



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

Public Notice of Application for Permit

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

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE:	17 January 2024
EXPIRATION DATE:	19 February 2024
REFERENCE NUMBER:	POA-2024-00021
WATERWAY:	Thomas Basin

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. 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 if further information is desired concerning this public notice.

APPLICANT:

City of Ketchikan; POC: Amanda Robinson; amandar@city.ketchikan.ak.us; 334 Front Street
Ketchikan, AK 99901

AGENT:

PND Engineers, Inc.; POC: Brenna Hughes; bhughes@pndengineers.com;
swillis@pndengineers.com; 3240 Eastlake Avenue East Seattle, WA 98102

LOCATION: The project site is located within Section A, T. 76 S., R. 90 E., Copper River
Meridian; Latitude 55.3399° N., Longitude 131.6429° W.; in Ketchikan, Alaska.

PURPOSE: The applicant's stated purpose is to construct a pedestrian promenade within Thomas Basin to facilitate the safe movement of pedestrians and create shoreline viewing and resting areas and to repair and maintain a section of existing sheet pile wall to prevent failure into the existing navigation basin.

PROPOSED WORK: To construct approximately 450 by 20 linear feet (LF) of new waterfront promenade along Thomas Basin in the Spruce Mill region. The promenade would consist of both a pile-supported concrete retaining wall with timber decking as well as a pile-supported steel substructure with timber decking, depending on location. The new promenade would add 10 feet of wood deck sidewalk waterward of the existing edge of Thomas Basin and connect to existing promenade present around Thomas Basin.

Approximately 240 LF of the overall promenade length would consist of steel substructure with timber decking, supported by 20 steel pipe piles (12.75" diameter). The remaining length (210 LF) of the promenade would consist of a pile-supported concrete retaining wall structure. 21 steel pipe piles (12.75" diameter) would support a 12-foot-tall by 1-foot-wide cast-in-place retaining wall structure. Temporary template piles (24" diameter pipe piles or similar) would be installed by the contractor to facilitate the accurate installation of permanent piles for promenade support. Temporary piles would be removed following permanent pile installation.

Following installation of steel pipe pile for the support of the retaining wall section of the promenade, a 6-inch lift of Base Course material would be placed and compacted as a bearing surface for the installation of the retaining wall. Upon completion of the concrete retaining wall structure, the region behind (landward of) the retaining wall would be backfilled with Class A Shot Rock Borrow and compacted. As the backfilling is occurring behind the retaining wall structure, impacts to localized water quality due to turbidity and/or sedimentation are anticipated to be minimal.

An armor rock slope would be installed as slope and scour protection below the retaining wall. Armor rock is anticipated to be procured locally at an existing, permitted source and would consist of clean shot rock with a minimal amount of fines present to minimize any impacts to local water quality due to turbidity.

Additionally, the existing shoreline slope must be excavated in the vicinity of the retaining wall section of the promenade to facilitate the installation of the new construction. The slope would be excavated behind the existing sheet pile wall prior to its demolition. Performing this excavation prior to the demolition of the sheet pile wall would minimize impacts to local water quality and prevent the loss of sediment. Excavation would be performed to a sufficient depth to allow for the installation of steel pipe piles (12.75" diameter) and concrete footings to support the retaining wall. Following the completion of this excavation, the existing sheet pile wall would be demolished. Any material that must be removed to make room for the new retaining wall construction would be removed permanently.

Localized excavation of existing slope armoring may be necessary to facilitate the installation of steel pipe piles for the pile-supported sections of the promenade. This would allow for pile driving without having to drill. It is estimated that 1 cubic yard (CY) of material would be

temporarily removed at each pile location where necessary. If required, removed material would be placed back into its original location following the installation of steel piles. Work would also include the installation of site drainage improvements, new railing along the existing promenade, installation of planter boxes and public benches, and electrical and lighting improvements.

The following materials and quantities are anticipated for this project:

Table 1 Demolition Summary

Element	Quantity
Concrete Slabs	2,860 SQ FT
Timber Curb Stops	162 LF
Steel Z-Sheet Pile Wall	125 LF
Steel Flat Sheet Pile Wall	102 LF
Timber Utility Poles	2 EA
Storm Drain Pipe	96 LF

Table 2 Pile Driving Summary

	Installation Method	Project Total	Below HTL (Elev = +19.7')	Below MHW (Elev = +14.6')	Below MLLW (Elev = 0.0')
Steel Pipe Piles (12.75" diameter)	Vibratory & Impact ¹	41	41	37	0
Temporary Template Piles (up to 24" diameter)	Vibratory	81	81	81	0

Table 3 Excavation Summary

	Project Total	Below HTL (Elev = +19.7')	Below MHW (Elev = +14.6')	Below MLLW (Elev = 0.0')
Footprint (acre)	0.4	0.25	0.25	0.0

Table 4 Fill Summary

	Project Total	Below HTL (Elev = +19.7')	Below MHW (Elev = +14.6')	Below MLLW (Elev = 0.0')
Footprint (acre)	0.4	0.25	0.08	0.07
Base Course (D-1)	200 CY	10 CY	10 CY	10 CY
Borrow (Class A)	2,000 CY	1,900 CY	1,400 CY	450 CY
Armor Rock	500 CY	500 CY	390 CY	340 CY

All work would be performed in accordance with the enclosed plan (sheets 1-6), dated November 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: Impacts to waters of the U.S. could not be entirely avoided for this project as the scope entails installation of a waterfront pedestrian promenade and is dependent on its location at the shoreline.

b. Minimization: The promenade has been designed as small as possible while still maintaining necessary pedestrian capacity and achieving the goal of creating shoreline viewing and resting

areas. All pile driving would be performed during low tide conditions where the elevation of the tide is below the elevation of the work and construction would only be performed between the months of September through May of any given year. Excavation of the embankment would occur behind an existing sheet pile wall, prior to its demolition to minimize turbidity, sedimentation, and localized water quality impacts. Fill and riprap materials would be clean with relatively few fines to reduce impacts from turbidity and/or sedimentation. Fuels, lubricants, and other hazardous substances would not be stored below the ordinary-high-water mark. All trash would be immediately placed in trash bins and bins will be properly secured with locked or secured lids that cannot blow open and disperse trash into the environment.

c. Compensatory Mitigation: The applicant has proposed no compensatory mitigation for the project because they have minimized and avoided impacts through the design of the project.

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 cultural resources within the vicinity of the permit area. Consultation of the AHRS constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) at this time. The Corps has made a No Adverse Effect determination for the proposed project as none of the surrounding resources would be negatively impacted. This application is being coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Federally recognized Tribes and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP). Any comments SHPO, Federally recognized Tribes, other consulting parties, and ACHP 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: The project area is within the known or historic range of the threatened Humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) Mexico Distinct Population Segment as well as the proposed threatened Sunflower sea star (*Pycnopodia helianthoides*).

We have determined the described activity may affect the threatened and proposed species listed above. We will initiate the appropriate consultation procedures under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). 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 within mapped EFH for chum salmon (*Oncorhynchus keta*), pink salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*), coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), and sockeye salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*).

We have determined the described activity may adversely affect EFH in the project area for the species listed above. The potential environmental effects of dredging on managed species and designated EFH include the direct removal/burial of organisms; increased turbidity and siltation, including decreasing light attenuation; contaminant release and uptake, including nutrients, metals, and organics; the release of oxygen-consuming substances (e.g., chemicals and bacteria); entrainment in suction and clamshell dredges; noise disturbances, injury, and mortality; and alterations to hydrodynamic regimes and physical habitat.

Pile driving and fill placement would occur at low tide and turbidity would be minimal and temporary. Any new piles would be steel to reduce any effects on the environment. Dredging would only occur in the two areas necessary to facilitate safe navigation of vessels.

We have determined the described activity may adversely affect EFH in the project area to the proposed species listed above. We will initiate the appropriate consultation procedures in accordance with 50 CFR §600.920(e). Any comments they may have concerning essential fish habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

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:

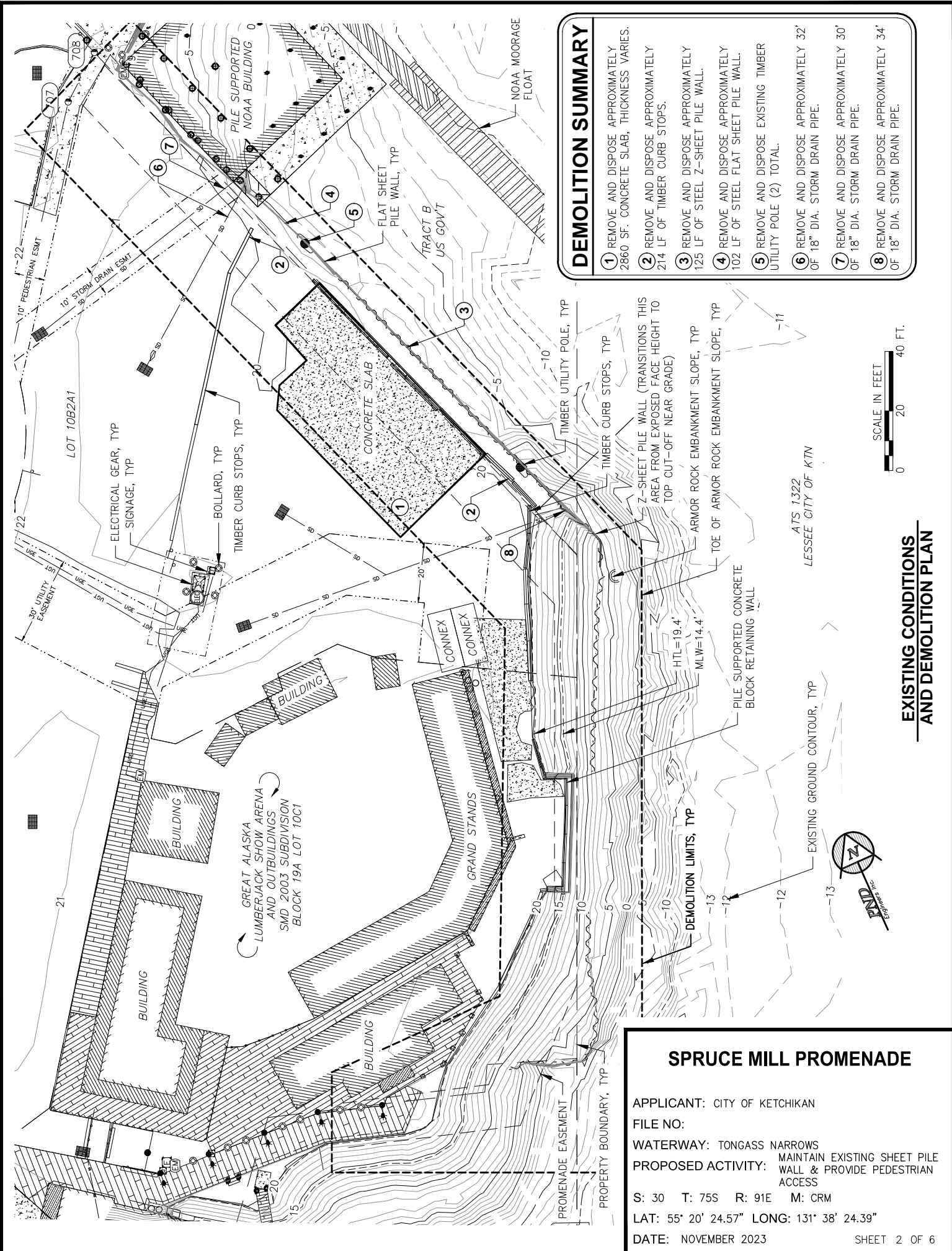
(X) Perform work in or affecting navigable waters of the United States – Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403).

(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 are enclosed with this public notice.

District Commander
U.S. Army, Corps

Enclosures



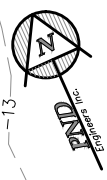
- ### DEMOLITION SUMMARY
- ① REMOVE AND DISPOSE APPROXIMATELY 2860 SF. CONCRETE SLAB, THICKNESS VARIES.
 - ② REMOVE AND DISPOSE APPROXIMATELY 214 LF OF TIMBER CURB STOPS.
 - ③ REMOVE AND DISPOSE APPROXIMATELY 125 LF OF STEEL Z-SHEET PILE WALL.
 - ④ REMOVE AND DISPOSE APPROXIMATELY 102 LF OF STEEL FLAT SHEET PILE WALL.
 - ⑤ REMOVE AND DISPOSE EXISTING TIMBER UTILITY POLE (2) TOTAL.
 - ⑥ REMOVE AND DISPOSE APPROXIMATELY 32' OF 18" DIA. STORM DRAIN PIPE.
 - ⑦ REMOVE AND DISPOSE APPROXIMATELY 30' OF 18" DIA. STORM DRAIN PIPE.
 - ⑧ REMOVE AND DISPOSE APPROXIMATELY 34' OF 18" DIA. STORM DRAIN PIPE.

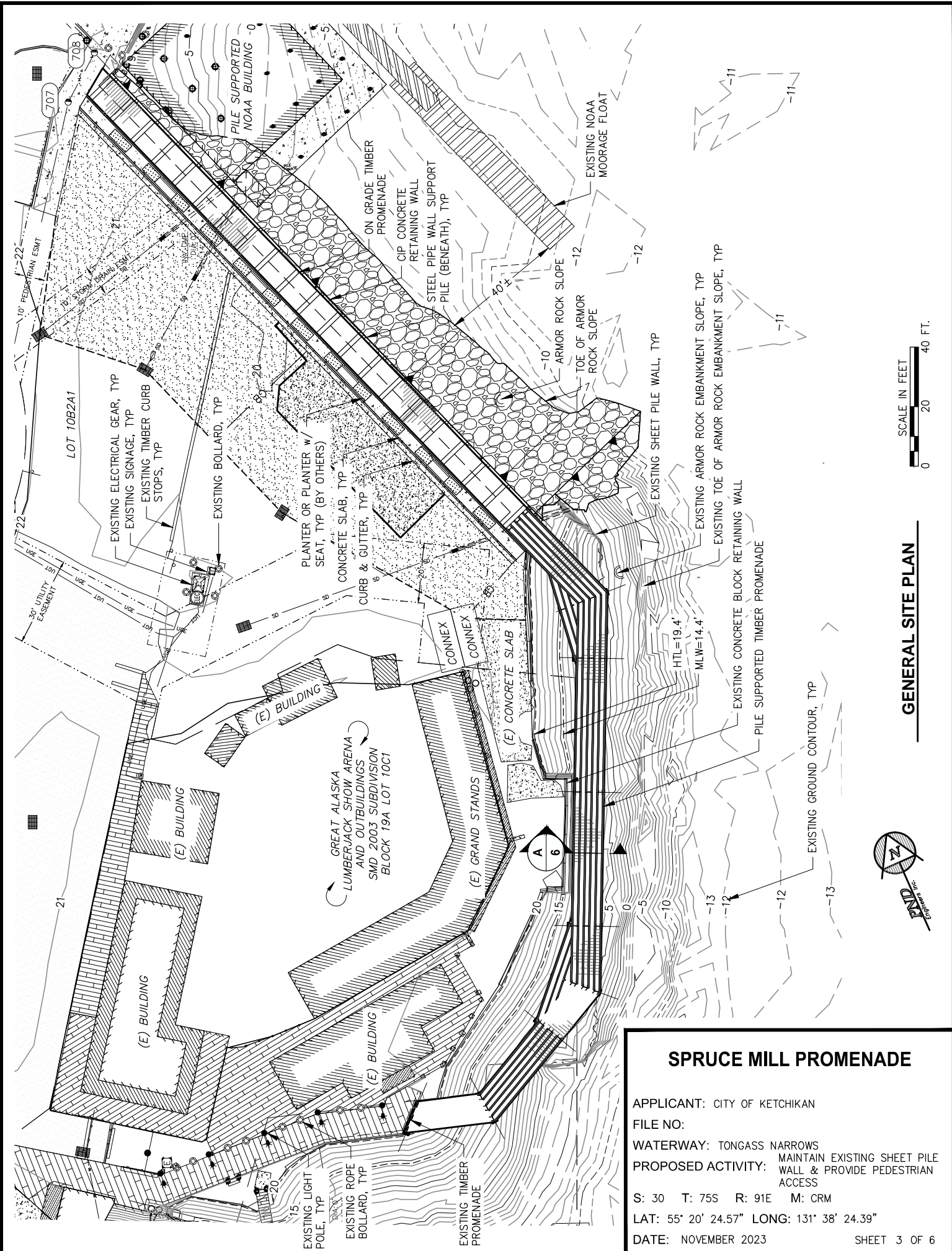
SPRUCE MILL PROMENADE

APPLICANT: CITY OF KETCHIKAN
 FILE NO:
 WATERWAY: TONGASS NARROWS
 PROPOSED ACTIVITY: MAINTAIN EXISTING SHEET PILE WALL & PROVIDE PEDESTRIAN ACCESS
 S: 30 T: 75S R: 91E M: CRM
 LAT: 55° 20' 24.57" LONG: 131° 38' 24.39"
 DATE: NOVEMBER 2023

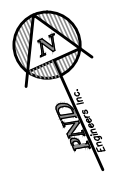
EXISTING CONDITIONS AND DEMOLITION PLAN

ATS 1322
 LESSEE CITY OF KTN



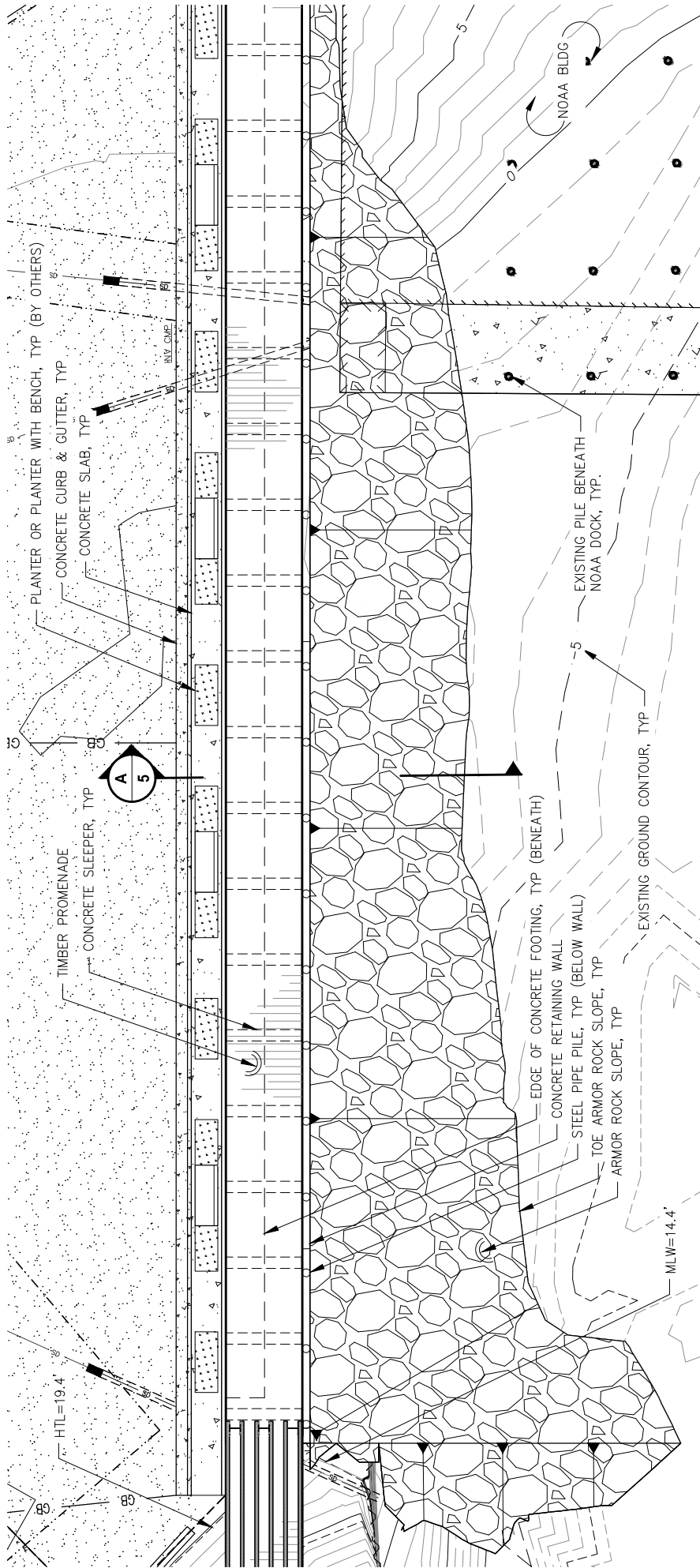


GENERAL SITE PLAN



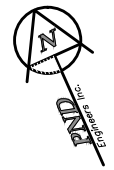
SPRUCE MILL PROMENADE

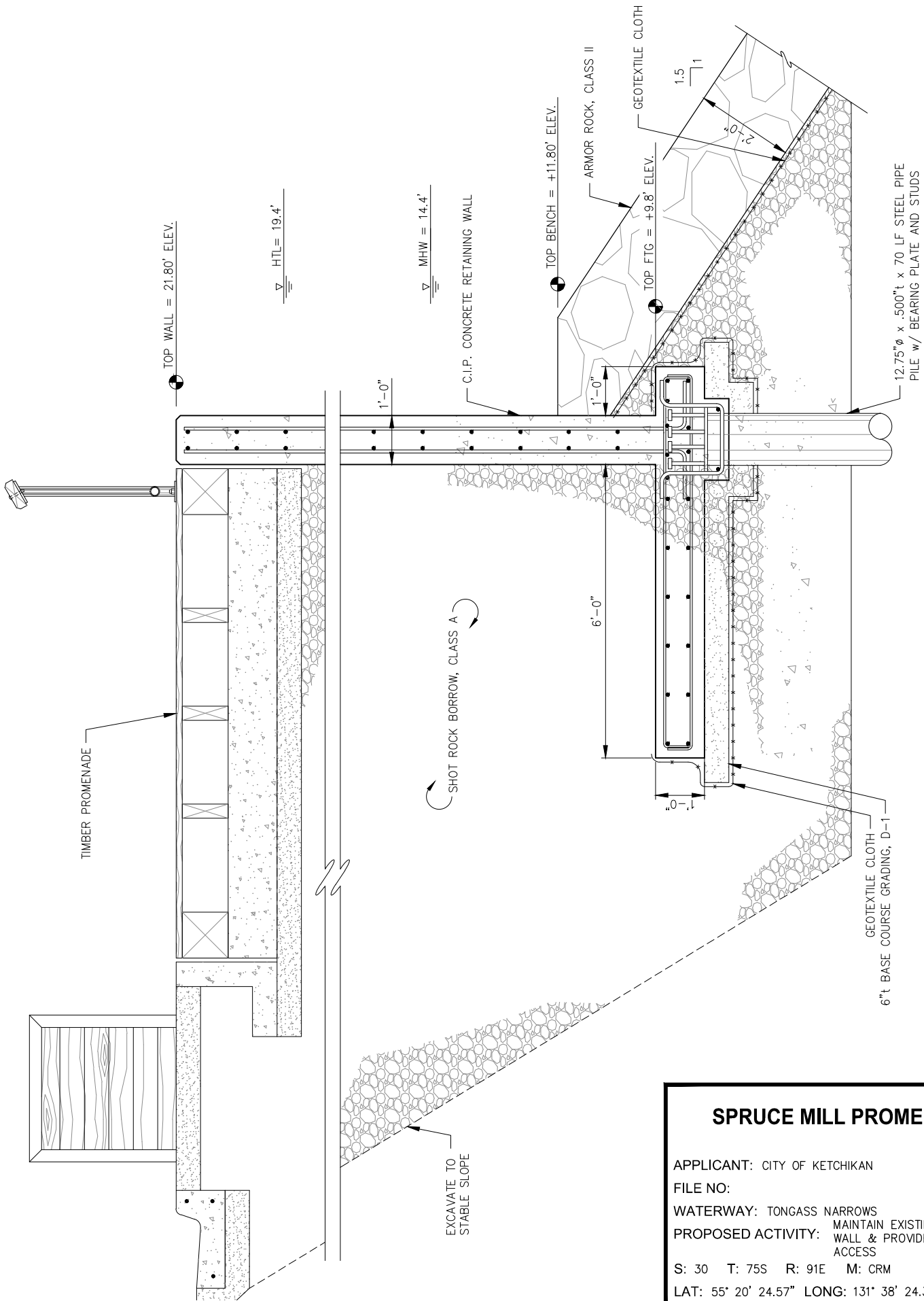
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SPRUCE MILL PROMENADE

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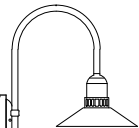


A **NEW SHEET PILE SUPPORTED
RETAINING WALL**

SPRUCE MILL PROMENADE

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LIGHT POLE w/ TIMBER
FACADE w/GOOSENECK
LUMINAIRE, BY OTHERS



CL
DECK

5'-0"
TYP.

EDGE OF DECK

STEEL PIPE PICKET
HANDRAIL TYPE 1, TYP.



LIGHT POLE
SUPPORT
BRACKET



TOP OF DECK
ELEV. = 21.80'

HTL = 19.4'

DBL HP STEEL PILE CAP

STEEL PILE, TYP.

IPE DECKING, TYP.

MHW = 14.4'

GLU-LAM STRINGER, TYP.

EXISTING MUDLINE
APPROXIMATE

MLLW = 0.0

A
3 PROMENADE - TYPICAL
SECTION

SPRUCE MILL PROMENADE

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