



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

November 17, 2016

Regulatory Division  
SAS-2001-12360

**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-2001-12360

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

Mr. Charles Bradley  
Vopak  
280 Brampton Road  
Savannah, Georgia 31408

Agent: Mr. Stuart Sligh  
Sligh Environmental Consultants Inc.  
31 Park of Commerce Way,  
Suite 200B  
Savannah, Georgia 31405

Location of Proposed Work: The project site is located in the Savannah River, on the downstream end of the Georgia Ports Authority (GPA) Garden City Terminal, at the terminus of Brampton Road, in the City of Savannah, Chatham County, Georgia (Latitude 32.1171, Longitude -81.1311).

Description of Work Subject to the Jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps): GPA and Vopak have requested Department of the Army authorization to dredge approximately 25,000 cubic yards of sediment from navigable waters of the United States (i.e. the Savannah River) in order to deepen the existing Berth 50 from -36' mean low water (MLW) to -40' MLW (with 2' overdredge) within a 4.69 acre dredge area. The applicant states that the increased water depth would greatly improve operational functionality, flexibility, and efficiency by allowing larger and/or more heavily

laden ships (40,000 DWT vessels) to use the facility. All deepening dredge material would be removed via the use of a hydraulic cutterhead dredge and disposed into the disposal area DMCA 12A or 12B. All work would be performed from a water borne barge/dredge or from upland. The 25,000 cubic yards of material to be dredged only represents 2% of the DMCA 12B capacity, and no supernatant discharge from the disposal site is expected from the deepening project.

The applicant also proposes annual maintenance dredging of approximately 15,500 cubic yards of sediment for the next 5 years. The maintenance dredging would be conducted in accordance with the stipulations set forth in Permit Number SAS-2001-12360 which allows for agitation dredging, small (<14") hydraulic dredging with in-water placement, large (>14") hydraulic dredging with placement in an upland containment facility, and clamshell dredging. All annual dredging would occur within the permit area as described above.

In addition to the proposed dredging activities, the applicant is also proposing to remove several existing outdated structures including an old steel mooring dolphin downstream of the main dock, a dilapidated timber platform/walkway located just upstream of the dock, and an old mooring dolphin in front of the timber platform. These activities would remove approximately 58 treated wood piles and approximately 18 steel H-piles from the waterway by cutting them off at or below the mudline. The project would not impact any vegetated marsh, shallow water, or intertidal habitat as all activities are located within open water habitat. The project would not require any fill or other loss of jurisdictional area, and will not impact navigation. No new structures are proposed at the dock.

## **BACKGROUND**

Berth 50 is part of the Garden City Terminal owned by GPA, but it is leased by Vopak for their bulk operations. Annual maintenance dredging at the facility was previously authorized under DA permit SAS-2001-12360. The permit was issued to GPA on May 1, 2013, and authorized the berth to be maintained to -36' MLW with 2' of allowable overdredge.

The proposed maintenance dredging would result in the discharge of dredged material into the Savannah River and could potentially affect water quality in the Savannah River. This discharge requires Georgia Water Quality Certification (WQC), pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA).

On February 09, 2016, the applicant's agent, Sligh Environmental Consultants, Inc. submitted a Sediment Analysis Plan (SAP) prepared by Terracon Consultants, Inc. entitled, "Sediment Sampling Analyses Plan Vopak Berth 50 Deepening Savannah River Garden City, Chatham County, Georgia". On March 16, 2016, the applicant sampled and tested the sediments to be dredged in the Savannah River, in accordance

with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers “Evaluation of Dredged Material Proposed for Discharge in the Waters of the U.S. – Inland Testing Manual.” On November 03, 2016, the applicant’s agent, Sligh Environmental Consultants, Inc. submitted a report prepared by Terracon Consultants, Inc. entitled, “Tier II Sediment Sampling Report Vopak Berth 50 Deepening, Savannah River, Garden City, Chatham County, Georgia”. The Terracon report states “Based on the size of the disposal facility, available capacity and retention time within the facility, the lack of notable contamination within the sediments to be dredged, and the lack of supernatant expected to actually discharge from the dredge disposal facility, Terracon concludes that the minor ISWQS exceedances in the elutriate samples do not warrant performing a numerical mixing model, nor environmental remediation for the sediment on-site. Terracon does not consider the proposed dredge material to be a possible carrier of contaminants that would lead to the dredge discharge contributing to the degradation of water quality in the receiving water.” The Tier II Sediment Report was analyzed by the Corps on September 21, 2016 and it was determined that while the EB-2 sample had a Cadmium concentration of 10.0 mg/kg, which exceeded the ERM of 9.6 mg/kg, the dredge material would be suitable for DMCA 12A and 12B, but would be disqualified from placement in DMCA 14A and 14B.

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.

## **STATE OF GEORGIA**

Water Quality Certification: 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. All coastal projects are filed at our Brunswick office and will need to be requested from Mr. Bradley Smith at [Bradley.Smith@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:Bradley.Smith@dnr.ga.gov). 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, Regulatory Division, 100 W. Oglethorpe Avenue, Savannah, Georgia 31401-3640.

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.

Marshland Protection: This notice also serves as notification of a request to alter coastal marshlands (under the provision of the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act, Georgia Laws, 1970, p. 939 and as amended), if required. Comments concerning this action should be submitted to the Ecological Services Section, Coastal Resources Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, 1 Conservation Way, Brunswick, Georgia 31523-8600 (Telephone 912-264-7218).

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, 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 there are no sites listed on the register within or immediately adjacent to the project area. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, we request the Georgia Historical Preservation Division (HPD) or any other interested party review the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) to determine if the property has or has not any registered properties or properties listed as eligible for inclusion 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.

Essential Fish Habitat (EFH): This notice initiates the EFH consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The applicant's proposal would result in the destruction or alteration of approximately 4.69 acres of EFH utilized by various life stages of species comprising the red drum, shrimp, bluefish or snapper grouper management complexes. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have an individual or cumulatively substantial adverse impact on EFH or federally managed fisheries in the Atlantic Ocean. Our final determination relative to

project impacts to EFH and the need for mitigation measures are subject to review by and coordination with the NMFS and the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council.

Endangered Species: The project area is specific to the proposed dredging area. There will be no effect on any listed endangered species for the project area with the exception of the West Indian Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*), Atlantic Sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus*), and the Shortnose Sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*), which are being considered with respect to the proposed project. These species are known to inhabit Georgia's coastal waters and estuaries. Since the proposed project is hydraulic dredging in an estuarine environment, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers would include "Standard Manatee Conditions and Procedures for Aquatic Construction" as special conditions of any permit that would be issued by this office. With these conditions included, the Corps has determined that the project may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the West Indian Manatee, Atlantic Sturgeon, and Shortnose Sturgeon.

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, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the 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 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: Jared M. Lopes, 100 W. 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 Mr. Jared M. Lopes, Regulatory Specialist, Coastal Branch at 912-652-5348.

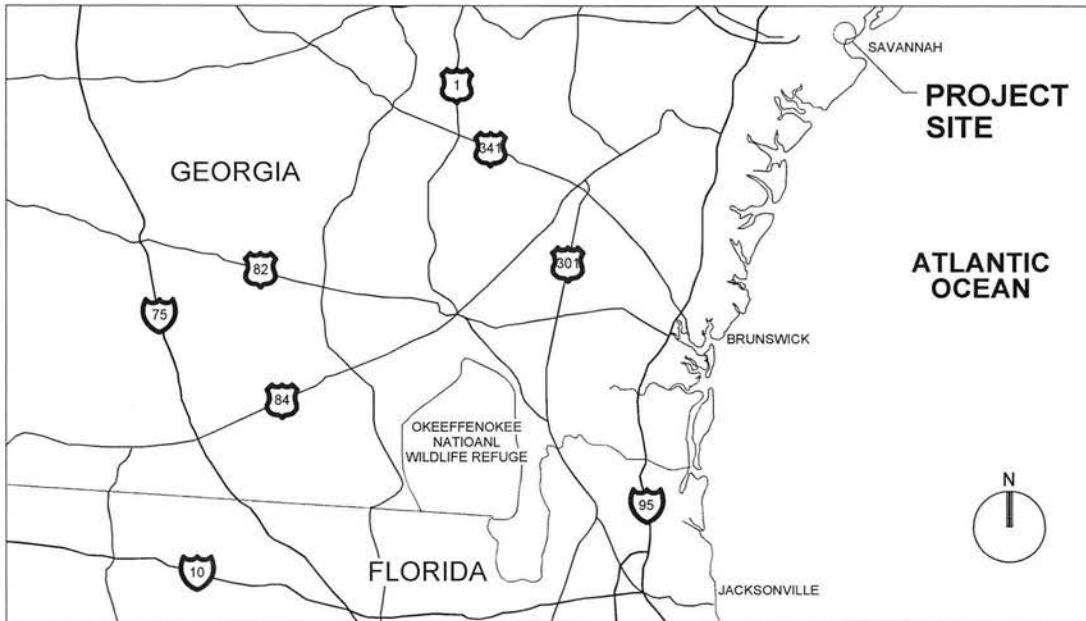
Encls

1. Vicinity and Location Map
2. Site Plan
3. Berth Plan
4. Existing Berth Typical Section
5. Dredging Cross Sections
6. Existing Breasting Dolphins
7. Existing Timber Platform sheet 1 of 2
8. Existing Timber Platform sheet 2 of 2
8. Disposal Area Map

1

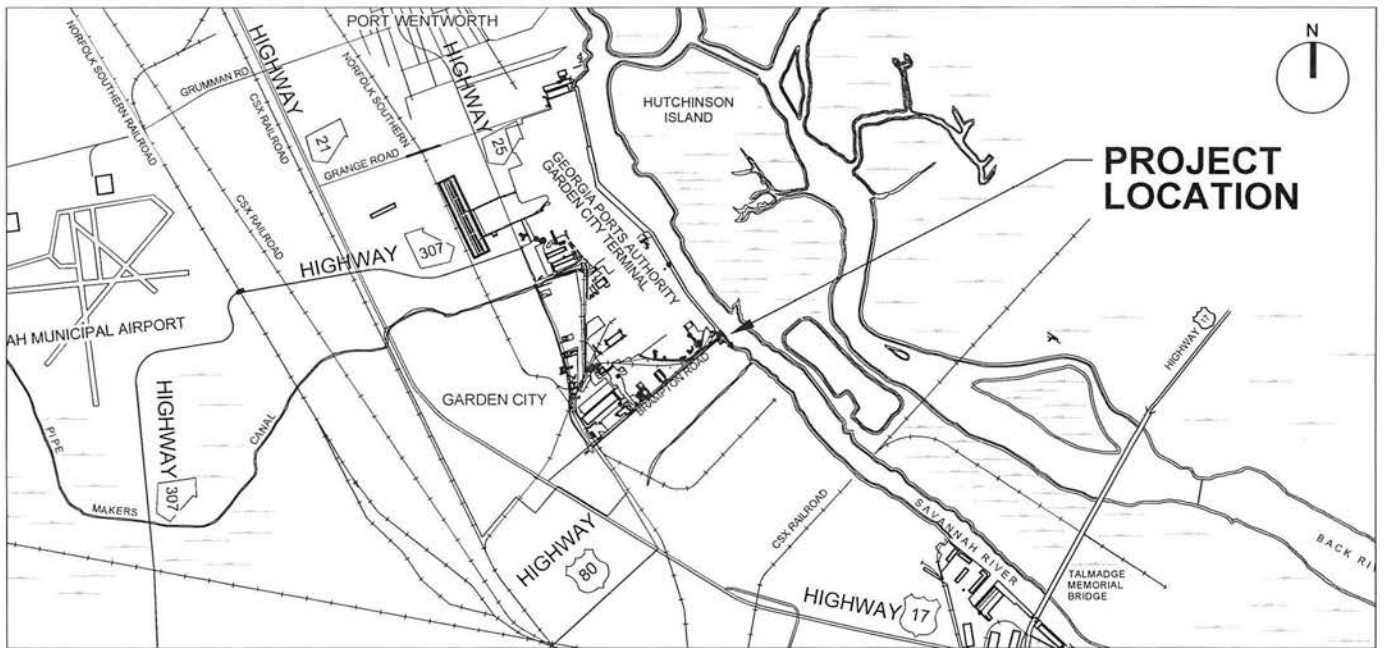
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B



**VICINITY MAP**  
NOT TO SCALE

A



**LOCATION MAP**  
NOT TO SCALE

PURPOSE: BERTH DEEPENING

DATUM: MEAN LOW WATER  
ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:  
1. N/A

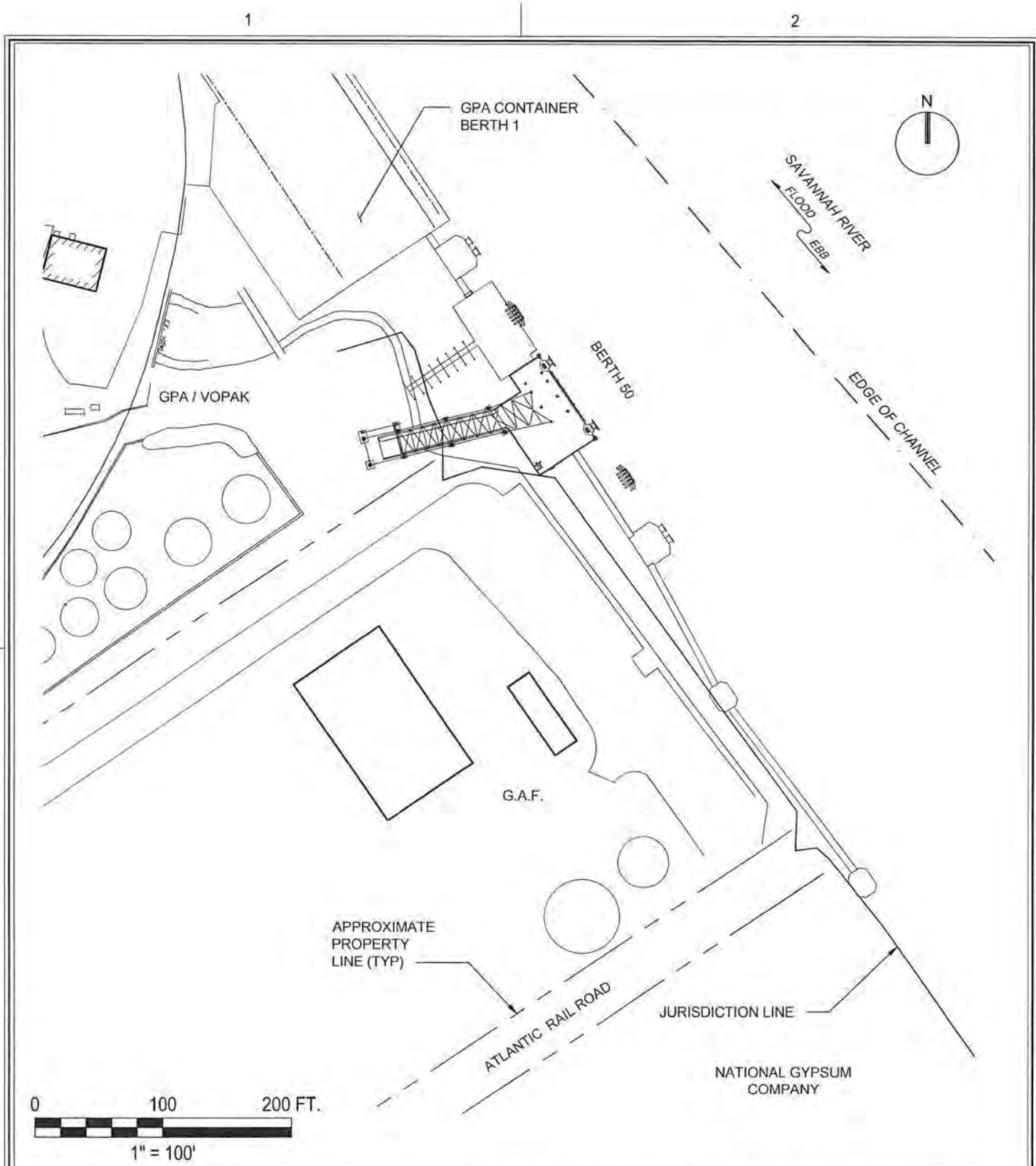
**VICINITY AND LOCATION MAP**

GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY  
GARDEN CITY TERMINAL  
GARDEN CITY, GEORGIA

**BERTH 50 DEEPENING  
GARDEN CITY TERMINAL**

IN: SAVANNAH RIVER

COUNTY OF: CHATHAM STATE: GA  
APPLICATION BY: GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY  
SHEET 2 OF 10 DATE: 28 SEPT 2016



PURPOSE: BERTH DEEPENING

DATUM: MEAN LOW WATER  
ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:  
1. N/A

SITE PLAN

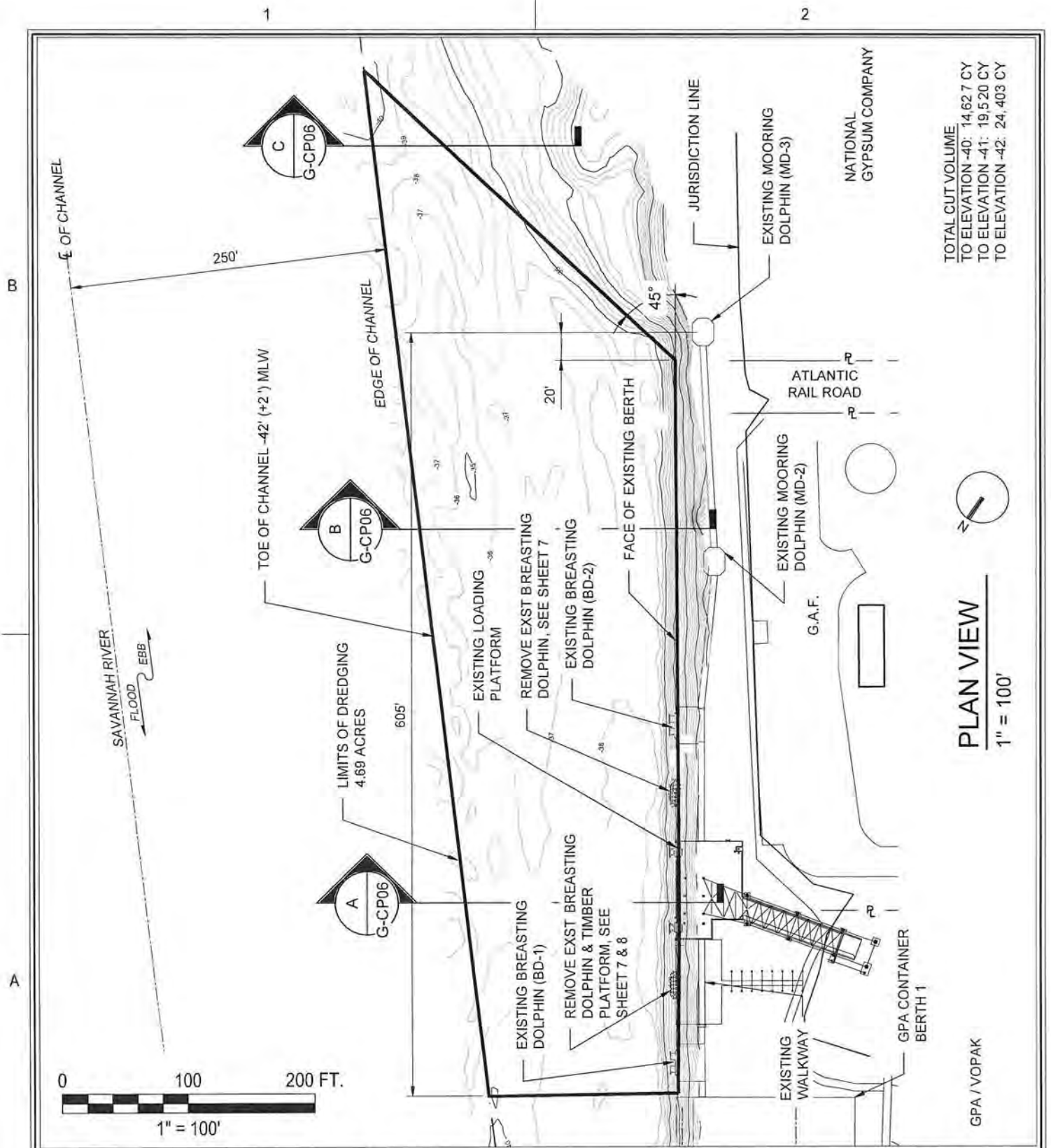
GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY  
GARDEN CITY TERMINAL  
GARDEN CITY, GEORGIA

BERTH 50 DEEPENING  
GARDEN CITY TERMINAL

IN: SAVANNAH RIVER

COUNTY OF: CHATHAM STATE: GA  
APPLICATION BY: GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY  
SHEET 3 OF 10 DATE: 28 SEPT 2016





PURPOSE: BERTH DEEPENING

DATUM: MEAN LOW WATER  
 ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:  
 1. N/A

**BERTH PLAN**

GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY  
 GARDEN CITY TERMINAL  
 GARDEN CITY, GEORGIA

**BERTH 50 DEEPENING  
 GARDEN CITY TERMINAL**

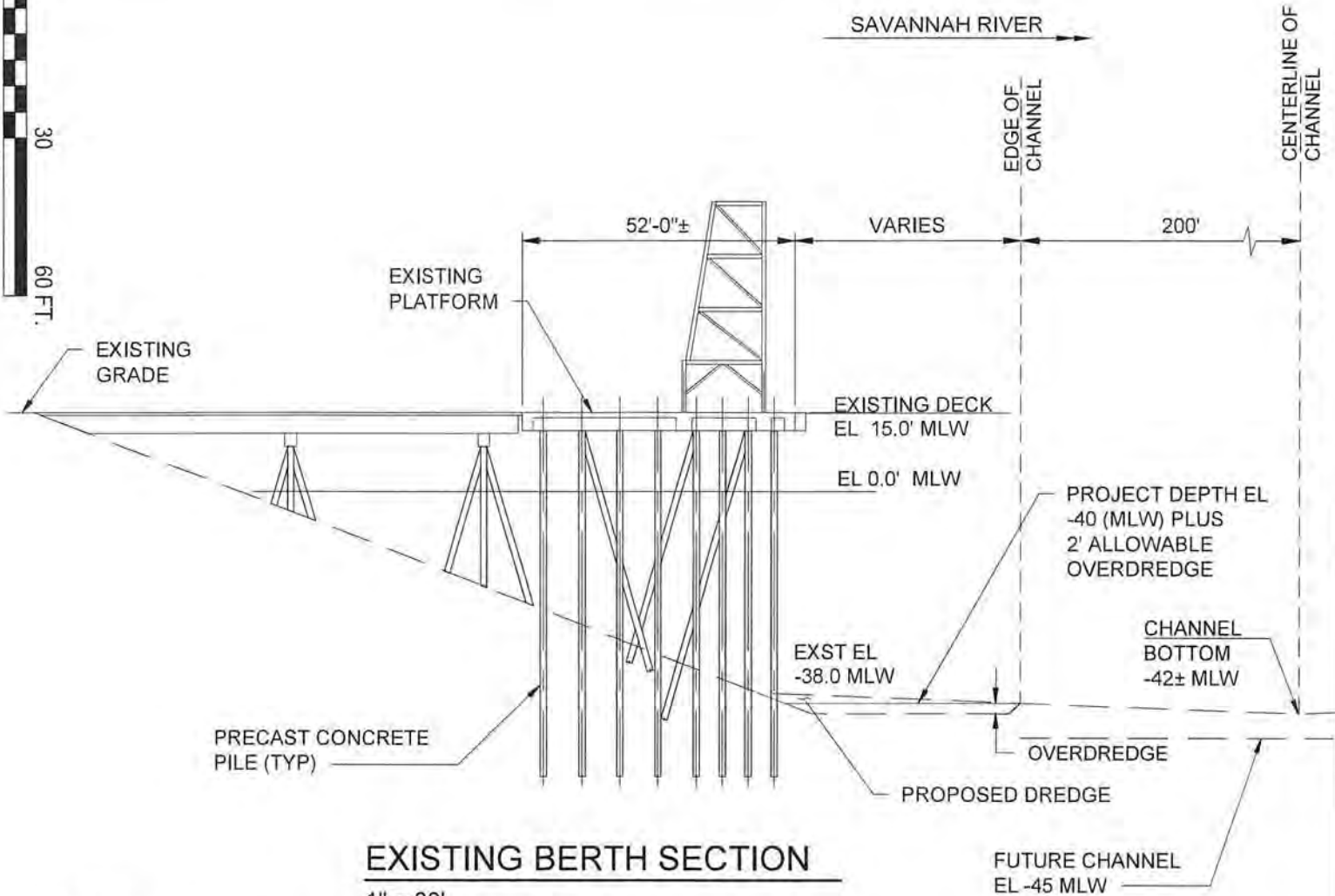
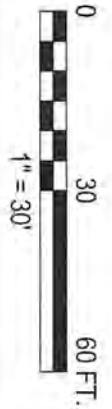
IN: SAVANNAH RIVER

COUNTY OF: CHATHAM STATE: GA  
 APPLICATION BY: GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY  
 SHEET 4 OF 10 DATE: 28 SEPT 2016

PURPOSE: BERTH DEEPENING  
 DATUM: MEAN LOW WATER  
 ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:  
 1. N/A

EXISTING BERTH  
 TYPICAL SECTION  
 GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY  
 GARDEN CITY TERMINAL  
 GARDEN CITY, GEORGIA

BERTH 50 DEEPENING  
 GARDEN CITY TERMINAL  
 IN: SAVANNAH RIVER  
 COUNTY OF: CHATHAM  
 APPLICATION BY: GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY  
 SHEET 5 OF 10  
 STATE: GA  
 DATE: 28 SEPT 2016



**EXISTING BERTH SECTION**

1" = 30'

**NOTES:**

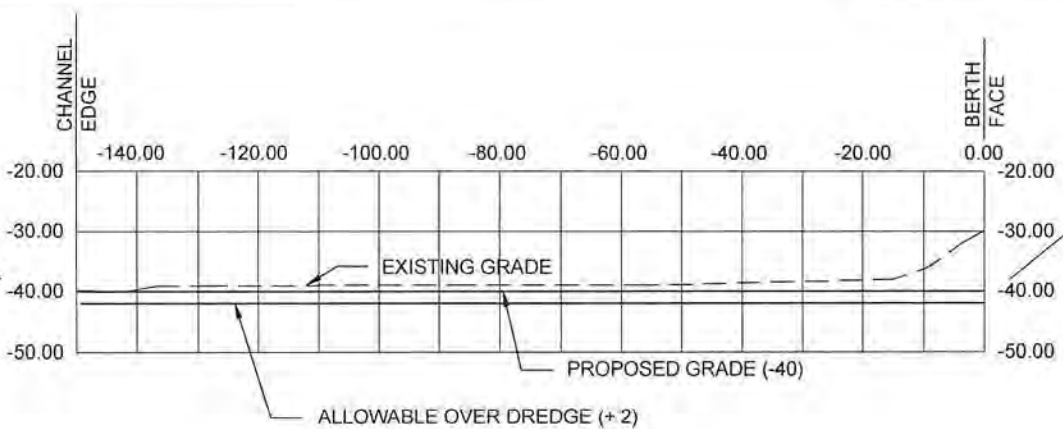
1. ALL PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES WILL BE PERFORMED IN A MANNER TO MINIMIZE THE TURBIDITY IN THE SOUTH SAVANNAH RIVER.
2. NO OILS OR POLLUTANTS SHALL BE RELEASED INTO THE SAVANNAH RIVER AS A RESULT OF PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES.
3. ALL WORK PERFORMED DURING PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES WILL BE DONE IN A MANNER TO AVOID INTERFERENCE WITH LEGITIMATE WATER USES.

TOTAL CUT VOLUME  
 TO ELEVATION -40: 14,627 CY  
 TO ELEVATION -42: 24,403 CY

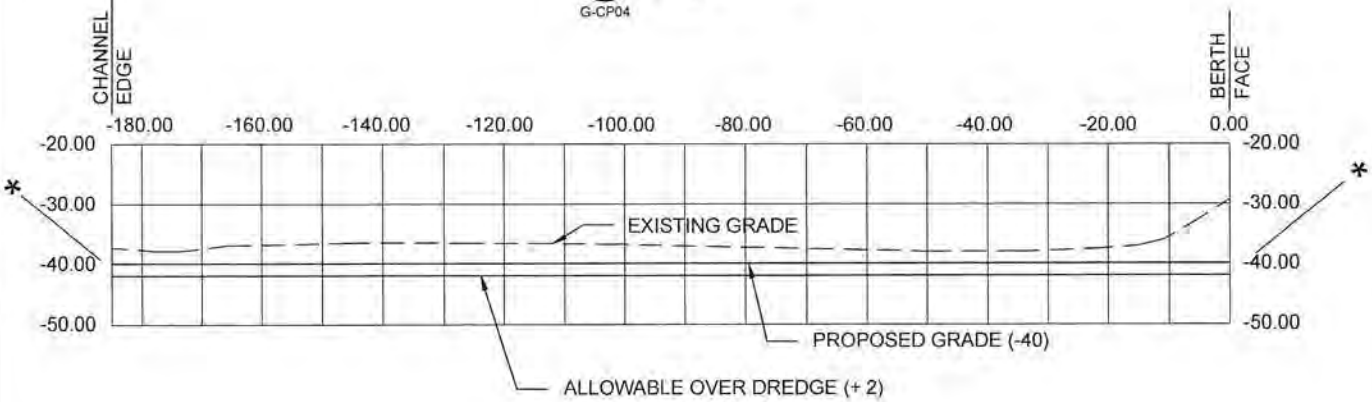
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2

B

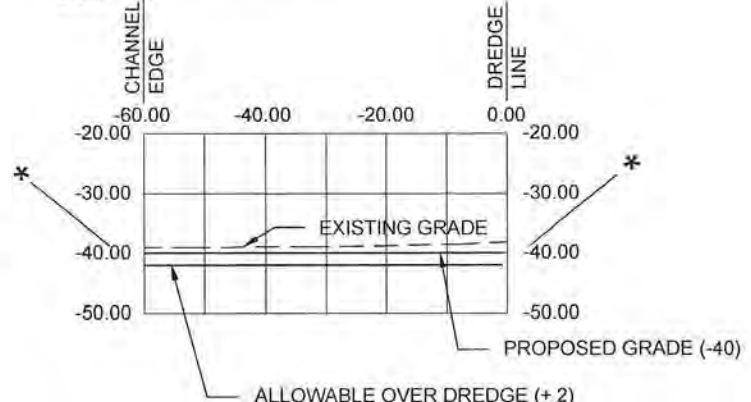


**A SECTION**  
1" = 30'  
G-CP04

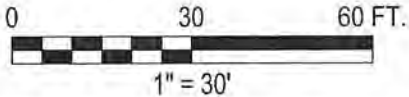


**B SECTION**  
1" = 30'  
G-CP04

\* TO BE CUT VERTICAL  
ADJACENT SLOPE ALLOWED  
TO SLOUGH TO STABLE SLOPE  
ESTIMATED AT 1:1 OR 2:1.



**C SECTION**  
1" = 30'  
G-CP04



PURPOSE: BERTH DEEPENING

DATUM: MEAN LOW WATER  
ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:  
1. N/A

**DREDGING CROSS SECTIONS**

GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY  
GARDEN CITY TERMINAL  
GARDEN CITY, GEORGIA

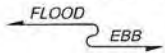
**BERTH 50 DEEPENING  
GARDEN CITY TERMINAL**

IN: SAVANNAH RIVER  
COUNTY OF: CHATHAM STATE: GA  
APPLICATION BY: GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY  
SHEET 6 OF 10 DATE: 28 SEPT 2016

1

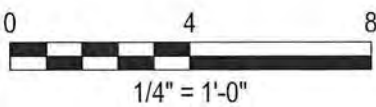
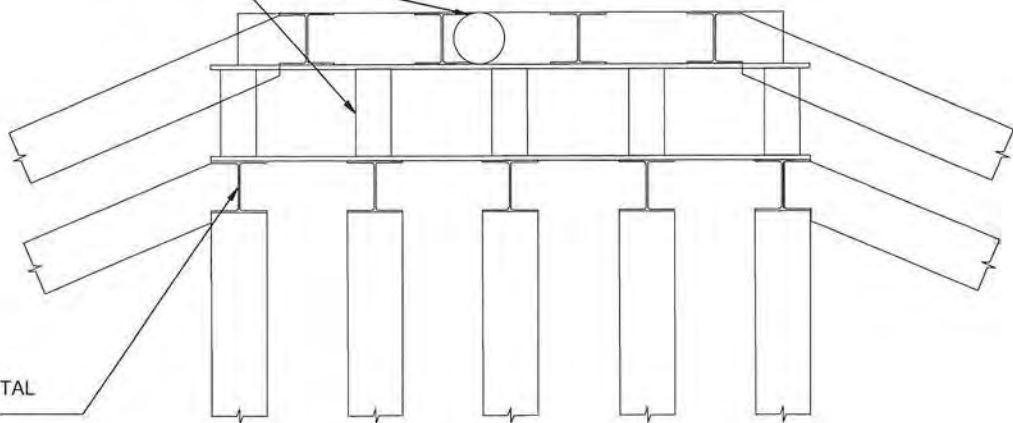
2

SAVANNAH RIVER



EXST BREASTING DOLPHIN,  
 REMOVE ALL WOOD AND  
 STEEL MEMBERS AND PILES.  
 REMOVE PILES TO EL -44'

H-PILE  
 (18) TOTAL  
 (TYP)



**PLAN VIEW**

1/4" = 1'-0"



B

A

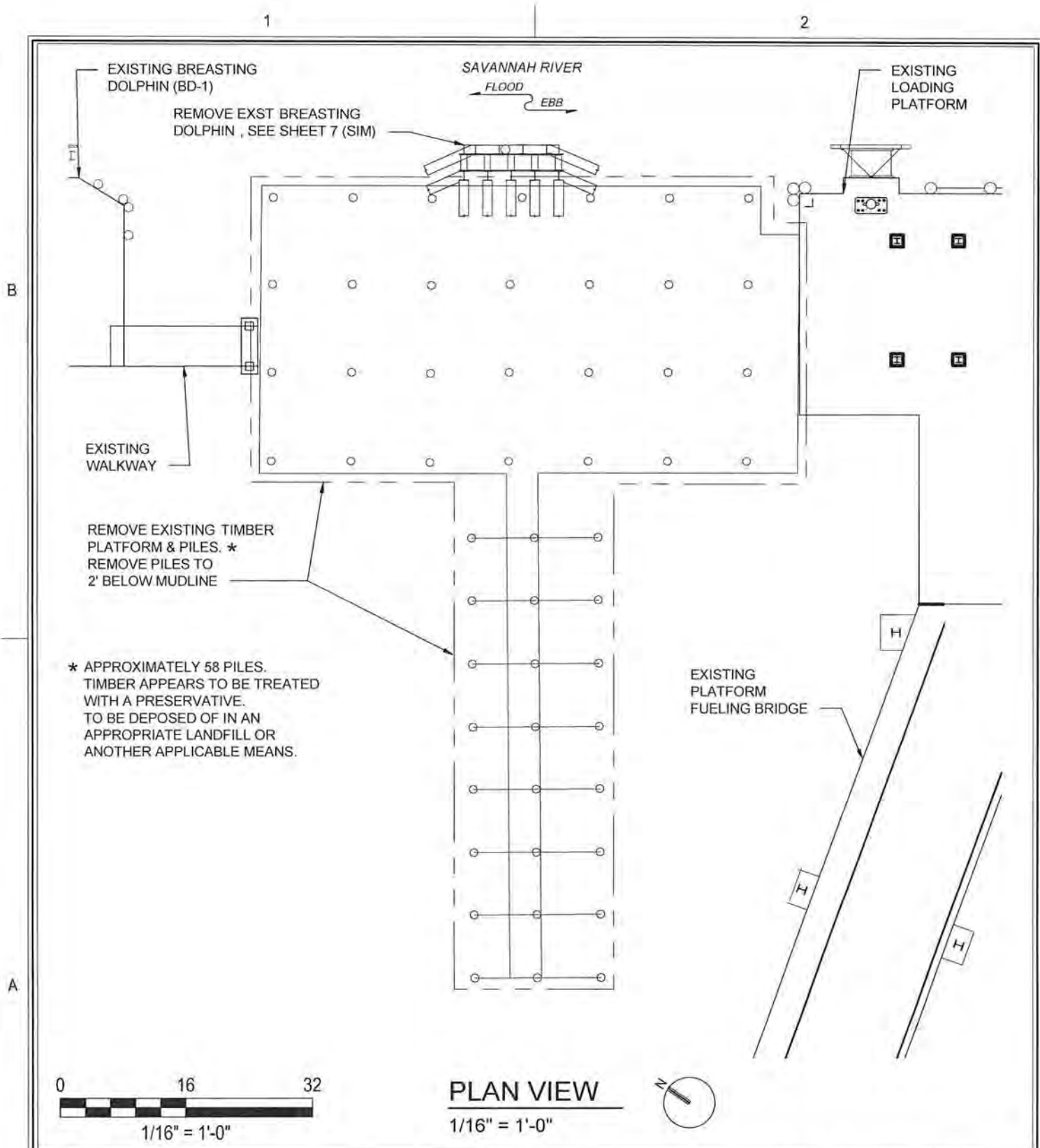
PURPOSE: BERTH DEEPENING

DATUM: MEAN LOW WATER  
 ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:  
 1. N/A

**EXISTING  
 BREASTING DOLPHINS**  
 GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY  
 GARDEN CITY TERMINAL  
 GARDEN CITY, GEORGIA

**BERTH 50 DEEPENING  
 GARDEN CITY TERMINAL**  
 IN: SAVANNAH RIVER

COUNTY OF: CHATHAM STATE: GA  
 APPLICATION BY: GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY  
 SHEET 7 OF 10 DATE: 28 SEPT 2016



**PLAN VIEW**

1/16" = 1'-0"

<p>PURPOSE: BERTH DEEPENING</p> <p>DATUM: MEAN LOW WATER</p> <p>ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:</p> <p>1. N/A</p>	<p><b>EXISTING TIMBER PLATFORM</b></p> <p><b>SHEET 1 OF 2</b></p> <p>GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY</p> <p>GARDEN CITY TERMINAL</p> <p>GARDEN CITY, GEORGIA</p>	<p><b>BERTH 50 DEEPENING</b></p> <p><b>GARDEN CITY TERMINAL</b></p> <p>IN: SAVANNAH RIVER</p> <p>COUNTY OF: CHATHAM                      STATE: GA</p> <p>APPLICATION BY:                      GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY</p> <p>SHEET 8 OF 10                      DATE: 28 SEPT 2016</p>
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1

2

EXISTING WALKWAY

EXISTING BREASTING  
DOLPHIN (BD-1)

EXISTING LOADING  
PLATFORM BEYOND

REMOVE EXST BREASTING  
DOLPHIN , SEE SHEET 7 (SIM)

SAVANNAH RIVER

REMOVE EXST TIMBER  
PLATFORM & PILES.  
REMOVE PILES TO  
2' BELOW MUDLINE

EXISTING PLATFORM  
ACCESS BRIDGE, BEYOND



### EXISTING TIMBER PLATFORM

PURPOSE: BERTH DEEPENING

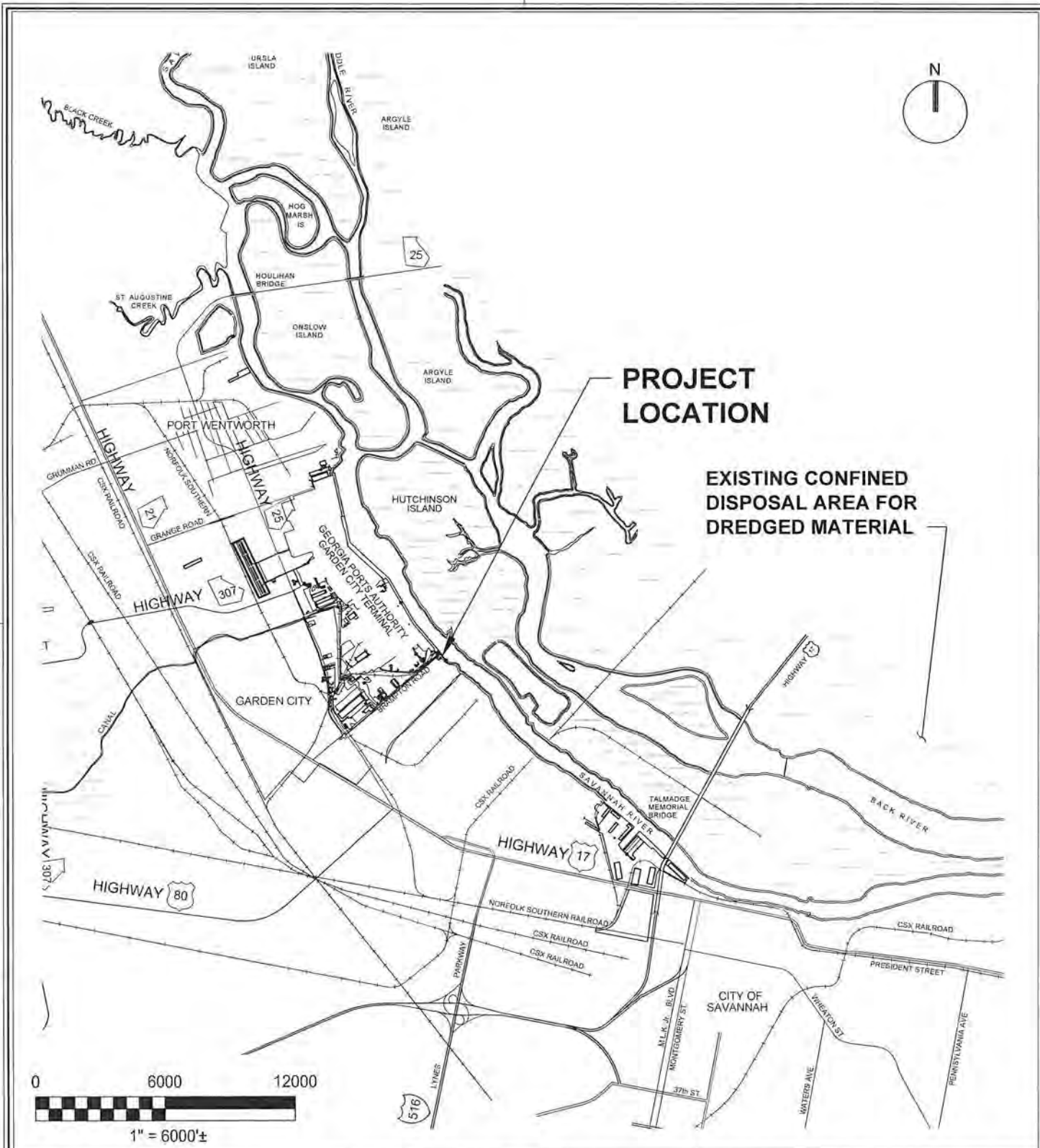
DATUM: MEAN LOW WATER  
ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:  
1. N/A

EXISTING TIMBER PLATFORM  
SHEET 2 OF 2  
GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY  
GARDEN CITY TERMINAL  
GARDEN CITY, GEORGIA

BERTH 50 DEEPENING  
GARDEN CITY TERMINAL  
IN: SAVANNAH RIVER  
COUNTY OF: CHATHAM STATE: GA  
APPLICATION BY: GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY  
SHEET 9 OF 10 DATE: 28 SEPT 2016

B

A



PURPOSE: BERTH DEEPENING

DATUM: MEAN LOW WATER

ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:

1. N/A

**DISPOSAL AREA MAP**

GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY  
 GARDEN CITY TERMINAL  
 GARDEN CITY, GEORGIA

**BERTH 50 DEEPENING  
 GARDEN CITY TERMINAL**

IN: SAVANNAH RIVER

COUNTY OF: CHATHAM STATE: GA

APPLICATION BY: GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY

SHEET 10 OF 10 DATE: 28 SEPT 2016