



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

**July 01, 2019**

Regulatory Branch  
SAS-2018-00164

**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).

Application Number: SAS-2018-00164

Applicant: Mr. Leon Davenport  
Chatham County Department of Engineering  
Post Office Box 8161  
Savannah, Georgia 31412

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

Location of Proposed Work: The project site is located west of State Route 21 (SR 21), approximately 0.4 mile south of Bourne Avenue (Highway 307) in northern Chatham County, Georgia (Latitude 32.1200, Longitude -81.1683).

Description of Work Subject to the Jurisdiction of the US Army Corps of Engineers: Chatham County has requested Department of the Army authorization to excavate 0.417 acre of wetland, fill 0.043 acre of wetland, fill 0.872 acre of canal, and temporarily disturb 0.443 acre of canal to realign a small section of Pipemakers Canal, relocate the existing CSX bridge, and improve the canal to match the dimensions of the existing upstream and downstream channel geometries. The project will remove the drainage impediment at this location and allow the canal to function more properly. This project will be completed in three phases. The first phase will include widening and deepening the canal to meet the downstream and upstream dimensions. The second phase will consist of realigning the canal to carry a more sweeping curve under the railroad to the pipes under SR21. The third phase includes replacing and relocating the CSX bridge. The applicant is proposing to offset impacts by debiting 2.48 grandfathered credits from the Chatham County Mitigation Bank.

## **BACKGROUND**

A wetland delineation was verified by the Corps for this site by letter dated, April 9, 2018. Pipemakers Canal is an approximately 13.5 mile long stormwater drainage canal that stretches from the Effingham County line west of Highway 80 to the Savannah River. Its watershed is approximately 29.6 square miles or nearly 19,000 acres and includes portions of Bloomingdale, Pooler, and Garden City.

The purpose of the project is to provide improved conveyance of stormwater to alleviate drainage issues for residents, businesses, and infrastructure within the Pipemakers Canal drainage basin. According to the applicant, the current alignment is very inefficient at carrying high volumes of storm flow, and bank erosion can occur.

This Joint Public Notice announces a request for authorizations from both the US Army Corps of Engineers 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 located 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.

Georgia Coastal Management Program: Prior to the Savannah District Engineer 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, Ecological Services Section, Coastal Resources Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, One Conservation Way, Brunswick, Georgia 31523-8600 (Telephone 912-264-7218).

## US 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: Review of the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places indicates that no registered properties or properties listed as eligible for inclusion are located at the site or in the area affected by the proposed work. Presently unknown archaeological, scientific, prehistorical, or historical data may be located at the site and could be affected by the proposed work. A cultural resource assessment was received from the applicant and is currently under review by the Corps.

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 indicates the following listed species may occur in the project area: Atlantic Sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus*), Shortnose Sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*), North Atlantic Right Whale (*Eubalaena glacialis*), West Indian Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), Eastern Indigo Snake (*Drymarchon corais couperi*), Green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), Leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), Loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*), Frosted Flatwoods Salamander (*Ambystoma cingulatum*), Pondberry (*Lindera melissifolia*), Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*), Red knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*), 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 from the US Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service and the US Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, or any other interested party, information 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 US Army Corps of Engineers 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 US Army Corps of Engineers 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.

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.

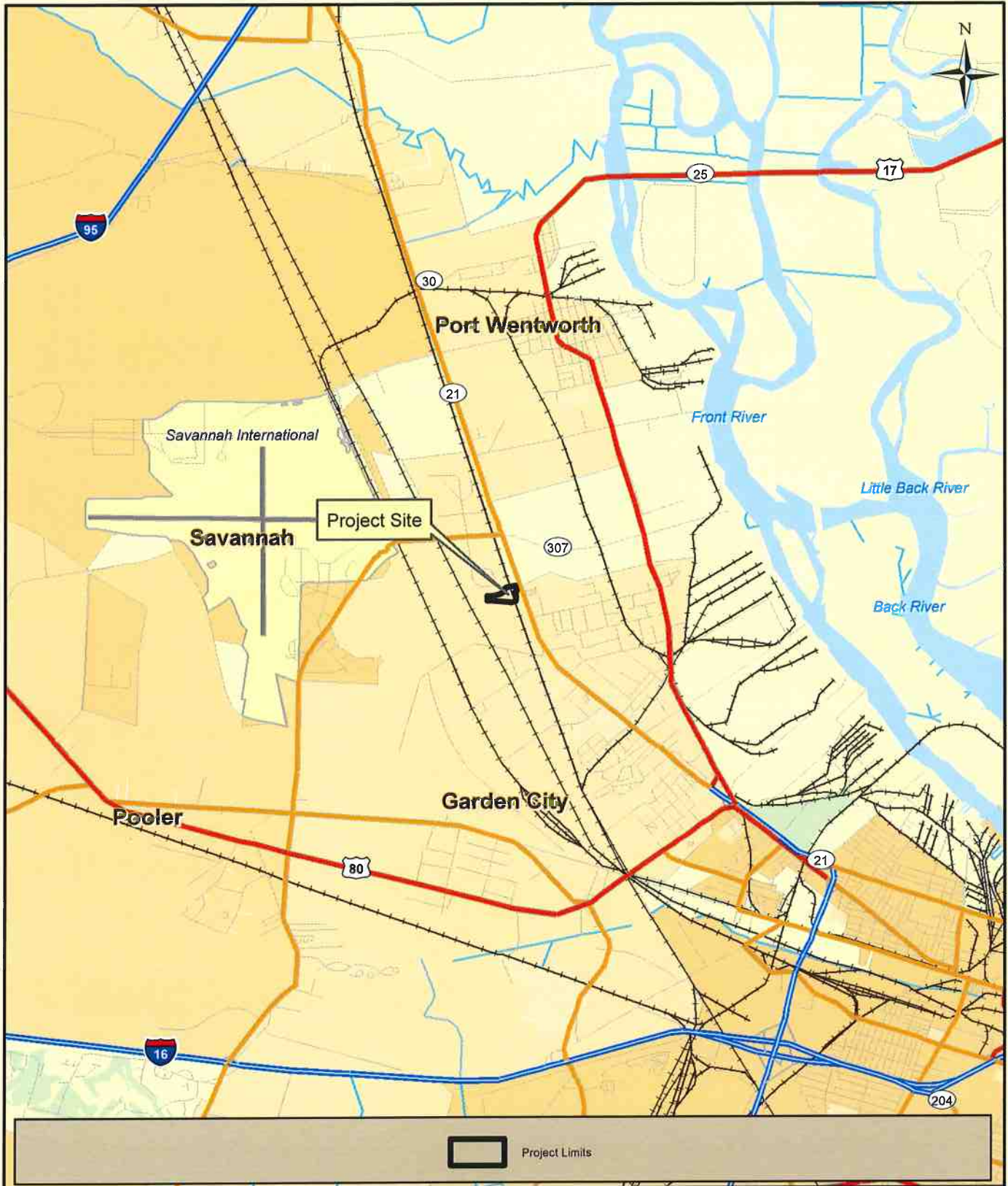
Application of Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines: The proposed activity involves the discharge of dredged or fill material into the waters of the United States. The Savannah District's evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under the authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act.

Comment Period: Anyone wishing to comment on this application for a Department of the Army permit should submit comments in writing to the Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Attention: Ms. Sarah F. Spatzer, 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 F. Spatzer, Project Manager, Coastal Office at 912-652-5048.

Enclosures:

1. Figures of Project Location
2. Pipemakers Canal CSX Railroad Crossings US Waters Exhibit and Project Drawings Sheets 1 through 3



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 31 Park of Commerce Way, Suite 200B  
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**Pipemakers Canal Improvements at CSX Bridge**  
**Location Map**  
**Chatham County, Georgia**

1

Miles

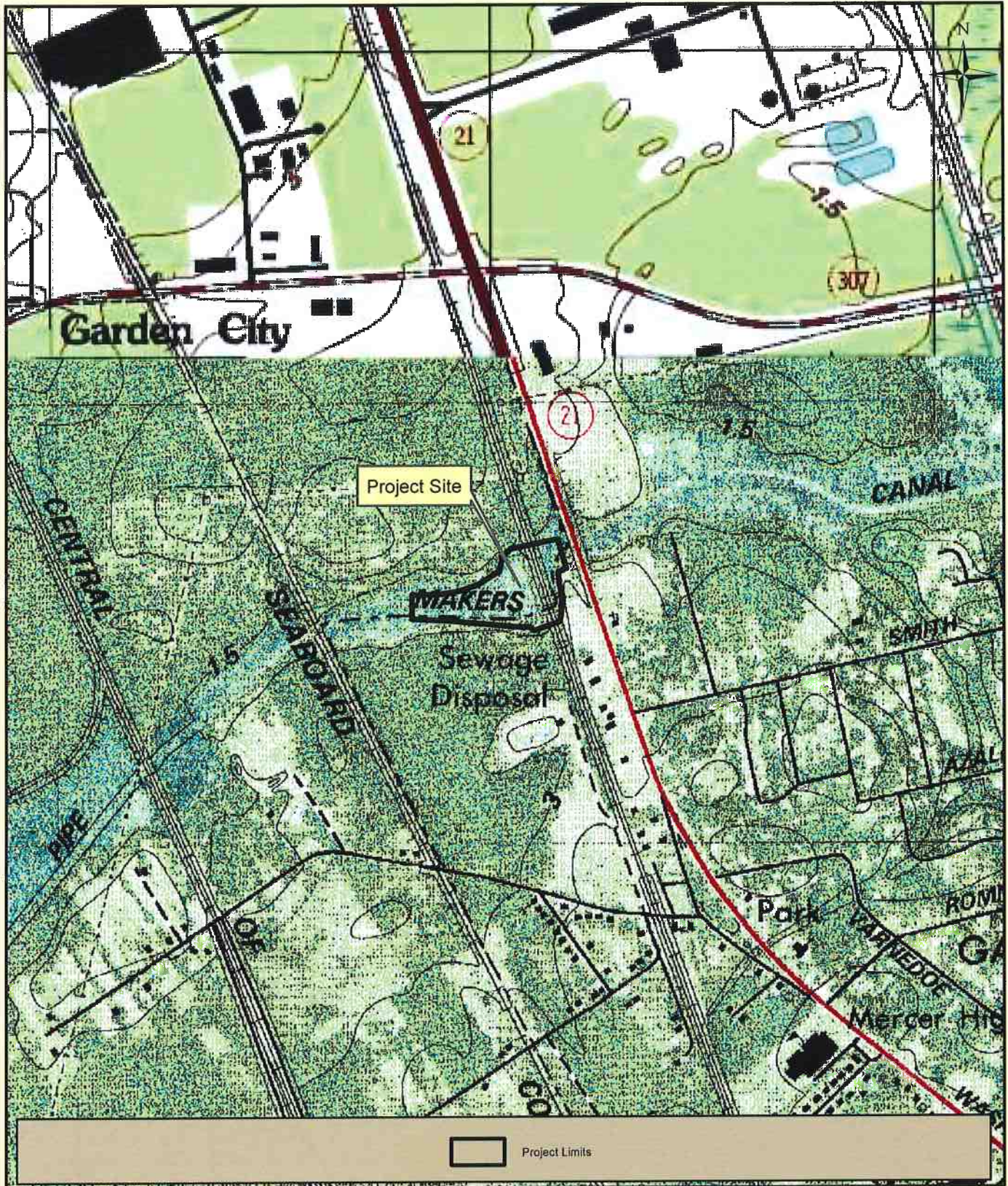
Exhibit Date: February 9, 2018

Drawn By: BWW

Reviewed By: DJP

Job Number: 01-17-076





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Pipemakers Canal Improvements at CSX Bridge  
 USGS - Garden City Quad  
 Chatham County, Georgia

1,000

Feet

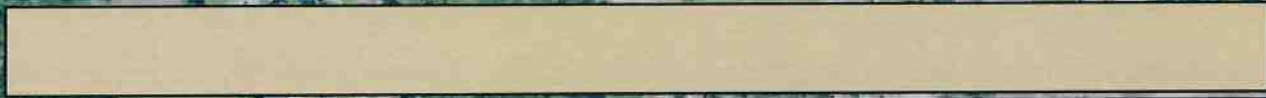
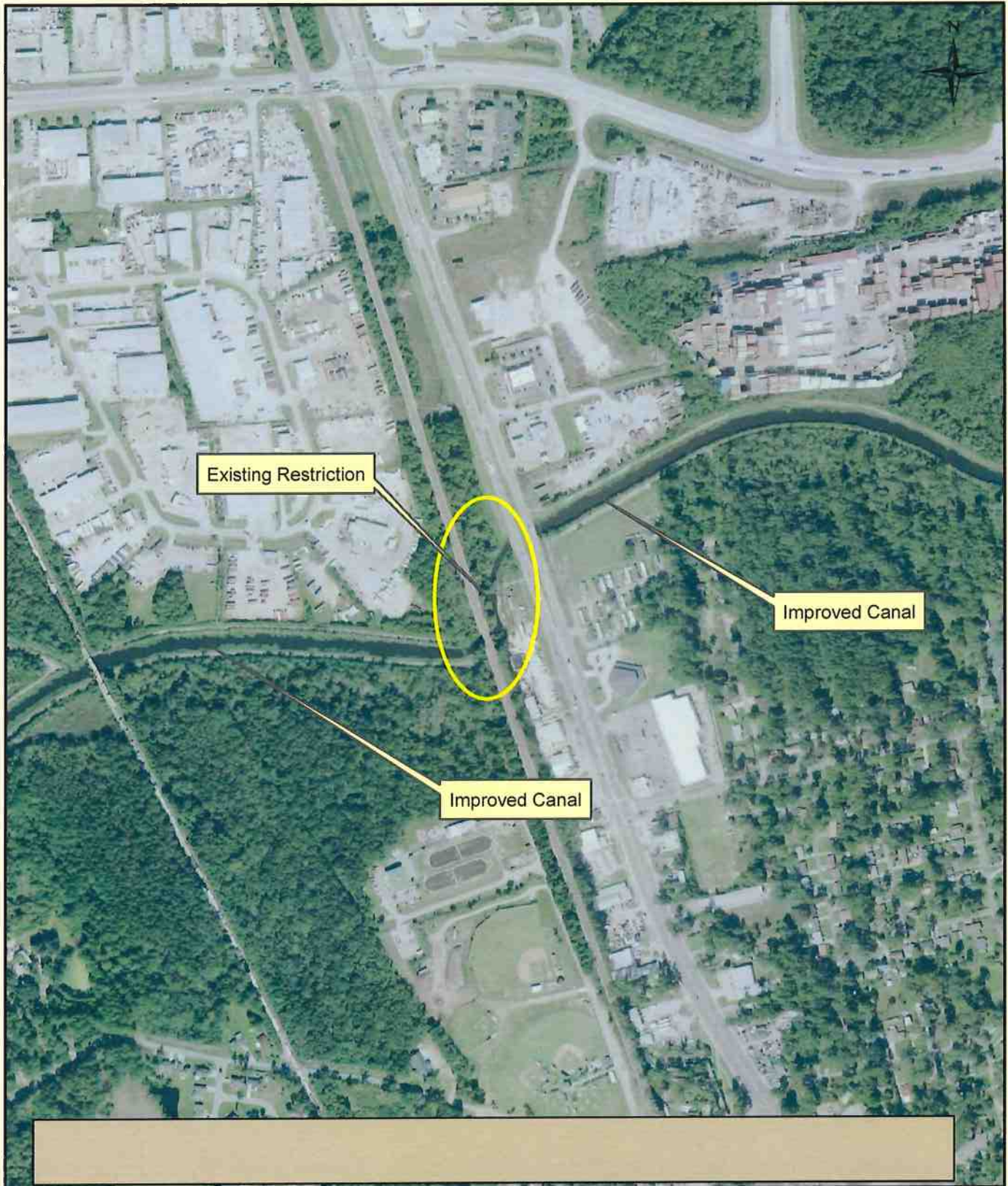
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Pipemakers Canal Improvements at CSX Bridge  
 2017 Aerial Photograph  
 Chatham County, Georgia

600

Feet

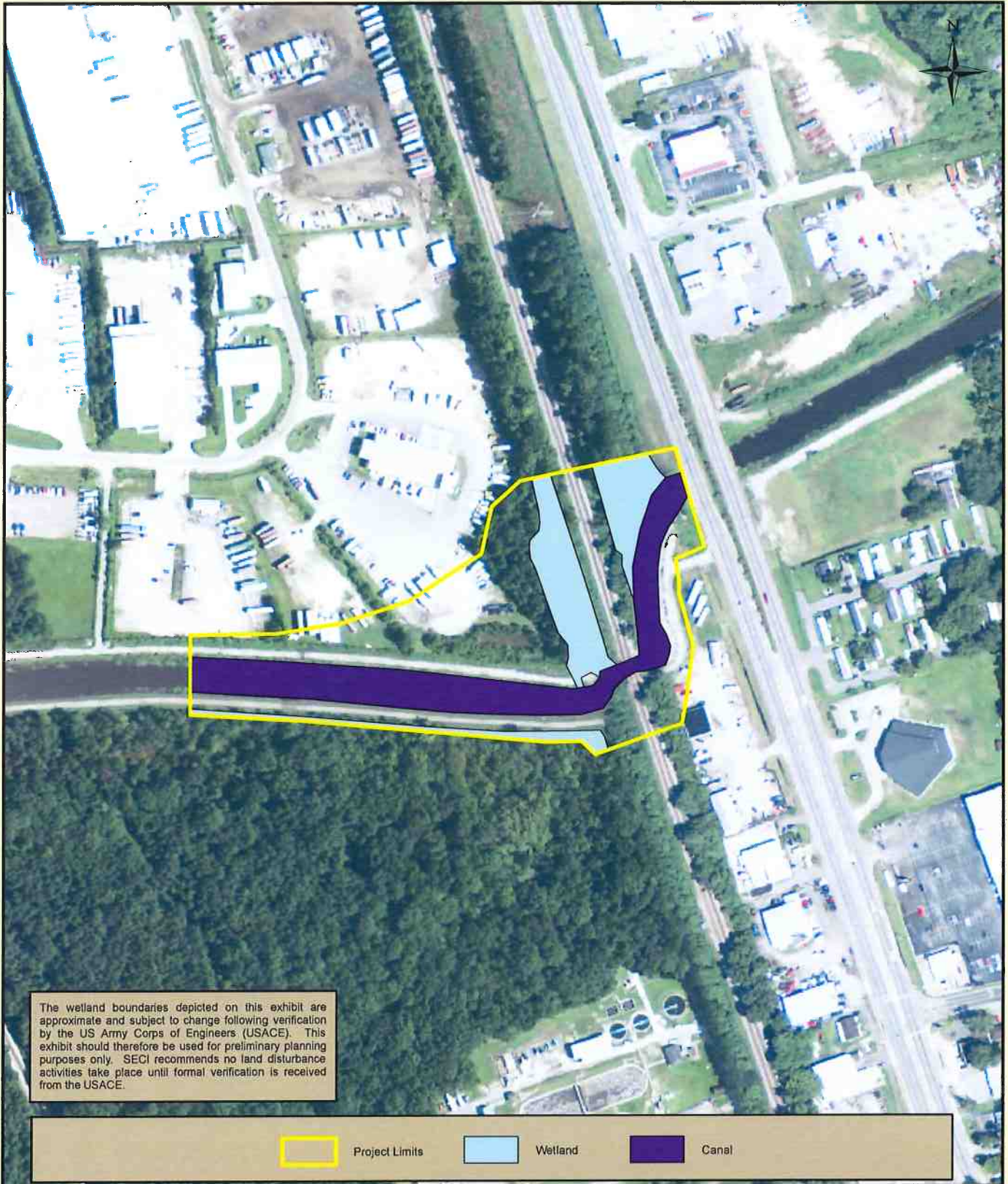
Exhibit Date: November 29, 2017

Drawn By: BWW

Reviewed By: DJP

Job Number : 01-17-076





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**Pipemakers Canal Improvements at CSX Bridge**  
**Wetland Flagging Sketch**  
**Chatham County, Georgia**

300

Feet

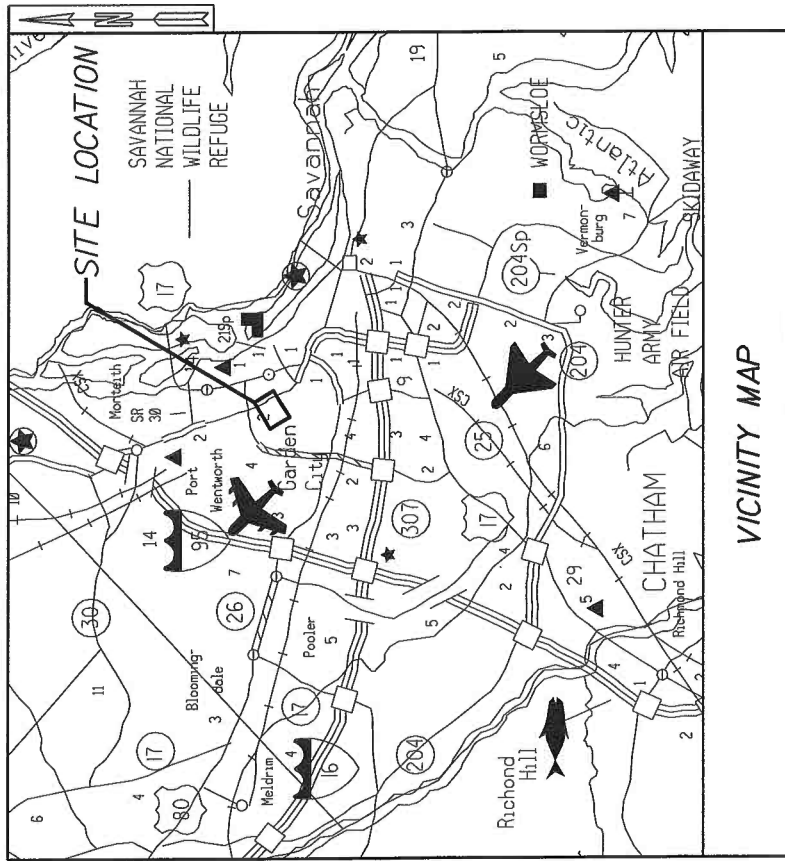
Exhibit Date: November 29, 2017

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VICINITY MAP

# PIPEMAKERS CANAL

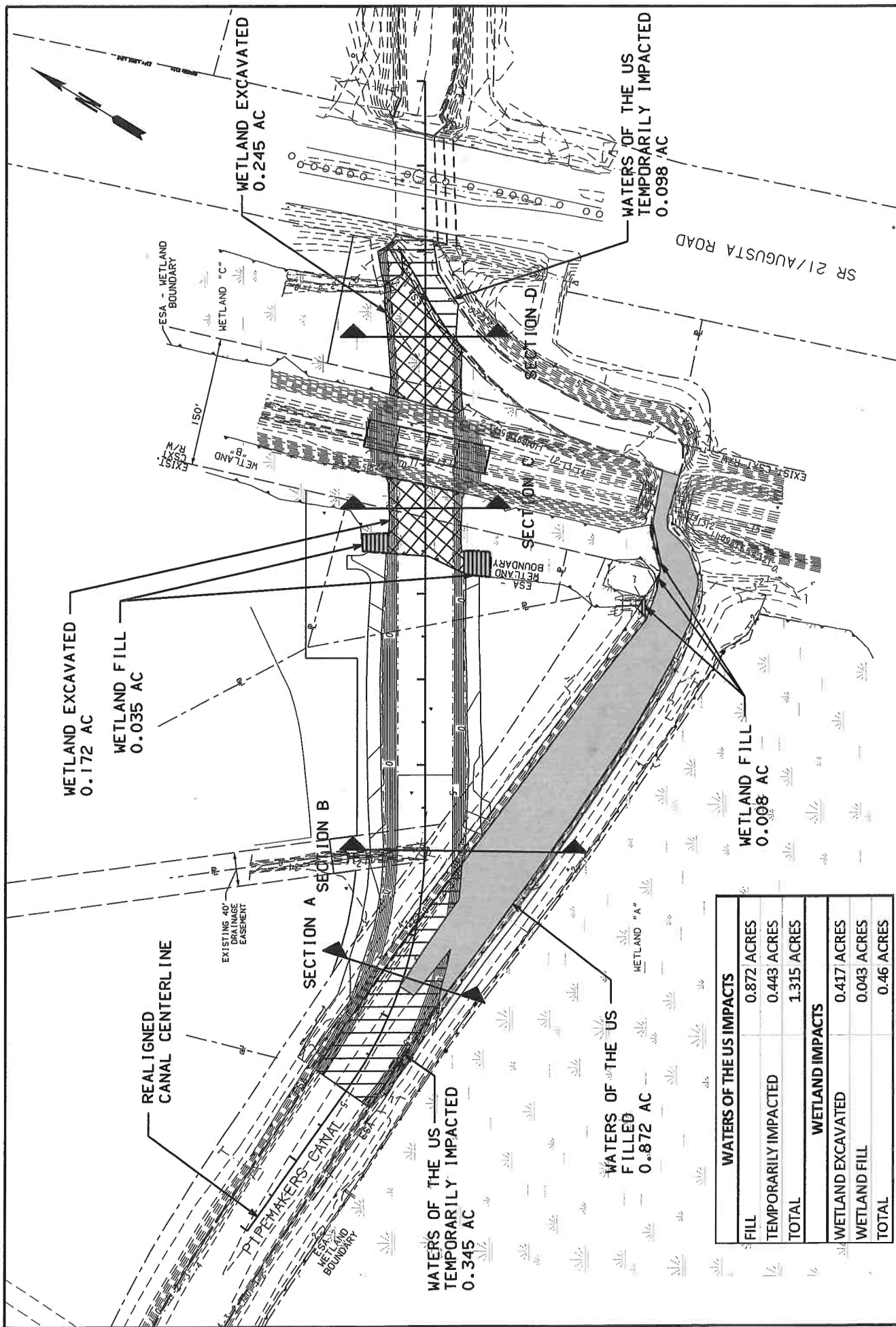
CSX RAILROAD CROSSING

US WATERS EXHIBIT



**CHATHAM COUNTY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING**  
 124 BULL STREET, SUITE 430  
 SAVANNAH, GA 31401  
 PHONE: (912)652-7800 FAX: (912)652-7818

DATE:	3.27.19
DESIGNED:	TBD
APPROVED:	TBD
SCALE:	TBD
SHEET	1
	OF 3



WATERS OF THE US IMPACTS	
FILL	0.872 ACRES
TEMPORARILY IMPACTED	0.443 ACRES
TOTAL	1.315 ACRES
WETLAND IMPACTS	
WETLAND EXCAVATED	0.417 ACRES
WETLAND FILL	0.043 ACRES
TOTAL	0.46 ACRES

## PIPEMAKERS CANAL

CSX RAILROAD CROSSING

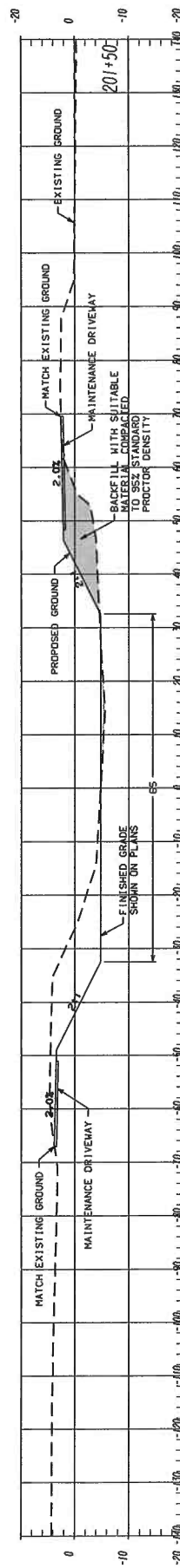
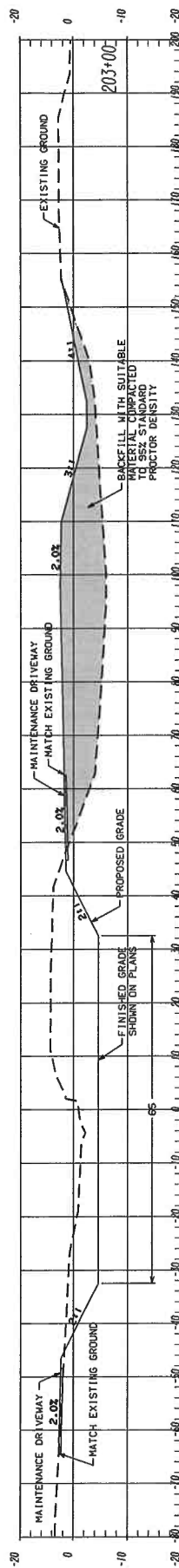
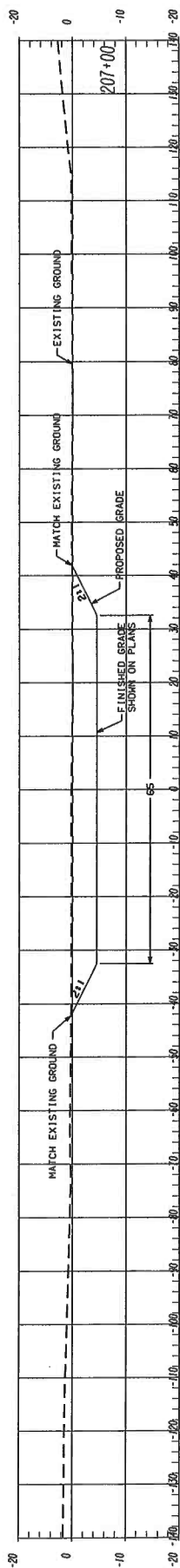
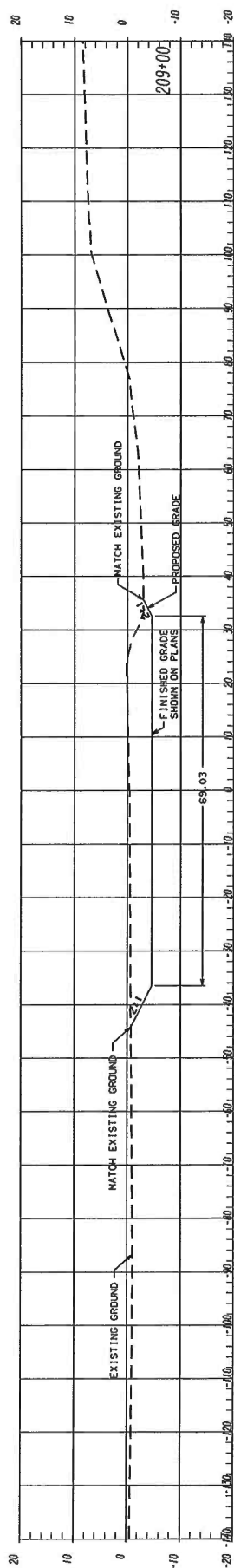


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 SAVANNAH, GA 31401  
 PHONE: (912)652-7800 FAX: (912)652-7818

DATE: 3.27.19  
 DESIGNED: TBD  
 APPROVED: TBD  
 SCALE: 1"=150'  
 SHEET  
 2 OF 3

US WATERS EXHIBIT





# PIPEMAKERS CANAL

CSX RAILROAD CROSSING

## US WATERS EXHIBIT



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**DEPARTMENT OF ENGINEERING**  
124 BULL STREET, SUITE 430  
SAVANNAH, GA 31401  
PHONE: (912)652-7800 FAX: (912)652-7818

DATE:	3.27.19
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