



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

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:	December 10, 2018
EXPIRATION DATE:	January 11, 2019
REFERENCE NUMBER:	POA-2018-00455
WATERWAY:	Kuskokwim River

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

All comments regarding this Public Notice (PN) 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 or to regpagemaster@usace.army.mil. All comments should include the PN reference number listed above.

All comments should reach this office no later than the expiration date of this PN to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Please contact Nicholas Lucore at (907) 753-5783, toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, by fax at (907) 753-5567, or by email at Nicholas.Lucore@usace.army.mil if further information is desired concerning this notice.

APPLICANT: Orutsararmiut Native Council; Calvin Cockroft; Post Office Box 927; Bethel, Alaska 99559

AGENT: Rodney P. Kinney Associates, Inc.; Simon Gilliland; 16515 Centerfield Drive, Suite 101; Eagle River, Alaska 99577

LOCATION: The project site is located within Sections 18 & 19, T. 8 N., R. 71 W, Seward Meridian; USGS Quad Map Bethel D-8; Latitude 60.7877° N., Longitude 161.7959° W.; in Bethel, Alaska.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to provide road access to new housing for single family residences in Bethel, Alaska.

PROPOSED WORK: To discharge 32,370 cubic yards of clean fill over 3.86 acres of wetlands for the construction of a subdivision road. Minimum width of footprint is 52-feet with a 3:1 side slope. All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1-3), dated November 8, 2018.

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

a. Avoidance: Undeveloped land within and immediately surrounding Bethel is categorized as wetlands. All sites considered for constructing a new subdivision would have included wetlands. Therefore, impacts to wetlands from constructing a road for a new subdivision cannot be avoided.

b. Minimization: Impacts to wetlands have been minimized, by locating the access road in an area that had previously been impacted by dredging activities. The alternative location for access would have resulted in greater impacts to intact natural wetlands. By routing access through a previously dredged area where wetland functions have already been lost, the wetland impacts were minimized by roughly 0.71 acres. Existing culverts will be replaced and new culverts will be installed to maintain the natural hydrology of landscape. These drainage structures will be managed to prevent additional flooding of wetlands, as well as assuring runoff during heavy rainfalls and flood events.

c. Compensatory Mitigation: Construction of an access road within the subdivision would result in unavoidable impacts to 3.86 acres of jurisdictional wetlands and waters of the U.S. Of these impacts, 2.937 acres are palustrine scrub-shrub, 0.840 acres are palustrine scrub-shrub/emergent, and 0.083 acres are in a manmade pond from previous dredging activities. Orutsarmiut Traditional Native Council proposes that no compensatory mitigation be required due to the following:

- The impact of 3.86 acres does not impact unique wetlands within or surrounding the City of Bethel.
- Impacts to wetlands would not adversely impact adjacent wetlands that providing functions to aquatic resources.
- The location of the proposed project is within the City of Bethel with development surrounding the project.
- There are no wetland mitigation bank or in-lieu fee programs available in or adjacent to the service area of western Alaska.

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 are no cultural resources in the permit area or within the vicinity of the permit area. The permit area has been determined to be the footprint of the proposed project which would occur only in waters of the U.S., including wetlands. Consultation of the AHRS constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the Corps of Engineers (Corps) at this time, and we are otherwise unaware of the presence of such resources. The Corps has made a No Historic Properties Affected (No Effect) determination for the proposed project. This application is being coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). 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. The Corps is requesting the SHPO's concurrence with this determination.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: No threatened or endangered species are known to use the project area.

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 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. We have determined the described activity would not adversely affect EFH in 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 PN 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 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 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 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
Wastewater Discharge Authorization Program (WDAP) / 401 Certification

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
WDAP/401 CERTIFICATION
555 CORDOVA STREET
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 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 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 (PN) Reference Number **POA-2018-00455, Kuskokwim River**, 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.

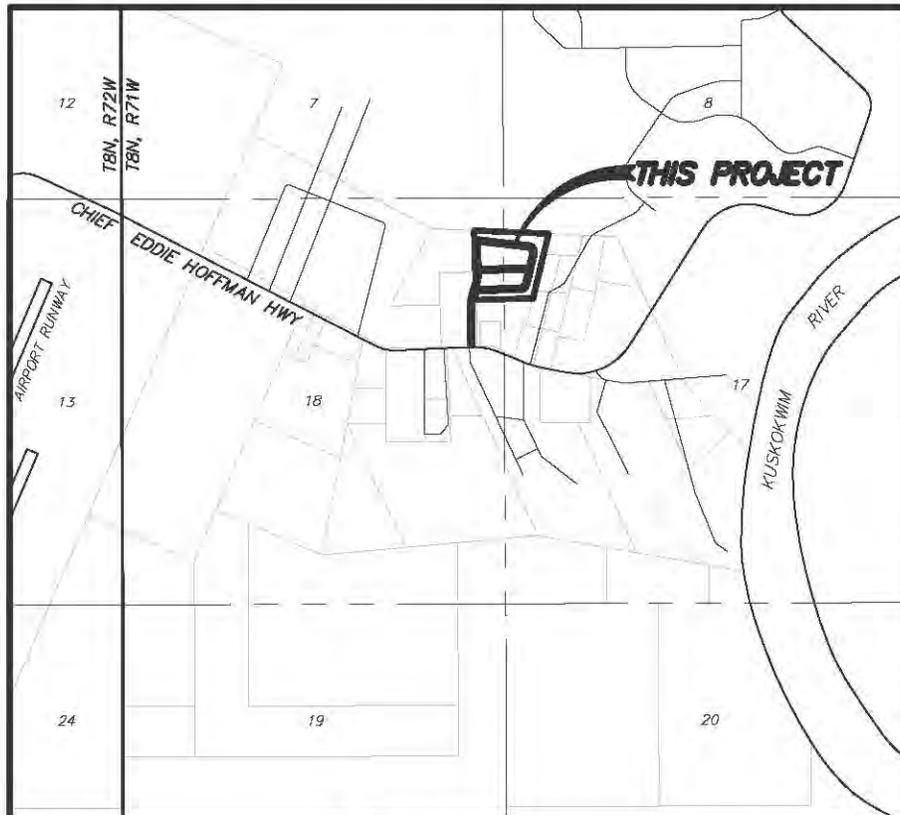
Any person desiring to comment on the project with respect to Water Quality Certification, may submit written comments to the address above or via email to dec-401cert@alaska.gov by the expiration date of the Corps of Engineer's Public Notice. All comments should include the PN reference number listed above. Mailed comments must be postmarked on or before the expiration date of the public notice.

Disability Reasonable Accommodation Notice

The State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act 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 Theresa Zimmerman at 907-465-6171 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.



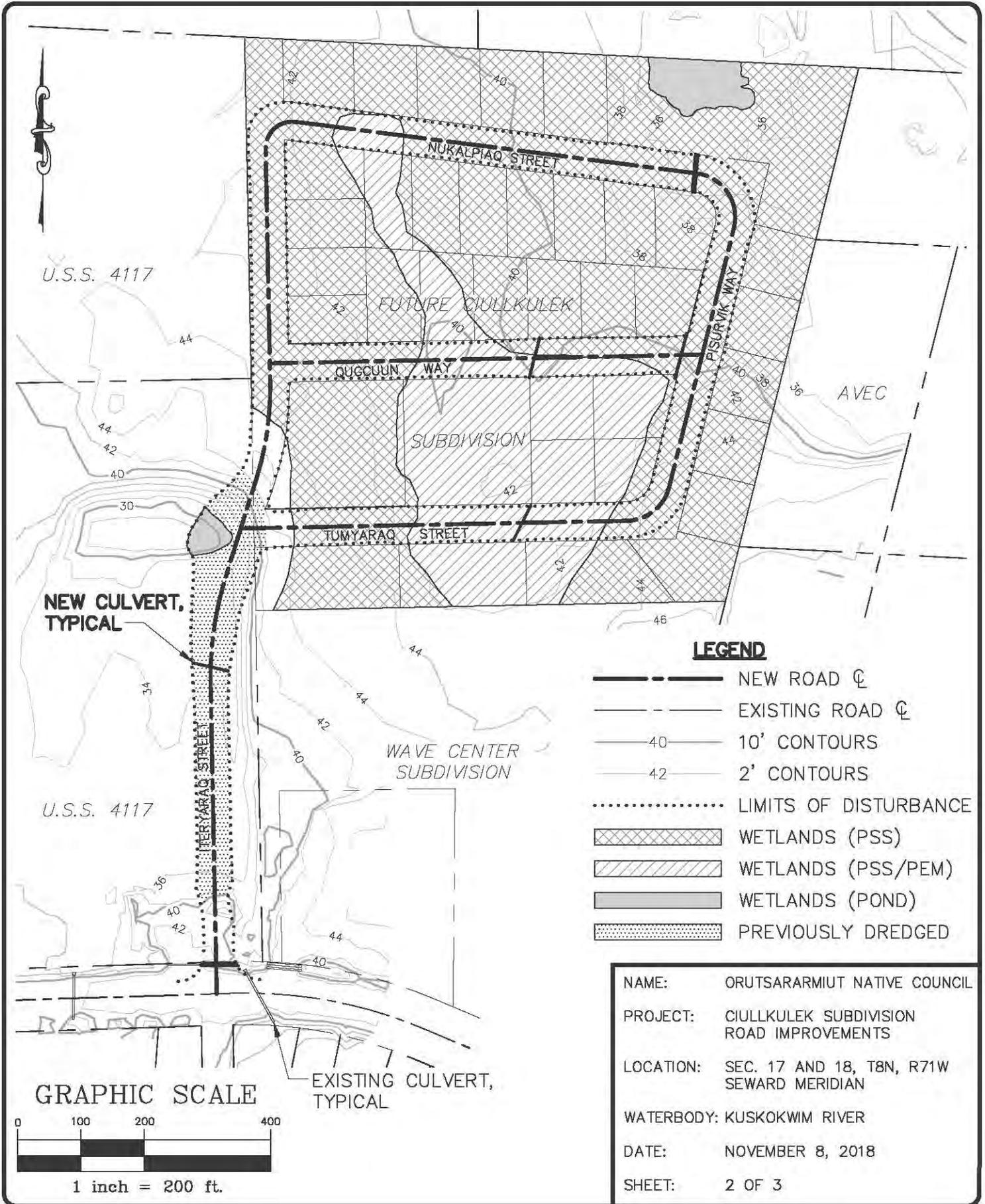
PROJECT LOCATION MAP



VICINITY MAP

APPROXIMATE SCALE: 1" = 1/2 MILE

NAME: ORUTSARMIUT NATIVE COUNCIL
 PROJECT: CIULLKULEK SUBDIVISION ROAD IMPROVEMENTS
 LOCATION: SEC. 17 AND 18, T8N, R71W SEWARD MERIDIAN
 WATERBODY: KUSKOKWIM RIVER
 DATE: NOVEMBER 8, 2018
 SHEET: 1 OF 3



U.S.S. 4117

AVEC

FUTURE CIULKULEK
SUBDIVISION

WAVE CENTER
SUBDIVISION

**NEW CULVERT,
TYPICAL**

TUMYARAQ STREET

NUKALPIAQ STREET

QUGCUUN WAY

PISURVIK WAY

TUMYARAQ STREET

**EXISTING CULVERT,
TYPICAL**

LEGEND

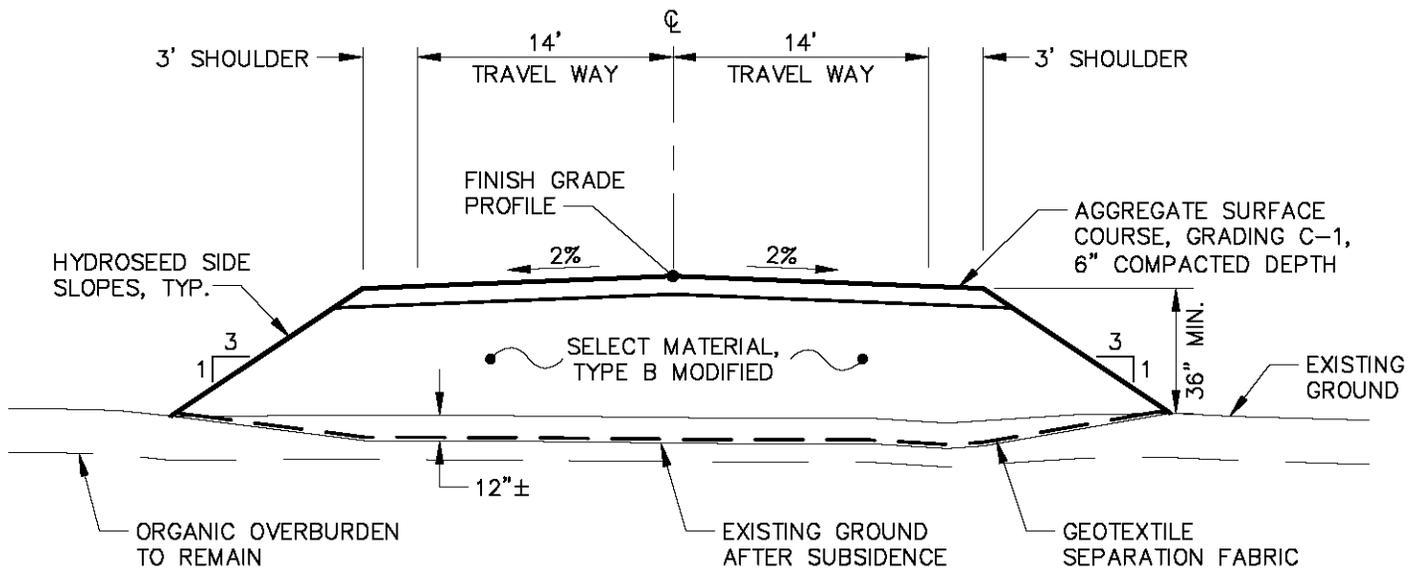
- NEW ROAD C
- EXISTING ROAD C
- 40 10' CONTOURS
- 42 2' CONTOURS
- LIMITS OF DISTURBANCE
- WETLANDS (PSS)
- WETLANDS (PSS/PEM)
- WETLANDS (POND)
- PREVIOUSLY DREDGED

GRAPHIC SCALE



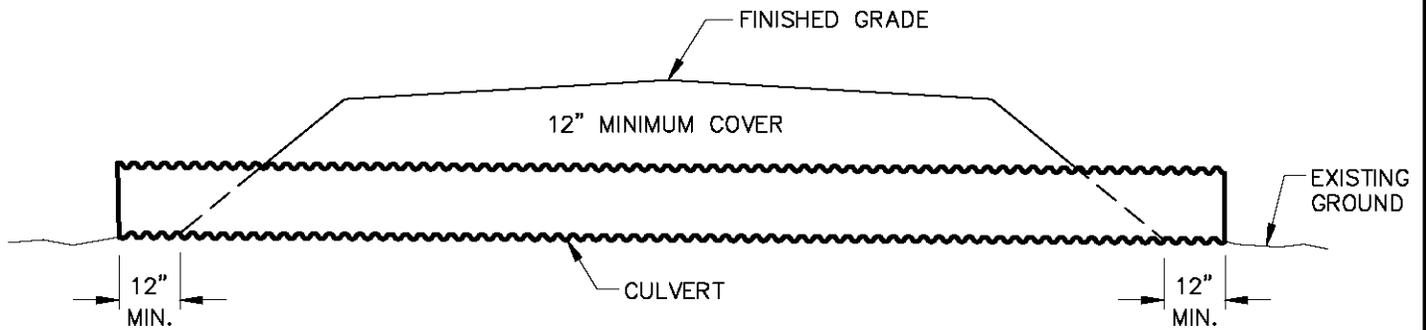
1 inch = 200 ft.

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DATE:	NOVEMBER 8, 2018
SHEET:	2 OF 3



TYPICAL ROAD SECTION

-NTS-



TYPICAL CULVERT PROFILE

-NTS-

NOTE:

WETLANDS WILL BE PROTECTED BY IMPLEMENTATION OF EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROLS THROUGH STANDARD 2016 CGP METHODS.

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