



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT  
100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3604

SAS-RD-C

20 September 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),<sup>1</sup> SAS-2018-00965 (MFR1 of 1)<sup>2</sup>

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.<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup> For the purposes of this AJD, we have relied on section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (RHA),<sup>5</sup> 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 jurisdiction.

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

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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.).

<sup>3</sup> 33 CFR 331.2.

<sup>4</sup> Regulatory Guidance Letter 05-02.

<sup>5</sup> 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
Wetland 2	Non-JD	N/A
Wetland 3	Non-JD	N/A
Wetland 4	Non-JD	N/A
Wetland 5	Non-JD	N/A
Wetland 6	Non-JD	N/A
Wetland 7	Non-JD	N/A

## 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)

## 3. REVIEW AREA.

- A. Project Are Size (in acres): 87.88
- B. Center Coordinates of the Project Site (in decimal degrees)  
Latitude: 32.161154 Longitude: -81.360791
- C. Nearest City or Town: Bloomingdale
- D. County: Effingham
- E. State: Georgia
- F. Other associated Jurisdictional Determinations (including outcomes): N/A
- G. Any additional, relevant site-specific information: The northern 26.79-acre portion of this project will be authorized under a Delineation Review of Aquatic Resources. That portion of the project is not being considered in this Approved Jurisdictional Determination. Only Wetland 2 through Wetland 7 should be evaluated in this AJD.

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4. NEAREST TRADITIONAL NAVIGABLE WATER (TNW), INTERSTATE WATER, OR THE TERRITORIAL SEAS TO WHICH THE AQUATIC RESOURCE IS CONNECTED. N/A, all features within the project review area are non-jurisdictional.
5. FLOWPATH FROM THE SUBJECT AQUATIC RESOURCES TO A TNW, INTERSTATE WATER, OR THE TERRITORIAL SEAS N/A, all features within the project review area are non-jurisdictional.
6. SECTION 10 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS<sup>6</sup>: 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.<sup>7</sup> 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

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<sup>6</sup> 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.

<sup>7</sup> 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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- e. Tributaries (a)(5): N/A
- f. The territorial seas (a)(6): N/A
- g. Adjacent wetlands (a)(7): N/A

## 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”).<sup>8</sup> 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. N/A
- 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 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

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<sup>8</sup> 51 FR 41217, November 13, 1986.

- 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
Wetland 2	0.94	Wetland 2 lacks a continuous surface connection (CSC) to water of the US. This wetland is abutting Wetland 3; however, these two wetlands are surrounded by uplands on all sides. During a site visit on May 3, 2024, the Corps walked the western perimeter of this wetland. This area consisted of a powerline easement and had a low elevation relative to Wetland 2. There were no signs of a wetland, CSC, or water flow within this area.
Wetland 3	4.88	Wetland 3 lacks a continuous surface connection (CSC) to water of the US. This wetland is abutting Wetland 2; however, these two wetlands are surrounded by uplands on all sides. During a site visit on May 3, 2024, the Corps walked the western perimeter of this wetland. This area consisted of a powerline easement and had a low elevation relative to Wetland 2. There were no signs of a wetland, CSC, or water flow within this area.
Wetland 4	0.03	Wetland 4 lacks a continuous surface connection to water of the US. This is a small, depressional wetland that is surrounded by uplands on all sides. The western boundary of the wetland consisted of a dirt road. During a site visit on May 3, 2024, the Corps determined that there were no signs of flow or subsurface connectivity between Wetland 4 and the western side of the road.
Wetland 5	0.48	Wetland 5 lacks a continuous surface connection to water of the US. This is a circular, depressional wetland that is surrounded by uplands on all sides.
Wetland 6	0.74	Wetland 6 lacks a continuous surface connection to water of the US. This wetland is surrounded by uplands on all sides. The western boundary of this wetland consisted of a dirt road. During a site visit on May 3, 2024, the Corps located a pipe (approximately 8 in in diameter) going under the road to the west. There were no signs of flow on either side of the pipe. Additionally, the pipe outfall to the west of the road did not consist of wetland or have a continuous surface connection to waters of the US. Ultimately, if water moved through the pipe, it would outfall into uplands.
Wetland 7	2.70	Wetland 7 lacks a continuous surface connection to water of the US. This wetland is surrounded by uplands on all sides. During a site visit on May 3, 2024, no connection could be located between this wetland and the pond and ditch system to the east of the project boundary. Although NHD and NWI indicated that this wetland may be connected to the pond, there were clear uplands (including a gravel driveway) between the two aquatic features. There were no signs of water flow, either on the surface or subsurface, between Wetland 7 and the pond

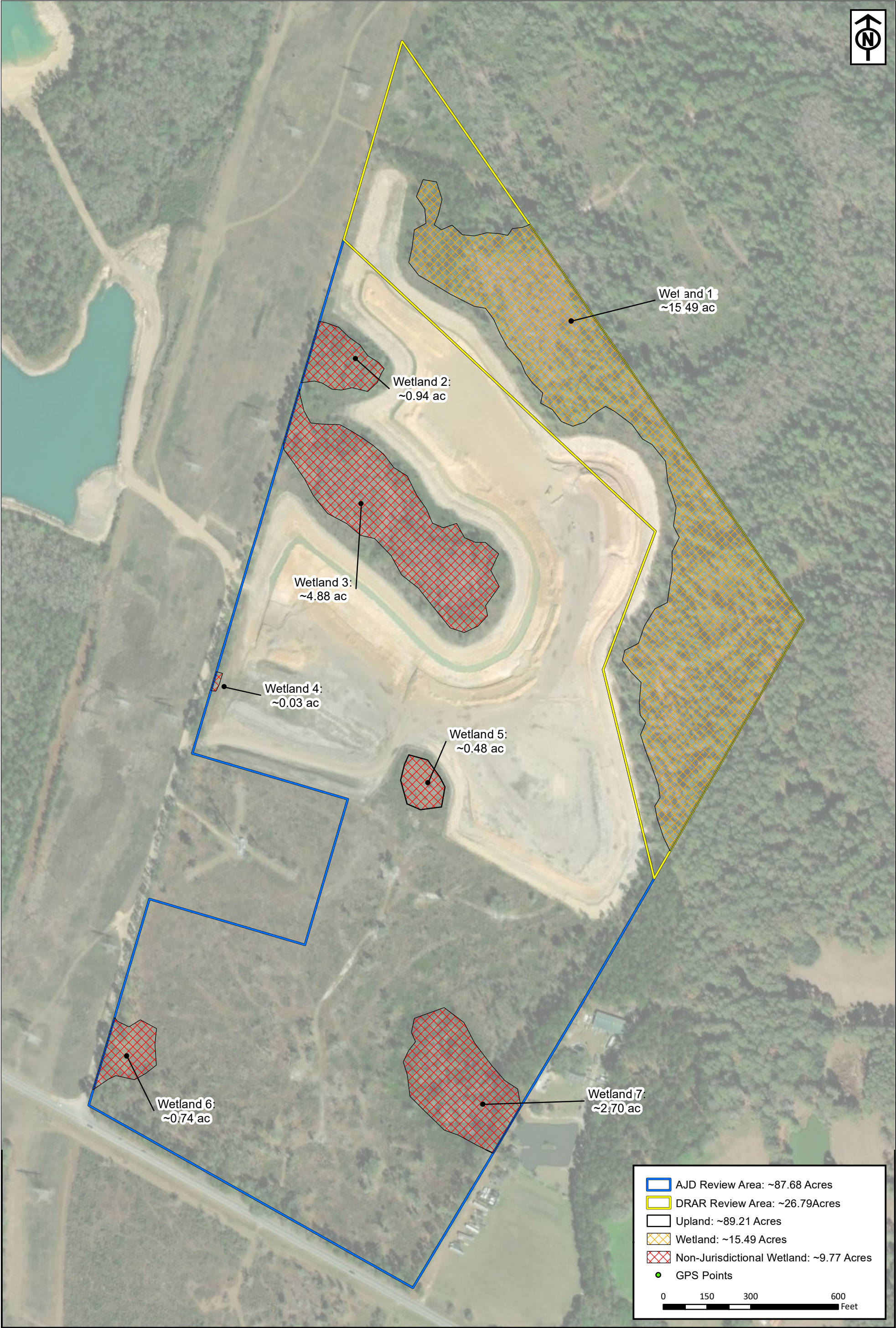
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		to the east. Ultimately, this wetland consisted of a depressional wetland that was isolated from any nearby features.
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9. DATA SOURCES. List sources of data/information used in making determination. Include titles and dates of sources used and ensure that information referenced is available in the administrative record.
- a. Date(s) of Field Review: May 3, 2024
- b. Data sources used to support this determination (included in the administrative record).
- ☒ Aquatic Resources delineation submitted by, or on behalf of, the requestor: Titled "East Warnell Tract" and dated June 28, 2024.
  - ☒ Photographs: Source: Corps site visit on May 3, 2024.
  - ☒ Aerial Imagery: Source: Google Earth and dated August 27, 2024.
  - ☒ LIDAR: Source: NOAA, titled "NOAA LIDAR", and dated August 27, 2024.
  - ☒ USDA NRCS Soil Survey: Titled "Custom Soil Resource Report" and dated August 27, 2024.
  - ☒ USFWS NWI maps: Titled "NWI" and dated August 27, 2024.
  - ☒ USGS NHD data/maps: Titled "NHD" and dated August 23, 2024.
  - ☒ Antecedent Precipitation Tool Analysis: Dated December 15, 2023, and May 3, 2024.
10. OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION. Delineation Review of Aquatic Resource authorizations were issued for this project area by letters dated September 13, 2018, and March 21, 2019. Although jurisdiction was not evaluated in these letters, the wetland delineation aligned with the wetland delineation presented in this current application.
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.





RLC Project No.:	18-253.1
Figure No.:	8
Prepared By:	ZM
Sketch Date:	6/28/2024
Map Scale :	1 inch = 300 feet

**East Warnell Tract**  
Effingham County, Georgia

**Aquatic Resource  
Delineation GPS Exhibit**  
Prepared For: Lanyard Development, Inc.

**RLC**

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