



REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, MOBILE DISTRICT  
600 VESTAVIA PARKWAY, SUITE 203  
THE SHELBY BUILDING  
VESTAVIA HILLS, ALABAMA 35216

CESAM-RD-N  
PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2017-00669-APW

January 29, 2024

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

**PROPOSED DISCHARGE OF FILL MATERIAL INTO WETLANDS ASSOCIATED WITH  
IMPROVEMENTS TO THE NORTH PICKENS AIRPORT IN REFORM, 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 U.S.C. 1344). Please communicate this information to interested parties.

APPLICANT: Pickens County Commission  
Attention: Cheryl Bowles  
20 Phoenix Avenue, Room 102  
Carrollton, Alabama 35447

AGENT: Garver, LLC  
Attention: Joseph Rujawitz  
4300 S JB Hunt Drive, #240  
Rogers, Arkansas 72758  
JCRujawitz@garverusa.com

**LOCATION:** The proposed project is located in wetlands in Reform, Pickens County, Alabama. Specifically, the project is located within Sections 21 and 28, Township 19 South, Range 14 West. Center coordinates of the project are latitude 33.379869, longitude -88.008278. The project is located in the Middle Tombigbee-Lubbub 8-digit hydrologic unit code (HUC 03160106).

**PROJECT PURPOSE:** The basic project purpose is transportation.

**WORK:** The applicant is requesting authorization to discharge fill material into 2.14 acres of wetlands in association with the expansion of the existing drainage system and the construction of a new taxi line and hangar at the North Pickens airport.

Specifically, the applicant is proposing to discharge fill material into 0.45 acres of non-forested "Wetland 1" for grading associated with the construction of the new taxi line and hangar; 1.33 acres of "Wetland 1" for grading associated with the construction of

building foundation for future expansions of the airport; 0.26 acres of non-forested "Wetland 4" for the construction of a new concrete flume; and 0.08 acres of non-forested "Wetland 2" and 0.02 acres of scrub-shrub "Wetland 3" for grading associated with drainage improvements.

**AVOIDANCE & MINIMIZATION:** According to the applicant, no avoidance measures are proposed because "Wetland 1" and "Wetland 4" have been deemed hazardous wildlife attractants in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations. Minimization efforts include implementation of best management practices during and after construction to prevent negative impacts to adjacent aquatic features. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has not verified the adequacy of the applicant's avoidance and minimization efforts at this time.

**COMPENSATORY MITIGATION:** The applicant proposes to purchase wetland credits from an approved mitigation bank.

**LEAD FEDERAL AGENCY ROLE:** The FAA is considered the lead federal agency for the coordination and conduct of environmental reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the proposed project. Pursuant to NEPA and FAA regulations, FAA is currently reviewing the applicant's request for a categorical exclusion (CATEX) determination and is preparing environmental effects documentation for the proposed airport expansion and drainage improvements. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is considering adopting FAA's final environmental documentation findings; however, a separate decision document would be prepared prior to a final decision concerning issuance or denial of the requested Department of the Army (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 applicant will apply for certification from the State of Alabama in accordance with Section 401(a) (1) of the Clean Water Act. Upon completion of the required advertising and public comment review, a determination relative to water quality certification will be made by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management.

This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons in order to assist in developing facts on which a decision by the USACE can be based. 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. 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 use 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.

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. 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. 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.

Evaluation of the probable impacts involving deposits of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

**HISTORIC PROPERTIES:** In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Appendix C of 33 CFR 325, the undertaking defined in this notice is being considered for the potential to affect cultural and historic properties within the permit area. The USACE has not made a determination of effects to historic properties at this time. We are seeking comment from the State Historic Preservation Officer, federally recognized American Indian tribes, local historical societies, museums, universities, the National Park Service, and the general public regarding the existence or the potential for existence of significant cultural and historic properties which may be affected by the work. Further coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer and/or federally-recognized American Indian tribes will be performed as determined to be appropriate.

**ENDANGERED/THREATENED SPECIES:** Preliminary review of this application and the U.S. Department of the Interior List of Endangered and Threatened Species indicates the following species have the potential to occur in the project watershed: Indiana Bat, Northern Long-eared Bat, Tricolored Bat, Alligator Snapping Turtle, Orangenacre Mucket, Ovate Clubshell, Southern Clubshell, and Georgia Rockcress. An effects determination will be made during the evaluation process, at which time the USACE will initiate consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), as appropriate. Copies of this public notice are being sent to the USFWS

and other federal and state agencies for review and receipt of any relevant comments regarding potential effects of the proposed project on the listed species.

Correspondence concerning this Public Notice should refer to Public Notice Number **SAM-2017-00669-APW** and should be directed to the District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mobile District, Birmingham Field Office, Attention: **Jevon Coleman**, 600 Vestavia Parkway, Suite 203, Vestavia Hills, Alabama 35216, with a copy to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Field Operations Division, Office of Field Services, Attention: Mr. Ryan Cooper, Post Office Box 301463, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-1463. Comments may also be submitted via e-mail to USACE at **Jevon.D.Coleman@usace.army.mil** and to ADEM at **fieldmail@adem.alabama.gov**.

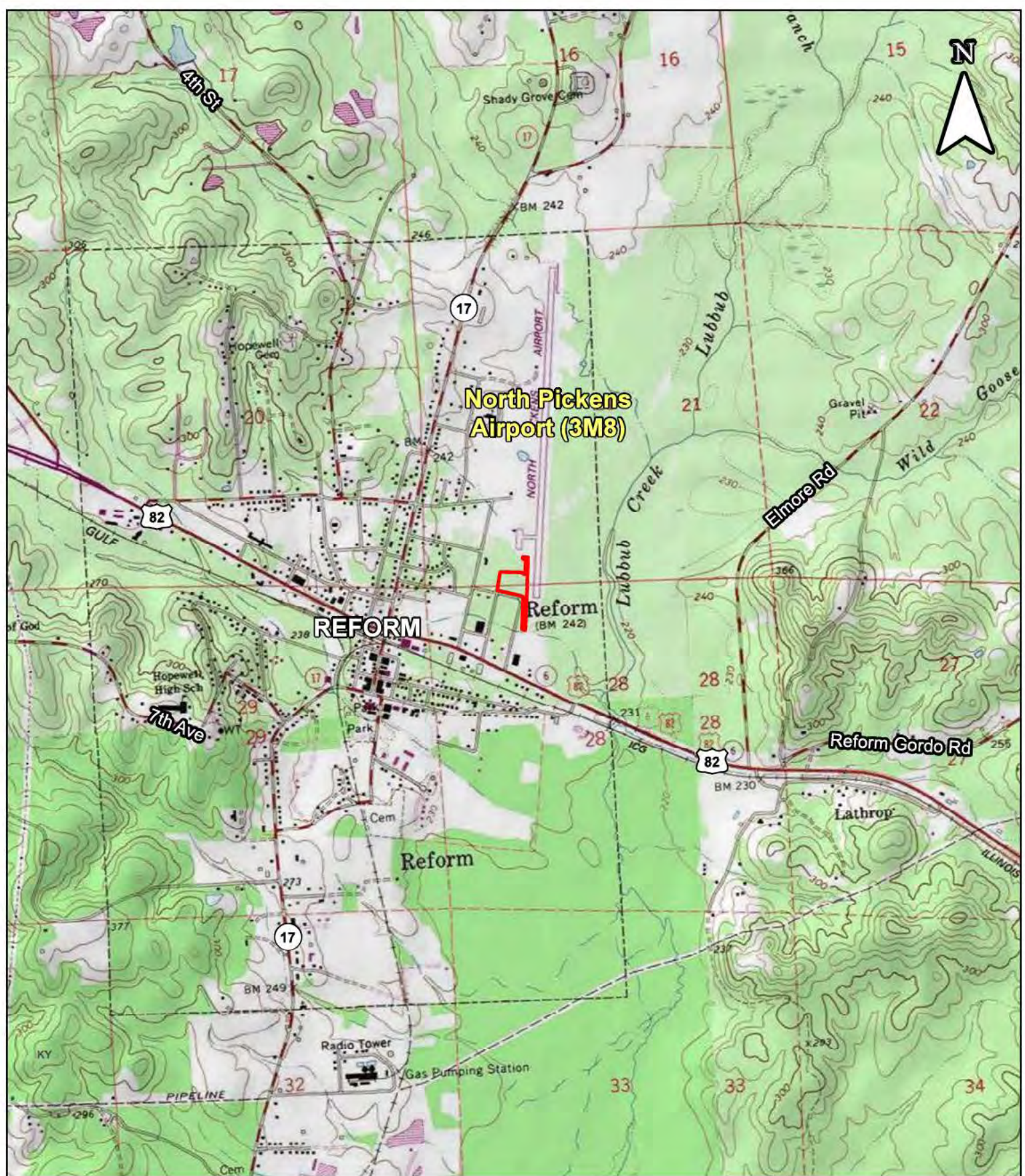
Comments should be received no later than **30 days** from the date of this Public Notice. If you have any questions concerning this publication, you may contact the project manager via e-mail at **Jevon.D.Coleman@usace.army.mil** or telephone number **(205) 381-0741**. Please refer to the above Public Notice number.

For additional information about our Regulatory Program, please visit our web site at <http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>.

MOBILE DISTRICT  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Attachments





Study Area

0 0.5 1  
Miles

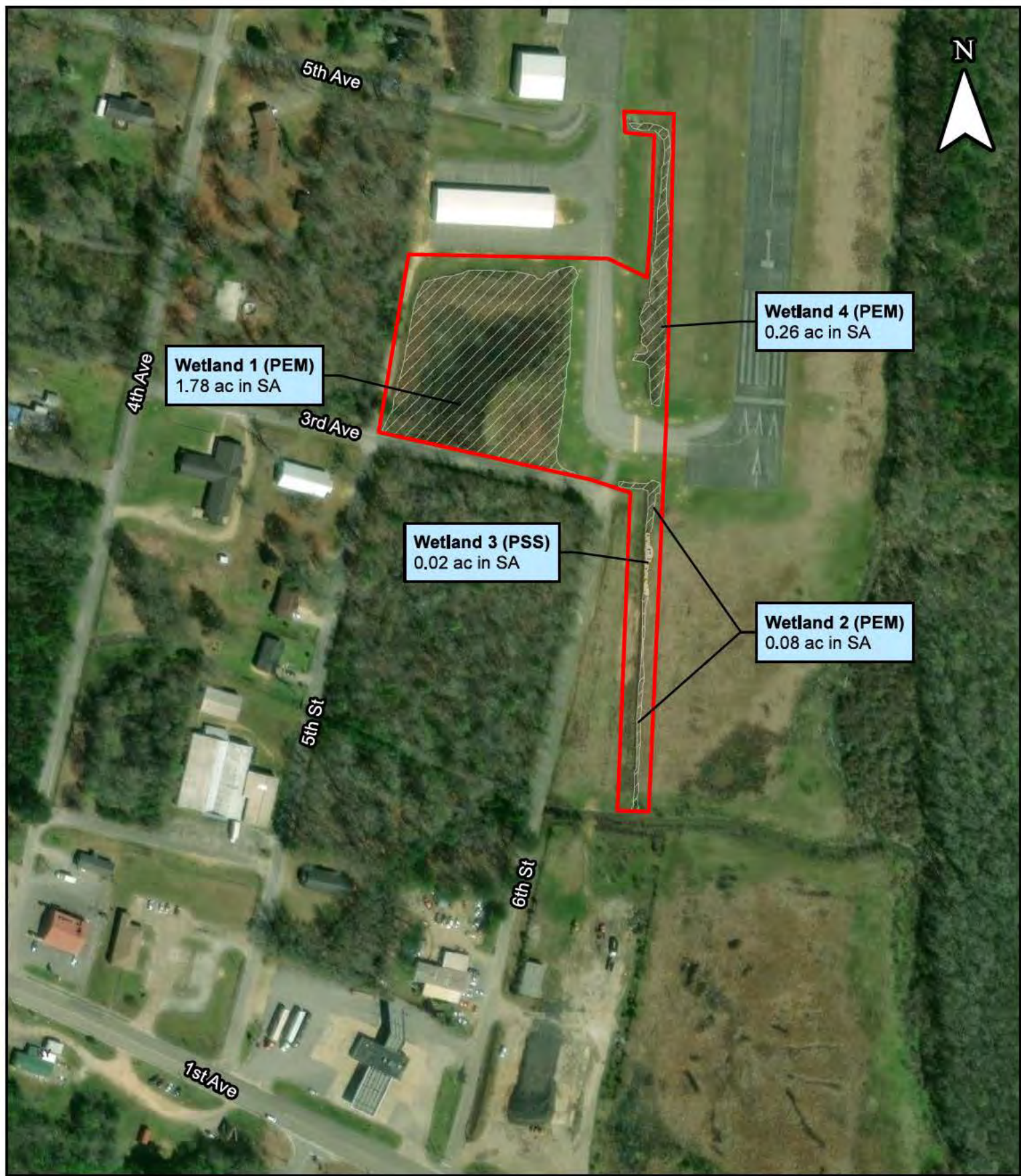



# **FIGURE 1 - SITE LOCATION MAP**


## **3M8 Hangar and Drainage Improvements**


North Pickens Airport  
Reform, Alabama  
Garver Project No. 23A01060





 Study Area

 Emergent Wetland (PEM)

 Scrub-Shrub Wetland (PSS)

0 250 500  
Feet



 **FIGURE 3 - PROJECT OVERVIEW MAP**

**3M8 Hangar and Drainage Improvements**

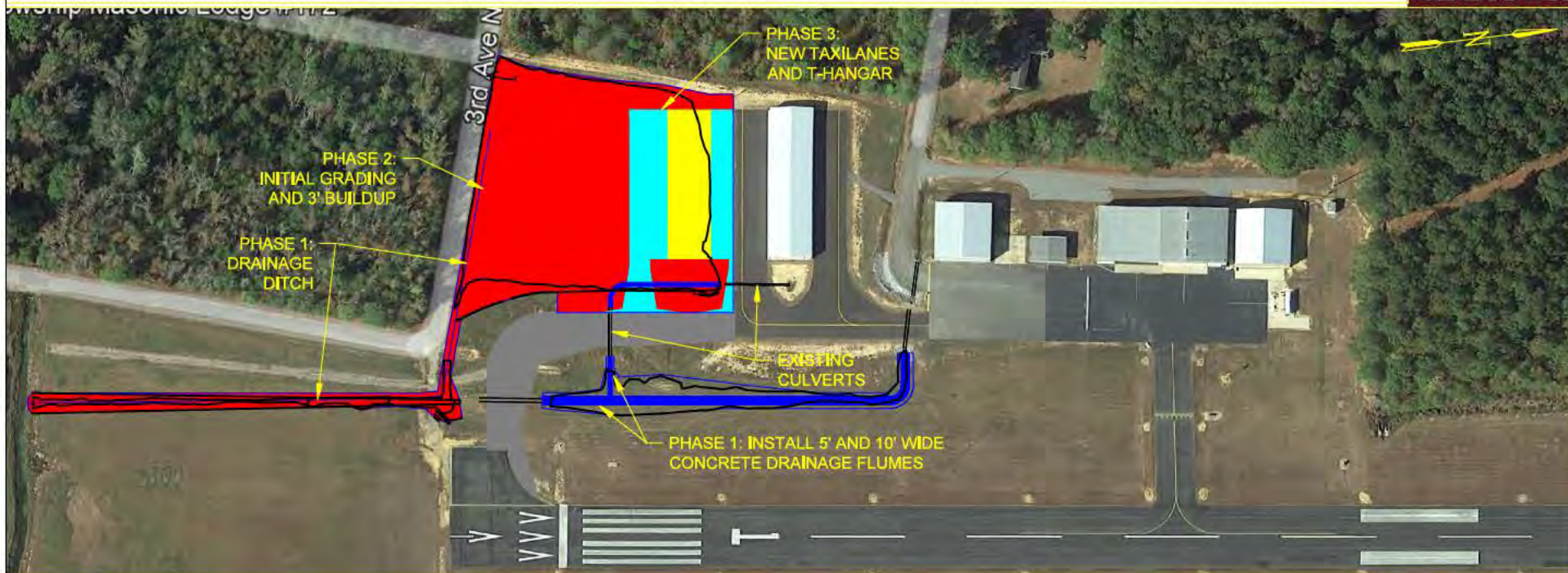
North Pickens Airport  
Reform, Alabama  
Garver Project No. 23A01060



# NORTH PICKENS AIRPORT, REFORM, ALABAMA

## PROPOSED AIRFIELD IMPROVEMENTS

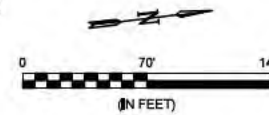
### PHASED BUILDUP FOR DRAINAGE PROJECT AND FUTURE HANGAR



-  Limits of Grading
-  Proposed Taxiway
-  Proposed T-Hangar
-  Proposed Concrete Flumes
-  Limits of Disturbance
-  Wetland Boundary



3M8 PROPOSED GRADING PLAN



APPROXIMATE WETLAND IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH EACH CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY

Concrete Flumes: 0.14 ac  
Taxi Lanes: 0.24 ac  
T-Hangar: 0.21 ac  
Drainage Ditches: 0.11 ac  
Unspecified Grading: 1.44 ac

Wetland 2 (PEM)  
0.08 ac in SA  
0.08 ac impacted by  
morphological change

Wetland 3 (PSS)  
0.02 ac in SA  
0.02 ac impacted by  
morphological change

Wetland 1 (PEM)  
1.78 ac in SA  
1.77 ac impacted by fill  
0.01 ac impacted by morphological change  
(regrading ditch)

Wetland 4 (PEM)  
0.26 ac in SA  
0.26 ac impacted by fill

REGRADE DITCH  
@0.43% SLOPE

INSTALL NEW 9"  
CONCRETE  
FLUME @0.44%

REGRADE DITCH  
@0.37% SLOPE

INSTALL NEW 10"  
CONCRETE FLUME @0.28%

