



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Alaska District

# Public Notice of Application for Permit

Regulatory Division (1145)  
CEPOA-RD  
Post Office Box 6898  
JBER, Alaska 99506-0898

<b>PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:</b>	July 18, 2012
<b>EXPIRATION DATE:</b>	August 17, 2012
<b>REFERENCE NUMBER:</b>	POA-1986-768-M5
<b>WATERWAY:</b>	Kotzebue Lagoon

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.

Comments on the described work, with the reference number, 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 **Mary Leykom** at (907) 753-2711, toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, by fax at (907) 753-5567, or by email at [mary.f.leykom@usace.army.mil](mailto:mary.f.leykom@usace.army.mil) if further information is desired.

**APPLICANT:** Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Northern Region, 2301 Peger Road, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-5399; contact Paul Karczmarczyk at 907 451-2288.

**LOCATION:** The project site is the Kotzebue Airport, located within Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16, T. 17 N., R. 18 W., Kateel River Meridian; centered on Latitude 66.985° N., Longitude -162.818° W.; and which can be located on USGS Quad map Beechey Point A-3.

**PURPOSE:** The applicant's stated purpose is to bring Kotzebue Airport improvements into compliance with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) standards to the maximum extent practicable. Proposed improvements include: expanding the Runway Safety Area, removing airspace obstructions, increasing security, and repairing damaged pavement. The proposed action would also reduce wildlife hazards and encroachment of parked planes and vehicles on runway surfaces, and reduce erosion.

**PROPOSED WORK:** Shift the airport runway threshold east to create 400 feet of additional Runway Safety Area at each end of the runway. This would require the following improvements:

WEST END: Extend the runway embankment 80 feet into Kotzebue Sound by placing 105,000 cubic yards (cy) of fill and armor rock into 8.05 acres of mostly marine waters. The new fill would also accommodate the re-aligned south access road which now crosses the runway. The in-water fill would cover an existing long-shore marine channel used by boaters. To re-establish the channel quickly, a new 5-acre channel would be created by excavating 60,000 cy of marine sediment from a 100-foot by 1,200-foot area just west of the new embankment.

EAST END: Extend the runway embankment 400 feet into Kotzebue Lagoon by placing 121,800 cy of fill into 5.1 acres of estuarine waters and wetlands. The fill would cover the existing lagoon channel which would be re-established around the end of the new embankment by dredging a new channel. Up to 300,000 cy of sediments would be removed to create the new 125-foot wide lagoon channel. To remove the airway obstruction posed by the hillside east of the runway, 428,000 cy would be excavated from 7.8 acres.

Excavated material would be used as fill if it suitable. Unusable material would be disposed of at an existing KIC disposal site which would need to be expanded by up to 25.3 acres to accommodate up to 353,300 cy. Access to the disposal site would be in winter on a 1,900-foot long by 40-foot wide temporary ice road.

OTHER WORK: Additional areas to be filled include OTZ pond (10.4 acres); edges of main runway (13.1 acres); edge of Isaac Lake (1.9 acre); Kotzebue Lagoon east of cross-wind runway (21.9 acres); Kotzebue Lagoon northeast of the apron (6.4 acres); and small in-field fills (1.7 acres). Navigational aids and utilities would be relocated; 700 feet of the south access road would be re-routed; security fence installed; and the boat launch near the NANA building improved.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: In July 2009, a permit was issued (POA-1986-768-P) which authorized fill placed to expand the general aviation apron and terminal area in the northeast corner of airport property. The permit expired in April 2012 and a portion of the work was not yet complete. The proposed action, if permitted, would include the completion of this apron work.

All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1-8), dated May 2012.

APPLICANT PROPOSED MITIGATION: After avoiding and minimizing to the greatest extent practicable, the applicant proposes compensatory mitigation to compensate for impacts to waters of the United States from activities involving discharges of dredged or fill material. An in-lieu fee for 94 acres of unavoidable impacts to aquatic resources would be paid to the Conservation Fund.

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 latest published version of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRs) has been consulted for the presence or absence of historic properties, including those listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. There is an eligible property, Kotzebue Archaeological District (KTZ-00036), in the vicinity of the worksite. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has been coordinated with and concurs with the

applicant's finding of adverse effect for ground disturbing activities potentially affecting the Kotzebue Archaeological District. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) has been formally developed for a phased identification and evaluation process, and included the development of stipulations to avoid adverse effects.

Consultation of the AHRS constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the District Commander at this time, and he is otherwise unaware of the presence of such resources. Any comments SHPO may have concerning presently unknown archeological or historic data that may be lost or destroyed by work under the requested permit will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The project area is within the known or historic range of the following threatened, endangered, or proposed-for-listing species: spectacled eider (*Somateria fischeri*), Steller's eider (*Polysticta stelleri*), polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*), bowhead whale (*Balaena mysticetus*), pacific walrus (*Odobenus rosmarus divergens*), ringed seal (*Phoca hispida hispida*) and bearded seal (*Erignathus barbatus nauticus*).

The applicant has coordinated the proposed project with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service. Both agencies have determined that the proposed project is not likely to adversely affect species under their management. Any further comments they may have concerning endangered or threatened wildlife or 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). NMFS has agreed with the applicant's determination of "no adverse effect to EFH or EFH resources." Any further comments or recommendations NMFS may have concerning EFH will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

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 authorities:

(X) Perform work in or affecting navigable waters of the United States - Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403).

(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 and a Notice of Application for State Water Quality Certification are enclosed with this Public Notice.

District Commander  
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

Enclosures

# STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
DIVISION OF WATER  
401 Certification Program  
Non-Point Source Water Pollution Control Program

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION  
WQM/401 CERTIFICATION  
555 CORDOVA STREET  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-2617  
PHONE: (907) 269-7564/FAX: (907) 334-2415

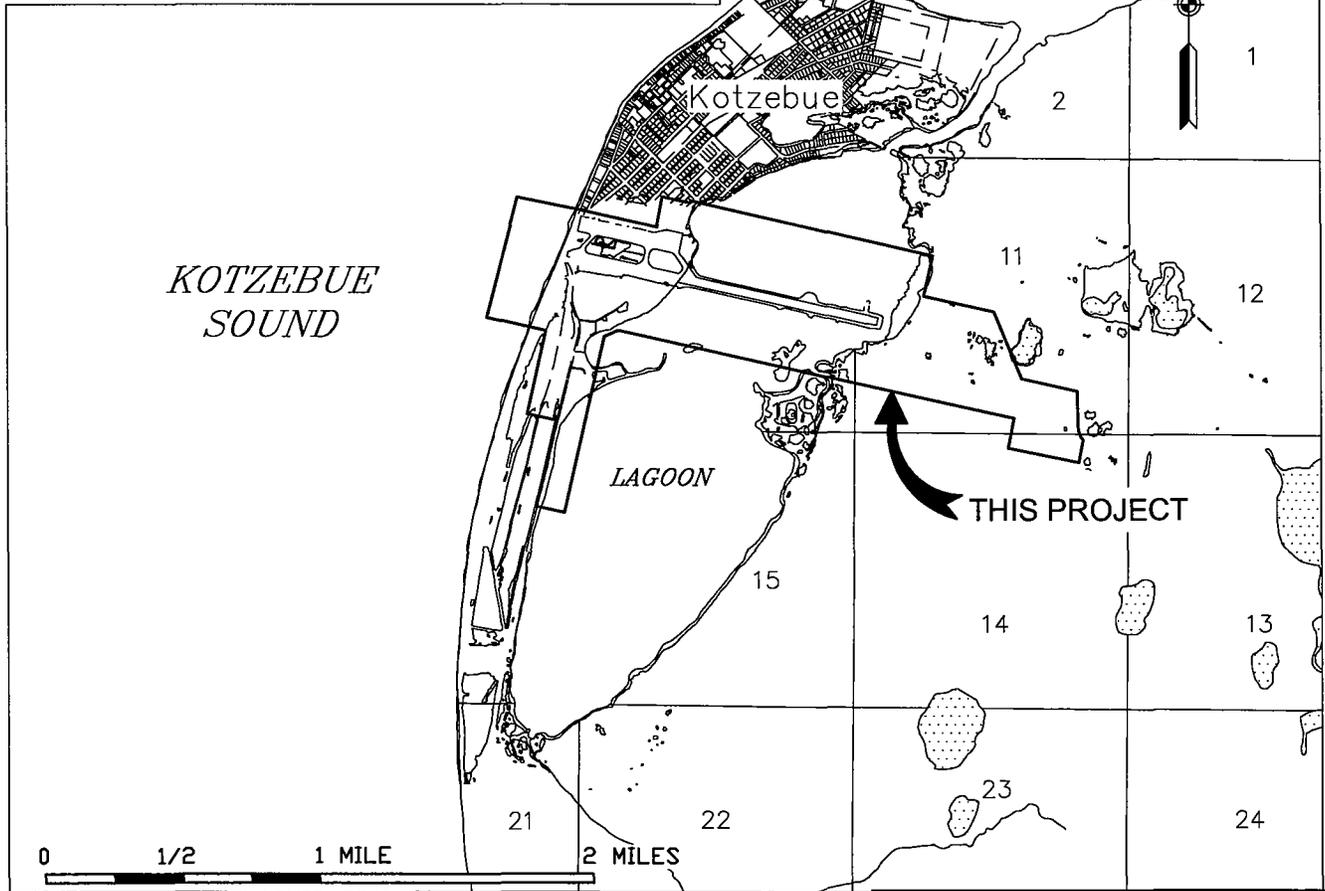
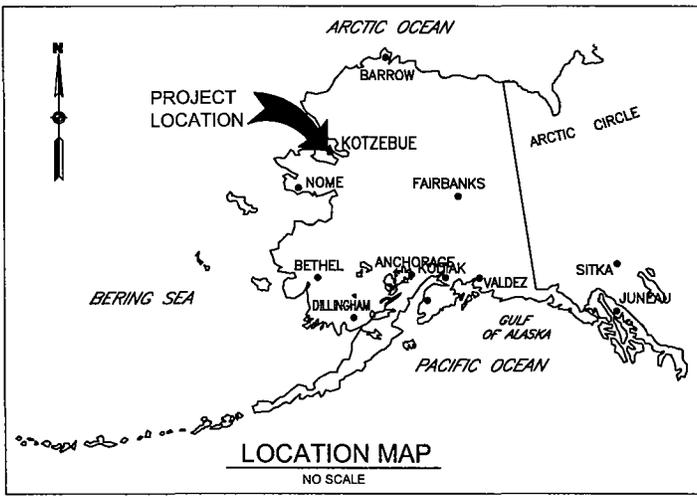
NOTICE OF APPLICATION  
FOR  
STATE WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

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 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 Clean Water Act, the Alaska Water Quality Standards, and other applicable State laws. By agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Environmental Conservation, application for a Department of the Army permit to discharge dredged or fill material into navigable waters under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act also may serve as application for State Water Quality Certification.

Notice is hereby given that the application for a Department of the Army Permit described in the Corps of Engineers' Public Notice No. POA-1986-768-M5, Kotzebue Sound, serves as application for State Water Quality Certification from the Department of Environmental Conservation.

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

Any person desiring to comment on the project, with respect to Water Quality Certification, may submit written comments to the address above by the expiration date of the Corps of Engineer's Public Notice.



**VICINITY MAP**

Source: USGS Map KOTZEBUE (D-2)  
Located Within T.17N., R.18W., K.R.M., AK.  
Kotzebue Recording District

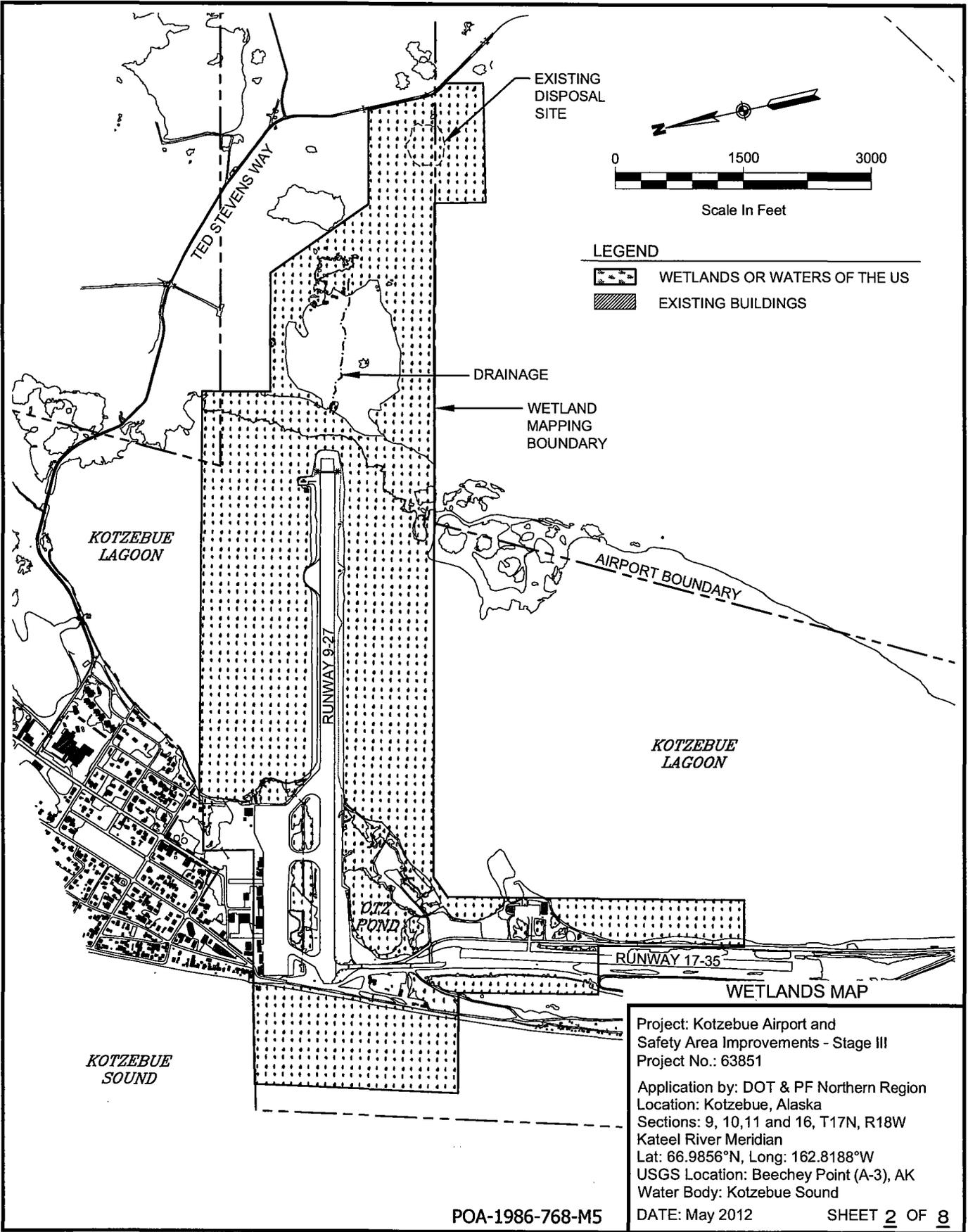
Project: Kotzebue Airport and  
Safety Area Improvements - Stage III  
Project No.: 63851

**POA-1986-768-M5** - Northern Region  
Location: Kotzebue, Alaska  
Sections: 9, 10, 11 and 16, T17N, R18W  
Kateel River Meridian  
Lat: 66.9856°N, Long: 162.8188°W  
USGS Location: Beechey Point (A-3), AK  
Water Body: Kotzebue Sound

DATE: May 2012

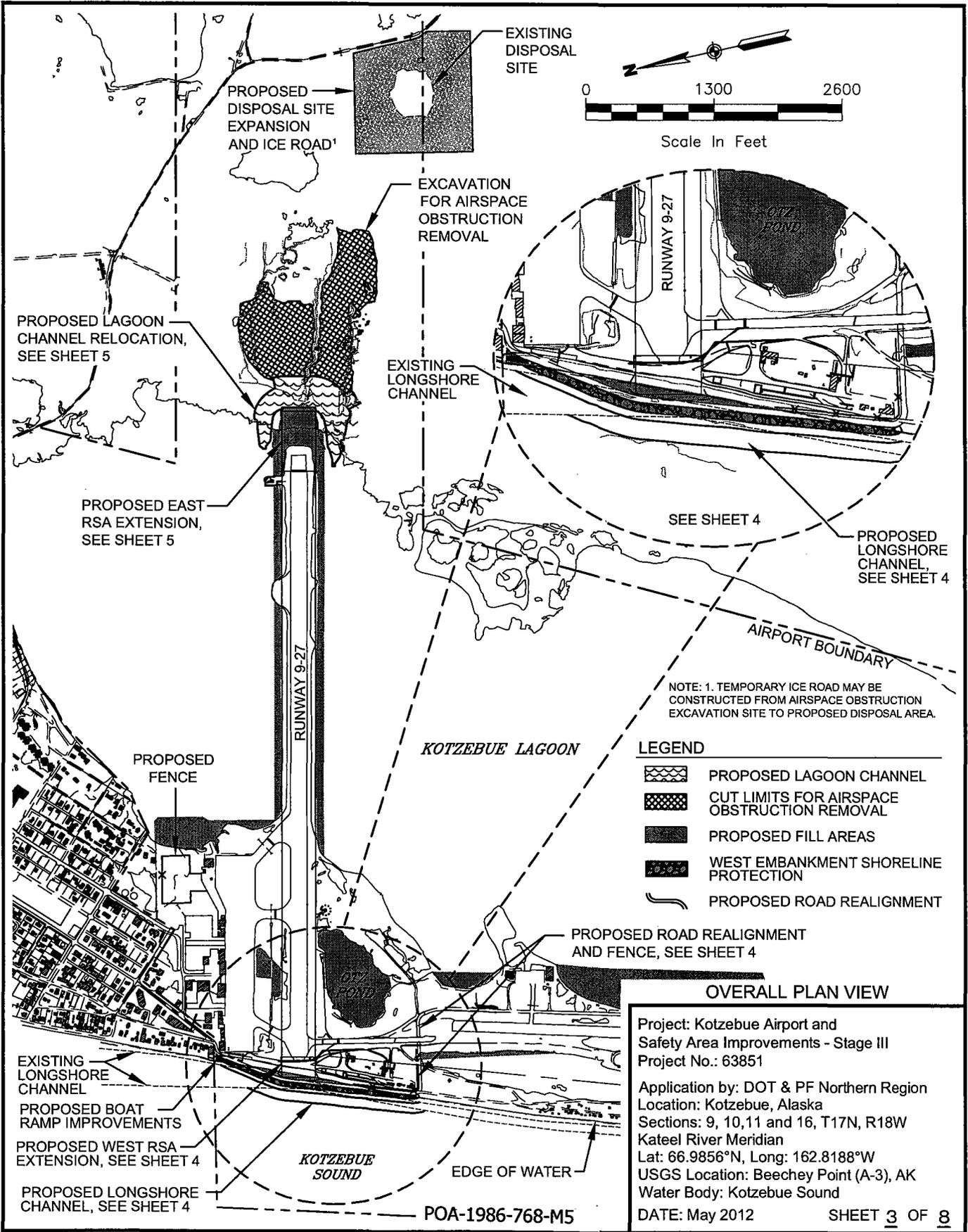
SHEET 1 OF 8

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POA-1986-768-M5

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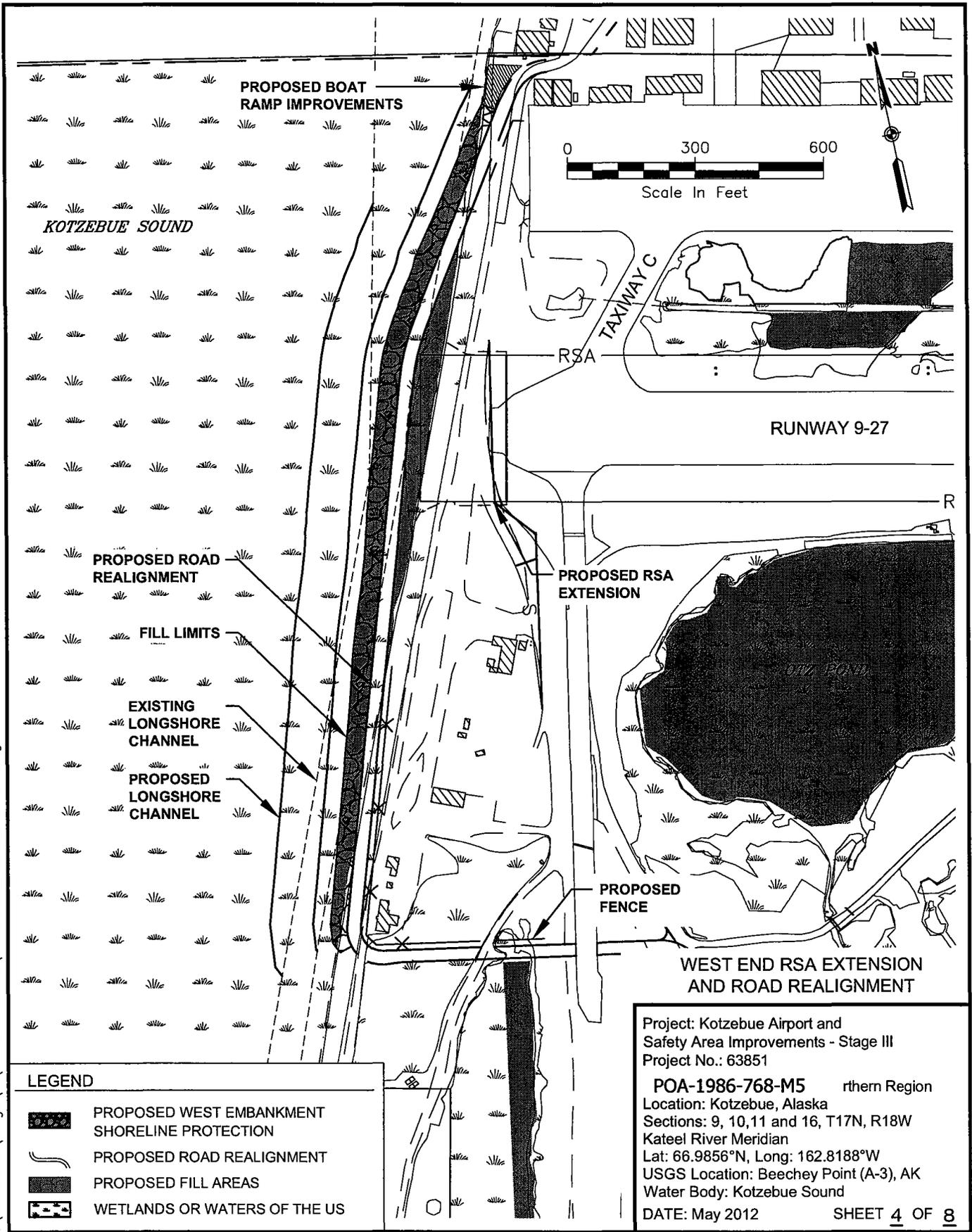
**OVERALL PLAN VIEW**

Project: Kotzebue Airport and Safety Area Improvements - Stage III  
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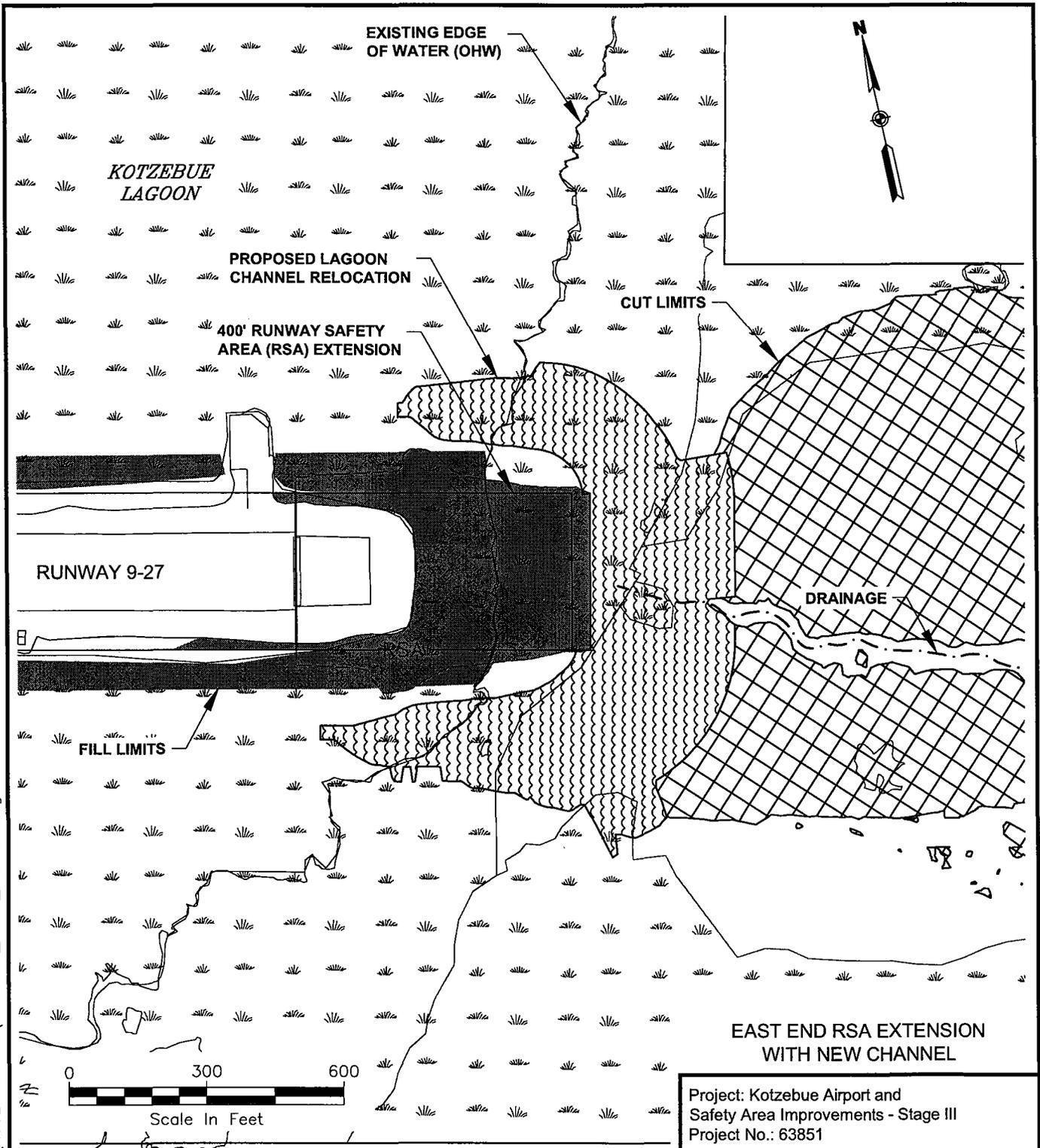
Application by: DOT & PF Northern Region  
 Location: Kotzebue, Alaska  
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DATE: May 2012      SHEET 3 OF 8

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**LEGEND**

-  PROPOSED LAGOON CHANNEL
-  CUT LIMITS FOR AIRSPACE OBSTRUCTION REMOVAL
-  PROPOSED FILL AREAS
-  WETLANDS OR WATERS OF THE US

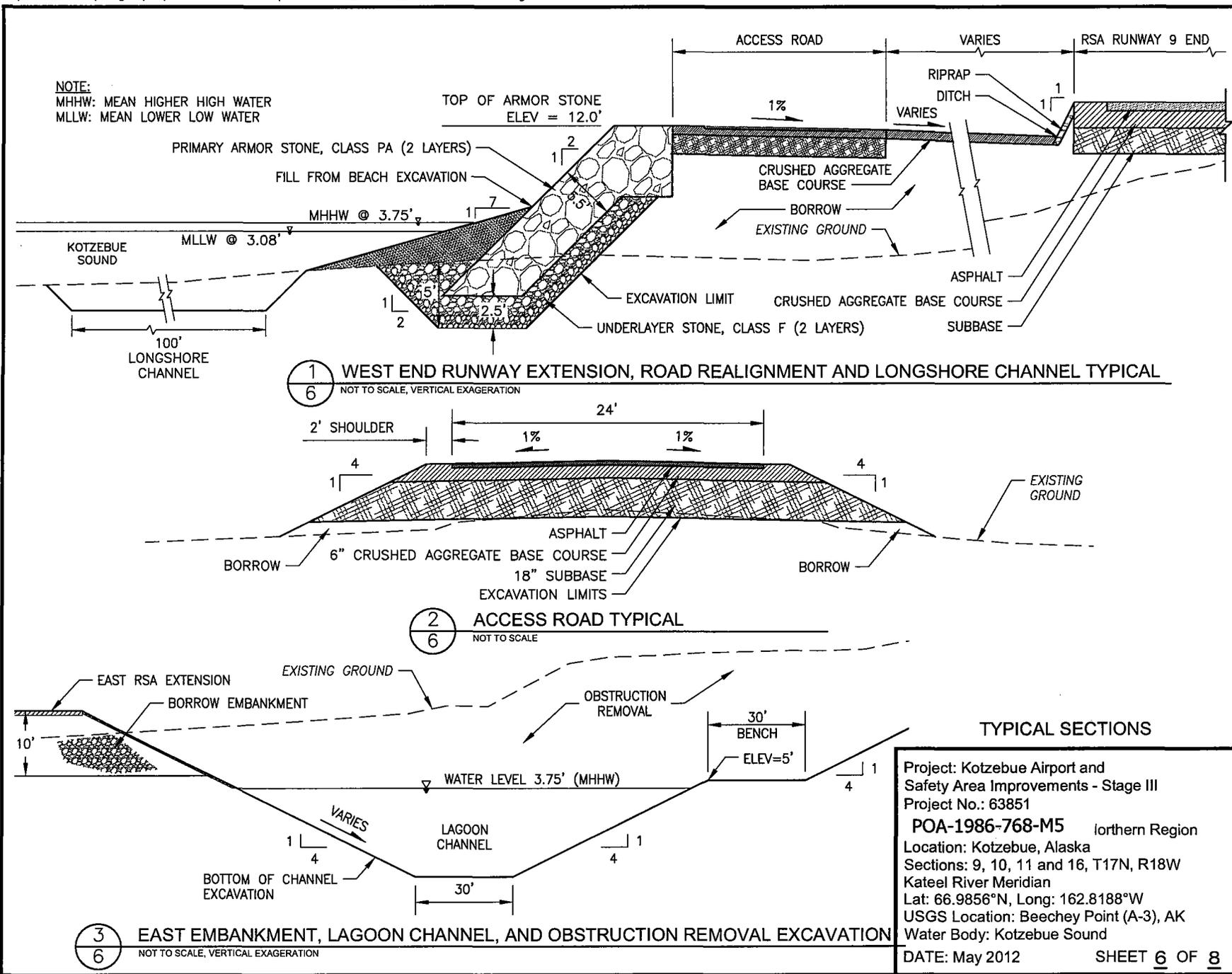
POA-1986-768-M5

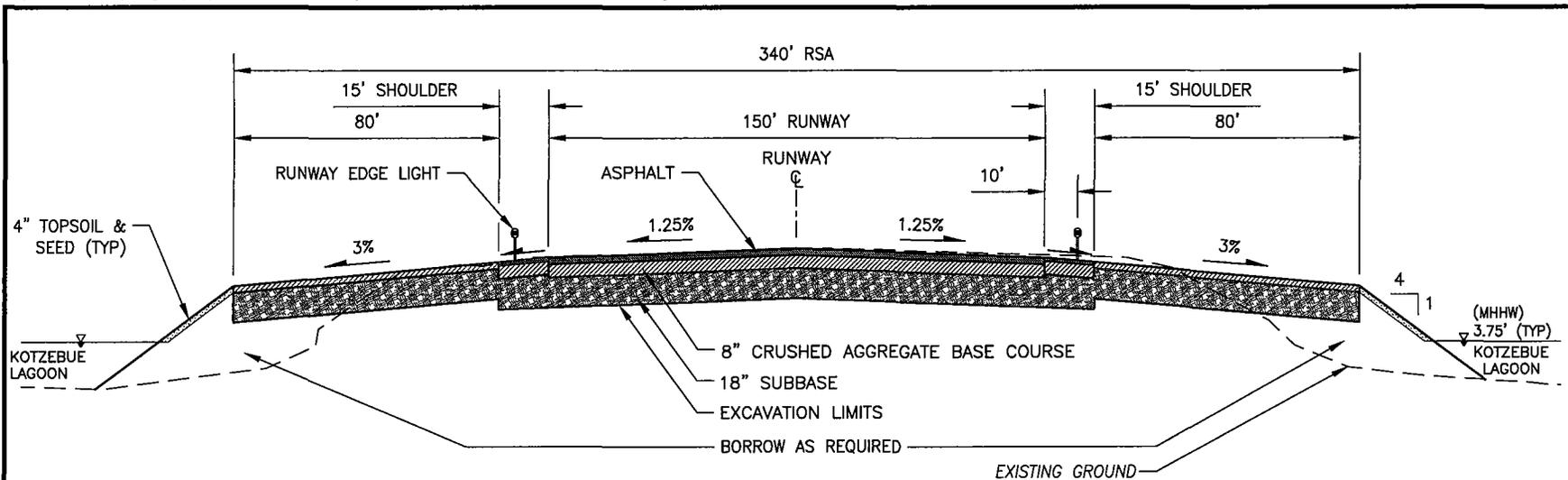
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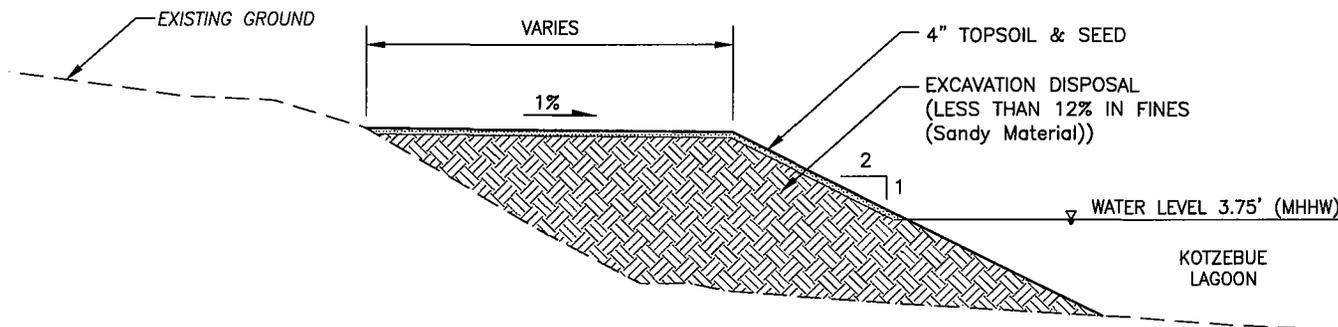
DATE: May 2012

SHEET 5 OF 8





1  
7 RUNWAY EXTENSION AND RUNWAY EMBANKMENT EROSION PROTECTION CROSS SECTION  
NOT TO SCALE



2  
7 LAGOON FILL TYPICAL  
NOT TO SCALE, VERTICAL EXAGGERATION

TYPICAL PROFILES

Project: Kotzebue Airport and Safety Area Improvements - Stage III  
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SHEET 7 OF 8

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**Table 1: Impacted Wetlands and Waters**

Proposed Action Component Description	Waters and Wetland Type	Impact Area (acres)	Fill (cubic yards)	Cut (cubic yards)
West RSA Embankment	Marine	0.85	12,300	N/A
Longshore Channel	Marine	5	N/A	60,000
Realigned Access Road (including Shore Protection)	Palustrine Emergent/Scrub Shrub Mix	0.35	2,000	N/A
	Lacustrine	0.25	1,400	N/A
	Marine	6.6	93,000	N/A
Segmented Circle/Wind Cone Access Road & Pad	Palustrine Emergent/Scrub Shrub Mix	0.2	1,000	N/A
East RSA Embankment	Estuarine	5.1	121,800	N/A
Lagoon Channel	Estuarine	7	N/A	155,600
	Palustrine Emergent	0.2	N/A	5,100
	Palustrine Emergent/Scrub Shrub Mix	0.7	N/A	15,500
RW 27 Obstruction Removal	Palustrine Emergent/Scrub Shrub Mix	7.8	N/A	80,000
Airport Infield between RW 9 and Apron	Palustrine Pond	1.5	11,500	N/A
RW 9-27 RSA Edges	Estuarine	13.1	84,900	N/A
Isaac Lake - East Shoreline	Lacustrine	1.9	12,200	N/A
OTZ Pond	Estuarine	10.4	80,500	N/A
Kotzebue Lagoon – North of RW 9-27, East of Apron	Estuarine	6.4	41,400	N/A
Kotzebue Lagoon – East of RW 18-36, North of National Guard Building	Estuarine	1.9	12,500	N/A
Kotzebue Lagoon – East of RW 18-36, South of National Guard Building	Estuarine	20	132,200	N/A
KIC Disposal Site	Palustrine Emergent/Scrub Shrub Mix	30.7	353,300	N/A
<b>WETLANDS &amp; WATERS TOTAL</b>		<b>119.9</b>	<b>960,000</b>	<b>316,200</b>
<b>NONWETLANDS TOTAL</b>		<b>31.8</b>	<b>8,400</b>	<b>472,300</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>151.7</b>	<b>968,400</b>	<b>788,500</b>

**IMPACT TABLE**

Project: Kotzebue Airport and Safety Area Improvements - Stage III  
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POA-1986-768-M5