

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

August 16, 2023

Regulatory Division SAS-2023-00304

Mr. Brad Deal Bulloch County Board of Commissioners 115 North Main Street Statesboro, Georgia 30458

Dear Mr. Deal:

I refer to the Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) submitted on your behalf by Mr. Tristan Turner of Sligh Environmental Consultants, Inc., requesting an Aquatic Resources Delineation Review (ARDR) and verification for use of Nationwide Permit (NWP) 14 to impact 0.244 acre of wetland and 22 linear feet (If) of stream to improve Two Chop Road. The project is located on Two Chop Road as it extends from Rocky Ford Road to U.S. Highway 25, approximately 1.0 mile northeast of Portal, Bulloch County, Georgia (Latitude 32.5522, Longitude -81.8944). This project has been assigned number SAS-2023-00304 and it is important that you refer to this number in all communication concerning this matter.

We have completed an ARDR for this site. Any wetlands on-site were delineated in accordance with criteria contained in the 1987 "Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual," as amended by the most recent regional supplements to the manual. The enclosed exhibits entitled, "Wetland Exhibit, Portions of Land Along Two Chop Road, 1617<sup>th</sup> G.M.D., Bulloch County, Georgia," Sheets 1-4, dated July 12, 2022, accurately identify the delineated limits of all aquatic resources located within the project area. Please note, this delineation may require re-verification and is subject to change based on site conditions at the time of re-evaluation.

The delineation included herein has been conducted to identify the location and extent of the aquatic resource boundaries and/or the jurisdictional status of aquatic resources for purposes of the Clean Water Act for the particular site identified in this request. This delineation and/or jurisdictional determination may not be valid for the Wetland Conservation Provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended. If you or your tenant are U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program participants, or anticipate participation in USDA programs, you should discuss the applicability of a certified wetland determination with the local USDA service center, prior to starting work.

We have completed coordination with other federal and state agencies as described in Part C (32)(d) of our NWP Program, published in the January 13, 2021, Federal Register, Vol. 86, No. 8, Pages 2744-2877 (86 FR). The NWPs and Savannah District's Regional Conditions for NWPs can be found on our website at <a href="http://www.sas.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Permitting/GeneralPermits/NationwidePermits.aspx">http://www.sas.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Permitting/GeneralPermits/NationwidePermits.aspx</a>. During our coordination procedure, no adverse comments regarding the proposed work were received.

As a result of our evaluation of your project, we have determined that the proposed activity is authorized as described in Part B of the NWP Program. Your use of this NWP is valid only if:

- a. The activity is conducted in accordance with the information submitted and meets the conditions applicable to the NWP.
- b. Prior to the commencement of any permitted work in wetlands, you shall purchase 1.44 legacy wetland mitigation credits from the Yam Grandy Wetland and Stream Mitigation Bank and submit documentation of this credit purchase to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The credit purchase documentation must reference the Corps file number assigned to the permitted project. If all or a portion of the required credits are not available from the Yam Grandy Wetland and Stream Mitigation Bank, you shall obtain written approval from the Corps prior to purchasing credits from an alternate mitigation bank.
- c. Prior to the commencement of any permitted work in streams, you shall purchase 198 legacy wetland mitigation credits from the Yam Grandy Wetland and Stream Mitigation Bank and submit documentation of this credit purchase to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The credit purchase documentation must reference the Corps file number assigned to the permitted project. If all or a portion of the required credits are not available from the Yam Grandy Wetland and Stream Mitigation Bank, you shall obtain written approval from the Corps prior to purchasing credits from an alternate mitigation bank.
- d. You shall obtain and comply with all appropriate federal, state, and local authorizations required for this type of activity. A stream buffer variance may be required from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division (Georgia EPD), as defined in the Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act of 1975, as amended. Information concerning variances can be obtained at the Georgia EPD's website at www.epd.georgia.gov, or by calling (404) 463-1511.

- e. All work conducted under this permit shall be located, outlined, designed, constructed and operated in accordance with the minimal requirements of the Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act of 1975, as amended. Utilization of plans and specifications contained in the "Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control," (Latest Edition), published by the Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission, will aid in achieving compliance with the aforementioned minimal requirements.
- f. You shall install and maintain erosion and sediment control measures in upland areas of the project site in accordance with the Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act of 1975, as amended, to minimize the introduction of sediment into and the erosion of streams, wetlands and other waters of the United States. This permit does not authorize installation of check-dams, weirs, bulkheads or other erosion control measures in streams, wetlands or other waters of the United States. Authorization would be required from the Corps prior to installing any erosion control measures in waters of the United States.
- g. You shall install and maintain erosion and sediment control measures for all fill material that is authorized to be discharged in streams, wetlands and other waters of the United States, in accordance with the Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Control Act of 1975, as amended, and permanently stabilize fill areas at the earliest practicable date.
- h. The project shall be constructed in accordance with the enclosed plans and drawings entitled, "Wetland Exhibit For Two Chop Road Paving Project, Bulloch County, Georgia," Sheets 1-5, dated April 10, 2023.
- i. You shall notify the Corps, in writing, at least 10 days in advance of commencement of work authorized by this permit.
- j. You fill out and sign the enclosed certification and return it to our office within 30 days of completion of the activity authorized by this permit.

This proposal was reviewed in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. Based on the information we have available, we have determined that the project is "not likely to adversely affect" the eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon corais couperi*) and would have "no effect" on other threatened or endangered species or any critical habitat for such species. Authorization of an activity by a NWP does not authorize the "take" of threatened or endangered species. In the absence of separate authorization, both lethal and non-lethal "takes" of protected species are in violation of the Endangered Species Act. See Part (C) of 82 FR for more information.

This verification is valid until the NWP is modified, reissued or revoked. All of the existing NWPs are scheduled to expire on March 14, 2026. It is incumbent upon you to remain informed of changes to the NWPs. Furthermore, if you commence or are under contract to commence this activity before the date that the relevant NWP is modified or revoked, you will have 12 months from the date of the modification or revocation of the NWP to complete the activity under the present terms and conditions of this NWP.

This authorization should not be construed to mean that any future projects requiring Department of the Army authorization would necessarily be authorized. Any new proposal, whether associated with this project or not, would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Any prior approvals would not be a determining factor in making a decision on any future request.

Revisions to your proposal may invalidate this authorization. In the event changes to this project are contemplated, I recommend that you coordinate with us prior to proceeding with the work.

This communication does not relieve you of any obligation or responsibility for complying with the provisions of any other laws or regulations of other federal, state or local authorities. It does not affect your liability for any damages or claims that may arise as a result of the work. It does not convey any property rights, either in real estate or material, or any exclusive privileges. It also does not affect your liability for any interference with existing or proposed federal projects. If the information you have submitted and on which the Corps bases its determination/decision of authorization under the NWP is later found to be in error, this determination may be subject to modification, suspension, or revocation.

An electronic copy of this letter is being provided to the following party: Mr. Tristan Turner, Sligh Environmental Consultants, Inc.

If you have any questions, please call me at (912) 652-5349.

Sincerely,

K. Brian Moore

Team Lead, Management Branch

**Enclosures** 

# CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY NATIONWIDE PERMIT 14

PERMIT FILE NUMBER: SAS-2023-00304

PERMITTEE ADDRESS: Mr. Brad Deal, Bulloch County Board of Commissioners, 115 North Main Street, Statesboro, Georgia 30458

LOCATION OF WORK: The project is located on Two Chop Road, approximately 1.0 mile northeast of Portal, Bulloch County, Georgia (Latitude 32.5522, Longitude -81.8944).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: To improve Two Chop Road as it extends from Rocky Ford Road to U.S. Highway 25.

ACRES AND/OR LINEAR FEET OF WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES IMPACTED: 0.244 acre of wetland and 22 linear feet (If) of stream

COMPENSATORY MITIGATION REQUIRED: 16.5 (2018 SOP) or 1 stream mitigation credits and 0.18 (2018 SOP) or 1.44 (Legacy) wetle credits.	( ) ),

DATE MITIGATION COMPLETED OR PURCHASED (include name of bank):

DATE WORK IN WATERS OF UNITED STATES COMPLETED:

I understand that the permitted activity is subject to a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Compliance Inspection. If I fail to comply with the permit conditions at Part C of the Nationwide Permit Program, published in the January 13, 2021, <u>Federal Register</u>, Vol. 86, No. 8, Pages 2744-2877 (86 <u>FR</u>), it may be subject to suspension, modification or revocation.

I hereby certify that the work authorized by the above referenced permit as well as any required mitigation (if applicable) has been completed in accordance with the terms and conditions of the said permit.

Signature of Permittee	 Date



sligh environmental consultants, inc. 31 Park of Commerce Way, Suite 200B Savannah, Georgia 31405 phone: (912) 232-0451 fax: (912) 232-0453

Location Map Two Chop Rd Paving Project Bulloch County, Georgia

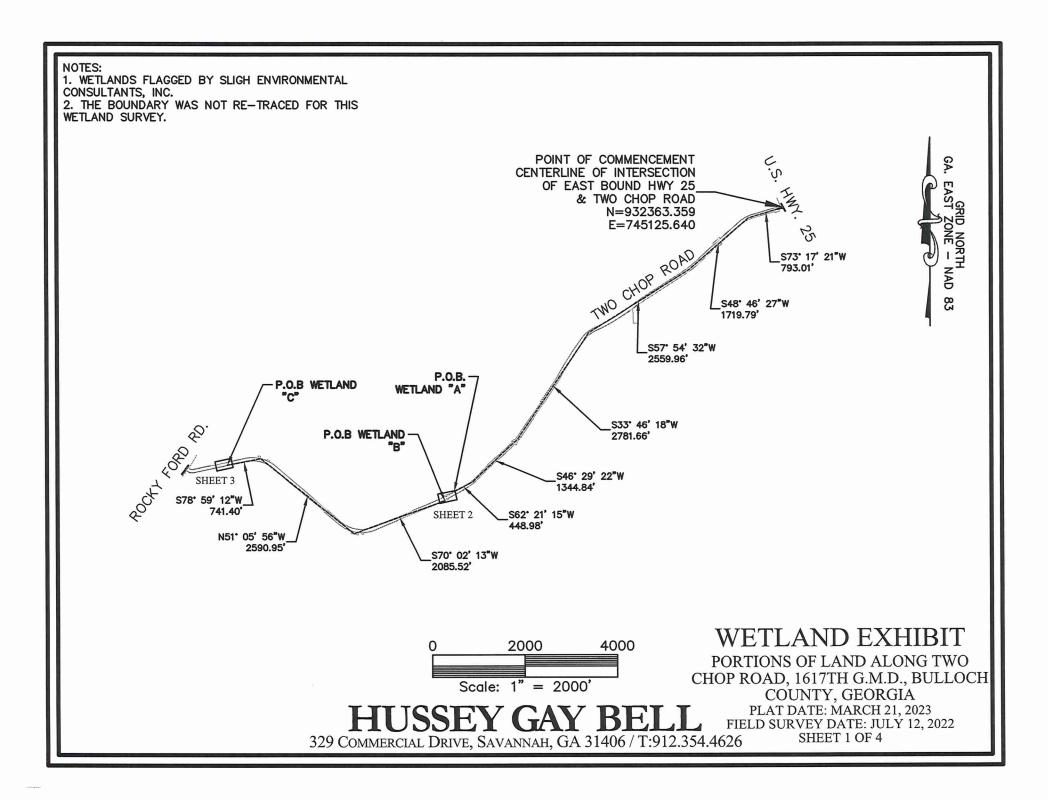
0	1,000	2,000		
		Feet		
Scale	: 1 inch = 2,	000 feet		

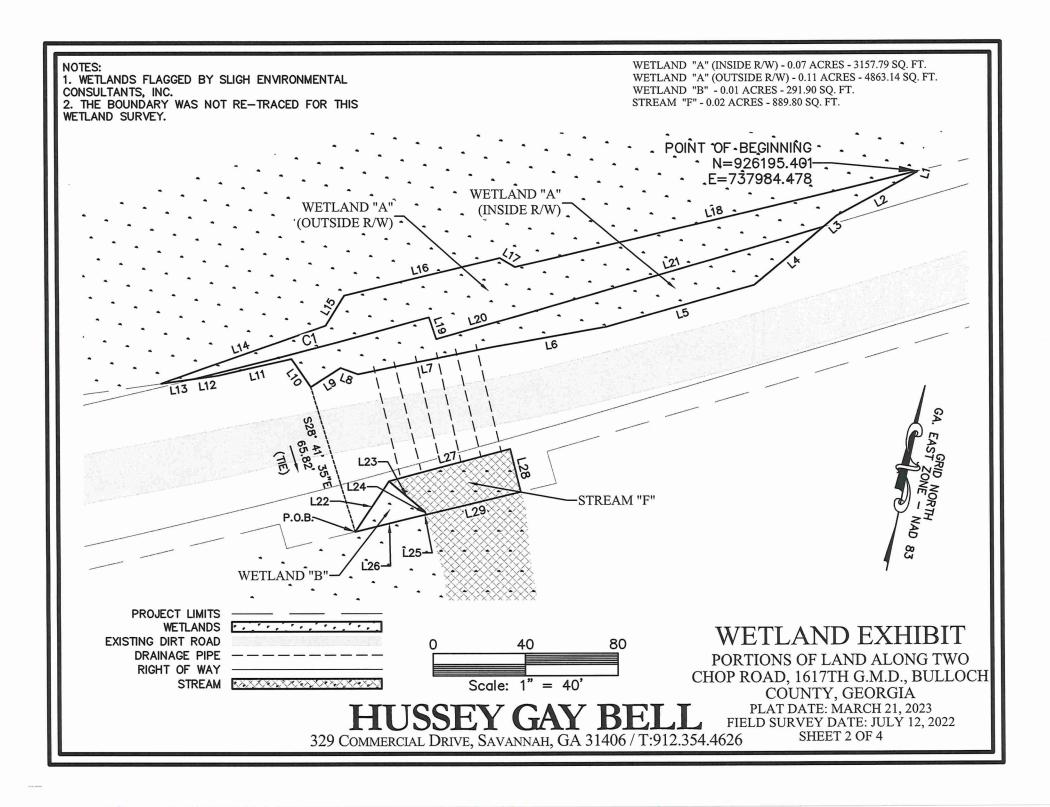
Exhibit Date: April 6, 2023

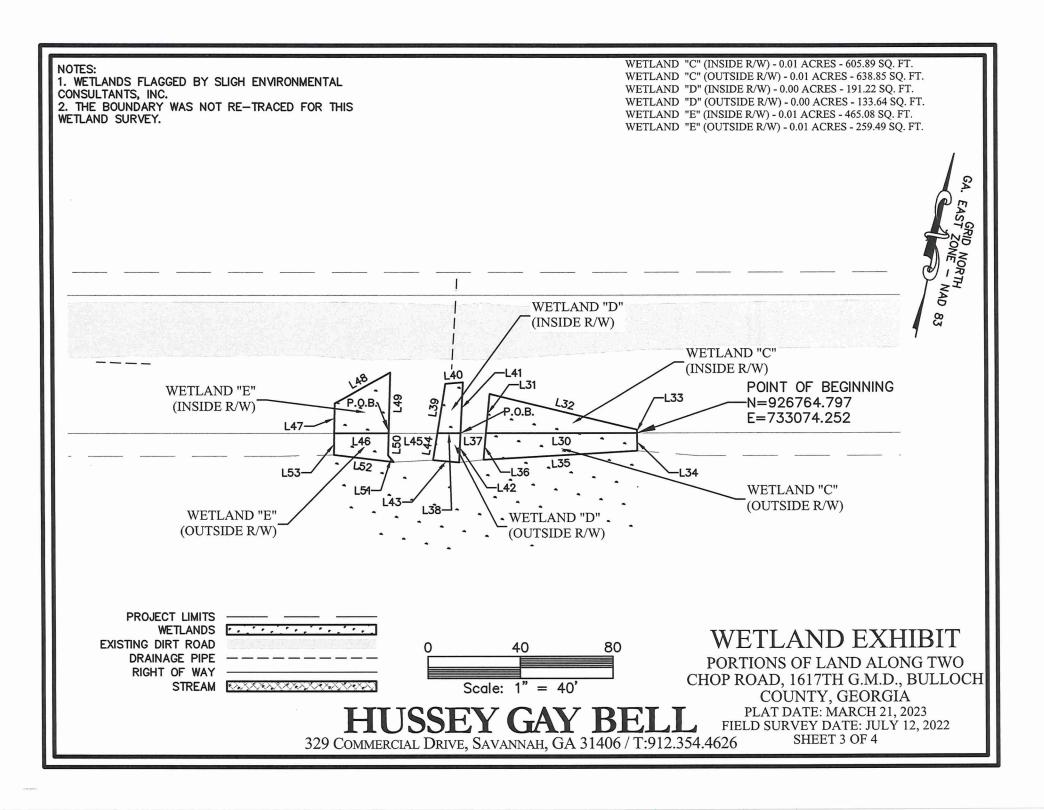
Drawn by: TCT

Reviewed by: DJP

Job Number: 01-22-033







LINE TABLE				
LINE NO.	DIRECTION LENGTH			
L1	S3*35'23"W	0.38'		
L2	S49°51'50"W	39.57		
L3	S37°44'27"W	7.66'		
L4	S37°44'27"W	39.09'		
L5	S61°56'03"W	66.42'		
L6	S67°54'26"W	50.03		
L7	S66°33'43"W	59.70'		
L8	N82°22'50"W	8.10'		
L9	S45°29'00"W	15.22'		
L10	N46°52'29"W	14.69'		
L11	S65°07'37"W	32.30'		
L12	S70°02'29"W	10.94'		
L13	S70°02'29"W	14.31'		
L14	N58'35'42"E	75.74		
L15	N1917'28"E	15.50'		
L16	N64"17'28"E	69.46		
L17	S70°42'32"E	7.53'		
L18	N64°38'34"E	179.05		
L19	S30°21'55"E	10.01'		
L20	N61°57'14"E	39.47		

LINE TABLE					
LINE NO. DIRECTION LENGTH					
L21	N61°36'09"E 135.1				
L22	N21°47'53"E	26.59'			
L23	S61°34'44"E	20.34'			
L24	S2818'52"E	1.48'			
L25	S64°17'28"W	1.02'			
L26	S64*17'28"W	30.56'			
L27	N63°07'25"E	54.32'			
L28	S25*48'25"E	19.07			
L29	S64°17'28"W	42.36'			
L30	S77*55'08"W	65.29'			
L31	N6°39'29"W	17.13			
L32	S88°23'37"E	65.51			
L33	S12*49'32"E	1.55'			
L34	S12°49'32"E	7.76'			
L35	S74°33'52"W 66.61				
L36	N6°39'29"W 11.7				
L37	S77*55'08"W 10.9				
L38	S77°55'08"W 10.10				
L39	N2*38'07"W	21.69'			
L40	N73°35'18"E	7.63'			

LINE TABLE					
LINE NO.	DIRECTION	LENGTH			
L41	S9°18'17"E	21.99'			
L42	S9°18'17"E	12.87'			
L43	S83°01'52"W	11.49'			
L44	N2°38'07"W	12.00'			
L45	S77°55'08"W	21.09'			
L46	S77°55'08"W	23.58'			
L47	N11°07'51"W	13.00'			
L48	N49°06'05"E	27.53			
L49	S10°26'10"E	26.28'			
L50	S10°26'10"E	9.73'			
L51	S52°20'24"E 3.82				
L52	S84*55'45"W	26.12			
L53	N11°07'51"W	9.46'			

WETLAND TOTAL (INSIDE R/W) - 0.10 ACRES - 4419.97 SQ. FT. WETLAND TOTAL (OUTSIDE R/W) - 0.14 ACRES - 6187.03 SQ. FT. WETLAND TOTAL - 0.24 ACRES - 10607.00 SQ. FT. STREAM TOTAL - 0.02 ACRES - 889.80 SQ. FT. TOTAL - 0.26 ACRES - 11496.80 SQ. FT.

#### WETLAND EXHIBIT

PORTIONS OF LAND ALONG TWO CHOP ROAD, 1617TH G.M.D., BULLOCH COUNTY, GEORGIA

## HUSSEY GAY BELL FIE 329 COMMERCIAL DRIVE, SAVANNAH, GA 31406 / T:912.354.4626

PLAT DATE: MARCH 21, 2023 FIELD SURVEY DATE: JULY 12, 2022 SHEET 4 OF 4

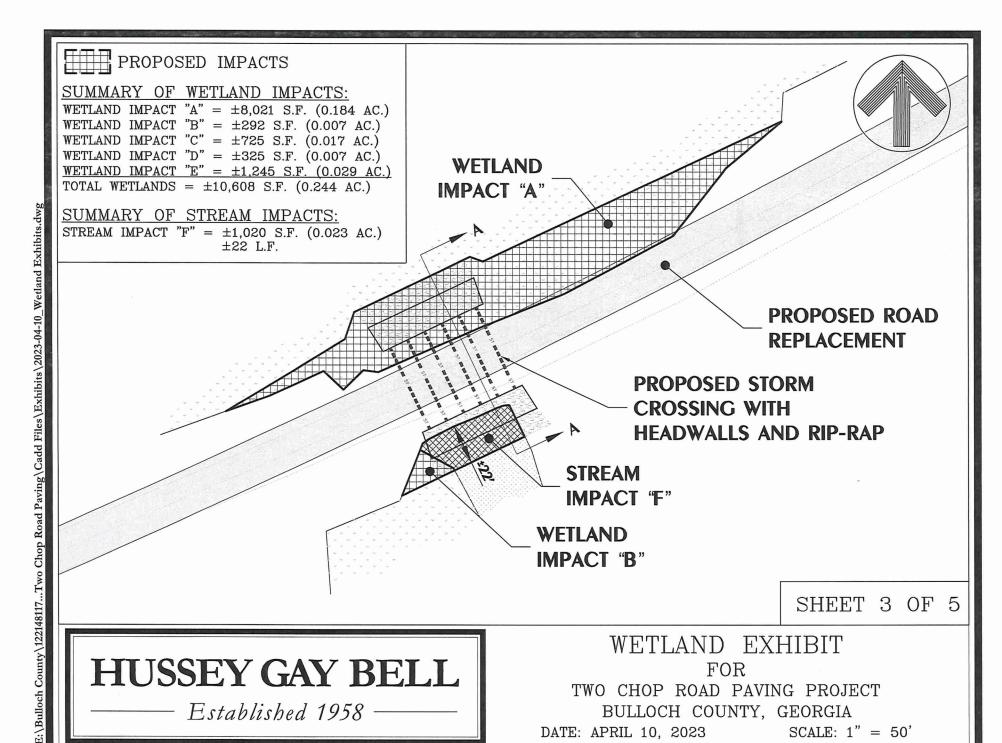
Waters_Name	State	Cowardin_Code	HGM_Code	Meas_Type	Amount Units	Waters_Type	Latitude	Longitude	Local_Waterway
Wetland A	GEORGIA	PFO	DEPRESS	Area	0.18 ACRE	DELINEATE	32.54585800	-81.90180200 Mill Creek	
Wetland B	GEORGIA	PFO	DEPRESS	Area	0.01 ACRE	DELINEATE	32.54558700	-81.90183000 Mill Creek	
Wetland C	GEORGIA	PFO	DEPRESS	Area	0.02 ACRE	DELINEATE	32.54769800	-81.91719100 Mill Creek	
Wetland D	GEORGIA	PFO	DEPRESS	Area	324.86 SQ_FT	DELINEATE	32.54769600	-81.91732100 Mill Creek	
Wetland E	GEORGIA	PFO	DEPRESS	Area	0.02 ACRE	DELINEATE	32.54766800	-81.91744500 Mill Creek	
Stream F	GEORGIA	R5	RIVERINE	Area	0.02 ACRE	DELINEATE	32.54565700	-81.90168800 Mill Creek	

Established 1958 -

TWO CHOP ROAD PAVING PROJECT BULLOCH COUNTY, GEORGIA

DATE: APRIL 10, 2023

NOT TO SCALE



**HUSSEY GAY BELL** 

Established 1958 -

#### WETLAND EXHIBIT

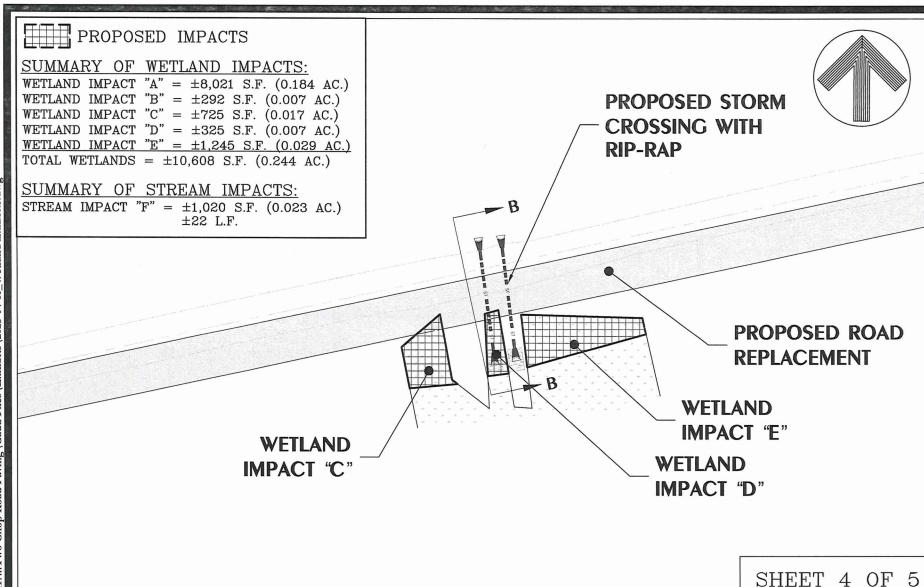
FOR

TWO CHOP ROAD PAVING PROJECT BULLOCH COUNTY, GEORGIA

DATE: APRIL 10, 2023

SCALE: 1" = 50'





## **HUSSEY GAY BELL**

Established 1958 -

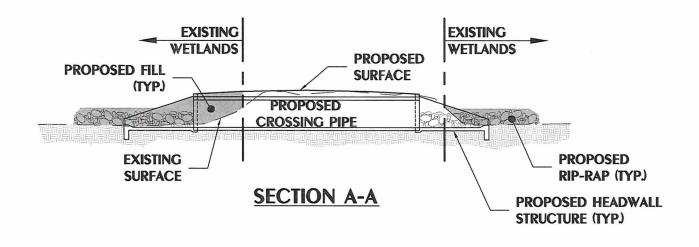
### WETLAND EXHIBIT

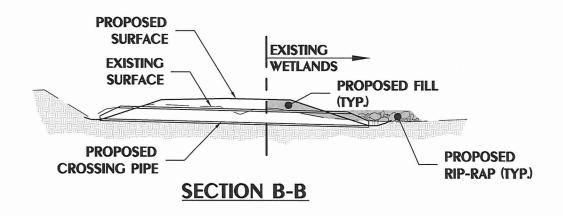
FOR

TWO CHOP ROAD PAVING PROJECT BULLOCH COUNTY, GEORGIA

DATE: APRIL 10, 2023

SCALE: 1" = 50'





SHEET 5 OF 5

## **HUSSEY GAY BELL**

Established 1958

#### WETLAND EXHIBIT

FOR

TWO CHOP ROAD PAVING PROJECT BULLOCH COUNTY, GEORGIA

DATE: APRIL 10, 2023

HORIZ. SCALE: 1" = 20'

VERT. SCALE: 1" = 20"