

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY SAVANNAH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS 1590 ADAMSON PARKWAY, SUITE 200 MORROW, GEORGIA 30260

11 May 2018

Regulatory Division SAS-2015-00933

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 I0 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of I899 (33 U.S.C. § 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § I344), as follows:

Application Number: SAS-2015-00933

- Applicant: Sage Development, Incorporated 2301 Airport Thruway, Columbus, GA 31904
- <u>Agent</u>: Mr. Will Neighbors, Wildland Services, LLC Post Office Box 469, Auburn, Alabama 36831

<u>Location of Proposed Work</u>: The approximately 23 acre site is located East of River Road, North of Mobley Road, and South of Double Churches Road, Columbus, Muscogee County, Georgia (Latitude 32.5465, Longitude -84.9903).

Description of Work Subject to the Jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: The site contains one perennial stream, one intermittent stream, and two ephemeral streams. The intermittent stream was previously piped in four sections totaling 325 linear feet. The project proposes a residential development including 56 single family home sites, interior access roads, stormwater management, and utilities. New impacts include enclosing an additional 464 linear feet of intermittent stream, fill of 120 linear feet of ephemeral stream, enclosing 115 linear feet of perennial stream with 20 linear feet of rip rap outlet protection, and 25 linear feet of perennial stream for utility line crossing. Compensatory mitigation will be required for lost functions and services to the aquatic system. Purchase of 3,044.8 stream credits and 0.06 wetland credits will be required. Impacts to ephemeral streams are mitigation through wetland credits. The applicant proposed two off-site and three on-site alternatives to the preferred alternative.

STATE OF GEORGIA

<u>Water Quality Certification</u>: The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, intends to certify this project at the end of 30 days in 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. Copies of the application and supporting documents relative to a specific application will be available for review and copying at the office of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, Watershed Protection Branch, 2 MLK Jr. Drive, Suite 418, Atlanta, Georgia 30334, during regular office hours. A copier machine is available for public use at a charge of 10 cents per page. Any person who desires to comment, object, or request a public hearing relative to State Water Quality Certification must do so within 30 days of the State's receipt of application in writing and state the reasons or basis of objections or request for a hearing. The application can be reviewed in the Savannah District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Albany Field Office, 1104 North Westover Boulevard, Suite 9, Albany, Georgia, 31707.

<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.

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 Assessment</u>: Based on the review of existing literature and databases, there are no known or eligible historical properties located on the site. Additionally, the site has been extensively disturbed and was previously cleared for development.

<u>Endangered Species</u>: Based on field surveys and review of existing literature concerning federally protected species, the project site does not contain federally threatened or endangered species; therefore, site development activities are not anticipated to adversely affect protected 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.

<u>Consideration of Public Comments</u>: 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.

<u>Application of Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines</u>: 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 in writing to the Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Attention: Holly Ross, Project Manager Piedmont Branch, 1104 North Westover Blvd, Suite 9, Albany, Georgia, 31707, or via email to <u>holly.a.ross@usace.army.mil</u> no later than 15 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 Holly Ross Project Manager, Piedmont Branch, at (678) 422-2727 or holly.a.ross@usace.army.mil.

**Enclosures

- 1. Project Location
- 2. Project Mapping (3 pages)
- 3. Aquatic Resource Delineation Map
- 4. On-site project design layouts (4 pages)
- 5. Off site alternative locations (2 pages)



RIVER BROOK COLUMBUS, GEORGIA MUSCOGEE COUNTY

Drawing by: Will Neighbors: CPESC, PWS 334-391-2005 / www.wikilandservices.com

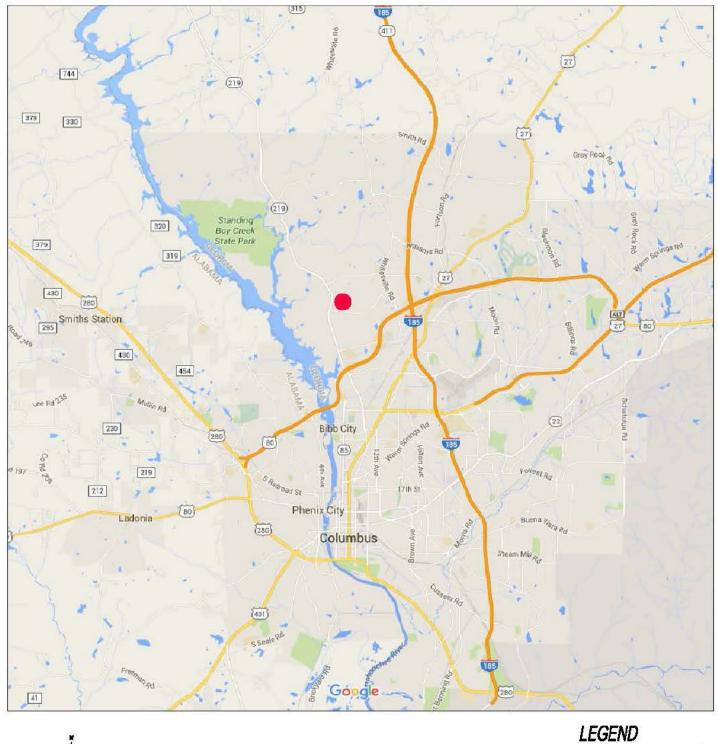


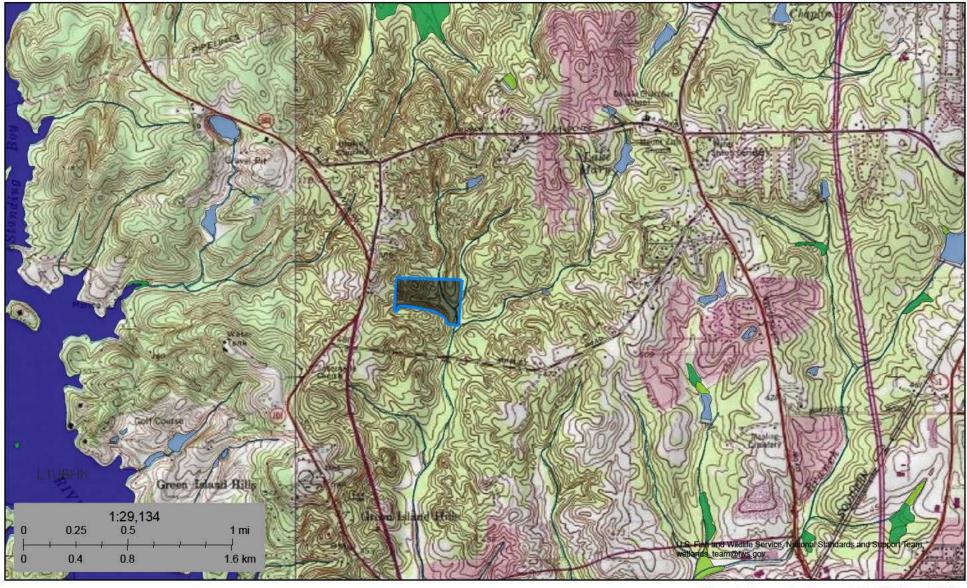


Figure 1 Site Location Drawing Symbols

Subject Site



River Brook



November 15, 2017

Wetlands



Estuarine and Marine Deepwater

Estuarine and Marine Wetland

Freshwater Pond

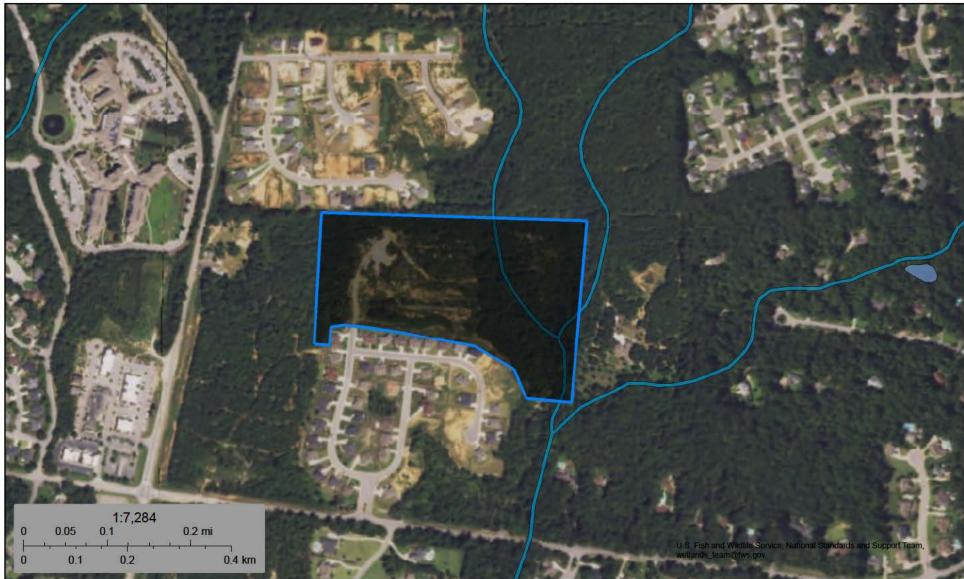
Freshwater Emergent Wetland

Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland

Lake Other Riverine



River Brook



November 15, 2017

Wetlands

- Estuarine and Marine Wetland

Estuarine and Marine Deepwater

Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland Freshwater Pond

Freshwater Emergent Wetland

Lake Other Riverine



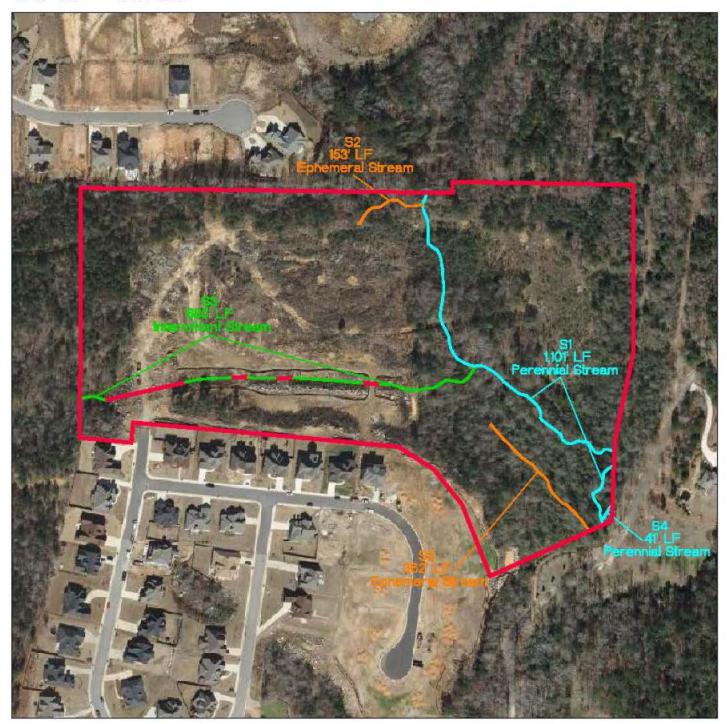
USDA Natural Resources

Conservation Service



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RIVER BROOK COLUMBUS, GEORGIA MUSCOGEE COUNTY



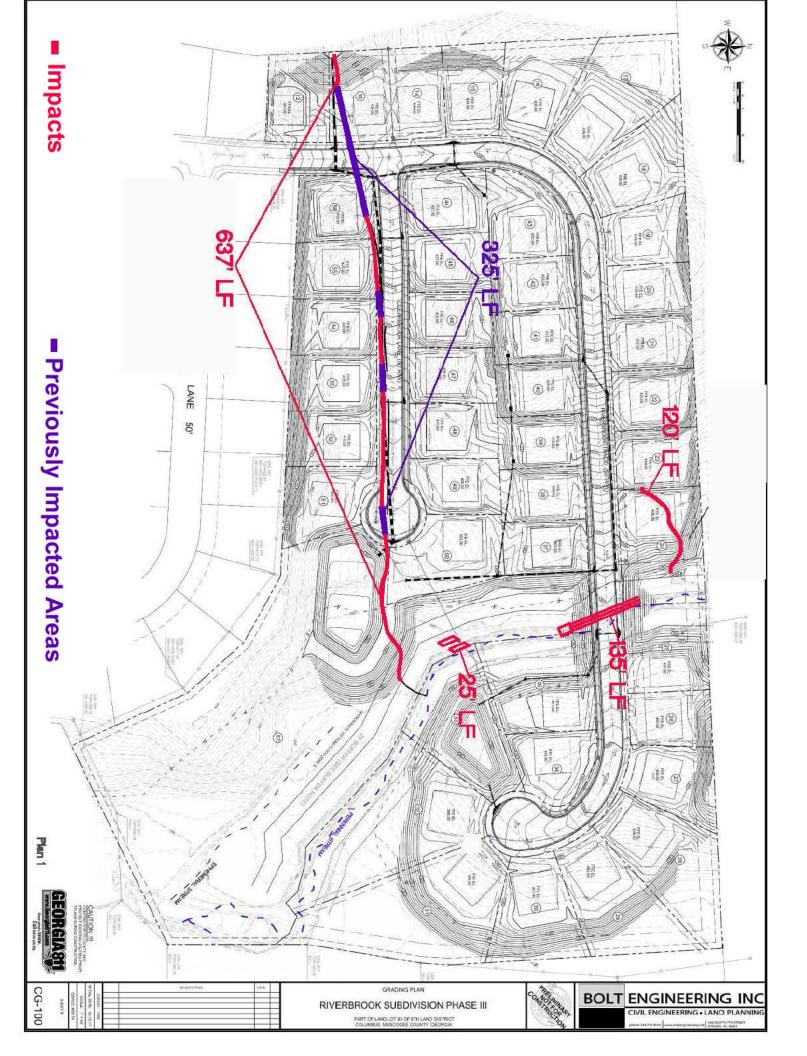
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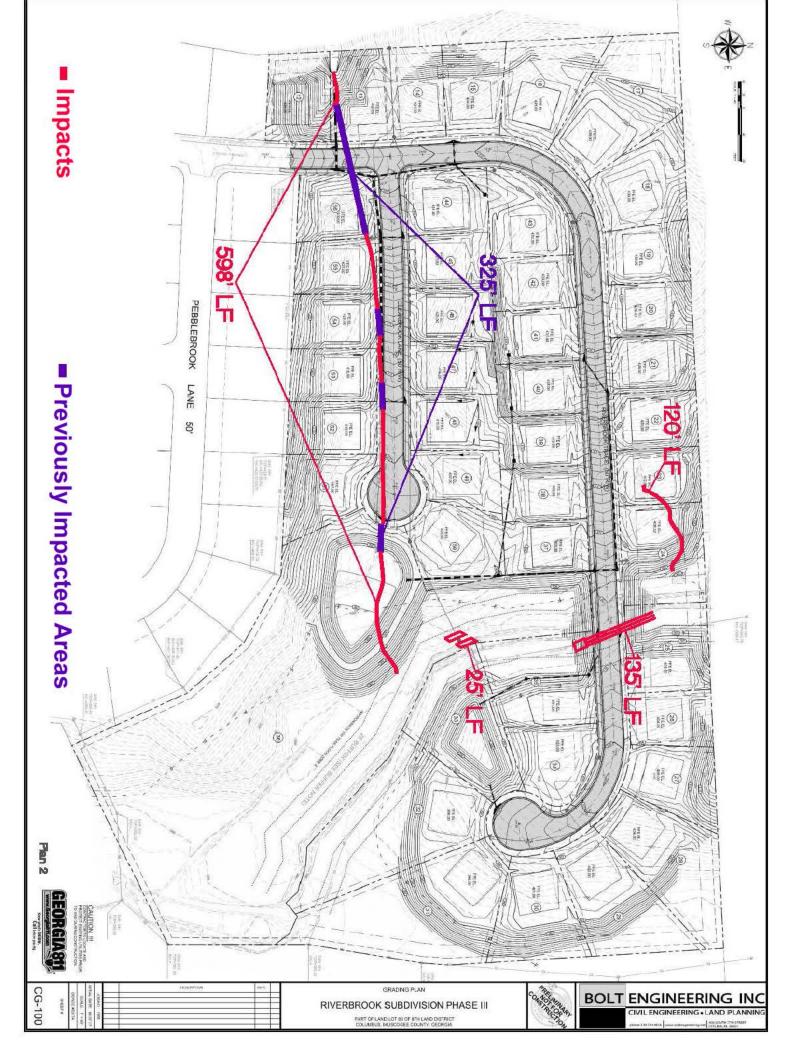
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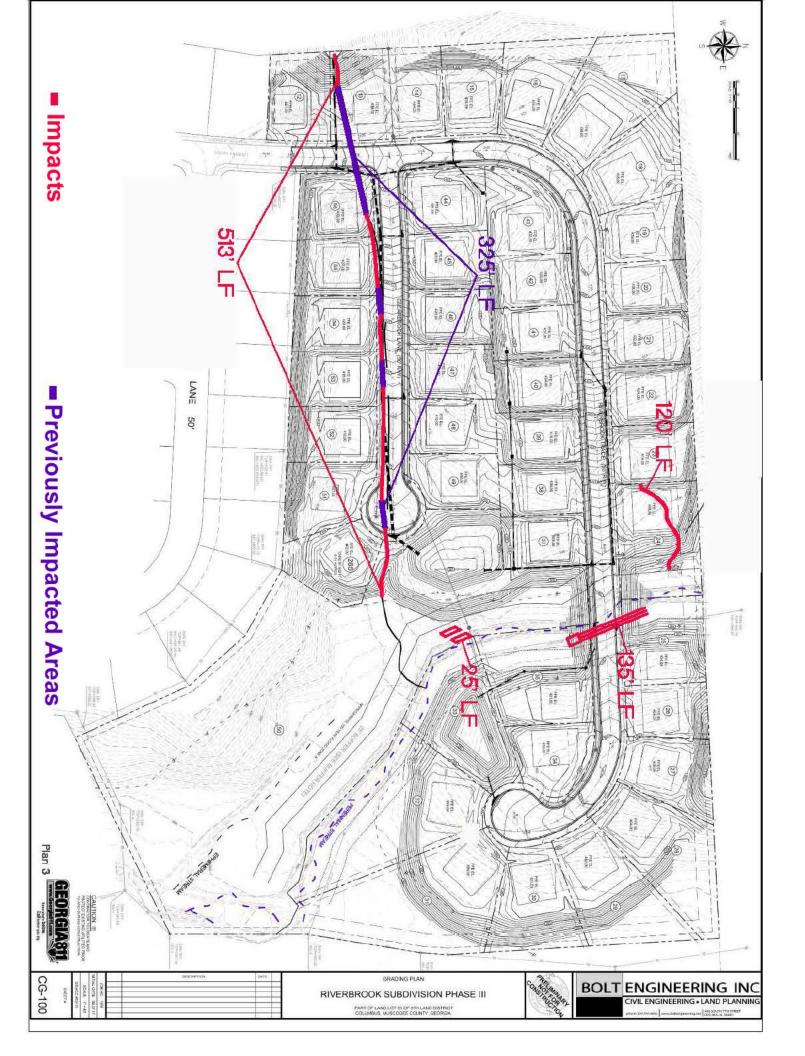
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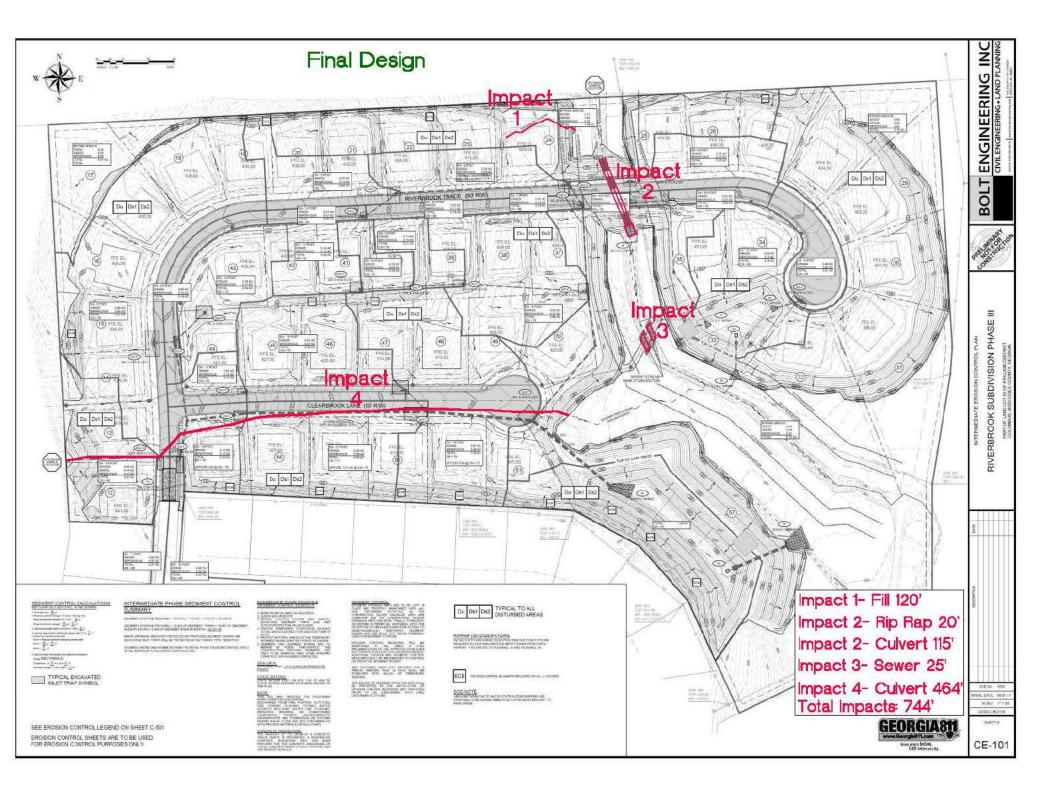
Figure 4 Aerial with Delineation Drawing Symbols

— Perennial Stream — Internitiant Stream — Ephomoral Stream — Cutwart



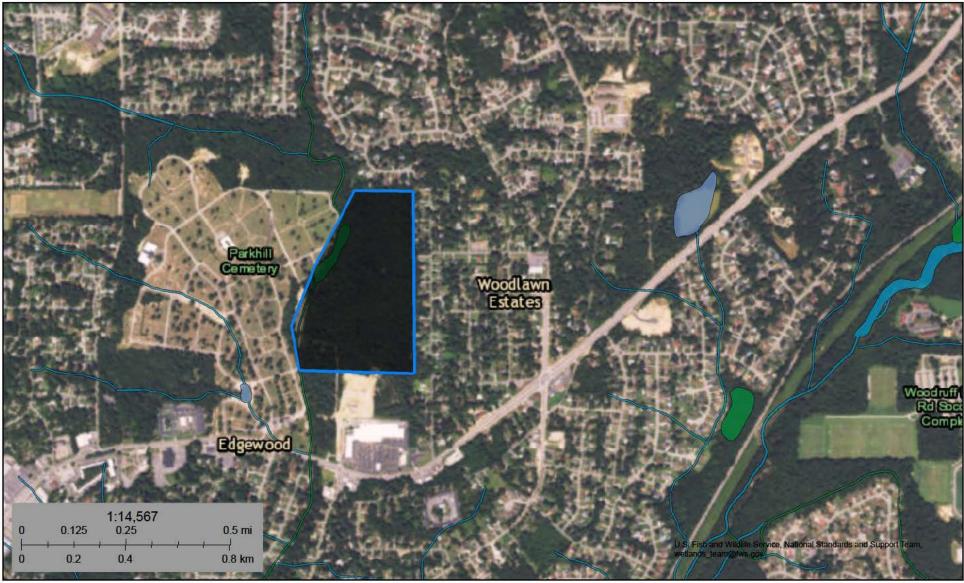








4177 Macon Rd Alternative Site 1



November 9, 2017

Wetlands



Estuarine and Marine Deepwater

Estuarine and Marine Wetland

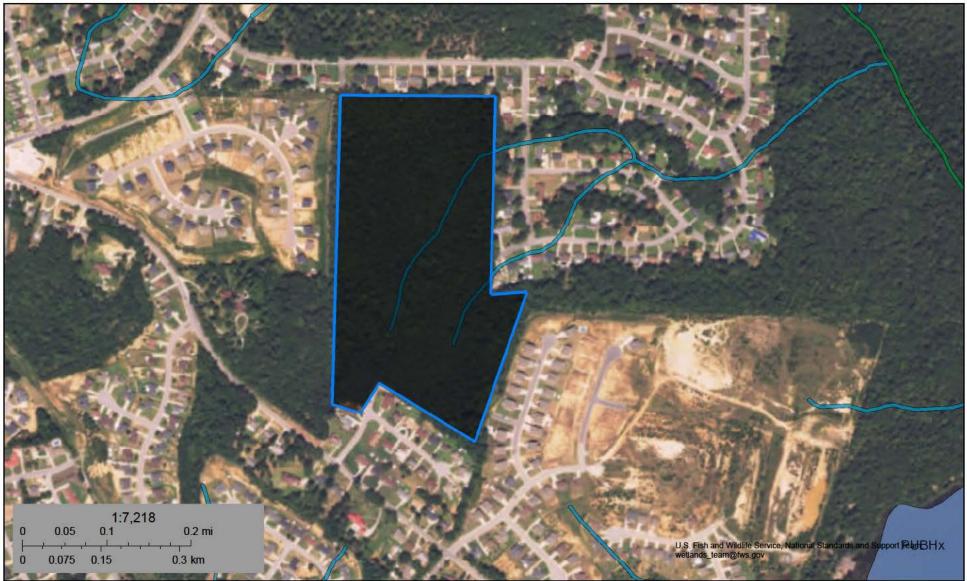
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
 - Freshwater Pond

Freshwater Emergent Wetland

Lake Other Riverine



St. Marys Rd Alt Site 2



November 9, 2017

Wetlands



Estuarine and Marine Deepwater

- Estuarine and Marine Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
 - Freshwater Pond

Freshwater Emergent Wetland

Lake Other Riverine