



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

September 7, 2023

Regulatory Division
SAS-2023-00665

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:

The comment period for the Department of the Army Permit application will close 30 days from the date of this public notice. Written comments, including suggestions for modifications or objections to the proposed work, stating reasons thereof, are being solicited from anyone having interest in this permit, and must be submitted to be received on or before the last day of the comment period. Written comments concerning this Department of the Army Permit application must reference the Applicant's name and the Permit Application Number and be forwarded to the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) at the above address, or via the email listed at the end of this notice.

This Joint Public Notice announces a request for authorizations from both the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the State of Georgia. The applicant's proposed work may also require local governmental approval.

Application Number: SAS-2023-00665

Applicant: Mr. Don Williams
Vulcan Materials Company
800 Mount Vernon Highway NE, Suite 200
Atlanta, Georgia 30328

Agent: Mr. Bill Newlon
Kleinfelder
3663 Lake Center Drive
Mount Dora, Florida 32757

Location of Proposed Work: The approximately 27-acre project site is located immediately east of the existing [approximately x-acre] Norcross Quarry and south of Beaver Ruin Road, NW and west of Steve Reynolds Boulevard NW, in Gwinnett County, Georgia (latitude: 33.9299, longitude: -84.1498).

Description of Work Subject to the Jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

The project involves the proposed expansion of the existing Norcross Quarry. A total of 731 linear feet (0.08-acre) of streams and 0.20-acre of wetlands would be permanently impacted in order to accommodate the construction of an overburden storage, landscape berm, and sediment filtration pond facilities.

To offset the loss in ecological function associated with the proposed impacts to aquatic resources, the applicant would purchase 3,947.4 legacy stream credits (or 548.25 non-perennial (2018) stream credits) and 1.20 legacy wetland credits (or 0.15 slope (2018) wetland credits) from a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers approved mitigation bank(s) servicing the project area. The project is hydrologically connected to the Beaver Ruin Creek watershed (Hydrologic Unit Code 12 (HUC 12): 030701030303).

BACKGROUND

The Norcross Quarry is an existing granitic aggregate quarry located at 1707 Beaver Ruin Road, Norcross, Georgia 30093. Under the Corps project file number SAS-1996-00811, a standard permit was issued On April 3, 1998, and a permit modification was approved on July 19, 1998. The project involved the proposed relocation of 3,000 linear feet of Beaver Ruin Creek and the fill of 14 acres of wetland, in order to continue the mining operation and to relocate associated asphalt plants. The proposed impacts to waters were to be offset by enhancing 13 acres of open water into a scrub/shrub wetland, realigning Beaver Ruin Creek into a new channel within a 5-acre riparian corridor, and preserving 40 acres of wetlands.

The Surface Mining Permit 086-01 for Amendment #3 of the quarry's Surface Mine Land Use Plan (SMLUP) was issued on July 26, 2021. The current proposed project is located east of the adjoining approved SMLUP boundary. An updated SMLUP representing the proposed changes was submitted to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GAEPD) concurrently with the Corps IP application.

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. The applicant conducted a pre-filling meeting for a Water Quality Certification with the State of Georgia on July 11, 2023, and a certification request was submitted on August 24, 2023. Prior to issuance of a Department of the Army Permit for a project located in, on, or adjacent to the waters of the State of Georgia, review for Water Quality Certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act 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. This public notice serves as notification to the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection

Agency (USEPA) pursuant to section 401(a)(2) of the Clean Water Act for neighboring jurisdiction review and begins the 30-day clock for USEPA to notify affected states.

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.

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: Review of the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and the Georgia Natural, Archeological and Historic Resources GIS (GNAHRGIS) database, indicates that no registered properties or properties listed as eligible for inclusion are located on the project site. A desktop cultural resource study involving a records review was conducted for the project by Freese and Nichols. The Corps is currently reviewing the reporting to assess the potential for adverse effects to historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places. Presently unknown archaeological, scientific, prehistorical or historical data may also be located at the site and could be affected by the proposed work.

Endangered Species: 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. Based on a preliminary review of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service-Protected Resource Division's (NMFS-PRD) list of Endangered and Threatened Species (IPaC), no Federally-designated critical habitats are located onsite. However, this report does list the following Federally-protected species that may potentially be affected at this location: whooping crane (*Grus americanus*), an experimental population, and monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), a candidate species.

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. The Applicant's current proposal reviewed three (3) onsite alternatives for expansion of the operation. In addition to the Applicant's preferred alternative, one of the onsite alternatives was considered to be potentially practicable. All alternatives were further evaluated in conjunction with the application.

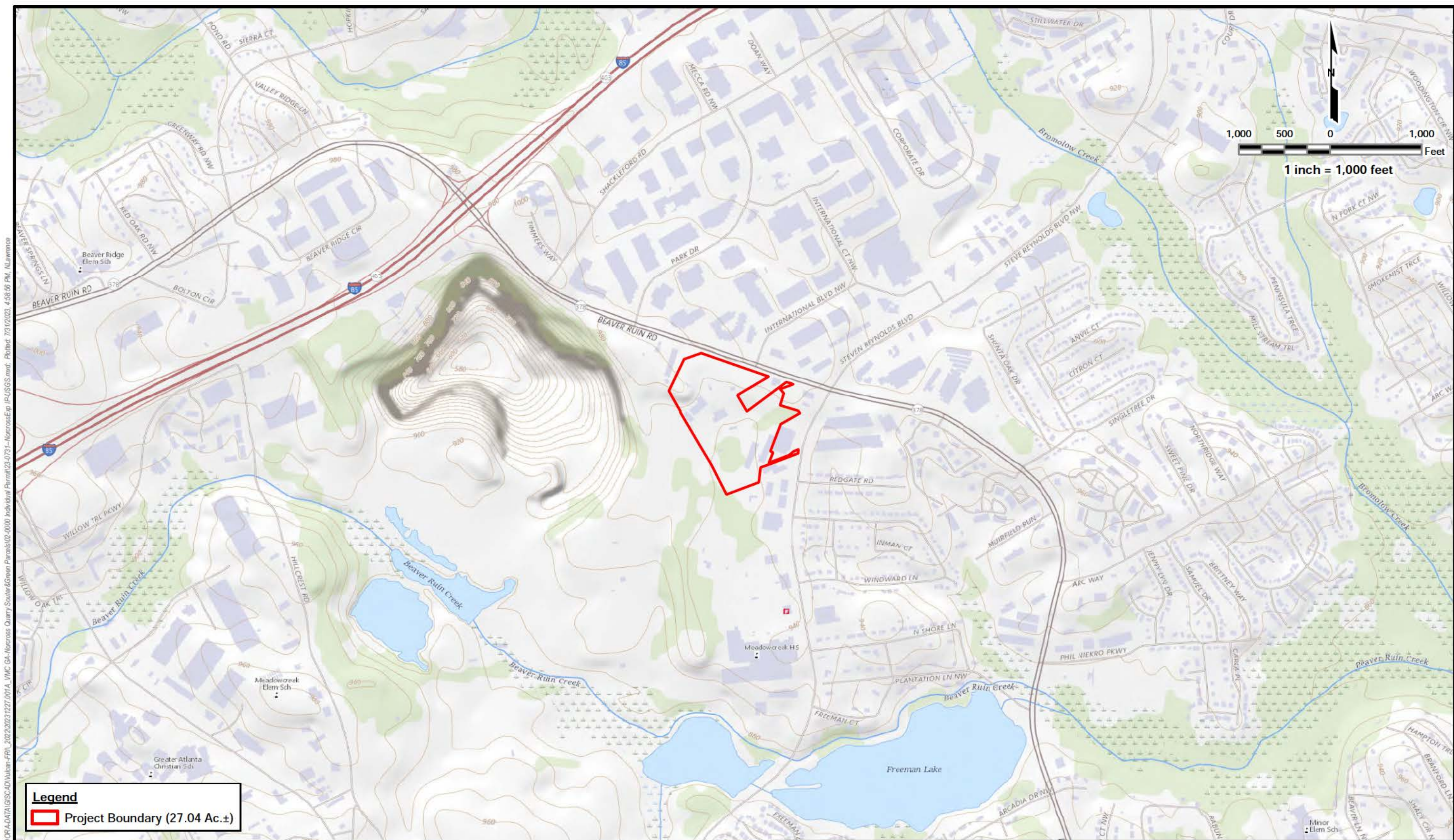
Public Hearing: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application for a Department of the Army permit. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for requesting a public hearing. 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 their written comments by e-mail to Justin.M.Edwards@usace.army.mil within **30 days** of this notice. Alternatively, you may submit comments in writing to the Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Attention: Justin Edwards, Project Manager, 4751 Best Road, Suite 140, College Park, 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 Justin Edwards, Regulatory Specialist, of the Piedmont Branch, by e-mail at Justin.M.Edwards@usace.army.mil or at 678-422-2724.

Enclosures:

1. Figure 1: Project Location
2. Figure 3: USGS Topographic Map
3. Figure 8: Wetland and Surface Water Delineation Map
4. Figure 9: Wetland and Surface Water Impacts Map
5. Sheet 5 of 6: Aerial Erosion And Sediment Control Plan



Legend
Project Boundary (27.04 Ac.±)

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Source: USGSTopo was obtained from ESRI Basemap. Back Drop to Project Boundary represents 7.5 Minute Quadrangle sheet for Norcross, Georgia.

 Bright People. Right Solutions. www.kleinfelder.com	PROJECT NO. 20231227.001A	USGS Topographic Map	FIGURE 3
	DRAWN: 7/31/2023		
	DRAWN BY: NL	Norcross Quarry Expansion Vulcan Materials Company Gwinnett County, Georgia	
	CHECKED BY: AWN		
FILE NAME: 23-0731--Norcross Exp IP-USGS.mxd			

Document Path: \\mountbloom\mountbloom\DATA\GIS\AD\Wetland\2023\20231227\001A_VMC_GA-Norcross Quarry Surface & Green Permits\02-0000 Individual Permit\23-0801--NorcrossExp IP-WetSW Delineation.mxd; Plotted: 8/1/2023, 12:05:43 PM, NLawrence



Legend

- Project Boundary (27.04 Ac.±)
- Forested Wetland (0.26 Ac.±)
- Intermittent Stream (0.09 Ac.±, 792.5 LF±)
- Culvert

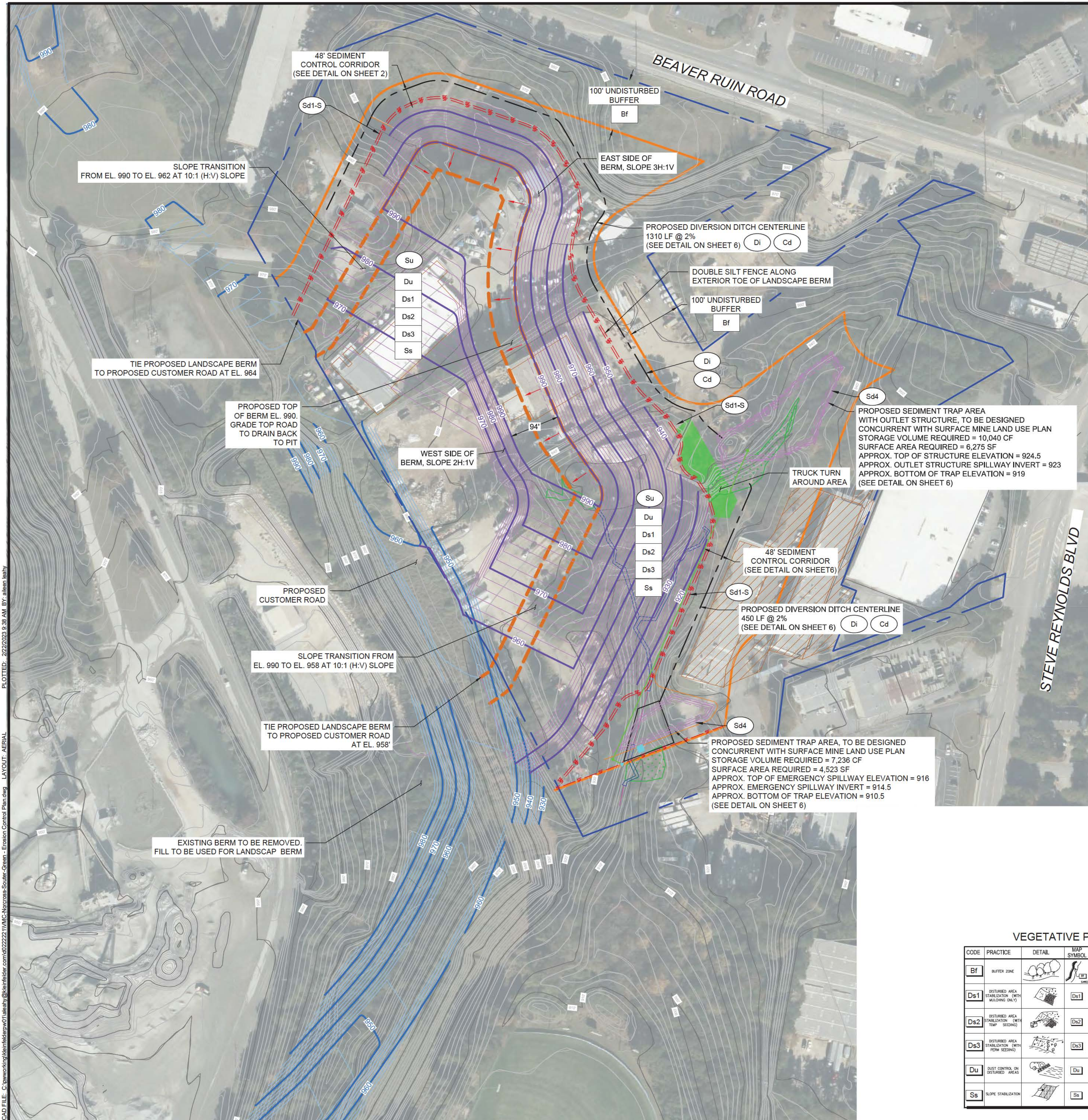
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Source: World Imagery was obtained from ESRI Basemap.
Image origin: Maxar. Date: 10/5/2020.

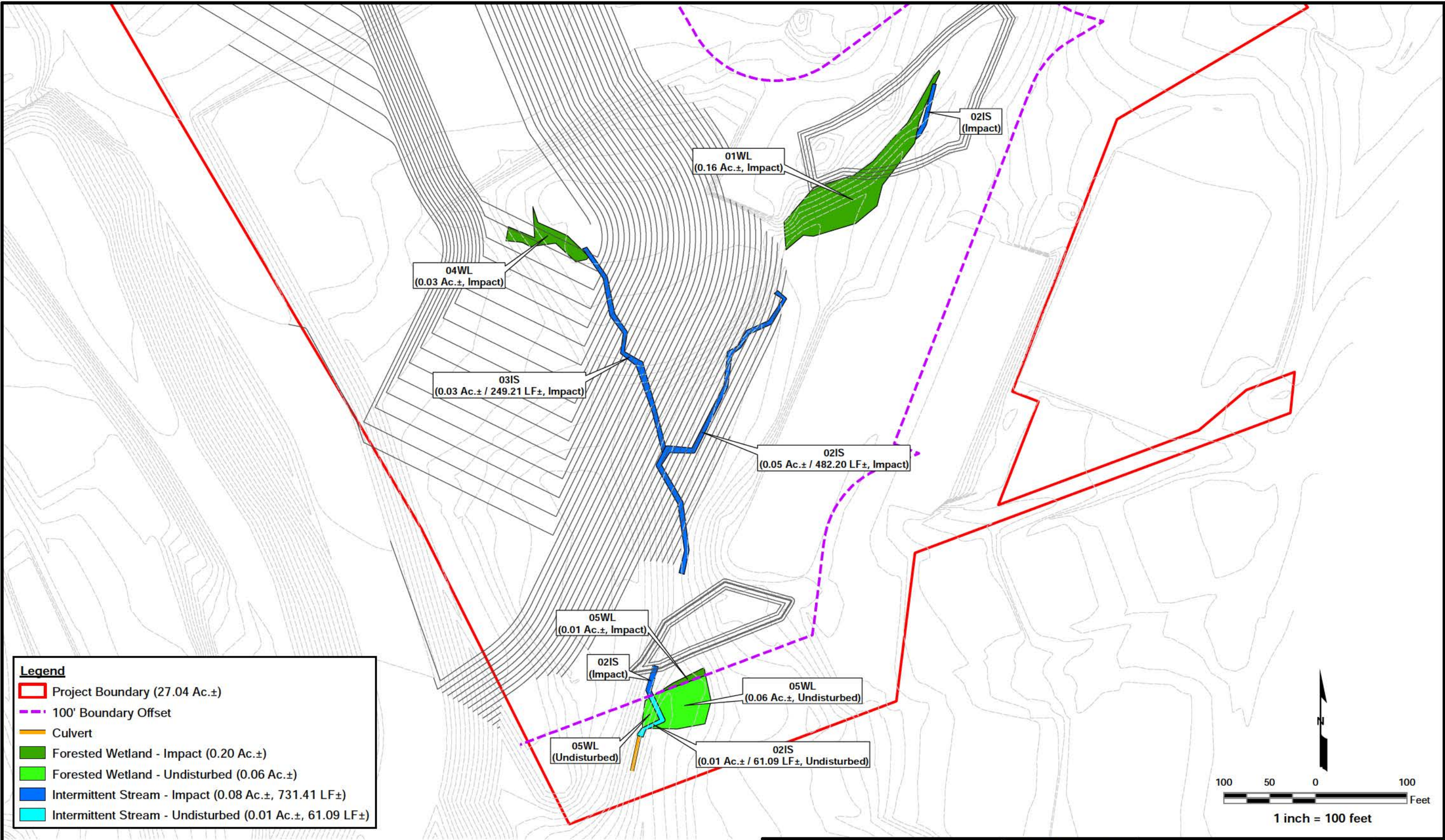
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PROJECT NO.	20231227.001A
DRAWN:	8/1/2023
DRAWN BY:	NL
CHECKED BY:	AWN
FILE NAME:	23-0801--Norcross Exp IP-WetSW Delineation.mxd


Wetland and Surface Water Delineation Map	FIGURE
Norcross Quarry Expansion Vulcan Materials Company Gwinnett County, Georgia	8



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 Bright People. Right Solutions. www.kleinfelder.com	PROJECT NO. 20231227.001A	Wetland and Surface Water Impacts Map	FIGURE 9
	DRAWN: 8/1/2023		
	DRAWN BY: NL		
	CHECKED BY: AWN		
	FILE NAME: 23-0801--Norcross Exp IP-WetSW Impact.mxd	Norcross Quarry Expansion Vulcan Materials Company Gwinnett County, Georgia	