US Army Corps of Engineers®

PUBLIC NOTICE

Applicant:
Mr. Charles J. Wilkins III
Effingham County Engineering Services

Published: October 23, 2026
Expires: November 22, 2026

Savannah District
Permit Application No. SAS-2026-00886

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The Savannah District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) 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) **and** Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. §403). The purpose of this public notice is to solicit comments from the public regarding the work described below:

APPLICANT: Mr. Charles J. Wilkins III
Effingham County Engineering Services
804 S. Laurel Street
Springfield, Georgia 31329

AGENT: Mr. Alton Brown, Jr.
Resource & Land Consultants
41 Par of Commerce Way, Suite 101
Savannah**,** Georgia 31405

WATERWAY AND LOCATION: The project would affect waters of the United States and navigable waters of the United States associated with the Savannah River, located east of and within the project site. The approximately 58.65-acre project area extends from the Savannah River, southeast of Plant McIntosh Road (32.351471, -81.162097), approximately 8 miles southwest to the new Effingham County Water Treatment Facility site located east of McCall Road, and north of Blandford Road (32.287572, -81.263444) located, in Rincon, Effingham County, Georgia.

EXISTING CONDITIONS: The project site extends 8 miles through Effingham County. The project area consists of 33.82 acres of forested and maintained upland, 15.42 acres of forested and emergent wetland, 0.98 acres of perennial stream, and 8.43 acres of the Savannah River. A Delineation Concurrence was performed and confirmed by letter dated October 20, 2026.

PROJECT PURPOSE: The applicant's stated project purpose is "To construct an intake structure on the Savannah River and install a raw water line that will connect to the new Effingham County Water Treatment Facility."

Basic: To provide an additional regional water supply to Effingham County.

Overall: To construct an intake structure on the Savannah River and install a raw water line that will connect to the new Effingham County Water Treatment Facility to accommodate regional growth, reduce dependence on groundwater, and improve water-supply reliability in the surrounding area.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant requests authorization to temporarily impact 2.65 acres of wetland in order to install approximately 8 miles of raw water line and permanently impact 0.7 acres of wetland, 0.11 acres of stream, and 2.76 acres of the Savannah River to construct an intake structure.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION: The applicant has provided the following information in support of efforts to avoid and/or minimize impacts to the aquatic environment:

Additional minimization measures include limiting dredging within the Savannah River to the minimum footprint necessary for reliable intake operation, transporting dredged materials to an approved upland disposal location outside the floodplain, and implementing best management practices to control erosion, sedimentation, and turbidity.

COMPENSATORY MITIGATION: The applicant offered the following compensatory mitigation plan to offset unavoidable functional loss to the aquatic environment:

Proposed mitigation credits 5.60 (legacy)/0.70 (2018) wetland credits and 2,100 (legacy)/175 (2018) stream credits based on the 2018 SOP would be purchased from approved mitigation banks that service the Lower Savannah Watershed to offset the impacts to 0.7 acres of forested wetlands and 0.11 acres of stream. If bank credits are not available, the applicant will purchase credits from the approved in-lieu fee program with prior approval from the USACE.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The Corps is evaluating the undertaking for effects to historic properties as required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. This public notice serves to inform the public of the proposed undertaking and invites comments including those from local, State, and Federal government Agencies with respect to historic resources. Our final determination relative to historic resource impacts may be subject to additional coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer, federally recognized tribes and other interested parties.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The Corps has performed an initial review of the application, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Section 7 Mapper, and the NMFS Critical Habitat Mapper to determine if any threatened, endangered, proposed, or candidate species, as well as the proposed and final designated critical habitat may occur within the boundary of the proposed project. Based on this initial review, the Corps has made a preliminary determination that the proposed project may affect

species and critical habitat listed in Table 1. No other ESA-listed species or critical habitat will be affected by the proposed action.

Table 1: ESA-listed species and/or critical habitat potentially present in the action area.

Species Common Name and/or Critical Habitat Name	**Scientific Name**	**Federal Status**
Northern Long-Eared Bat	*Myotis septentrionalis*	Endangered
Tricolored Bat	*Perimyotis subflavus*	Proposed Endangered
West Indian Manatee	*Trichechus manatus*	Threatened
Eastern Black Rail	*Laterallus jamaicensis jamaicensis*	Threatened
Piping Plover	*Charadrius melodus*	Threatened
Red-cockaded Woodpecker	*Dryobates borealis*	Threatened
Eastern Indigo Snake	*Drymarchon couperi*	Threatened
Green Sea Turtle	*Chelonia mydas*	Threatened
Southern Hognose Snake	*Heterodon simus*	Proposed Threatened
Monarch Butterfly	*Danaus plexippus*	Proposed Threatened
American Chaffseed	*Schwalbea americana*	Endangered
Canby's Dropwort	*Oxypolis canbyi*	Endangered
Pondberry	*Lindera melissifolia*	Endangered
Atlantic Sturgeon	*Acipenser oxyrinchus*	Endangered

Pursuant to Section 7 ESA, any required consultation with the Service(s) will be conducted in accordance with 50 CFR part 402.

This notice serves as request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service for any additional information on whether any listed or proposed to be

listed endangered or threatened species or critical habitat may be present in the area which would be affected by the proposed activity.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: Pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act 1996, the Corps reviewed the project area, examined information provided by the applicant, and consulted available species information.

The Corps intends to initiate Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation separately from this public notice. A separate EFH consultation package will be sent to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The Corps will not make a permit decision until the consultation process is complete.

NAVIGATION: The proposed intake structure is located within the Savannah River; however, any project authorized would not interfere with the public's right to free navigation of the Savannah River.

SECTION 408: The Corps is required to evaluate whether an activity also requires permission from the Corps pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 408 when it has the potential to "…take possession of or make use of for any purpose, or build upon, alter, deface, destroy, move, injure, obstruct by fastening vessels thereto or otherwise, or in any manner whatever impair the usefulness of…" a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) federally authorized Civil Works project (a "USACE project"). The Savannah District Corps is requesting any information on whether this project may so affect a USACE project, specifically the Savannah Harbor, Federal Navigation Project. The decision on a Department of the Army permit application pursuant to Section 10 or Section 404 will not be rendered prior to the final determination regarding Section 408.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: Water Quality Certification may be required from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division.

The Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division will serve as the certifying authority to review the proposed project for Water Quality Certification, in accordance with the provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (40 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) Part 121). The applicant has requested a Water Quality Certification from 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 in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act is required. The applicant is responsible for requesting certification and providing required information to the certifying authority. 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. In accordance with 40 CFR Part 121.12, the Corps will notify the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator when it has received a Department of the Army permit application and the related certification. The Administrator is responsible for determining if the discharge may affect water quality in a neighboring jurisdiction. The Department of the Army permit may not be

issued pending the conclusion of the Administrator's determination of effects on neighboring jurisdictions.

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT ACT: 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). More information and permitting procedures can be found at https://coastalgadnr.org/MarshShore. 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, Coastal Management Program, Coastal Resources Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, One Conservation Way, Brunswick, Georgia 31523-8600 (Telephone 912-264-7218).

NOTE: This public notice is being issued based on information furnished by the applicant. This information has not been verified or evaluated to ensure compliance with laws and regulation governing the regulatory program. The geographic extent of aquatic resources within the proposed project area that either are, or are presumed to be, within the Corps jurisdiction has not been verified by Corps personnel.

EVALUATION: 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 benefits, 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 cumulative impacts thereof; among these are conservation, economics, esthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historical properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain 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. Evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, EPA, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act or the criteria established under authority of Section 102(a) of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972. A permit will be granted unless its issuance is found to be contrary to the public interest.

COMMENTS: The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian 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 Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this determination, comments are used to assess impacts to 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 (EA) and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

The Savannah District will receive written comments on the proposed work, as outlined above, until November 22, 2026. Comments should be submitted electronically via the Regulatory Request System (RRS) at https://rrs.usace.army.mil/rrs or to Joanna Neu at Joanna.K.Neu@usace.army.mil. Alternatively, you may submit comments in writing to the Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Attention: Joanna Neu, 100 W. Oglethorpe Avenue, Savannah, GA 31410. Please refer to the permit application number in your comments.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. Requests for a public hearing will be granted, unless the District Engineer determines that the issues raised are insubstantial or there is otherwise no valid interest to be served by a hearing.

Enclosures



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Prepared By:	SJ
Sketch Date:	9/15/2026
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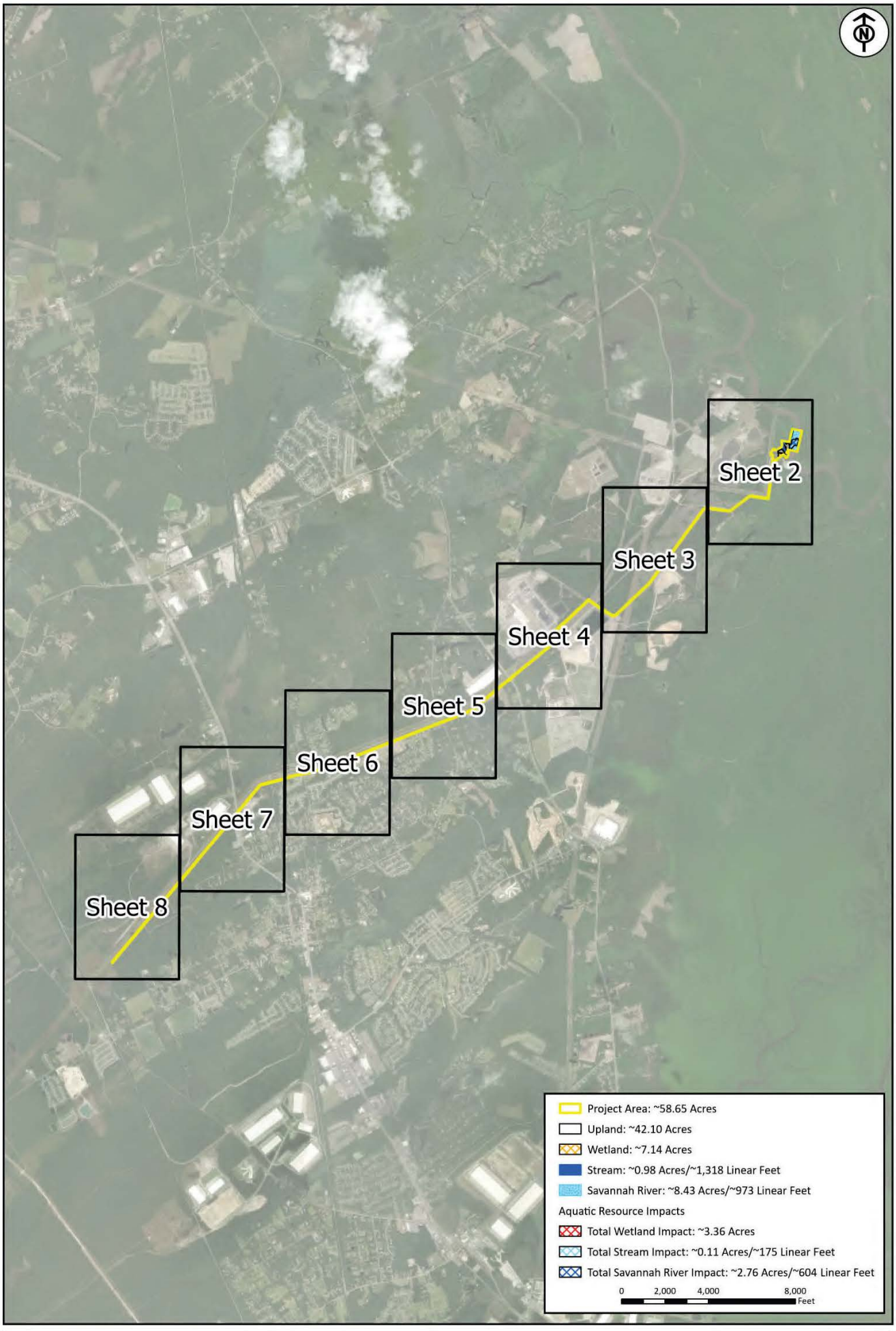
Effingham County
Water Intake Structure and Raw Water Line
Effingham County, Georgia

Project Location
Prepared For: ECBC

RLC
RESOURCE+LAND CONSULTANTS
41 Park of Commerce Way, Ste 101
Savannah, GA 31405
tel 912.443.5896 fax 912.443.5898

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Source(s): ESRI Basemap, Street Imagery



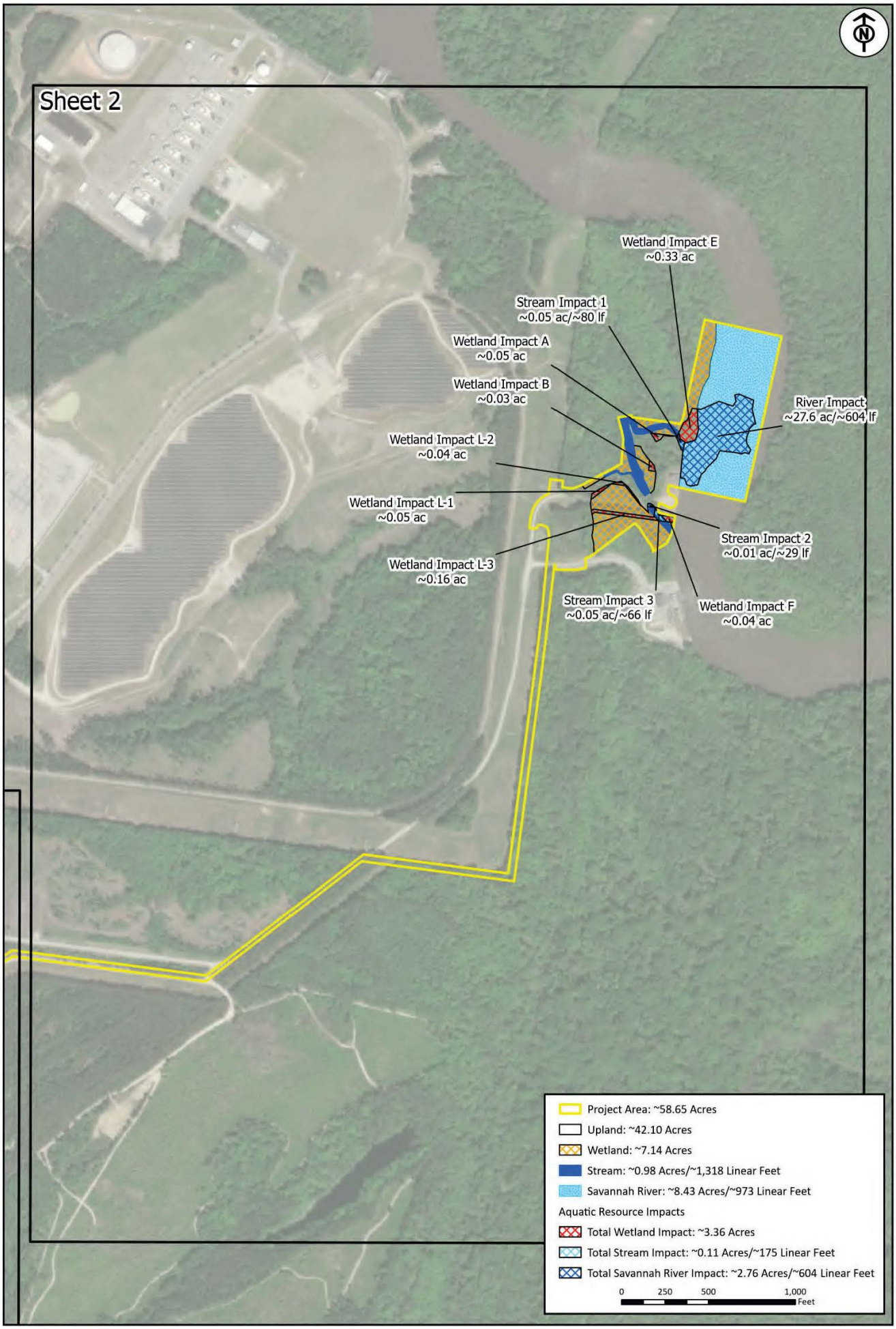
RLC Project No.:	25-218
Figure No.:	Sheet 1 of 8
Prepared By:	MW
Sketch Date:	9/16/2026
Map Scale :	1 inch = 4,000 ft

Effingham County Water Intake Structure and Raw Water Line
Effingham County, Georgia

Aquatic Resource Impact Exhibit Index
Prepared For: ECBC

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Source(s): ESRI Basemap, World Imagery



RLC Project No.:	25-218
Figure No.:	Sheet 2 of 8
Prepared By:	MW
Sketch Date:	9/16/2026
Map Scale :	1 inch = 500 ft

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RLC Project No.:	25-218
Figure No.:	Sheet 3 of 8
Prepared By:	MW
Sketch Date:	9/16/2026
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Figure No.:	Sheet 4 of 8
Prepared By:	MW
Sketch Date:	9/16/2026
Map Scale :	1 inch = 500 ft

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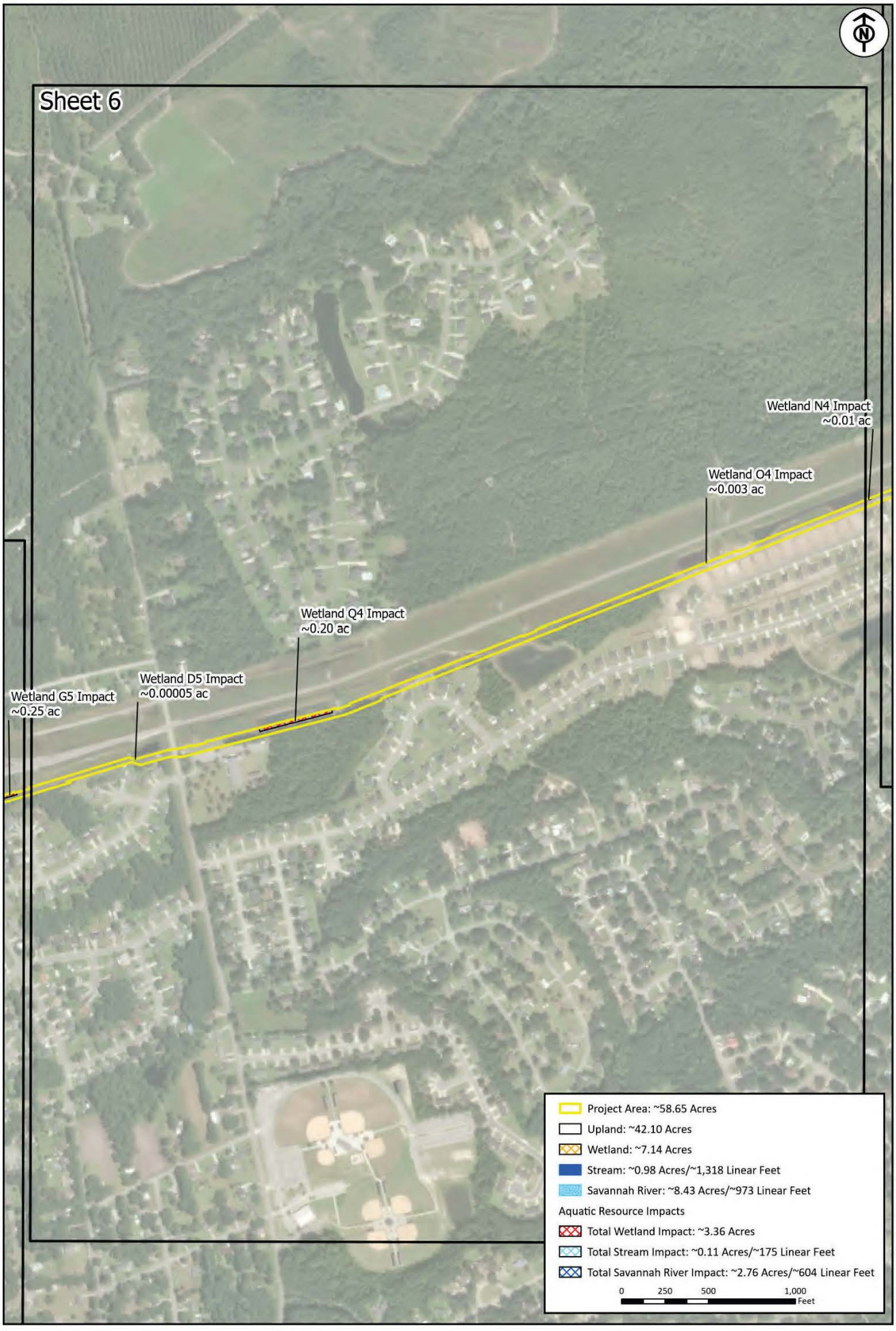
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RLC Project No.:	25-218
Figure No.:	Sheet 6 of 8
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Sketch Date:	9/16/2026
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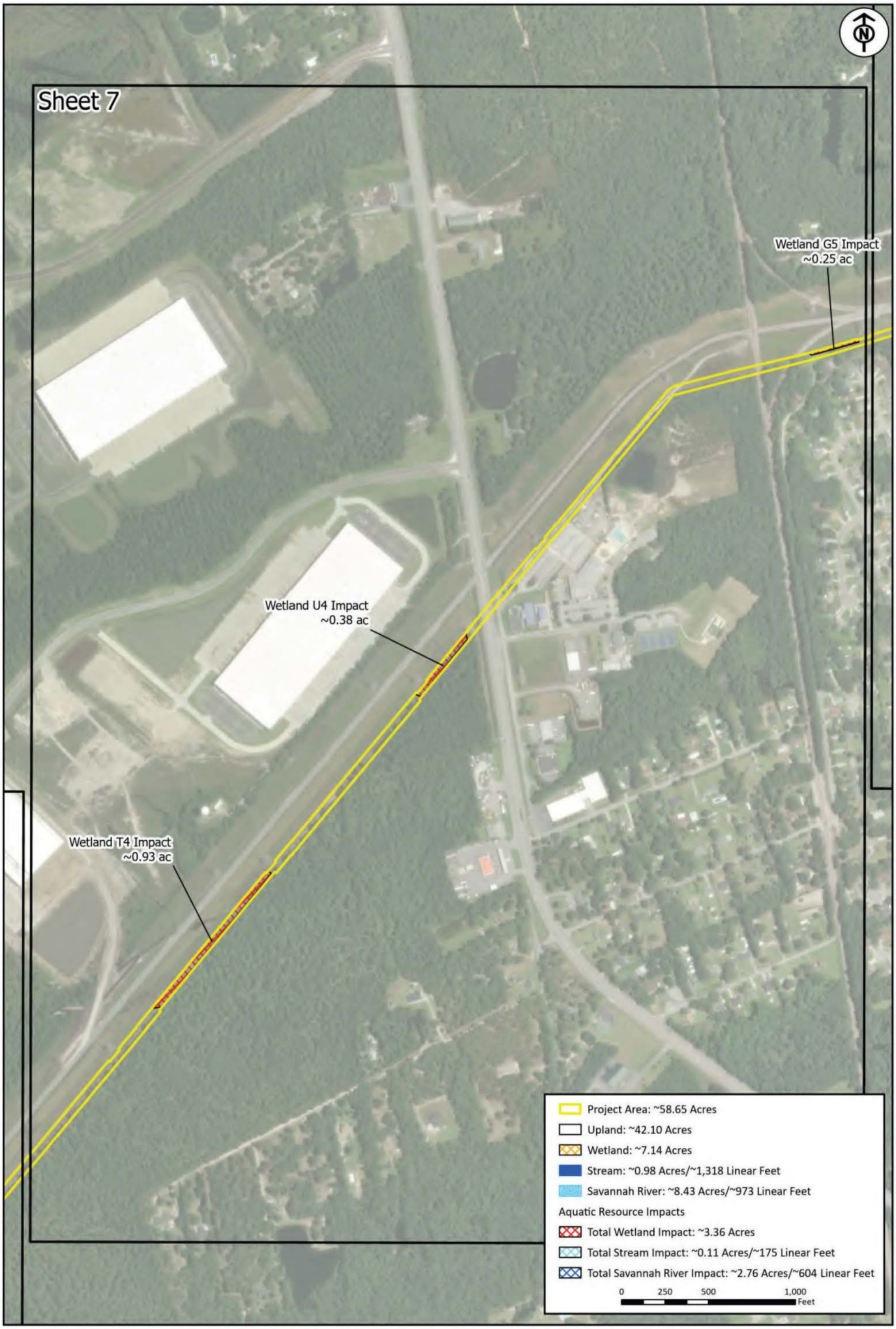
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RLC Project No.:	25-218
Figure No.:	Sheet 7 of 8
Prepared By:	MW
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Map Scale :	1 inch = 500 ft

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RLC Project No.:	25-218
Figure No.:	Sheet 8 of 8
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