



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – MOBILE DISTRICT
MONTGOMERY FIELD OFFICE
605 MAPLE STREET
BUILDING 1429, ROOM 105
MAXWELL AFB, AL 36112**

CESAM-RD-N
PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2015-00829-JSC

July 24, 2015

**JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND
STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

**PROPOSED DISCHARGE OF FILL MATERIAL ASSOCIATED WITH
THE CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL LANES ALONG STATE
ROAD 203 IN COFFEE COUNTY, ALABAMA**

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: This District has received an application for a Department of the Army (DA) permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344). This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons to assist in developing facts on which a decision by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) can be based. Please communicate this information to interested parties.

APPLICANT: Alabama Department of Transportation
Attention: Mr. Tony Shaddix
1409 Coliseum Boulevard
Montgomery, Alabama 36110

LOCATION: The proposed work is located within an approximately 1.7 mile long corridor along S.R. 203 in Elba, Coffee County, Alabama and has central coordinates of latitude 31.4261° N, and longitude 86.0737° W. The area is depicted on the Elba, Alabama Quadrangle, United States Geological Survey Topographic Map. The project site contains a portion of Whitewater Creek, as well as wetlands and unnamed tributaries that drain to the Pea River. The proposed project is situated within the Pea River watershed (HUC 03140202).

PROPOSED WORK: The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) is requesting authorization for the discharge of fill material into waters of the U.S. (WOUS). Specifically, the ALDOT proposes to discharge fill material into 5.16 acres of wetlands and 1,085 linear feet of stream in order to construct approximately 1.7 miles of additional lanes and bridging along the existing S.R. 203. The proposed work is a portion of an overall approximately 40 mile long U.S. Highway 84 improvement project.

AVOIDANCE & MINIMIZATION: Applicant provided information affirms that minimization efforts, to include choosing an alternative that would impact the least amount of wetlands, were considered in their review process. The applicant has also indicated that impacts to WOUS were minimized to the greatest extent practicable through the site design and layout process. In addition, the applicant has stated that a strict BMP plan has been designed specifically for the project and will be implemented during construction. The USACE has not verified the adequacy of the applicant's avoidance and minimization statement at this time.

COMPENSATORY MITIGATION: The applicant proposes to compensate for unavoidable impacts to wetlands by debiting credits from an ALDOT mitigation bank, and to provide compensatory mitigation for authorized stream impacts through the purchase of stream mitigation credits from an USACE approved mitigation bank. The USACE has not verified the adequacy of the applicant's proposed off-site mitigation plan at this time.

LEAD FEDERAL AGENCY ROLE: The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is considered the lead federal agency for the coordination and conduct of environmental reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Pursuant to NEPA, FHWA prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed U.S. Highway 84 improvement project. The EA addressed alternatives that considered various alignments and locations of the proposed interchange location. FHWA approved a Findings of No Significant Impact in May 1997 with a most re-evaluation dated September 2013. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is considering adopting FHWA's EA; however, a separate decision document would be prepared prior to a final decision concerning issuance or denial of the requested DA permit. Comments received would be used by USACE in the preparation of any supplemental EA and/or an Environmental Impact Statement, if required, pursuant to NEPA prior to a final decision concerning issuance or denial of the DA permit. The USACE would participate as a cooperating agency in the development of any additional NEPA documentation.

WATER QUALITY: The applicant is preparing their application for certification from the State of Alabama in accordance with Section 401(a) (1) of the Clean Water Act, and upon completion of the required advertising, a determination relative to certification will be made.

PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW/CUMULATIVE EFFECTS: 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, cultural values, 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 production, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the probable impacts involving discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States will include the application of the Section 404(b)(1) guidelines established by the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS: The USACE 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 USACE to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. For accuracy and completeness of the record, all data in support of or in opposition to the proposed work should be submitted in writing setting forth sufficient detail to furnish a clear understanding of the reasons for support or opposition. 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 EA and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the NEPA.

PUBLIC HEARING REQUESTS: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES: On behalf of FHWA, the ALDOT previously provided documentation to the Alabama State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) describing the proposed action. Copies of this notice are being sent to the SHPO.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The applicant, on behalf of the FHWA previously requested project review by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for matters related to federally protected species. Copies of this notice are being sent to the USFWS.

COMMENT PERIOD: All comments should be received no later than **30 days** from the date of issuance of this Public Notice. Enclosed to assist with your review are: vicinity maps (Figures 1-3), and proposed impacts maps (Figures 4-15). Figures one (1) through three (3) are enclosed to provide a conceptual layout of the proposed projects alignment and location, and should not be used to assess impacts to resource areas (e.g. WOUS). Figures four (4) through fifteen (15) are detailed drawings of the applicant's proposed impacts to WOUS. Any correspondence concerning this publication should refer to this Public Notice **SAM-2015-00829-JSC** and should be directed to the following address:

July 24, 2015

District Engineer:

U. S. Army Engineer District, Mobile
Regulatory Division, Montgomery Field Office
Attention: James S. Cherry, II
605 Maple Street
Bldg. 1429, Room 105
Maxwell, AFB, AL 36112

with a copy to the :

Director
Alabama Department of Environmental Management
Post Office Box 301463
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463

If you have any questions concerning this publication, you may contact the Project Manager via e-mail at james.s.cherry@usace.army.mil or telephone number (334) 953-2172. Please refer to the above Public Notice number. For additional information about the Mobile District's Regulatory Program, please take a moment to visit our web site at <http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>, while there please take a moment to complete our customer satisfaction survey. Your responses are appreciated and will allow us to improve our services.

Encls

MOBILE DISTRICT
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

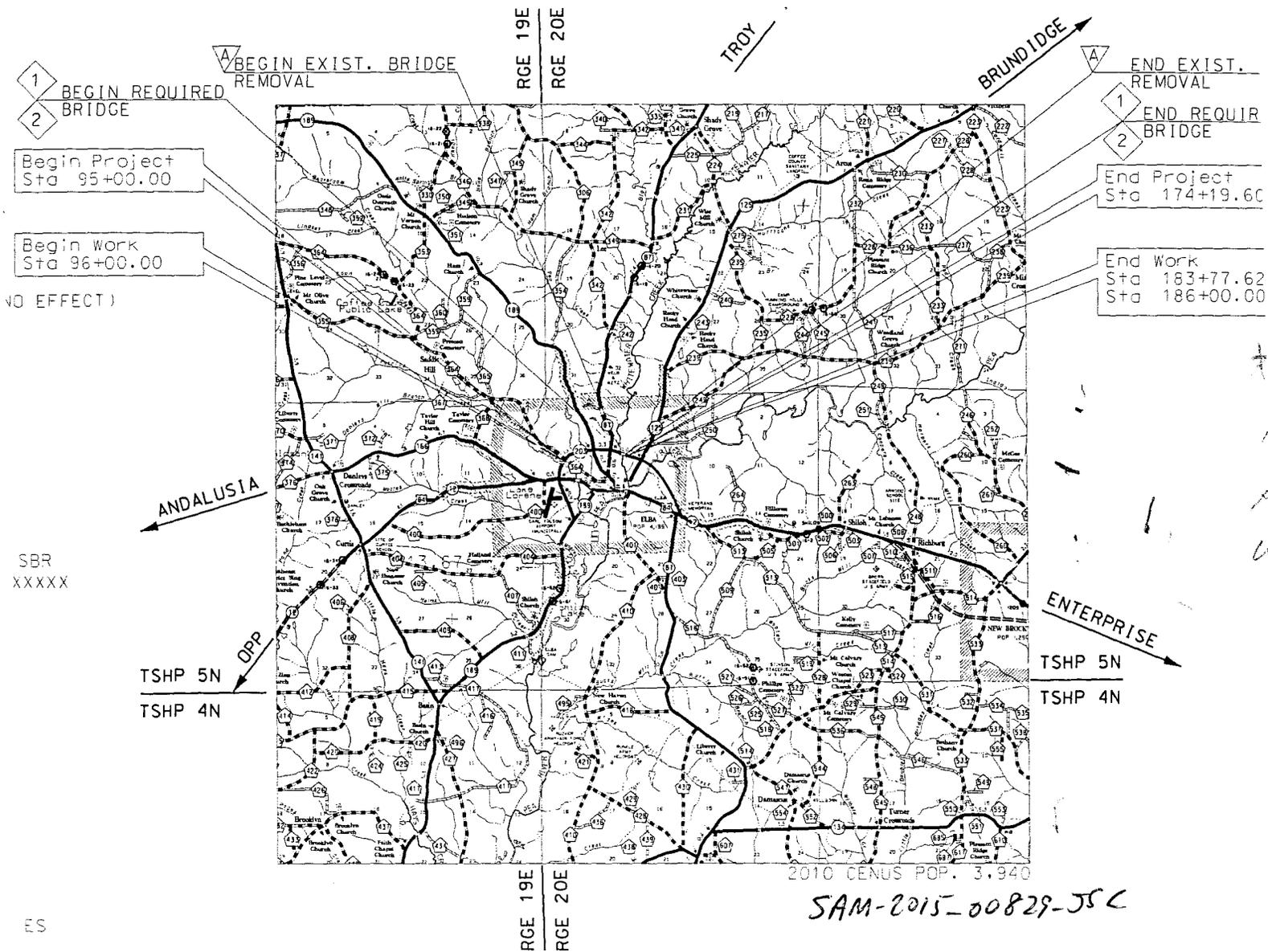
ALABAMA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

PLANS OF PROPOSED PROJECT NUMBER

PROJECT NH-0091(500)

SR-203 ADDITIONAL LANES FROM US-84 TO SR-125
GRADE, DRAIN, BASE AND PAVE AND BRIDGE
COFFEE COUNTY



3 M
6 M
3 M

Taylor Cem.

Everman Cemetery

Hospital

Hotel

High Sch

Elba
BM 931

High

Carl Folsom
Airport

RIVER

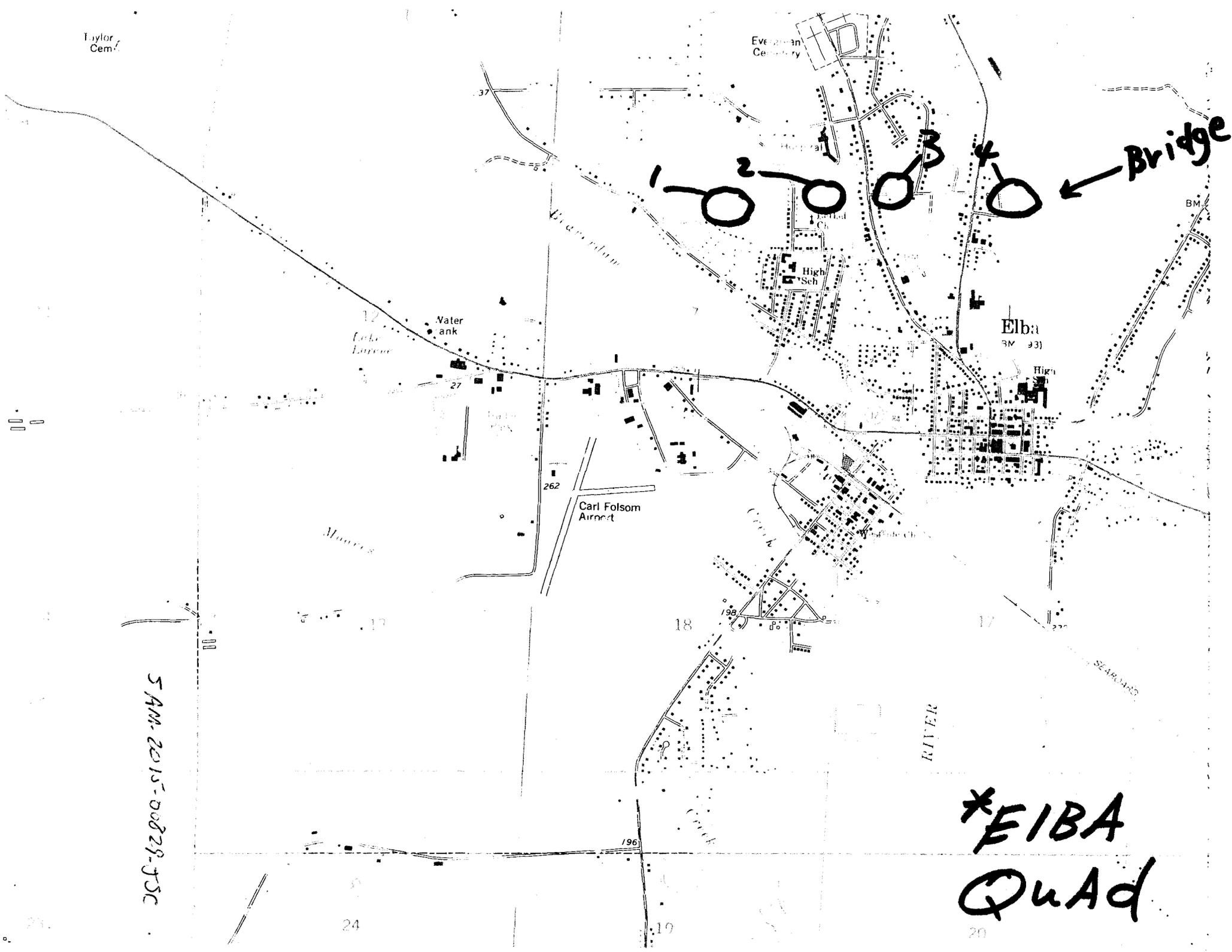
SEABOARD

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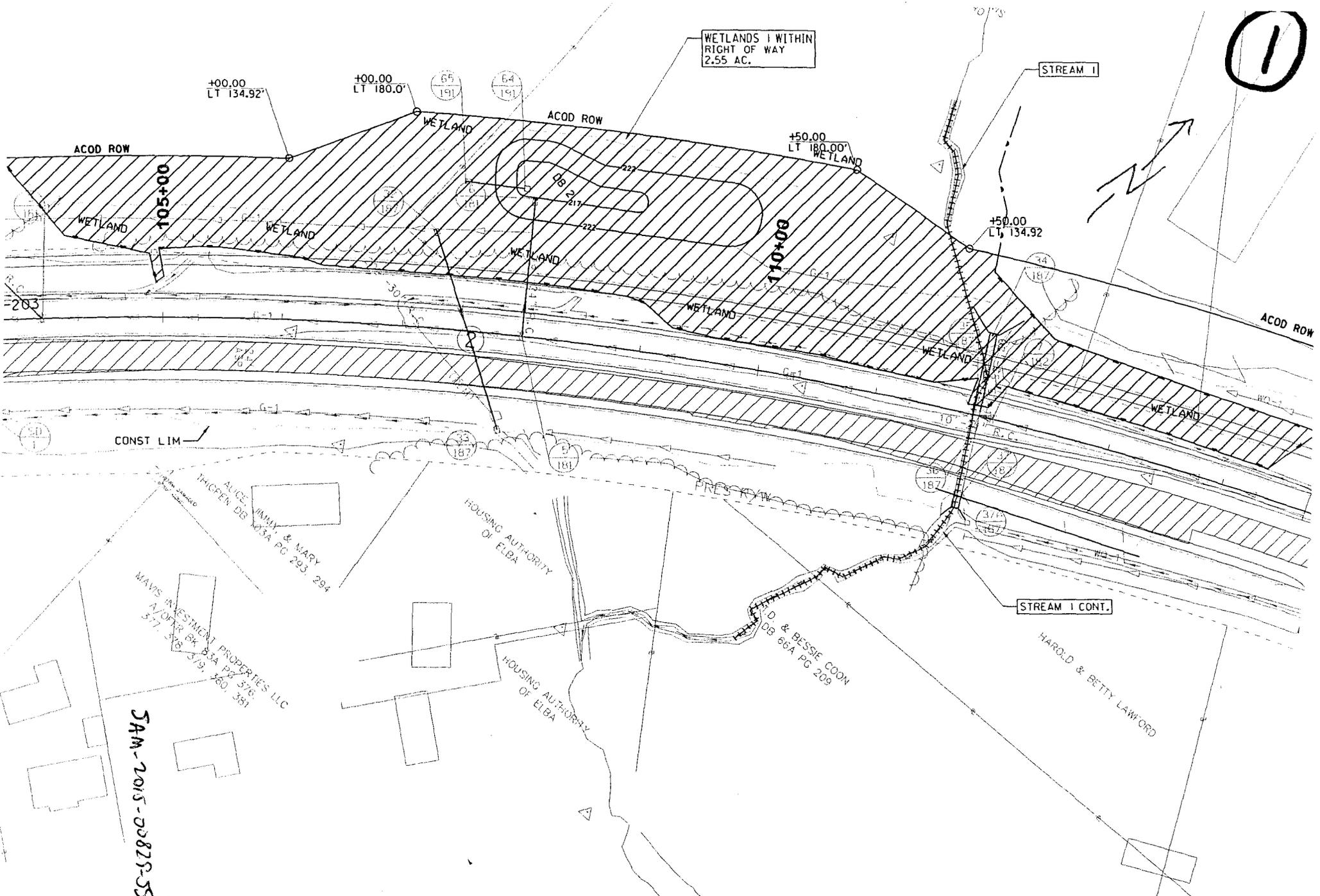
← Bridge

*EIBA
Quad

5 AM 2015-00829-JSC



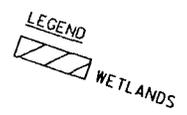
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SAM-2015-00825-55C

SUPERVISOR:	DESIGNER:	PLAN SUBMITTAL		ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	 SCALE (FEET)
DATE:	DATE:	PIH		NEEL-SCHAFFER	

REFERENCE PROJECT NO	FISCAL YEAR
NH-0091(500)	2016



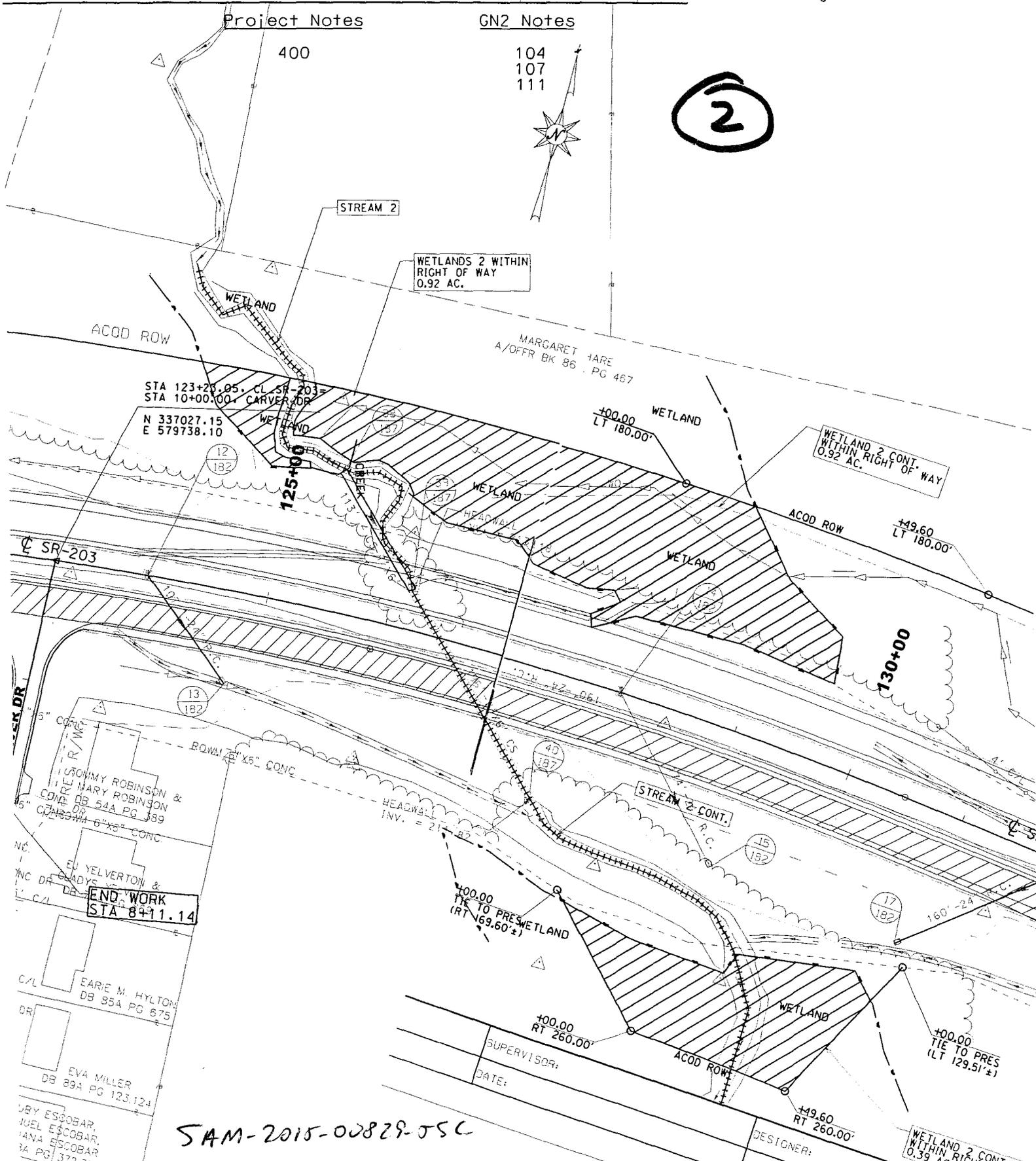
Project Notes

GN2 Notes

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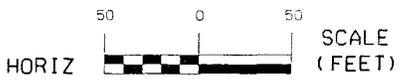
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SAM-2015-00829-JSC

DEPARTMENT
STATION



SHEET
WETLAND EXHIBIT

SUPERVISOR: _____ DATE: _____
 DESIGNER: _____ DATE: _____
 WETLAND 2 CONT. WITHIN RIGHT OF WAY 0.39 AC.

PLA.

REFE
PROJ
NH-0C

LEGEND
WETLANDS

4

Project Notes 400
GN2 Notes 104
107
111

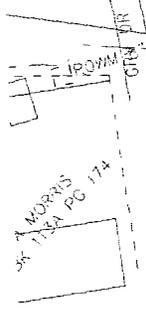
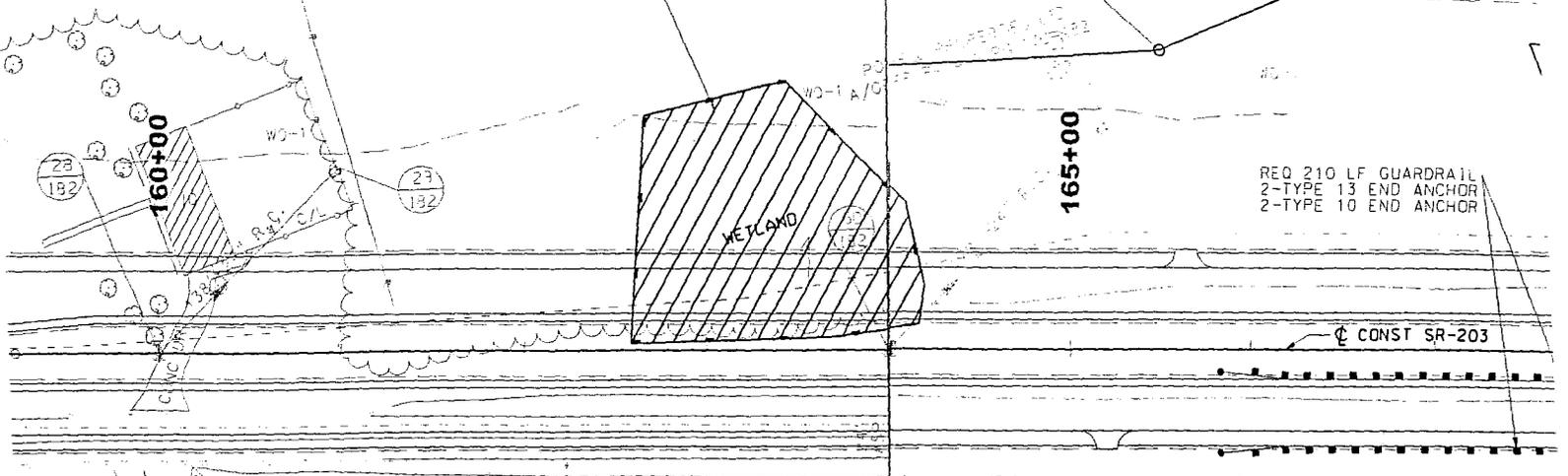
STELL
2. 243



WETLAND 4 WITHIN
RIGHT OF WAY
0.40 AC.

+59.06
LT 205.00'

+50.00
LT 160.00'



WETLAND 4 CONT.
WITHIN RIGHT OF WAY
0.14 AC.

+00.00
TIE TO PRES
(RT 128.12'±)

REQD
BRIDGE END SLAB

ACOD ROW

SAM-2015-00829-JSC

BRIDGE PLAN
TWO NEW BRIDGES OVER
WHITEWATER CREEK

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
PROJECT NO. 414 PG. 170 OF 172



ACOD ROW

TIE TO PRES
(+08.04 ±)
LT 170.00'

+79.06
LT 205.00'

REQUIRED BRIDGE
520.00'
BIN 020777 (SB)
020778 (NB)

170+00

175+00

SR-203 (SB)

SR-203 (NB)

WHITE WATER CREEK

REQD BRIDGE END
SLAB

REQ 210 LF GUARDRAIL
2 TYPE 13 END ANCHOR
2 TYPE 10 END ANCHOR

CONST LIM

END PROJECT NH-00911
BEGIN PROJECT NH-203
STA 174+19.60

EXISTING BRIDGE (REMOVE)
BIN 13401

+00.00
TIE TO PRES
(RT 137.48 ±)

BEGIN BRIDGE
STA 168+30.00

BEGIN BRIDGE
STA 168+84.14

END BRIDGE
STA 173+31.81

END BRIDGE
STA 173+30.00

SAM-2015-00821-55C

DESIGNER:	PLAN SUBMITTAL	 ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NEEL-SCHAFFER	 SCALE (FEET)
DATE:	PIH		