



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

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

CESAM-RD-A
PUBLIC NOTICE NO. SAM-2021-00031-JCC

February 1, 2021

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

REQUEST TO DISCHARGE FILL IN WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES IN
CONJUNCTION WITH AIRPORT IMPROVEMENTS, IN COVINGTON COUNTY,
ALABAMA

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: This District has received an application for a Department of the Army (DA) permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Please communicate this information to interested parties.

APPLICANT: Florala Airport Authority
Attention: Mr. Ricky Suggs
Post Office Box 76
Florala, Alabama 36442

AGENT: Goodwyn, Mills & Cawood, Inc.
Attention: Ms. April Henley
2660 Eastchase Lane, Suite 200
Montgomery, Alabama 36117

LOCATION OF WORK: The project is located within wetlands near Corner Creek, on Highway 331, within Sections 13, 14, 23, and 24, Township 1 North, Range 17 East; at Latitude 31.043332° North, Longitude -86.310766° West; in Florala, Covington County, Alabama.

PROJECT PURPOSE: The purpose of the proposed project is to ensure safe operations at the airport and bring the airport into compliance with FAA design standards by separating the fixed wing and rotary wing activities.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant proposes to expand the existing infrastructure at the airport through the construction of a new taxiway and apron area. Impacts would include the placement of 16,000 cubic yards of commercially obtained clay fill material within 3.73 acres of wetlands, as well as the placement of pipes within 318.85 linear feet of perennial stream. A 24-foot-wide, two-lane paved road through wetlands will provide access to the new taxiway and apron area, and the pipes would maintain connectivity throughout the stream.

AVOIDANCE & MINIMIZATION: The applicant has indicated that there are a total of 73.68 acres of jurisdictional wetlands and 8,461.14 linear feet of jurisdictional streams within the

project area. Only 3.73 acres of wetlands and 318.85 linear feet of stream are being proposed for impacts. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has not determined the adequacy of the applicant's avoidance and minimization efforts for the proposed activity.

COMPENSATORY MITIGATION: The applicant proposes mitigation for unavoidable impacts to wetland areas and streams through the purchase of an appropriate number of wetland mitigation credits from an approved wetland mitigation bank and an appropriate number of stream mitigation credits from an approved stream mitigation bank. The USACE has not determined the adequacy of the applicant's avoidance and minimization efforts for the proposed activity.

WATER QUALITY / COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT: The applicant will apply for certification from the State of Alabama in accordance with Section 401(a) (1) of the Clean Water Act, and for a consistency determination regarding Coastal Zone regulations in accordance with the Alabama Coastal Area Management Program. Upon completion of the required advertising and public comment review, a determination relative to Water Quality Certification and Coastal Zone consistency will be made by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES: In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and Appendix C of 33 CFR Part 325, the undertaking defined in this notice is being considered for the potential to affect cultural and historic properties within the permit area. In accordance with Appendix C of 33 CFR Part 325, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has determined the permit area consists of an approximately 16.45-acre area of wetlands, stream, and uplands that will be impacted, as well as the immediately surrounding waters and uplands utilized for construction access and staging. Although the extent of federal control and responsibility for these considerations are confined to the limits of the permit area for this particular project, the potential indirect effects that may occur to historic properties as a result of this undertaking have also been considered. The National Register of Historic Places will be consulted for properties listed in or eligible for the National Register which are known to exist and would be affected by the proposed work. The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) has previously issued concurrence with project activities by letter dated January 8, 2018 (AHC 2018-0315). The permit area described above is currently under review by District Archaeologists to provide a determination on the potential for existence of significant cultural and historic properties.

In addition to the provided comments from the SHPO (the Alabama Historical Commission), we are seeking comments from federally-recognized 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: The USACE, Mobile District's review of the U.S. Department of the Interior's List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants indicate the following listed endangered or threatened species with the potential to exist within the watershed of the project: wood stork (*Mycteria americana*) (T), eastern indigo snake (*Drymarchon corais couperi*) (T), Choctaw bean (*Villosa choctawensis*) (E), fuzzy pigtoe (*Pleurobema*

strodeanum) (T), narrow pigtoe (*Fusconaia escambia*) (T), southern sandshell (*Hamiota australis*) (T), tapered pigtoe (*Fusconaia burkei*) (T), and gulf sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrhynchus desotoi*) (T). There is no designated critical habitat within the project's action area.

Review of this proposed activity for potential effects on the above list of threatened or endangered species has been accomplished by use of species-specific Standard Local Operating Procedures for Endangered Species (SLOPES). The USACE, Mobile District's review has indicated the proposed activity will have no effect on the wood stork, eastern indigo snake, or gulf sturgeon. The review also found the activity may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the Choctaw bean, fuzzy pigtoe, narrow pigtoe, southern sandshell, and tapered pigtoe. While consultation is not requested at this time, details of the proposed activity are being provided to federal and state agencies via this Public Notice for their awareness.

PUBLIC REVIEW: 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 evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity and 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 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.

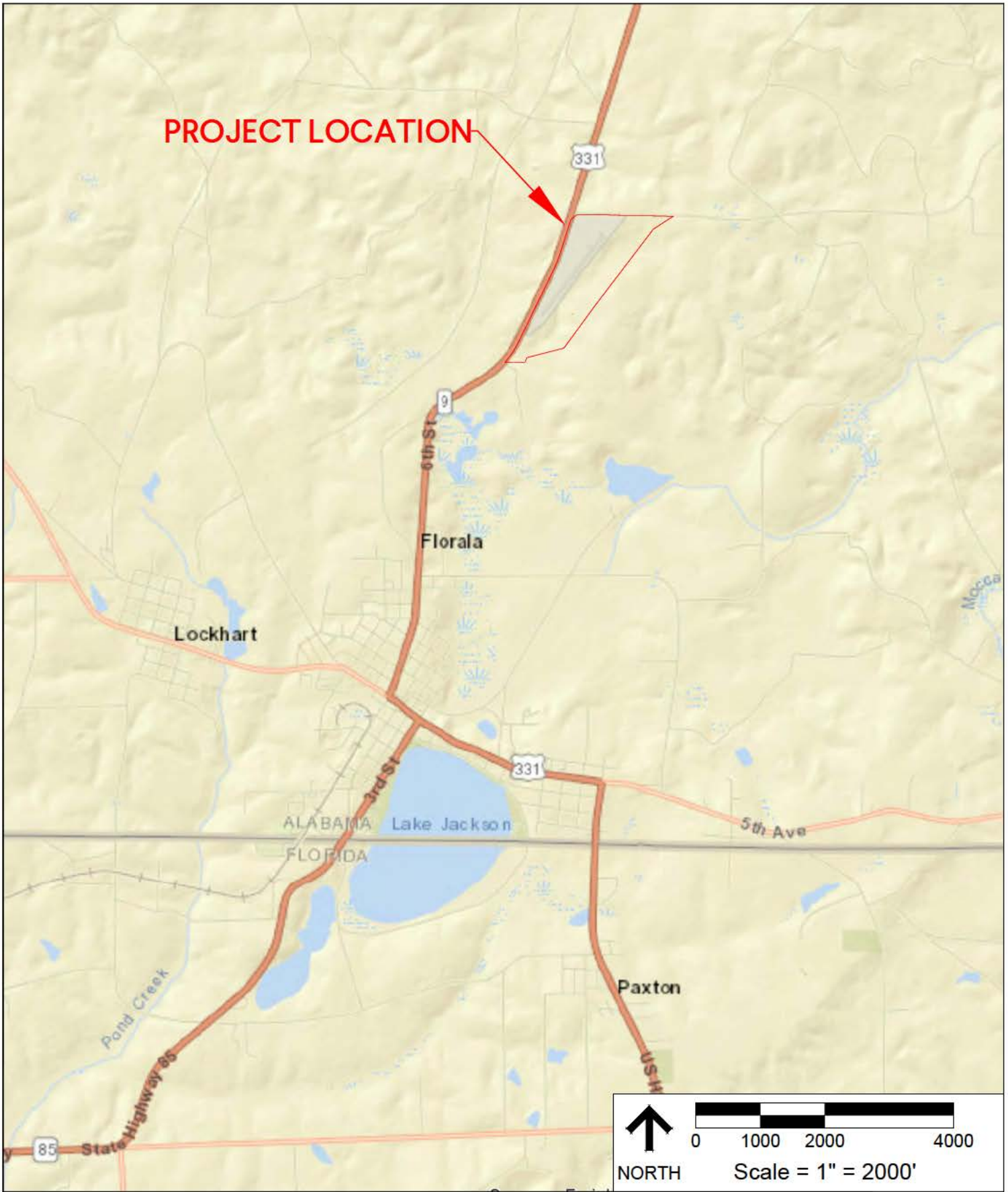
Correspondence concerning this notice should refer to Public Notice Number **SAM-2021-00031-JCC** and should be directed to the District Engineer, Mobile District, Regulatory Division (RD-A), Attention: Ms. Jessica C. Comeaux, Post Office Box 2288, Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001, with a copy to the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, at coastal@adem.alabama.gov, 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 issuance of this Public Notice. If you have any questions concerning this publication, you may contact the project manager at (251) 690-3262, or email at Jessica.C.Comeaux@usace.army.mil. Please refer to the above Public Notice number.

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

MOBILE DISTRICT
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Attachments



REF. SHEET: ESRI WORLD STREETS
 DESCRIPTION: INDIVIDUAL PERMIT APPLICATION

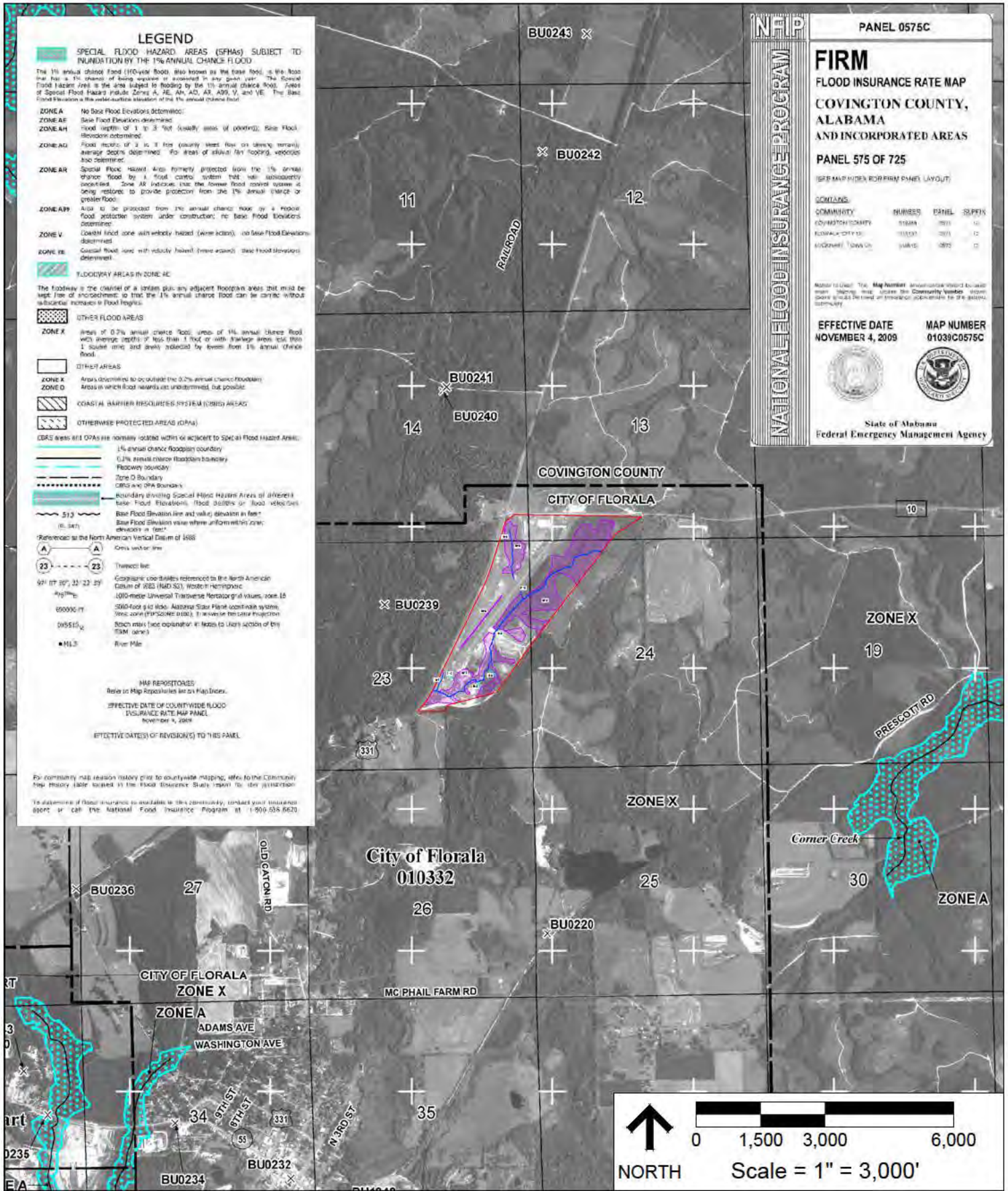
► **Florala Airport Infrastructure Expansion**
 Florala, Covington County, Alabama

FIGURE 1

GENERAL LOCATION MAP
 GMC # EMGM205007
 DATE: 06/18/20
 DRAWN BY: AYH

2660 East Chase Lane, Suite 200
 Montgomery, AL 36117
 T 334.271.3200
 GMCNETWORK.COM





REF. SHEET: FEMA FIRM PANEL #01039C0575C
DESCRIPTION: INDIVIDUAL PERMIT APPLICATION

Floralia Airport Infrastructure Expansion
Floralia, Covington County, Alabama

FIGURE 5

FLOOD MAP
GMC # EMGM205007
DATE: 06.18.20
DRAWN BY: AYH

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Montgomery, AL 36117
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REF. SHEET: COVINGTON COUNTY SOIL SURVEY
 DESCRIPTION: INDIVIDUAL PERMIT APPLICATION

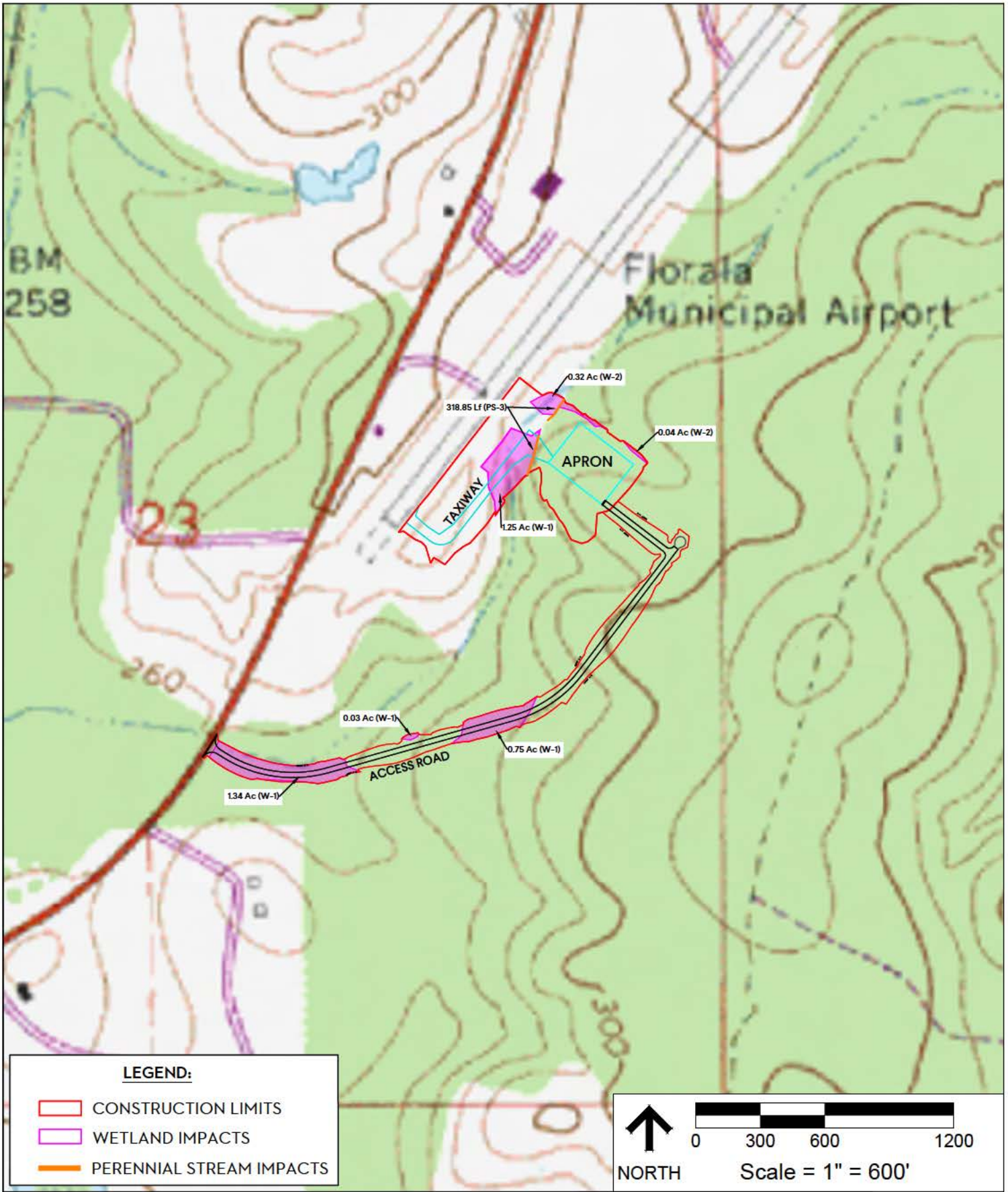
Florala Airport Infrastructure Expansion
 Florala, Covington County, Alabama

FIGURE 6a

PREFERRED SITE PLANS
 GMC # EMGM205007
 DATE: 09.15.20
 DRAWN BY: AYH

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LEGEND:

- CONSTRUCTION LIMITS
- WETLAND IMPACTS
- PERENNIAL STREAM IMPACTS

NORTH Scale = 1" = 600'

REF. SHEET: FLORALA, ALABAMA USGS QUADRANGLE MAP
 DESCRIPTION: INDIVIDUAL PERMIT APPLICATION

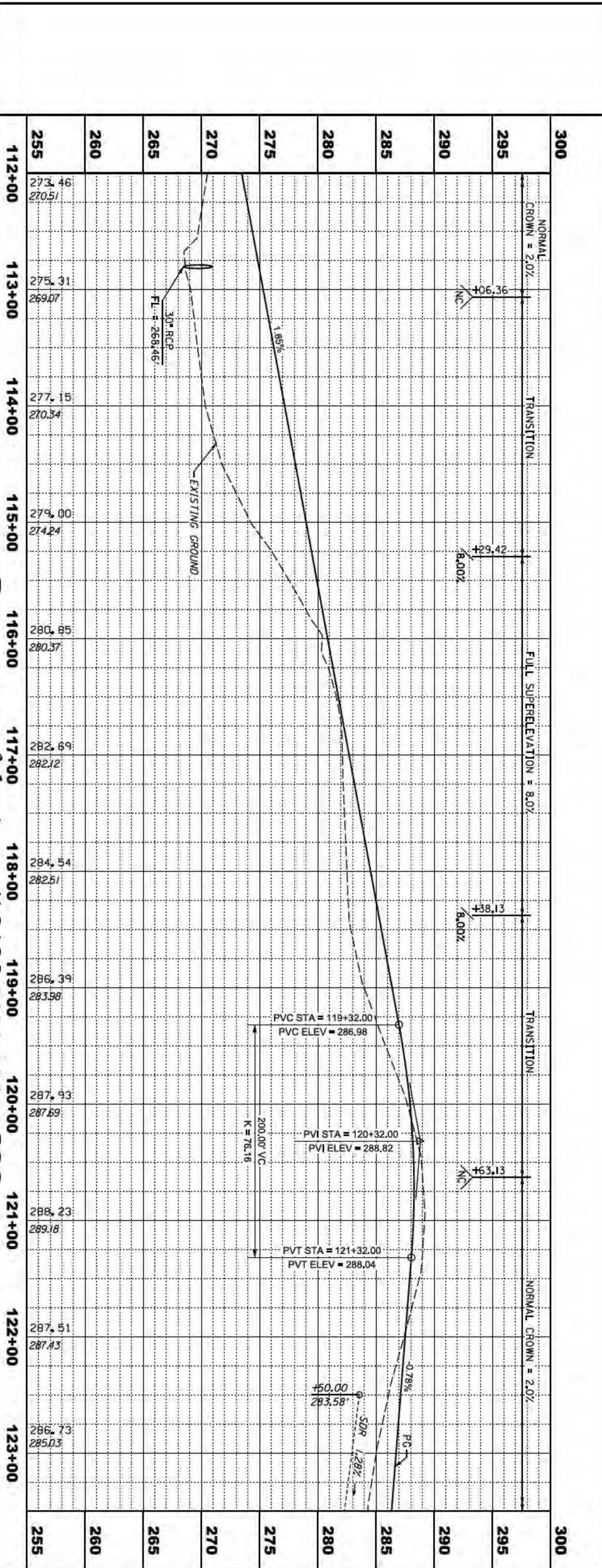
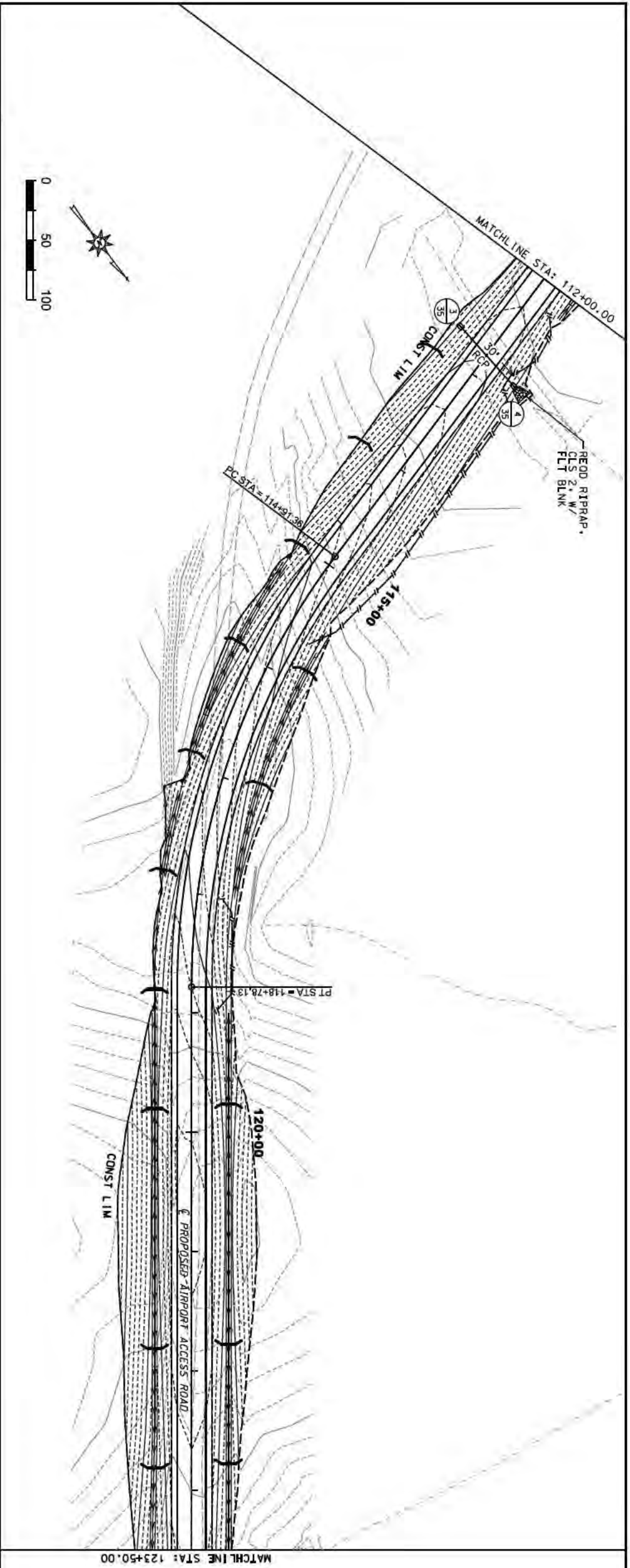
Florala Airport Infrastructure Expansion
 Florala, Covington County, Alabama

FIGURE 6b

PREFERRED SITE PLANS
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Department of the Army // SAM-2021-00031-JCC

<p>EROSION CONTROL PLAN</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">32</p> <p>sheet 32 of 58</p>	<p>FLORALA MUNICIPAL AIRPORT AIRPORT ACCESS ROAD</p> <p>FLORALA, ALABAMA</p> <p>3-01-0094-009-2021</p> <p>TMGM190031</p> <p>SCALE: H: 1" = 50' V: 1" = 5'</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">ISSUE</th> <th style="text-align: left;">DATE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>drawn by: AEB checked by: JMR</p>	ISSUE	DATE																					<p>2660 East Chase Lane, Suite 200 Montgomery, AL 36117 T 334.271.3200 GMCNETWORK.COM</p> <div style="text-align: right; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">GMC</div>
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