

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, MOBILE DISTRICT P.O. BOX 2288 MOBILE, AL 36628-0001

REPLY TO ATTENTION OF:

October 16, 2020

CESAM-RD-A PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2020-00140-ES

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

PROPOSED DISCHARGE OF FILL MATERIAL IN 1.8 ACRES OF WETLANDS ASSOCIATED WITH A COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: This District has received an application for a Department of the Army 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: AAC Realty, LLC Attention: Angelo Corte 23100 State Highway 181 Fairhope, Alabama 36532
- AGENT: Thompson Engineering Attention: Ms. Suzanne Sweetser 2970 Cottage Hill Road, Suite 190 Mobile, Alabama 36606

LOCATION: The proposed project is located at 29750 County Road 49; at Latitude: 30.656342°North, Longitude: 87.754979° West; in Loxley, Baldwin County, Alabama.

PROJECT PURPOSE: In a statement provided by the agent, the purpose of the proposed action is to provide warehouse storage space and/or manufacturing space in central Baldwin County. The proposed action is needed to meet the demand for large-scale space to conduct storage and/or manufacturing operations with direct access to interstate highways (Interstate 10 & Interstate 65) as well as to be within reasonable distance of the expanding Alabama State Docks and rail transit.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant proposes the placement of 27,500 cubic yards of commercially obtained clean dirt fill material within 1.8 acres of forested wetlands, associated with the commercial development of a 30-acre property. Development within the

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review area will include two 90,000-square-foot warehouse facilities, with associated parking, access roads, and a stormwater management pond.

AVOIDANCE & MINIMIZATION: In a statement provided by the agent, the proposed project design has been described as minimizing impacts to wetlands to the greatest extent practicable by maximizing usage of all available uplands for facilities and parking. Wetland fill will primarily result from construction of the stormwater management pond, designed to utilize the natural hydrological profile of the wetland to treat stormwater, with a small portion of fill resulting from building foundations and parking areas. The proposed design avoids impacts to a 0.2-acre wetland located to the south.

MITIGATION: The applicant has proposed to compensate for unavoidable impacts to wetlands through the purchase of wetland 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.

WATER QUALITY: The applicant has applied 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 (ADEM).

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 resources and historic properties within the permit area. In accordance with Appendix C of 33 CFR 325, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has determined that the permit area consists of the entire undertaking in waters of the United States, as well as the 12.3 acre of associated uplands that would be disturbed by the proposed activities under review. The Mobile District is seeking comment from the State Historic Preservation Officer regarding the existence, or the potential for existence, of significant cultural and historic properties within the permit area. The permit area described above will be reviewed by the District Archaeologist to provide a determination on the potential for existence of significant cultural and historic properties.

In addition to coordination with the SHPO, we are seeking comments from federallyrecognized American Indian tribes, local historical societies, museums, universities, the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Division of Archeological Services and concerned citizens regarding the existence or the potential for existence of significant cultural and historic properties within the permit area.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: Preliminary review of this application and the U.S. Department of the Interior's List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants indicate that the proposed activity will have <u>no effect</u> on the following listed endangered or threatened species with the potential to exist within the watershed of the action area: Wood stork *(Mycteria americana)*. The USACE has preliminarily determined the proposed activities

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<u>may affect</u> the eastern indigo snake *(Drymarchon couperi)*. The Endangered Species Act (ESA) action area for this project does not intersect with any federally-designated critical habitat.

The above determination is based on review of the Standard Local Operating Procedures for Endangered Species (SLOPES) programmatic agreement species effects determination keys for the aforementioned listed species and is being coordinated with the USFWS via this Public Notice.

COMMENTS: 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. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (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 in the paragraph below. 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. 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 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 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.

Correspondence concerning this public notice should refer to Public Notice Number **SAM-2020-00140-ES** and should be directed via email to the project manager, Ms. Elizabeth A. Hamilton, at <u>elizabeth.a.seavoy@usace.army.mil</u>, or to the U.S. Army Corps of

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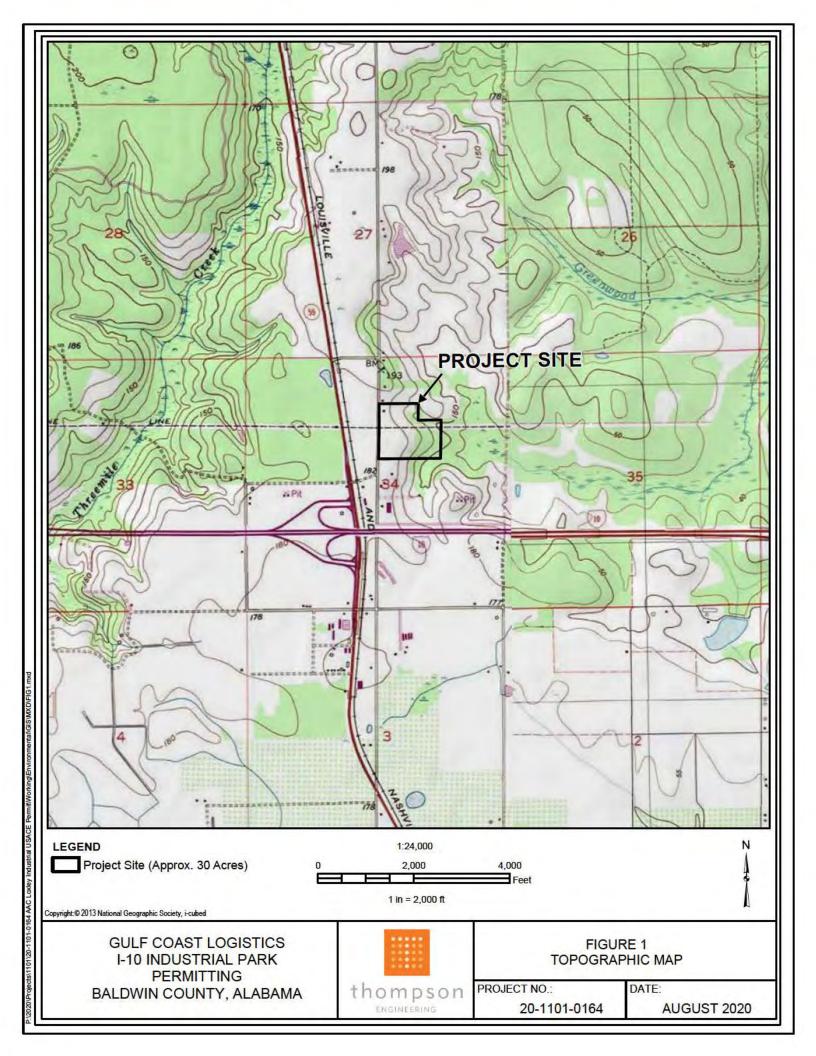
Engineers, Mobile District, Regulatory Division, Attention: Ms. Elizabeth A. Hamilton, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001. Copies of all comments should be furnished to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management at <u>coastal@adem.alabama.gov</u>, or sent to: Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Mobile Branch / Coastal Section 3664 Dauphin Street, Suite B, Mobile, Alabama 36608.

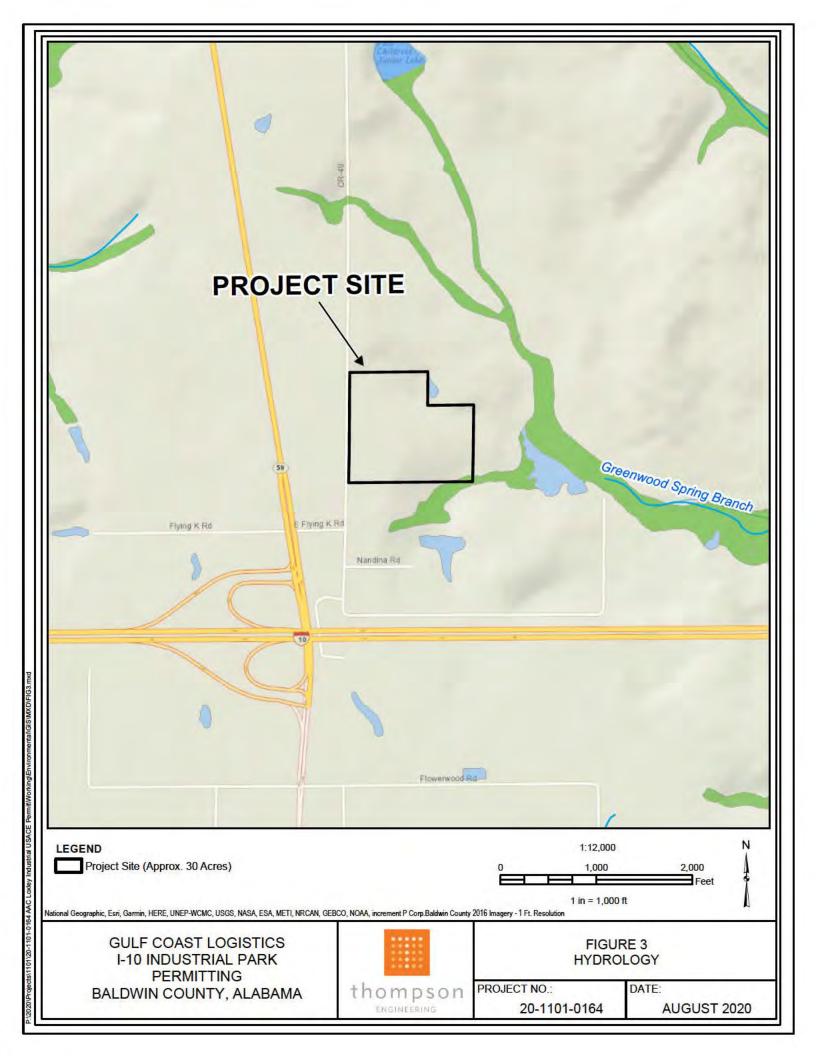
All Comments should be received no later than 30 days from the date of this Public Notice. If you have any questions concerning this publication, you may contact the project manager, Ms. Elizabeth Hamilton by email at <u>elizabeth.a.seavoy@usace.army.mil</u>, or at (251) 694-3781. Please refer to the Public Notice Number SAM-2020-00140-ES, in any communication concerning this project.

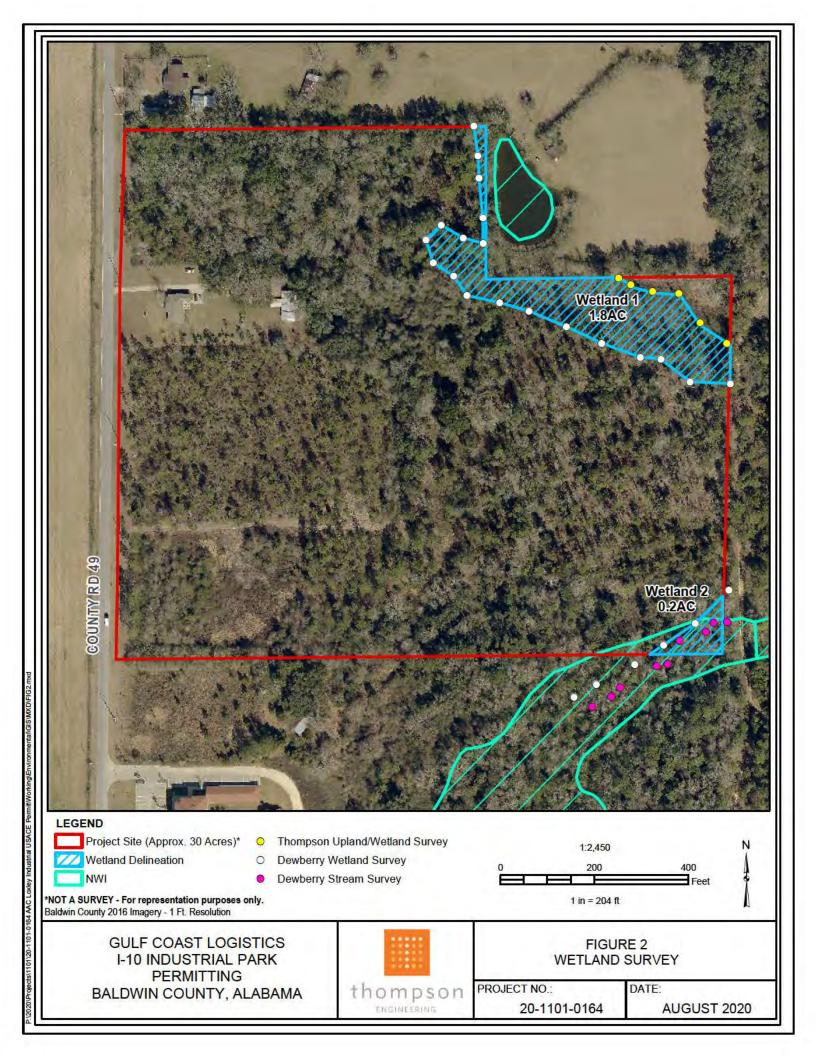
For additional information about our Regulatory Program, please visit our web site at <u>www.sam.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx</u>.

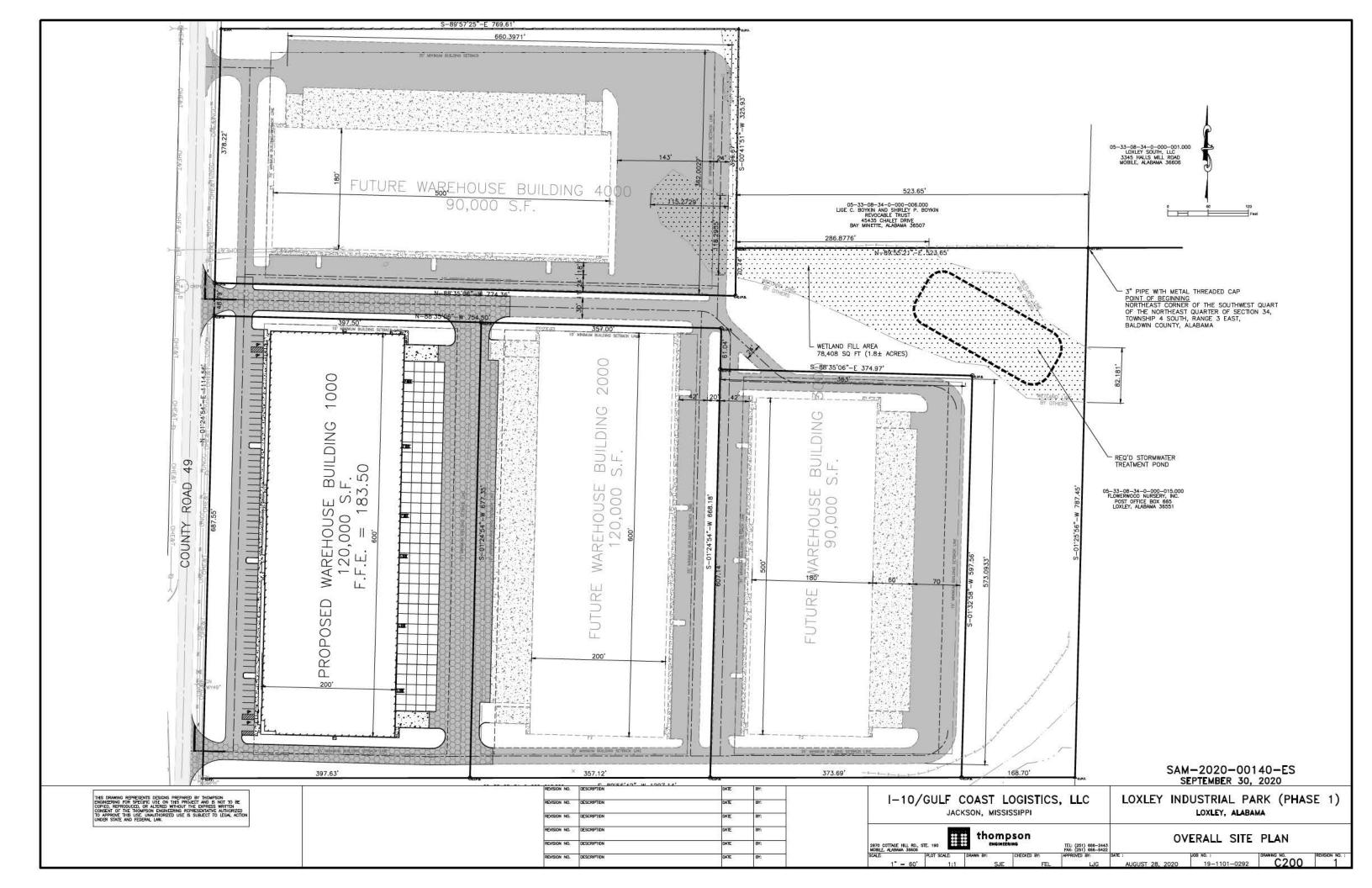
MOBILE DISTRICT U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

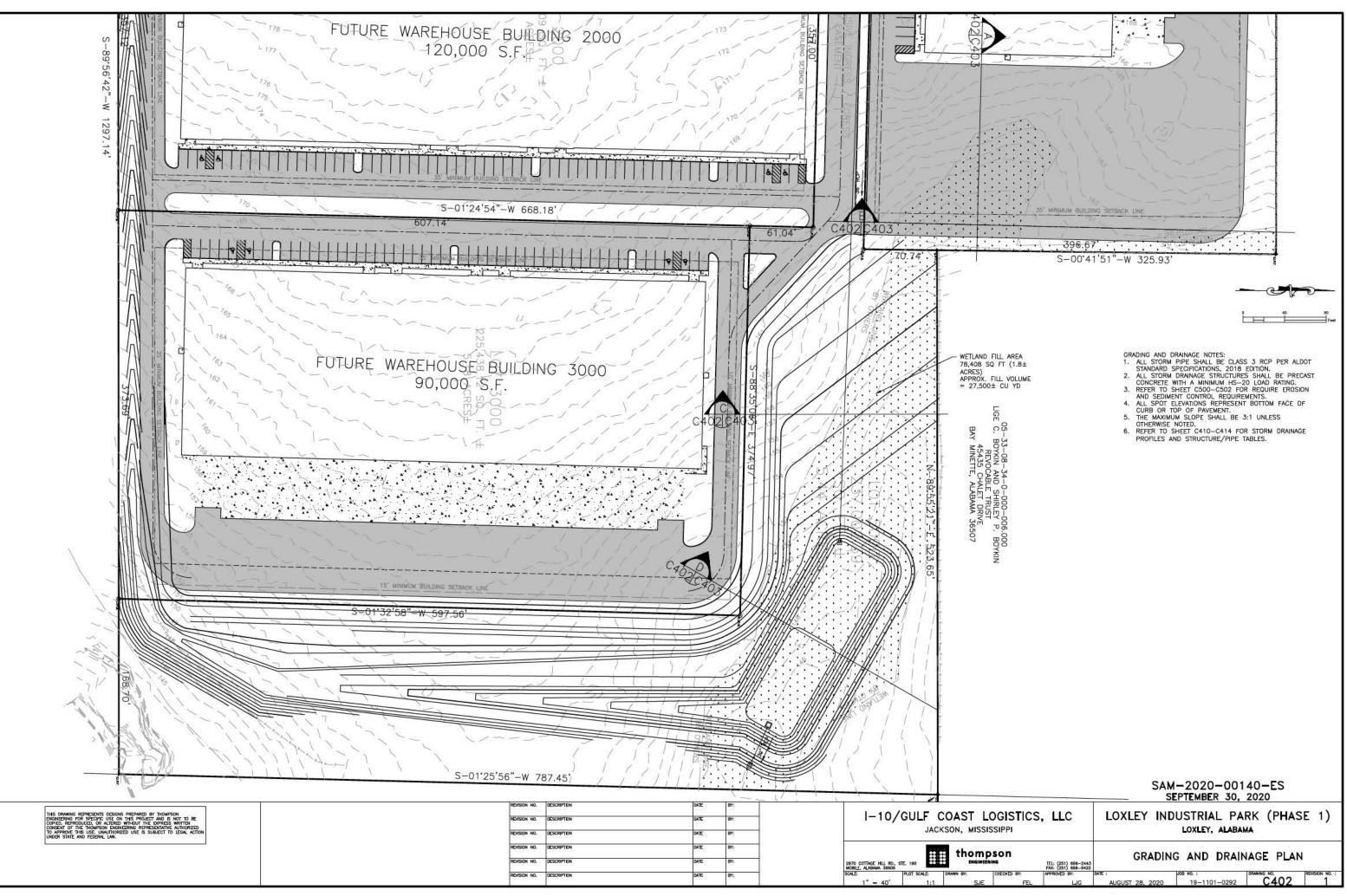
Attachments











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DSON NING TEL: (251) 686-2443 FAX: (251) 686-8422		IEL: (251) 686-2443 FAX: (251) 666-5422	GRADING AND DRAINAGE PLAN			
l	CHECKED BY: FEL	APPROVED BY:	DATE : AUGUST 28, 2020	JOB NO. : 19-1101-0292	C402	REVISION NO. :

