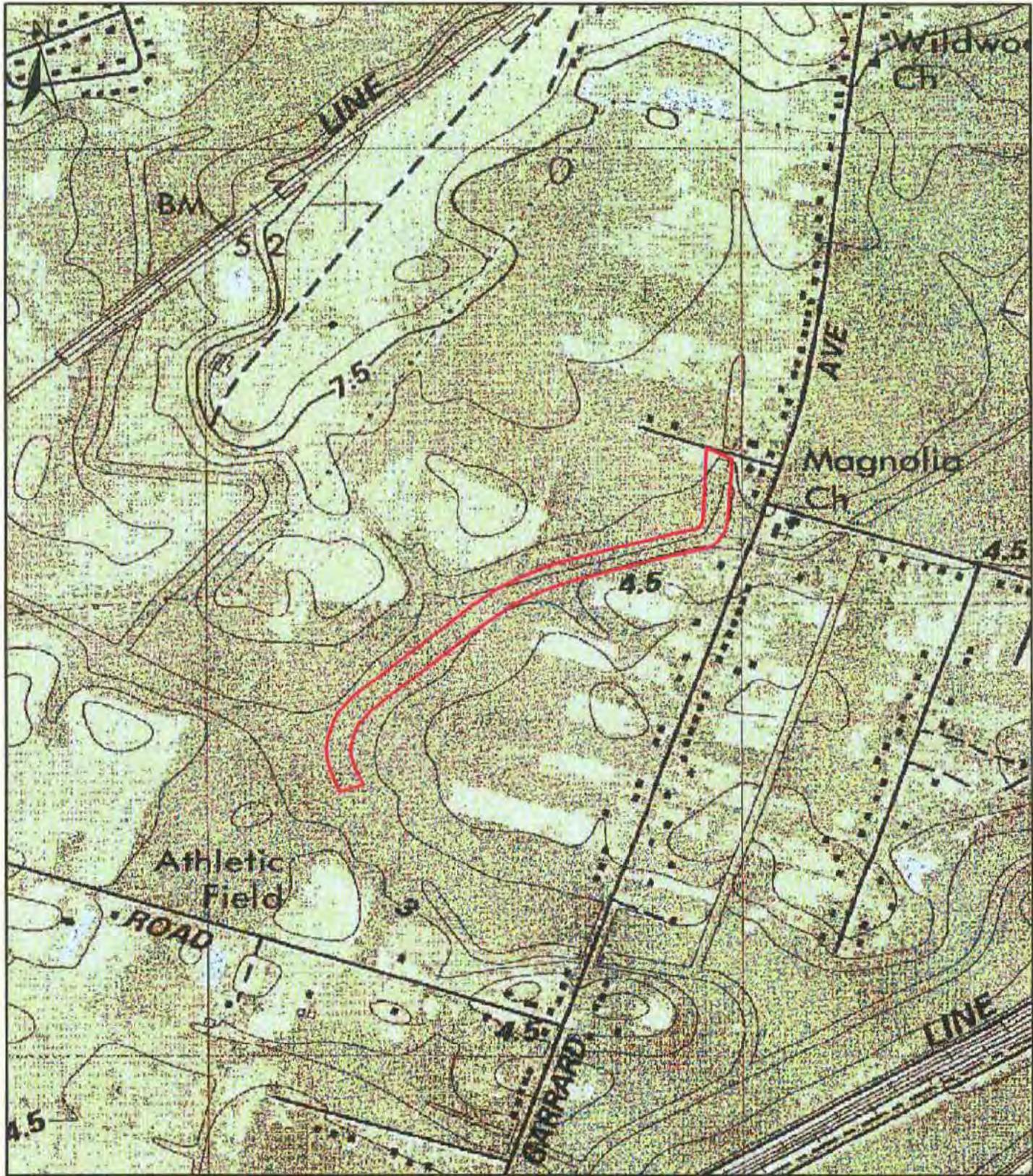


Exhibit Date: April 2, 2013  
 Drawn By: BWW  
 Reviewed By: DJP  
 Job Number : 01-12-051



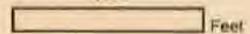
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US Geological Survey  
 Louis Mills Branch Canal Improvements  
 Chatham County, Georgia

1,000



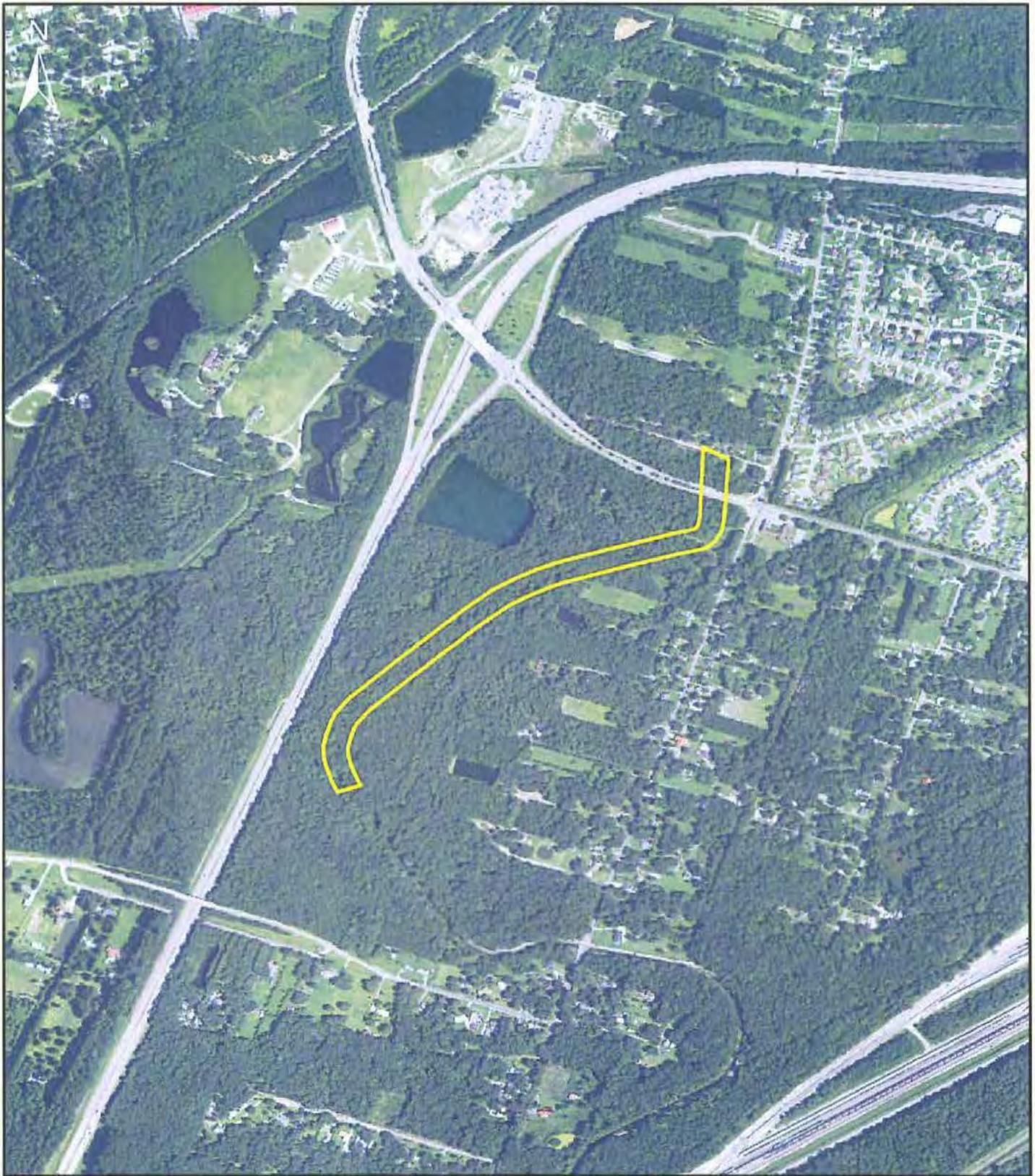
Feet

Exhibit Date: April 2, 2013

Drawn By: BWW

Reviewed By: DJP

Job Number : 01-12-051



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phone (912) 232-0451  
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2013 Aerial Photograph  
Louis Mills Branch Canal Improvements  
Chatham County, Georgia

1,000

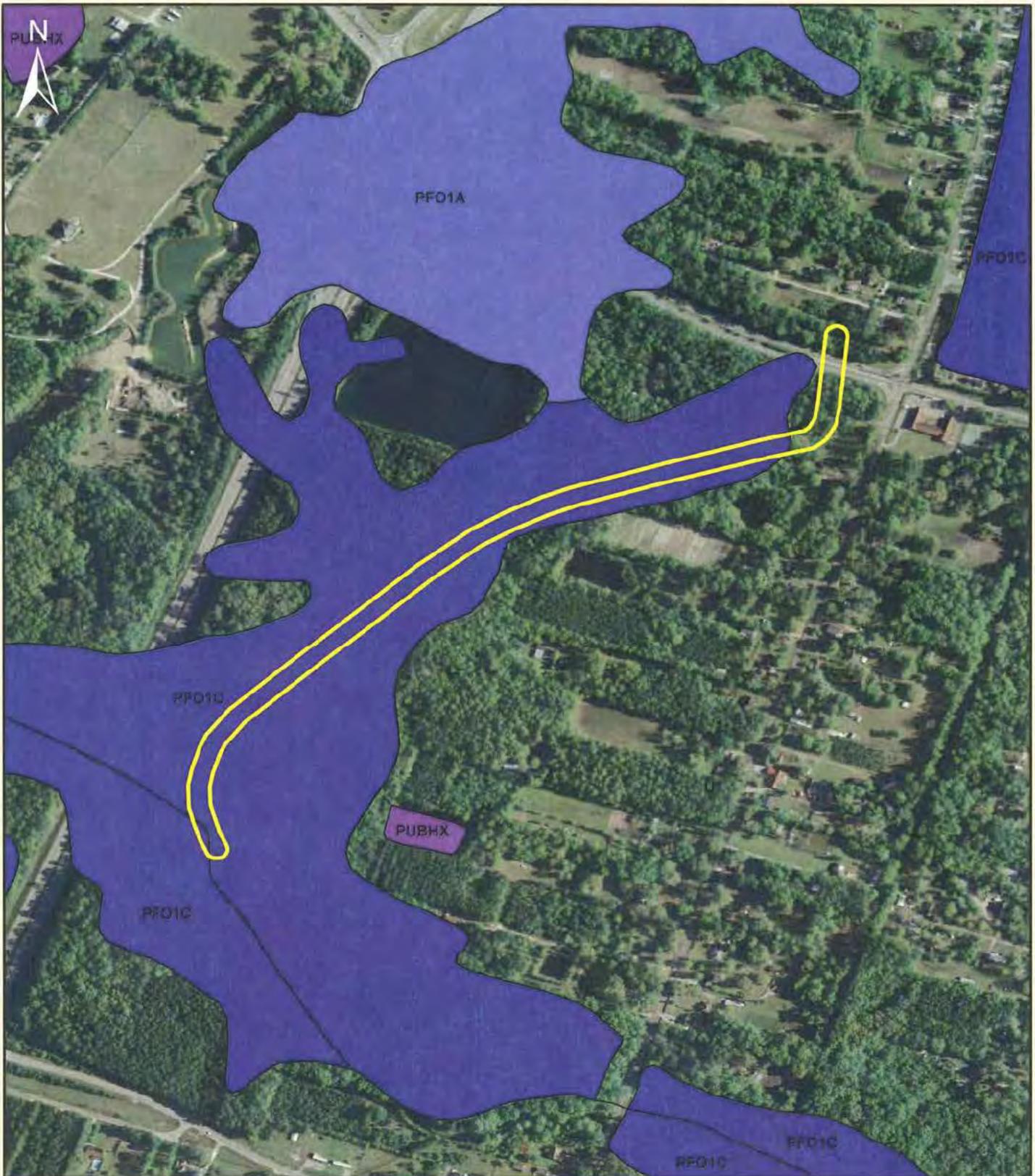
 Feet

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 Approximate Project Limits

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 phone (912) 232-0451  
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National Wetlands Inventory  
 Louis Mills Branch Canal Improvements  
 Chatham County, Georgia

600

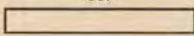
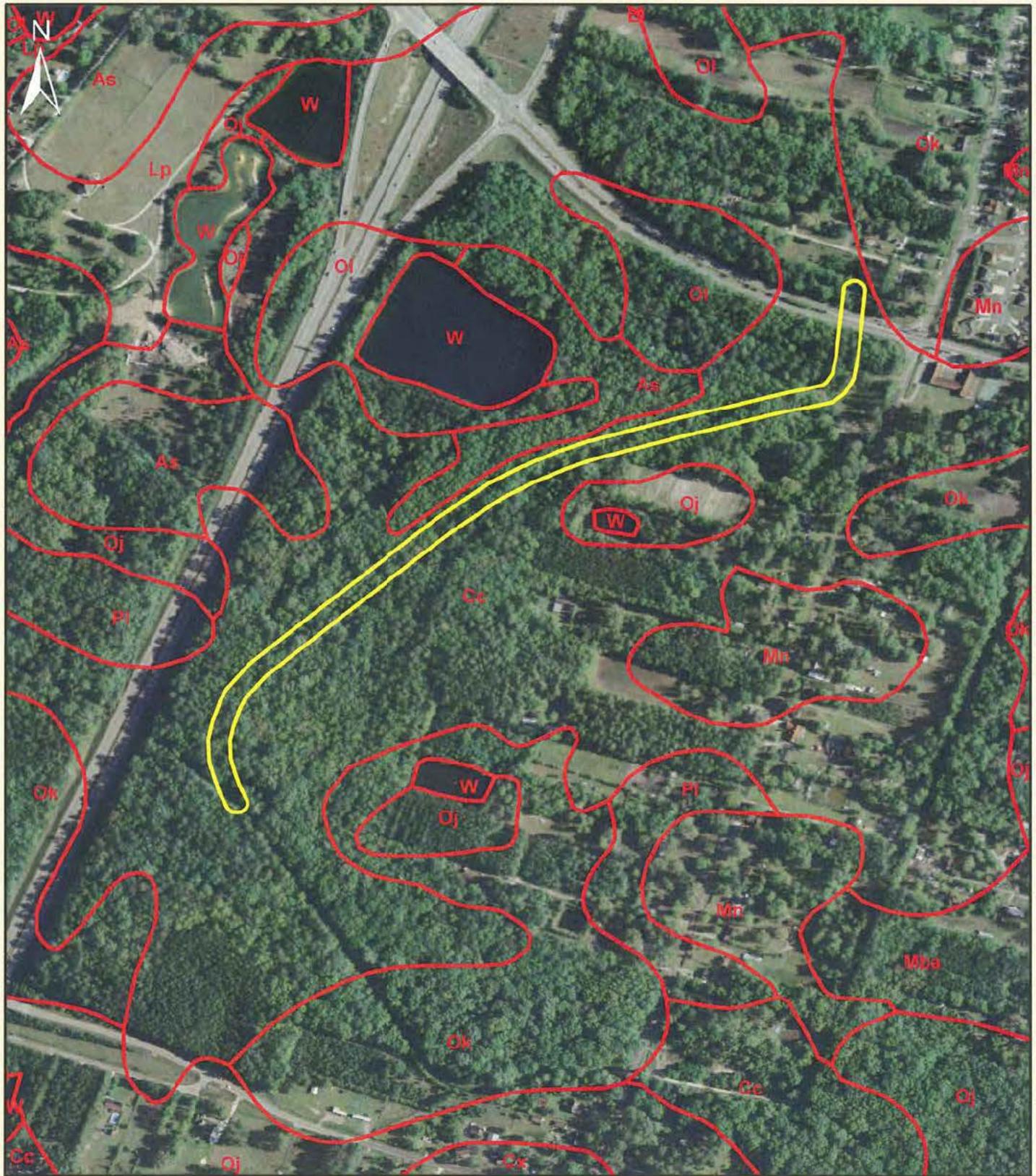
 Feet

Exhibit Date: April 2, 2013

Drawn By: BWW

Reviewed By: DJP

Job Number : 01-12-051



Approximate Project Limits

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 phone (912) 232-0451  
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NRCS Soil Survey  
 Louis Mills Branch Canal Improvements  
 Chatham County, Georgia

600  
 Feet

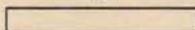
Exhibit Date: April 2, 2013
Drawn By: BWV
Reviewed By: DJP
Job Number : 01-12-051

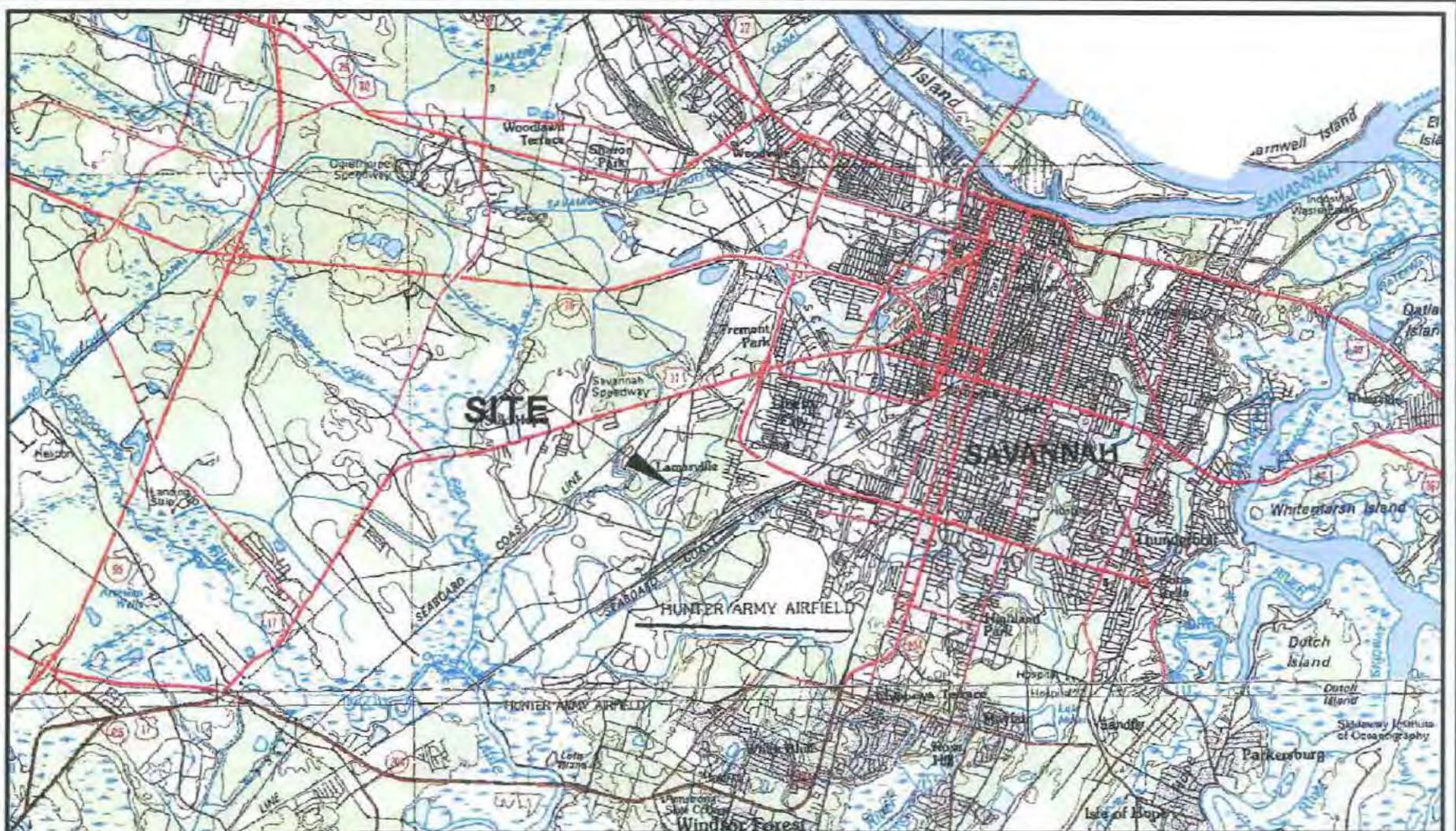


 Approximate Project Limits

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

FEMA Flood Zone Map  
 Louis Mills Branch Canal Improvements  
 Chatham County, Georgia

600  
 Feet  
 Exhibit Date: April 2, 2013  
 Drawn By: BWV  
 Reviewed By: DJP  
 Job Number : 01-12-051



**LOUIS MILLS BRANCH CANAL IMPROVEMENTS**

PROPOSED ACTIVITY:  
**WETLAND PERMITTING**

CLIENT:  
**CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

LOCATION: CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA

DATE: February 14, 2014

JOB NUMBER: J - 23958.0000

SHEET: 1 OF 12

SCALE: 1" = 200'

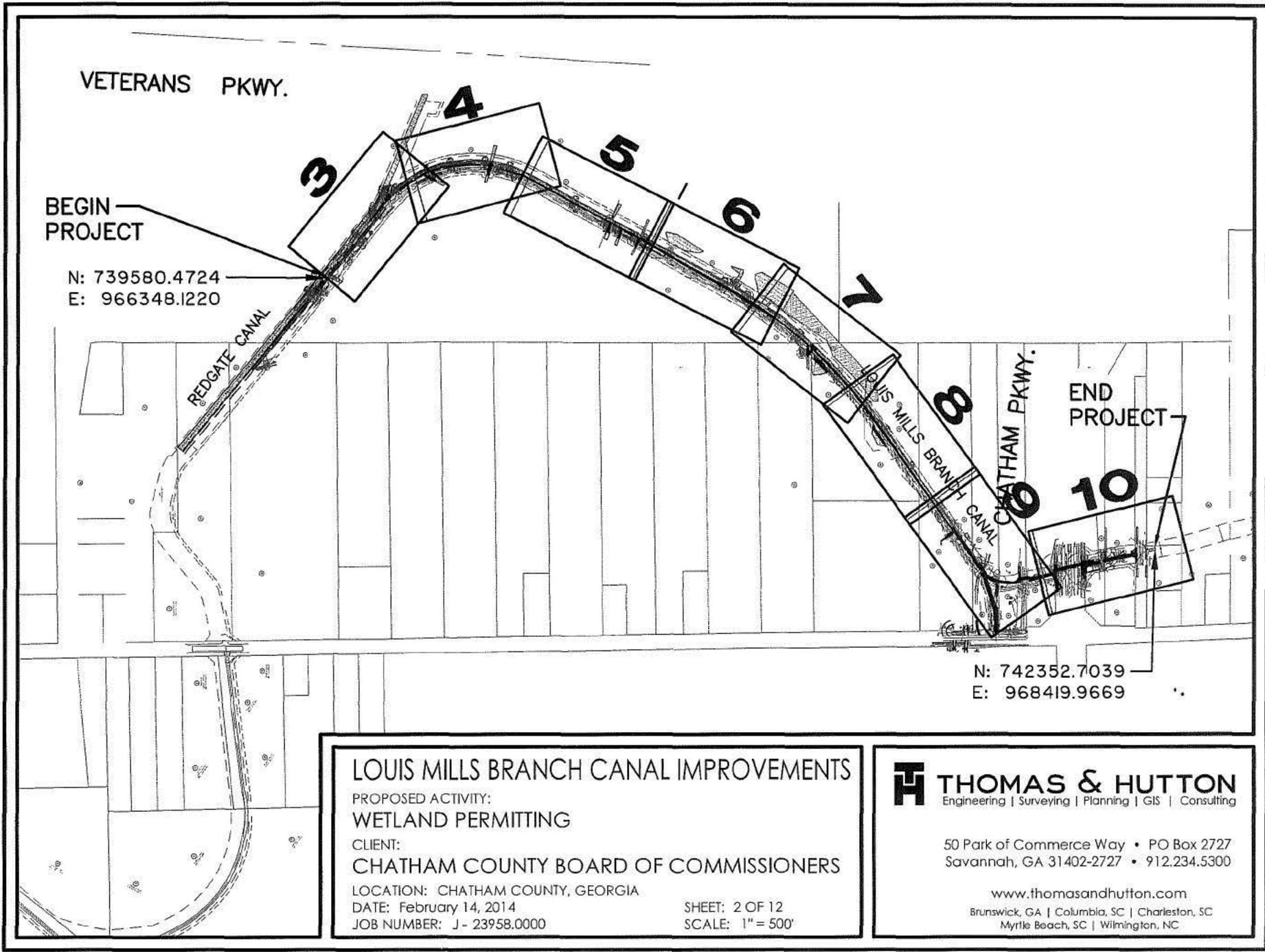


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PROPOSED ACTIVITY:  
**WETLAND PERMITTING**

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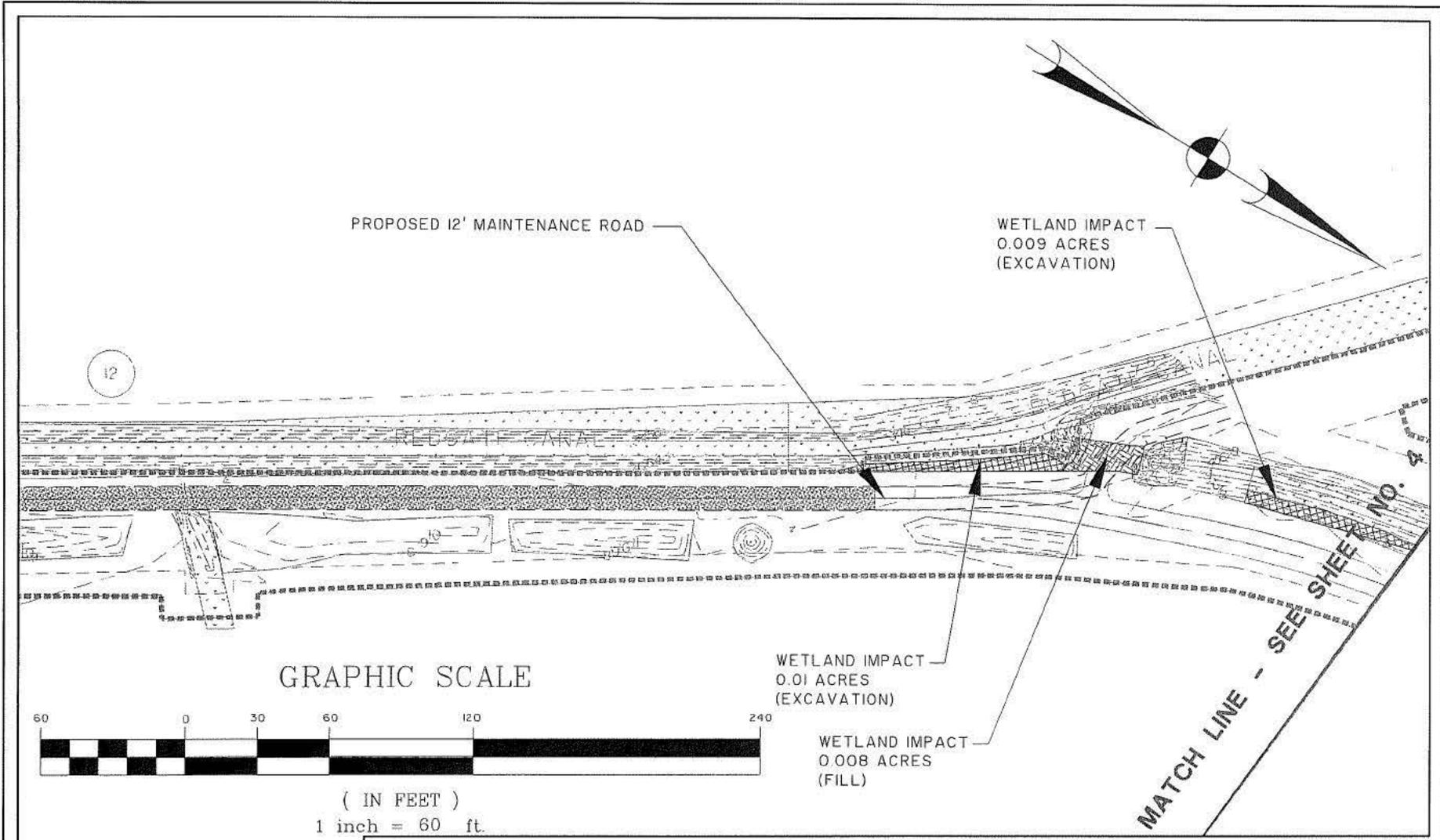
LOCATION: CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA  
 DATE: February 14, 2014  
 JOB NUMBER: J - 23958.0000

SHEET: 2 OF 12  
 SCALE: 1" = 500'

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**LEGEND**

- PROJECT LIMITS
- WETLAND
- WETLAND IMPACT**
- [Hatched Box] EXCAVATION
- [Hatched Box] FILL
- [Hatched Box] RIP-RAP

**LOUIS MILLS BRANCH CANAL IMPROVEMENTS**

PROPOSED ACTIVITY:  
**WETLAND PERMITTING**

CLIENT:  
**CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

LOCATION: CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA  
 DATE: February 14, 2014  
 JOB NUMBER: J - 23958.0000

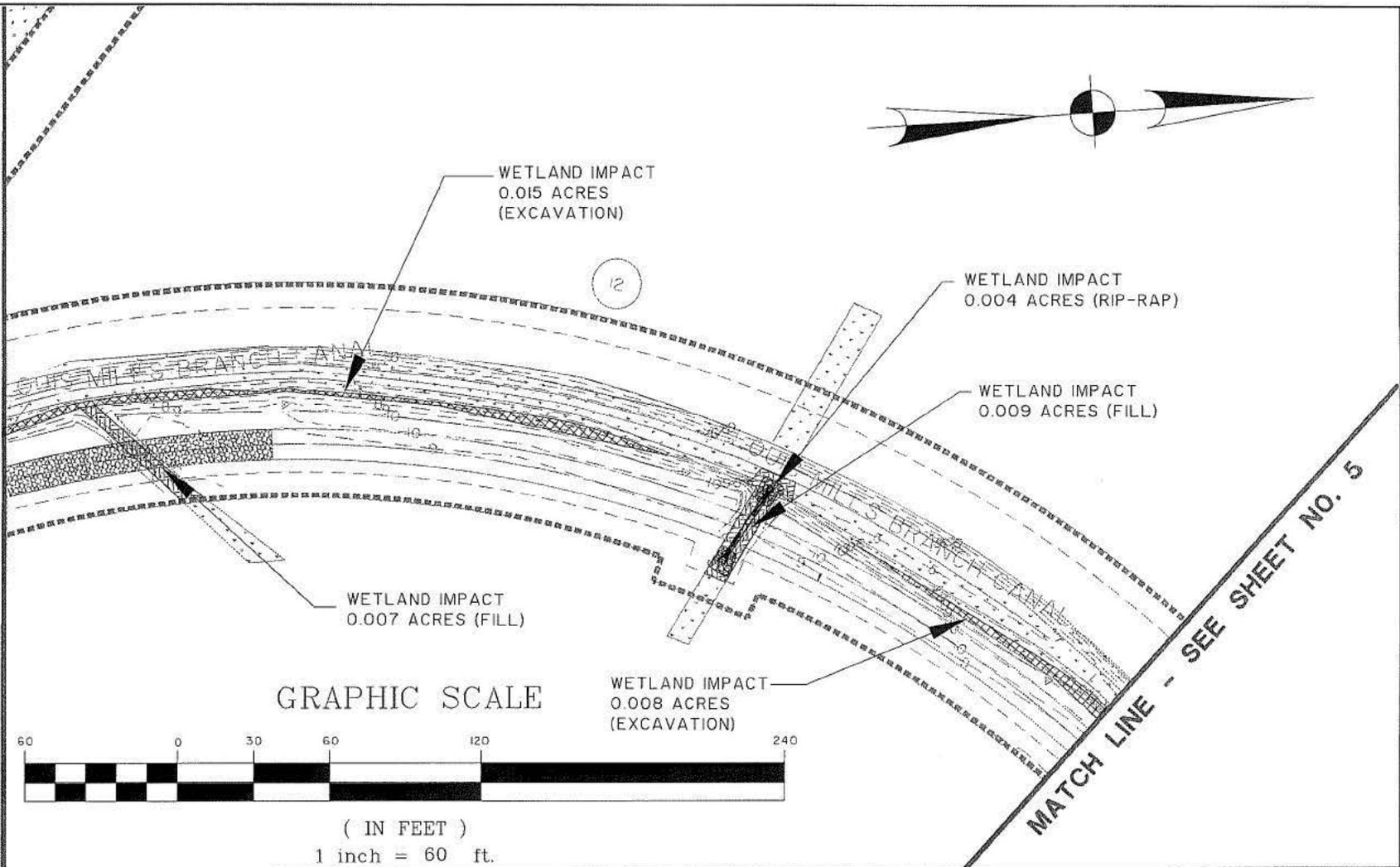
SHEET: 3 OF 12  
 SCALE: 1" = 60'

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MATCH LINE - SEE SHEET NO. 3



MATCH LINE - SEE SHEET NO. 5

**LEGEND**

- PROJECT LIMITS
- ..... WETLAND
- WETLAND IMPACT**
- [Hatched Box] EXCAVATION
- [Cross-hatched Box] FILL
- [Stippled Box] RIP-RAP

**LOUIE MILLS BRANCH CANAL IMPROVEMENTS**

PROPOSED ACTIVITY:  
**WETLAND PERMITTING**

CLIENT:  
**CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

LOCATION: CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA  
DATE: February 14, 2014  
JOB NUMBER: J - 23958.0000

SHEET: 4 OF 12  
SCALE: 1" = 60'

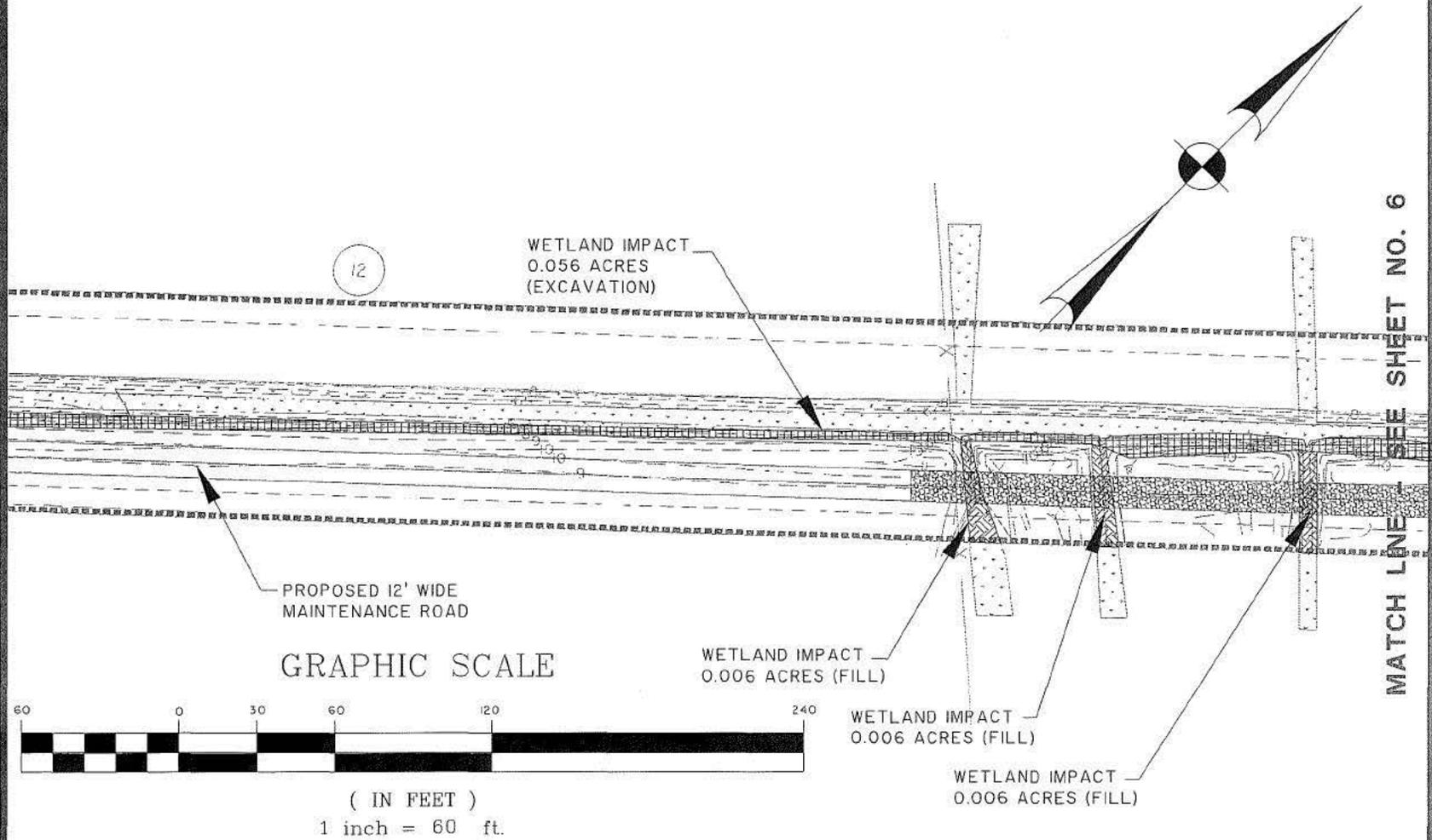
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MATCH LINE - SEE SHEET NO. 4

MATCH LINE - SEE SHEET NO. 6



**LEGEND**

-  PROJECT LIMITS
-  WETLAND
- WETLAND IMPACT**
-  EXCAVATION
-  FILL
-  RIP-RAP

**LOUIS MILLS BRANCH CANAL IMPROVEMENTS**

PROPOSED ACTIVITY:  
**WETLAND PERMITTING**

CLIENT:  
**CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

LOCATION: CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA  
DATE: February 14, 2014  
JOB NUMBER: J - 23958.0000

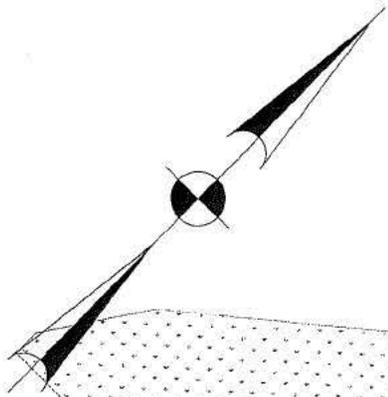
SHEET: 5 OF 12  
SCALE: 1" = 60'

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MATCH LINE  
SEE SHEET NO. 5



WETLAND IMPACT  
0.09 ACRES  
(EXCAVATION)

12

LOUIS MILLS BRANCH CANAL

MATCH LINE - SEE SHEET NO. 7

GRAPHIC SCALE



PROPOSED 12' WIDE  
MAINTENANCE ROAD

12 (IN FEET)  
1 inch = 60 ft.

**LEGEND**

	PROJECT LIMITS
	WETLAND
<b>WETLAND IMPACT</b>	
	EXCAVATION
	FILL
	RIP-RAP

**LOUIS MILLS BRANCH CANAL IMPROVEMENTS**

PROPOSED ACTIVITY:  
WETLAND PERMITTING

CLIENT:  
CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

LOCATION: CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA  
DATE: February 14, 2014  
JOB NUMBER: J- 23958.0000

SHEET: 6 OF 12  
SCALE: 1" = 60'

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MATCH LINE - SEE SHEET NO. 6

MATCH LINE - SEE SHEET NO. 7

WETLAND IMPACT  
0.006 ACRES  
(EXCAVATION)

WETLAND IMPACT  
0.006 ACRES  
(RIP-RAP)

WETLAND IMPACT  
0.064 ACRES  
(EXCAVATION)

PROPOSED 12' WIDE  
MAINTENANCE ROAD

WETLAND IMPACT  
0.007 ACRES (FILL)

WETLAND IMPACT  
0.019 ACRES (FILL)

GRAPHIC SCALE



( IN FEET )  
1 inch = 60 ft.

LEGEND

- PROJECT LIMITS
- ..... WETLAND
- WETLAND IMPACT
- EXCAVATION
- FILL
- RIP-RAP

LOUIS MILLS BRANCH CANAL IMPROVEMENTS

PROPOSED ACTIVITY:  
WETLAND PERMITTING

CLIENT:  
CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

LOCATION: CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA  
DATE: February 14, 2014  
JOB NUMBER: J - 23958.0000

SHEET: 7 OF 12  
SCALE: 1" = 60'

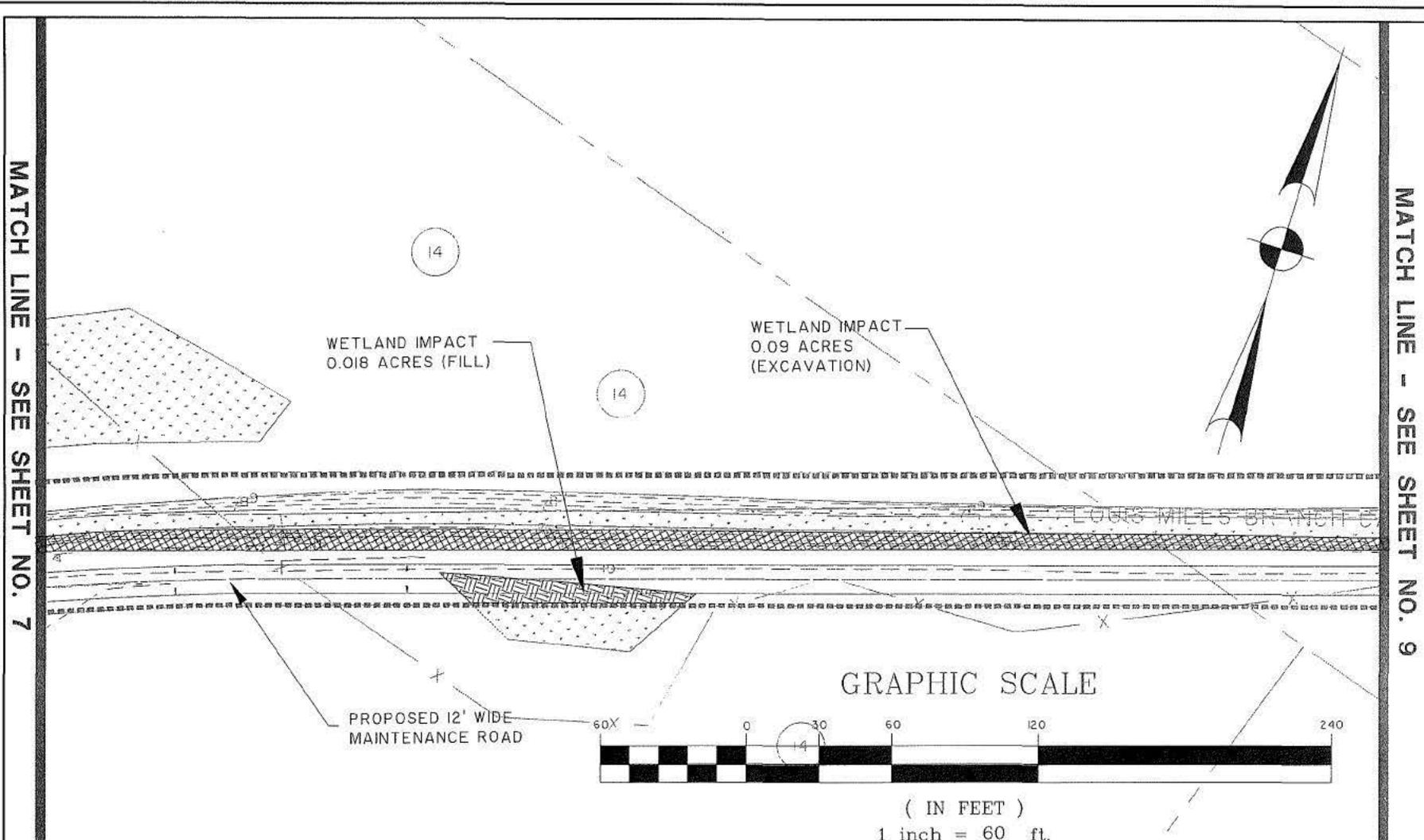
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MATCH LINE - SEE SHEET NO. 7

MATCH LINE - SEE SHEET NO. 9



**LEGEND**

- PROJECT LIMITS
- [Dotted pattern] WETLAND
- WETLAND IMPACT**
- [Cross-hatch pattern] EXCAVATION
- [Hatched pattern] FILL
- [Stippled pattern] RIP-RAP

**LOUIS MILLS BRANCH CANAL IMPROVEMENTS**

PROPOSED ACTIVITY:  
**WETLAND PERMITTING**

CLIENT:  
**CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

LOCATION: CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA  
DATE: February 14, 2014  
JOB NUMBER: J- 23958.0000

SHEET: 8 OF 12  
SCALE: 1" = 60'

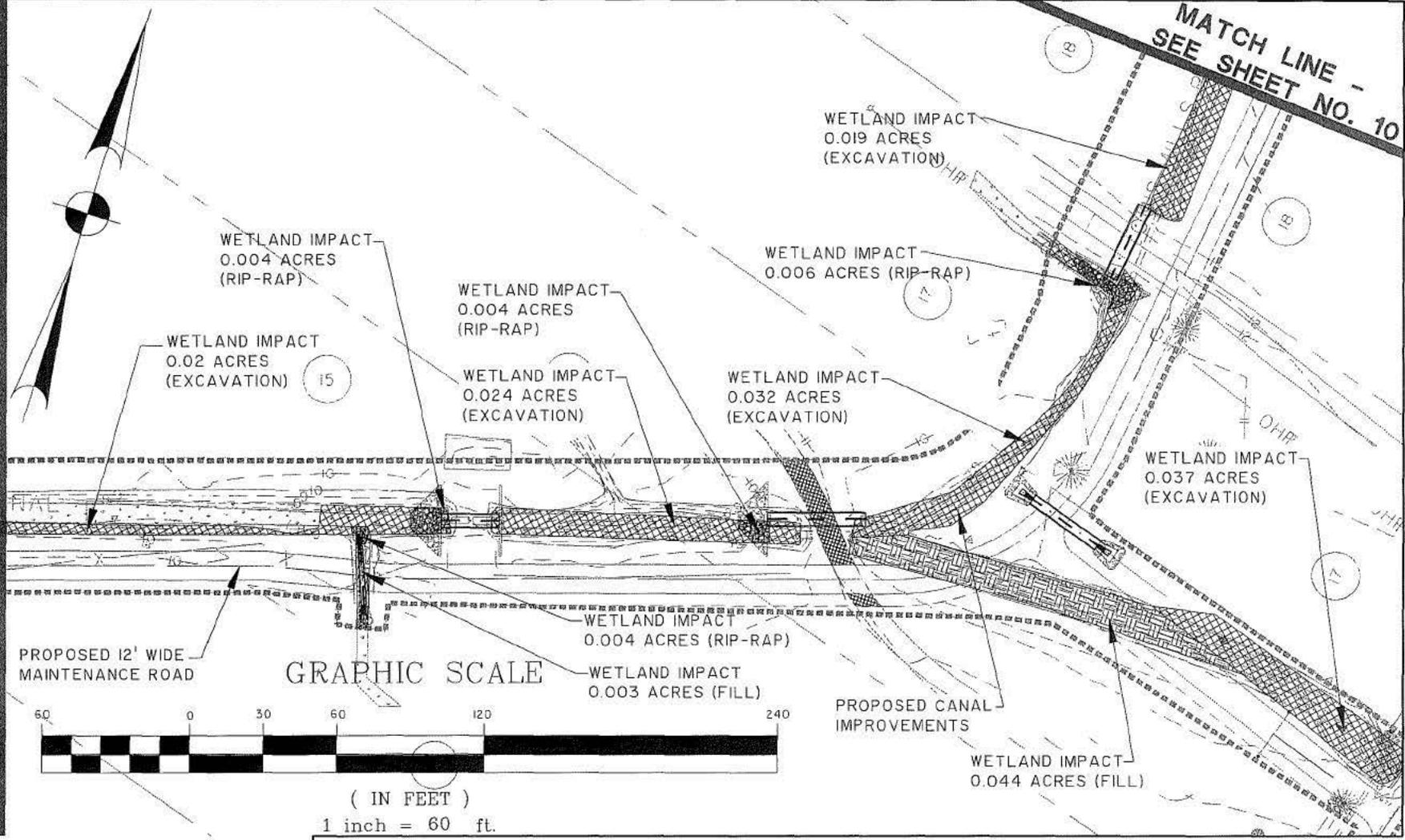
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MATCH LINE -  
SEE SHEET NO. 10

MATCH LINE - SEE SHEET NO. 8



**LEGEND**

-----	PROJECT LIMITS
.....	WETLAND
WETLAND IMPACT	
▨	EXCAVATION
▩	FILL
▧	RIP-RAP

**LOUIS MILLS BRANCH CANAL IMPROVEMENTS**

PROPOSED ACTIVITY:  
**WETLAND PERMITTING**

CLIENT:  
**CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

LOCATION: CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA  
DATE: February 14, 2014  
JOB NUMBER: J - 23958.0000

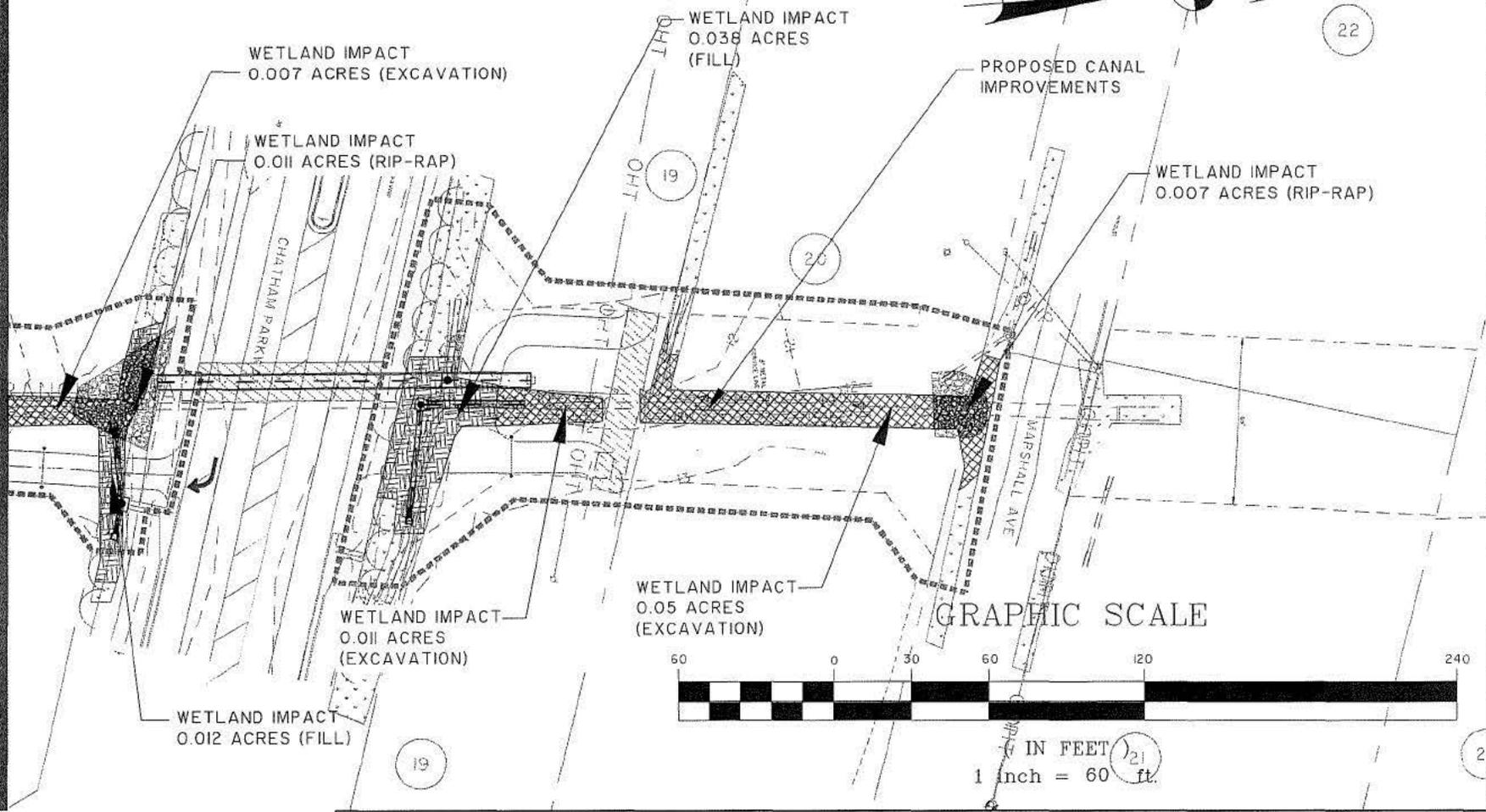
SHEET: 9 OF 12  
SCALE: 1" = 60'

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MATCH LINE - SEE SHEET NO. 9



**LEGEND**

- PROJECT LIMITS
- - - - - WETLAND
- WETLAND IMPACT**
- [Cross-hatched] EXCAVATION
- [Grid pattern] FILL
- [Stippled] RIP-RAP

**LOUIS MILLS BRANCH CANAL IMPROVEMENTS**

PROPOSED ACTIVITY:  
**WETLAND PERMITTING**

CLIENT:  
**CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

LOCATION: CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA  
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SHEET: 10 OF 12  
 SCALE: 1" = 60'

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## LEGEND

DESCRIPTION	ACRES
PROJECT LIMITS	±7.5 ACRES
UPLAND	±3.5 ACRES
WETLAND	±4.0 ACRES

## WETLAND IMPACTS

DESCRIPTION	ACRES
EXCAVATION	0.536 ACRES
FILL	0.178 ACRES
RIP-RAP	0.035 ACRES
TOTAL	0.749 ACRES

## NOTES:

1. WETLAND DELINEATION FLAGGED BY SLIGH ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS, INC. SAVANNAH, GEORGIA.

2. PORTIONS OF THIS PROPERTY ARE CONSIDERED WETLANDS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS SAS-2003-12720, APPROVED NOVEMBER 22, 2013.. OWNERS MAY BE SUBJECT TO PENALTY BY LAW FOR DISTURBANCE OF THESE WETLAND AREAS WITHOUT PROPER AUTHORIZATION.

### LOUIS MILLS BRANCH CANAL IMPROVEMENTS

PROPOSED ACTIVITY:  
WETLAND PERMITTING

CLIENT:  
CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

LOCATION: CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA

DATE: February 14, 2014

JOB NUMBER: J - 23958.0000

SHEET: 11 OF 12

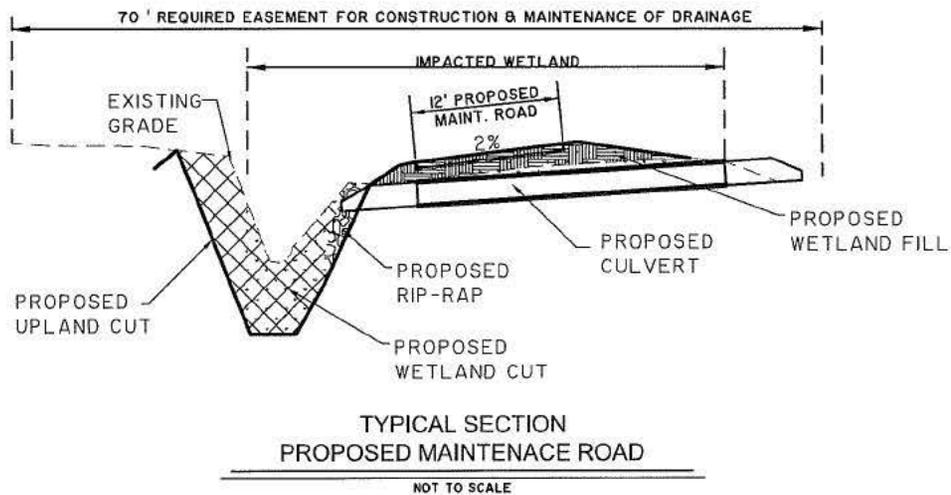
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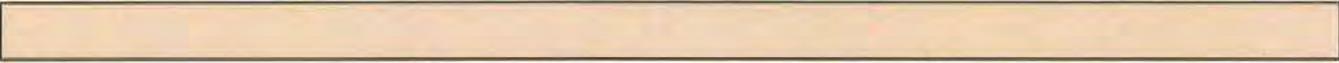
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This photograph was taken at Marshall Avenue facing south. It shows the narrow (2') and shallow (<2') channel which contributes to the upstream drainage problems. This section of canal is proposed to be widened and reshaped to match existing downstream canal dimensions and to ensure positive drainage.



This photograph was taken just south of Chatham Parkway facing north. It shows the narrow (2') and shallow (<2') channel with several debris blockages. The undersized channel along with the common blockages inhibits upstream drainage.



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Site Photograph 1 - Undersized Canal  
 Louis Mills Branch Canal Improvements  
 Chatham County, Georgia

Exhibit Date: February 5, 2014
Drawn By: BWW
Reviewed By: SFS
Job Number : 01-12-051



This photograph was taken at the second driveway facing north towards Chatham Parkway. It shows the very narrow (T), shallow (<2), and irregular channel which contributes to the upstream drainage problems. This section of canal is proposed to be widened and reshaped to match existing downstream canal dimensions and to ensure positive drainage.



This photograph shows a blockage of debris and trash which is a common occurrence in the undersized channel. Such blockages form during periods of low flow and contribute to drainage problems during and after storm events. The proposed project will eliminate these blockages.



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Site Photograph 2 - Undersized Canal  
 Louis Mills Branch Canal Improvements  
 Chatham County, Georgia

Exhibit Date: February 6, 2014
Drawn By: BWW
Reviewed By: SFS
Job Number : 01-12-051



This photograph depicts the old, dilapidated, undersized culvert under the first private driveway south of Chatham Parkway. The culvert is proposed to be replaced with a 36"x60" elliptical culvert.



This photograph depicts the old, dilapidated, undersized culvert under the third private driveway south of Chatham Parkway. The culvert is proposed to be replaced with a 36"x60" elliptical culvert.

Site Photograph 3 - Culvert Replacement

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Site Photograph 3 - Culvert Replacement  
 Louis Mills Branch Canal Improvements  
 Chatham County, Georgia

Exhibit Date: February 6, 2014
Drawn By: BWW
Reviewed By: SFS
Job Number : 01-12-051



This photograph depicts the existing condition of the 0.037 acre of forested wetland proposed for impact. Impacts to this habitat are required for construction of the access road along the canal.



This photograph depicts the existing condition of the canal within the southern section of the project corridor. The access road will be constructed along the right side of the canal, and a minor amount of grading is necessary to reshape the canal banks and remove vegetation to facilitate future maintenance. No widening or deepening will occur within this portion of the canal, but removal of accumulated sediments and debris is necessary.



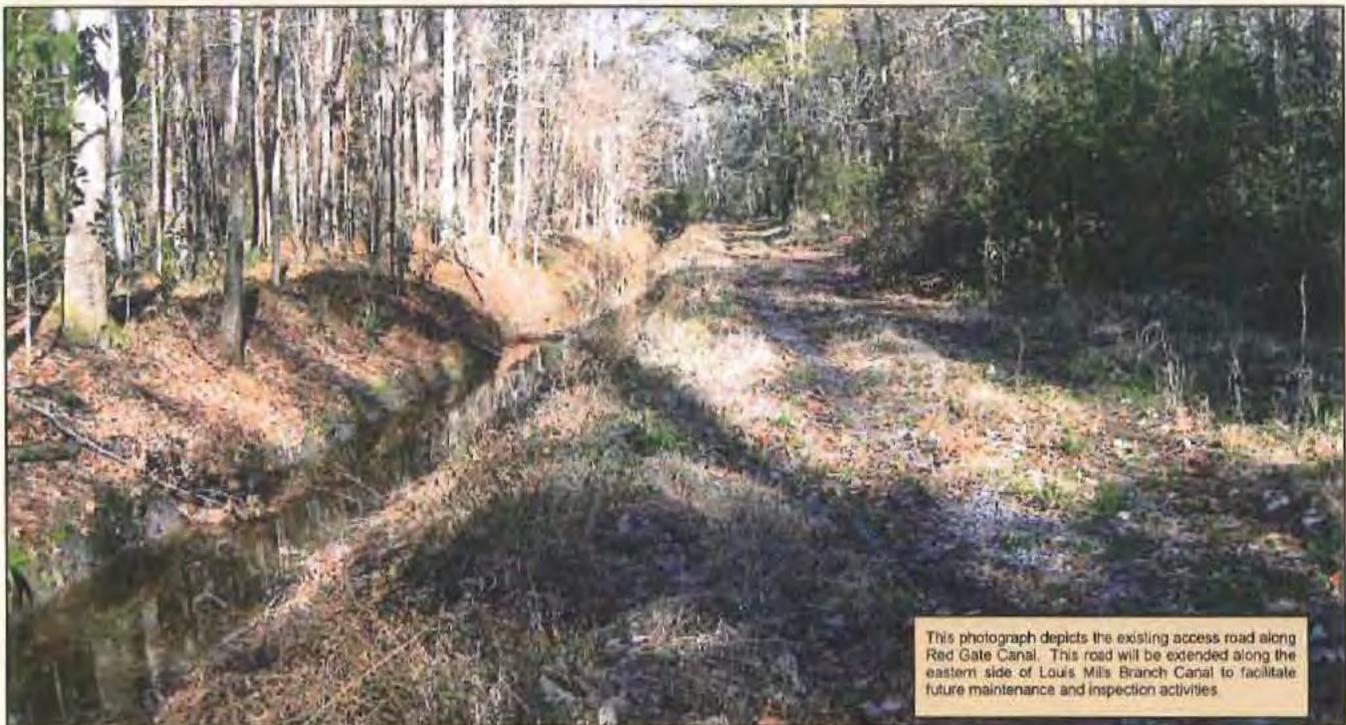
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Site Photograph 4 - Existing Habitats  
 Louis Mills Branch Canal Improvements  
 Chatham County, Georgia

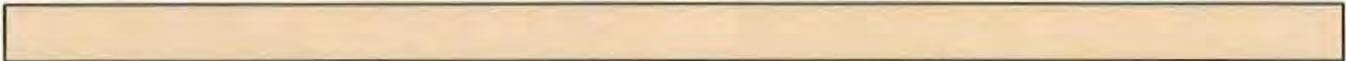
Exhibit Date: February 5, 2014
Drawn By: BWW
Reviewed By: SFS
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This photograph depicts a blockage within the southern section of the project corridor and demonstrates the need for the proposed access road. Routine maintenance and inspections will prevent blockages such as this.



This photograph depicts the existing access road along Red Gate Canal. This road will be extended along the eastern side of Louis Mills Branch Canal to facilitate future maintenance and inspection activities.



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Site Photograph 5 - Existing Conditions  
 Louis Mills Branch Canal Improvements  
 Chatham County, Georgia

Exhibit Date: February 6, 2014
Drawn By: BWW
Reviewed By: SFS
Job Number : 01-12-051