

# DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS SAVANNAH DISTRICT 1104 NORTH WESTOVER BOULEVARD ALBANY, GEORGIA 31707

**April 3, 2023** 

Regulatory Division SAS-2021-00496

## 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-2021-00496

Applicant: Mr. Steve Croy

Blitchton Investments 1, LLC

Post Office Box 7057 Savannah, Georgia 31418

Agent: Mr. Zach Marsh

Resource and Land Consultants

41 Park of Commerce Drive, Suite 101

Savannah, Georgia 31405

<u>Project Purpose as Proposed by Applicant</u>: The applicant's stated project purpose is "to provide warehousing and supply-chain distribution space to service the long term needs of companies utilizing the Port of Savannah. Specifically, the purpose of the proposed project is to construct a master planned industrial logistics center within the vicinity of the Interstate 95/Highway 21 interchange to accommodate regional supply-chain requirements for Class A distribution and support warehousing needs associated with the current and anticipated growth of the region."

<u>Location of Proposed Work</u>: The project site is located adjacent to and west of Eldora Road approximately 1.2 miles north of US Highway 80 within Bryan County, Georgia (Latitude 32.2157 and Longitude -81.4490). The aquatic resources located onsite drain to Ogeechee River, a Traditional Navigable Waterway (TNW).

<u>Description of Work Subject to the Jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:</u> The proposed project generally includes construction of site access, parking, buildings and stormwater management facilities. The proposed site plan includes site access from Eldora Road. Six buildings will be constructed ranging from 150,000 square feet to 850,640 square feet. The total building square footage for the project is

2,274,400 square feet. Truck parking and employee parking are provided on each side of the buildings. Twenty-one ponds designed to satisfy the stormwater management needs of the site are positioned at various locations throughout the property. As proposed the project would result in impacts to 11.8 acres of wetlands and 0.98 acres of man-made pond. To offset the loss in aquatic function associated with the above impacts, the applicant has proposed the purchase of 8.86 2018/ 70.88 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 Ogeechee River.

#### **BACKGROUND**

By letter dated February 18, 2022, the Corps verified the delineation of aquatic resources for the subject tract. 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. By e-mail dated March 20, 2023, the applicant requested a pre-certification meeting with Georgia EPD at the same time as submitting their application for a permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

<u>State-owned Property and Resources</u>: 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.

<u>Cultural Resources</u>: The applicant provided a Phase I cultural Resources and Archaeological Survey as part of their application. The Corps will review this survey and route as appropriate.

Endangered Species: A preliminary review the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service's Protected Resource Divisions (NMFSPRD)'s list of Endangered and Threatened Species (IPaC) indicates the following listed species may occur in the project area: Eastern Indigo Snake (Drymarchon couperi). Using the EDGES keys a "NLAA. Consultation complete. Further review from FWS-GA not needed" determination has been made with regards to the Eastern Indigo Snake (EDGES #4).

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.

<u>Public Interest Review</u>: 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.

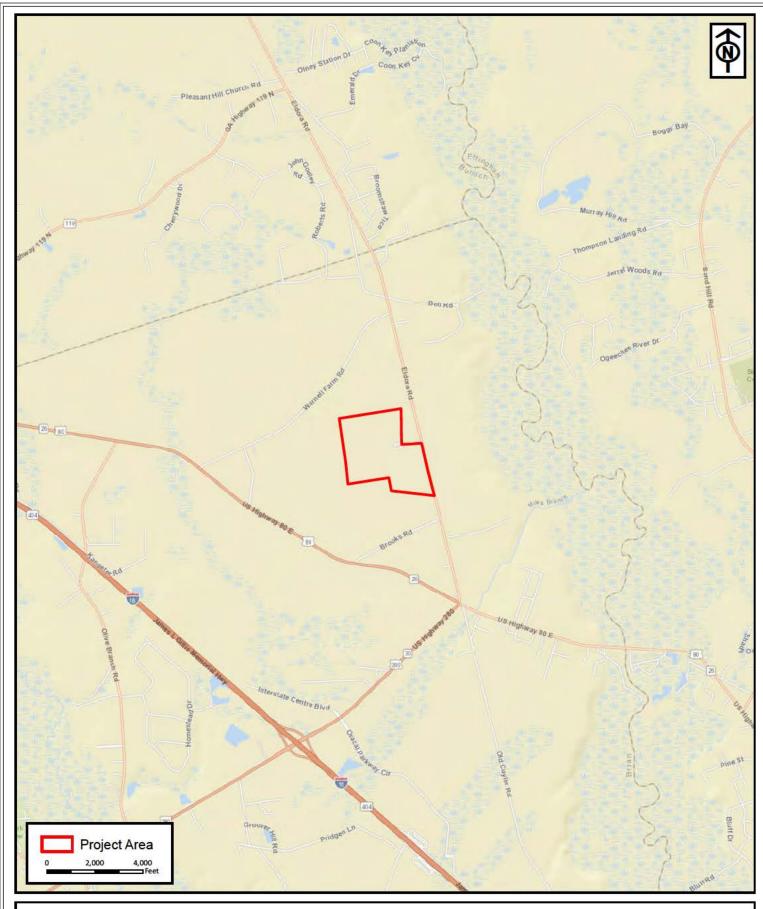
<u>Public Hearing</u>: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application for a Department of the Army permit. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for requesting a public 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.

<u>Comment Period</u>: Anyone wishing to comment on this application for a Department of the Army permit should submit comments by email to terry.c.kobs@usace.army.mil. Alternatively, you may submit comments in writing to the Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Attention: Terry C. Kobs, 1104 North Westover Boulevard, Unit 109, Albany, Georgia 31707, 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 Terry Kobs, Project Manager, Management Branch, at (229) 430-8567.

### **Enclosures:**

- 1. Project Location (1 Page)
- 2. Plan and Profile Drawings (8 pages)



RLC Project No.: 20-204.1

Figure No.: 1

Prepared By: MW

Sketch Date: 3/16/2023

Map Scale: 1 inch = 4,000 feet

### Conley Davis Industrial Park

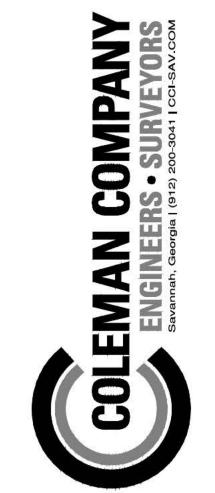
Bryan County, Georgia

### **Project Location**

Prepared For: Blitchton Investments 1, LLC







FOR CONSTRUCTION NOT

**REVISIONS:** 

JOB NUMBER: 22-463.000

DRAWN BY: CHECKED BY: SCALE: AS NOTED

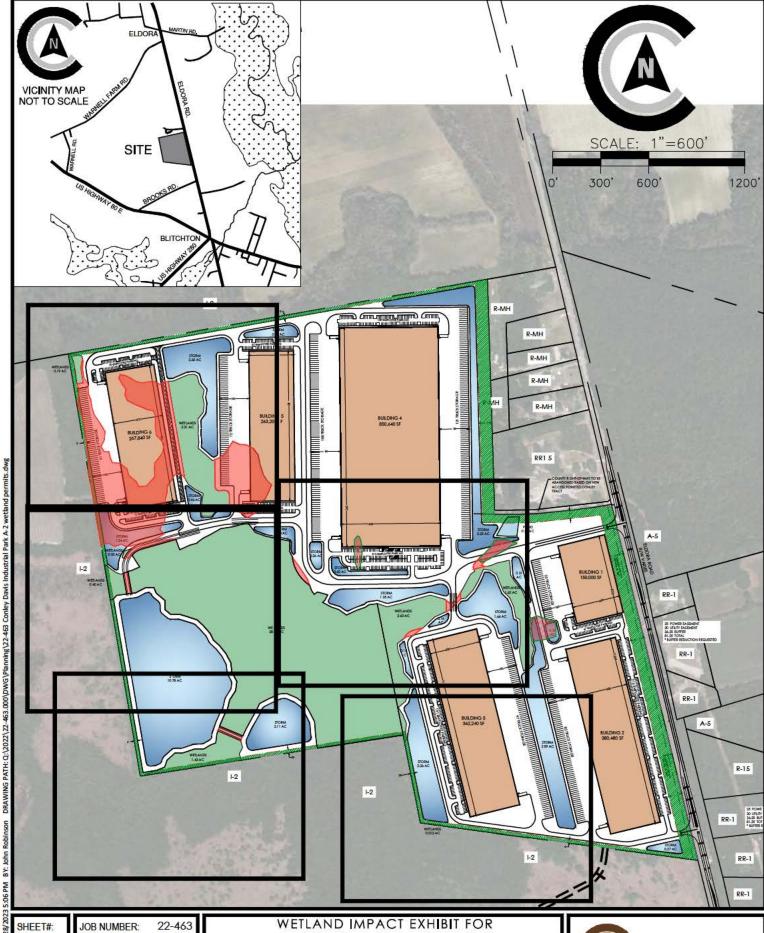
PLAN

CONCEPTUAL

2/28/2023

GJC

SHEET:



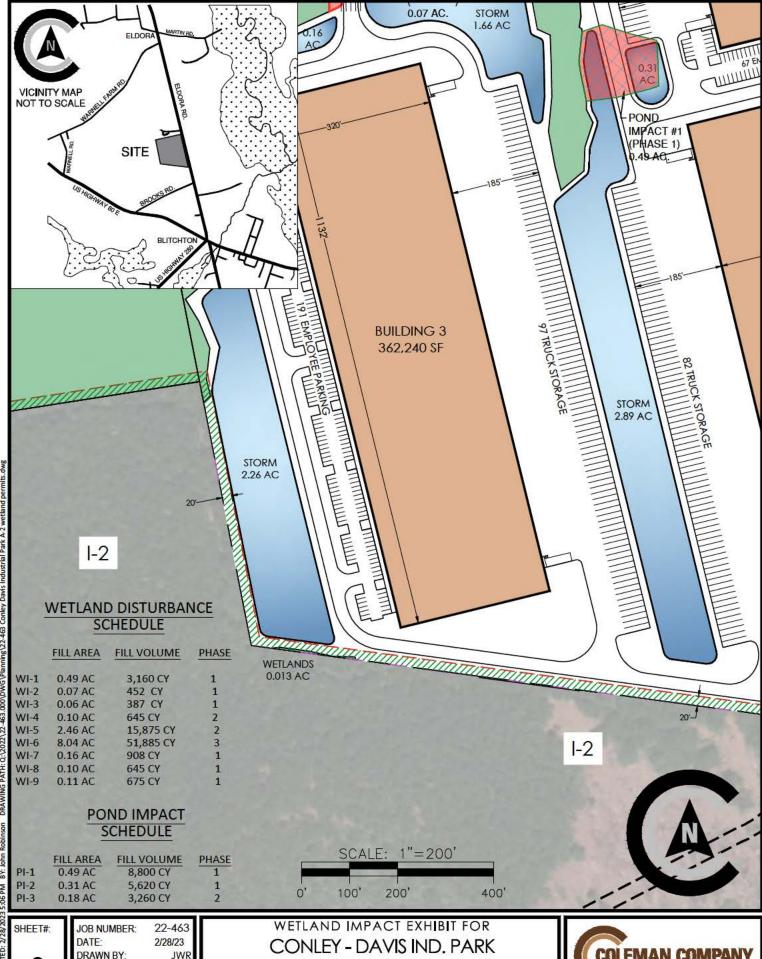
1

JOB NUMBER: 22-463
DATE: 2/28/23
DRAWN BY: JWR
CHECKED BY: GJC
SCALE: AS SHOWN

CONLEY - DAVIS IND. PARK

LOCATED IN BRYAN COUNTY GEORGIA
PREPARED FOR BLITCHTON INVESTMENTS 1, LLC





LOCATED IN BRYAN COUNTY GEORGIA

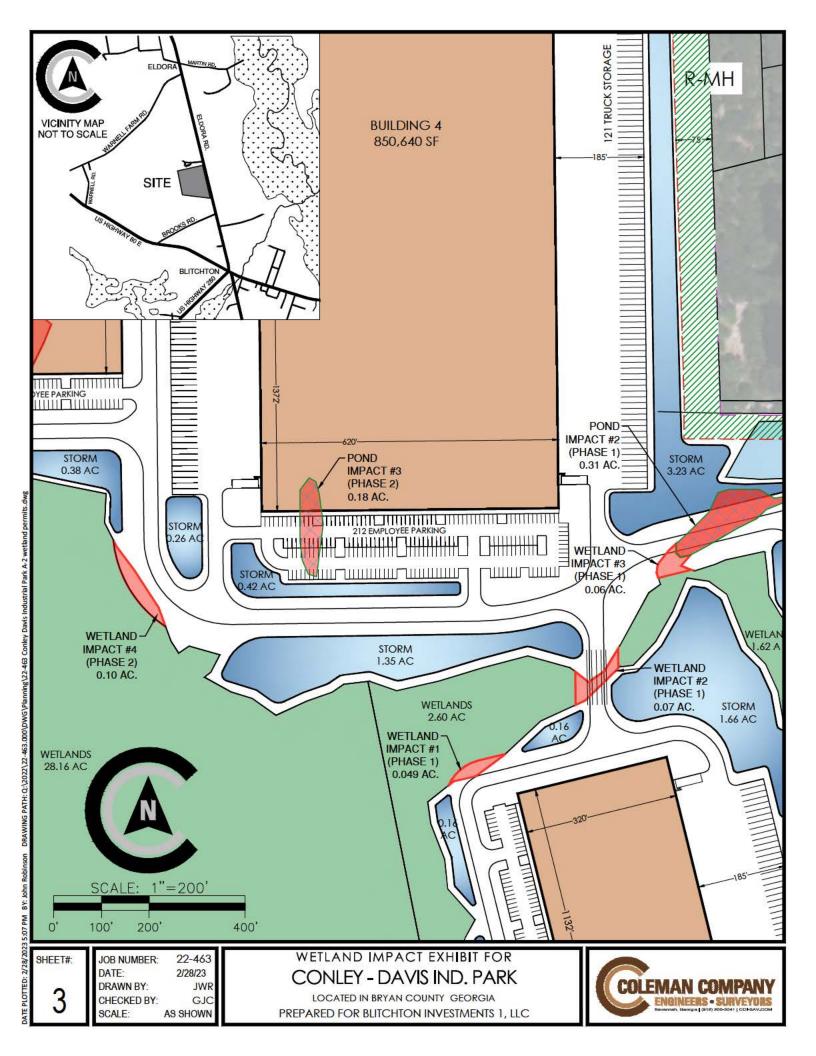
PREPARED FOR BLITCHTON INVESTMENTS 1, LLC

DATE PLOTTED: 2/28/2023 5:06

CHECKED BY:

SCALE:

GJC AS SHOWN



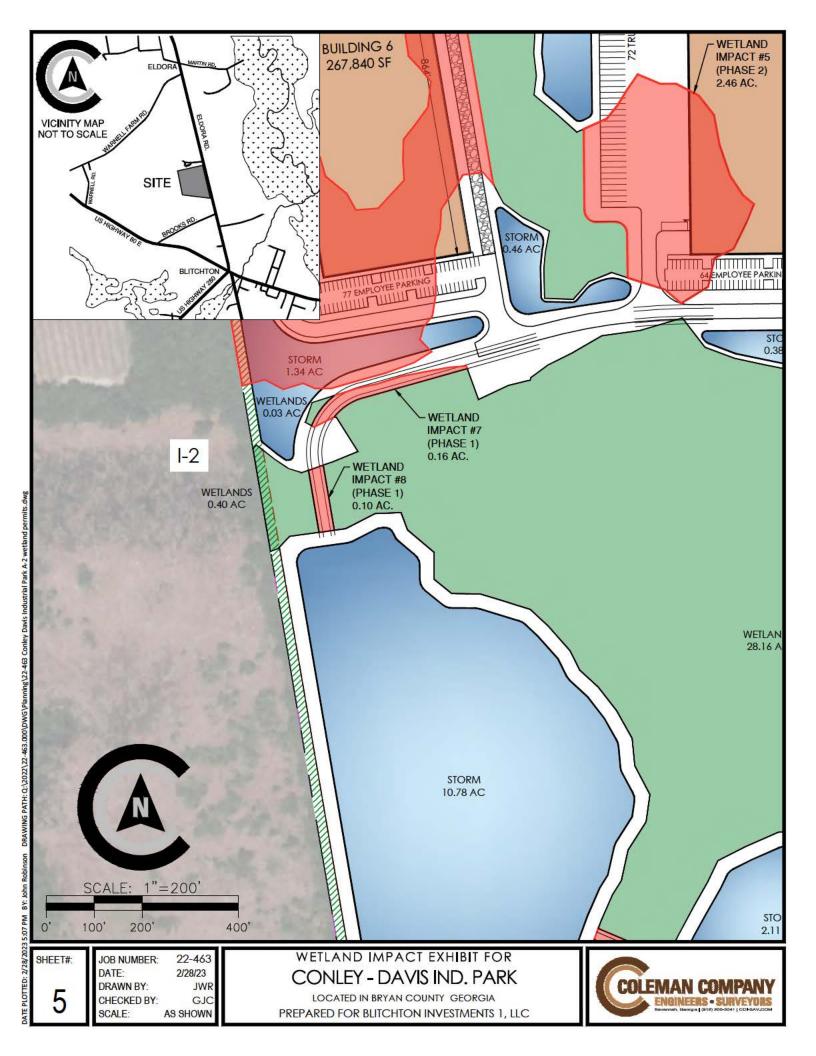


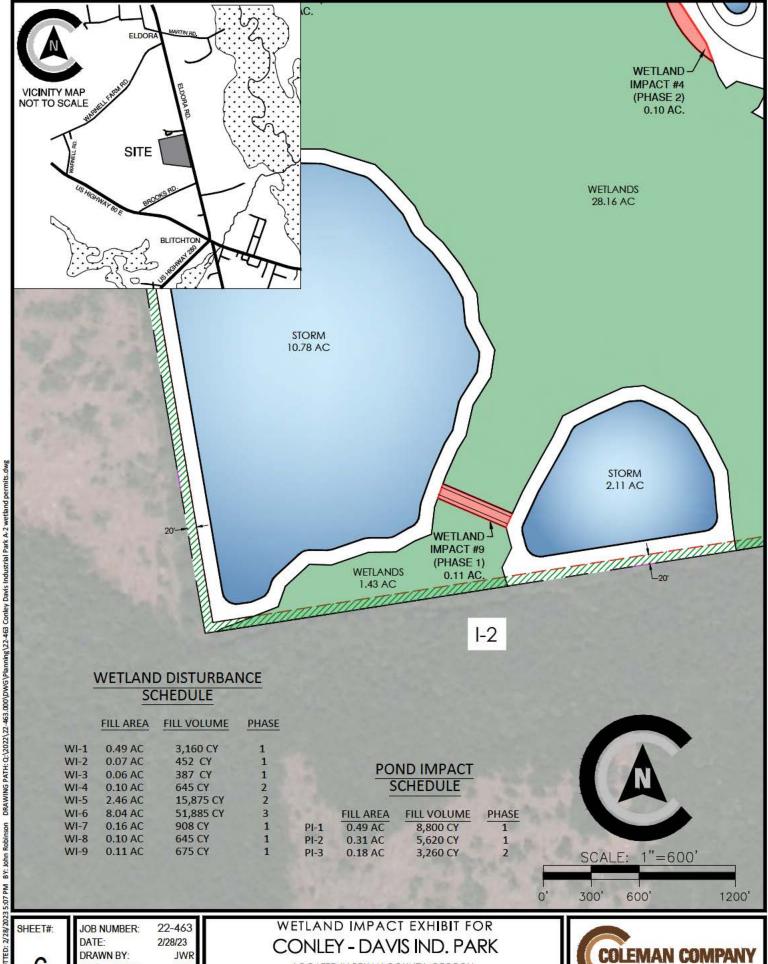
PREPARED FOR BLITCHTON INVESTMENTS 1, LLC

DATE PLOTTED: 2/28/2023 5:

AS SHOWN

SCALE:





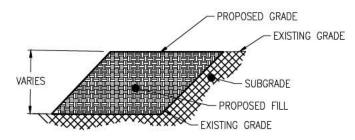
LOCATED IN BRYAN COUNTY GEORGIA

PREPARED FOR BLITCHTON INVESTMENTS 1, LLC

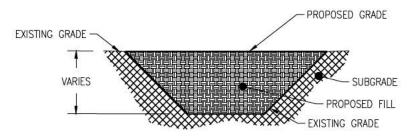
CHECKED BY:

SCALE:

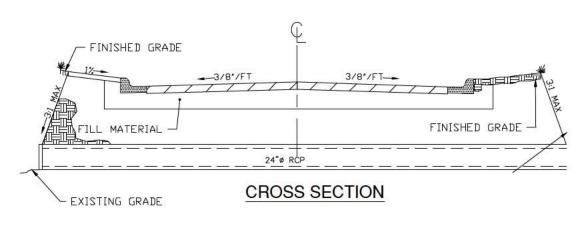
GJC AS SHOWN

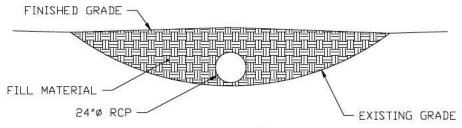


### TYPICAL WETLAND IMPACT SECTION #1 (WETLAND FILL)



# TYPICAL WETLAND IMPACT SECTION #2 (DITCH FILL)





### **PROFILE**

# TYPICAL WETLAND IMPACT SECTION #3 (ROAD CROSSING)

NOT TO SCALE

SHEET#:

DETAILS

JOB NUMBER: 22-463
DATE: 2/28/23
DRAWN BY: JWR
CHECKED BY: GJC

SCALE:

AS SHOWN

# WETLAND IMPACT EXHIBIT FOR CONLEY - DAVIS IND. PARK

LOCATED IN BRYAN COUNTY GEORGIA
PREPARED FOR BLITCHTON INVESTMENTS 1, LLC

