



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

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

JUNE 09 2015

Regulatory Division  
SAS-2014-00576

**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-2014-00576

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

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

Location of Proposed Work: The project site is located within the Georgia Ports Authority's (GPA) Ocean Terminal, north of Louisville Road, in Chatham County, Georgia (Latitude 32.0797, Longitude -81.1078).

Description of Work Subject to the Jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: The applicant proposes to impact 3.35 acres of jurisdictional freshwater wetland during the expansion of an existing automotive cargo yard at the Ocean Terminal. As proposed, the project would consist of the construction of 12.6 acres of paved storage area as well as infrastructure such as roadways and stormwater detention facilities.

To offset the loss in aquatic function associated with the proposed impacts, the applicant has proposed the purchase of 18.76 wetland credits from the AA Shaw Wetland Mitigation Bank.

## **BACKGROUND**

By letter dated August 26, 2014, the Corps verified the use of Nationwide Permit 39 to fill 0.19 acre of wetland to expand the existing cargo yard south of the Georgia State Highway 25 viaduct. To offset the loss in function associated with the impacts, GPA purchased 0.80 wetland mitigation credits from AA Shaw Wetland Mitigation Bank on September 29, 2014. In addition, by letter dated October 31, 2014, the Corps completed an expanded preliminary jurisdictional determination for the project site, verifying the limits of all waters of the United States on site.

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 West 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.

## **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: The applicant provided a Phase I cultural resources survey entitled "Cultural Resources Survey of the Georgia Ports Authority's Ocean Terminal Paving Project, Chatham County, Georgia," dated December 2014. The report identified two new archeological sites and four new historic sites. The Corps is currently reviewing the report and has not made an eligibility determination or subsequent effects determination for the above 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 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.

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.

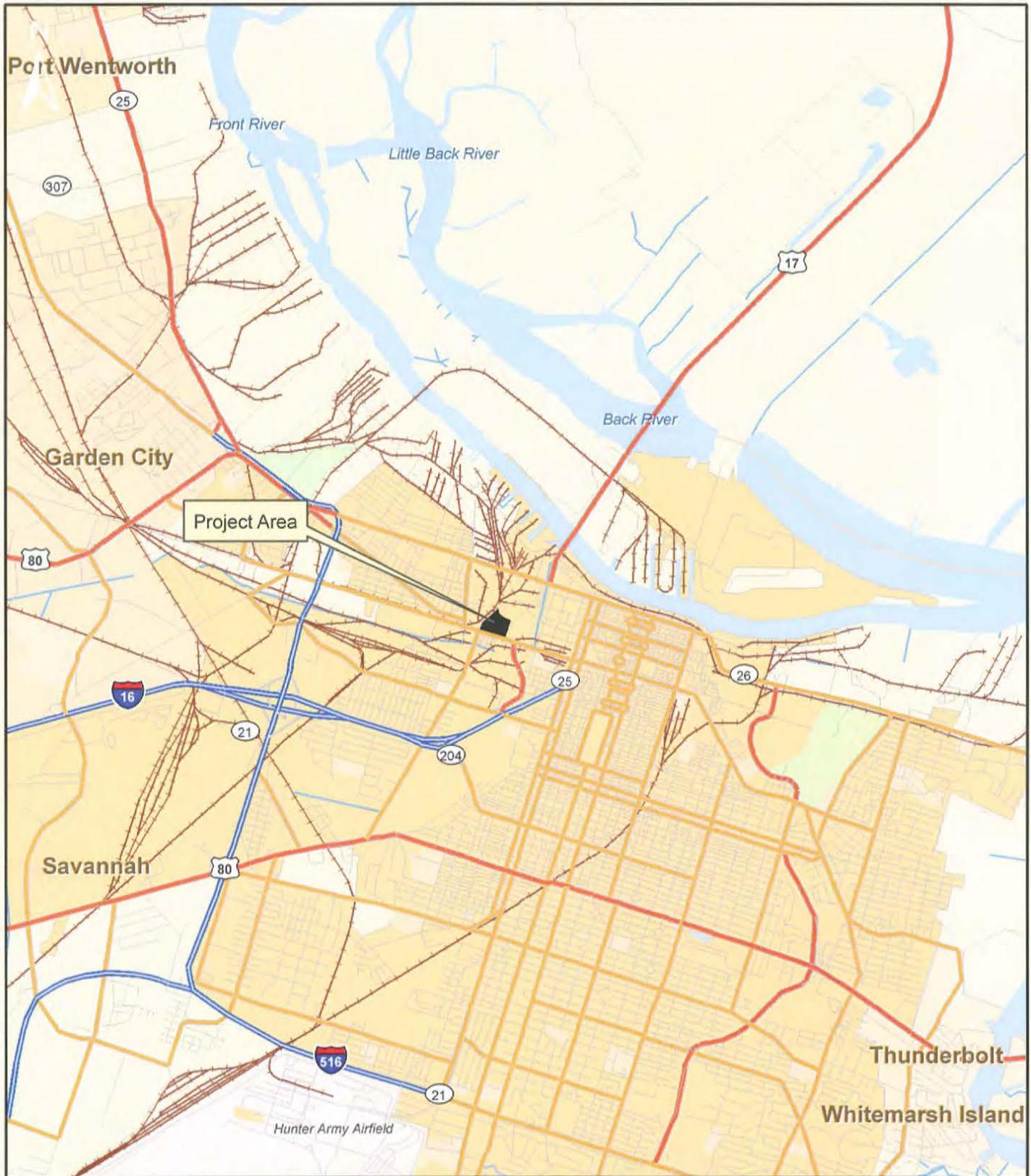
Public Hearing: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application for a Department of the Army Permit. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for requesting a public hearing. 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 West 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, Regulatory Specialist, Coastal Branch at 912-652-5550.

(3) Encls

1. Project Location Map
2. 2013 Aerial Photograph
3. Ocean Terminal Paving South of Viaduct Phase 3 Preliminary Plan, dated May 20, 2015.



 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

Ocean Terminal Cargo Yard Expansion  
 Phase III  
 Project Location Map  
 Chatham County, Georgia

1

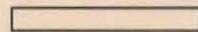
 Miles

Exhibit Date: November 11, 2014

Drawn By: BWV

Reviewed By: DJP

Job Number : 01-14-048



 Wetland

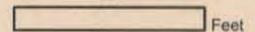
 Approximate Project Limits

Prepared By:

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

Ocean Terminal Cargo Yard Expansion  
 Phase III  
 2013 Aerial Photograph  
 Chatham County, Georgia

400



Feet

Exhibit Date: November 11, 2014

Drawn By: BWW

Reviewed By: DJP

Job Number : 01-14-048



OCEAN TERMINAL  
 PAVING SOUTH OF VIADUCT  
 PHASE 3 PRELIMINARY SITE PLAN  
 20 MAY 2015

PREPARED FOR:



2-0018-01-009  
 N/F MHG INDUSTRY DRIVE, LLC

TO TERMINAL DOCKS

TENANT AREA

APPROXIMATE  
 PROJECT  
 LIMITS

STORMWATER  
 MANAGEMENT  
 (±1.5 ACRES)

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT  
 OF TRANSPORTATION

APPROXIMATE  
 PROJECT  
 LIMITS

ASPHALT AUTO  
 STORAGE (13 ACRES)

WETLAND "A"  
 FILL 0.76 AC.

WETLAND "B"  
 FILL 2.59 AC.

U.S. HIGHWAY 17

2-0017-02-007  
 N/F SAVANNAH  
 COLLEGE  
 OF ART & DESIGN

2-0018-01-011  
 N/F NORFOLK  
 SOUTHERN CORP.

APPROXIMATE  
 PROJECT  
 LIMITS

CLAY STREET  
 BRICKYARD STREET  
 MILLIKEN STREET  
 LOUISVILLE ROAD



DRAWING SCALE 1"=150' WHEN PRINTED AT 8.5"X11"