



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

February 20, 2018

Regulatory Branch  
SAS-1999-12220

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Savannah District**

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-1999-12220

Applicant: Mr. Brad Johnson, Chairman  
Walton County Water and Sewerage Authority  
P.O. Box 880  
2171 Highway 81  
Loganville, Georgia 30052

Agent: Mr. Mark Nelson  
Nelson Environmental, Inc.  
7380 Spout Springs Road, Suite 210-215  
Flowery Branch, Georgia 30542

Location of Proposed Work: The project site is located off of High Shoals Road, approximately 1.50 miles south of the intersection of High Shoals Road and GA-186, City of Bishop, Morgan County, Georgia (Latitude 33.801035, Longitude -83.493532).

Description of Work Subject to the Jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

The application submitted is associated with the previously authorized Hard Labor Creek Reservoir project. The applicant is requesting a permit modification to address a proposed change in location for the water intake structure on the Apalachee River as well as to extend the permit expiration to accommodate construction within the next 24 months.

The original permit, issued in February 2004, authorized the construction of an earth embankment dam to create a 1,370 acre pump-storage water supply reservoir on Hard Labor Creek, and a pumping station on the Apalachee River with a raw water pipeline to the reservoir to serve Walton County, the City of Winder (including Barrow County), and Oconee County. The dam has been constructed and the reservoir is now approximately 72% full.

This public notice is to solicit comments on the proposed impacts resulting from construction of the Apalachee River water intake structure ONLY.

The Apalachee River at this proposed location is approximately 50-100 feet wide. There are two additional perennial streams within the project area. The proposed intake structure would require a concrete parking/maintenance pad that would be approximately 35' by 75' and would be situated along the south bank of the Apalachee River. A building would be constructed to house the water pumps. Due to the sloping topography, the height of the building would be approximately 12' above grade on the road side, and approximately 15' above grade on the river side. The facility would remain dark at night except for lighting that would be available for emergency use and operated on a motion detector mechanism. Typical operation of the pumps will not be audible beyond the property line since the system will be contained in a sound attenuating building. The site would be accessed from High Shoals Road. The facility would be secured with a chain link boundary fence and driveway gate. The intake would be connected to Hard Labor Creek Reservoir through a pressurized water lines that would be constructed along existing road right-of-way and would avoid any disturbance of aquatic resources within the pipeline corridor.

According to the figures the applicant has provided, there appears to be approximately 105 linear feet of stream bank stabilization (i.e. 270 cubic yards of rock riprap), proposed along the bed and banks of the Apalachee River. According to the figures the applicant has provided, there appears to be approximately 80 linear feet of concrete wall proposed within the Apalachee River bank to accommodate the construction of the intake facility. The rock rip rap would be placed on both sides of this wall. Impacts to the river would also include excavation and reshaping within the river bed to align river flows toward the intake facility. Approximately 270 cubic yards of streambed is proposed for removal. A road crossing of a perennial stream is proposed to accommodate access to the intake facility, which would require 60 linear feet of stream impact. Detailed designs of the road crossing and how the intake facility will be installed within the Apalachee River (i.e. all temporary impacts) have not yet been submitted for the Corps review.

## **BACKGROUND**

This Public Notice announces a request for authorization from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 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, issued a water quality certification for this project on February 9, 2004, 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.

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 has hired a professional archaeologist to conduct a complete Phase 1 Cultural Resources Survey of the new project area. This survey has not been submitted to the Corps for review. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will review the cultural resource report and determine if additional information will be needed to determine potential effects to cultural resources.

Endangered Species: A query of the IPAC data resulted in the endangered Black Spored Quillwort (*Isoetes melanospora*), and the threatened Wood Stork (*Mycteria Americana*), and the threatened Little Amphianthus (*Amphianthus pusillus*) species, which are known to occur in Morgan County:  
**(<https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/gettingStarted/map>).**

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.

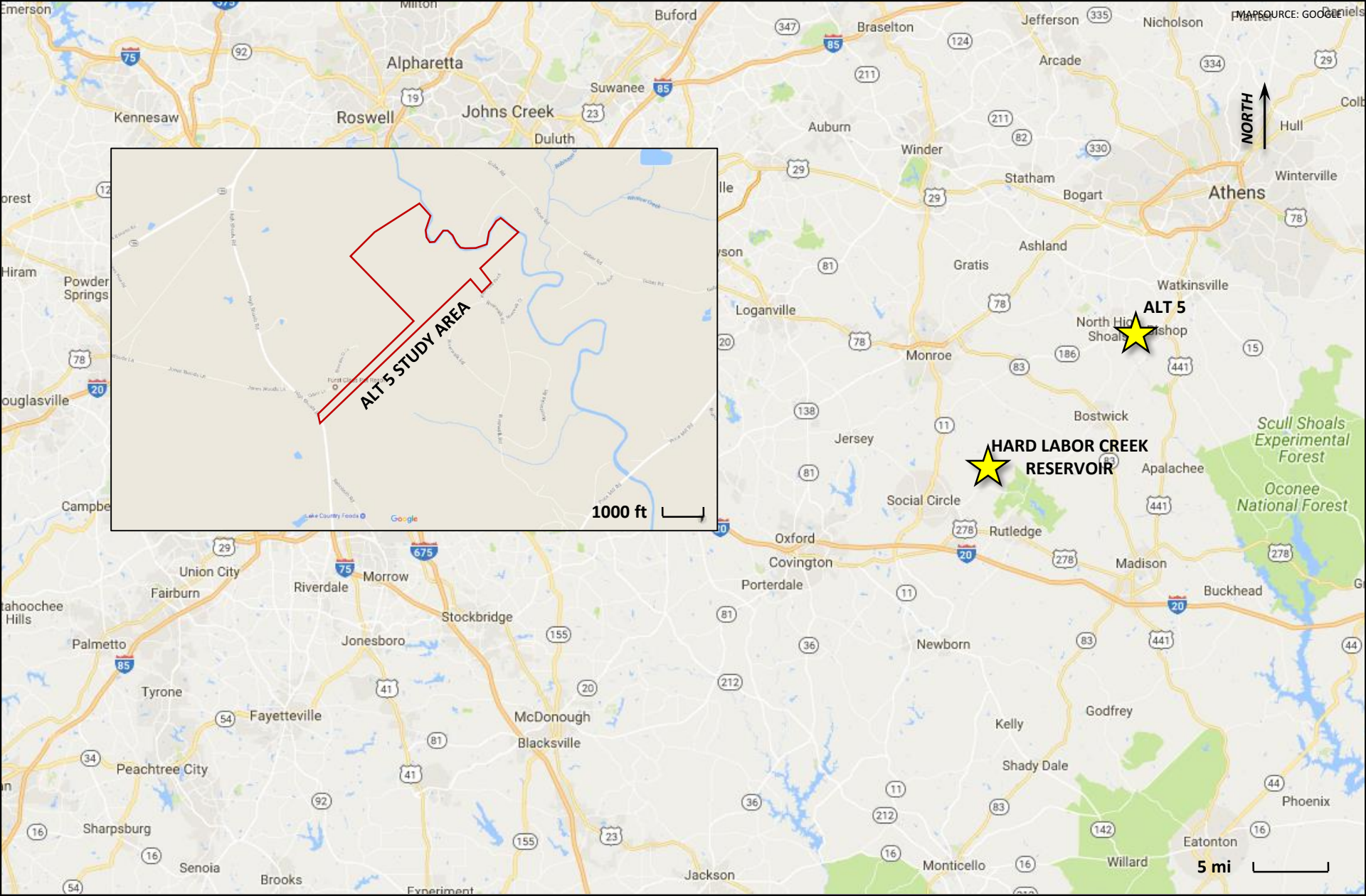
Application of Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines: The proposed activity involves the discharge of dredged or fill material into the waters of the United States. The Savannah District's evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by 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: Elisha A. Brannon, 1590 Adamson Parkway, Suite 200, Morrow, Georgia 30260-1777 or by email at Elisha.A.Brannon@usace.army.mil, 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 Elisha A. Brannon, Project Manager, at (678) 804-5226.

#### List of Figures

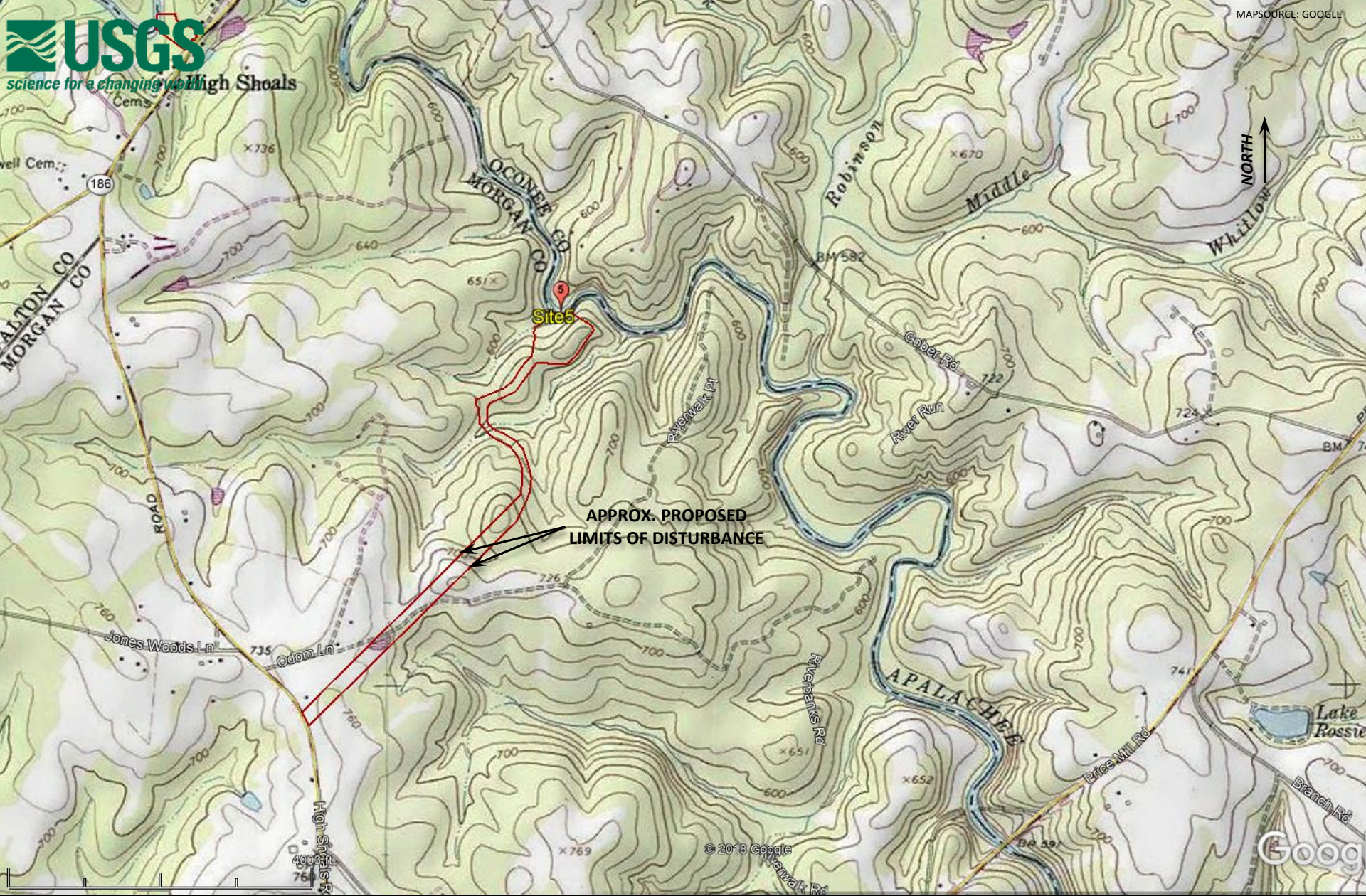
1. Project Location
2. Topographic Map
3. Aerial Map
4. Plan View of Project Area
5. Plan View and Cross Section Views of Intake Facility



**VICINITY MAP**  
**PREPARED FOR:**  
**WALTON COUNTY WATER AND SEWERAGE AUTHORITY**  
**PROGRAM MANAGER: Precision Planning, Inc.**

**APALACHEE RIVER INTAKE ALTERNATIVE 5**  
**MORGAN COUNTY, GEORGIA**

**EXHIBIT 1**  
**PREPARED 02/08/18 BY:**  
**NELSON ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.**

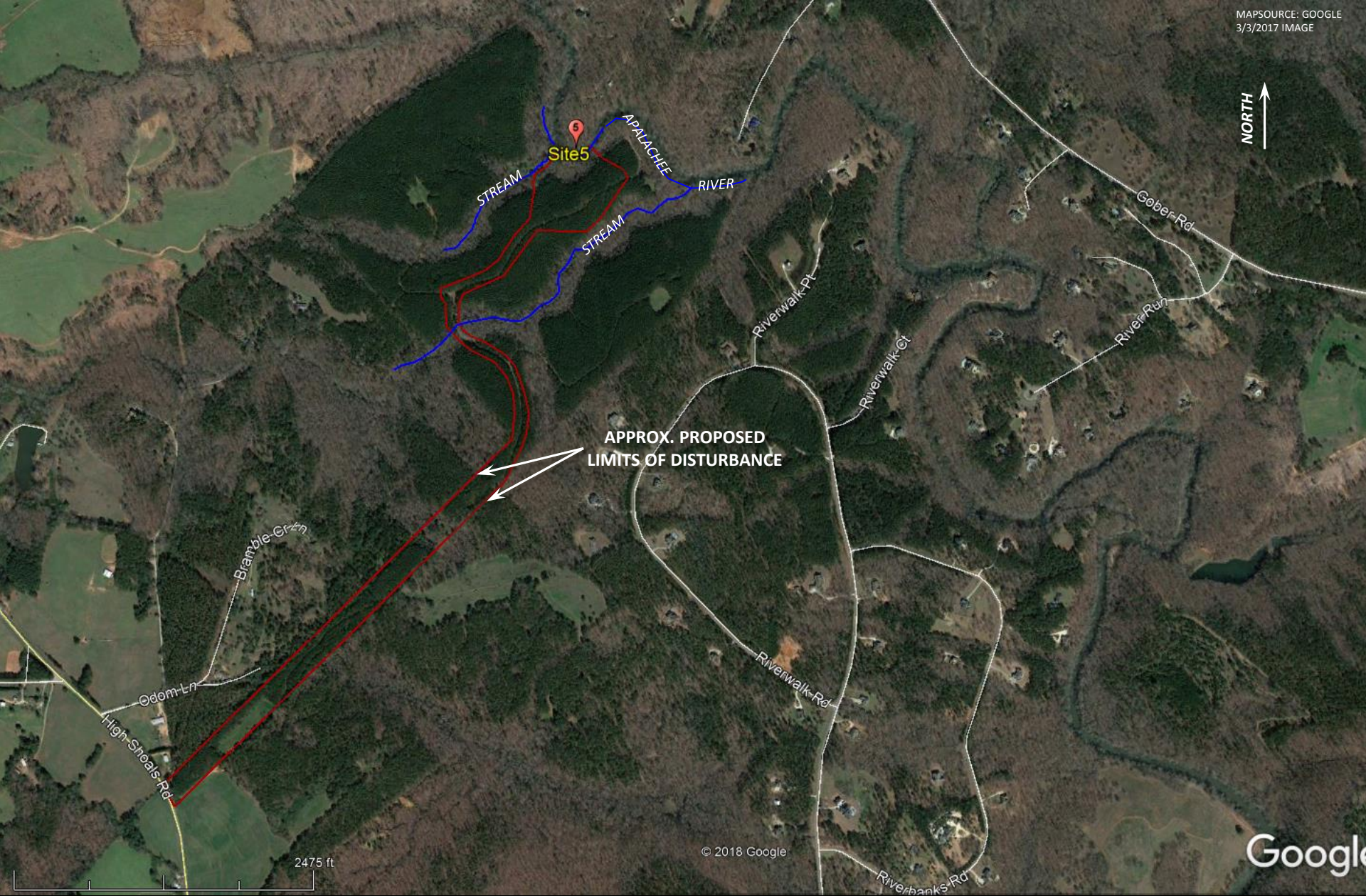


**USGS QUADRANGLE MAP**

**PREPARED FOR:**  
**WALTON COUNTY WATER AND SEWERAGE AUTHORITY**  
**PROGRAM MANAGER:** Precision Planning, Inc.

**APALACHEE RIVER INTAKE ALTERNATIVE 5**  
**MORGAN COUNTY, GEORGIA**

**EXHIBIT 3**  
**PREPARED 02/08/18 BY:**  
**NELSON ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.**



**AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH**

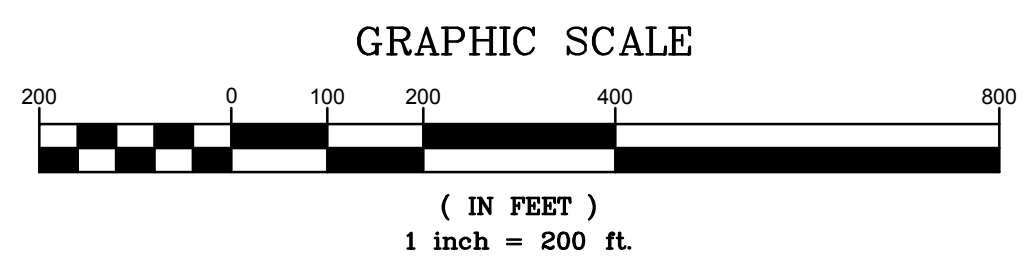
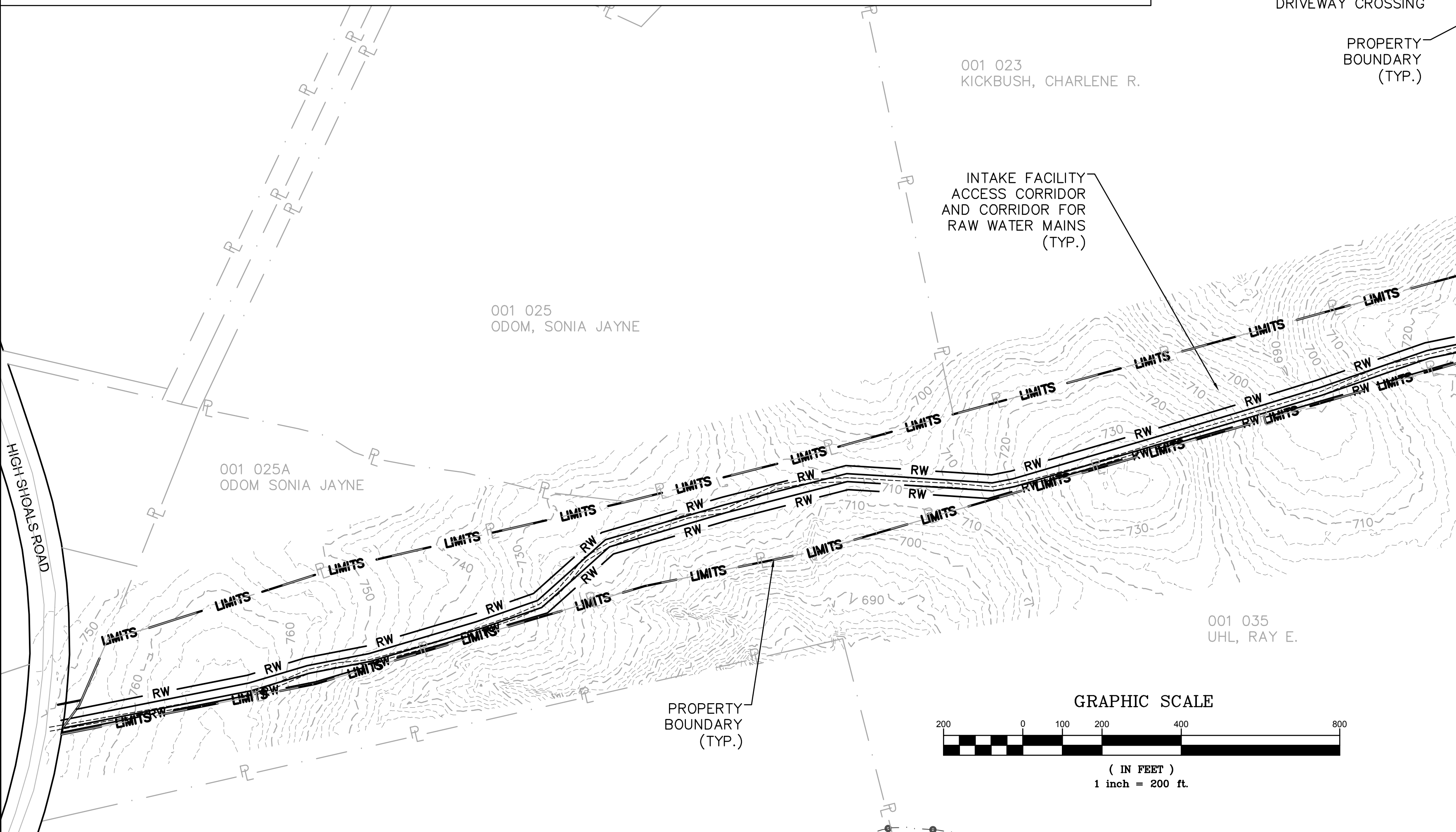
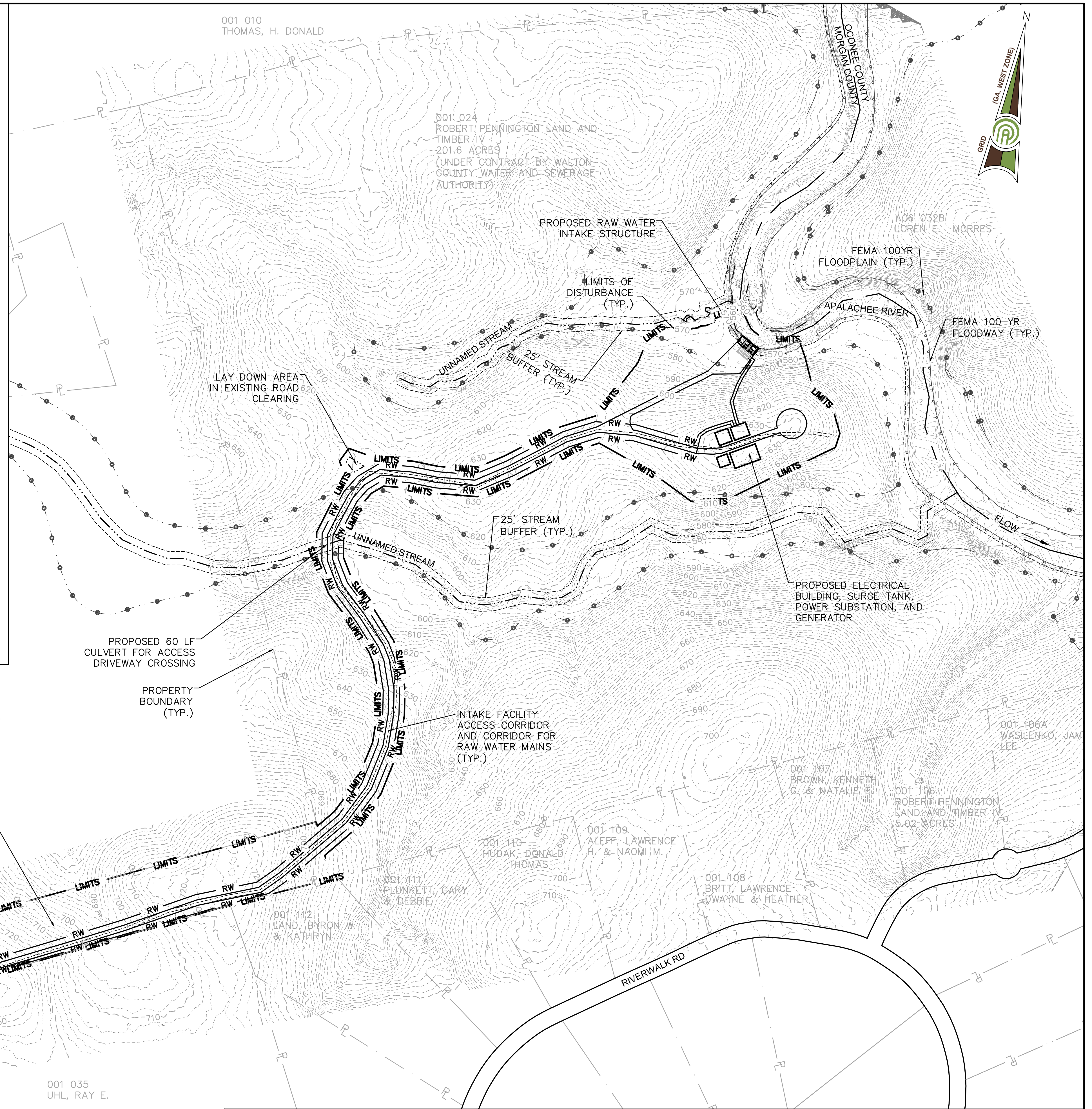
**PREPARED FOR:**  
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**APALACHEE RIVER INTAKE ALTERNATIVE 5**  
**MORGAN COUNTY, GEORGIA**

**EXHIBIT 4**  
**PREPARED 02/08/18 BY:**  
**NELSON ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.**



LOCATION MAP  
SCALE 1"=500'

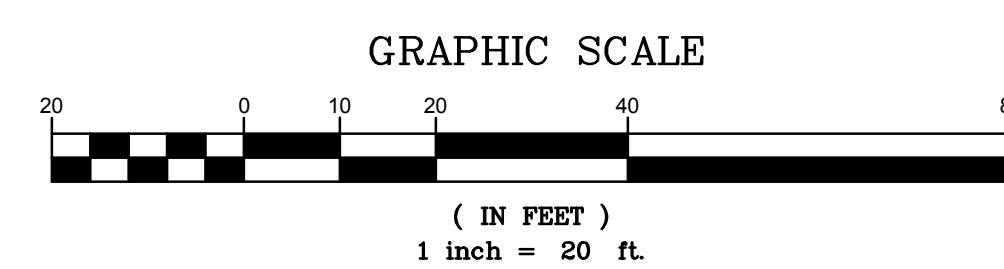
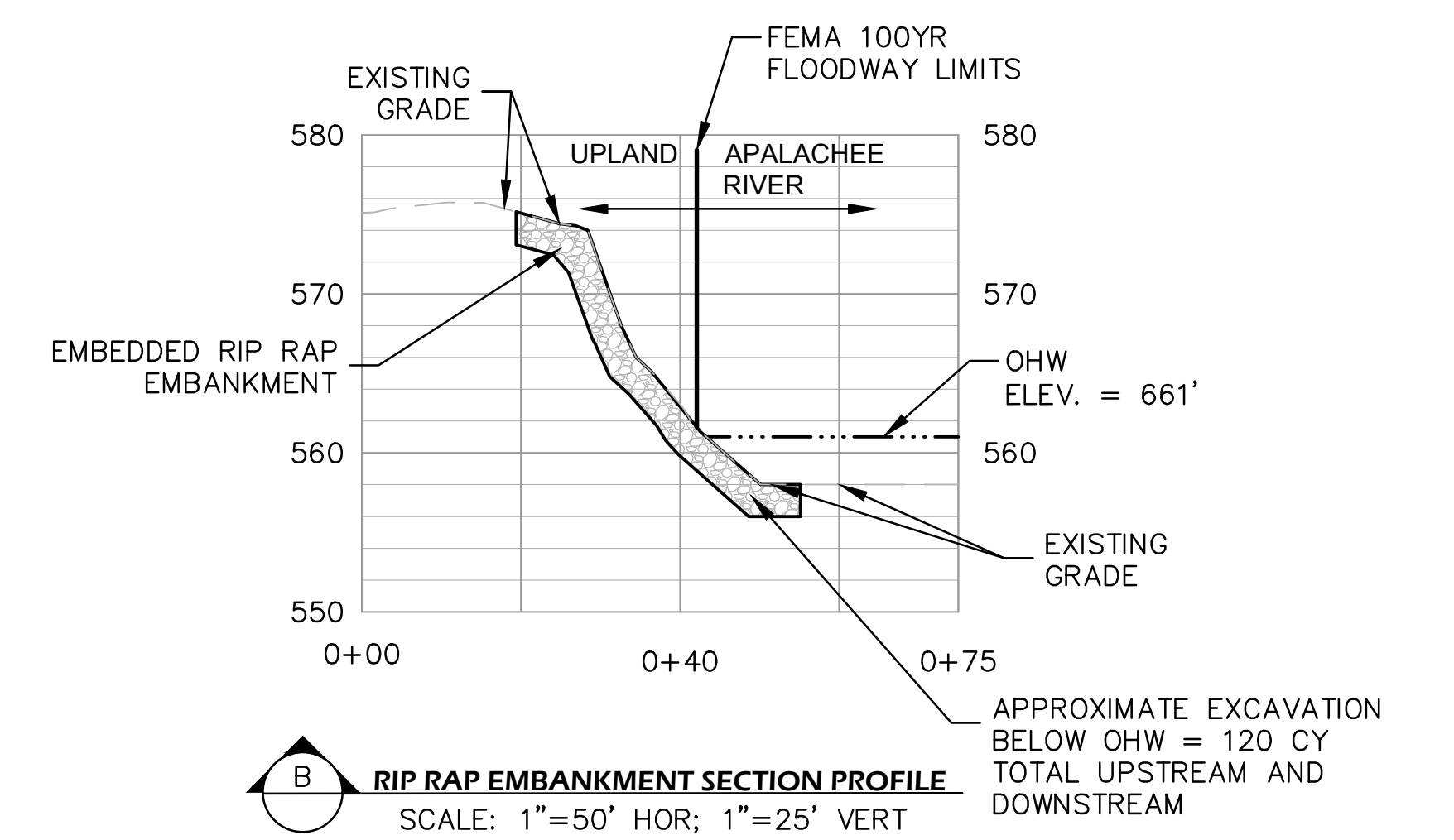
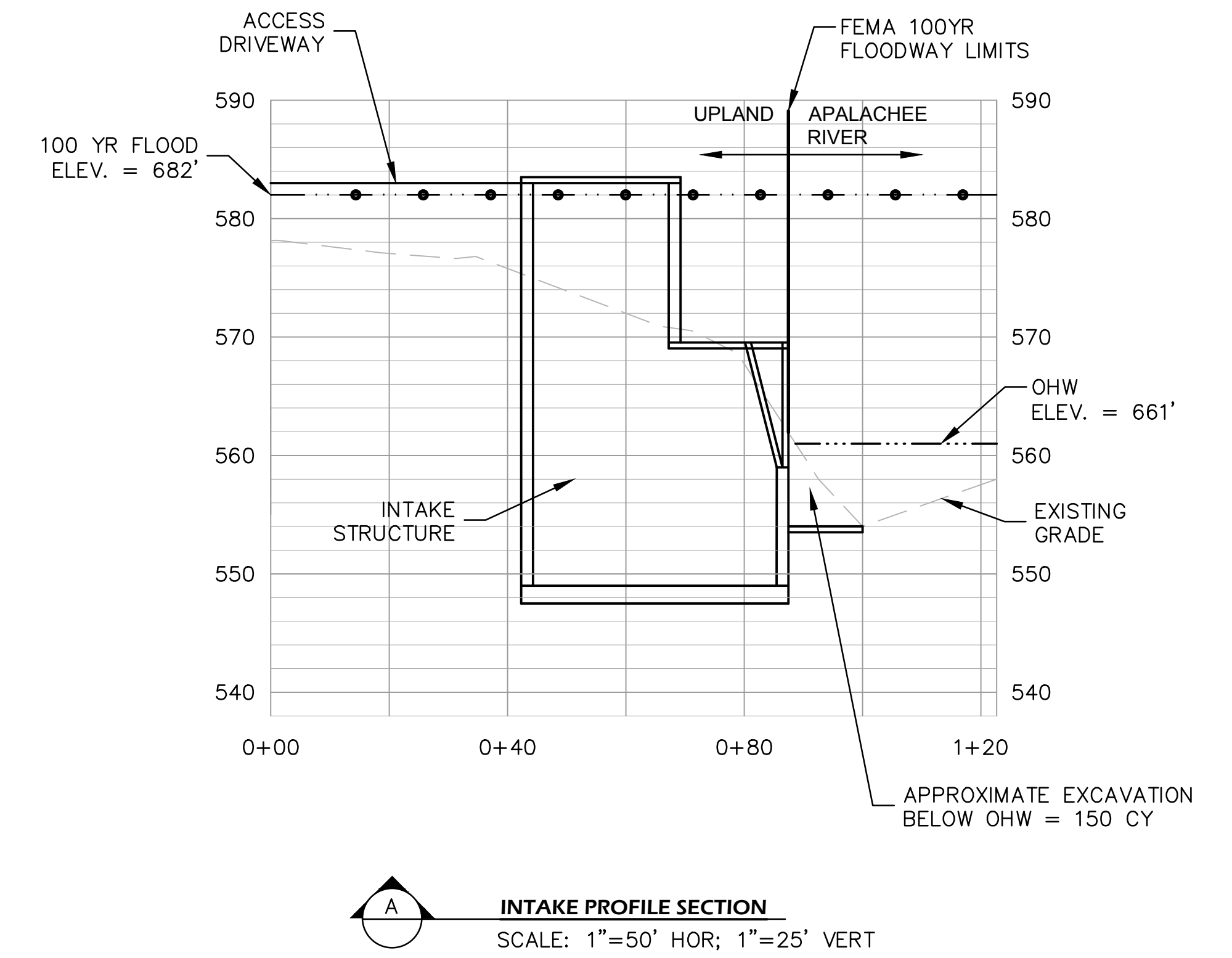
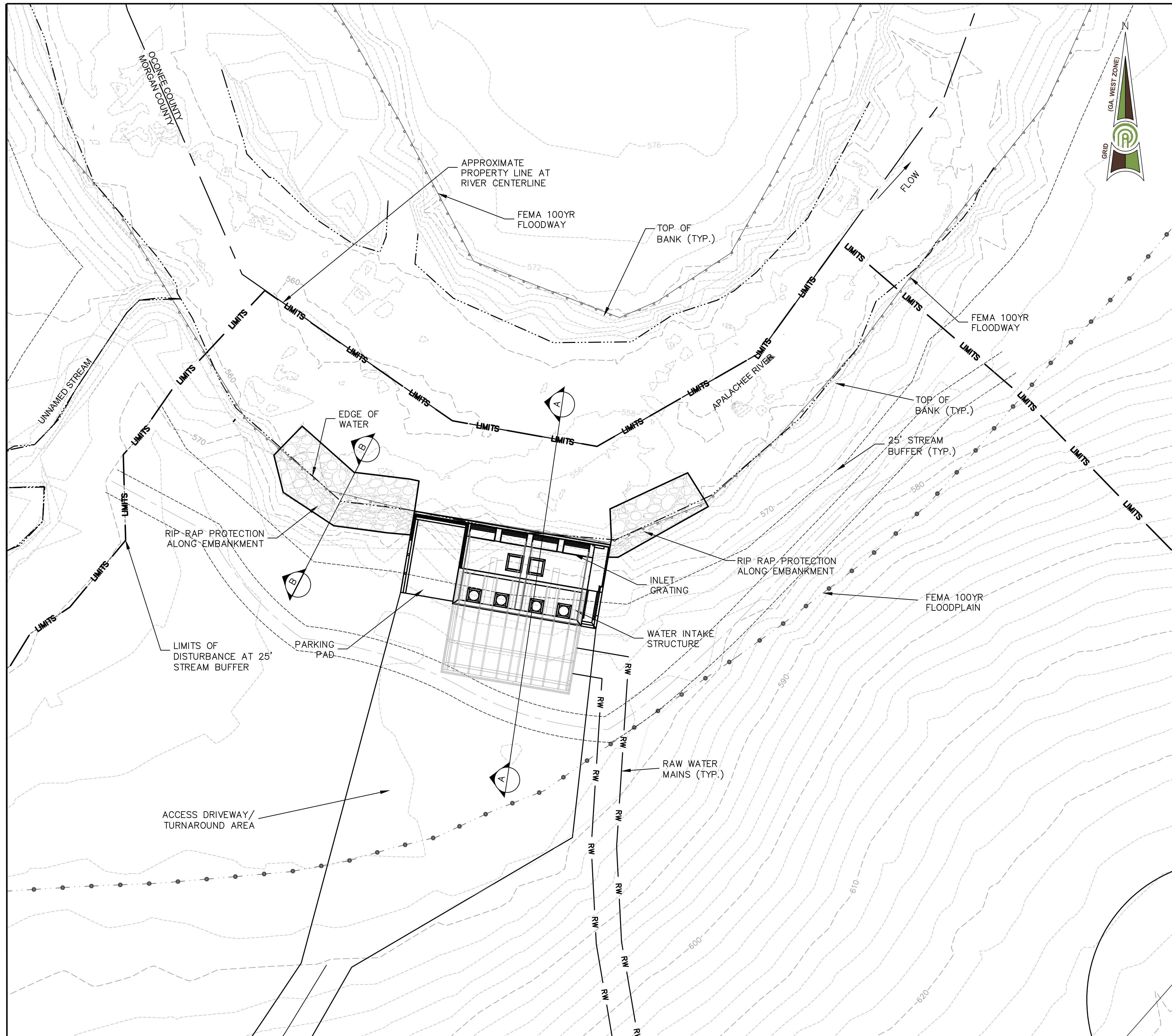


**PRECISION**  
Planning Inc.  
planners engineers architects surveyors  
802 E. SPRING ST., MONROE, GA 30052  
770.267.8800 www.ppi.us

INTAKE STRUCTURE  
APALACHEE RIVER

OVERALL SITE		
Land lot: 281 GMD District: 5TH	Date: 02/06/18	SKETCH 1
County: MORGAN		
Drawn By: RAG		
Scale: AS SHOWN		
Job #: E07-288		





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INTAKE STRUCTURE  
APALACHEE RIVER

INTAKE SITE	
Land lot: 281 GMD District: 5TH	Date: 02/06/18
County: MORGAN	SKETCH 2
Drawn By: RAG	
Scale: AS SHOWN	
Job #: E07-288	