APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION FORM U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

This form should be completed by following the instructions provided in Section IV of the JD Form Instructional Guidebook.

CTION I: BACKGROUND INFORMATION
REPORT COMPLETION DATE FOR APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION (JD): 3/25/15
DISTRICT OFFICE, FILE NAME, AND NUMBER: Charleston District, Welborn Tract, SAC-2014-01053-2JU
PROJECT LOCATION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION: State: South Carolina County/parish/borough: Charleston City: Center coordinates of site (lat/long in degree decimal format): Lat. 32.97549° N, Long80.12941° W.
REVIEW PERFORMED FOR SITE EVALUATION (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY): Office (Desk) Determination. Date: 9/26/14, 3/25/15 Field Determination. Date(s): 10/24/14
CTION II: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS
RHA SECTION 10 DETERMINATION OF JURISDICTION.
re Are no "navigable waters of the U.S." within Rivers and Harbors Act (RHA) jurisdiction (as defined by 33 CFR part 329) in the ew area. [Required] Waters subject to the ebb and flow of the tide. Waters are presently used, or have been used in the past, or may be susceptible for use to transport interstate or foreign commerce. Explain:
CWA SECTION 404 DETERMINATION OF JURISDICTION.
re Are "waters of the U.S." within Clean Water Act (CWA) jurisdiction (as defined by 33 CFR part 328) in the review area. [Required]
1. Waters of the U.S. a. Indicate presence of waters of U.S. in review area (check all that apply): TNWs, including territorial seas Wetlands adjacent to TNWs Relatively permanent waters ² (RPWs) that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs Non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs Wetlands directly abutting RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs Wetlands adjacent to but not directly abutting RPWs that flow directly or indirectly or indirectly into TNWs Wetlands adjacent to non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs Impoundments of jurisdictional waters Isolated (interstate or intrastate) waters, including isolated wetlands
b. Identify (estimate) size of waters of the U.S. in the review area: Non-wetland waters: linear feet: width (ft) and/or acres. Wetlands: Wetland A = 2.95 acres, Wetland B = 1.95 acres, Wetland C = 0.32 acres, Wetland D = 0.30 acres, Wetland E = 0.01 acres, Wetland F = 0.05 acres, Wetland G = 0.19 acres.

The project area also contains 15.03 acres of protected wetland area and 9.31 acres of protected buffer as mitigation associated Department of the Army permit SAC-39-2004-2191.

c. Limits (boundaries) of jurisdiction based on: 1987 Delineation Manual

Elevation of established OHWM (if known):

¹ Boxes checked below shall be supported by completing the appropriate sections in Section III below.

² For purposes of this form, an RPW is defined as a tributary that is not a TNW and that typically flows year-round or has continuous flow at least "seasonally" (e.g., typically 3 months).

	2. No	n-regulated waters/wetlands (check if applicable): ³ [Including potentially jurisdictional features that upon
		essment are NOT waters or wetlands] Potentially jurisdictional waters and/or wetlands were assessed within the review area and determined to be not jurisdictional. Explain:
SE	CTION II	I: CWA ANALYSIS
A.	TNWs	AND WETLANDS ADJACENT TO TNWs
	Section	encies will assert jurisdiction over TNWs and wetlands adjacent to TNWs. If the aquatic resource is a TNW, complete III.A.1 and Section III.D.1. only; if the aquatic resource is a wetland adjacent to a TNW, complete Sections III.A.1 and 2 tion III.D.1.; otherwise, see Section III.B below.
	1. TN	TW ntify TNW:
	Su	mmarize rationale supporting determination:
		etland adjacent to TNW mmarize rationale supporting conclusion that wetland is "adjacent":
В.	CHAR	ACTERISTICS OF TRIBUTARY (THAT IS NOT A TNW) AND ITS ADJACENT WETLANDS (IF ANY):
		ction summarizes information regarding characteristics of the tributary and its adjacent wetlands, if any, and it helps ne whether or not the standards for jurisdiction established under <i>Rapanos</i> have been met.
	waters" months (perenn	encies will assert jurisdiction over non-navigable tributaries of TNWs where the tributaries are "relatively permanent (RPWs), i.e. tributaries that typically flow year-round or have continuous flow at least seasonally (e.g., typically 3). A wetland that directly abuts an RPW is also jurisdictional. If the aquatic resource is not a TNW, but has year-round ial) flow, skip to Section III.D.2. If the aquatic resource is a wetland directly abutting a tributary with perennial flow, Section III.D.4.
	EPA re relative	nd that is adjacent to but that does not directly abut an RPW requires a significant nexus evaluation. Corps districts and gions will include in the record any available information that documents the existence of a significant nexus between a ly permanent tributary that is not perennial (and its adjacent wetlands if any) and a traditional navigable water, even a significant nexus finding is not required as a matter of law.
	waterbo conside analytic the trib the trib	aterbody ⁴ is not an RPW, or a wetland directly abutting an RPW, a JD will require additional data to determine if the ody has a significant nexus with a TNW. If the tributary has adjacent wetlands, the significant nexus evaluation must rethe tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands. This significant nexus evaluation that combines, for eal purposes, the tributary and all of its adjacent wetlands is used whether the review area identified in the JD request is utary, or its adjacent wetlands, or both. If the JD covers a tributary with adjacent wetlands, complete Section III.B.1 for utary, Section III.B.2 for any onsite wetlands, and Section III.B.3 for all wetlands adjacent to that tributary, both onsite site. The determination whether a significant nexus exists is determined in Section III.C below.
	1. Ch	aracteristics of non-TNWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNW
	(i)	General Area Conditions: Watershed size: Pick List; Drainage area: Pick List Average annual rainfall: inches Average annual snowfall: inches
	(ii)	Physical Characteristics: (a) Relationship with TNW: Tributary flows directly into TNW. Tributary flows through Pick List tributaries before entering TNW.

Project waters are Pick List river miles from TNW.

Project waters are Project waters are Project waters are Project waters are Pick List aerial (straight) miles from RPW.

³ Supporting documentation is presented in Section III.F.
⁴ Note that the Instructional Guidebook contains additional information regarding swales, ditches, washes, and erosional features generally and in the arid West.

	Project waters cross or serve as state boundaries. Explain: .
	Identify flow route to TNW^5 : Tributary stream order, if known:
(b)	General Tributary Characteristics (check all that apply): Tributary is: Natural Artificial (man-made). Explain: Manipulated (man-altered). Explain:
	Tributary properties with respect to top of bank (estimate): Average width: feet Average depth: feet Average side slopes: Pick List.
	Primary tributary substrate composition (check all that apply): Silts Sands Concrete Cobbles Gravel Muck Bedrock Vegetation. Type/% cover: Other. Explain:
	Tributary condition/stability [e.g., highly eroding, sloughing banks]. Explain: Presence of run/riffle/pool complexes. Explain: Tributary geometry: Pick List. Tributary gradient (approximate average slope): %
(c)	Flow: Tributary provides for: Pick List Estimate average number of flow events in review area/year: Pick List Describe flow regime: Other information on duration and volume:
	Surface flow is: Pick List. Characteristics:
	Subsurface flow: Pick List. Explain findings: Dye (or other) test performed:
	Tributary has (check all that apply): Bed and banks OHWM ⁶ (check all indicators that apply): clear, natural line impressed on the bank changes in the character of soil destruction of terrestrial vegetation the presence of wrack line sediment sorting sediment deposition matted down, bent, or absent leaf litter disturbed or washed away sediment deposition multiple observed or predicted flow events abrupt change in plant community other (list): Discontinuous OHWM. Explain:
	If factors other than the OHWM were used to determine lateral extent of CWA jurisdiction (check all that apply): High Tide Line indicated by:
	emical Characteristics: racterize tributary (e.g., water color is clear, discolored, oily film; water quality; general watershed characteristics, etc.). Explain:

⁵ Flow route can be described by identifying, e.g., tributary a, which flows through the review area, to flow into tributary b, which then flows into TNW.

⁶A natural or man-made discontinuity in the OHWM does not necessarily sever jurisdiction (e.g., where the stream temporarily flows underground, or where the OHWM has been removed by development or agricultural practices). Where there is a break in the OHWM that is unrelated to the waterbody's flow regime (e.g., flow over a rock outcrop or through a culvert), the agencies will look for indicators of flow above and below the break.

⁷Ibid.

		Identify specific pollutants, if known:
	(iv)	Biological Characteristics. Channel supports (check all that apply): Riparian corridor. Characteristics (type, average width): Wetland fringe. Characteristics: Habitat for: Federally Listed species. Explain findings: Fish/spawn areas. Explain findings: Other environmentally-sensitive species. Explain findings: Aquatic/wildlife diversity. Explain findings:
2.	Cha	rracteristics of wetlands adjacent to non-TNW that flow directly or indirectly into TNW
	(i)	Physical Characteristics: (a) General Wetland Characteristics: Properties: Wetland size: acres Wetland type. Explain: Wetland quality. Explain: Project wetlands cross or serve as state boundaries. Explain:
		(b) General Flow Relationship with Non-TNW: Flow is: Pick List. Explain:
		Surface flow is: Pick List Characteristics:
		Subsurface flow: Pick List. Explain findings: Dye (or other) test performed:
		(c) Wetland Adjacency Determination with Non-TNW: Directly abutting Not directly abutting Discrete wetland hydrologic connection. Explain: Ecological connection. Explain: Separated by berm/barrier. Explain:
		(d) Proximity (Relationship) to TNW Project wetlands are Pick List river miles from TNW. Project waters are Pick List aerial (straight) miles from TNW. Flow is from: Pick List. Estimate approximate location of wetland as within the Pick List floodplain.
	(ii)	Chemical Characteristics: Characterize wetland system (e.g., water color is clear, brown, oil film on surface; water quality; general watershed characteristics; etc.). Explain: Identify specific pollutants, if known:
	(iii)	Biological Characteristics. Wetland supports (check all that apply): Riparian buffer. Characteristics (type, average width): Vegetation type/percent cover. Explain: Habitat for: Federally Listed species. Explain findings: Fish/spawn areas. Explain findings: Other environmentally-sensitive species. Explain findings: Aquatic/wildlife diversity. Explain findings:
3.	Cha	Aracteristics of all wetlands adjacent to the tributary (if any) All wetland(s) being considered in the cumulative analysis: Pick List Approximately () acres in total are being considered in the cumulative analysis.

For each wetland, specify the following:



Summarize overall biological, chemical and physical functions being performed:

C. SIGNIFICANT NEXUS DETERMINATION

A significant nexus analysis will assess the flow characteristics and functions of the tributary itself and the functions performed by any wetlands adjacent to the tributary to determine if they significantly affect the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of a TNW. For each of the following situations, a significant nexus exists if the tributary, in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, has more than a speculative or insubstantial effect on the chemical, physical and/or biological integrity of a TNW. Considerations when evaluating significant nexus include, but are not limited to the volume, duration, and frequency of the flow of water in the tributary and its proximity to a TNW, and the functions performed by the tributary and all its adjacent wetlands. It is not appropriate to determine significant nexus based solely on any specific threshold of distance (e.g. between a tributary and its adjacent wetland or between a tributary and the TNW). Similarly, the fact an adjacent wetland lies within or outside of a floodplain is not solely determinative of significant nexus.

Draw connections between the features documented and the effects on the TNW, as identified in the *Rapanos* Guidance and discussed in the Instructional Guidebook. Factors to consider include, for example:

- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), have the capacity to carry pollutants or flood waters to TNWs, or to reduce the amount of pollutants or flood waters reaching a TNW?
- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), provide habitat and lifecycle support functions for fish and other species, such as feeding, nesting, spawning, or rearing young for species that are present in the TNW?
- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), have the capacity to transfer nutrients and organic carbon that support downstream foodwebs?
- Does the tributary, in combination with its adjacent wetlands (if any), have other relationships to the physical, chemical, or biological integrity of the TNW?

Note: the above list of considerations is not inclusive and other functions observed or known to occur should be documented below:

- 1. Significant nexus findings for non-RPW that has no adjacent wetlands and flows directly or indirectly into TNWs. Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary itself, then go to Section III.D:
- 2. Significant nexus findings for non-RPW and its adjacent wetlands, where the non-RPW flows directly or indirectly into TNWs. Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, then go to Section III.D:
- 3. Significant nexus findings for wetlands adjacent to an RPW but that do not directly abut the RPW. Explain findings of presence or absence of significant nexus below, based on the tributary in combination with all of its adjacent wetlands, then go to Section III.D:

 $Documentation\ for\ the\ Record\ only:\ Significant\ nexus\ findings\ for\ seasonal\ RPWs\ and/or\ wetlands\ abutting\ seasonal\ RPWs:$

D.	DETERMINATIONS OF JURISDICTIONAL FINDINGS. THE SUBJECT WATERS/WETLANDS ARE (CHECK ALL
	THAT APPLY):

1.	TNWs and A	Adjacent Wetlands.	Check all that apply	and provide si	ze estimates i	n review area:
	TNWs:	linear feet	width (ft), Or,	acres.		
	■ Wetlands	adjacent to TNWs:	acres.			

2.	RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs. Tributaries of TNWs where tributaries typically flow year-round are jurisdictional. Provide data and rationale indicating that tributary is perennial: The off site tributary which the on site wetlands directly abut is Spencer Branch. Spencer Branch is depicted on the USGS map as a perennial blue line stream with an approximate drainage area of over 2,500 acres. Spencer Branch has a meandering channel that is visible on aerial imagery. Aerial imagery and the NWI map depict Spencer Branch to be surrounded by wetlands along its flow path. Spencer Branch flows to Chandler Bridge Creek (USGS blue line perennial stream) where it becomes Eagle Creek (USGS blue line stream) which flows to the Ashley River (TNW subject to the ebb and flood of the tides). Spencer Branch is also depicted on the NHDS map as a perennial tributary. Spencer Branch was not observed during the 10/24/14 site visit as the portion in the vicinity of the project area is not publicly accessible. Aerial imagery upstream of the project area depicts Spencer Branch crossing under Ladson Road through a culvert with a visibly defined channel and evidence of relatively permanent flow on either side of the road. Based on the above information, it has been determined that Spencer Branch has perennial flow and is thus jurisdictional by definition.
	Tributaries of TNW where tributaries have continuous flow "seasonally" (e.g., typically three months each year) are jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.B. Provide rationale indicating that tributary flows seasonally:
	Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters in the review area (check all that apply): Tributary waters: linear feet width (ft). Other non-wetland waters: acres. Identify type(s) of waters: .
3.	Non-RPWs ⁸ that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs. Waterbody that is not a TNW or an RPW, but flows directly or indirectly into a TNW, and it has a significant nexus with a TNW is jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C.
	Provide estimates for jurisdictional waters within the review area (check all that apply): Tributary waters: linear feet width (ft). Other non-wetland waters: acres. Identify type(s) of waters: .
4.	Wetlands directly abutting an RPW that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs. Wetlands directly abutt RPW and thus are jurisdictional as adjacent wetlands. Wetlands directly abutting an RPW where tributaries typically flow year-round. Provide data and rationale indicating that tributary is perennial in Section III.D.2, above. Provide rationale indicating that wetland is directly abutting an RPW: Wetland A, B, C, D, E, F, & G are all part of one contiguous wetland system, parts of which are protected wetland and "upland" buffer as mitigation associated with Department of the Army permit SAC-39-2004-2191. The protected areas were not delineated as part of this jurisdictional determination because they are protected in perpetuity by restrictive covenants, but the boundaries were marked in the field by signs saying "Protected Area" and they are depicted on the survey plat associated with this jurisdictional determination. Portions of the "upland" buffer areas have since developed into wetlands allowing for the newly identified wetlands (A-G) to be part of one contiguous wetland system. This contiguous wetland system extends off site and directly abuts Spencer Branch (a perennial RPW that flows to the Ashley River (TNW) via Chandler Bridge Creek and Eagle Creek). The NWI map and aerial imagery depicts this on site and off site contiguous wetland system. In addition, Charleston County LiDAR DEM depicts the wetland system flow path leading to Spencer Branch and its surrounding wetlands. This flow path is also depicted to consist of hydric soils on the NRCS soil survey. Based on the above information, it has been determined that Wetlands A, B, C, D, E, F, & G directly abut a perennial tributary and are thus jurisdictional as adjacent wetlands and subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.
	■ Wetlands directly abutting an RPW where tributaries typically flow "seasonally." Provide data indicating that tributary is seasonal in Section III.B and rationale in Section III.D.2, above. Provide rationale indicating that wetland is directly abutting an RPW:
	Provide acreage estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: Wetland $A=2.95$ acres, Wetland $B=1.95$ acres, Wetland $C=0.32$ acres, Wetland $D=0.30$ acres, Wetland $C=0.05$ acres, Wet
	The project area also contains 15.03 acres of protected wetland area and 9.31 acres of protected buffer as mitigation associated Department of the Army permit SAC-39-2004-2191.

⁸See Footnote # 3.

	5.	Wetlands adjacent to but not directly abutting an RPW that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs. Wetlands that do not directly abut an RPW, but when considered in combination with the tributary to which they are adjacent and with similarly situated adjacent wetlands, have a significant nexus with a TNW are jurisidictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C.
		Provide acreage estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: acres.
	6.	Wetlands adjacent to non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs. Wetlands adjacent to such waters, and have when considered in combination with the tributary to which they are adjacent and with similarly situated adjacent wetlands, have a significant nexus with a TNW are jurisdictional. Data supporting this conclusion is provided at Section III.C.
		Provide estimates for jurisdictional wetlands in the review area: acres.
	7.	Impoundments of jurisdictional waters. ⁹ As a general rule, the impoundment of a jurisdictional tributary remains jurisdictional. Demonstrate that impoundment was created from "waters of the U.S.," or Demonstrate that water meets the criteria for one of the categories presented above (1-6), or Demonstrate that water is isolated with a nexus to commerce (see E below). Explain:
E.	SUC 	CLATED [INTERSTATE OR INTRA-STATE] WATERS, INCLUDING ISOLATED WETLANDS, THE USE, GRADATION OR DESTRUCTION OF WHICH COULD AFFECT INTERSTATE COMMERCE, INCLUDING ANY CH WATERS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY): 10 which are or could be used by interstate or foreign travelers for recreational or other purposes. from which fish or shellfish are or could be taken and sold in interstate or foreign commerce. which are or could be used for industrial purposes by industries in interstate commerce. Interstate isolated waters. Explain: Other factors. Explain:
	Ide	ntify water body and summarize rationale supporting determination:
		vide estimates for jurisdictional waters in the review area (check all that apply): Tributary waters: linear feet width (ft). Other non-wetland waters: acres. Identify type(s) of waters: Wetlands: acres.
F.		N-JURISDICTIONAL WATERS, INCLUDING WETLANDS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY): If potential wetlands were assessed within the review area, these areas did not meet the criteria in the 1987 Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual and/or appropriate Regional Supplements. Review area included isolated waters with no substantial nexus to interstate (or foreign) commerce. Prior to the Jan 2001 Supreme Court decision in "SWANCC," the review area would have been regulated based solely on the "Migratory Bird Rule" (MBR). Waters do not meet the "Significant Nexus" standard, where such a finding is required for jurisdiction. Explain: Other: (explain, if not covered above):
	fact	vide acreage estimates for non-jurisdictional waters in the review area, where the <u>sole</u> potential basis of jurisdiction is the MBR ors (i.e., presence of migratory birds, presence of endangered species, use of water for irrigated agriculture), using best professional ment (check all that apply): Non-wetland waters (i.e., rivers, streams): linear feet width (ft). Lakes/ponds: acres. Other non-wetland waters: acres. List type of aquatic resource: . Wetlands: acres.
		vide acreage estimates for non-jurisdictional waters in the review area that do not meet the "Significant Nexus" standard, where such ading is required for jurisdiction (check all that apply): Non-wetland waters (i.e., rivers, streams): linear feet, width (ft). Lakes/ponds: acres. Other non-wetland waters: acres. List type of aquatic resource: .

⁹ To complete the analysis refer to the key in Section III.D.6 of the Instructional Guidebook.
¹⁰ Prior to asserting or declining CWA jurisdiction based solely on this category, Corps Districts will elevate the action to Corps and EPA HQ for review consistent with the process described in the Corps/EPA Memorandum Regarding CWA Act Jurisdiction Following Rapanos.

		Wetlands: acres.
<u>SE</u>	CTIC	ON IV: DATA SOURCES.
A.		PORTING DATA. Data reviewed for JD (check all that apply - checked items shall be included in case file and, where checked requested, appropriately reference sources below):
	\boxtimes	Maps, plans, plots or plat submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant: Wetland Delineation Submittal, Sabine &
	Wa	ters.
		Data sheets prepared/submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant.
		Office concurs with data sheets/delineation report. Office concurs with delineation.
	_	Office does not concur with data sheets/delineation report.
		Data sheets prepared by the Corps: .
		Corps navigable waters' study:
	\boxtimes	U.S. Geological Survey Hydrologic Atlas: NHDS Data Viewer.
		☑ USGS NHD data.
		USGS 8 and 12 digit HUC maps.
		U.S. Geological Survey map(s). Cite scale & quad name: Ladson Quadrangle.
	\boxtimes	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey, Citation: NRCS Web Soil Survey, Charleston County.
		National wetlands inventory map(s). Cite name: NWI Wetlands Mapper .
		State/Local wetland inventory map(s):
		FEMA/FIRM maps: .
		100-year Floodplain Elevation is: (National Geodectic Vertical Datum of 1929)
	$\overline{\boxtimes}$	Photographs: Aerial (Name & Date): Google Earth Aerial Imagery 1989-2014.
	_	or Other (Name & Date):

B. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS TO SUPPORT JD:

Applicable/supporting case law:

Applicable/supporting scientific literature:

12/10/14, 12/18/14, 12/22/14, 1/12/15, 1/28/15, and 2/9/15.

Wetland A, B, C, D, E, F, & G are all part of one contiguous wetland system, parts of which are protected wetland and "upland" buffer as mitigation associated with Department of the Army permit SAC-39-2004-2191. The protected areas were not delineated as part of this jurisdictional determination because they are protected in perpetuity by restrictive covenants, but the boundaries were marked in the field by signs saying "Protected Area" and they are depicted on the survey plat associated with this jurisdictional determination. Portions of the "upland" buffer areas have since developed into wetlands allowing for the newly identified wetlands (A-G) to be part of one contiguous wetland system. This contiguous wetland system extends off site and directly abuts Spencer Branch (a perennial RPW that flows to the Ashley River (TNW) via Chandler Bridge Creek and Eagle Creek). The NWI map and aerial imagery depicts this on site and off site contiguous wetland system. In addition, Charleston County LiDAR DEM depicts the wetland system flow path leading to Spencer Branch and its surrounding wetlands. This flow path is also depicted to consist of hydric soils on the NRCS soil survey. Based on the above information, it has been determined that Wetlands A, B, C, D, E, F, & G directly abut a perennial tributary and are thus jurisdictional as adjacent wetlands and subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Previous determination(s). File no. and date of response letter: Restrictive Covenants from SAC-39-2004-2191.

R&S Properties Of SC, LLC City of North Charleston, South Carolina, Sheets 1-5 of 5 dated 11/4/14, revised on 12/8/14,

Other information (please specify): Survey Plat prepared by HLA, Inc. entitled Wetland Drawing Welborn Village Owner: