



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

Public Notice of Application for Permit

Juneau Field Office
Regulatory Division (1145)
CEPOA-RD
Post Office Box 22270
Juneau, Alaska 99802-2270

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:	January 7, 2022
EXPIRATION DATE:	January 24, 2022
REFERENCE NUMBER:	POA-1981-00312-M5
WATERWAY:	Beluga Lake

Interested parties are hereby notified that a Department of the Army permit application has been received for work in waters of the United States as described below and shown on the enclosed project drawings.

All comments regarding this Public Notice should be sent to the address noted above. If you desire to submit your comments by email, you should send it to the Project Manager's email as listed below. All comments should include the Public Notice reference number listed above.

All comments should reach this office no later than the expiration date of this Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Please contact Randal Vigil at (907) 201-5022, or by email at Randal.P.Vigil@usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this notice.

APPLICANT: Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) (Heidi Zimmer), PO Box 196900, Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6900.

LOCATION: The project site is located within Section 15, 21, and 22, T. 6 S., R. 13 W., Seward Meridian; USGS Quad Map Seldovia C-4; Latitude 59.64249° N., Longitude 151.48474° W.; Homer Airport, in Homer, Alaska.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to improve safety for runway operations, taxiing, and aircraft parking; extend the service life of airport facilities; and increase availability of leased tie-down facilities for General Aviation users.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant's stated purpose is to improve safety for runway operations, taxiing, and aircraft parking; extend the service life of airport facilities; and increase availability of leased tie-down facilities for General Aviation users.

Permanent Impacts in Waters of the United States

Sheet #	Wetland Impact ID	Acres	Fill cubic yards	Dredge cubic yards	Fill Type	Habitat Code	Notes
7	1	1.32	11,000	3,500	Borrow, Type A	PEM1/SS1B	Taxiway G; permanent loss; fill
7	2	0.11	518	0	Borrow, Type A	PEM1C	Obstruction Removal, drainage; ditch grading
6,7	3	0.35	0	2,179	Borrow, Type A	PSS1/EM1B	Obstruction Removal; excavation only
5	4	0.002	10	316	Class I riprap, 12" ditch lining, pipe	R4SBC	Lake outfall; fill, rehabilitation
5	5	1.47	8,287	4,333	Borrow, Type A	PSS1/EM1B	GA Apron, gravel portion; permanent loss; fill
5	6	0.31	1,859	507	Borrow, Type A	PSS1/EM1B	Taxiway J; permanent loss; fill
4,5	7	0.17	10	36	Class I riprap, 18" ditch lining, 12" ditch lining	PEM1C	Drainage, ditch grading
4	8	0.19	1,650	0	Borrow, Type A	PEM1B	GA Apron, paved portion; permanent loss; fill
4	9	0.09	147	0	Borrow, Type A	PEM1C	GA Apron, paved portion; permanent loss; fill
		4.02	23,481	10,870			

All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1-10), dated December 3, 2021.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: A City of Homer Development Plan authorization is needed for the proposed project.

APPLICANT PROPOSED MITIGATION: The applicant proposes the following mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, and compensate for impacts to waters of the United States from activities involving discharges of dredged or fill material.

a. Avoidance: The airport property is constrained by the Homer Airport Critical Habitat Area to the north and the high value Lampert Peatland wetland complex to the south. Within airport property, wetlands comprise a significant proportion of the undeveloped airfield. Total wetland avoidance, therefore, is not practicable while addressing the project's stated purpose and need. Partial wetland impact avoidance was achieved by dropping embankment construction for a future parallel taxiway and perimeter service road from the project's scope of work. Dropping the future parallel taxiway embankment and the perimeter road reduced the project's wetland impact by approximately 25 acres.

b. Minimization: Permanent and construction-related impacts would be minimized in the following ways:

- Reducing grades and steepening embankment side slope fill areas to the maximum extent practicable.
- Designing drainage facilities to maintain existing drainage patterns and reduce conversion of sheet flow to channel flow.
- Prohibiting fueling or maintenance of vehicles or construction equipment within 100 feet of water bodies.
- Implementing a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan prior to construction activities in accordance with the Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Construction General Permit for Large and Small Construction Activities.
- Utilizing Best Management Practices to control erosion and transport of sediment and other pollutants into waters of the U.S.
- Reseeding and stabilizing disturbed ground with seed recommended for the region by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Plant Materials Center's *A Revegetation Manual for Alaska*
- Implementing a Hazardous Materials Control Plan during construction.
- Construction staging areas will utilize upland areas or wetland areas planned for permanent improvements. Temporary wetland fills, where necessary for construction, will use geotextile mats or other suitable materials to facilitate removal of the fill when no longer needed for construction. Temporary wetland impact areas will be restored by revegetating with native species.

c. Compensatory Mitigation: The ADOT&PF is proposing to compensate for unavoidable permanent impacts to waters of the U.S. by rehabilitating the Lampert Lake outfall to maintain water levels in the lake.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: A permit for the described work will not be issued until a certification or waiver of certification, as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (Public Law 95-217), has been received from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The lead Federal agency, U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), is responsible for compliance with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has reviewed the Section 106 documentation from FAA and concurs with their findings and/or determinations.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The project area is within the known or historic range of the Steller's Eider (*Polysticta stelleri*).

The FAA initiated the consultation procedures under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on May 26, 2021. The FAA determined under Section 7 of the ESA, and the USFWS concurred, that the project is not likely to adversely affect ESA-listed species or habitat. Any comments the USFWS may have concerning endangered or threatened wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996, requires all Federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH).

No EFH species are known to use the project area.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION: The Alaska District fully supports tribal self-governance and government-to-government relations between Federally recognized Tribes and the Federal government. Tribes with protected rights or resources that could be significantly affected by a proposed Federal action (e.g., a permit decision) have the right to consult with the Alaska District on a government-to-government basis. Views of each Tribe regarding protected rights and resources will be accorded due consideration in this process. This Public Notice serves as notification to the Tribes within the area potentially affected by the proposed work and invites their participation in the Federal decision-making process regarding the protected Tribal right or resource. Consultation may be initiated by the affected Tribe upon written request to the District Commander during the public comment period.

PUBLIC HEARING: 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, reasons for holding a public hearing.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity and its intended use on the public interest. Evaluation of the probable impacts, which the proposed activity may have on the public interest, requires a careful weighing of all the factors that become relevant in each particular case. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The outcome of the general balancing process would determine whether to authorize a proposal, and if so, the conditions under which it will be allowed to occur. The decision should reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, must 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, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. For activities involving 404 discharges, a permit will be denied if the discharge that would be authorized by such permit would not comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines. Subject to the preceding sentence and any other applicable guidelines or criteria (see Sections 320.2 and 320.3), a permit will be granted unless the District Commander determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps of Engineers 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 Corps of Engineers 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.

AUTHORITY: This permit will be issued or denied under the following authority:

(X) Discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States – Section 404 Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Therefore, our public interest review will consider the guidelines set forth under Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230).

Project drawings a Notice of Application for State Water Quality Certification are enclosed with this Public Notice.

District Commander
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

Enclosures



PUBLIC NOTICE

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
Wastewater Discharge Authorization Program/401 Certification
555 Cordova Street, Anchorage AK 99501-2617
Phone: 907-269-6285 | Email: DEC-401Cert@alaska.gov

Notice of Application for State Water Quality Certification

Any applicant for a federal license or permit to conduct an activity that might result in a discharge into navigable waters, in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) of 1977 (PL95-217), also must apply for and obtain certification from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation that the discharge will comply with the CWA, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws.

Notice is hereby given that a request for a CWA §401 Water Quality Certification of a Department of the Army Permit application, Corps of Engineers' Reference Number **POA-1981-00312-M5, Beluga Lake**, has been received for the discharge of dredged and/or fill materials into waters of the United States (WOUS), including wetlands, as described in the Corps public notice and project figures/drawings (18 AAC 15.180).

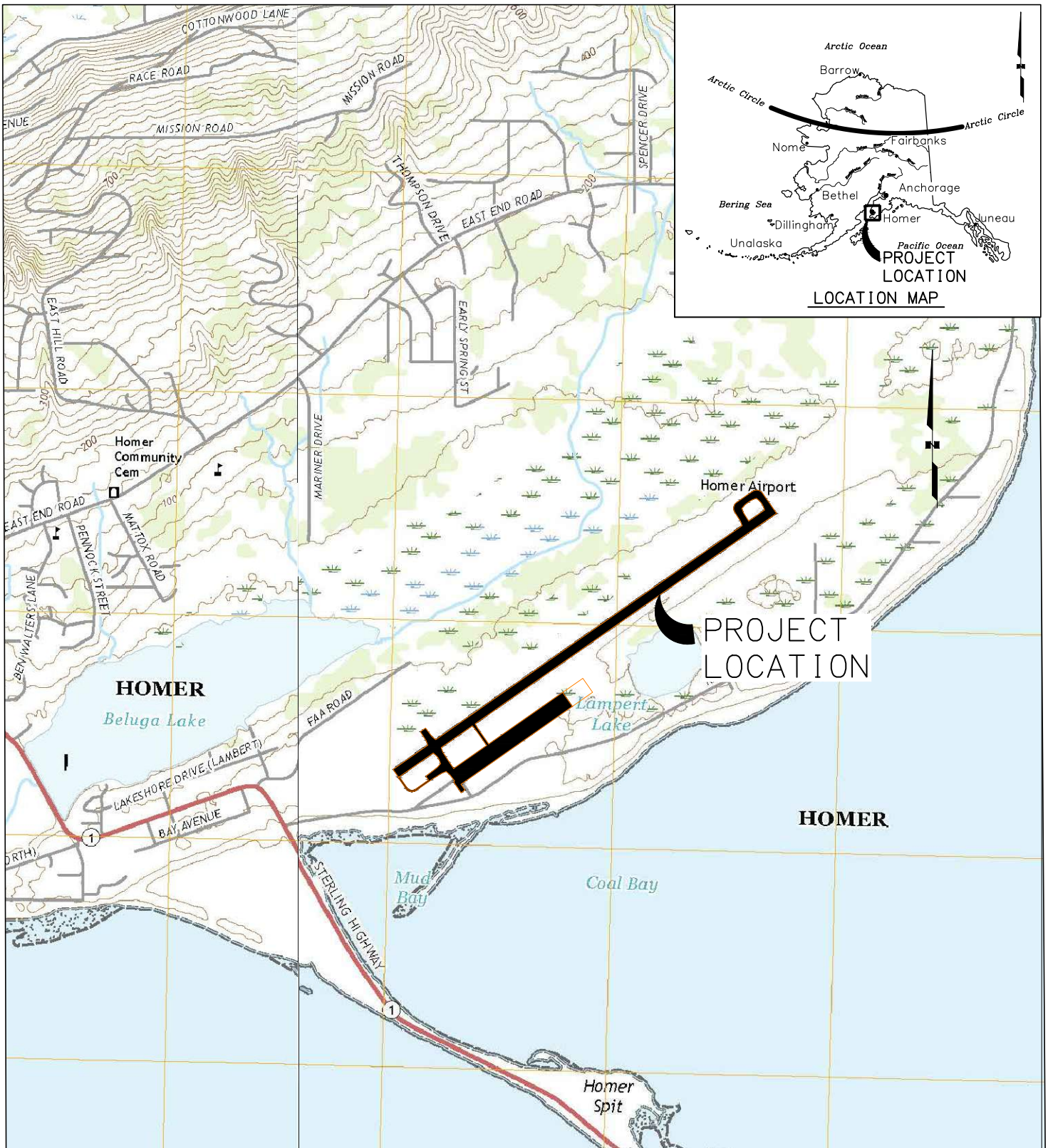
Any person desiring to comment on the project with respect to water quality, may submit comments electronically via email to DEC-401cert@alaska.gov by the expiration date of the Corps of Engineer's public notice. All comments need to include the Corps public notice reference number in the subject heading. Physically mailed comments must be postmarked on or before the expiration date of the public notice.

After reviewing the application, the Department may certify there is reasonable assurance the activity, and any discharge that might result, will comply with the CWA, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. The Department also may deny or waive certification.

The permit application and associated documents are available for review. For inquiries or to request copies of the documents, contact dec-401cert@alaska.gov, or call 907-269-6285.

Disability Reasonable Accommodation Notice

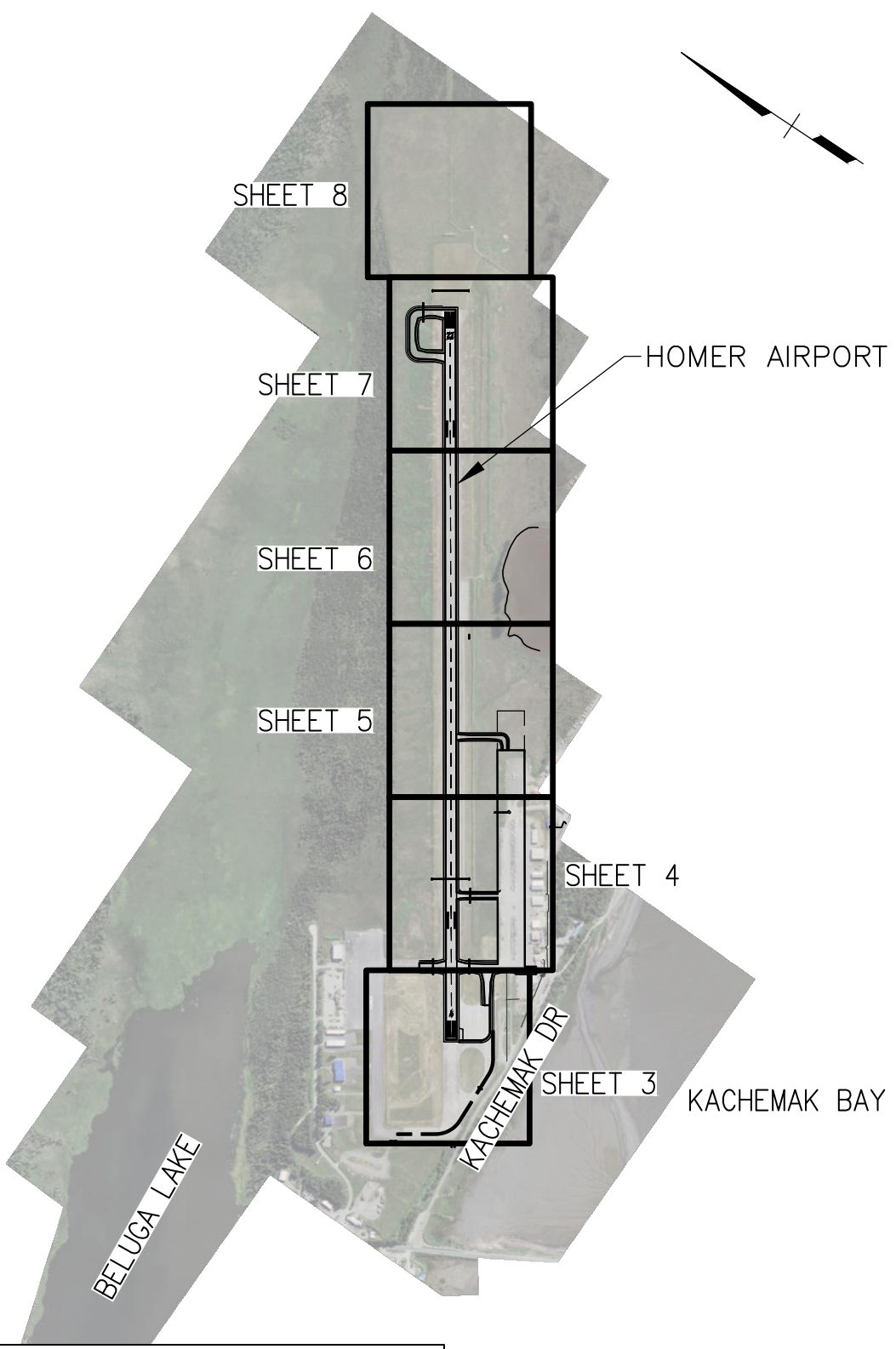
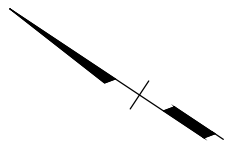
The State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. If you are a person with a disability who may need special accommodation in order to participate in this public process, please contact ADA Coordinator Brian Blessington at 907-269-6272 or TDD Relay Service 1-800-770-8973/TTY or dial 711 within 5 days of the expiration date of this public notice to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided.



VICINITY MAP

Applicant: Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
 Project Name: Homer Airport Improvements
 File No.: POA-1981-00312
 Waterway: Beluga Lake
 Proposed activity: Transportation
 MTRS: Sec 15, 21, & 22, T6S, R13W, Seward Meridian
 Lat.: 59.6448°N Long.: 151.4778°W
 Sheet 1 of 10 Date: 12/3/2021





SHEET 8

SHEET 7

SHEET 6

SHEET 5

SHEET 4

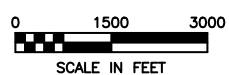
SHEET 3

HOMER AIRPORT

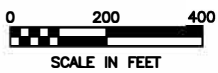
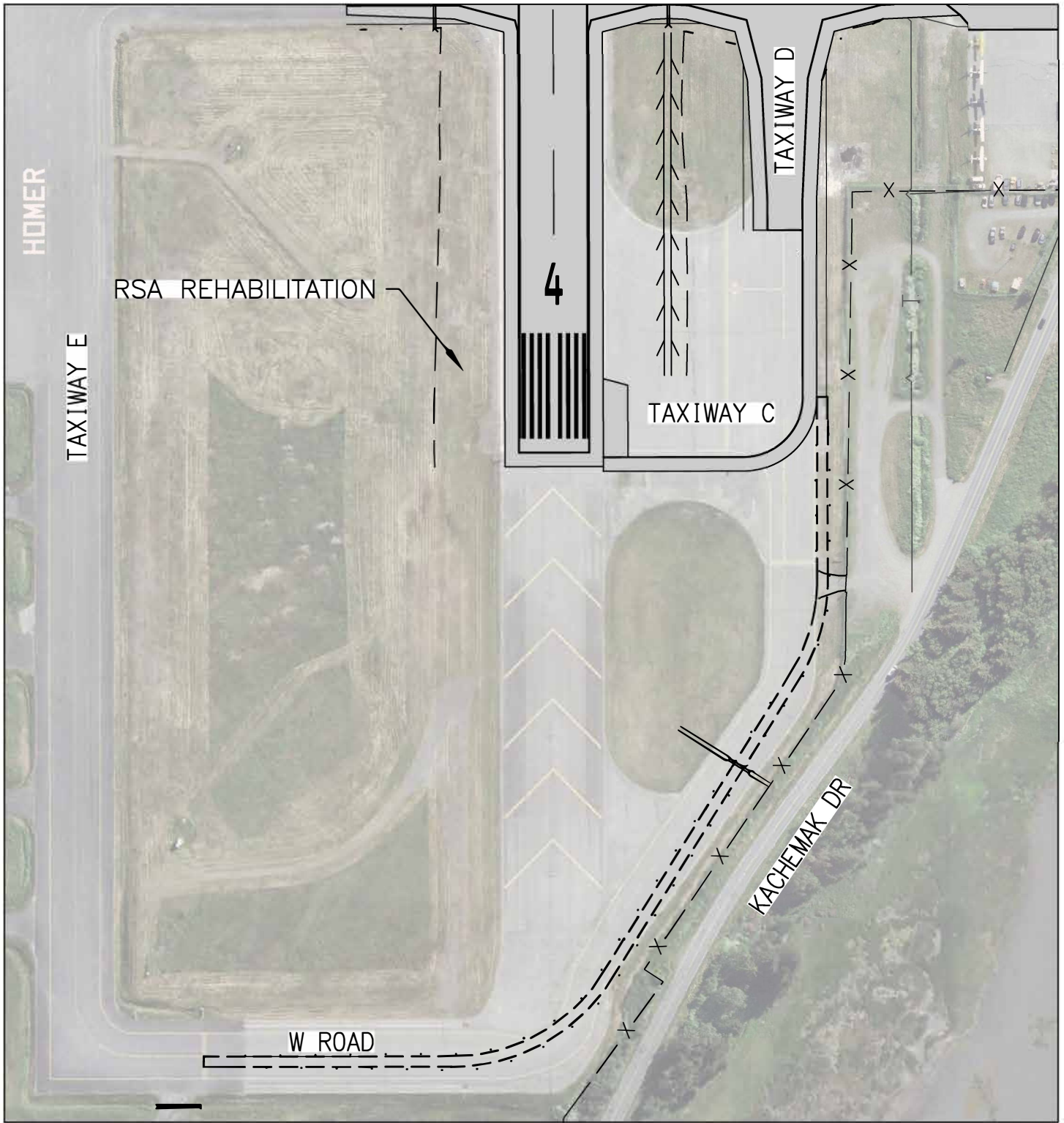
BELUGA LAKE

KACHEMAK BAY

KACHEMAK DR

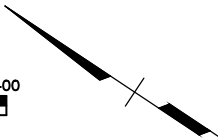
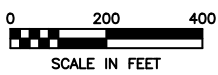
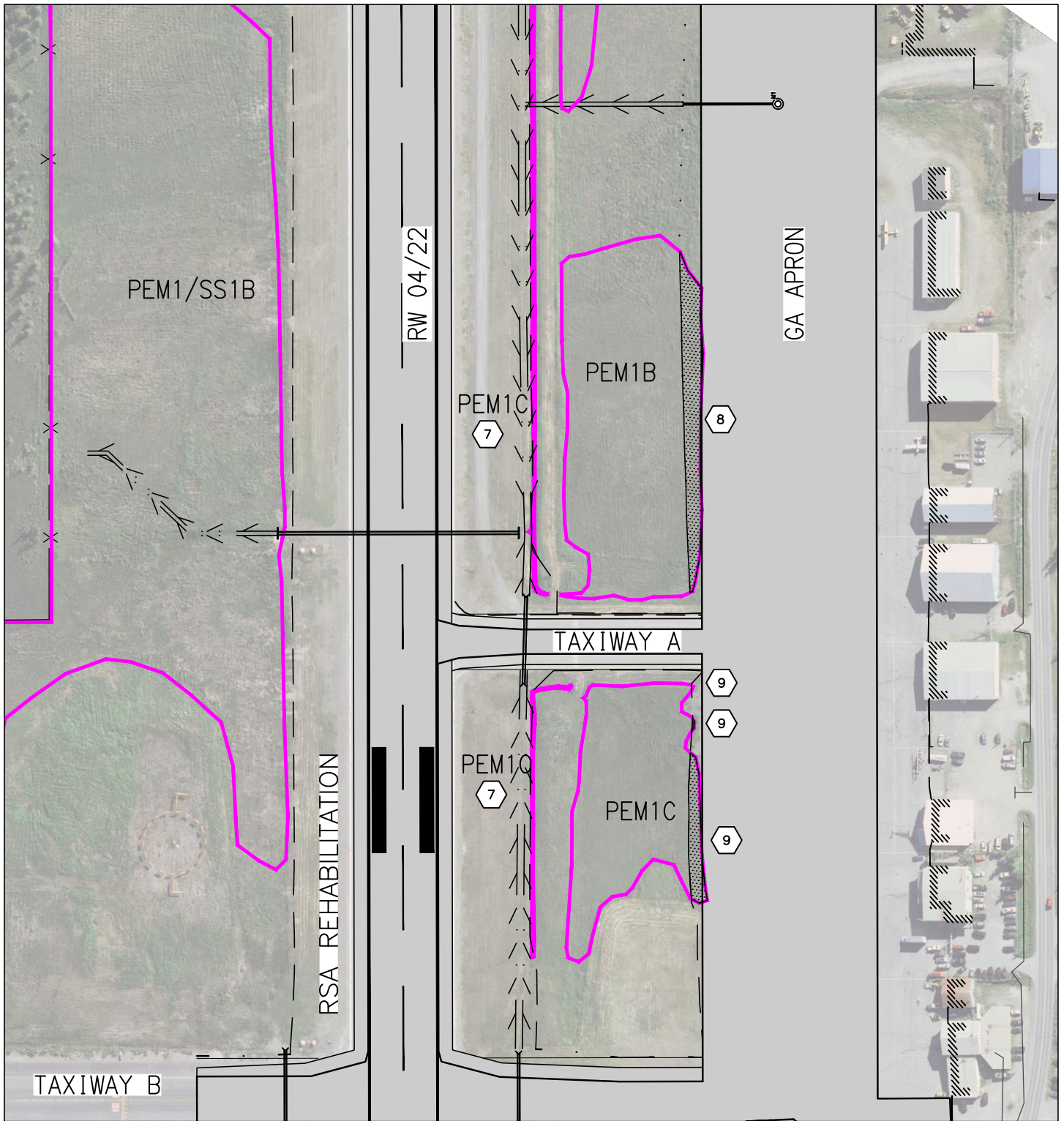


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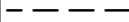
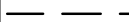


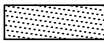

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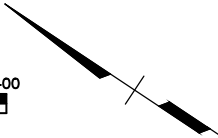
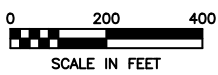
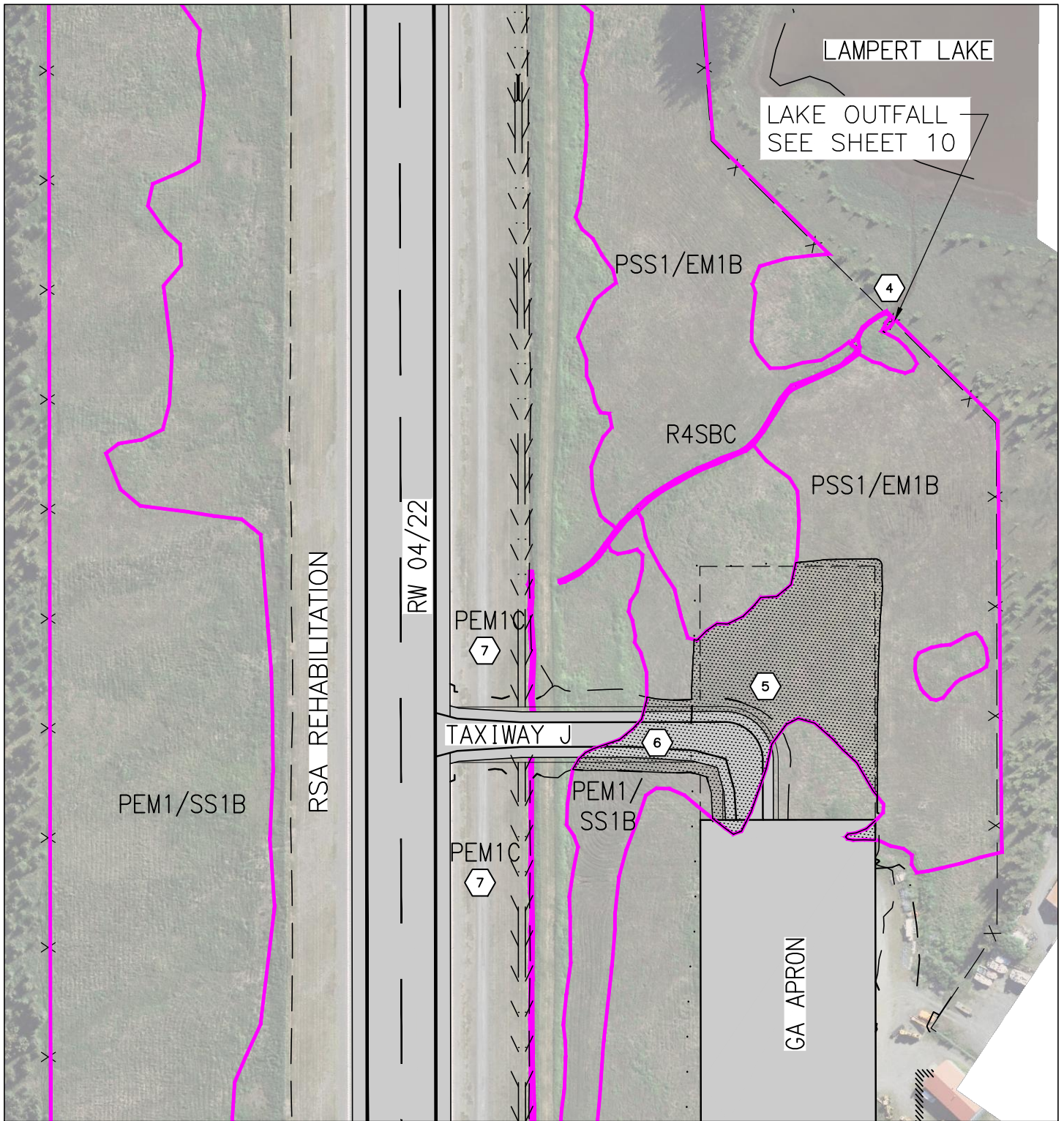
Legend	
	Proposed Paved Surfaces
	Proposed Gravel Surfaces
	Cut Limits
	Fill Limits
	Wetlands
	Wetland Impacts
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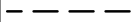
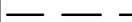


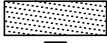

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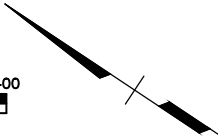
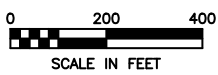
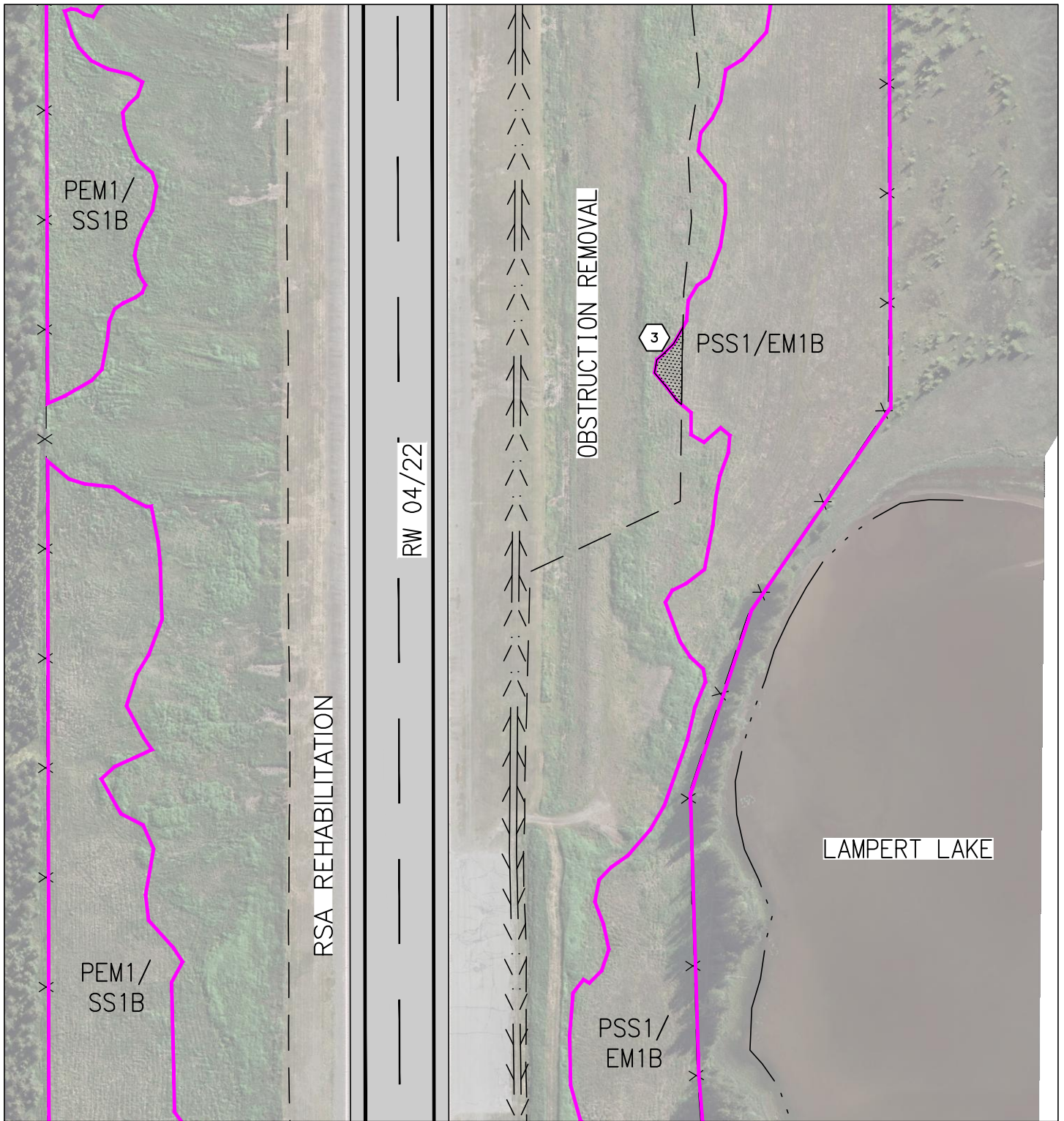
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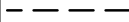
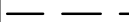


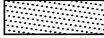

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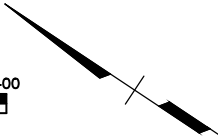
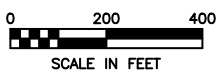
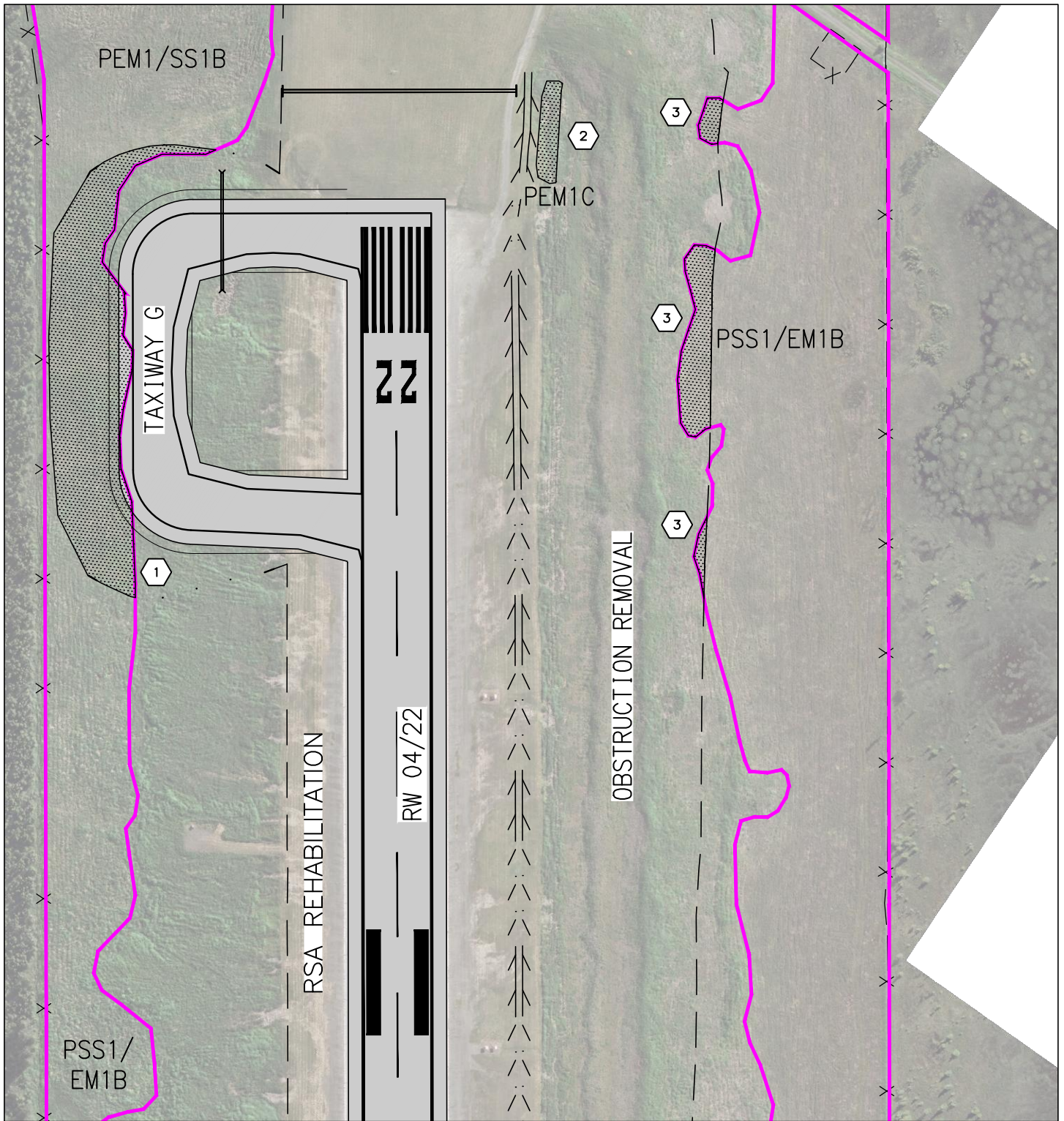
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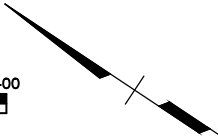
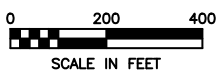
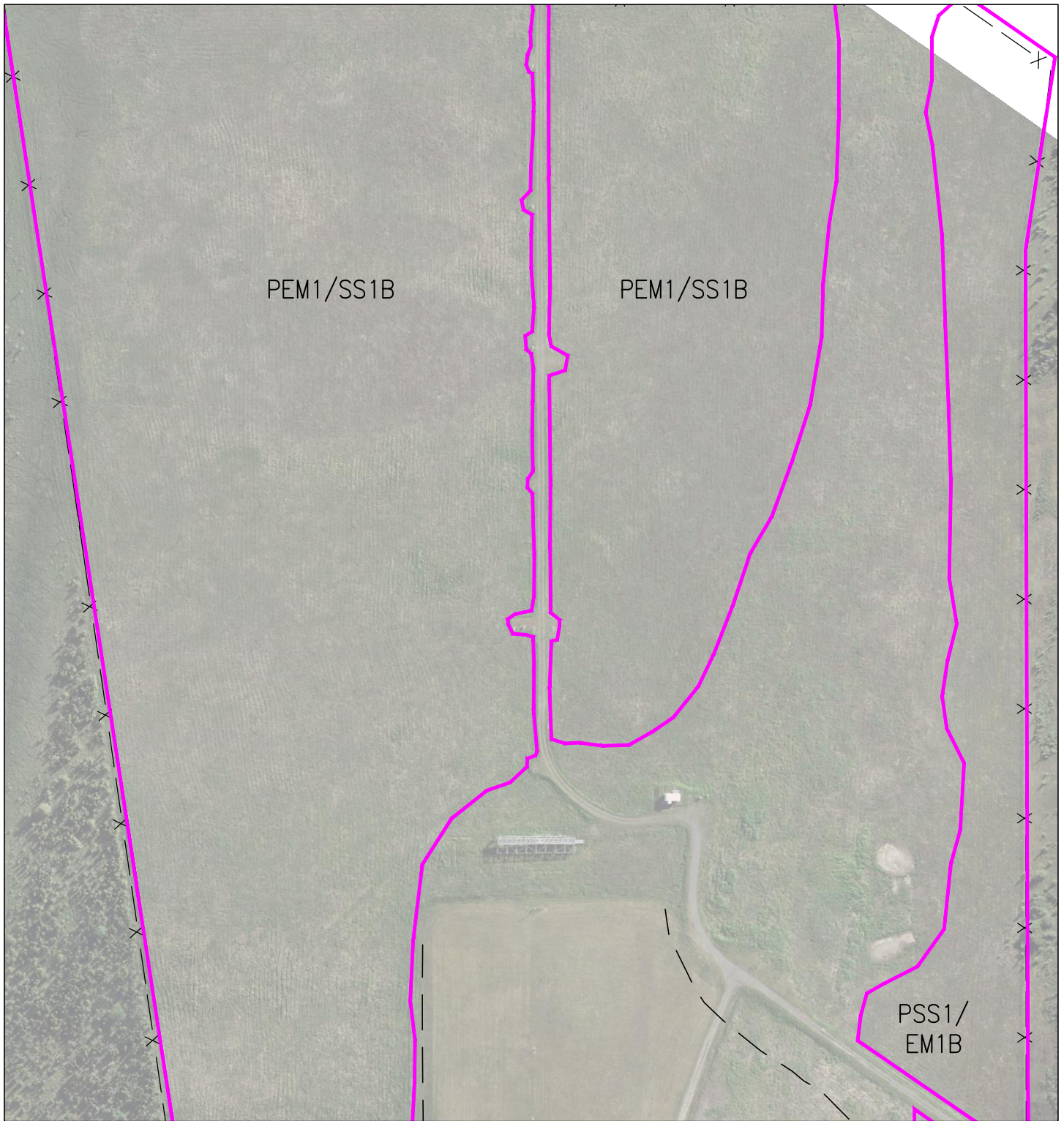
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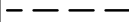
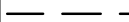




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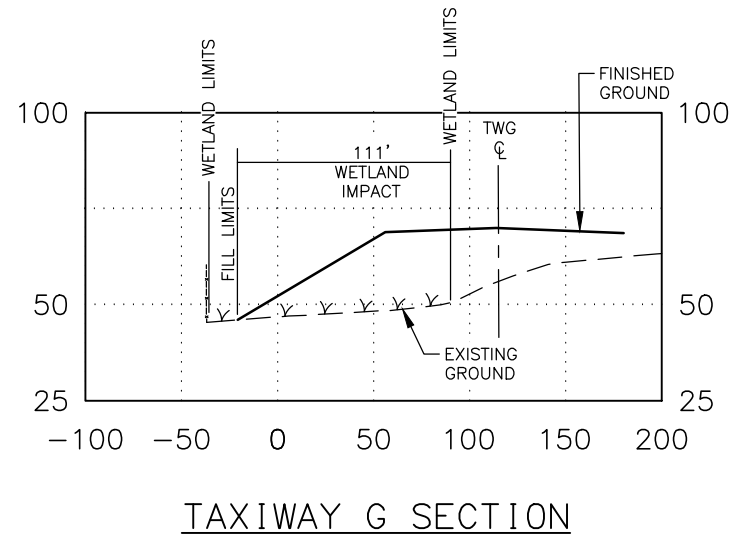
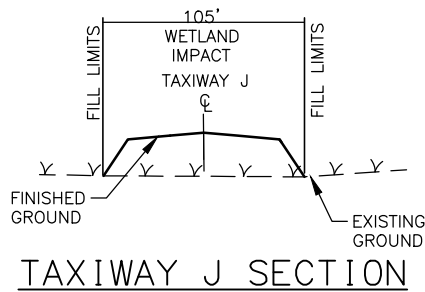
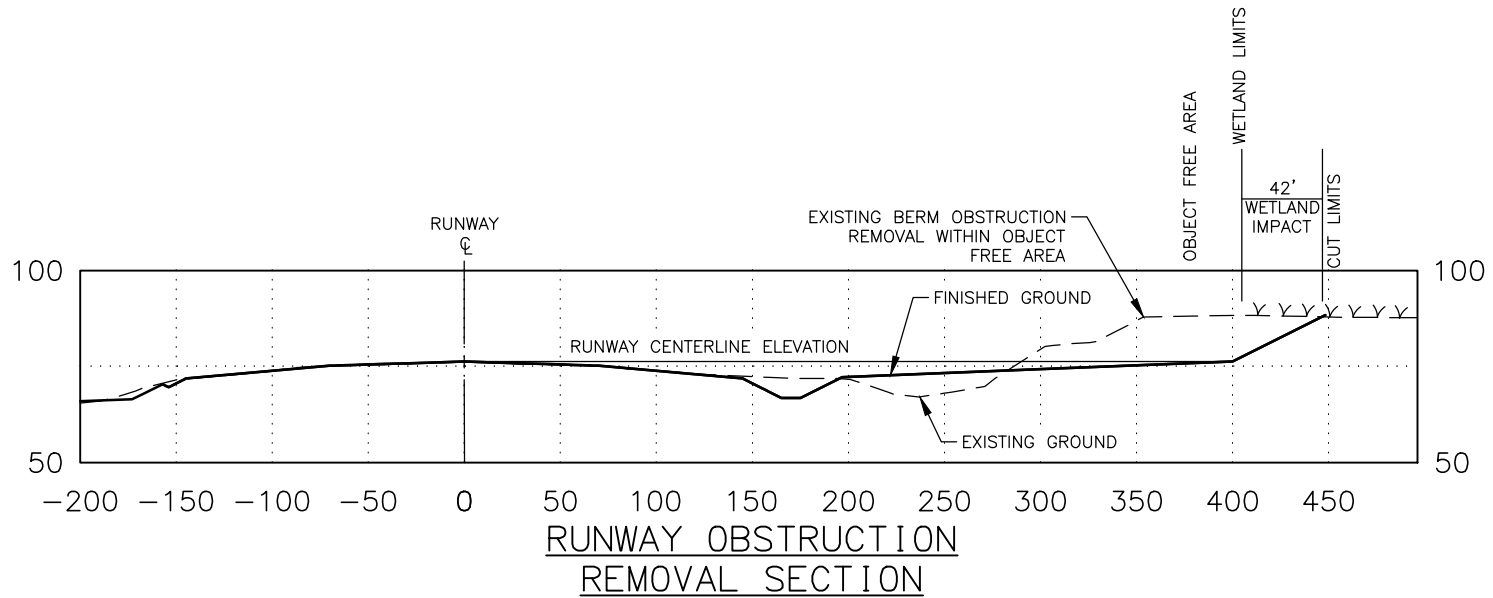
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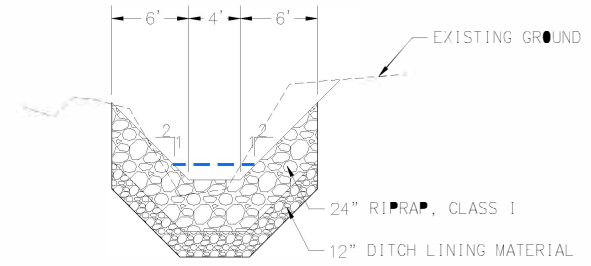
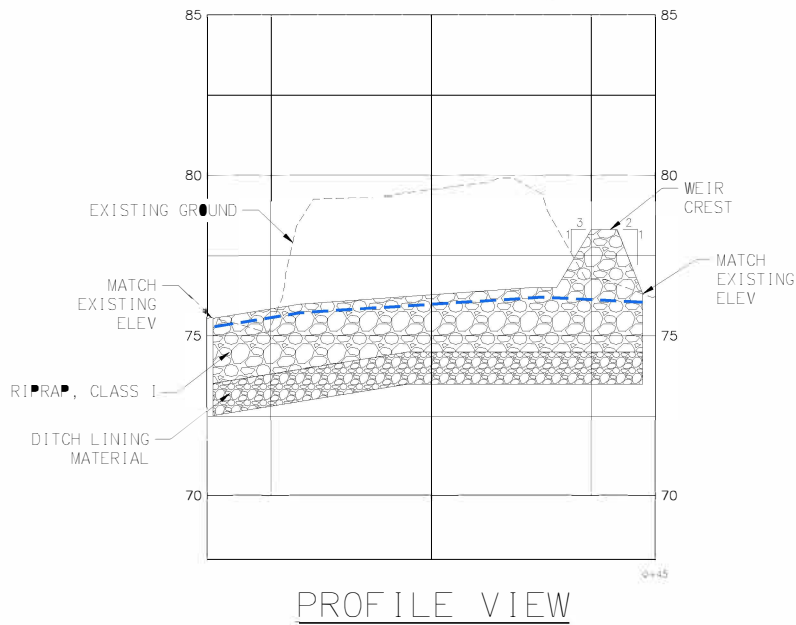
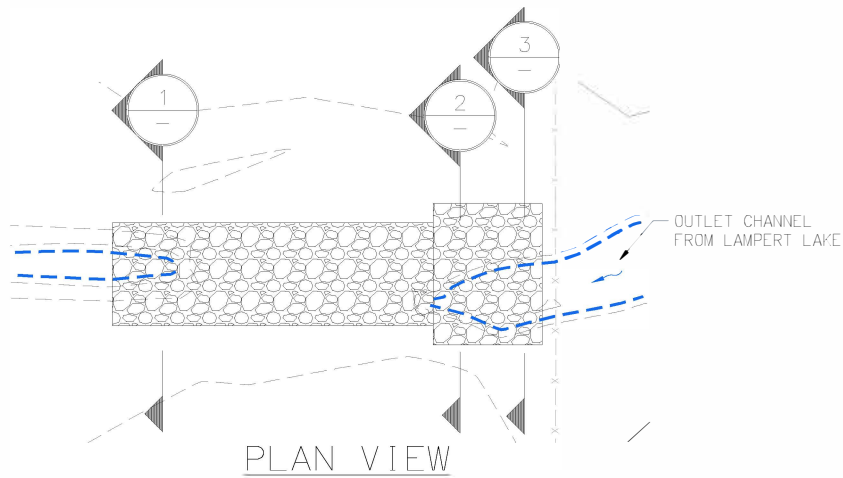
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Legend

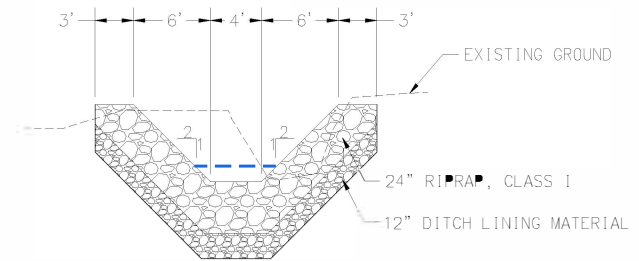
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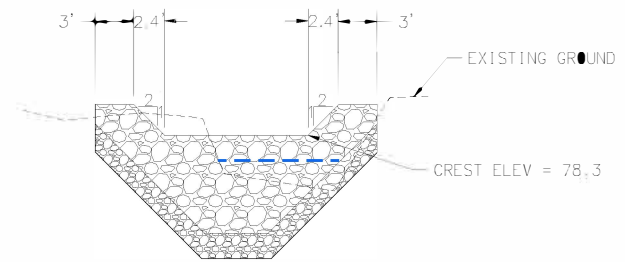
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1 OUTLET CHANNEL
SCALE: NTS



2 INLET CHANNEL
SCALE: 1/1TS



3 WEIR
SCALE: 1/1TS

LEGEND

ORDINARY HIGH WATER

LAMPERT LAKE
OUTFALL

Applicant: Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
 Project Name: Homer Airport Improvements
 File No.: POA-1981-00312
 Waterway: Beluga Lake
 Proposed activity: Transportation
 MTRS: Sec 15, 21, & 22, T6S, R13W, Seward Meridian
 Lat.: 59.6448 Long.: 151.4778°W
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