



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, CHARLESTON DISTRICT
69 HAGOOD AVENUE
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29403

CESAC-RDS

3 June 2024

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Pre-2015 Regulatory Regime
Approved Jurisdictional Determination in Light of *Sackett v. EPA*, 143 S. Ct. 1322
(2023),¹ SAC-2021-01456, (MFR# 1 of 1)²

BACKGROUND. An Approved Jurisdictional Determination (AJD) is a Corps document stating the presence or absence of waters of the United States on a parcel or a written statement and map identifying the limits of waters of the United States on a parcel. AJDs are clearly designated appealable actions and will include a basis of JD with the document.³ AJDs are case-specific and are typically made in response to a request. AJDs are valid for a period of five years unless new information warrants revision of the determination before the expiration date or a District Engineer has identified, after public notice and comment, that specific geographic areas with rapidly changing environmental conditions merit re-verification on a more frequent basis.⁴ For the purposes of this AJD, we have relied on Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (RHA),⁵ the Clean Water Act (CWA) implementing regulations published by the Department of the Army in 1986 and amended in 1993 (references 2.a. and 2.b. respectively), the 2008 *Rapanos-Carabell* guidance (reference 2.c.), and other applicable guidance, relevant case law and longstanding practice, (collectively the pre-2015 regulatory regime), and the *Sackett* decision (reference 2.d.) in evaluating jurisdiction.

This Memorandum for Record (MFR) constitutes the basis of jurisdiction for a Corps AJD as defined in 33 CFR §331.2. The features addressed in this AJD were evaluated consistent with the definition of "waters of the United States" found in the pre-2015 regulatory regime and consistent with the Supreme Court's decision in *Sackett*. This AJD did not rely on the 2023 "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States,'" as

¹ While the Supreme Court's decision in *Sackett* had no effect on some categories of waters covered under the CWA, and no effect on any waters covered under RHA, all categories are included in this Memorandum for Record for efficiency.

² When documenting aquatic resources within the review area that are jurisdictional under the Clean Water Act (CWA), use an additional MFR and group the aquatic resources on each MFR based on the TNW, interstate water, or territorial seas that they are connected to. Be sure to provide an identifier to indicate when there are multiple MFRs associated with a single AJD request (i.e., number them 1, 2, 3, etc.).

³ 33 CFR 331.2.

⁴ Regulatory Guidance Letter 05-02.

⁵ USACE has authority under both Section 9 and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 but for convenience, in this MFR, jurisdiction under RHA will be referred to as Section 10.

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amended on 8 September 2023 (Amended 2023 Rule) because, as of the date of this decision, the Amended 2023 Rule is not applicable in this state due to litigation.

1. SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS.

- a. Provide a list of each individual feature within the review area and the jurisdictional status of each one (i.e., identify whether each feature is/is not a water of the United States and/or a navigable water of the United States).

Name of Aquatic Resource	Acres (AC.)/Linear Feet (L.F.)	Waters of the U.S. (JD or Non-JD)	Section 404/Section 10
Wetland A	0.528 AC	Non-JD	N/A

2. REFERENCES.

- a. Final Rule for Regulatory Programs of the Corps of Engineers, 51 FR 41206 (November 13, 1986).
- b. Clean Water Act Regulatory Programs, 58 FR 45008 (August 25, 1993).
- c. U.S. EPA & U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Clean Water Act Jurisdiction Following the U.S. Supreme Court's Decision in *Rapanos v. United States & Carabell v. United States* (December 2, 2008)
- d. *Sackett v. EPA*, 598 U.S. ___, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023)

3. REVIEW AREA.

- a. Project Area Size: 1.23 acres
- b. Center Coordinates of the review area: Latitude: 32.9222 °, Longitude -80.1231 °
- c. Nearest City: North Charleston
- d. County: Dorchester
- e. State: South Carolina

The review area currently consists of disturbed mixed hardwood upland and wetland forests and surrounded by residential and commercial mix use. The center of the review area sits approximately 1-3 feet lower in elevation than the surrounding uplands. The depression in the landscape contains a forested wetland and was determined to have no connection to nearby waters of the U.S.

4. NEAREST TRADITIONAL NAVIGABLE WATER (TNW), INTERSTATE WATER, OR THE TERRITORIAL SEAS TO WHICH THE AQUATIC RESOURCE IS CONNECTED.

A. Nearest downstream TNW, Territorial sea, or interstate water: Ashley River

B. This determination was made based on data submitted with the jurisdictional request packet provided by the agent, and a review of desktop data resources listed in Section 9 of this memorandum. The wetland hydrology does not leave its self-contained bowl due to the surrounding higher elevated lands and no culvert or overland flow exist.

5. FLOWPATH FROM THE SUBJECT AQUATIC RESOURCES TO A TNW, INTERSTATE WATER, OR THE TERRITORIAL SEAS:

N/A. The non-jurisdictional wetland onsite is a depressional forested wetland system located in the center portion of the site. It was determined that there was no evidence of a consistent surface connection or flowpath providing evidence of surface flow from the depressional wetland system and the nearest waters of the U.S., un-named wetlands and Coosaw Creek which leads to the Ashley River. It does not have physical hydrological outlets or apparent ecological connectivity with other water features or any WOTUS.

6. SECTION 10 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS⁶: Describe aquatic resources or other features within the review area determined to be jurisdictional in accordance with Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. Include the size of each aquatic resource or other feature within the review area and how it was determined to be jurisdictional in accordance with Section 10.⁷ N/A

7. SECTION 404 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS: Describe the aquatic resources within the review area that were found to meet the definition of waters of the United States in accordance with the pre-2015 regulatory regime and consistent with the Supreme Court's decision in *Sackett*. List each aquatic resource separately, by name, consistent with the naming convention used in section 1, above. Include a rationale

⁶ 33 CFR 329.9(a) A waterbody which was navigable in its natural or improved state, or which was susceptible of reasonable improvement (as discussed in § 329.8(b) of this part) retains its character as "navigable in law" even though it is not presently used for commerce, or is presently incapable of such use because of changed conditions or the presence of obstructions.

⁷ This MFR is not to be used to make a report of findings to support a determination that the water is a navigable water of the United States. The district must follow the procedures outlined in 33 CFR part 329.14 to make a determination that water is a navigable water of the United States subject to Section 10 of the RHA.

for each aquatic resource, supporting that the aquatic resource meets the relevant category of “waters of the United States” in the pre-2015 regulatory regime. The rationale should also include a written description of, or reference to a map in the administrative record that shows, the lateral limits of jurisdiction for each aquatic resource, including how that limit was determined, and incorporate relevant references used. Include the size of each aquatic resource in acres or linear feet and attach and reference related figures as needed.

- a. TNWs (a)(1): N/A
- b. Interstate Waters (a)(2): N/A
- c. Other Waters (a)(3): N/A
- d. Impoundments (a)(4): N/A
- e. Tributaries (a)(5): N/A
- f. The territorial seas (a)(6): N/A
- g. Adjacent wetlands (a)(7): N/A

8. NON-JURISDICTIONAL AQUATIC RESOURCES AND FEATURES

- a. Describe aquatic resources and other features within the review area identified as “generally non-jurisdictional” in the preamble to the 1986 regulations (referred to as “preamble waters”).⁸ Include size of the aquatic resource or feature within the review area and describe how it was determined to be non-jurisdictional under the CWA as a preamble water. N/A
- b. Describe aquatic resources and features within the review area identified as “generally not jurisdictional” in the *Rapanos* guidance. Include size of the aquatic resource or feature within the review area and describe how it was determined to be non-jurisdictional under the CWA based on the criteria listed in the guidance. N/A
- c. Describe aquatic resources and features identified within the review area as waste treatment systems, including treatment ponds or lagoons designed to meet the requirements of CWA. Include the size of the waste treatment system within

⁸ 51 FR 41217, November 13, 1986.

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the review area and describe how it was determined to be a waste treatment system. N/A

- d. Describe aquatic resources and features within the review area determined to be prior converted cropland in accordance with the 1993 regulations (reference 2.b.). Include the size of the aquatic resource or feature within the review area and describe how it was determined to be prior converted cropland. N/A
- e. Describe aquatic resources (i.e. lakes and ponds) within the review area, which do not have a nexus to interstate or foreign commerce, and prior to the January 2001 Supreme Court decision in “*SWANCC*,” would have been jurisdictional based solely on the “Migratory Bird Rule.” Include the size of the aquatic resource or feature, and how it was determined to be an “isolated water” in accordance with *SWANCC*. N/A
- f. Describe aquatic resources and features within the review area that were determined to be non-jurisdictional because they do not meet one or more categories of waters of the United States under the pre-2015 regulatory regime consistent with the Supreme Court’s decision in *Sackett* (e.g., tributaries that are non-relatively permanent waters; non-tidal wetlands that do not have a continuous surface connection to a jurisdictional water).

Aquatic Resource Name	Resource Type	Reason the AR is Non-JD
Wetland A	Forested Wetland (PFO)	No part of this feature is abutting a TNW or tributary that contains either relatively permanent flow or a continuous surface connection/flowpath providing evidence of connection to a jurisdictional water of the U.S.

9. DATA SOURCES. List sources of data/information used in making determination. Include titles and dates of sources used and ensure that information referenced is available in the administrative record.

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- a. Review Performed for Site Evaluation: Office (Desk) Determination. Date: May 1, 2024. Field Determination. Date: December 14, 2023
- b. Aquatic Resources delineation submitted by, or on behalf of, the requestor: Approved Jurisdictional Determination Request package including wetland determination data sheets, associated data maps, and aquatic resource map titled "Jurisdictional Determination Request- Lafond Site" provided by ECS, Inc. Dated October 13, 2023.
- c. Aerial Imagery: "Aerial Exhibit" data source SCDNR 2020 Imagery provided by ECS, Inc. Dated October 12, 2023.
- d. Photographs: "Data point/site photographs" provided by provided by ECS, Inc. Dated October 12, 2023, and December 19, 2023, Corps site visit.
- e. National Wetland Inventory Map: "NWI Exhibit" data source SCDNR 2020 Imagery & USFWS by provided by ECS, Inc. Dated October 13, 2023.
- f. Natural Resource Conservation Survey: "Soils Exhibit" data source SCDNR 2020 Imagery & NRCS by provided by ECS, Inc. Dated October 12, 2023.
- g. U.S. Geological Survey Map: "Topographic Exhibit" Source: USGS 7.5-Minute Topo Quads Ladson, SC 1973. Provided by ECS, Inc. Dated October 2023.
- h. Hillshade and Contour Lines: USGS 3D Elevation Program (3DEP) Map Service created by Corps staff, dated May 14, 2024.

10. OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION. N/A

11. NOTE: The structure and format of this MFR were developed in coordination with the EPA and Department of the Army. The MFR's structure and format may be subject to future modification or may be rescinded as needed to implement additional guidance from the agencies; however, the approved jurisdictional determination described herein is a final agency action.

Legend

 Project Study Area



Client:



Project:

LAFOND SITE

**DORCHESTER ROAD,
NORTH CHARLESTON,
DORCHESTER COUNTY,
SOUTH CAROLINA**

Title:

USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

**LADSON, SC
DATED: 1973**

SC QUADRANGLE

PROJECT STUDY AREA



Drawn By:

SAW

Scale:

1" = 1,000'

Approved By:

PMS

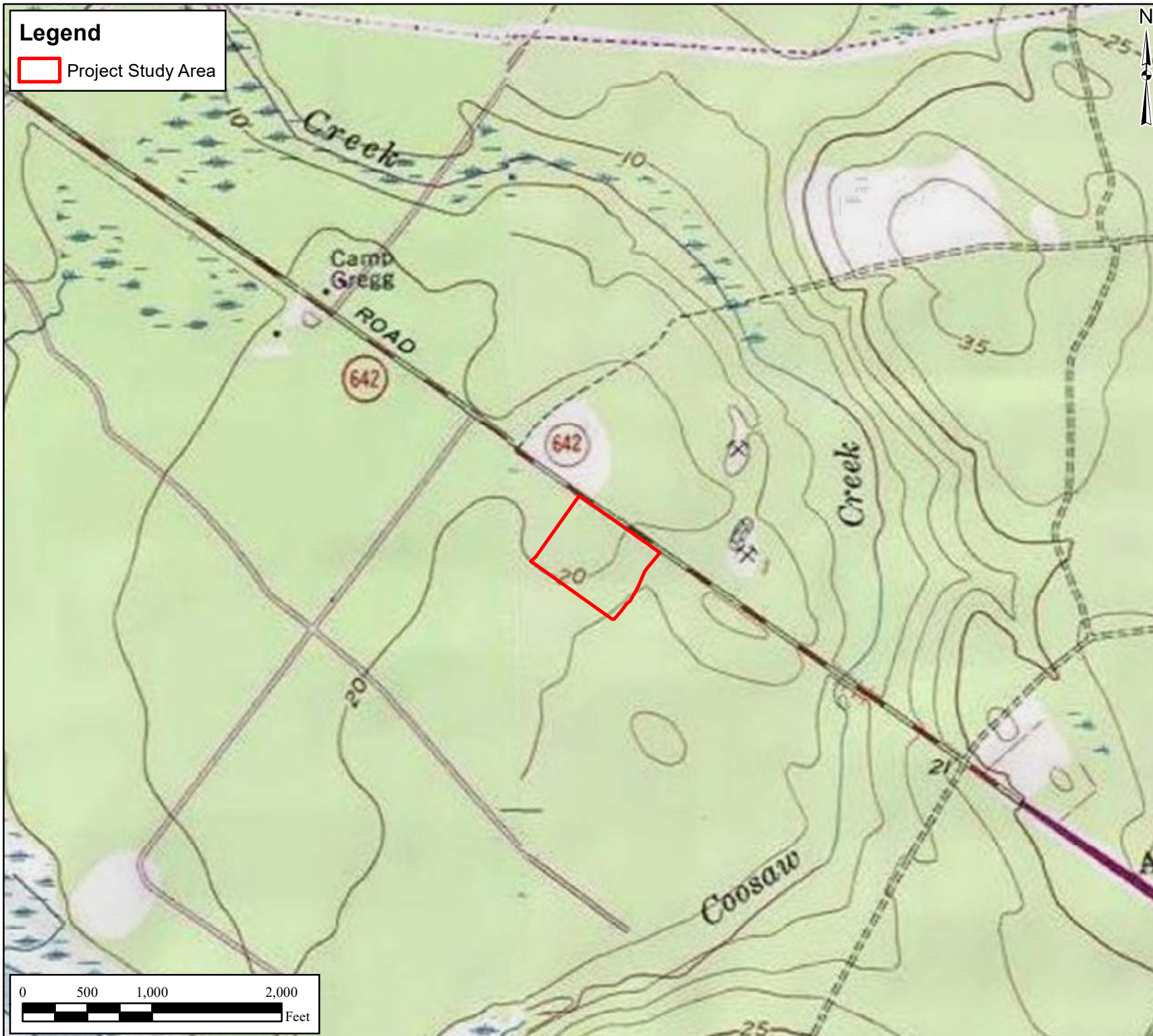
Date:

10/12/2023


ECS Project No.

49: 14148


FIGURE 2



Legend

 Project Study Area

Wetland Type

 Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland

Edited by the Corps May 14, 2024

Project Study Area 2
Wetland A - 0.528 acre
Study area - 1.23 acre

1.32.9225; -80.1239
2.32.9231; -80.1234
3.32.9221; -80.1231
4. 32.9227; -80.1227

PFO1A

Wetland A

1

2

4

3

0 100 200 400
Feet



Client:



Project:

LAFOND SITE

DORCHESTER ROAD,
NORTH CHARLESTON,
DORCHESTER COUNTY,
SOUTH CAROLINA

Title:

USFWS WETLANDS
INVENTORY MAP

PROJECT STUDY AREA



Drawn By:

SAW

Scale:

1" = 200'

Approved By:

PMS

Date:

10/12/2023

ECS Project No.

49: 14148

FIGURE 4