



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

**September 28, 2023**

Regulatory Division  
SAS-2023-00734

**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-2023-00734

Applicant: Mr. Christopher Novack  
Georgia Ports Authority  
Post Office Box 2406  
Savannah, Georgia 31402

Agent: Mr. Brandon Wall  
Sligh Environmental Consultants, Inc. (SECI)  
31 Park of Commerce Way, Suite 200B  
Savannah, Georgia 31405

Project Purpose as Proposed by Applicant: The purpose of the proposed project is to provide dedicated "on-terminal" connectivity between the Garden City Terminal (GTC) and the cross-dock facility located on the previous Georgia Steamship site so container trucks will not have to travel on local streets (SR 25, Crossgate Rd., and Phillips Ave.).

Location of Proposed Work: The project corridor begins at Grange Road, travels north 0.31 mile and terminates at Phillips Avenue, in Savannah, Chatham County, Georgia (Latitude 32.1411, Longitude -81.1549).

Description of Work Subject to the Jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:  
To impact 1.03 acres of wetland associated with the installation of a two lane road extending northward from GCT at Grange Road to access the newly constructed cross-dock facility located on the previous Georgia Steamship site. Currently, trucks moving containers between the two facilities have to leave GCT, travel on SR 25 to Phillips Avenue and enter the cross-dock facility through a secured entrance. The project would also provide public safety and traffic improvement as container trucks and other terminal traffic would not have to use local streets. It should also be noted that operational challenges exist at the Phillips Avenue/SR 25 intersection that make it

difficult for container trucks to use (e.g. turning radius). Specifically, the project would construct a roundabout at Grange Road approximately 500 feet east of SR 25. The road typical section consists of two 12' wide lanes with 6-foot shoulders.

To offset the loss in aquatic function associated with the above impacts, the applicant has proposed to purchase 4.16 grandfathered wetland mitigation credits from a commercial bank within the project's Primary Service Area or Secondary Service Area, if necessary. If no banks are available at the time of purchase, the applicant will purchase in-lieu fee mitigation from the Georgia-Alabama Land Trust.

## **BACKGROUND**

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. The applicant has yet to request a Water Quality Certification from the State of Georgia. 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.

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: The applicant has submitted a Phase I cultural resource assessment that is currently under review by the Corps.

Endangered Species: A preliminary review the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) list of Endangered and Threatened Species (IPaC) as well as the National Marine Service (NMFS) ESA Section 7 Mapper indicates the following listed species may occur in or near the project area: Northern Long-eared Bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*); West Indian Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*); Eastern black rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*); wood stork (*Mycteria americana*); Eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon corais couperi*); the Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*); pondberry (*Lindera melissifolia*); loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*); Atlantic sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrhynchus oxyrhynchus*) and shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*).

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 [sarah.e.wise@usace.army.mil](mailto: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 Wise, 100 West Oglethorpe Avenue, Savannah, Georgia 31401, 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 Mrs. Sarah Wise, Team Lead, Coastal Branch at 912-652-5550.

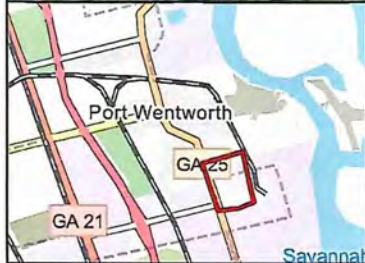
Enclosures:

1. Connector Road Property and Permit Exhibit, dated September 12, 2023, (Sheets 1-5).

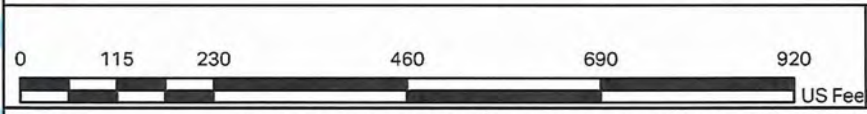


**Legend**

- Project Area
- Wetlands



# Connector Road Property and Permit Exhibit



**2023**

Sheet 1 of 5

Date: Revision 1 9/12/2023 Drawn by SFS Reviewed by IWR



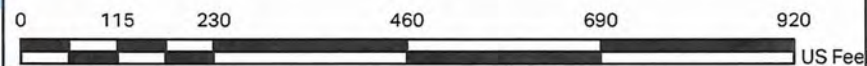
Name	Impact Acreage
Fill 1	0.48 Acre
Fill 2	0.47 Acre
Fill 3	0.08 Acre
<b>Total</b>	<b>1.03 Acres</b>

Cross Sectional Sheet 5 of 5

- Legend**
- Fill Impacts
  - Outside Shoulder
  - Culvert Lines
  - Culvert Structures
  - Inside Shoulder
  - Edge of Pavement
  - Project Area
  - Wetlands



# Connector Road Property and Permit Exhibit



# 2023

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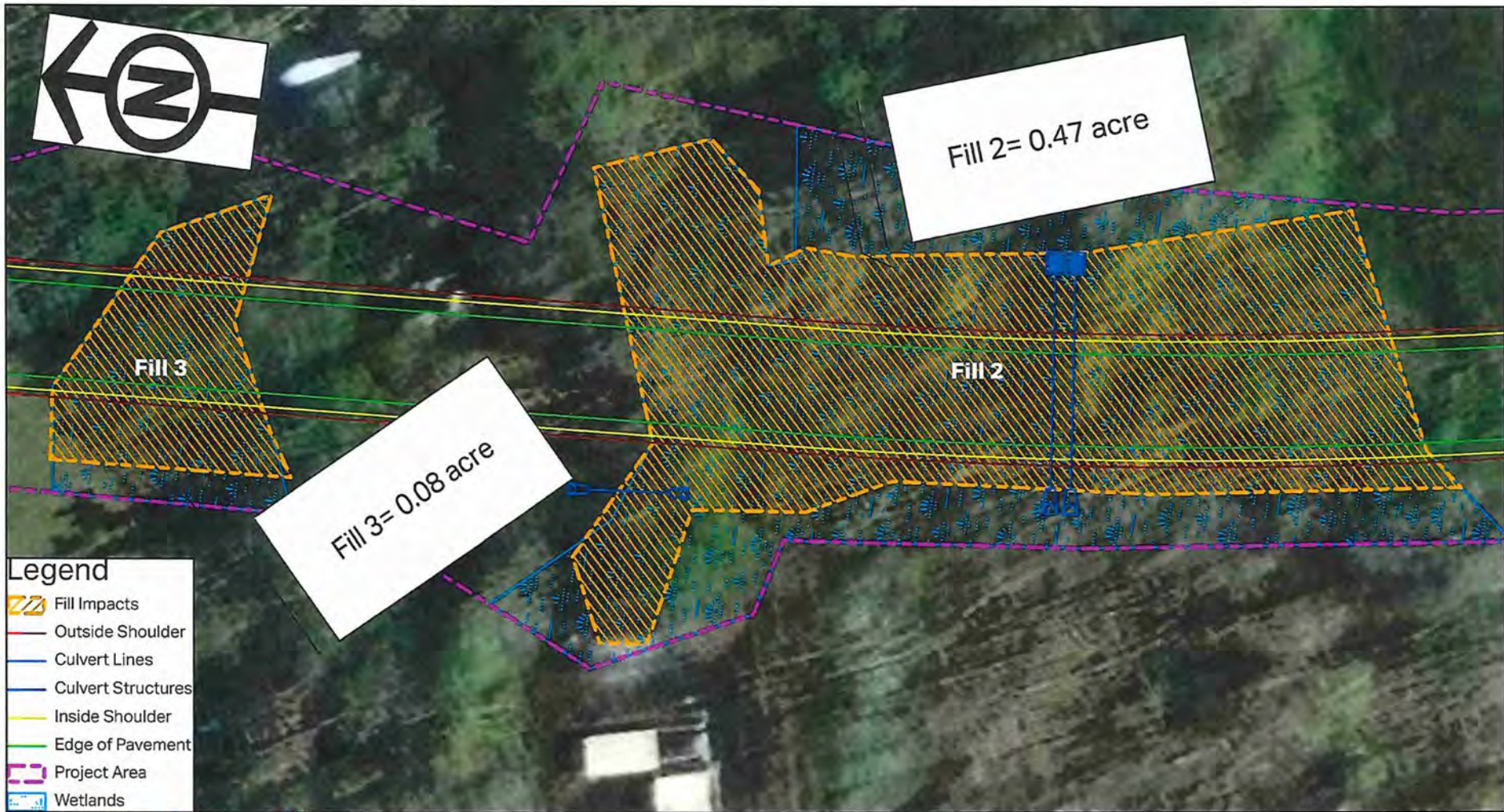
# Connector Road Property and Permit Exhibit

Sheet 3 of 5



**2023**

Date: Revision 1 9/12/2023 Drawn by SFS Reviewed by IWR



**Connector Road Property and Permit Exhibit**

0 20 40 80 120 160 US Feet

**2023**

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