



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

CESAC-RD

03 March 2025

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-2025-00035, 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.

CESAC-RD

SUBJECT: Pre-2015 Regulatory Regime Approved Jurisdictional Determination in Light of *Sackett v. EPA*, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023), SAC-2025-00058

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).
 - i. Wetland, jurisdictional – Section 404 waters, 2.32 acres
 - ii. Tributary, jurisdictional, Section 404 waters, 128.7 linear feet
 - iii. Wetland, non-jurisdictional, 2.17 acres

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. 651, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023)

3. REVIEW AREA.

- a. Project Area Size: 29.06 acres
- b. Center Coordinates of the Review Area:
Latitude: 34.9583° N, Longitude: -82.0297° E
- c. Nearest City: Spartanburg
- d. County: Spartanburg
- e. State: South Carolina

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

5. FLOWPATH FROM THE SUBJECT AQUATIC RESOURCES TO A TNW, INTERSTATE WATER, OR THE TERRITORIAL SEAS. The project area drains to

Fair Forest Creek. Fair Forest Creek flows southeast and enters the Fair Forest River. The Fair Forest River continues south to its confluence with the Tyger River. The Tyger River flows southeast and enters the Broad River, TNW.

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 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): Tributary, 0.02 acres or 128.7 linear feet. The tributary runs through the eastern corner of the project area. The tributary is a section of Fair Forest Creek.

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.

- f. The territorial seas (a)(6): N/A
- g. Adjacent wetlands (a)(7):
Wetland, 2.32 acres. The wetland drains south, through the western portion of the project area, exits the project area, and continues southeast to its connection with Fair Forest Creek.

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 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

⁸ 51 FR 41217, November 13, 1986.

CESAC-RD

SUBJECT: Pre-2015 Regulatory Regime Approved Jurisdictional Determination in Light of *Sackett v. EPA*, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023), SAC-2025-00058

- 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).

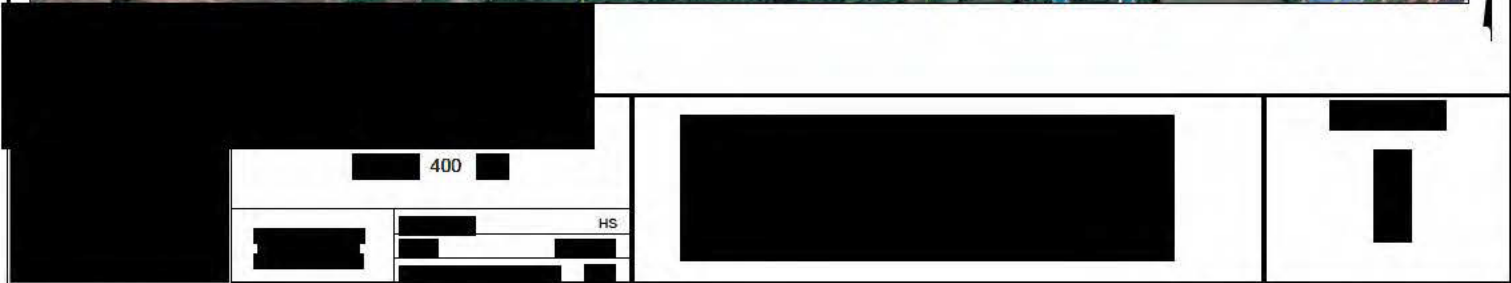
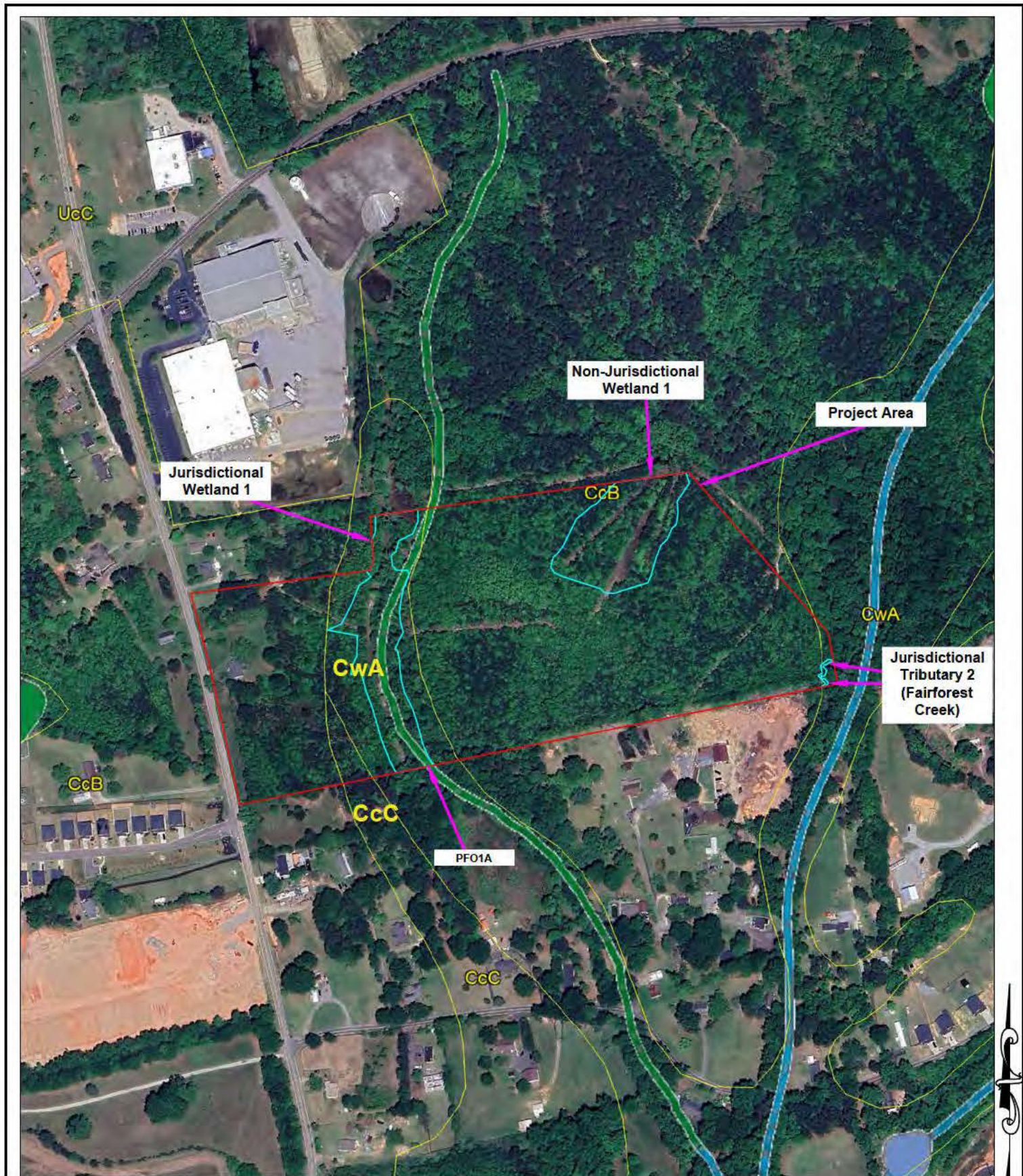
The 2.17 acres forested wetland is located in a hilltop swale. The wetland is bordered by forested uplands. Surface water, saturated soils, amphibian egg masses, hydrophytic vegetation, and hydric soils were observed and documented in the wetland delineation request submitted by the agent. The same indicators were observed by the USACE project manager when conducting the site visit on February 28, 2025. The perimeter of the wetland was walked during the site visit. No continuous surface connection to or from the wetland to another aquatic resource was observed.

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.
 - a. Review performed for site evaluation: Site visit conducted on February 28, 2025. Office (desk) determination date: March 03, 2025.
 - b. Aquatic resources delineation submitted by, or on behalf of, the requestor: Wetland delineation package including data sheets and map of onsite waters provided by Blueline Environmental Consultants dated January 06, 2025.
 - c. Aerial imagery provided by agent titled "Data Point and Photo Point Locations – N Blackstock Road and Lowes Court AJD" and dated January 03, 2024.
 - d. USDA NRCS soil survey provided by agent titled "Soil/NWI – N Blackstock and Old Lowes Court AJD" and dated January 03, 2024.
 - e. LiDAR 2ft contour map: USDA-NRCS-NCGC Digital Raster Graphic provided by agent titled "LiDAR 2ft Contour – N Blackstock Rd and Old Lowes Court AJD" and dated January 03, 2024.
10. OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION. Site visit conducted by USACE project manager Travis Scott on February 28, 2025.

CESAC-RD

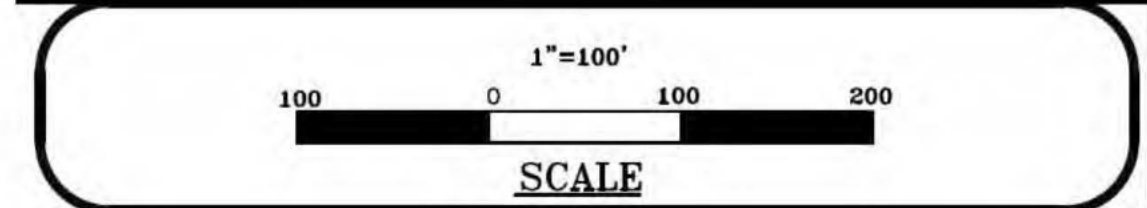
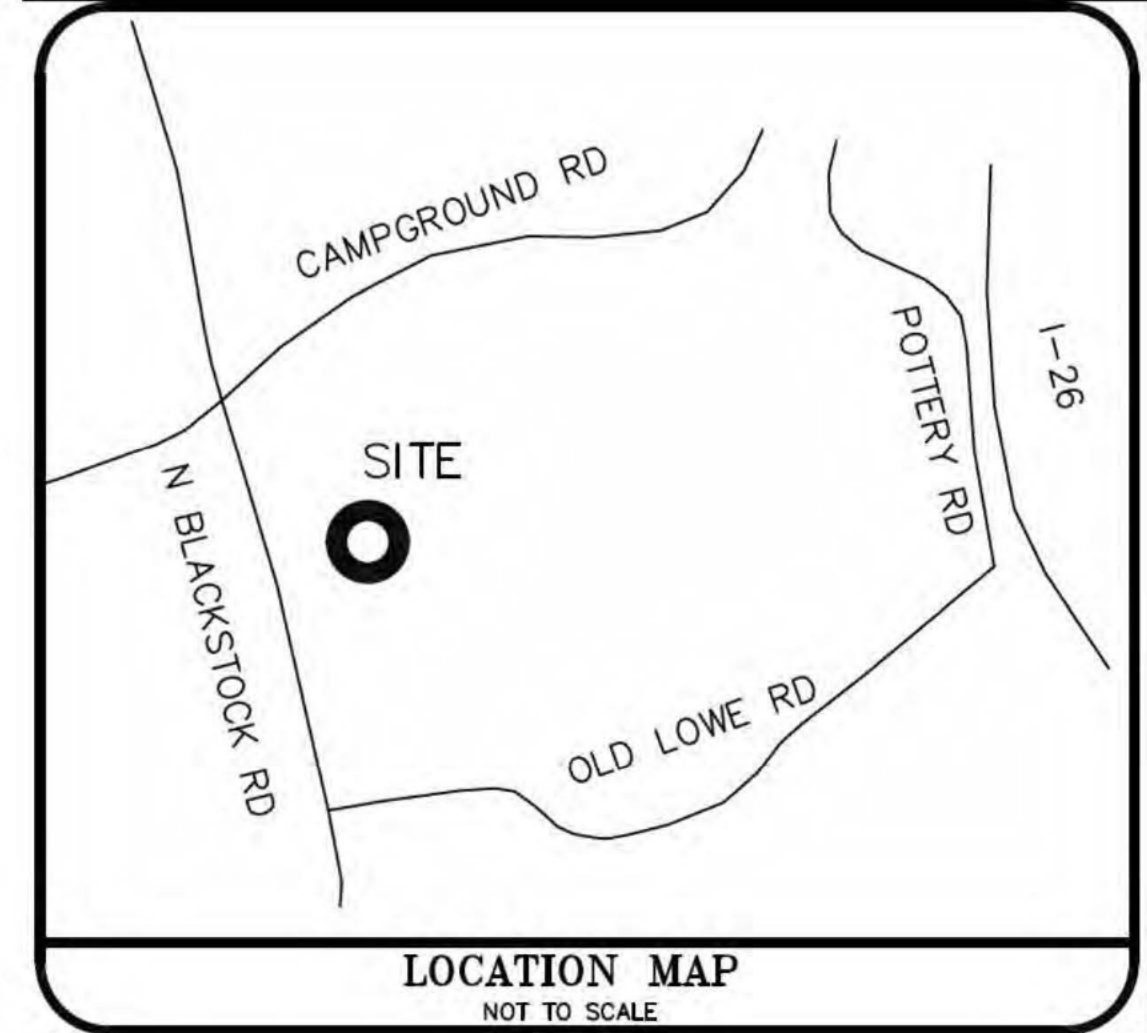
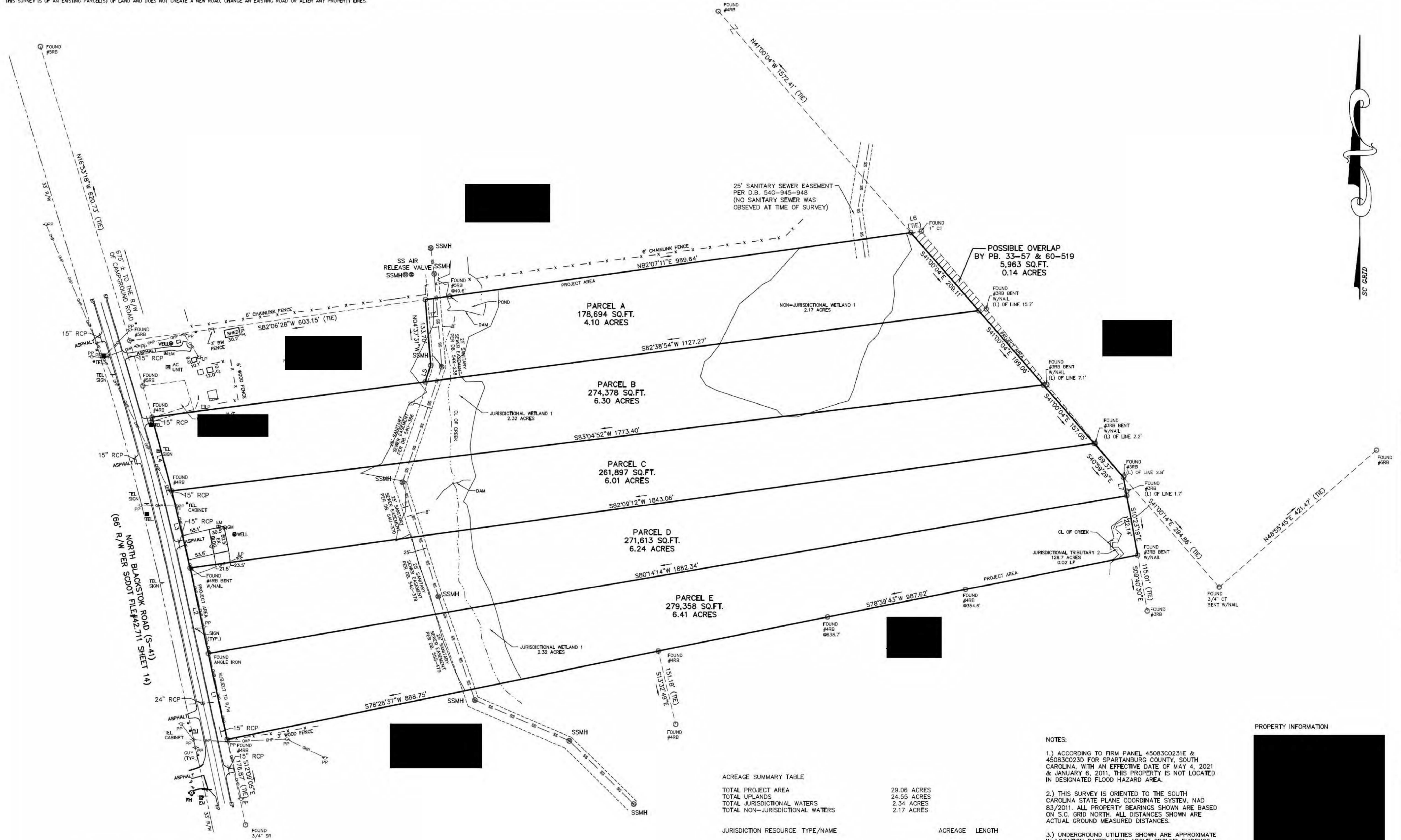
SUBJECT: Pre-2015 Regulatory Regime Approved Jurisdictional Determination in Light of *Sackett v. EPA*, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023), SAC-2025-00058

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.



NOTE: EXCEPT AS SPECIFICALLY STATED OR SHOWN ON THIS PLAT, THIS SURVEY DOES NOT PURPORT TO REFLECT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING WHICH MAY BE APPLICABLE TO THE SUBJECT REAL ESTATE: RIGHTS-OF-WAY, EASEMENTS, OTHER THAN POSSIBLE EASEMENTS THAT WERE VISIBLE AT THE TIME OF MAKING THIS SURVEY; BUILDING SETBACK LINES; RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS; SUBDIVISION RESTRICTIONS; ZONING OR OTHER LAND USE REGULATIONS AND ANY OTHER FACTS THAT AN ACCURATE AND CURRENT TITLE SEARCH MAY DISCLOSE. THIS SURVEY DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A TITLE RESEARCH, FLOOD STUDY, WETLAND DELINEATION OR ENVIRONMENTAL INSPECTION BY SURVEYOR. SUBSURFACE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS WERE NOT SURVEYED OR EXAMINED OR CONSIDERED AS PART OF THIS SURVEY. NO EVIDENCE OR STATEMENT IS MADE CONCERNING THE EXISTENCE OF UNDERGROUND OR OVERHEAD CONDITIONS, CONTAINERS OR FACILITIES THAT MAY AFFECT THE USE OR DEVELOPMENT OF THIS PROPERTY.

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LEGEND	
CT CRIMP TOP	ov GAS VALVE
EP EDGE OF PAVEMENT	LP LIGHT POLE
SR SOLID ROD	MHSD MANHOLE (SD)
N&C NAIL & CAP	MHSS MANHOLE (SS)
OT OPEN TOP	PP POWER POLE
RB REBAR	TEL TELEPHONE PED
R/W RIGHT OF WAY	TM WATER METER
ELEC TRANS	wv WATER VALVE
GAS METER	CB CATCH BASIN
FIRE HYDRANT	DI DROP INLET
CTV CABLE TV	SD STORM DRAIN
X FENCE LINE	SS SANITARY SEWER
FOC FIBER OPTIC CABLE	UGP UNDERGROUND POWER
GAS GAS LINE	UGT UNDERGROUND TEL
OHP OVERHEAD POWER	W WATER LINE
OHT OVERHEAD TELEPHONE	



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NOTICE:
PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SC CODE OF LAWS, SECTION40-22-270(3), THIS PLAN, SPECIFICATION, OR PLAT SHALL NOT BE FILED WITH PUBLIC AUTHORITIES WITHOUT THE SEAL, SIGNATURE AND DATE AFFIXED. FURTHERMORE, IF THIS PLAN, SPECIFICATION OR PLAT DOES NOT HAVE A SEAL THAT IS SIGNED AND DATED, IT SHALL NOT BE USED FOR ANY PURPOSE OTHER THAN A PRELIMINARY STUDY DRAWING AND WILL BE CONSIDERED A WORK IN PROGRESS.