



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT
4751 BEST ROAD, SUITE 140
COLLEGE PARK, GEORGIA 30337-5600

August 18, 2021

Regulatory Division
SAS-2019-00447

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 so as to be received on or before the last day of the comment period. Written comments concerning the 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.

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-2019-00447

Applicant: Mr. Keith Woodward
Optima Chemical, LLC
200 Willacoochee Highway
Douglas, Georgia 31535

Agent: Mr. Russell Parr, Sr.
Resource + Land Consultants
41 Park of Commerce Way, Suite 101
Savannah, Georgia 31405

Location of Proposed Work: The project site is located southwest of the intersection of Bowens Mill Road SW and Willacoochee Highway near Douglas, Coffee County, Georgia (latitude: 31.4866, longitude: -82.8633). The property is located within the Pudding Creek-Satilla River, Hydrologic Unit Code: 0307020102, and the nearest named water body is Indian Creek.

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

The applicant is proposing the expansion of their existing chemical manufacturing facility through the construction of five cells, a warehouse, roadways, and parking. The proposed facility expansion will utilize approximately 18-acres of undeveloped land currently owned by the applicant and located immediately adjacent to the facility. The proposed project would result in unavoidable impacts to 9.77-acres of open-water (pond), 0.926-acre of wetland and 335.8 linear feet of stream. The proposed project establishes an expansion footprint designed to support projected growth and meet plant production needs over the next 20 years. The applicant has proposed to purchase 5.52 grandfathered wetland mitigation credits and 1,814.4 grandfathered stream mitigation to offset the proposed unavoidable impacts to aquatic resources.

STATE OF GEORGIA

Water Quality Certification: The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, will review the proposed project for Water Quality Certification, accordance with the provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, which is required for a Federal Permit to conduct activity in, on, or adjacent to the waters of 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 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.

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: A Phase I Cultural Resources Survey is underway at the current time and will be coordinated accordingly based on the findings. 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. The applicant provided the Information, Planning, and Conservation System report (IPaC) and Effects Determination Guidance for Endangered and Threatened Species (EDGES) report and coordination checklist for Gopher Tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) and Eastern Indigo Snake (*Drymarchon corais couperi*). Based on information provided in the application and EDGES documents, the proposed project May Effect but would Not Likely Adversely Affect Eastern Indigo Snake (*Drymarchon corais couperi*) and would have No Affect to Gopher Tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*).

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 U.S. 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 U.S. 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.

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.

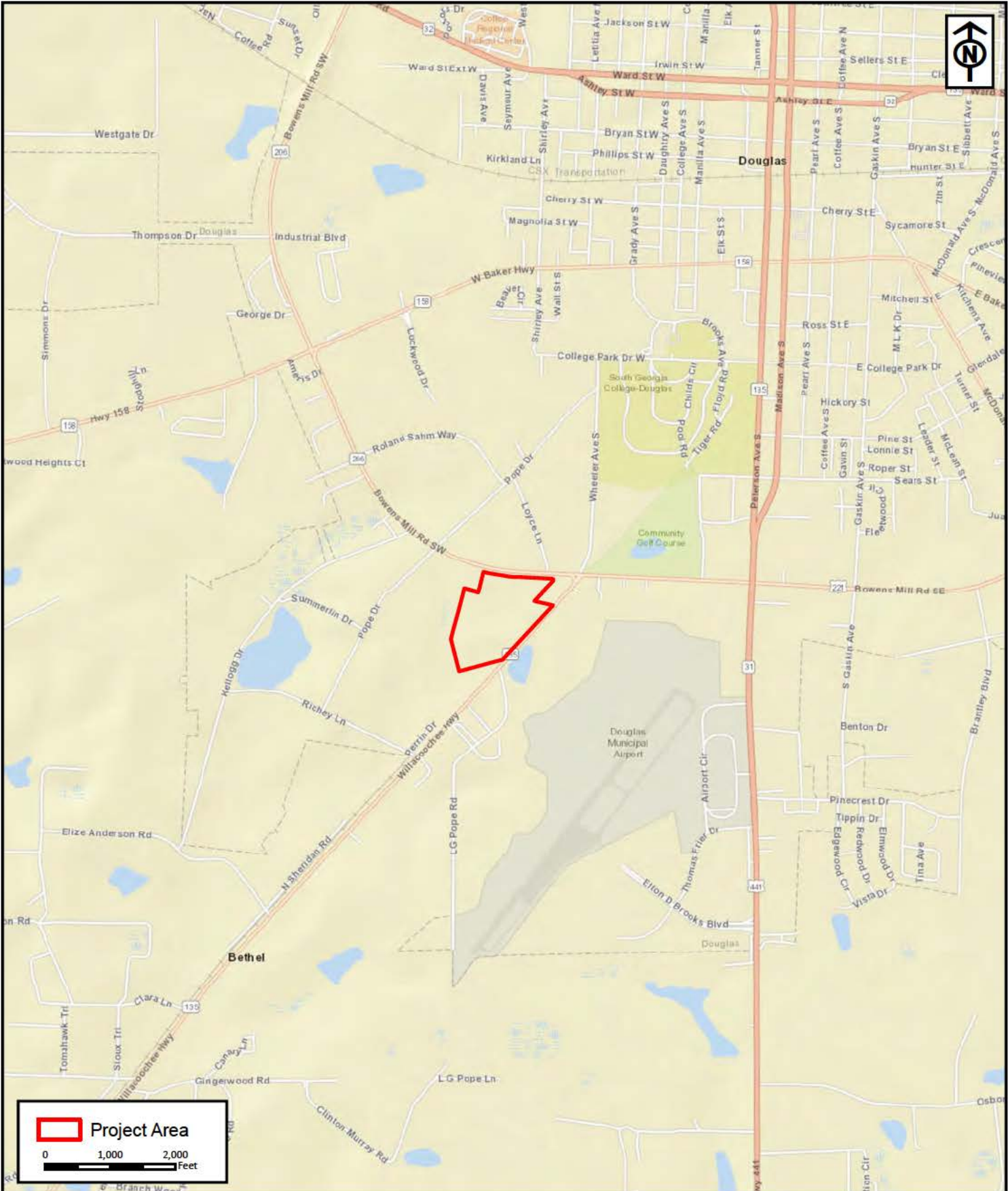
Public Hearing: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application for a Department of the Army permit. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for requesting a public hearing. 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 in writing to the Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Attention: Mr. Blake Brannon, 1050 Buford Dam Road, Buford, Georgia 30518. Submittal of comments via email, to the address listed below, is also acceptable. Please refer to the Applicant's name (Optima Chemical, LLC) and the assigned Regulatory file number (SAS-2019-00447) in your comments.

If you have any questions concerning this public notice, please contact Mr. Blake Brannon, Project Manager, at (678) 422-6570, or steven.b.brannon@usace.army.mil.

Enclosures

1. Location Map
2. Aquatic Resources Maps (2)
3. Plan Sheet/Drawing



Project Area

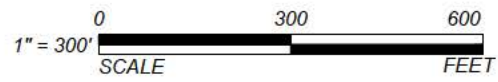
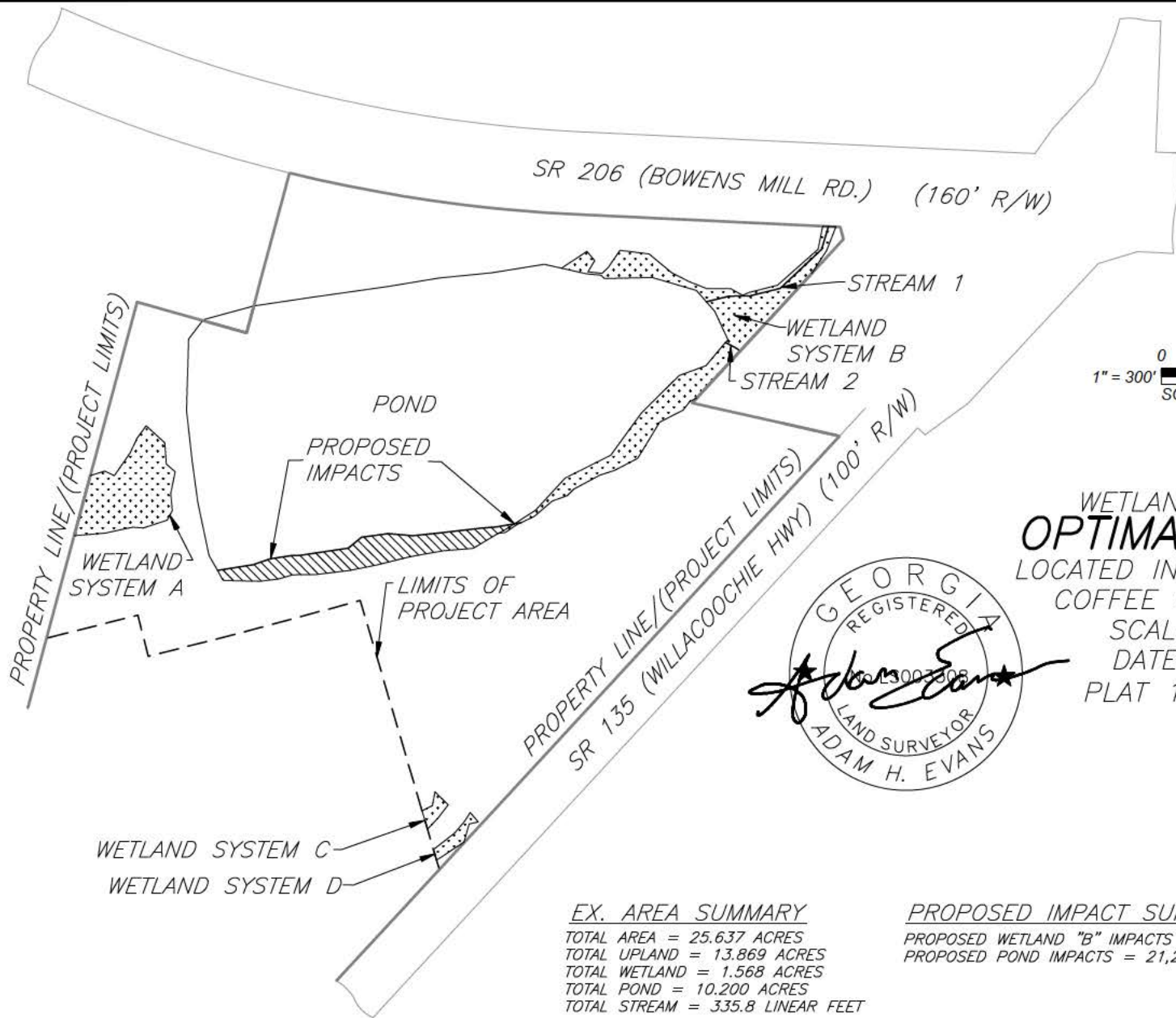
0 1,000 2,000 Feet

RLC Project No.:	14-061.2
Figure No.:	1
Prepared By:	CB
Sketch Date:	7/23/2021
Map Scale :	1 inch = 2,000 feet

Optima Facility Expansion
Coffee County, Georgia

Project Location
Prepared For: Optima

RLC
RESOURCE+LAND CONSULTANTS
41 Park of Commerce Way, Ste. 101
Savannah, Georgia 31405
912-441-5996 www.rlc.com



WETLAND SURVEY FOR:
OPTIMA CHEMICAL
 LOCATED IN L.L. 148, 6TH L.D.
 COFFEE COUNTY, GEORGIA
 SCALE: 1" = 300'
 DATE: 06/4/2019
 PLAT 1 OF 5 (INDEX)



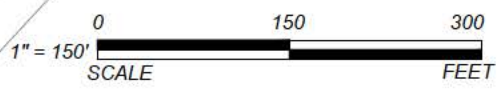
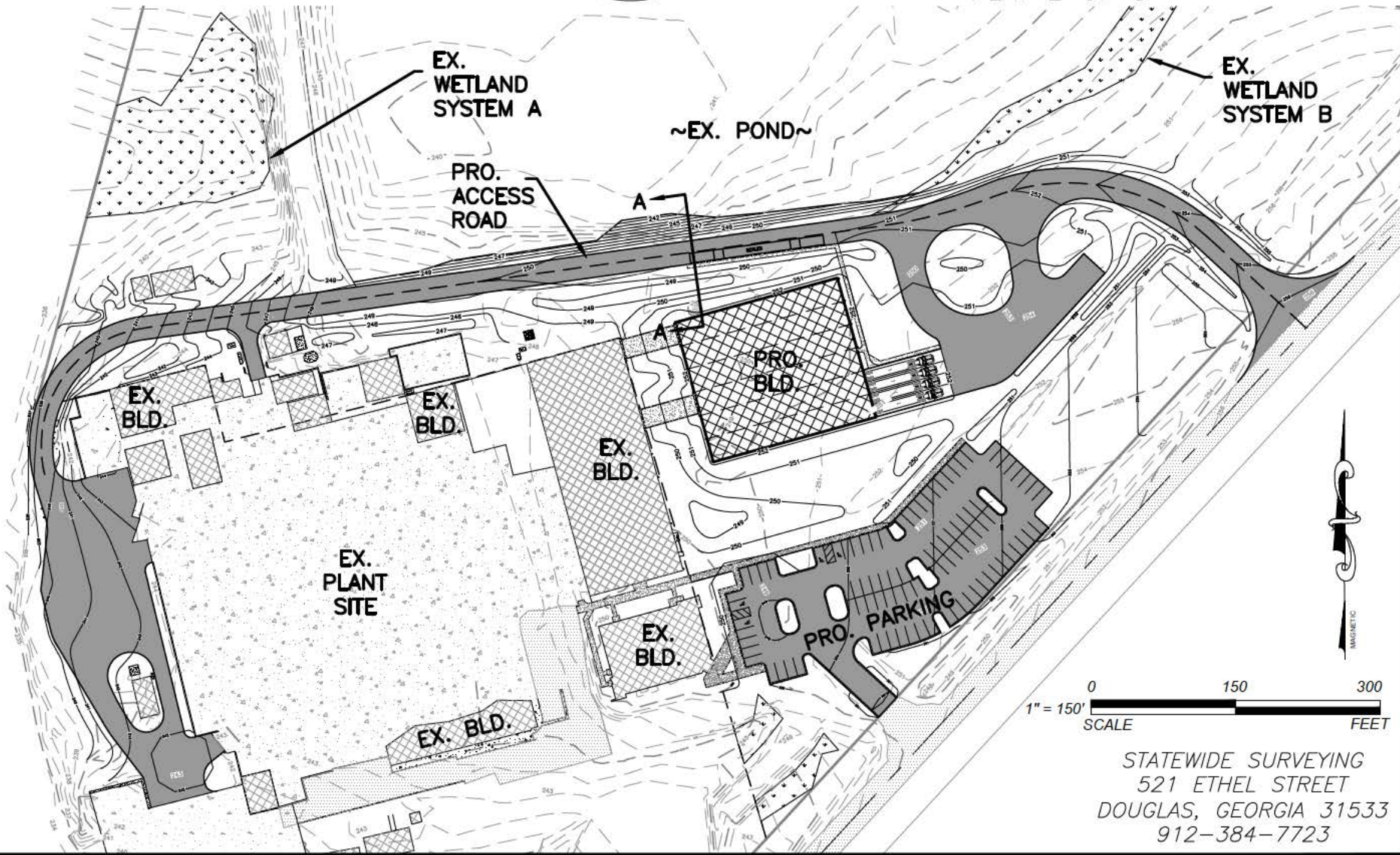
EX. AREA SUMMARY
 TOTAL AREA = 25.637 ACRES
 TOTAL UPLAND = 13.869 ACRES
 TOTAL WETLAND = 1.568 ACRES
 TOTAL POND = 10.200 ACRES
 TOTAL STREAM = 335.8 LINEAR FEET

PROPOSED IMPACT SUMMARY
 PROPOSED WETLAND "B" IMPACTS = 165 SF = 0.004 ACRES
 PROPOSED POND IMPACTS = 21,214 SF = 0.487 ACRES

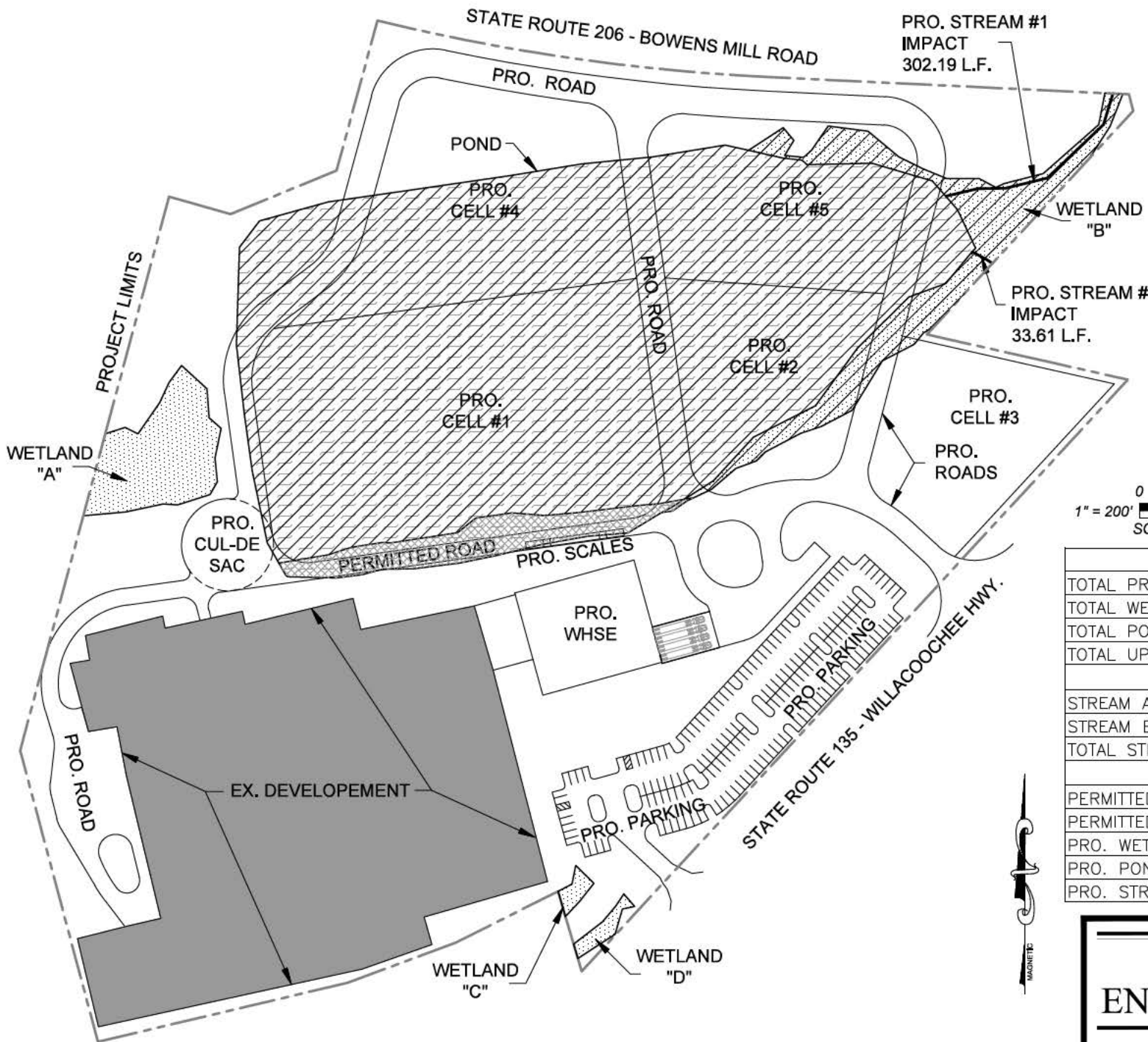
STATEWIDE SURVEYING
 521 ETHEL STREET
 DOUGLAS, GEORGIA 31533
 912-384-7723



WETLAND SURVEY FOR:
OPTIMA CHEMICAL
LOCATED IN L.L. 148, 6TH L.D.
COFFEE COUNTY, GEORGIA
SCALE: 1" = 150'
DATE: 06/4/2019
PLAT 2 OF 5

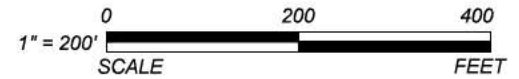


STATEWIDE SURVEYING
521 ETHEL STREET
DOUGLAS, GEORGIA 31533
912-384-7723



LEGEND

- PROJECT LIMITS
- [Stippled Box] EX. WETLANDS
- [Horizontal Lines Box] EX. POND
- [Diagonal Lines Box] PRO. POND & WETLAND IMPACTS
- [Cross-hatched Box] PREV. PERMITTED IMPACTS (POND & WETLANDS) SAS-2019-00447



AREA SUMMARY	
TOTAL PROJECT LIMITS	33.348 AC.
TOTAL WETLANDS	1.568 AC.
TOTAL POND	10.257 AC.
TOTAL UPLANDS	21.523 AC.
STREAM SUMMARY	
STREAM A LENGTH	302.18 FT.
STREAM B LENGTH	33.61 FT.
TOTAL STREAM LENGTH	335.80 FT.
IMPACT SUMMARY	
PERMITTED WETLAND IMPACTS	0.004 AC.
PERMITTED POND IMPACTS	0.487 AC.
PRO. WETLAND IMPACTS	0.926 AC.
PRO. POND IMPACTS	9.770 AC.
PRO. STREAM IMPACTS	335.80 FT.



ALTERNATE #1

STATEWIDE ENGINEERING, INC.

516 EAST ASHLEY ST.
DOUGLAS, GA 31533
912-384-7723