



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Alaska District

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

# Public Notice of Application for Permit

<b>PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:</b>	<b>September 30, 2024</b>
<b>EXPIRATION DATE:</b>	<b>October 14, 2024</b>
<b>REFERENCE NUMBER:</b>	<b>POA-2024-00143</b>
<b>WATERWAY:</b>	<b>Unnamed tributary stream to Cook Inlet</b>

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\*\*\*Public Notice Reissued\*\*\*

This notice was originally sent by the Alaska District Corps of Engineers Regulatory Division directly to all agencies and other interested parties who have requested to be included on our Public Notice distribution list. However, it has recently come to our attention that, through an administrative error, some public notices were not sent via hard copies through the US postal service. Therefore, this public notice is now being posted to our public website and remailed to allow for a new 15-day public comment period. We apologize for any confusion or inconvenience this may have caused and thank you for your interest in the Corps of Engineers Regulatory Division public notices and encourage your comments on proposed projects. If you have commented on the past May 17, 2024, Public Notice, you do not need to resubmit comments as they have been included in the administrative record.

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 or to [regpagemaster@usace.army.mil](mailto:regpagemaster@usace.army.mil). 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 Leah Barrett at (907) 753-2760, toll free from within Alaska at (800) 478-2712, or by email at [leah.barrett@usace.army.mil](mailto:leah.barrett@usace.army.mil) if further information is desired concerning this public notice.

APPLICANT: Eric Schall  
City of Wasilla  
290 East Herning Avenue  
Wasilla, Alaska 99654  
(907) 373-9018  
eschall@cityofwasilla.gov

AGENT: John Marshall  
Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.  
725 East Fireweed Lane, Suite 200  
Anchorage AK 99503-2245  
(907) 266-1108  
john.marshall@stantec.com

LOCATION: The project site is located within Section 13, T. 17 N., R. 1 W., Seward Meridian; USGS Quad Map Anchorage C-7; Latitude 61.5634° N., Longitude 149.3745° W.; in Wasilla, Alaska.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to construct a Wastewater Treatment System utilizing natural wetlands to improve wastewater treatment and expand treatment capacity.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant proposes to discharge up to 8,926 cubic yards of fill in 1.6 acres of wetlands and 0.01-acre below the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) in order to utilize the wetlands for a Waste Treatment System for the disposal of municipal treated wastewater. Specifically:

- construct two (2) 250-foot by 10-foot diversion dikes (0.1-acre total would be in wetlands),
- construct a 230-foot by 14-foot impoundment dike with three (3) 4-foot culverts (0.01-acre below the stream OHWM for a 17-foot by 15-foot bedding area),
- construct a 3675-foot by approximately 19-foot minimum width, with a 15-foot drivable surface access road (1925 linear feet (1.1-acre) would be in wetlands),
- construct the expansion of an existing separation dike to 880-foot with 60-foot hammerhead, to 40-foot max with a 15-foot drivable surface (0.3-acre would be in wetlands),
- place boundary signage into less than 0.001-acre of wetlands.

All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1-5), dated November 17, 2023.

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 design incorporates existing roads, upgrading an abandoned road cut along the percolation beds from the original Wastewater Treatment Plan (WWTP) construction and building access roads in uplands to the extent possible to minimize impacts to wetlands. Access roads are designed for single vehicle traffic to reduce the footprint. Much of the abandoned road cut along the percolation beds currently supports newly developed wetlands that resulted from percolation bed seeps and groundwater discharge. Impacting these wetlands is preferable over impacting historical wetlands further downslope.

b. Minimization: Construction would take advantage of the existing topographic setting and would involve expansion of a previously constructed separation dike to isolate surface water flow, installation of two surface flow diversion dikes to spread effluent and increase hydrologic retention time, a terminus impoundment dike integrated with triple stream culverts for Waste Treatment System discharge monitoring, and access gravel roads to facilitate construction and maintenance.

Best Management Practices would be followed for erosion and hazardous material spill prevention and control to prevent and minimize water quality impacts. The project would be built over one construction season, during winter when in wetlands or the stream, and during the summer for uplands work. Winter work would greatly reduce impacts to wetlands and the stream. The applicant also plans to use material from the existing quarry site located in uplands on their property at the WWTP. No additional impact to wetlands would be required from material site development.

c. Compensatory Mitigation: No compensatory mitigation is proposed given the relatively small acreage of fill in wetlands and streams and because the project preserves the natural wetland functions that would be maintained upon completion of the project.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: A 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 cultural resources in the permit area or within the vicinity of the permit area. The permit area has been determined to be the boundaries of the Waste Treatment System as shown on page 2 of the project drawings. Consultation of the AHRs constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the U.S. Army 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), Federally recognized Tribes, and other consulting parties. Any comments SHPO, Federally recognized Tribes, and other consulting parties 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.

We have determined the described activity would have no effect on any listed or proposed threatened or endangered species and would have no effect on any designated or proposed critical habitat, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844). Therefore, no consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is required. However, any comments they 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 (Magnuson-Stevens 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).

The project area is not within mapped EFH. We have determined the described activity would not adversely affect EFH in the project area. However, the applicant would still apply a fish habitat permit as the tributary has resident fish species present.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION: The Corps 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 Corps, 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 rights or resources. Consultation may be initiated by the affected Tribe upon written request to the District Commander. This application is being coordinated with federally recognized tribes and other consulting parties. Any comments federal recognized tribes and other consulting parties may have concerning presently unknown archeological or historic data that may be lost or destroyed by the work under the requested permit will be considered in the Corps final assessment of the described work.

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.

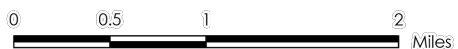
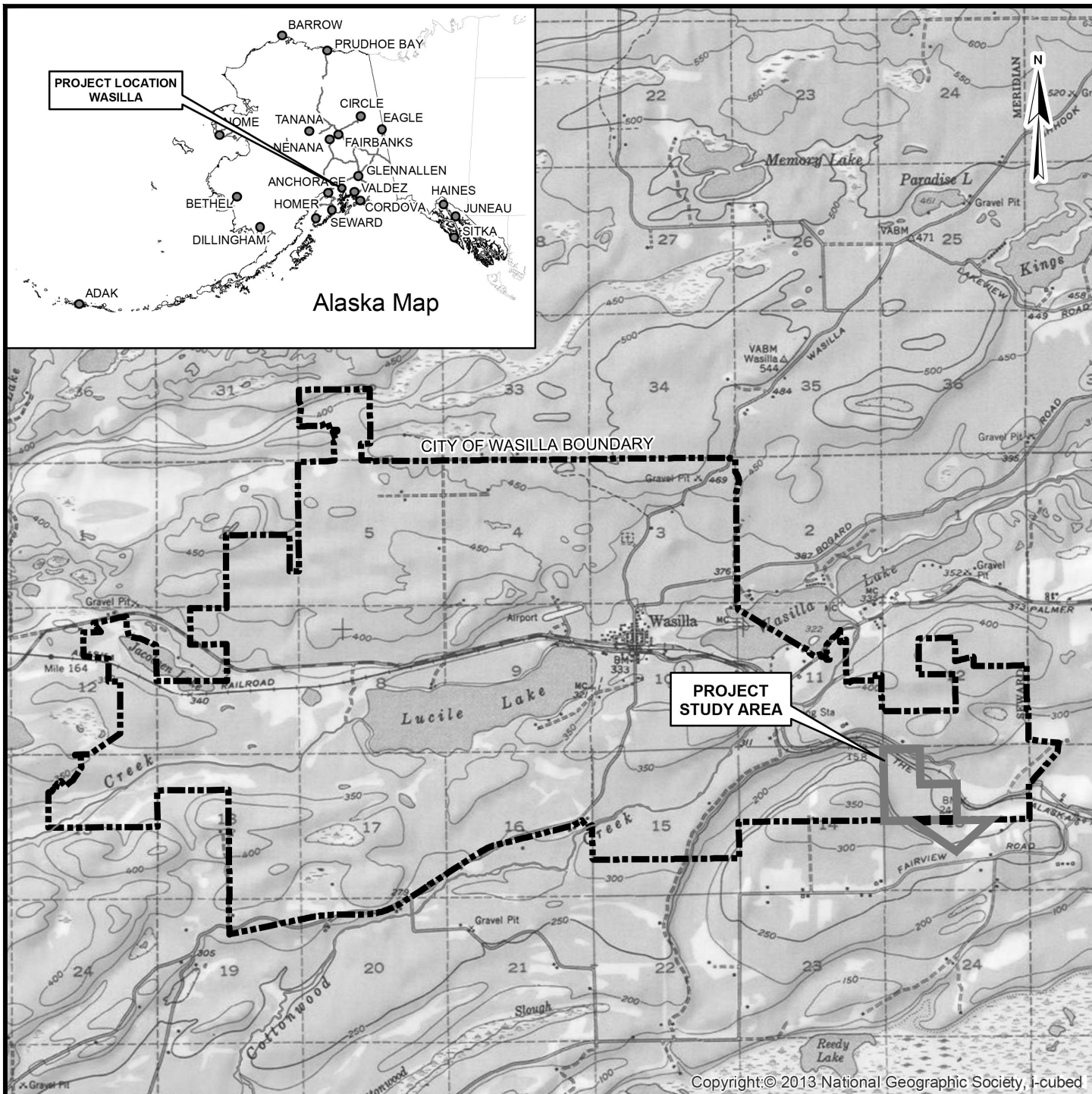
**AUTHORITY:** This permit will be issued or denied under the following authorities:

(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 are enclosed with this public notice.

District Commander  
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

Enclosures

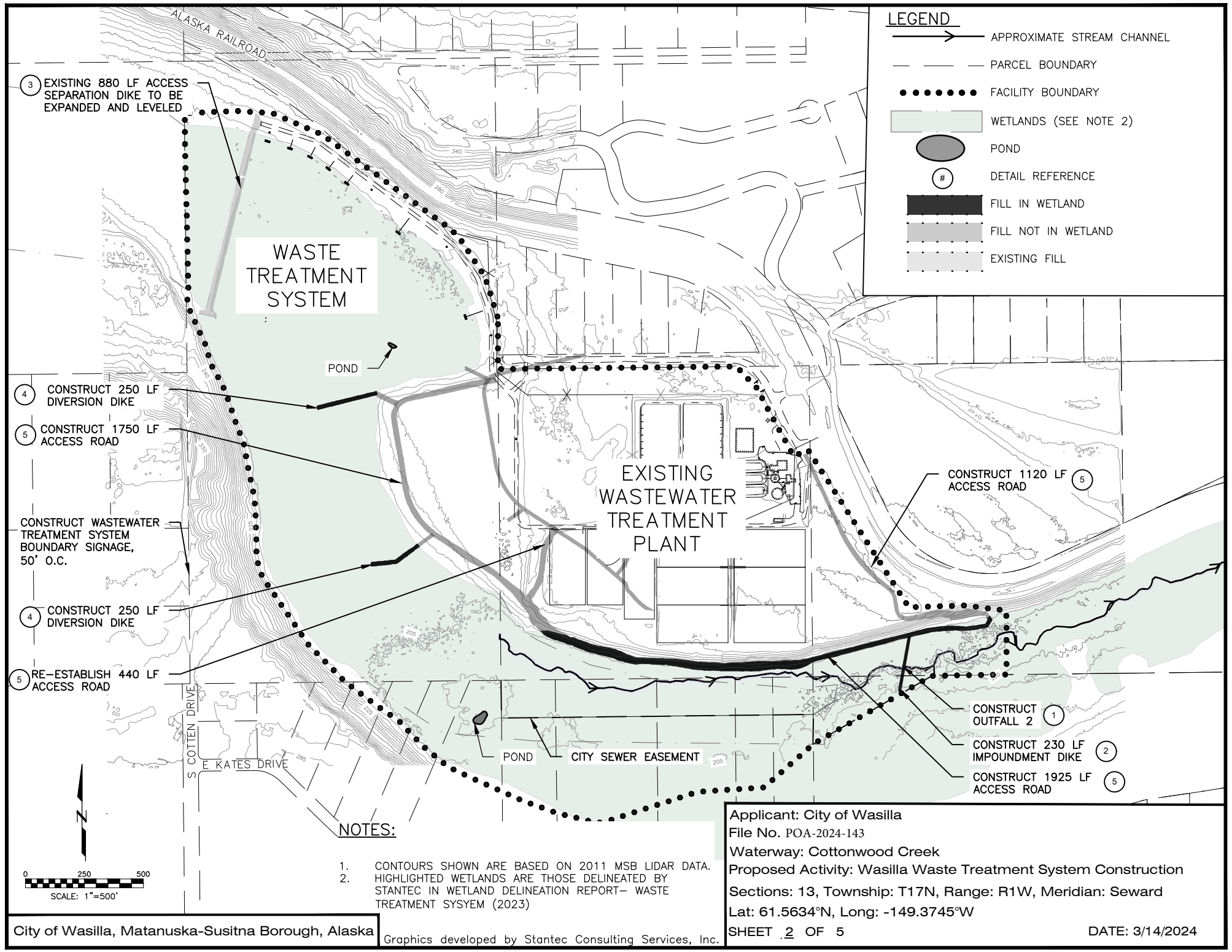


Graphics developed by Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.

Applicant: City of Wasilla  
 File No. POA-2024-143  
 Waterway: Cottonwood Creek  
 Proposed Activity: Wasilla Waste Treatment System Construction  
 Sections: 13, Township: T17N, Range: R1W, Meridian: Seward  
 Lat: 61.5634°N, Long: -149.3745°W  
 SHEET 1 OF 5

City of Wasilla, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Alaska

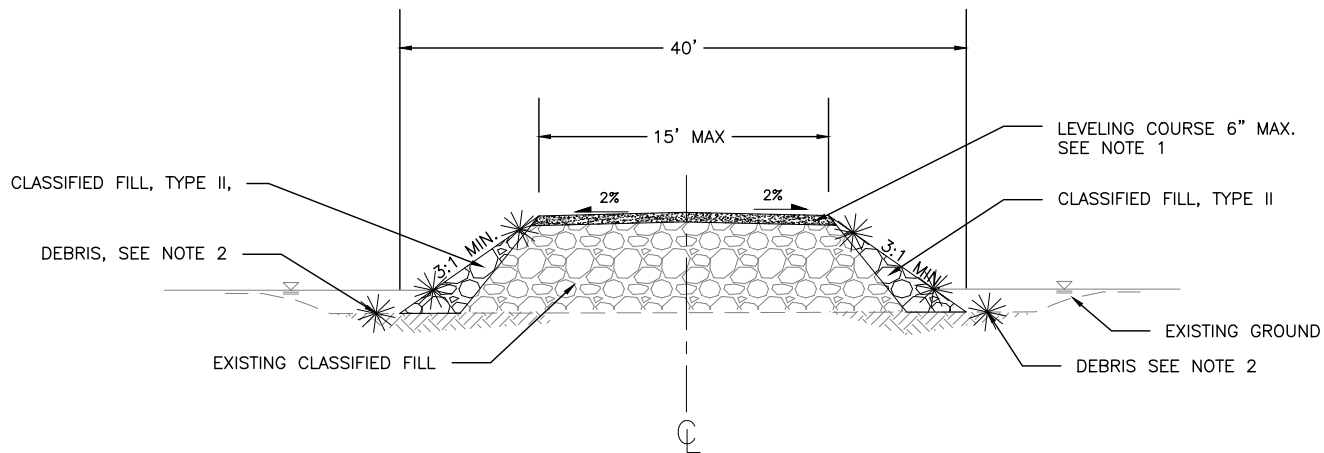
DATE: 11/17/2023







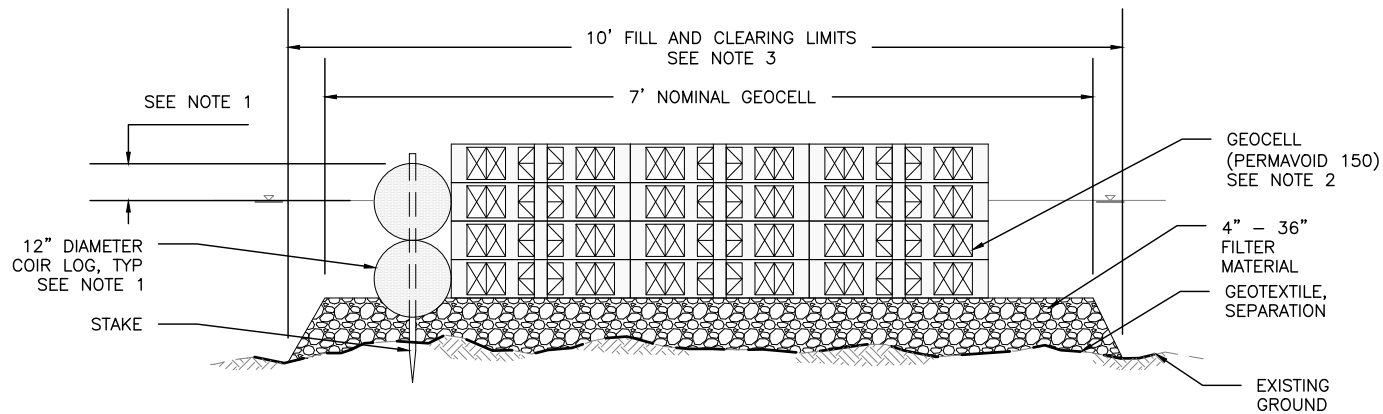




**3 LEVEL AND STABILIZED SEPARATION DIKE CROSS SECTION**  
NTS STA 0+00 TO STA 8+22.12

**NOTES:**

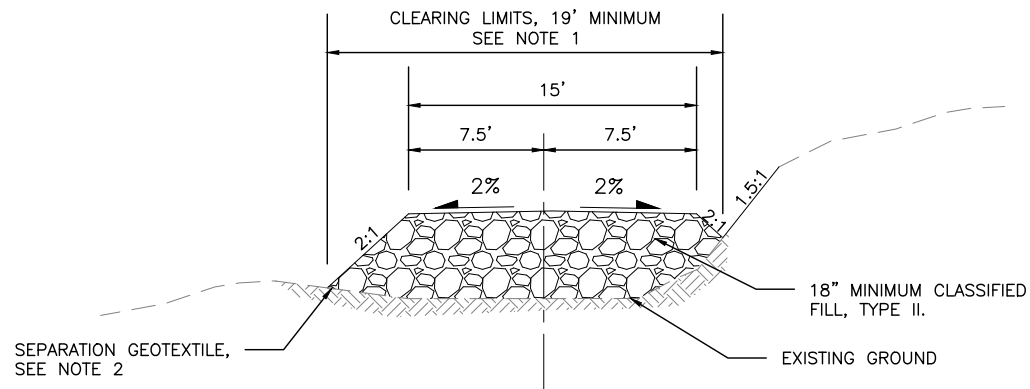
1. ORGANIC DEBRIS (I.E. TREES) FROM PROJECT TO BE PLACED AT DIKE TOE.



**4 DIVERSION DIKE CROSS SECTION**  
NTS

**NOTES:**

1. STACK AND STAKE COIR LOGS TO 6" MIN., 12" MAX. ABOVE FREE WATER SURFACE (WHERE PRESENT) OR VEGETATION. STAGGER COIR LOG ENDS AND STAKE EVERY 36" MIN., WITH A STAKE 6-9" FROM EACH END.
2. STACK AND STAKE GEOCELLS 12" MIN. ABOVE WATER LEVEL.
3. CLEAR WITHIN FILL LIMITS. PLACE FILTER MATERIAL TO PROVIDE LEVEL SURFACE.



## 5 TYPICAL ACCESS ROAD CROSS SECTION

NTS

### NOTES:

1. ORGANIC DEBRIS (I.E. TREES) FROM PROJECT TO BE PLACED AT SEPARATION, DIKE TOE, SEE DETAIL 3
2. EXTEND GEOTEXTILE BEYOND FILL 6" MIN. PROVIDE 1" MIN. OVERLAP ON ALL GEOTEXTILE SEAM.