

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT 4751 BEST ROAD, SUITE 140 COLLEGE PARK, GEORGIA 30337

CESAS – RDP 20 February 2024

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Pre-2015 Regulatory Regime Approved Jurisdictional Determination in Light of *Sackett v. EPA*, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023), 1 SAS-2022-00681²

BACKGROUND. An Approved Jurisdictional Determination (AJD) is a Corps document stating the presence or absence of waters of the United States on a parcel or a written statement and map identifying the limits of waters of the United States on a parcel. AJDs are clearly designated appealable actions and will include a basis of JD with the document.³ AJDs are case-specific and are typically made in response to a request. AJDs are valid for a period of five years unless new information warrants revision of the determination before the expiration date or a District Engineer has identified, after public notice and comment, that specific geographic areas with rapidly changing environmental conditions merit re-verification on a more frequent basis.⁴ For the purposes of this AJD, we have relied on section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (RHA),⁵ the Clean Water Act (CWA) implementing regulations published by the Department of the Army in 1986 and amended in 1993 (references 2.a. and 2.b. respectively), the 2008 Rapanos-Carabell guidance (reference 2.c.), and other applicable guidance, relevant case law and longstanding practice, (collectively the pre-2015 regulatory regime), and the Sackett decision (reference 2.d.) in evaluating iurisdiction.

This Memorandum for Record (MFR) constitutes the basis of jurisdiction for a Corps AJD as defined in 33 CFR §331.2. The features addressed in this AJD were evaluated consistent with the definition of "waters of the United States" found in the pre-2015 regulatory regime and consistent with the Supreme Court's decision in *Sackett*. This AJD did not rely on the 2023 "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States," as

¹ While the Supreme Court's decision in *Sackett* had no effect on some categories of waters covered under the CWA, and no effect on any waters covered under RHA, all categories are included in this Memorandum for Record for efficiency.

² When documenting aquatic resources within the review area that are jurisdictional under the Clean Water Act (CWA), use an additional MFR and group the aquatic resources on each MFR based on the TNW, interstate water, or territorial seas that they are connected to. Be sure to provide an identifier to indicate when there are multiple MFRs associated with a single AJD request (i.e., number them 1, 2, 3, etc.).

³ 33 CFR 331.2.

⁴ Regulatory Guidance Letter 05-02.

⁵ USACE has authority under both Section 9 and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 but for convenience, in this MFR, jurisdiction under RHA will be referred to as Section 10.

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amended on 8 September 2023 (Amended 2023 Rule) because, as of the date of this decision, the Amended 2023 Rule is not applicable in this state due to litigation.

1. SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS.

a. Provide a list of each individual feature within the review area and the jurisdictional status of each one (i.e., identify whether each feature is/is not a water of the United States and/or a navigable water of the United States).

| Name of Aquatic Resource | JD or Non-JD | Section 404/Section 10 |
|--------------------------|--------------|------------------------|
| PA002 | Non-JD | NA |
| PA003 | Non-JD | NA |
| PA004 | Non-JD | NA |
| WA007 | Non-JD | NA |
| WA008 | Non-JD | NA |
| WA009 | Non-JD | NA |
| WA010 | Non-JD | NA |

- i. PA002, Pond, Non-jurisdictional
- ii. PA003, Pond, Non-jurisdictional
- iii. PA004, Pond, Non-jurisdictional
- iv. WA007, Wetland, Non-jurisdictional
- v. WA008, Wetland, Non-jurisdictional
- vi. WA009, Wetland, Non-jurisdictional
- vii. WA010, Wetland, Non-jurisdictional

2. REFERENCES.

- a. Final Rule for Regulatory Programs of the Corps of Engineers, 51 FR 41206 (November 13, 1986).
- b. Clean Water Act Regulatory Programs, 58 FR 45008 (August 25, 1993).
- c. U.S. EPA & U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Clean Water Act Jurisdiction Following the U.S. Supreme Court's Decision in *Rapanos v. United States* & *Carabell v. United States* (December 2, 2008)
- d. Sackett v. EPA, 598 U.S. , 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023)

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3. REVIEW AREA.

A. Project Area Size (in acres): 1,567

B. Center Coordinates of the Project Site (in decimal degrees)

Latitude: 32.280423, Longitude: -83.976552

C. Nearest City or Town: Montezuma

D. County: Macon E. State: Georgia

4. NEAREST TRADITIONAL NAVIGABLE WATER (TNW), INTERSTATE WATER, OR THE TERRITORIAL SEAS TO WHICH THE AQUATIC RESOURCE IS CONNECTED.

A. Name of nearest downstream TNW, Territorial Sea or interstate water: Flint River, 2.56 miles to the west of the AJD review area.

- B. Determination based on: This determination was made based on a review of desktop data resources listed in Section 9 of this memorandum and a field visit conducted on 4/25/2023), a review of the SAS Section 10 list (for a water body that is navigable-in-fact under federal law for any purpose (such as Section 10, RHA), that water body categorically qualifies as a Section 404 "traditional navigable water" subject to CWA jurisdiction under 33 CFR 328.3(a)(1)), and documented (include in AR) occurrences of boating traffic on the identified water.
- 5. FLOWPATH FROM THE SUBJECT AQUATIC RESOURCES TO A TNW, INTERSTATE WATER, OR THE TERRITORIAL SEAS

Features PA002, PA003, PA004 are pond features located within farmland, constructed in uplands, and have no outlet pipes. Therefore, has no connection to a TNW.

Features WA007, WA008, WA009, and WA010 are wetlands that lack a surface flow connection to a tributary that would then connect to a TNW. The wetlands meet the hydrophytic vegetation, wetland hydrology, and hydric soil criteria of the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual and the Eastern Mountains and Piedmont Regional Supplement.

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- 6. SECTION 10 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS⁶: Describe aquatic resources or other features within the review area determined to be jurisdictional in accordance with Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. Include the size of each aquatic resource or other feature within the review area and how it was determined to be jurisdictional in accordance with Section 10.⁷ N/A
- 7. SECTION 404 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS: Describe the aquatic resources within the review area that were found to meet the definition of waters of the United States in accordance with the pre-2015 regulatory regime and consistent with the Supreme Court's decision in Sackett. List each aquatic resource separately, by name, consistent with the naming convention used in section 1, above. Include a rationale for each aquatic resource, supporting that the aquatic resource meets the relevant category of "waters of the United States" in the pre-2015 regulatory regime. The rationale should also include a written description of, or reference to a map in the administrative record that shows, the lateral limits of jurisdiction for each aquatic resource, including how that limit was determined, and incorporate relevant references used. Include the size of each aquatic resource in acres or linear feet and attach and reference related figures as needed.
 - a. TNWs (a)(1): N/A
 - b. Interstate Waters (a)(2): N/A
 - c. Other Waters (a)(3): N/A
 - d. Impoundments (a)(4): N/A
 - e. Tributaries (a)(5): N/A
 - f. The territorial seas (a)(6): N/A
 - g. Adjacent wetlands (a)(7): N/A

⁶ 33 CFR 329.9(a) A waterbody which was navigable in its natural or improved state, or which was susceptible of reasonable improvement (as discussed in § 329.8(b) of this part) retains its character as "navigable in law" even though it is not presently used for commerce, or is presently incapable of such use because of changed conditions or the presence of obstructions.

⁷ This MFR is not to be used to make a report of findings to support a determination that the water is a navigable water of the United States. The district must follow the procedures outlined in 33 CFR part 329.14 to make a determination that water is a navigable water of the United States subject to Section 10 of the RHA.

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8. NON-JURISDICTIONAL AQUATIC RESOURCES AND FEATURES

a. Describe aquatic resources and other features within the review area identified as "generally non-jurisdictional" in the preamble to the 1986 regulations (referred to as "preamble waters"). Include size of the aquatic resource or feature within the review area and describe how it was determined to be non-jurisdictional under the CWA as a preamble water.

| Name of excluded feature | Size (in acres) | Specific exclusion a-e |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--|
| PA002 | 1.14 | Artificial lakes or ponds created by excavating or diking dry land to collect and retain water and which are used exclusively for such purposes as stock watering, irrigation, settling basins, or rice growing. |
| PA003 | 2.66 | Artificial lakes or ponds created by excavating or diking dry land to collect and retain water and which are used exclusively for such purposes as stock watering, irrigation, settling basins, or rice growing. |
| PA004 | 0.74 | Artificial lakes or ponds created by excavating or diking dry land to collect and retain water and which are used exclusively for such purposes as stock watering, irrigation, settling basins, or rice growing. |

- b. Describe aquatic resources and features within the review area identified as "generally not jurisdictional" in the *Rapanos* guidance. Include size of the aquatic resource or feature within the review area and describe how it was determined to be non-jurisdictional under the CWA based on the criteria listed in the guidance. N/A
- c. Describe aquatic resources and features identified within the review area as waste treatment systems, including treatment ponds or lagoons designed to meet the requirements of CWA. Include the size of the waste treatment system within the review area and describe how it was determined to be a waste treatment system. N/A
- d. Describe aquatic resources and features within the review area determined to be prior converted cropland in accordance with the 1993 regulations (reference 2.b.). Include the size of the aquatic resource or feature within the review area and describe how it was determined to be prior converted cropland. N/A
- e. Describe aquatic resources (i.e. lakes and ponds) within the review area, which do not have a nexus to interstate or foreign commerce, and prior to the January 2001 Supreme Court decision in "SWANCC," would have been jurisdictional

⁸ 51 FR 41217, November 13, 1986.

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based solely on the "Migratory Bird Rule." Include the size of the aquatic resource or feature, and how it was determined to be an "isolated water" in accordance with SWANCC. N/A

f. Describe aquatic resources and features within the review area that were determined to be non-jurisdictional because they do not meet one or more categories of waters of the United States under the pre-2015 regulatory regime consistent with the Supreme Court's decision in *Sackett* (e.g., tributaries that are non-relatively permanent waters; non-tidal wetlands that do not have a continuous surface connection to a jurisdictional water).

| Name of excluded feature | Size (in acres) | Type of resource generally not jurisdictional |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--|
| WA007 | 2.73 | Wetland lacks a continuous surface connection to water of the US |
| WA008 | 3.86 | Wetland lacks a continuous surface connection to water of the US |
| WA009 | 1.61 | Wetland lacks a continuous surface connection to water of the US |
| WA010 | 1.21 | Wetland lacks a continuous surface connection to water of the US |

- 9. DATA SOURCES. List sources of data/information used in making determination. Include titles and dates of sources used and ensure that information referenced is available in the administrative record.
 - a. 1. Date of Office (desktop review): 2/20/2024 CESAS-RDP
 - 2. Date(s) of Field Review (if applicable): 4/25/2023 CESAS -RDP
 - b. Data sources used to support this determination (included in the administrative record).
 - Aquatic Resources delineation submitted by, or on behalf of, the requestor: AJD Request Brenneman Solar Site, received on July 6, 2022, PDF page 33, Figure 4, Brenneman Solar Farm Project, Index Map, Macon County, Georgia; PDF pages 41-48, Figure 5, Brenneman Solar Farm Project, Index Map and Sheets 1 7 Aquatic Resources Delineation Maps, Macon County, Georgia

| Aquatic Resources delineation prepared by the USACE: |
|---|
| Wetland field data sheets prepared by the Corps: |
| OHWM data sheets prepared by the USACE: |
| Previous JDs (AJD or PJD) addressing the same (or portions of the same) |
| review area: ORM Numbers and Dates |

☑ Photographs: AJD Request - Brenneman Solar Site, received on July 6,
 2022, PDF pages 244-254, Photographic Log, Site Photographs 1 through 50,
 Brenneman Solar Farm Project, Macon County, Georgia

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| □ Aerial Imagery: AJD Request - Brenneman Solar Site, received on July 6, |
|---|
| 2022, PDF page 31, Figure 2, Brenneman Solar Farm Project, 2016 Aerial |
| Imagery, Macon County, Georgia with project boundary |
| □ LIDAR: National Regulatory Viewer utilizing LiDAR and hillshade layers |
| accessed March 17, 2023, April 24, 2023 and utilizing filedmaps on April 25, |
| 2023 and April 26, 2023 |
| ☐ USDA NRCS Soil Survey: |
| □ USFWS NWI maps: AJD Request - Brenneman Solar Site, received on July |
| 6, 2022, PDF page 32, Figure 3, Brenneman Solar Farm Project, USGS |
| National Hydrography Dataset Map, with USFWS National Wetlands Inventory |
| and FEMA Flood Hazard Area, Macon County, Georgia |
| ☐ USGS topographic maps: AJD Request - Brenneman Solar Site, received or |
| July 6, 2022, PDF page 30, Figure 1, Brenneman Solar Farm Project, 7.5- |
| minute USGS Topographic Map, Marshallville SW Quadrangle, Macon County, Georgia |
| ☐ USGS NHD data/maps: AJD Request - Brenneman Solar Site, received on |
| July 6, 2022, PDF page 32, Figure 3, Brenneman Solar Farm Project, USGS |
| National Hydrography Dataset Map, with USFWS National Wetlands Inventory |
| and FEMA Flood Hazard Area, Macon County, Georgia |
| ☐ Section 10 resources used: |
| □ NCDWR stream identification forms |
| ☐ Antecedent Precipitation Tool Analysis: |
| ☐ Other sources of Information: |
| |

10. OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION.

11. NOTE: The structure and format of this MFR were developed in coordination with the EPA and Department of the Army. The MFR's structure and format may be subject to future modification or may be rescinded as needed to implement additional guidance from the agencies; however, the approved jurisdictional determination described herein is a final agency action.

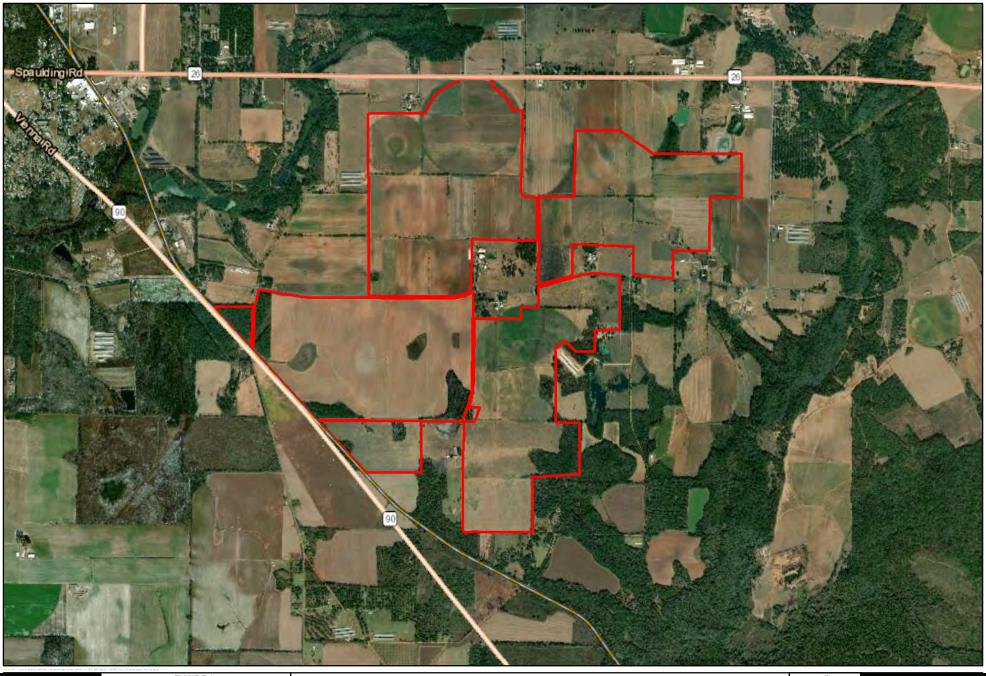
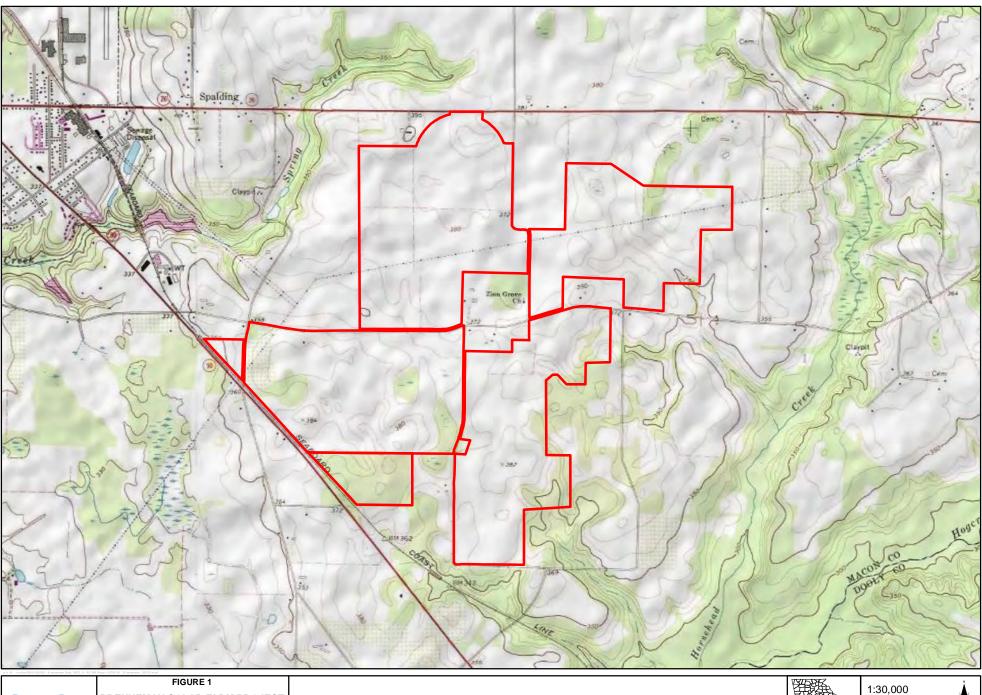


FIGURE 2

BRENNEMAN SOLAR FARM PROJECT

2016 AERIAL IMAGERY MACON COUNTY, GEORGIA Project Boundary





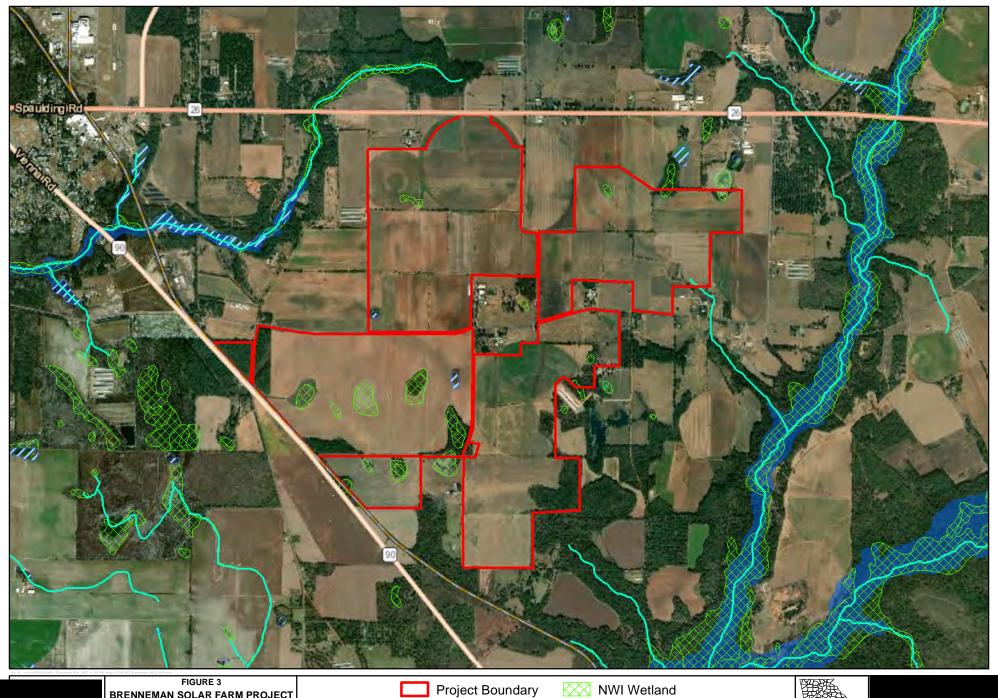


BRENNEMAN SOLAR FARM PROJECT

7.5-MINUTE USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MARSHALLVILLE SW (1981) QUADRANGLE MACON COUNTY, GEORGIA Project Boundary







BRENNEMAN SOLAR FARM PROJECT USGS NATIONAL HYDROGRAPHY DATASET USFWS NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY FEMA FLOOD HAZARD AREA MACON COUNTY, GEORGIA

NHD Stream

100-Year Floodplain

NWI Lake/Pond







And so lead Court

Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, Intermap, USGS METI/NASA, EPA, USDA, USGS National Map 3D Elevation Program (3DEP). February 15, 2023., Esri, HERE, Garmin, iPC, Maxar



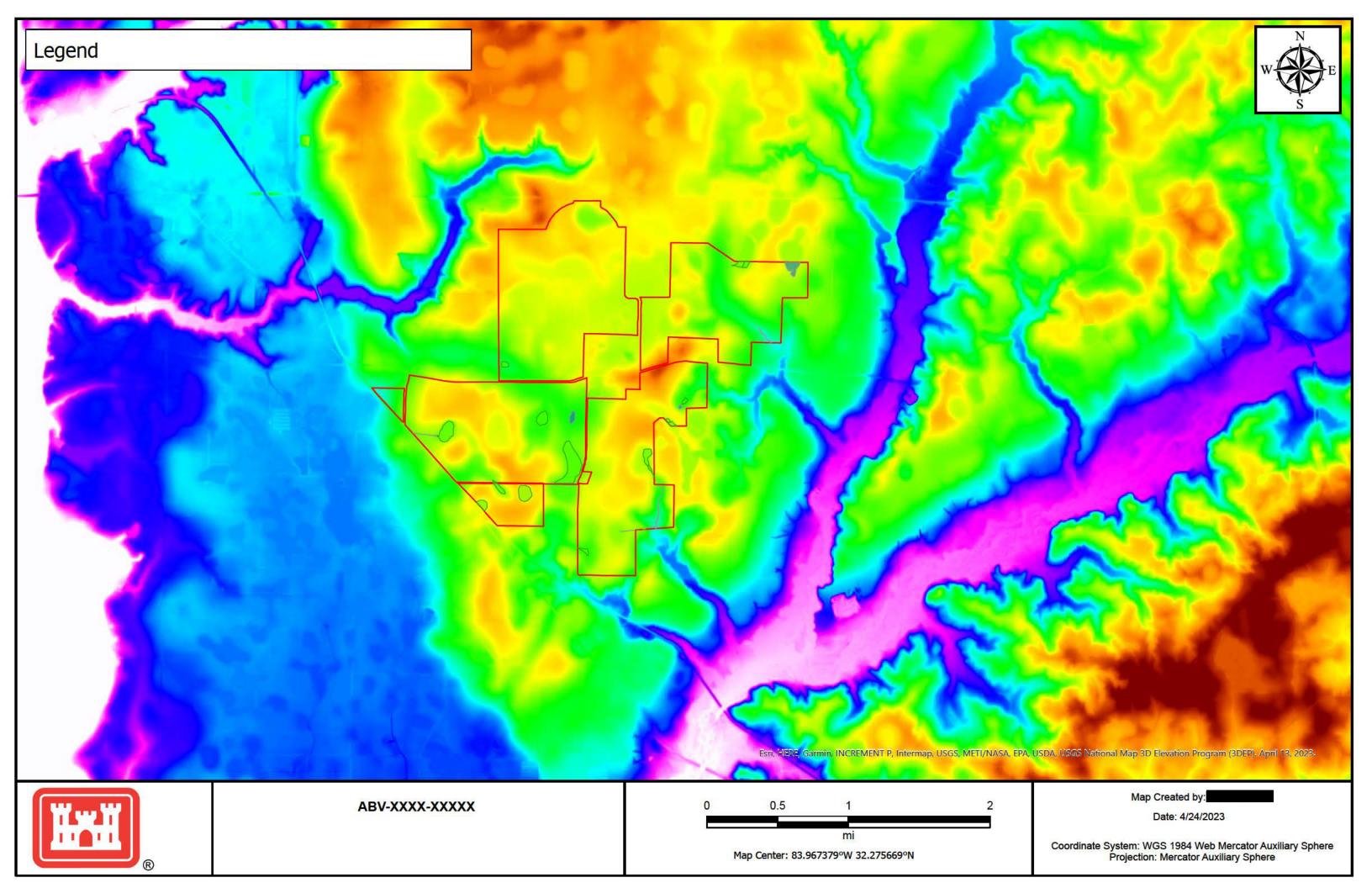
SAS-2022-00681 Brenneman Solar -Macon County AJD 0 0.28 0.55 1.1 mi Map Center: 83.968935°W 32.276906°N

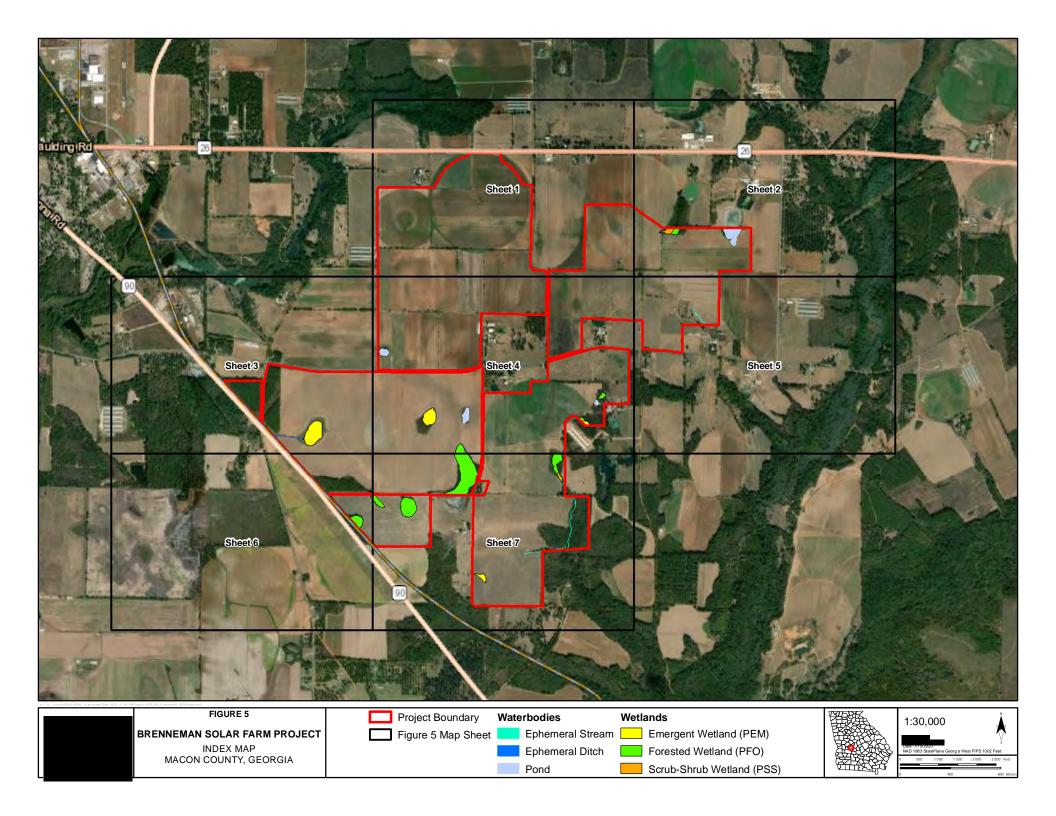
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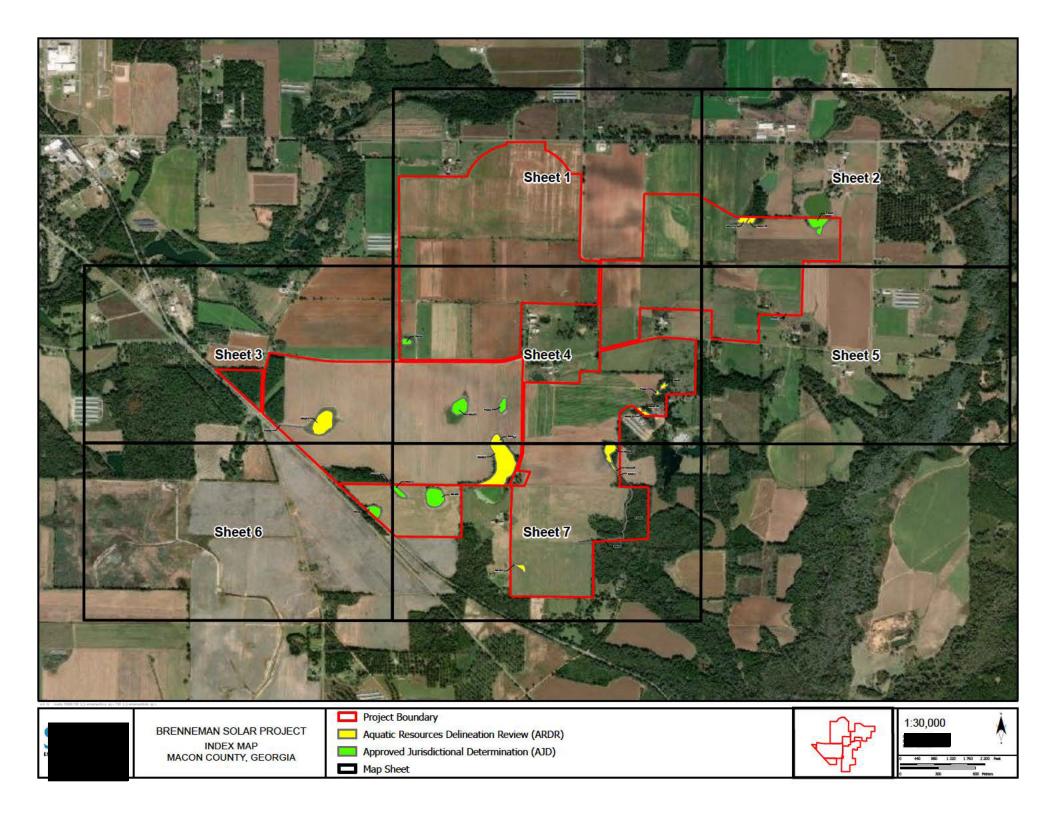
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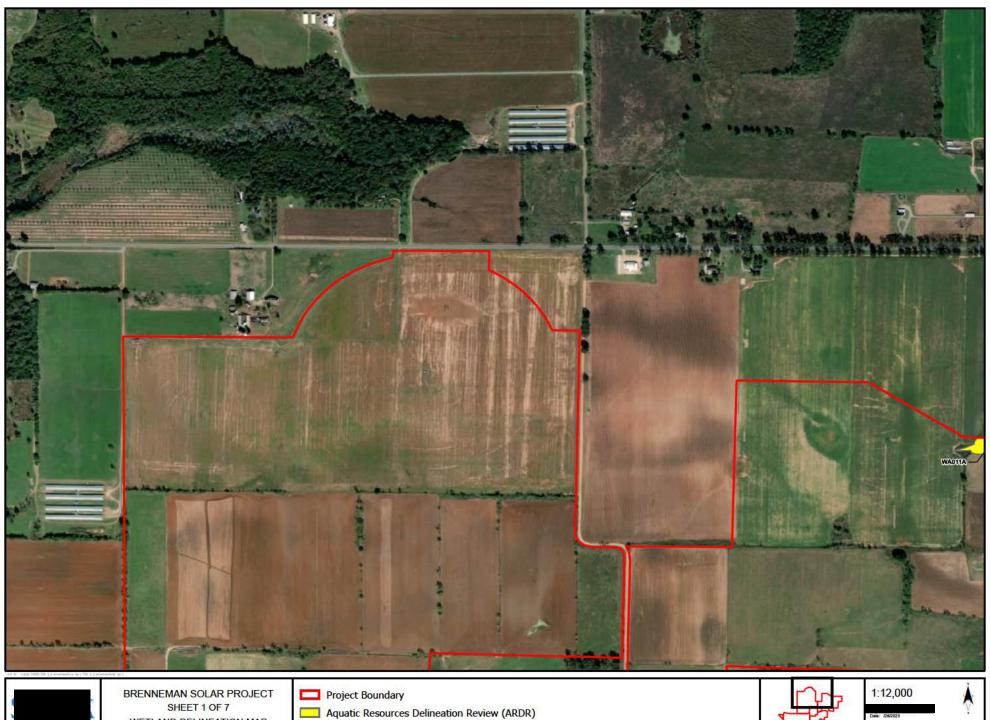
Coordinate System: WGS 1984 Web Mercator Auxiliary

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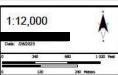


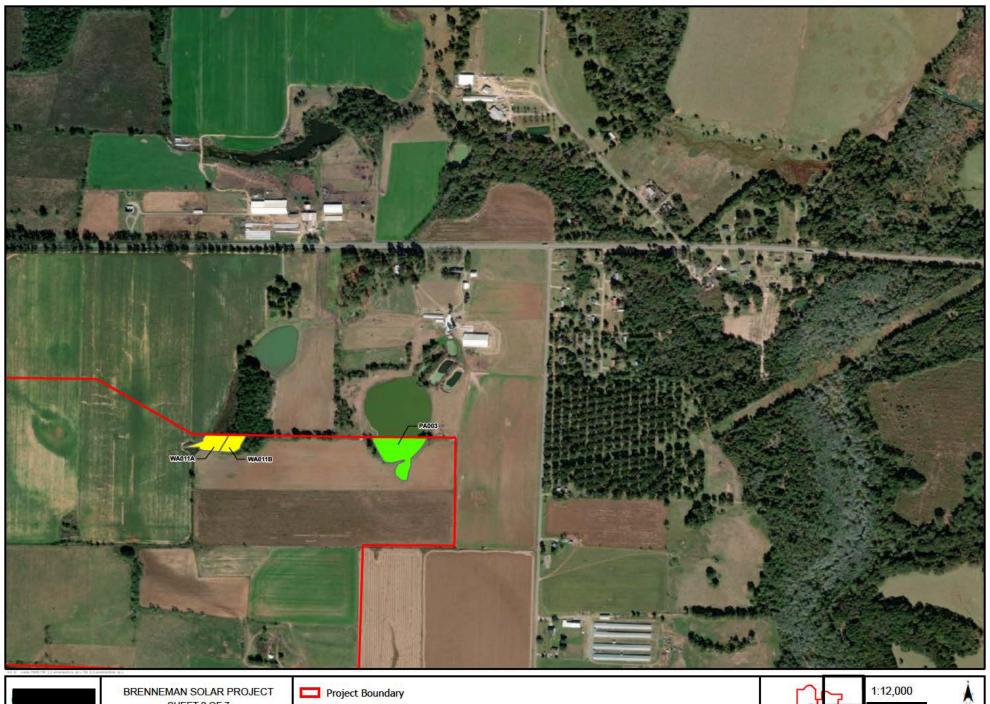


WETLAND DELINEATION MAP MACON COUNTY, GEORGIA

Approved Jurisdictional Determination (AJD)





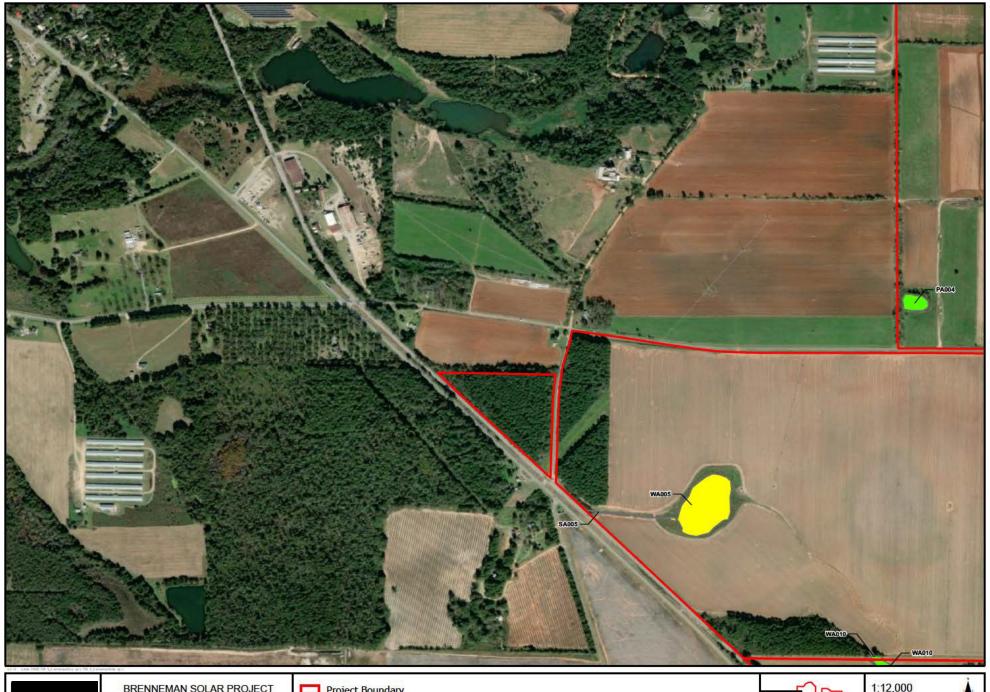


SHEET 2 OF 7 WETLAND DELINEATION MAP MACON COUNTY, GEORGIA

Aquatic Resources Delineation Review (ARDR)

Approved Jurisdictional Determination (AJD)

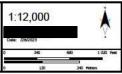


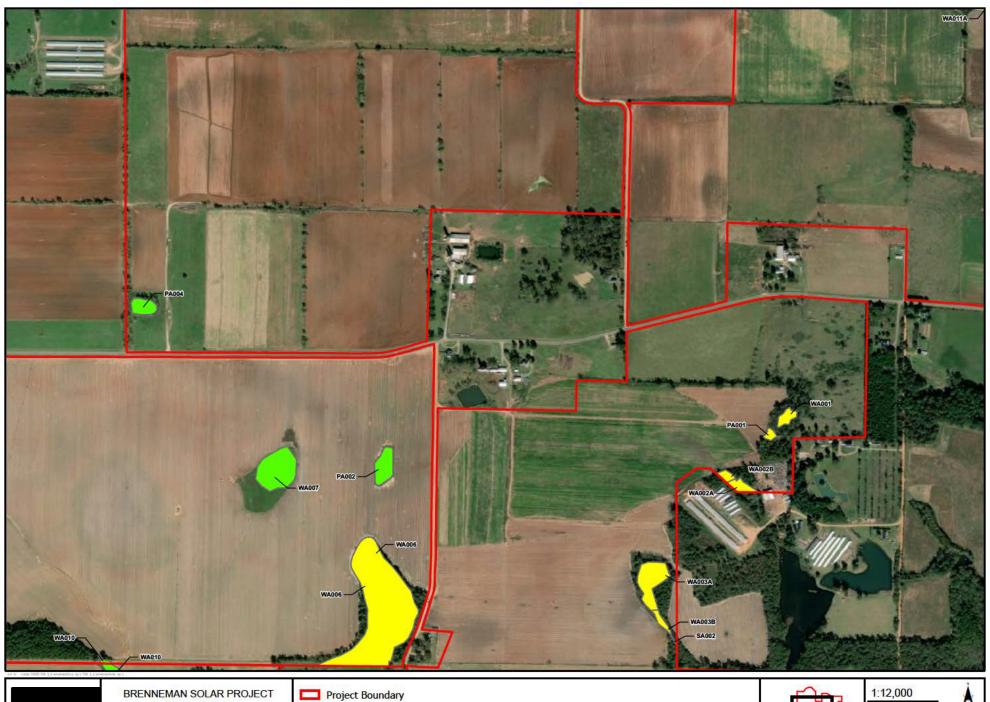




Project Boundary
Aquatic Resources Delineation Review (ARDR)
Approved Jurisdictional Determination (AJD)





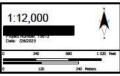


SHEET 4 OF 7 WETLAND DELINEATION MAP MACON COUNTY, GEORGIA

Aquatic Resources Delineation Review (ARDR)

Approved Jurisdictional Determination (AJD)







BRENNEMAN SOLAR PROJECT SHEET 5 OF 7 WETLAND DELINEATION MAP MACON COUNTY, GEORGIA Project Boundary

Aquatic Resources Delineation Review (ARDR)

Approved Jurisdictional Determination (AJD)





BRENNEMAN SOLAR PROJECT SHEET 6 OF 7 WETLAND DELINEATION MAP MACON COUNTY, GEORGIA

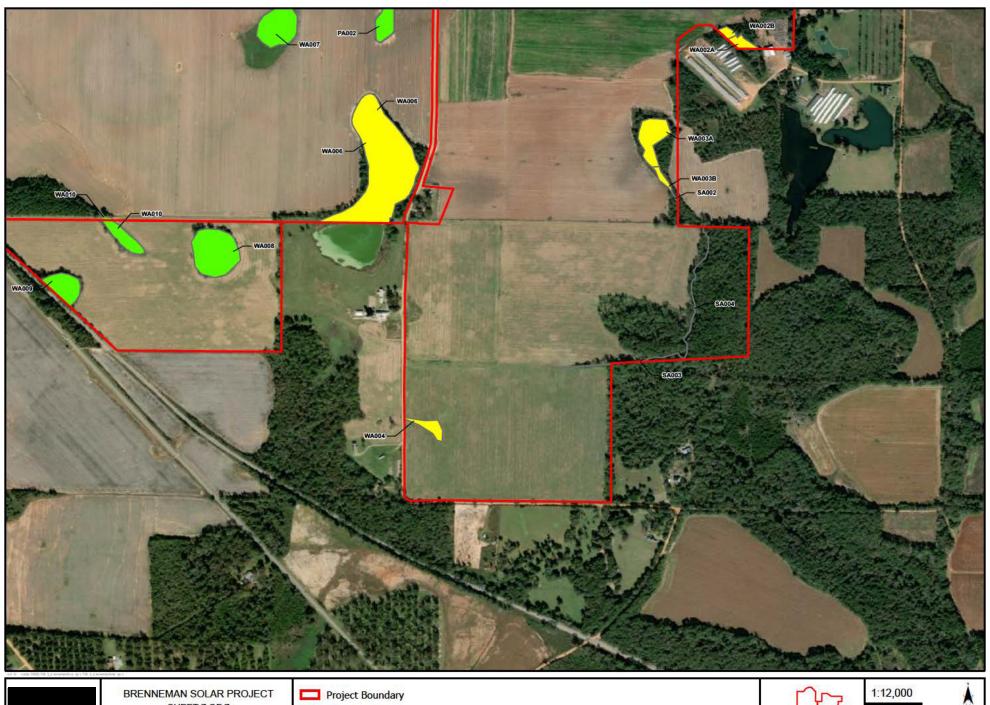
Approved Jurisdictional Determination (AJD)

Project Boundary

Aquatic Resources Delineation Review (ARDR)





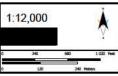


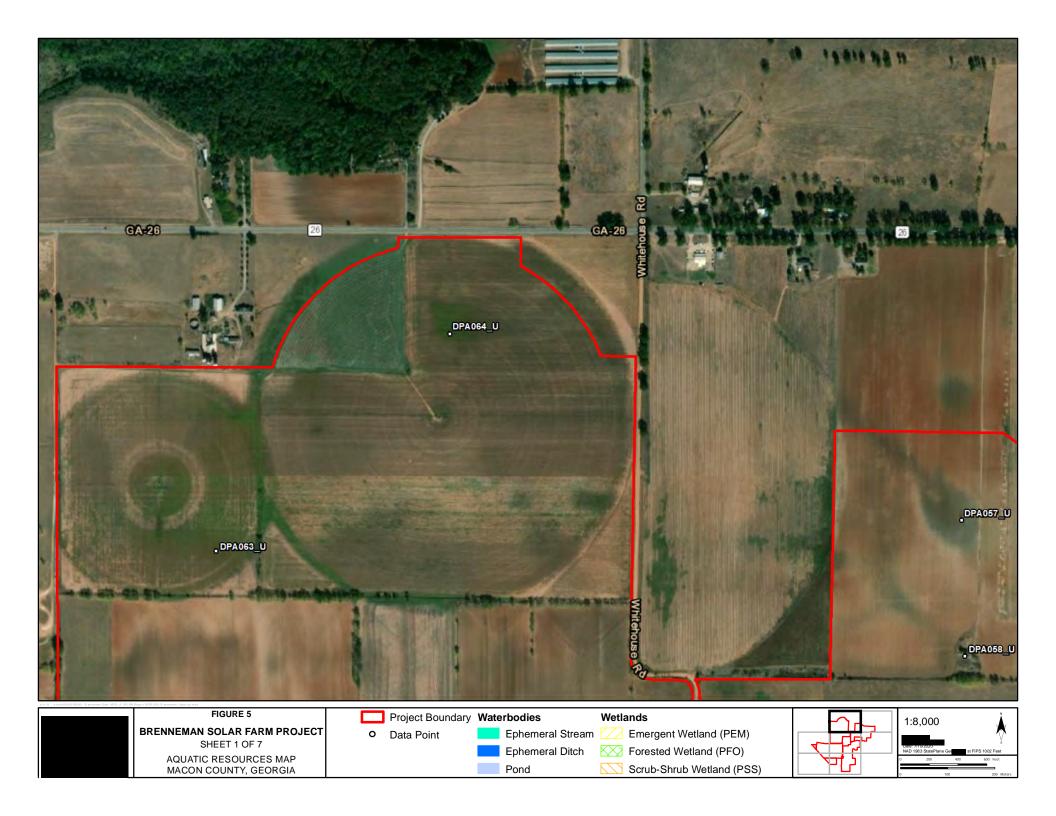
SHEET 7 OF 7 WETLAND DELINEATION MAP MACON COUNTY, GEORGIA

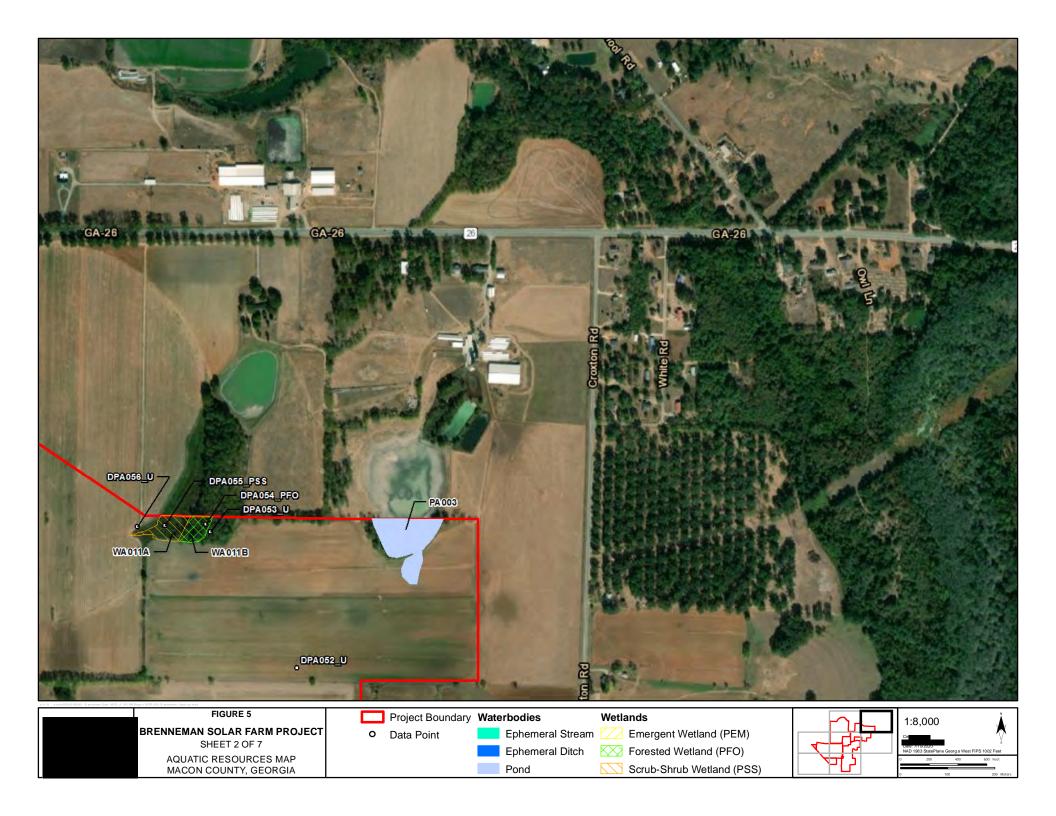
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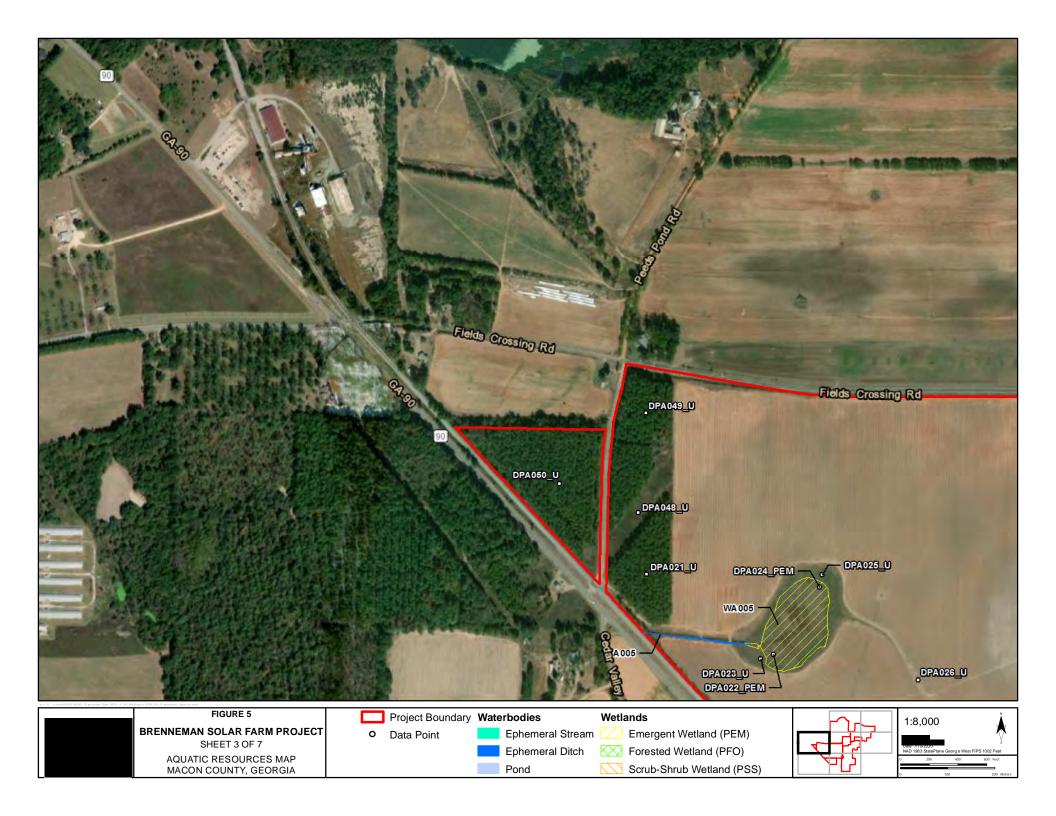
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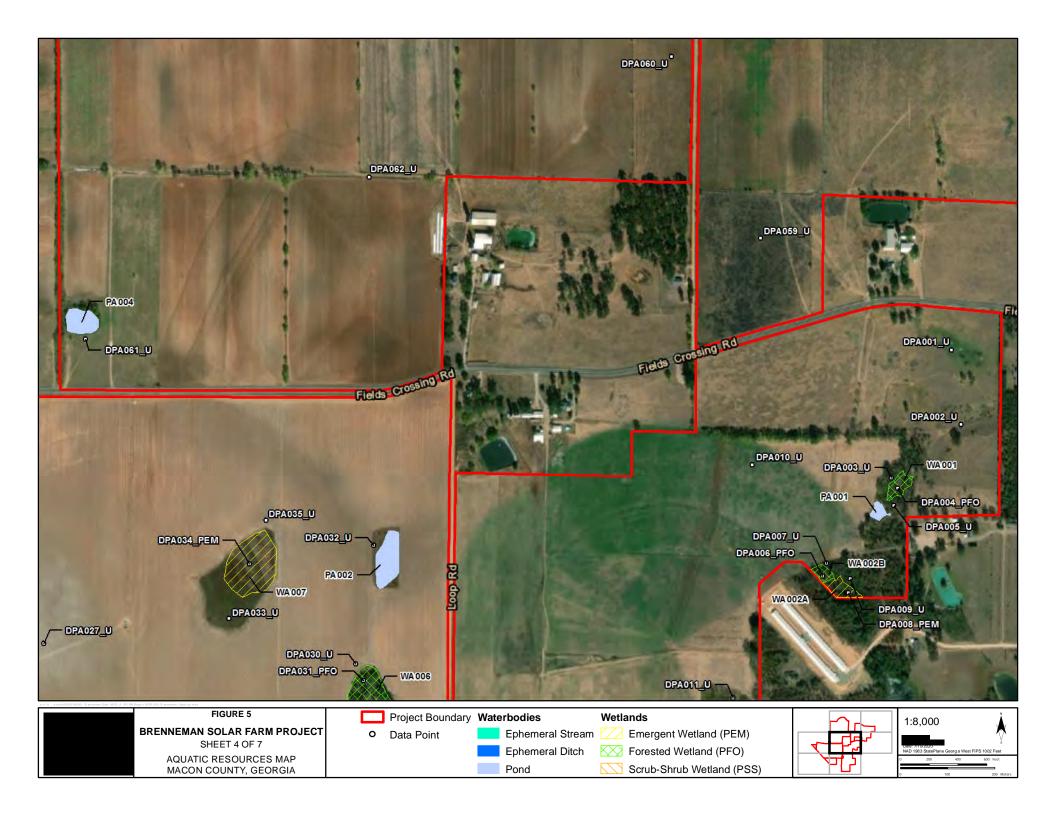


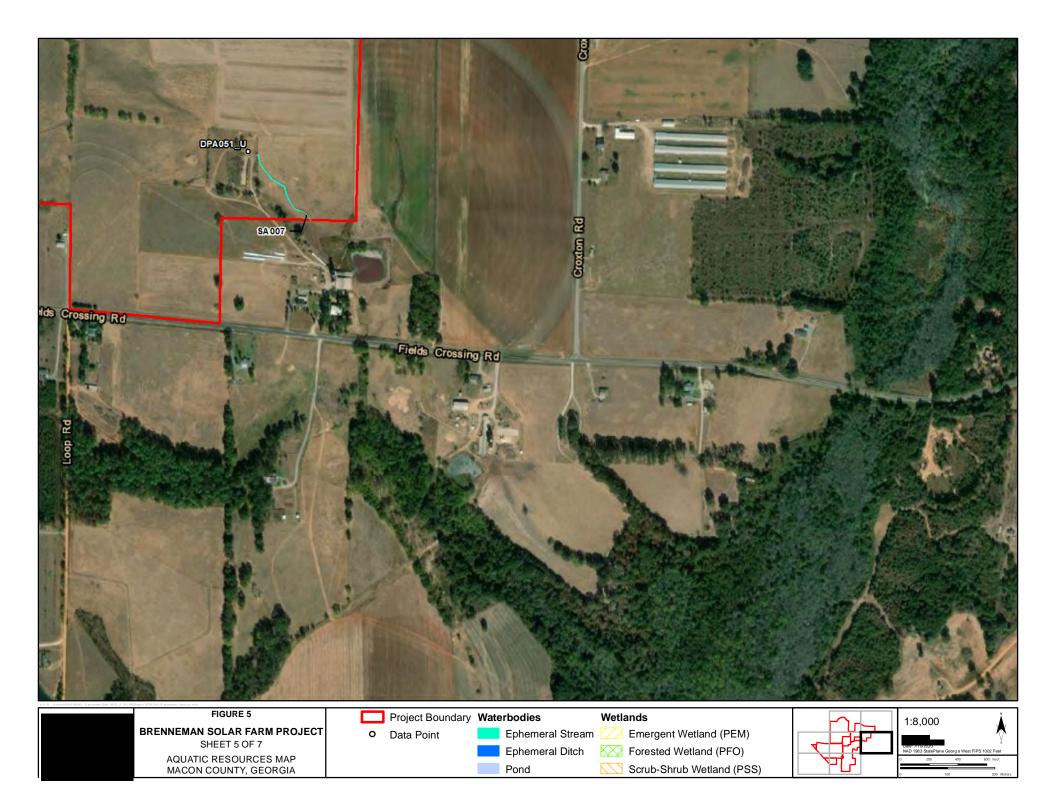


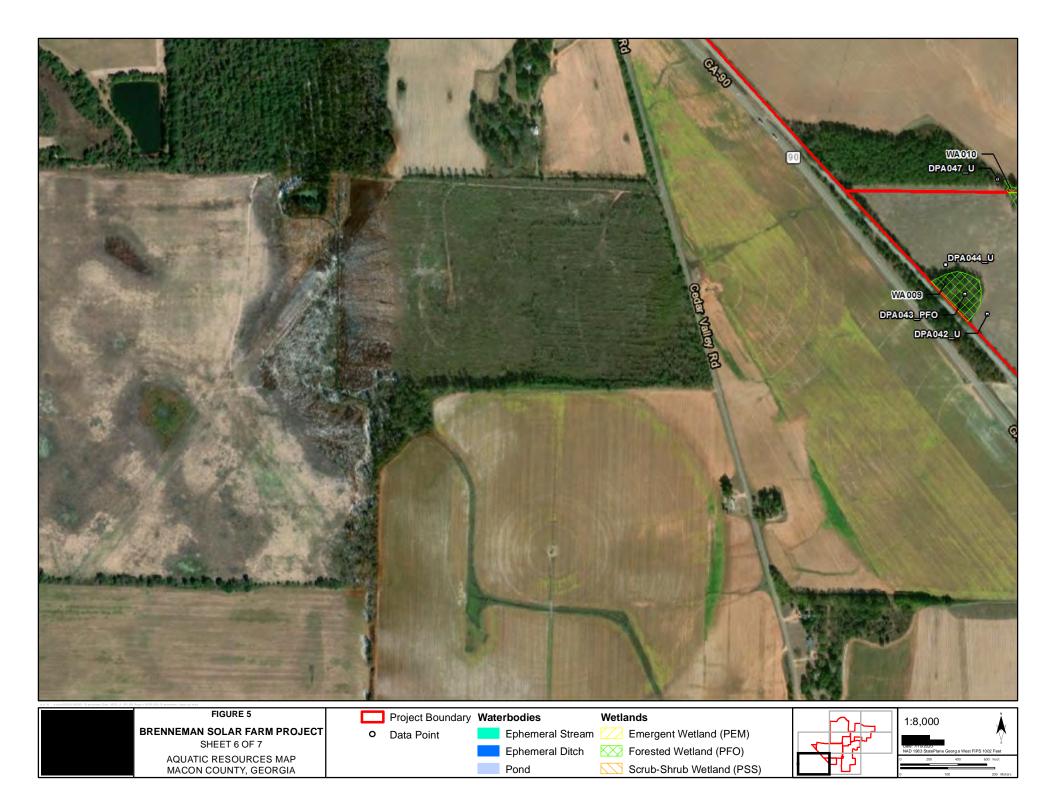


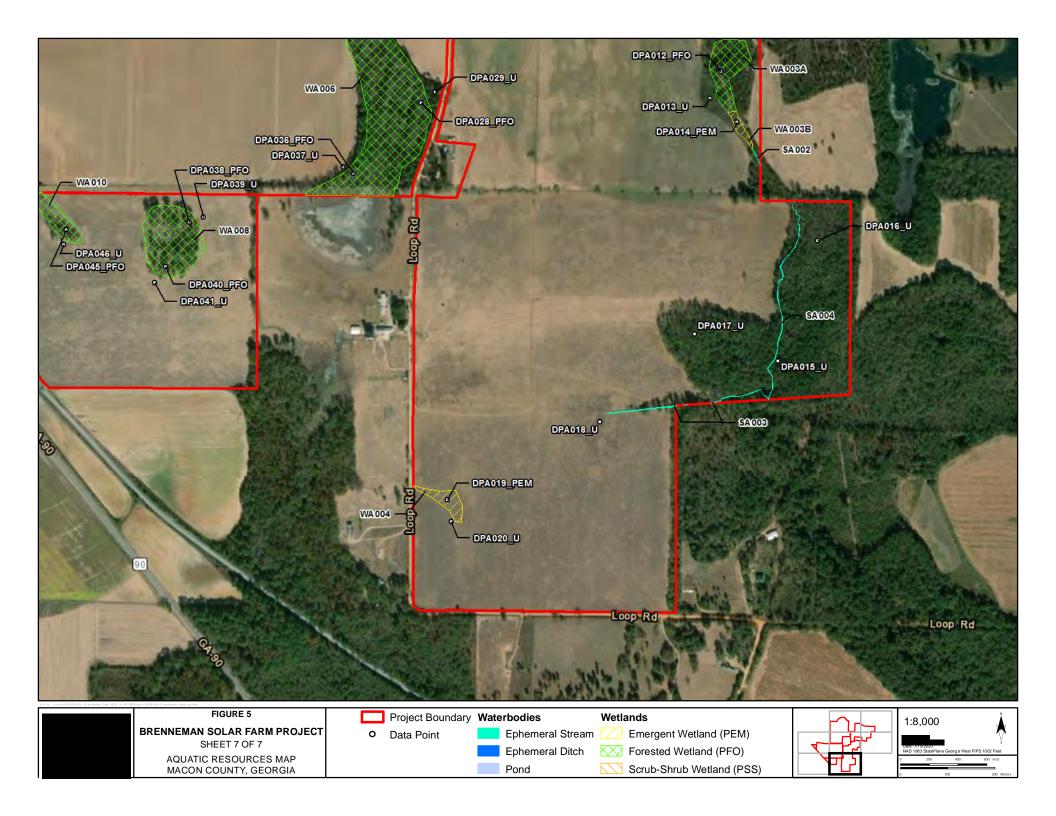












Wetland Vegetation Communities - Palustrine Emergent (PEM) Wetlands



Figure 1. PEM wetland WA002A as viewed from DPA008; view facing east.



Figure 3. PEM wetland WA003B as viewed from DPA019; view facing north.



Figure 5. PEM wetland WA004 as viewed from DPA024; view facing north.



Figure 2. PEM wetland WA002A as viewed from DPA014; view facing north.



Figure 4. PEM wetland WA004 as viewed from DPA022; view facing west.



Figure 6. PEM wetland WA005 as viewed from DPA034; view facing west.

Wetland Vegetation Communities – Palustrine Scrub-Shrub (PSS) Wetlands



Figure 7. PSS wetland WA0011A as viewed from DPA055; view facing south.

Wetland Vegetation Communities - Palustrine Forested (PFO) Wetlands



Figure 8. PFO wetland WA001 as viewed from DPA004; view facing east.



Figure 10. PFO wetland WA003A as viewed from DPA012; view facing south.



Figure 12.PFO wetland WA008 as viewed from DPA031; view facing south.



Figure 9. PFO wetland WA002B as viewed from DPA006; view facing west.



Figure 11.PFO wetland WA006 as viewed from DPA028; view facing west.



Figure 13.PFO wetland WA008 as viewed from DPA036; view facing north.

Wetland Vegetation Communities - Palustrine Emergent (PEM) Wetlands



Figure 1. PEM wetland WA002A as viewed from DPA008; view facing east.



Figure 3. PEM wetland WA003B as viewed from DPA019; view facing north.



Figure 5. PEM wetland WA004 as viewed from DPA024; view facing north.



Figure 2. PEM wetland WA002A as viewed from DPA014; view facing north.



Figure 4. PEM wetland WA004 as viewed from DPA022; view facing west.



Figure 6. PEM wetland WA005 as viewed from DPA034; view facing west.

Wetland Vegetation Communities – Palustrine Scrub-Shrub (PSS) Wetlands



Figure 7. PSS wetland WA0011A as viewed from DPA055; view facing south.

Wetland Vegetation Communities - Palustrine Forested (PFO) Wetlands



Figure 8. PFO wetland WA001 as viewed from DPA004; view facing east.



Figure 10. PFO wetland WA003A as viewed from DPA012; view facing south.



Figure 12.PFO wetland WA008 as viewed from DPA031; view facing south.



Figure 9. PFO wetland WA002B as viewed from DPA006; view facing west.



Figure 11.PFO wetland WA006 as viewed from DPA028; view facing west.



Figure 13.PFO wetland WA008 as viewed from DPA036; view facing north.

Wetland Vegetation Communities - Palustrine Forested (PFO) Wetlands (cont.)



Figure 14. PFO wetland WA009 as viewed from DPA038; view facing west.



Figure 16. PFO wetland WA010 as viewed from DPA043; view facing west.



Figure 18.PFO wetland WA011B as viewed from DPA054; view facing west.



Figure 15.PFO wetland WA009 as viewed from DPA040; view facing north.



Figure 17.PFO wetland WA010 as viewed from DPA045; view facing east.

Non-wetland Vegetation Communities – Herbaceous Uplands



Figure 19. Herbaceous upland as viewed from DPA023; view facing north.



Figure 21. Herbaceous upland as viewed from DPA010; view facing east.



Figure 23. Herbaceous upland as viewed from DPA020; view facing south.



Figure 20. Herbaceous upland as viewed from DPA007; view facing north.



Figure 22. Herbaceous upland as viewed from DPA013; view facing south.



Figure 24.Herbaceous upland as viewed from DPA025; view facing east.

Non-wetland Vegetation Communities – Herbaceous Uplands (cont'd)



Figure 25. Herbaceous upland as viewed from DPA026; view facing north.



Figure 27. Herbaceous upland as viewed from DPA057; view facing east.



Figure 29. Herbaceous upland as viewed from DPA052; view facing west.



Figure 26. Herbaceous upland as viewed from DPA027; view facing north.



Figure 28.Herbaceous upland as viewed from DPA033; view facing north.



Figure 30. Herbaceous upland as viewed from DPA039; view facing north.

Non-wetland Vegetation Communities – Scrub-shrub Uplands



 $\label{eq:figure 31.} \textbf{Scrub-shrub upland as seen from DPA002}; view facing east.$

Non-wetland Vegetation Communities - Forested Uplands



Figure 32. Forested upland as seen from DPA003; view facing south.



Figure 34. Forested upland as seen from DPA017; view facing north.



Figure 36. Forested upland as seen from DPA015; view facing west.



Figure 33. Forested upland as seen from DPA005; view facing south.



Figure 35. Forested upland as seen from DPA011; view facing west.



Figure 37. Forested upland as seen from DPA016; view facing west.

Non-wetland Vegetation Communities - Forested Uplands (cont'd)



Figure 38. Forested upland as seen from DPA029; view facing south.



Figure 40. Forested upland as seen from DPA050; view facing east.



Figure 39. Forested upland as seen from DPA049; view facing south.



Figure 41. Forested upland as seen from DPA053; view facing south.

Waterbodies - Ephemeral Flow Waterbodies



Figure 42. Ephemeral stream SA002; view facing downstream.



Figure 44. Ephemeral stream SA004; view facing upstream.



Figure 46. Ephemeral stream SA006; view facing upstream.



Figure 43. Ephemeral stream SA003; view facing upstream.



Figure 45. Ephemeral stream SA005; view facing downstream.



Figure 47. Ephemeral stream SA007; view facing upstream.

Waterbodies - Intermittent Flow Waterbodies



Figure 48. Intermittent stream SA001; view facing upstream.

Waterbodies - Ponded Waterbodies



Figure 49. Pond PA001; view facing south.





Figure 50. Pond PA002; view facing north.

