



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

November 30, 2021

Regulatory Division
SAS-2011-00859

**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 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. § 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1344), as follows:

Application Number: SAS-2011-00859

Applicant: Mr. Christopher Novack
Georgia Ports Authority (GPA)
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 in the Savannah River at GPA's Ocean Terminal (OT), in Savannah, Chatham County, Georgia (Latitude 32.0901, Longitude -81.1048). The Savannah River is a Traditional Navigable Waterway (TNW).

Description of Work Subject to the Jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:
The applicant is proposing to perform improvements to Ocean Terminal to increase container capacity. The proposed improvements include re-aligning and deepening the existing wharfs/berths to accommodate the large, modern container vessels currently calling on the Port of Savannah. The project will provide 1.3 million TEU's of overall container capacity to the Port of Savannah in order to accommodate growing demand for container volumes.

Specifically, the project will redevelop the existing wharfs into one contiguous wharf capable of simultaneously handling two of the largest container vessels that can call on the Savannah Port. The existing pile supported docks will be demolished and rebuilt 140 – 160 feet further inland from the Federal Navigation Channel. The re-configured berths will be dredged to -47' Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW) plus 2' of allowable

overdredge and 2' of advanced maintenance dredging (-51' MLLW total). A total of 911,000 cubic yards (CYs) of material will be dredged from existing jurisdiction during the initial dredging event (under the docks and within the existing berths) over 15.39 acres of open water and 0.23 acre of intertidal flat to a maximum initial depth of -51' MLLW. An additional 8.49 acres of existing upland will be mechanically excavated and then dredged in order to re-create the berths. Including the material to subsequently be dredged from the currently upland area, a total of 1,362,000 cubic yards will be disposed of in the Corps/Georgia Department of Transportation Dredge Material Containment Area (DMCA) 12A.

Specifically, the construction/realignment would occur as follows:

Stage 1: Demolition of Existing Structures and Installation of Sheet Pile Bulkhead & Temporary Work Platform

The first stage of development will begin with the demolition of the waterside edge of the existing wharf. Demolition activities will require the removal of the existing pile-supported deck and adjacent pavement and the extraction of approximately 3,643 concrete piles. In addition, a mooring and a breasting dolphin and their connector walkways will be removed off the downstream end of the dock. Following demolition of the existing structures, approximately 3,040 linear feet (LF) of new steel sheet pile bulkhead will be installed approximately 245 feet landward of the existing face of wharf or 85 feet behind the proposed (new) fender line. The bulkhead would be installed via a vibratory hammer; however, an impact hammer may be used at the end of each sheet pile installation to achieve final depth due to the marl. A concrete bulkhead cap, pile-supported relieving platform, and temporary work platform will be constructed following bulkhead installation.

Stage 2: Wharf Construction

Following installation of the new wall, upland excavation will commence between the wall and the waterway. A sloped surface under the proposed wharf location will be prepared using land-based equipment and clamshell (most likely) or hydraulic dredge. The slope will be armored with heavy riprap. Following the excavation of the under-wharf slope, approximately 1,572 precast concrete 20" piles will be driven by impact hammer channelward of the bulkhead, and the pile-supported platform will be constructed. Based on the typical pile driving operation, it is estimated that 10 piles will be installed each day, and each pile will take an average of 10-15 minutes of driving to reach the correct depth. On the far downstream end of the dock, a new mooring and breasting dolphin with connector walkway will be installed to replace the ones removed during demolition activities.

Once the wharf has been completed, the applicant proposes to install silt suspension units (SSUs) along the face of the new wharf to reduce maintenance dredging requirements within the berths.

Stage 3: Expansion of the Existing Berth and Filling of Existing Boat Slip

After the waterside construction activities have been completed, hydraulic cutterhead dredging will begin to deepen the existing berth. Sediments will be dredged to a depth of -51' MLLW including the proposed permit depth (-47'), proposed overdredge (2'), and approved advanced maintenance depth (2'). All hydraulically dredged material will be pumped via a pipe across the Savannah River to DMCA 12A. Dredging will take place from the proposed berth face towards the channel. The majority of dredging within existing jurisdiction will occur within existing deepwater habitat or the area currently covered by the pile supported wharf. Only a small amount of intertidal mud flat (0.23 acre) on the far downstream end of the project will be converted to open water habitat as a result of the dredging activities. No dredging impacts will occur to vegetated marsh.

Specifically, on the downstream end of the terminal, relocation of the wharf further inland will impact a small area of intertidal flat, saltmarsh, and freshwater wetland. Due to the presence of an existing bulkhead and rip-rap, the new sheetpile wall will extend just downstream of the jurisdictional boundary and then make two 90 degree turns and extend to the upland. The area upstream of the new sheetpile will be filled resulting in impacts to 0.02 acre of intertidal flat, 0.09 acre of saltmarsh, and 0.05 acre of freshwater wetland. The portion of the dock downstream of the sheetpile turn will be pile supported resulting in the shading of 0.23 acre of intertidal flat and 0.13 acre of saltmarsh. In addition to the above, the existing 9.03-acre inland boat slip will be reclaimed by dewatering and filling it to provide enough storage capacity to support the berth capacity of the terminal.

Stage 4: Future Maintenance Dredging

Maintenance dredging at OT is currently authorized under SAS-2001-12380, but the proposed project will modify the amount of material to be removed annually as well as the maintenance depth of the terminal to -47' MLLW (plus 2' overdredge). Currently, the maintenance dredging permit allows for 95,000 CYs of sediment removal which can be dredged by agitation, hydraulic cutterhead, or clamshell methods. Based on an updated sedimentation model, it is expected that the new maintenance requirement will be between 140,000 and 265,000 CYs depending on the cohesive load of the sediment. However, this requirement will be mitigated by installation of 17 silt suspension units installed on guide piles at the face of the proposed wharf. Any future maintenance dredging will be conducted by hydraulic cutterhead, clamshell, or agitation dredging as stipulated in the existing permit, and the applicant proposes to follow all of the conditions in the existing OT maintenance dredging permit (enclosed). Annual maintenance dredging will not exceed 265,000 cubic yards.

Project Purpose as Proposed by Applicant: The applicant's stated project purpose is "to perform improvements to Ocean Terminal to increase container capacity."

BACKGROUND

OT is a fully developed, multi-functional deepwater marine terminal located on the Savannah Harbor. It consists of approximately 200 acres located north and south of Bay Street. The terminal is traversed by Bay Street, the Talmadge Bridge (US Highway 17), and Highway 17 on-ramps. Upstream of the Talmadge Bridge are three deepwater berths maintained at a depth of -42 feet MLLW, whereas downstream there are two berths for a total of 3,900 feet of dock space on the Savannah River. In the middle of the docks is a 300-foot wide inland slip extending 1,200 feet into the terminal from the river. Near the docks are multiple warehouses and sheds for the processing of bulk and breakbulk goods. South of the Bay Street viaduct is a processing facility to handle the ro-ro cargo that comes through the terminal. Two truck gates access the terminal – one from Lathrop Avenue and a new container gate from Louisville Road.

The berths are currently maintained at a depth of -42 feet MLLW, and maintenance dredging occurs multiple times per year. The existing maintenance dredging permit (SAS-2001-12380) allows for the annual removal of 95,000 CYs of accumulated sediment from the entire facility, though maintenance dredging is no longer conducted within the inland boat slip.

The applicant sampled and tested the sediments to be dredged from the project area. The applicant's agent, Terracon, has submitted a report entitled "Tier II Sediment and Analysis Report, Expansion and Modernization Project, Georgia Ports Authority-Ocean Terminal," stating "the minor ISWQS exceedances in the elutriate samples do not warrant performing a numerical mixing model, nor environmental remediation for the marine sediment/upland soils to be dredged. Terracon does not consider the proposed dredge material to be a possible carrier of contaminants that would lead to the dredge discharge contributing to the degradation of water quality in the receiving water." The report is currently under review by the Corps.

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.

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.

Marshland Protection: This notice also serves as notification of a request to alter coastal marshlands (under the provision of the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act, Georgia Laws, 1970, p. 939 and as amended), if required. Comments concerning this action should be submitted to the Marsh and Shore Management Section, Coastal Resources Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, 1 Conservation Way, Brunswick, Georgia 31523-8600 (Telephone 912-264-7218).

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 Assessment: The applicant has submitted a Phase I cultural resource report entitled, "Phase I Cultural Resources Survey and Assessment of Effect of the Ocean Terminal Container Project." The report is currently under review by the Corps.

Essential Fish Habitat (EFH): This notice initiates the EFH consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The applicant's proposal may result in the destruction or alteration of EFH utilized by various life stages of species comprising the red drum, shrimp, bluefish or snapper grouper management complexes. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have an individual or cumulatively substantial adverse impact on EFH or federally managed fisheries in the Atlantic Ocean. Our final determination relative to project impacts to EFH and the need for mitigation measures are subject to review by and coordination with the NMFS and the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council.

Endangered Species: A preliminary review the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) IPaC statement indicates the following listed species may occur in the project area: West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), Eastern Indigo Snake (*Drymarchon corais couperi*), gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*), wood stork (*Mycteria Americana*), Eastern black rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis spp. Jamaicensis*), frosted flatwoods salamander (*Ambystoma cingulatum*); monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*); and pondberry (*Lindera melissifolia*). In addition, both the Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus*) and Shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*) have the potential to be in the vicinity of the project. The project suite also contains designated critical habitat for the Atlantic sturgeon.

Per the Savannah District Effects Determination Guidance on Endangered and Threatened Species (EDGES), the Corps has determined that the project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, the West Indian manatee provided the Corps includes Manatee Special Permit Conditions a through k from the Programmatic Agreement in any draft permit for the project. In addition, per the EDGES the Corps has determined that the project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the wood stork, Eastern Indigo snake, gopher tortoise and Eastern black rail.

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 other species listed or proposed for listing may be present in the area.

Public Interest Review: The decision whether to issue a permit would be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision would 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 would 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 would 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 would include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under the authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

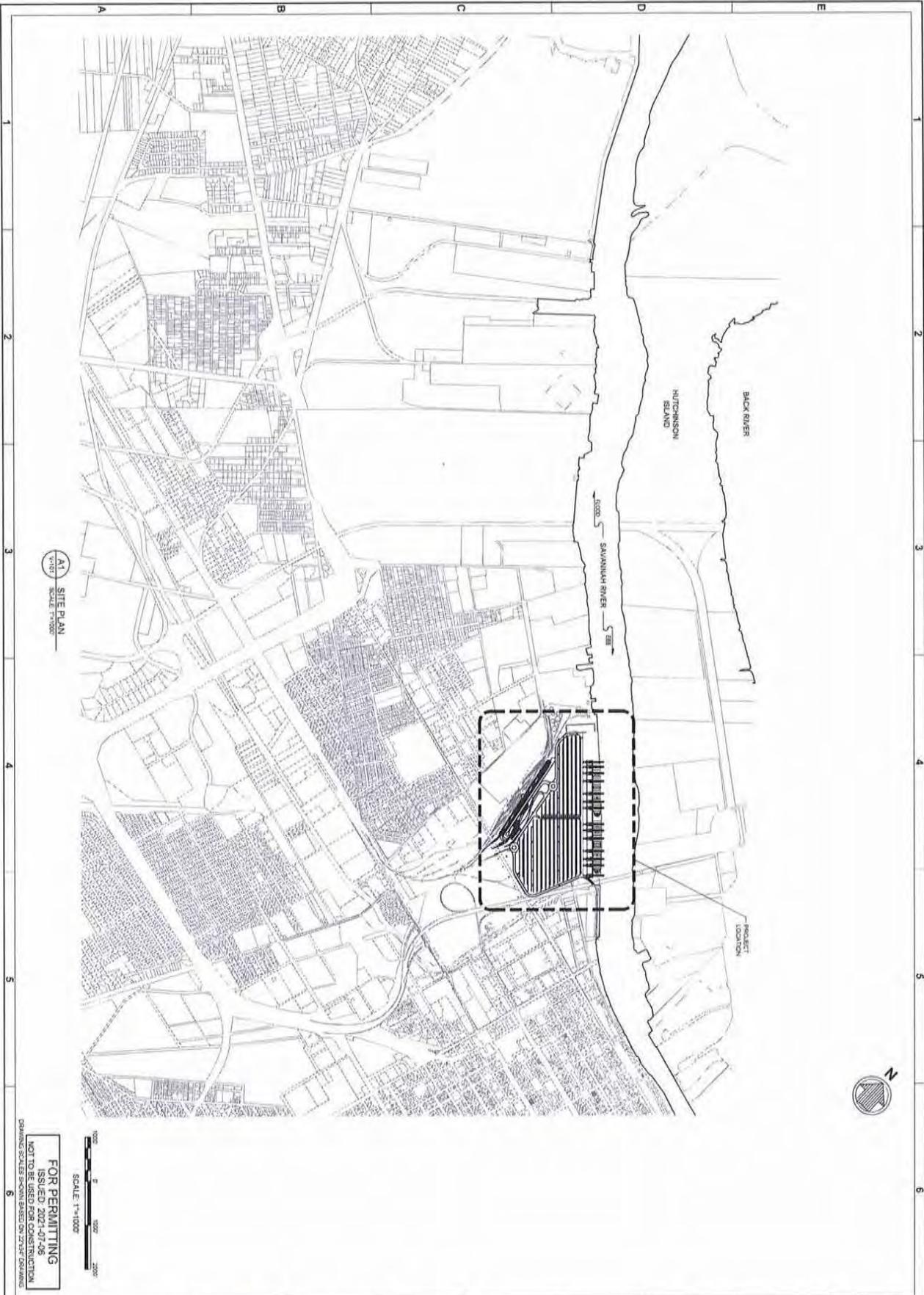
Public Hearing: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application for a Department of the Army permit. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for requesting a public hearing. 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 sarah.e.wise@usace.army.mil. Alternatively, you may 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 31401-3604, 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 Ms. Sarah E. Wise, Team Lead, Coastal Branch at 912-652-5550 or by email at sarah.e.wise@usace.army.mil.

Enclosure:

1. Georgia Ports Authority, Ocean Terminal Permit, Phase 2 and 3, Permit Drawings, Sheets G-001; V-101; V-102; V-103; S-001-S-101; S-102; S-103; S-104; S-105; S-301; S-302; and C-101.



A1 SITE PLAN
 SCALE 1"=1000'

FOR PERMITTING
 ISSUED 2021-07-05
 NOT TO BE USED FOR CONSTRUCTION
 DRAWING SCALE: 1"=1000'



Sheet
 Reference No.
V-101
 INDEX 2 OF 13



2 EAST BRYAN ST. STE 601
 SAVANNAH, GA 31401
 912-231-0044

Project No.	2021-07-01
Drawn By	MS/MS/MS
Checked By	MF
Scale	1"=1000'
Project Name	2185-1000
Client	AS NOTED
Designer	DAVID FEARY MOFFATT & NICHOL
Date	11.10.2021

GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY
 SAVANNAH, GA
 Clean Terminal Permit

OVERALL SITE PLAN



File: G:\151\1517-1000\CA02_Arch\Plm\1517101.dwg Plotter: D:\4201-231.dwt By: MRF/MS/MS Date: 11/10/2021 11:55AM By: CHRE/MS/MS



A1 PROPOSED SITE PLAN
SCALE 1"=200'

SCALE 1"=200'

FOR PERMITTING
ISSUED 2024-07-08
NOT VALID FOR CONSTRUCTION
OR ANY SCALES COMPARED ON 22/04/2024 PERMITS

Sheet
Reference No.
V-103
INDEX 1 OF 12



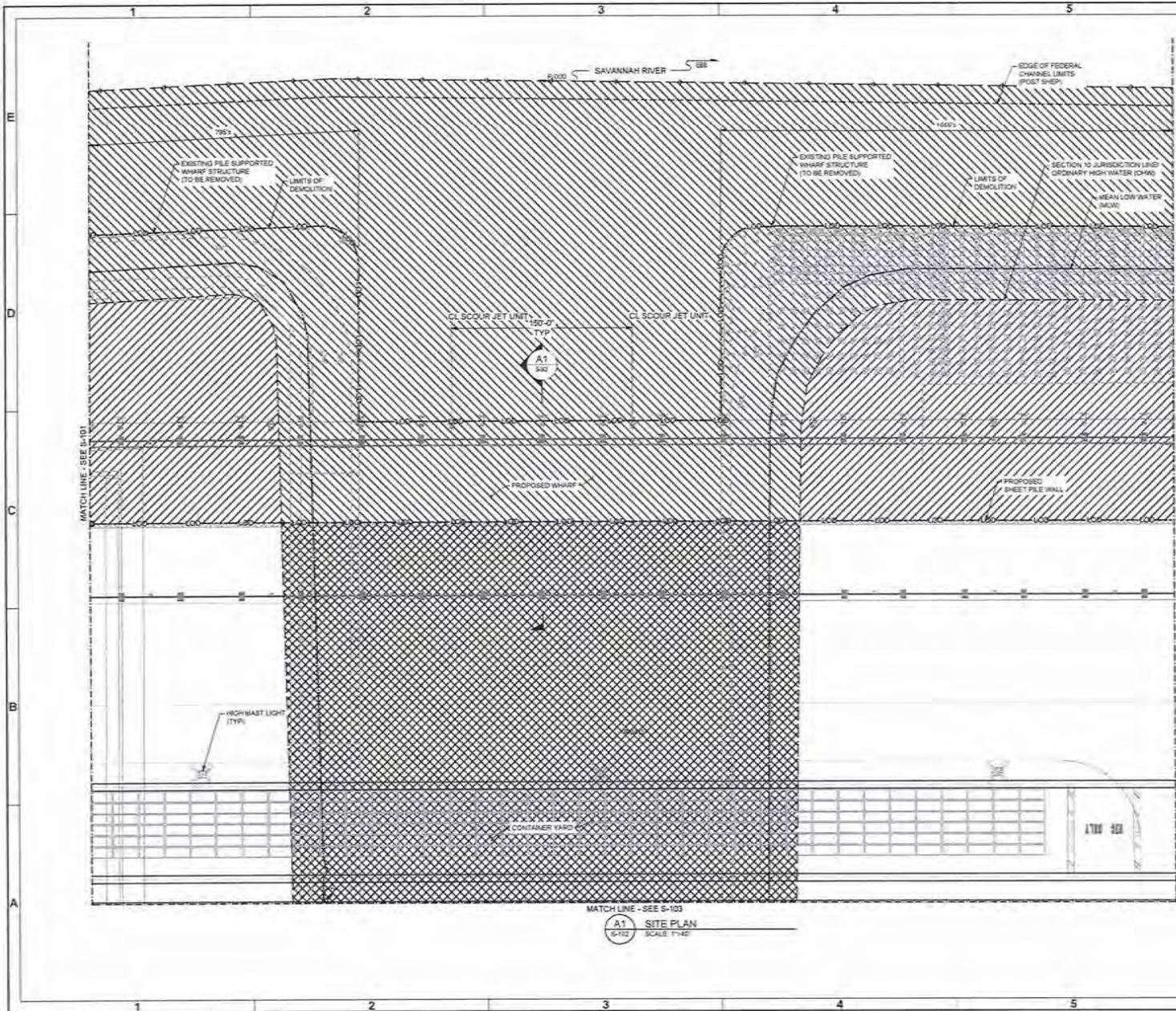
2 EAST BRUSH ST. STE 501
SAVANNAH GA 31401
912-221-0044

Project	2024-07-01
Client	SAVANNAH RIVER
CD	MP
Drawn by	MP
Checked by	MP
Scale	AS NOTED
Author	DAVID PAVY
Designer	MORFITT & NICHOL

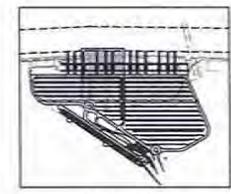
GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY
SAVANNAH, GA
Ocean Terminal Permit

EXISTING SITE PLAN

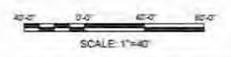




- LEGEND**
- LIMITS OF DEMOLITION
 - MEAN LOW WATER (MLW)
 - SECTION 10 JURISDICTION LINE (ORDINARY HIGH WATER (OHW))
 - [Wavy pattern] INTERTIDAL FLAT (UNDISTURBED) 0.18 AC (7,934 SF)
 - [Dotted pattern] SALT MARSH (UNDISTURBED) 0.16 AC (6,764 SF)
 - [Diagonal lines /] OPEN WATER DREDGING 15.39 AC (670,210 SF)
 - [Diagonal lines \] INTERTIDAL FLAT DREDGING 0.23 AC (10,028 SF)
 - [Cross-hatch pattern] OPEN WATER FILL 9.03 AC (393,428 SF)
 - [Dotted pattern] SALT MARSH FILL 0.09 AC (3,717 SF)
 - [Cross-hatch pattern] INTERTIDAL FLAT FILL 0.07 AC (3,015 SF)
 - [X pattern] FRESHWATER WETLAND FILL 0.26 AC (11,223 SF)
 - [Diagonal lines /] UPLAND EXCAVATION 8.49 AC (368,873 SF)
 - [Dotted pattern] SALT MARSH SHADING 0.13 AC (5,531 SF)
 - [Cross-hatch pattern] INTERTIDAL FLAT SHADING 0.23 AC (9,802 SF)



KEY PLAN



FOR PERMITTING
 ISSUED: 2021-07-06
 NOT TO BE USED FOR CONSTRUCTION
 DRAWING SCALES SHOWN BASED ON 22"x34" DRAWING



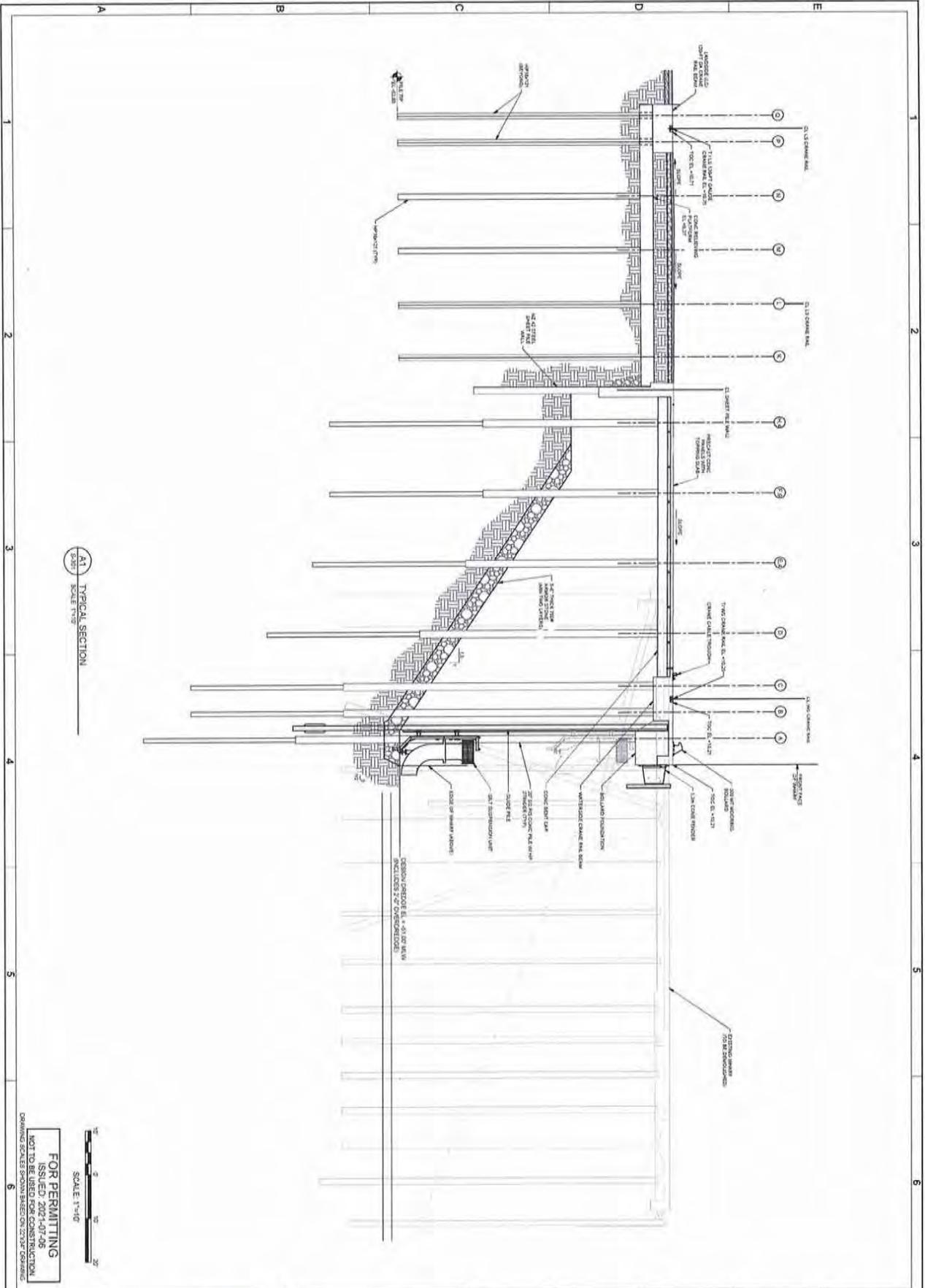
GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY
 SAVANNAH, GA
 Green Terminal Permit

SITE PLAN

DATE	2021-07-06	BY	AW/ST
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NO.	001	SCALE	1"=40'
PROJECT	3 EAST BRANCH SECTION SAVANNAH, GA 31401 15021-004	DATE	07/06/2021
NO.	001	SCALE	1"=40'



Sheet Reference No.
S-102
 INDEX OF



A1
TYPICAL SECTION
SCALE 1"=1'-0"

SCALE 1"=1'-0"

FOR PERMITTING
ISSUED 2021-07-06
NOT TO BE USED FOR CONSTRUCTION
DRAWING NUMBER: S-301

 2 EAST BRYAN ST., STE 501 SAVANNAH, GA 31401 912-231-0644	Project: 0221-07-01 Date: 02/21/2021	GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY SAVANNAH, GA Ocean Terminal Permit TYPICAL SECTION	
	Client: M&N Design: M&N Drawn: M&N Checked: M&N Approved: M&N		

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