



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

22 August 2022

Regulatory Division
SAS-2022-00083

**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-2022-00083

Applicant: Mr. Madison Elliott
Southern Metals Recycling, Inc.
2820 Tremont Road
Savannah, Georgia 31405

Agent: Mr. Matt Gale
Resource & Land Consultants
41 Park of Commerce Way, Suite 101
Savannah, Georgia 31405

Project Purpose as Proposed by Applicant: The applicant's stated project purpose is to construct a rail-served metal recycling facility in Chatham County that would accommodate the applicant's current and future operational needs to generate melt-ready products from scrap metal received from the company's yards across the southeast. The applicant currently operates on approximately 9.5 acres, and the purpose of the proposed project is to construct a metal recycling facility on a previously developed 15.97-acre industrial site to expand the operating capacity.

Location of Proposed Work: The project site is located at 2110 W Gwinnett Street, Savannah, Chatham County, Georgia (32.077697, -81.127391). The aquatic resources located on-site drain to the Springfield Canal.

Description of Work Subject to the Jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: The applicant is proposing to impact 2.33 acres of wetland associated with the construction of a new 15.97 acres rail-served metal recycling facility. To offset the loss in aquatic function associated with the above impacts, the applicant has proposed the purchase of 9.36 (legacy) wetland mitigation credits from a U.S. Army Corps of

Engineers approved mitigation bank servicing the project area. The project is hydrologically connected to the Savannah River.

The proposed project site design includes tractor trailer access from Gwinnett Street to the unloading area, an infeed conveyor, cranes, wheel loaders, office space, employee parking, tractor trailer parking, rail sidetrack, maintenance facilities, and three stormwater treatment ponds (totaling 1.73 acres).

BACKGROUND

According to the applicant, Southern Metals Recycling is the largest buyer and processor of industrial scrap metals in the Southeast. Southern Metals Recycling services commercial and industrial accounts that, through the ordinary course of their business, generate scrap metals. The primary focus of the proposed facility will be the metal shredding operation. The metal shredder provides a streamlined/highly efficient way to extract more metallics from the scrap stream. Post extraction, the facility will generate melt ready products that are sold and shipped to consumers around the world. The majority of the scrap received by this facility via tractor trailer will be from the company's scrap yards that are strategically surrounding the proposed shredder. Some of these yards are as close as 30 miles and some as far as 120 miles away.

A metal shredding facility consists of a large open area for the unloading of inbound scrap via tractor trailer in or around the infeed conveyor. Material handling cranes are used to load and unload the unprocessed scrap from trailers and into the shredder. Once the materials are shredded, wheel loaders with large buckets are used to load out the finished products into rail cars and/or into batch feeders that load export containers. Rail service is a critical component for a metal shredder as the efficiency cannot be matched with trucks and trailers. One open-top rail car loaded with shredded steel is equivalent to 5-plus tractor trailer loads, and the company predicts this facility to reach operational maturity at 80 - 100 outbound rail cars per month.

The proposed site totals 15.97 acres and consists of habitat typical for urban areas within Savannah, Chatham County, and the Coastal Plain of Georgia. The entire site was previously developed and consisted of sidetracks associated with past railroad operations in the 1950's and 1960's. Historic aerial imagery suggests the industrial/rail use of the property ceased in the 1970's and the tract has been allowed to revegetate into a mixed pine hardwood habitat. Because the tract was previously developed, the site does not contain natural upland and wetland habitats but rather, highly disturbed areas where wetland and upland vegetation has re-established

The applicant currently operates on approximately 9.5 acres at 2823 Tremont Road in Savannah. Due to continued growth, the applicant has exceeded the operational capacity of the current facility and requires additional square footage to accommodate for current operations and the shredder facility.

An Aquatic Resources Delineation Review was completed for the project site on February 14, 2022.

This Joint Public Notice announces a request for authorizations from both the Corps 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 will review the proposed project for water quality certification, in accordance with the provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. Prior to issuance of a Department of the Army permit for a project location in, on, or adjacent to the waters of the State of Georgia, review for Water Quality Certification is required. A reasonable period of time, which shall not exceed one year, is established under the Clean Water Act for the State to act on a request for Water Quality Certification, after which, issuance of such a Department of the Army permit may proceed. The applicant may request a pre-certification meeting with Georgia EPD prior to submitting their application for a permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

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, Coastal Management Program, 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: A review of Georgia's Natural Archaeological and Historic Resources GIS, indicates the property does not contain any known cultural or archaeological sites. A phase I archeological survey is scheduled to be conducted.

Endangered Species: A preliminary review of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service Protected Resource Divisions list of Endangered and Threatened Species (IPaC) indicates the following listed species may occur in the project area: Eastern Indigo Snake (*Drymarchon corais couperi*), Frosted Flatwoods

Salamander (*Ambystoma cingulatum*), Eastern Back Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*), and Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*).

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 Corps 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 Corps 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,

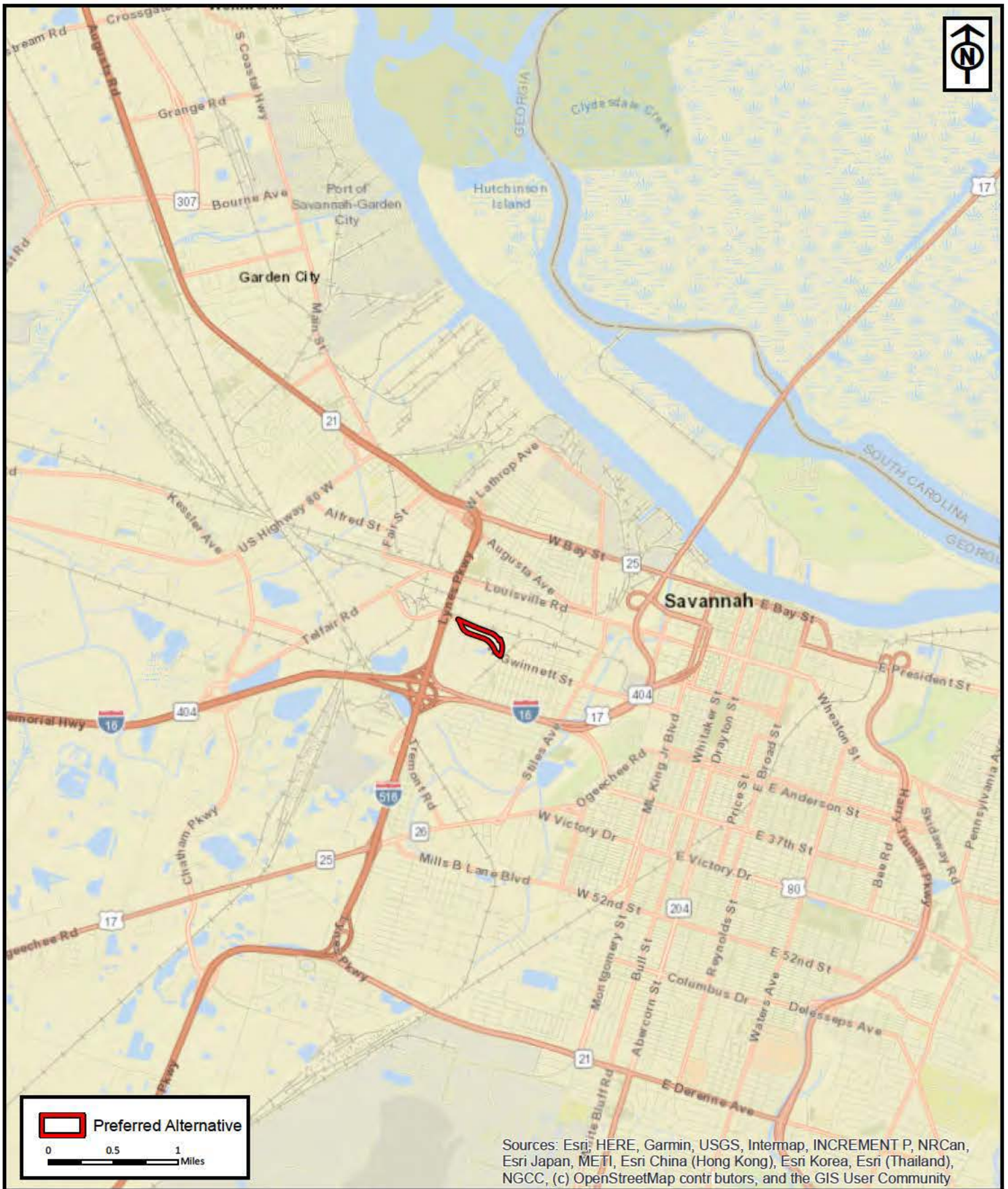
based on the need for additional substantial information necessary in evaluating the proposed project.

Comment Period: Anyone wishing to comment on this application for a Department of the Army permit should submit comments by email to Anne.E.Sexton-Paperno@usace.army.mil. Alternatively, you may submit comments in writing to the Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Attention: Dr. Anne Sexton-Paperno, 4751 Best Road, Suite 140, College Park, Savannah, Georgia 30337, 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 Dr. Anne Sexton-Paperno, Project Manager, at 678-422-5731.

Enclosures:

1. Figure 1 – Project Location Map
2. Figure 5 – 2021 Ortho Aerial
3. Wetland Impact Exhibit, Sheet 1



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

RLC Project No.:	21-298.1
Figure No.:	1
Prepared By:	JP
Sketch Date:	7/19/2022
Map Scale :	1 inch = 1 miles

Preferred Site
Chatham County, Georgia

Project Location Map
Prepared For: Southern Metals
Recycling, Inc.

RLC
RESOURCE+LAND
CONSULTANTS
41 Park of Commerce Way, Ste. 101
Savannah, Georgia 31405
912-441-5996 www.rlc.com



 Preferred Alternative

0 125 250
Feet

RLC Project No.:	21-298.1
Figure No.:	5
Prepared By:	JP
Sketch Date:	7/19/2022
Map Scale :	1 inch = 250 feet

Preferred Site
Chatham County, Georgia

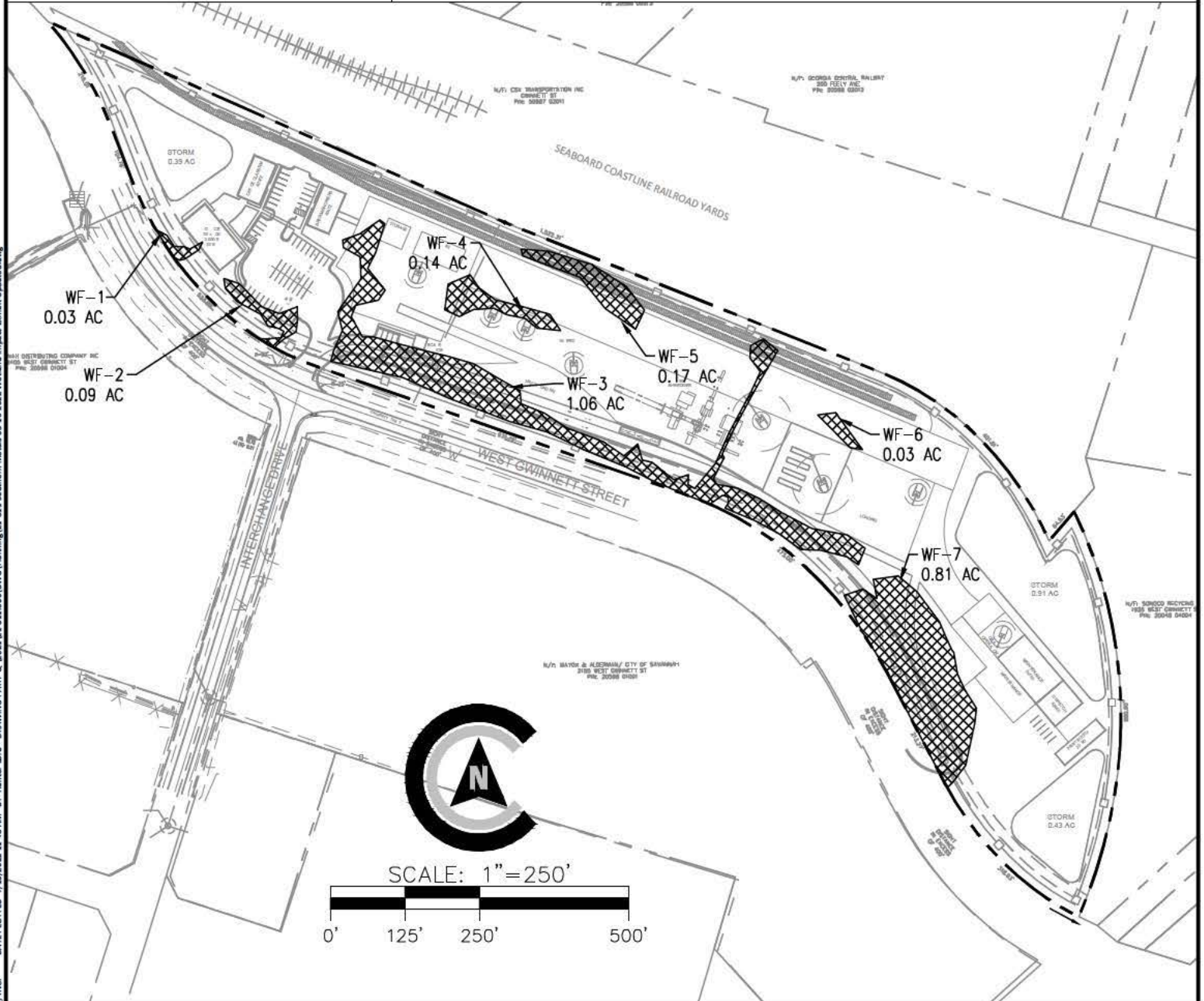
2021 Ortho Aerial
Prepared For: Southern Metals
Recycling, Inc.

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917-441-5096 www.rlc.com



VICINITY MAP
NOT TO SCALE

WETLAND SITE DATA		WETLAND DISTURBANCE		
	TOTALS	CALLOUT	FILL AREA	FILL VOLUME
TOTAL SITE AREA	15.97 AC	WF-1	0.03 AC	96.8 CY
TOTAL WETLAND AREA	2.33 AC	WF-2	0.09 AC	290.4 CY
TOTAL WETLAND IMPACTED	2.33 AC	WF-3	1.06 AC	3420.3 CY
TOTAL WETLAND PRESERVED	0.00 AC	WF-4	0.14 AC	451.7 CY
		WF-5	0.17 AC	548.5 CY
		WF-6	0.03 AC	96.8 CY
		WF-7	0.81 AC	2613.6 CY



DATE PLOTTED: 7/13/2022 11:48 AM BY: Hunter Lord DRAWING PATH: Q:\2021\12-1-411-0000\DWG\Planning\21-811 Southern Metals 05-16-2022 Wetland Impact Exhibit Updated.dwg

1 SHEET:

JOB NUMBER: 21-811
 DATE: 5/16/2022
 DRAWN BY: HKL
 CHECKED BY: DLG
 SCALE: AS NOTED

WETLAND IMPACT EXHIBIT
 BRADY TRACT
 PREPARED FOR:
 SOUTHERN METALS RECYCLING

