



**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-2016-00118-JSC

April 20, 2016

**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 PROPOSED GORDO BYPASS IN PICKENS 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 project begins west of Bear Creek in Section 6 of Township 20 South, Range 13 West and terminates near the Tuscaloosa County, Alabama line. The proposed work is located within a 6.2 mile long corridor having central coordinates of latitude 33.32385° N, and longitude 87.88782° W. The area is depicted on the Gordo and Elrod, Alabama Quadrangles, United States Geological Survey Topographic Maps. The proposed project is situated within the Middle Tombigbee - Lubbub watershed (HUC 03160106).

PROPOSED WORK: The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) is requesting authorization for the discharge of fill material into waters of the U.S. (WOUS) for the construction 6.2 miles of roadway in Pickens County, Alabama. The ALDOT proposes to impact approximately 61 acres of wetlands and 5,817 linear feet of stream to complete the proposed work. Work within WOUS includes mechanized land clearing, the discharge of fill material, and excavation or removal activities. The applicant alleges the proposed work is necessary to allow for work space creation, roadway construction and widening, and construction of features related to the applicant's construction best management practices plan (CBMPP).

The proposed project is the final phase of an approximately 12 mile long highway improvement project. The larger project involves the widening of U.S. 82 by adding additional lanes from Reform to west of Gordo followed by a bypass of the city of Gordo. The Gordo Bypass segment of the overall project will initiate where previously authorized (SAM-2014-00386-JSC) widening activities terminated west of Bear Creek and will extend eastward. West of Gordo the proposed roadway transitions to a new location and bypasses the town of Gordo to the north. Finally, the bypass will transition back to the existing U.S. 82 near the Tuscaloosa County line.

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 EA/FONSI states that seven alternates were initially considered, and that two alternatives were carried forward through the study. The applicant has also indicated that impacts to WOUS were minimized to the greatest extent practicable through the site design and layout process.

The ALDOT noted that impacts to WOUS were directly avoided through the use of bridging wherever practicable. The applicant also indicated that the potential impacts to unaffected on-site waters, as well as off-site receiving waters, would be reduced through the design and implementation of a CBMPP. Measures incorporated in the CBMPP include, but are not limited to, temporary sediment basins. According to the ALDOT, these features will be removed post construction and the area allowed to revert to a more natural state. 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 a USACE approved mitigation bank. The USACE has not verified the adequacy of the applicant's proposed 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 interchange construction project. The EA addressed alternatives that considered various alignments and locations of the proposed interchange location. FHWA approved a Findings of No Significant Impact (EA/FONSI) in October 2011. 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 the 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: Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the FHWA is reviewing the proposed undertakings on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Copies of this notice are being sent to the SHPO.

April 20, 2016

ENDANGERED SPECIES: Pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), the FHWA has reviewed the proposed undertaking's potential to affect threatened or endangered species. The USACE also requests information from the U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. 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.

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, and detailed impact maps. Vicinity maps are enclosed to provide a conceptual layout of the proposed project's alignment and location, and should not be used to assess impacts to resource areas (e.g. waters of the U.S.). Detailed figures depict the applicant's proposed impacts to WOUS. Any correspondence concerning this publication should refer to this Public Notice **SAM-2016-00118-JSC** and should be directed to the following address:

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

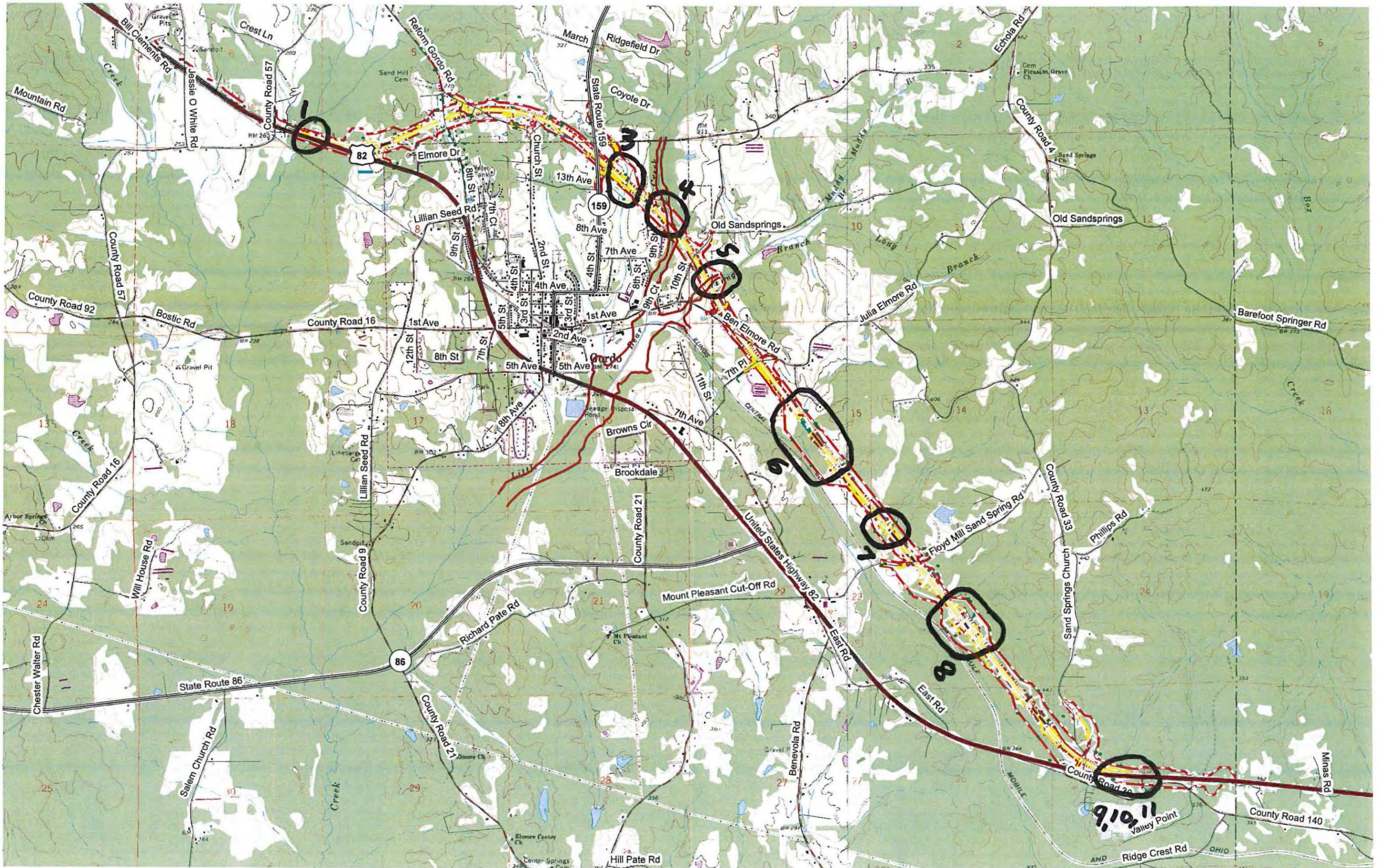
with a copy to the :

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>. Also, please take a moment to complete our customer satisfaction survey located near the bottom of the webpage. Your responses are appreciated and will allow us to improve our services.

Encls

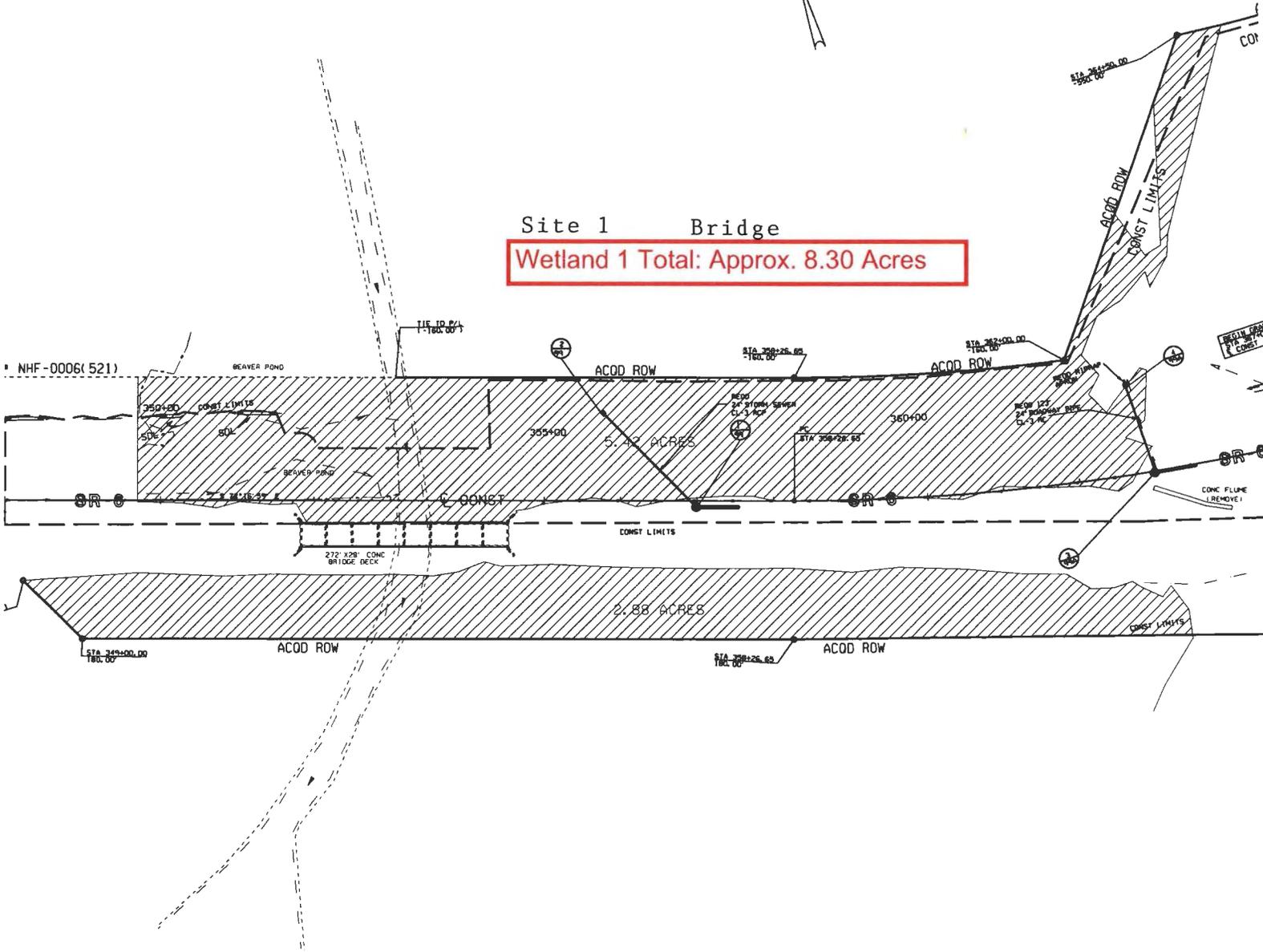
MOBILE DISTRICT
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



PLAN SHEET



Site 1 Bridge
Wetland 1 Total: Approx. 8.30 Acres



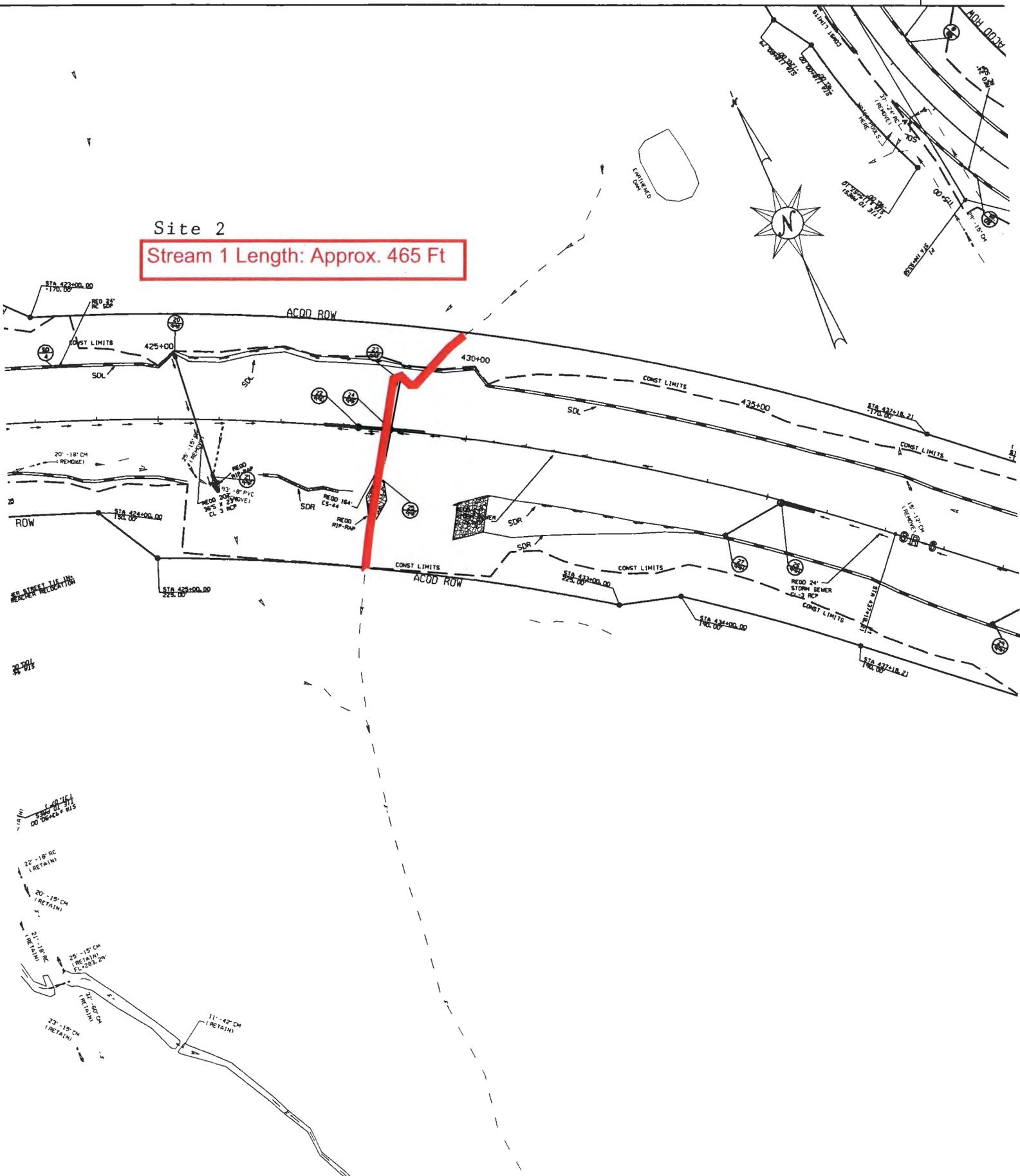
SUPERVISOR:	DESIGNER:	PLAN SUBMITTAL		ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DATE:	DATE:			

PLAN SHEET

REFERENC
PROJECT I
RECAF-0101(

Site 2

Stream 1 Length: Approx. 465 Ft

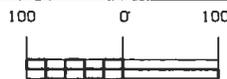


PLAN SUBMITTAL



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION

HORIZ



SCALE
(FEET)

SHEET TITI

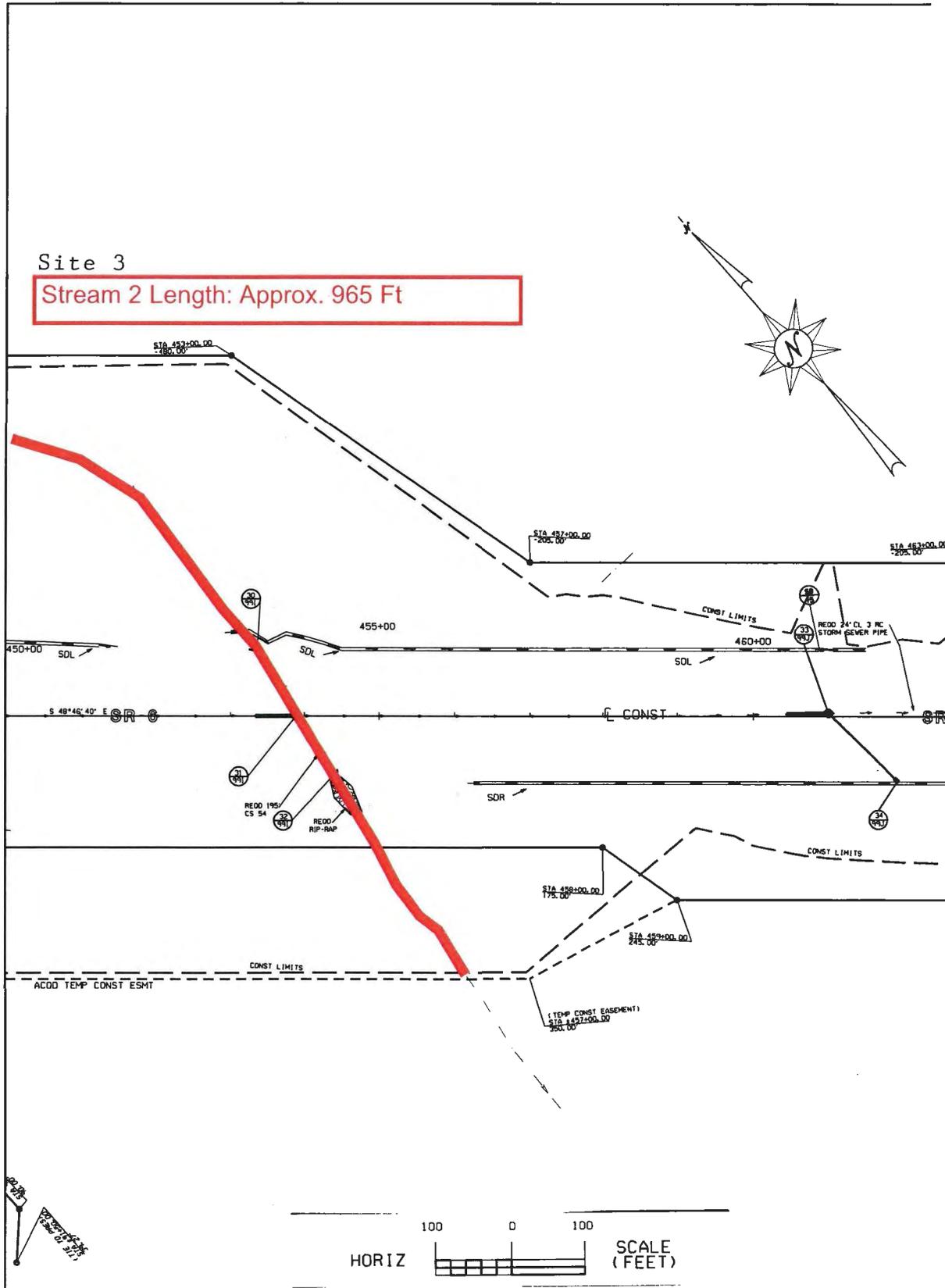
PLAN SHEET

Y:\projects\100032476\Project_Design\Environmental\ENV_3.dgn
 3/8/2016 1:47:19 PM caseyw

Site 3

Stream 2 Length: Approx. 965 Ft

STA 450+00.00

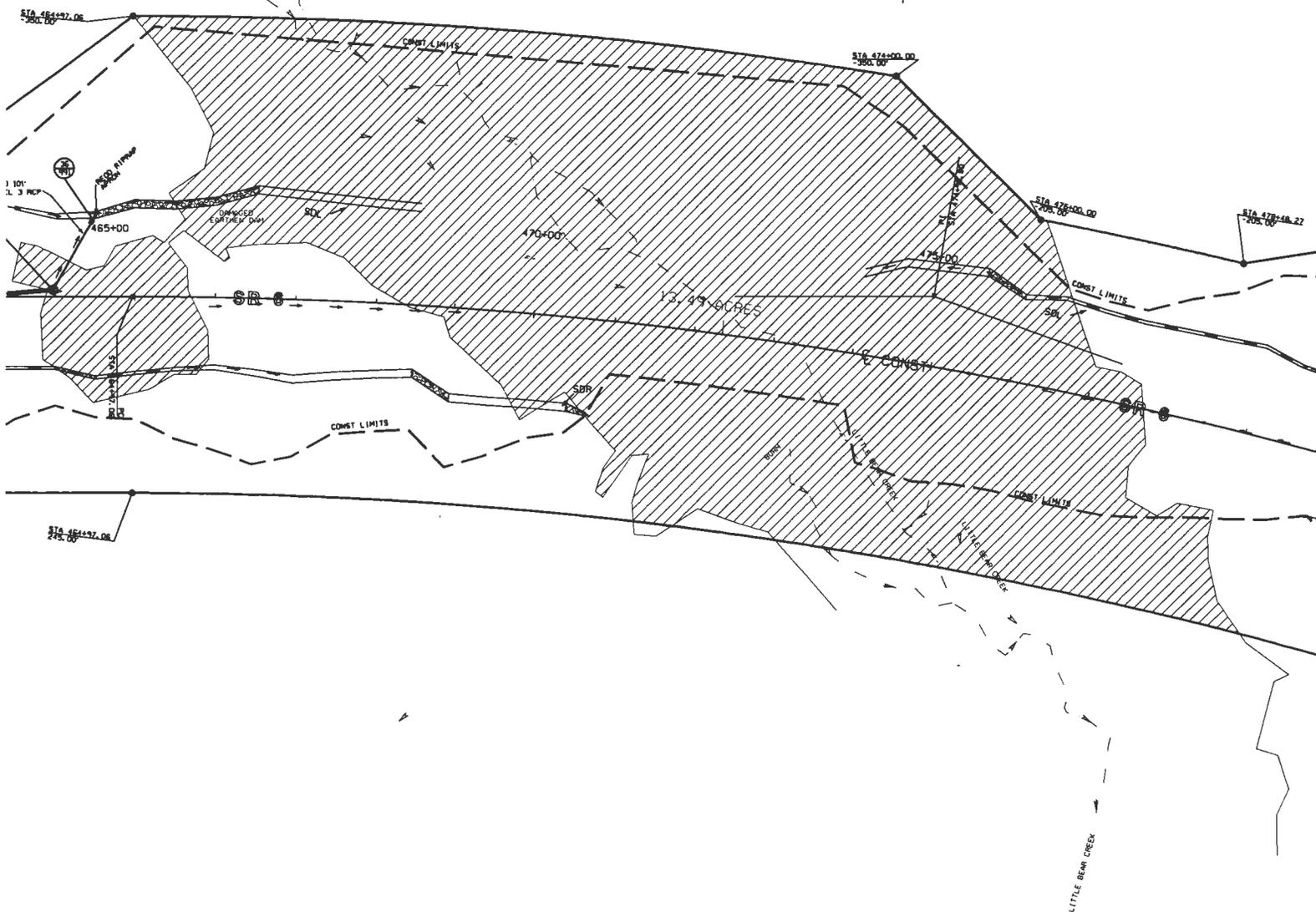


RESPONSIBLE PE:	SUPERVISOR:	DESIGNER:
DATE:	DATE:	DATE:

REFERENCE PROJECT NO	FISCAL YEAR
RECAF-0101(527)	2016



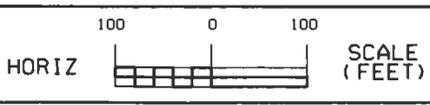
Site 4 Bridge
Wetland 2 Total: Approx. 13.49 Acres



PLAN SUBMITTAL



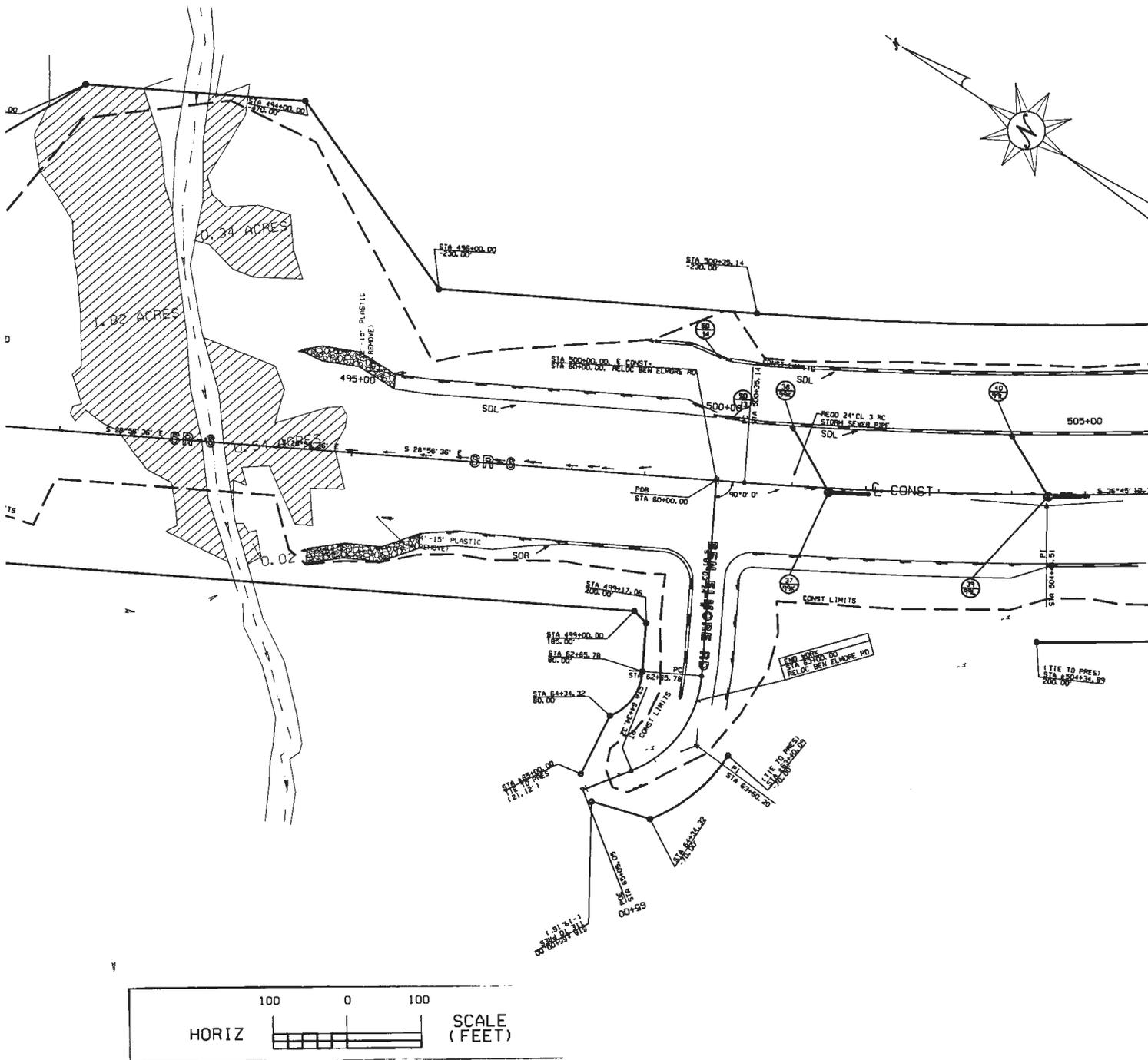
ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



SHEET TITLE
PLAN SHEET

Site 5 Bridge

Wetland 3 Total: Approx. 2.72 Acres

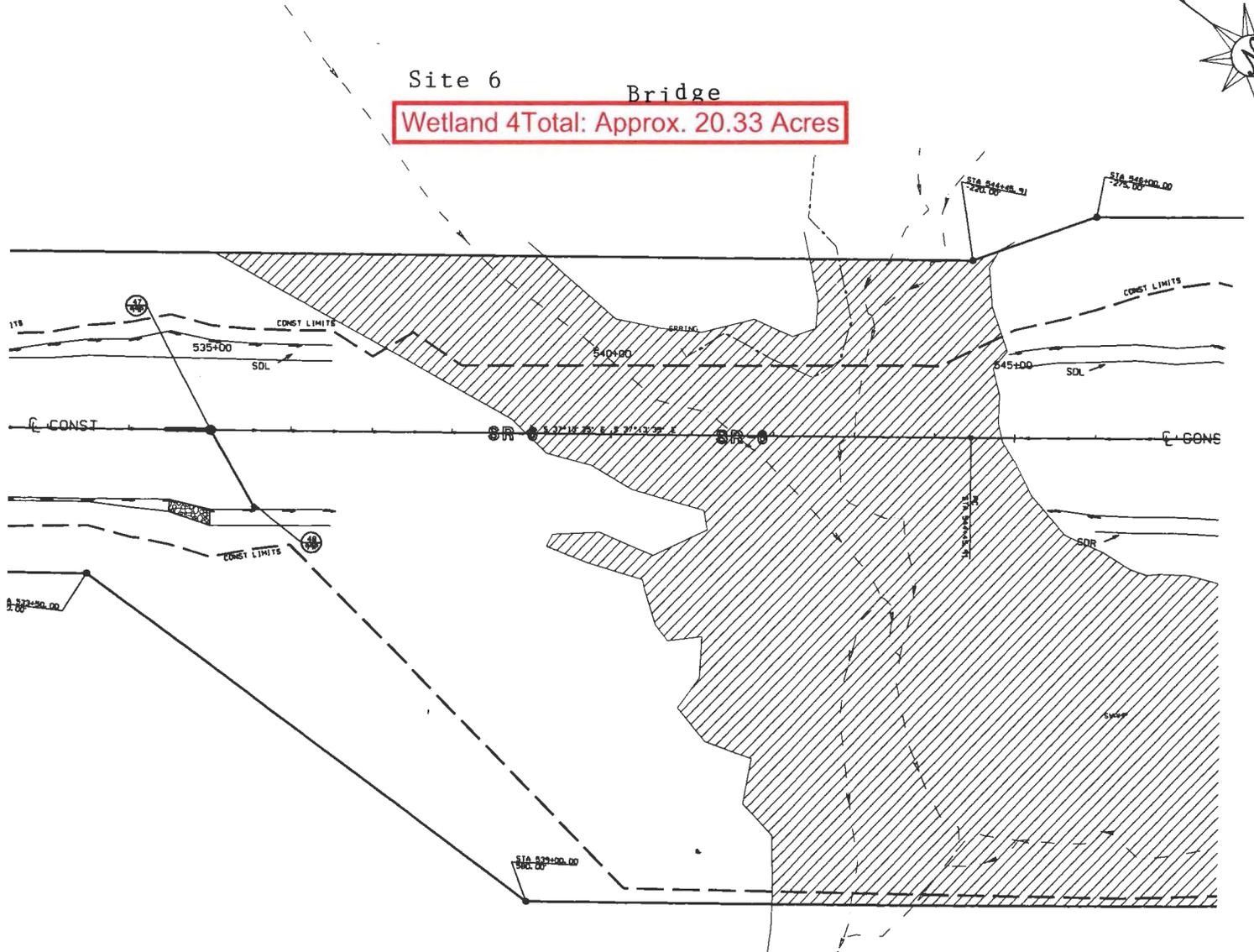
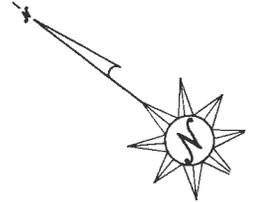


RESPONSIBLE PE:	SUPERVISOR:	DESIGNER:	PLAN SUBMITTAL
TE:	DATE:	DATE:	

PLAN SHEET

Site 6 Bridge

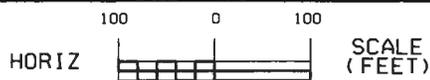
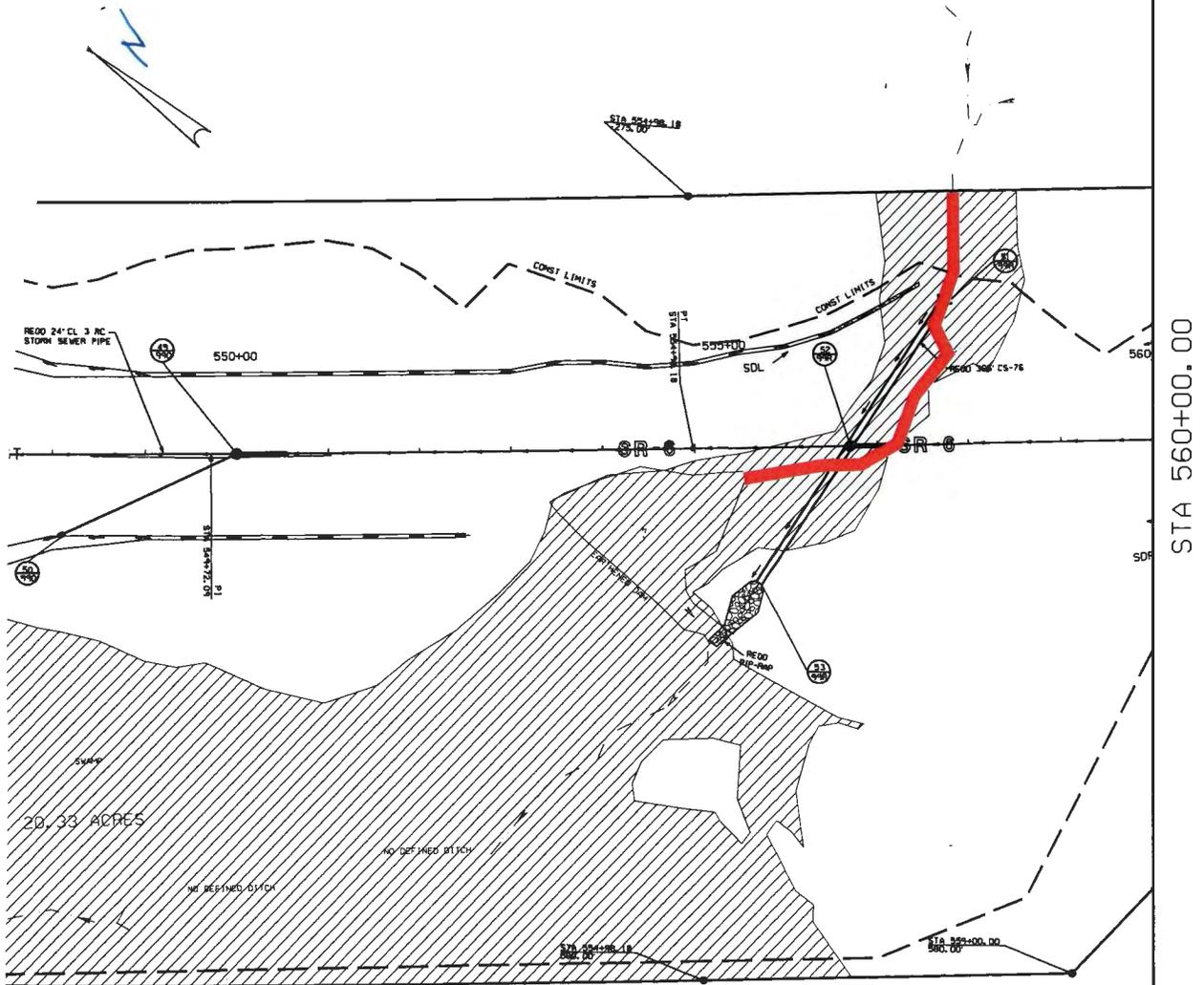
Wetland 4 Total: Approx. 20.33 Acres



SUPERVISOR:	DESIGNER:	PLAN SUBMITTAL	 ALABA OF TI
DATE:	DATE:		

REFERENCE PROJECT NO	FISCAL YEAR	SHEET NO
RECAF-0101(527)	2016	5

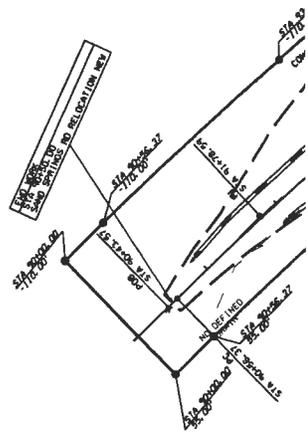
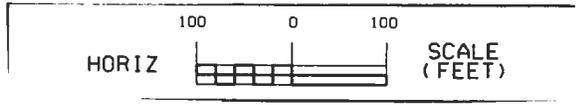
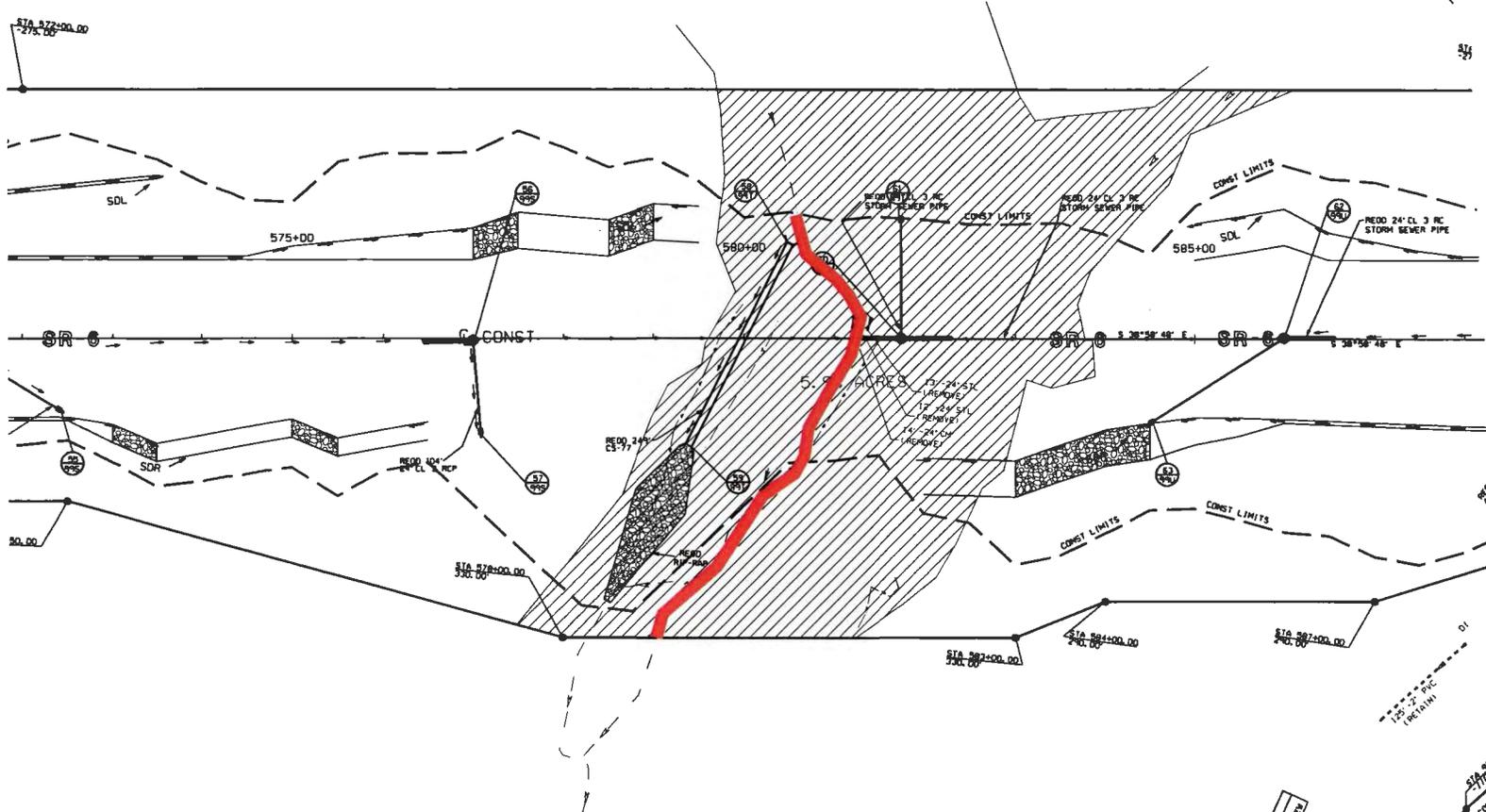
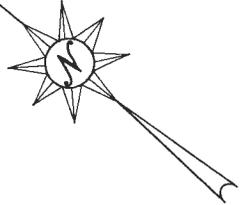
Site 6 continued Culvert
 Stream 3 Length: Approx. 470 Ft.



PLAN SHEET

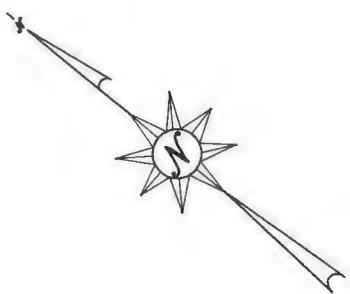
Site 7 Culvert

Wetland 5 Total: Approx. 5.98 Acres
Stream 4 Length: Approx. 585 Ft.



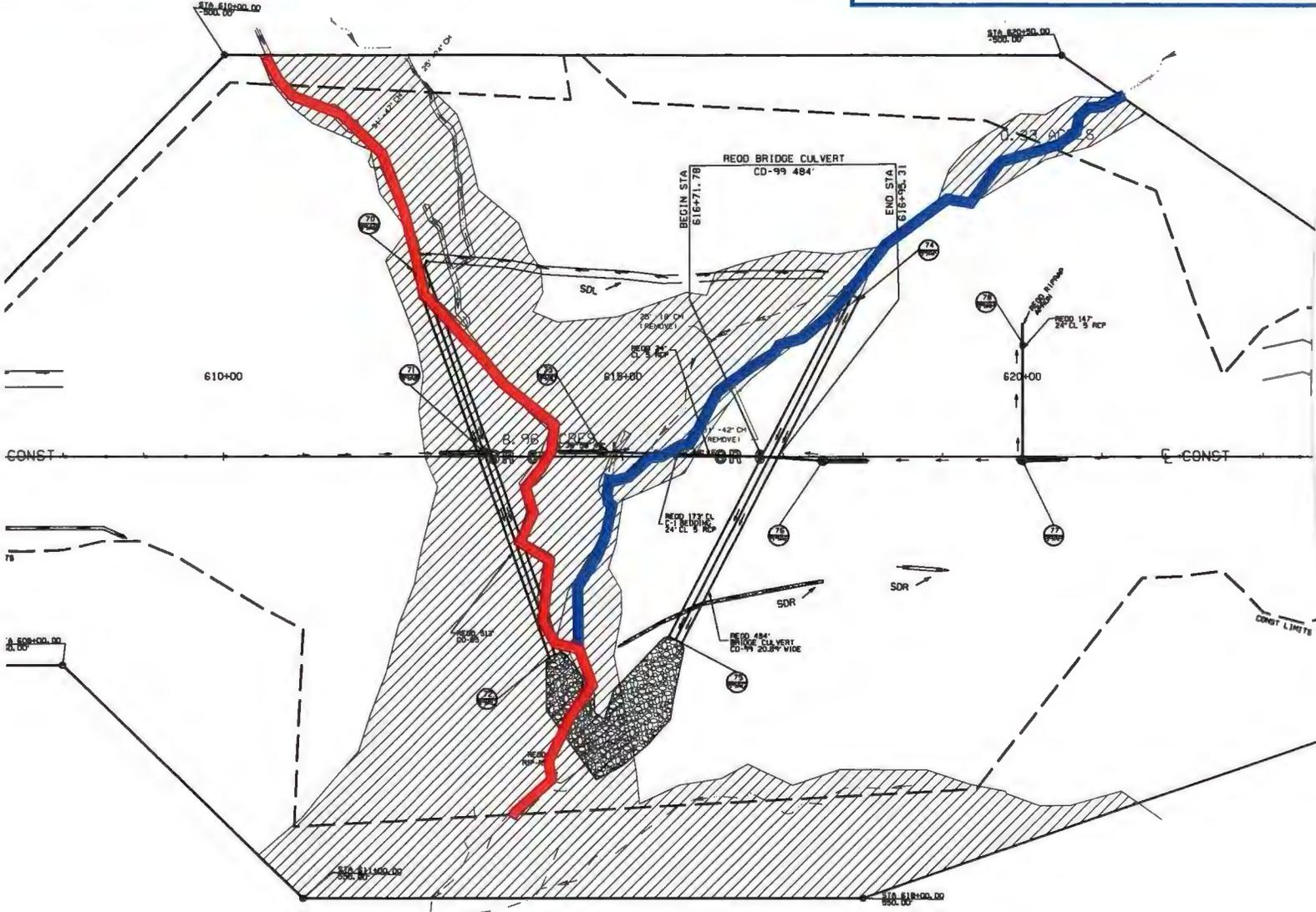
SUPERVISOR:	DESIGNER:	PLAN SUBMITTAL	ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DATE:	DATE:		

PLAN SHEET

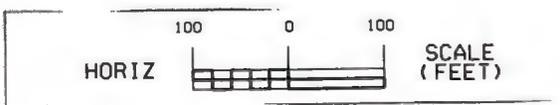


Site 8 Culvert
Stream 5 Length: Approx. 1378 Ft.

Site 8 continued Culvert
Stream 6 Length: Approx. 1072 Ft.



Site 8
Wetland 6 Total: Approx. 9.29 Acres



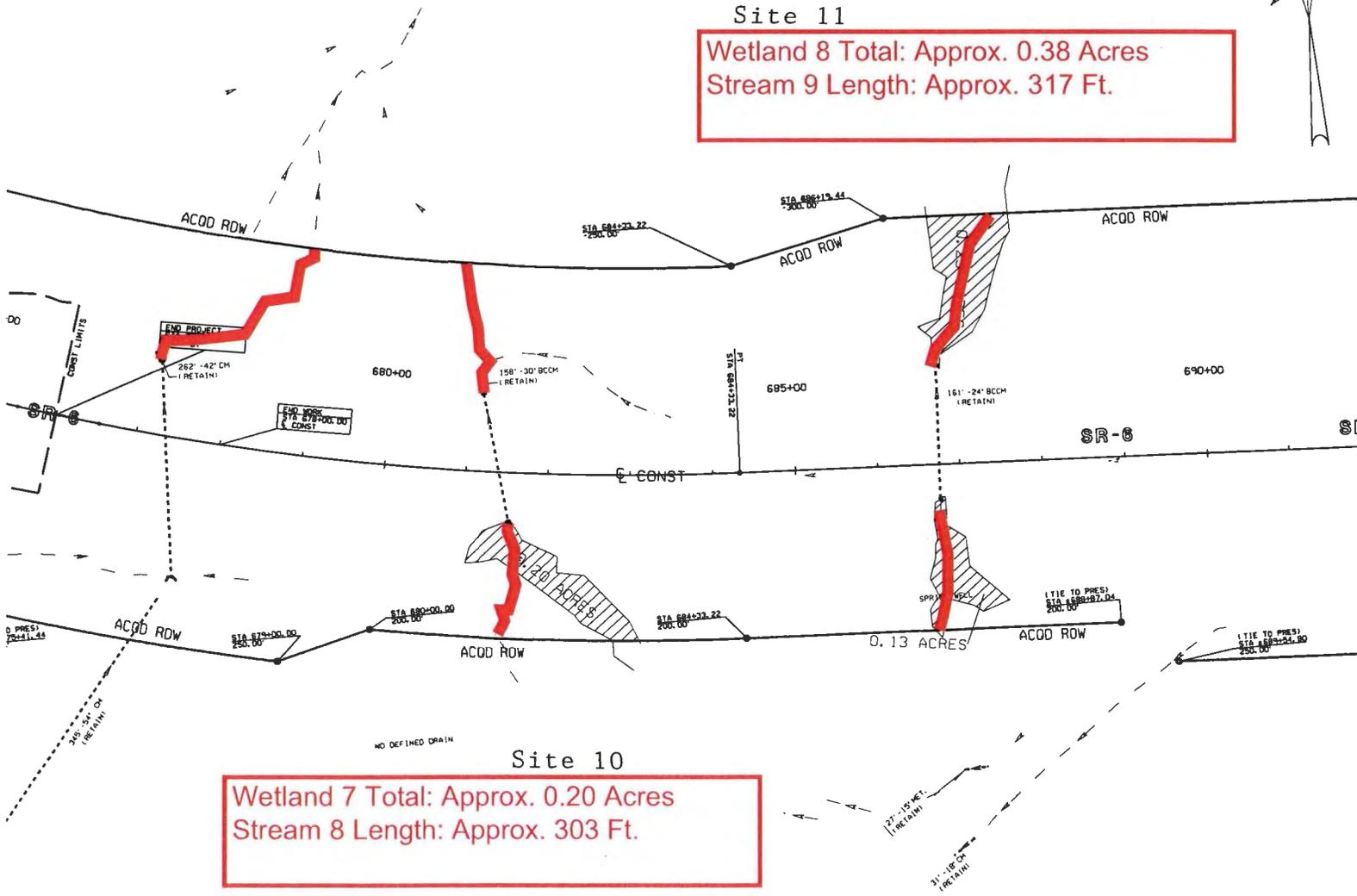
SUPERVISOR:	DESIGNER:	PLAN SUBMITTAL	 ALABAMA DEP OF TRANSPORT
DATE:	DATE:		

Site 9

Stream 7 Length: Approx. 262 Ft.

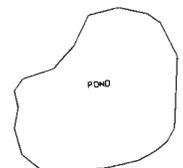
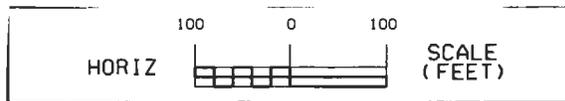
Site 11

Wetland 8 Total: Approx. 0.38 Acres
Stream 9 Length: Approx. 317 Ft.



Site 10

Wetland 7 Total: Approx. 0.20 Acres
Stream 8 Length: Approx. 303 Ft.



POSSIBLE PE:	SUPERVISOR:	DESIGNER:	PLAN SUBMITTAL:	
E:	DATE:	DATE:		