# JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

# CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS 69A Hagood Avenue Charleston, South Carolina 29403-5107 and

THE S.C. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL
Office of Environmental Quality Control
Water Quality Certification and Wetlands Programs Section
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

REGULATORY DIVISION

Refer to: P/N # 2013-00058-DS Revised

April 29, 2016

Pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1341), and the S.C. Construction in Navigable Waters Permit Program (R. 19-450, et. seq., 1976 S.C. Code of Laws, as amended), an application has been submitted to the Department of the Army and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control by

# South Carolina Department of Transportation P.O. Box 191, 955 Park Street Columbia, South Carolina 29202

for a permit to place fill and/or structures within several separate tributaries to construct a 3.4-mile long, two-lane roadway on new alignment across

#### Hamilton Creek and tributaries to Hamilton Creek

at a location from the existing SC-153 and US-123 (Calhoun Memorial Highway) Interchange to a location on S-36 (Saluda Dam Road) approximately 1900 feet west of the intersection of S-36 and Prince Perry Road in Pickens County (northern terminus; 34.845053°N, 82.559452°W, and southern terminus; 34.828584°N, 82.529731°W).

In order to give all interested parties an opportunity to express their views

## NOTICE

is hereby given that written statements regarding the proposed work will be received by the **Corps** until

## 15 Days from the Date of this Notice,

and SCDHEC will receive written statements regarding the proposed work until

## 30 Days from the Date of this Notice

from those interested in the activity and whose interests may be affected by the proposed work.

PLEASE NOTE: THE PROJECT WAS ORIGINALLY PLACED ON PUBLIC NOTICE ON NOVEMBER 6, 2015. THE PROJECT WAS LATER REVISED TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL WORK AND MODIFICATIONS TO THE PREVIOUSLY ADVERTISED WORK. THIS NOTICE SERVES AS A NEW PUBLIC NOTICE OF THE ENTIRE PROJECT AREA. ONLY COMMENTS RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO THIS PUBLIC NOTICE WILL BE CONSIDERED IN THE PERMIT EVALUATION.

The proposed work consists of placement of fill/structures within waters of the U.S to construct a new two lane roadway on new alignment from the existing SC-153 and US-123 Interchange to a location on S-36 (Saluda Dam Road) approximately 1900 feet west of the intersection of S-36 and Prince Perry Road in Pickens County (northern terminus; 34.845053°N, 82.559452°W, and southern terminus; 34.828584°N, 82.529731°W). In detail, the proposed project will impact a total of 1418.0 linear feet of six separate streams from placement of fill and/or structures for construction of the new segment of SC-153 roadway.

The applicant has proposed to mitigate for impacts to waters of the United States by use of an off-site permittee responsible mitigation site known as Grassy Knob. The applicant is proposing to purchase this 353 acre Grassy Knob parcel and to preserve natural upland buffers along a total of 13,404 linear feet of 13 separate first and second order tributaries to Oolenoy River within this site. The Grassy Knob site is located approximately one mile southeast of the intersection of Hidden Valley Road (S-48) and Table Rock Road (SC-288) in Pickens County, South Carolina (34.9890947° N, 82.69799° W). SCDOT is proposing to secure this site, establish and preserve these natural upland buffers along the tributaries, monitor these buffer areas for success (< 5% non-native or invasive species), and transfer ownership of the Grassy Knob parcel to Naturaland Trust as the long term steward for his site.

According to the applicant, the project purpose is to reduce congestion on US 123 and to improve mobility on the eastern side of the City of Easley. SCDOT indicates that the existing traffic volumes on this route is currently creating traffic congestion, and that anticipated growth for this area will compound the congestion in the future .

NOTE: This public notice and associated plans are available on the Corps' website at: <a href="http://www.sac.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/PublicNotices">http://www.sac.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/PublicNotices</a>. For those unable to access the website, a copy of this notice and the associated plans will be provided, upon receipt of a written request. The request must identify the project of interest by public notice number and a self-addressed stamped envelope must also be provided for mailing the drawings to you. Your request for drawings should be addressed to the

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ATTN: REGULATORY DIVISION 69A Hagood Avenue Charleston, South Carolina 29403-5107

The District Engineer has concluded that the discharges associated with this project, both direct and indirect, should be reviewed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control in accordance with provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. As such, this notice constitutes a request, on behalf of the applicant, for certification that this project will comply with applicable effluent limitations and water quality. This activity may also require evaluation for compliance with the S. C. Construction in Navigable Waters Permit Program.

State review, permitting and certification is conducted by the S. C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. The District Engineer will not process this application to a conclusion until such certifications are received. The applicant is hereby advised that supplemental information may be required by the State to facilitate the review.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Implementation of the proposed project would impact freshwater habitat well inland of estuarine substrates and emergent wetlands utilized by various life stages of species comprising the shrimp, and snapper-grouper management complexes. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial individual or cumulative adverse impact on EFH or fisheries managed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the NMFS.

Pursuant to the Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended), the Corps has reviewed the project area, examined all information provided by the applicant, and the District Engineer has determined, based on the most recently available information that the project may affect, but is not likely to adversely effect on any Federally endangered, threatened, or proposed species and will not result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated or proposed critical habitat. This public notice serves as a request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service for any additional information they may have on whether any listed or proposed endangered or threatened species or designated or proposed critical habitat may be present in the area which would be affected by the activity.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), this public notice also constitutes a request to Indian Tribes to notify the District Engineer of any historic properties of religious and cultural significance to them that may be affected by the proposed undertaking.

In accordance with the NHPA, the District Engineer has consulted the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places for the presence or absence of registered properties, or properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein and initially determined that no historic properties, nor properties eligible for inclusion in the National Register, are present; therefore, there will be <u>no effect on historic properties</u>. This public notices serves as a request for concurrence within 30 days from the SHPO (and/or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer).

The District Engineer's final eligibility and effect determination will be based upon coordination with the SHPO and/or THPO, as appropriate and required, and with full consideration given to the proposed undertaking's potential direct and indirect effects on historic properties within the Corps-identified permit area.

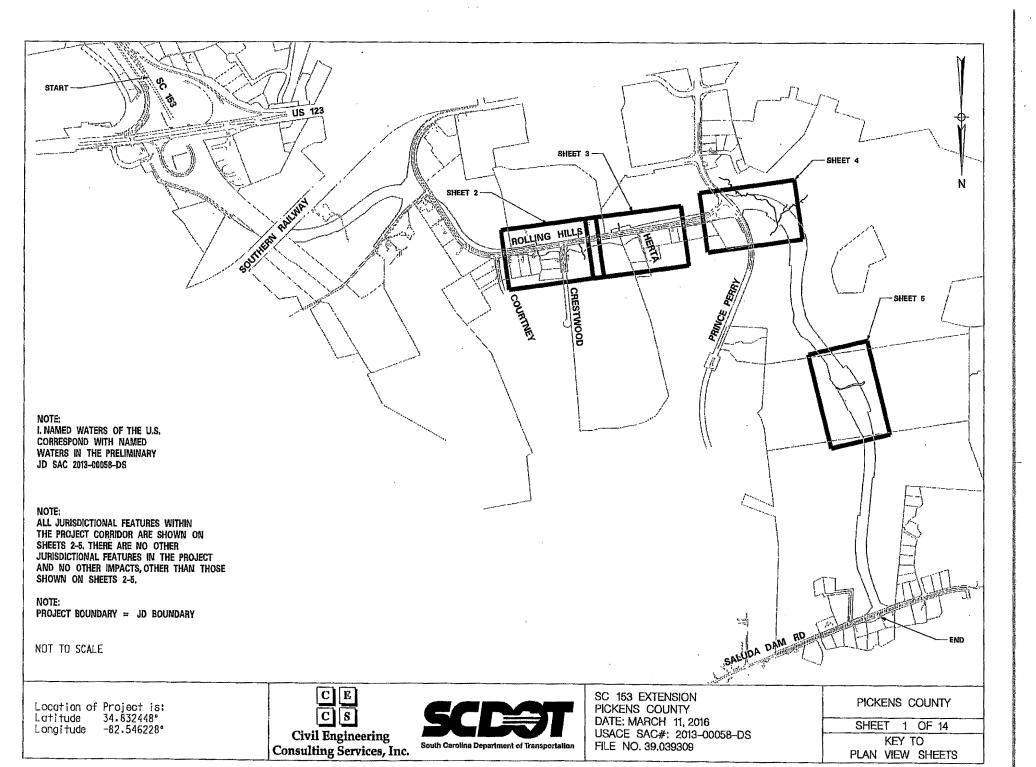
Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

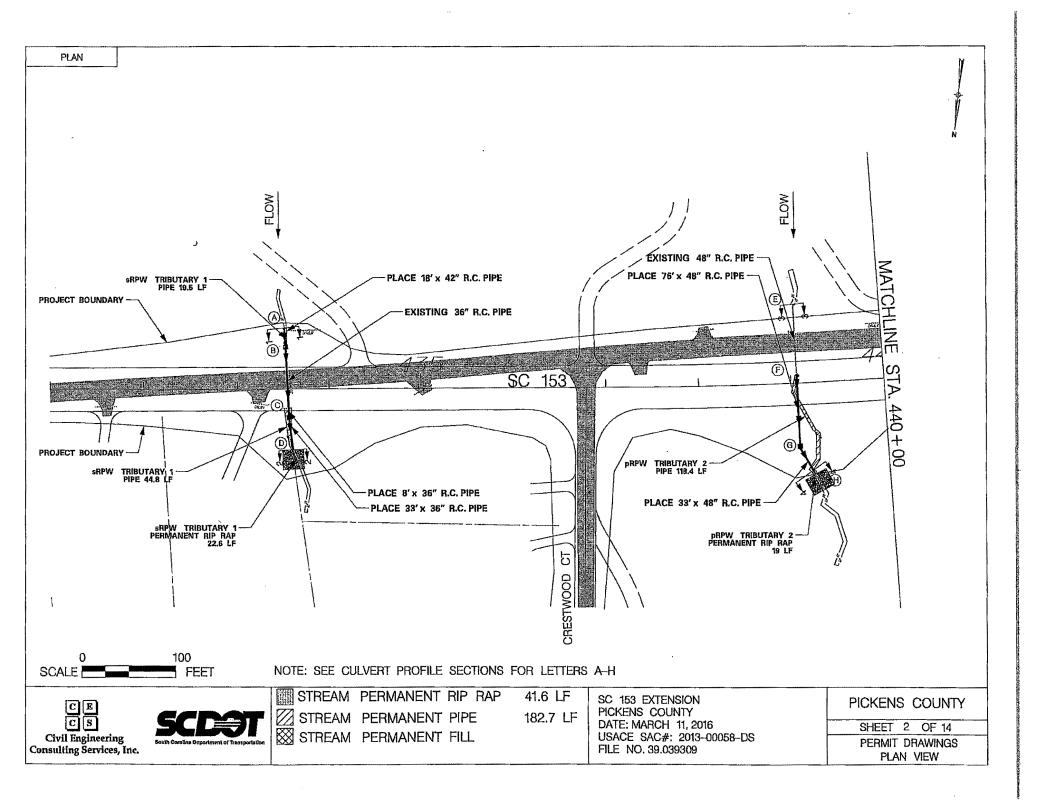
The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the activity on the public interest and will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act. That decision will reflect the national concern

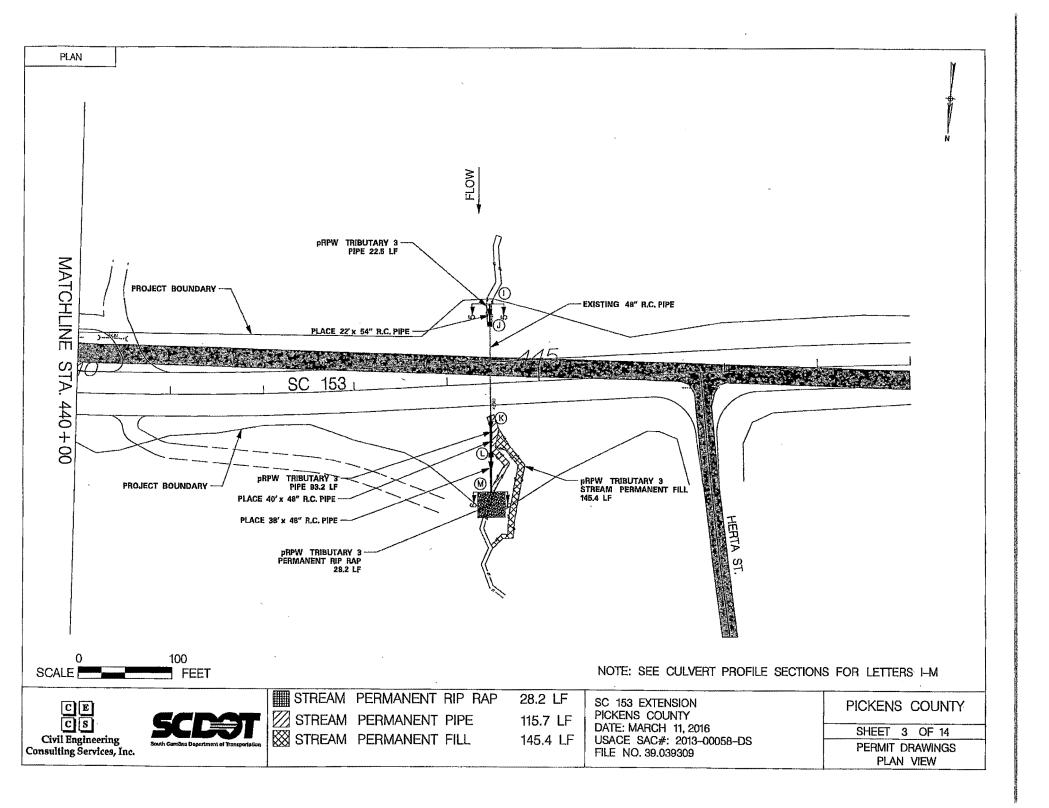
for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the project must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the project will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. A permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest. In cases of conflicting property rights, the Corps of Engineers cannot undertake to adjudicate rival claims.

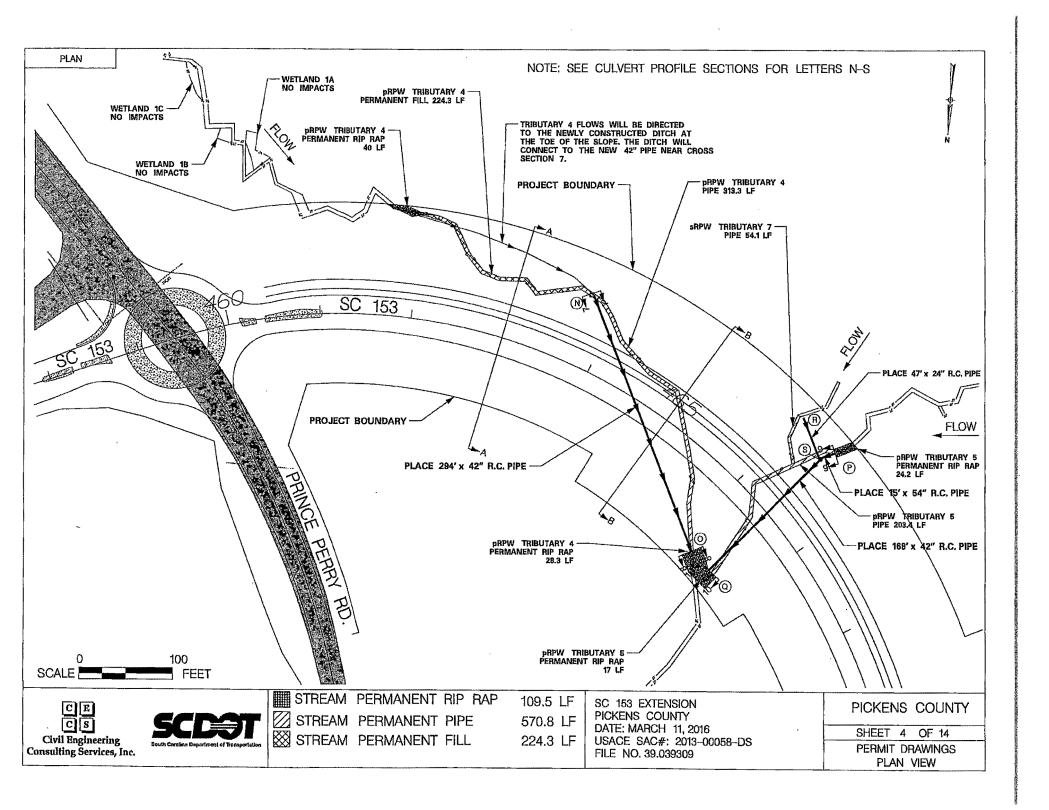
The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this project. 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 activity.

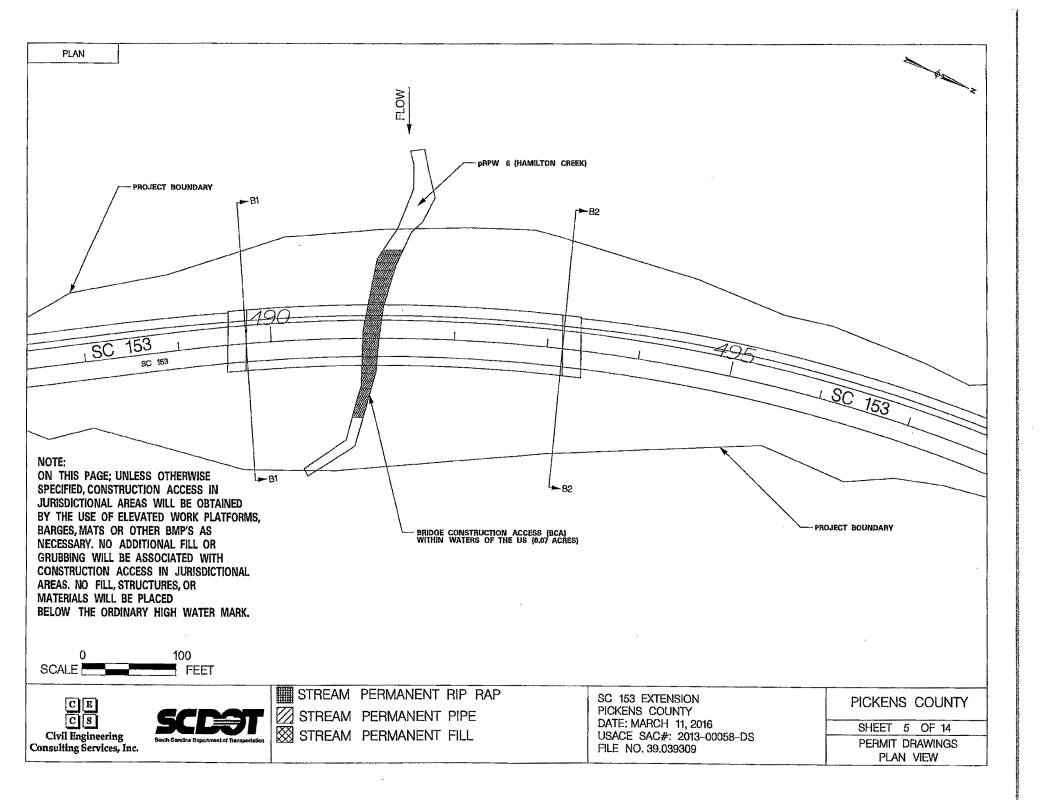
If there are any questions concerning this public notice, please contact **Stephen Brumagin** at 803-253-3445.

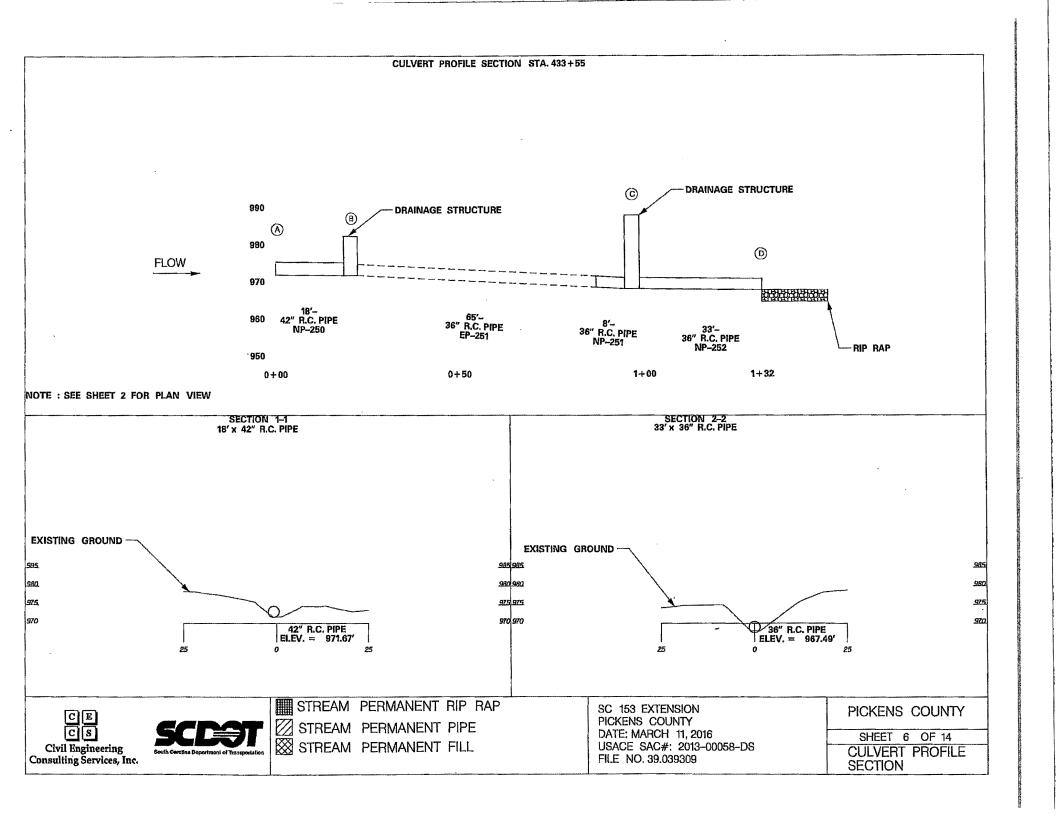


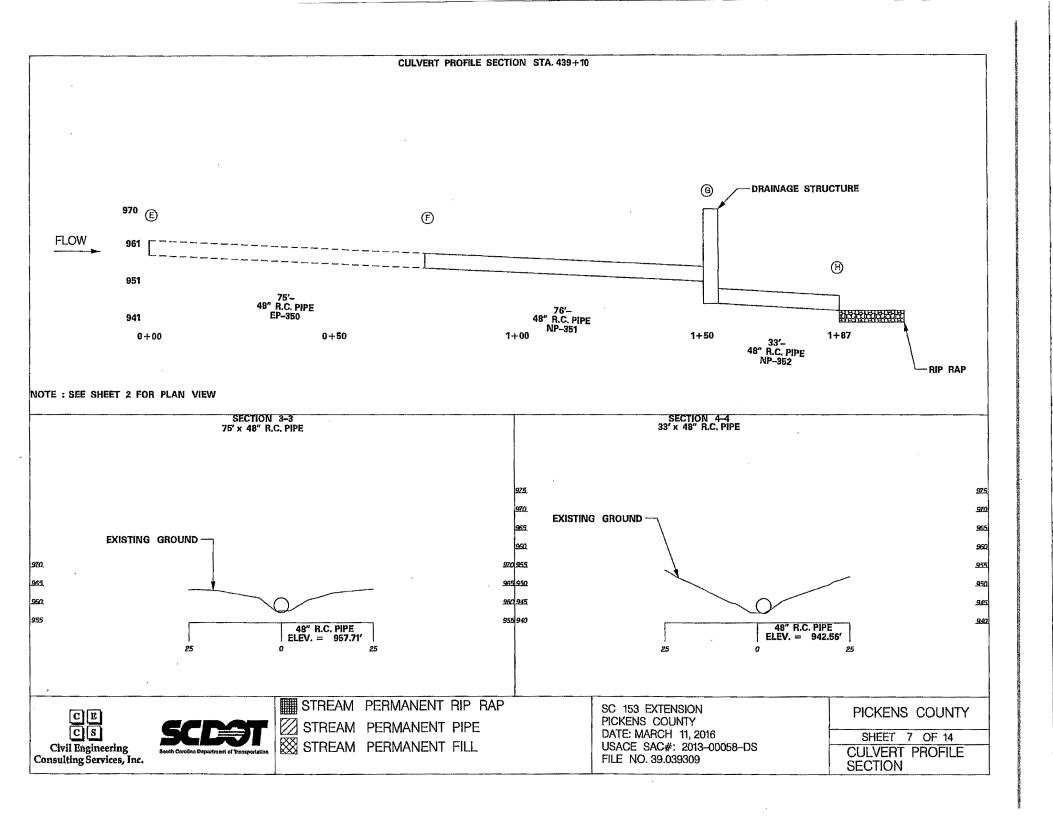


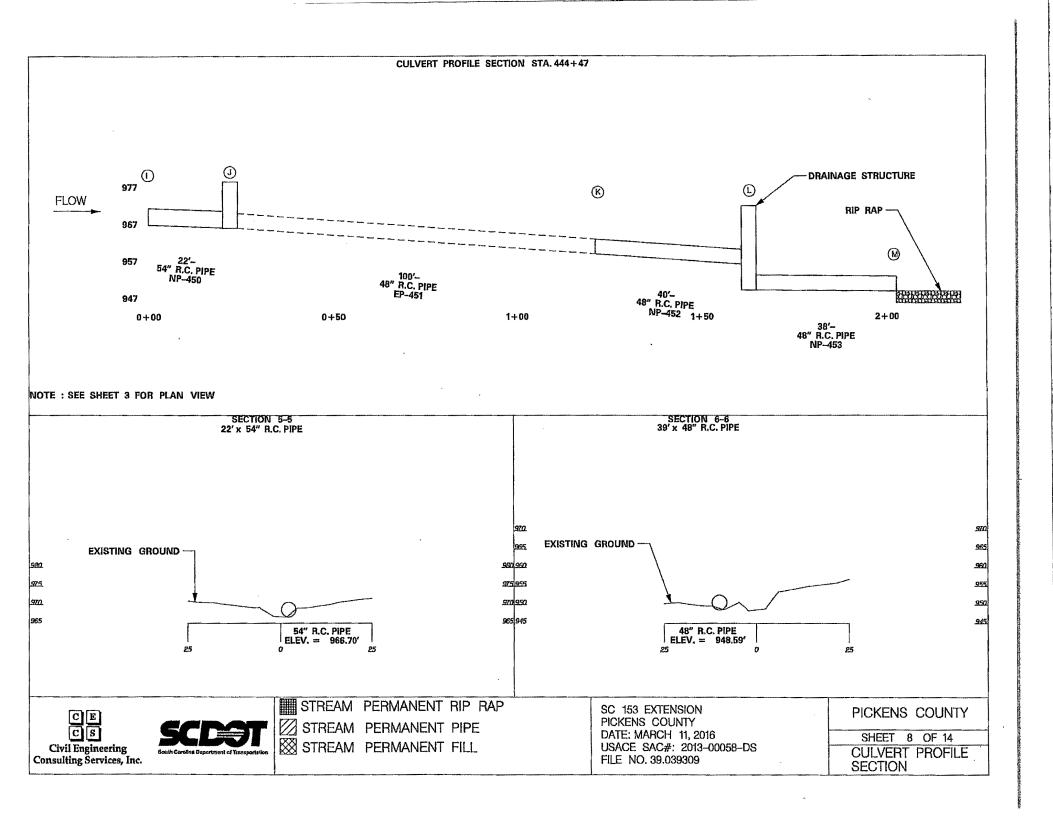


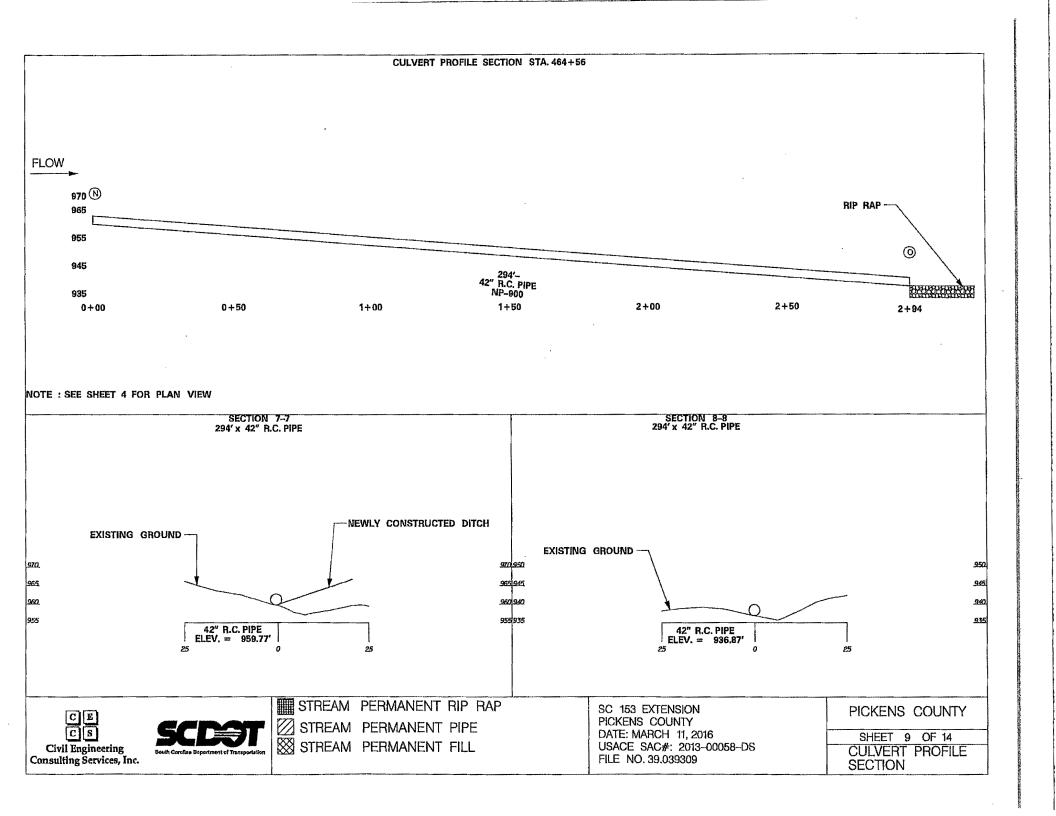


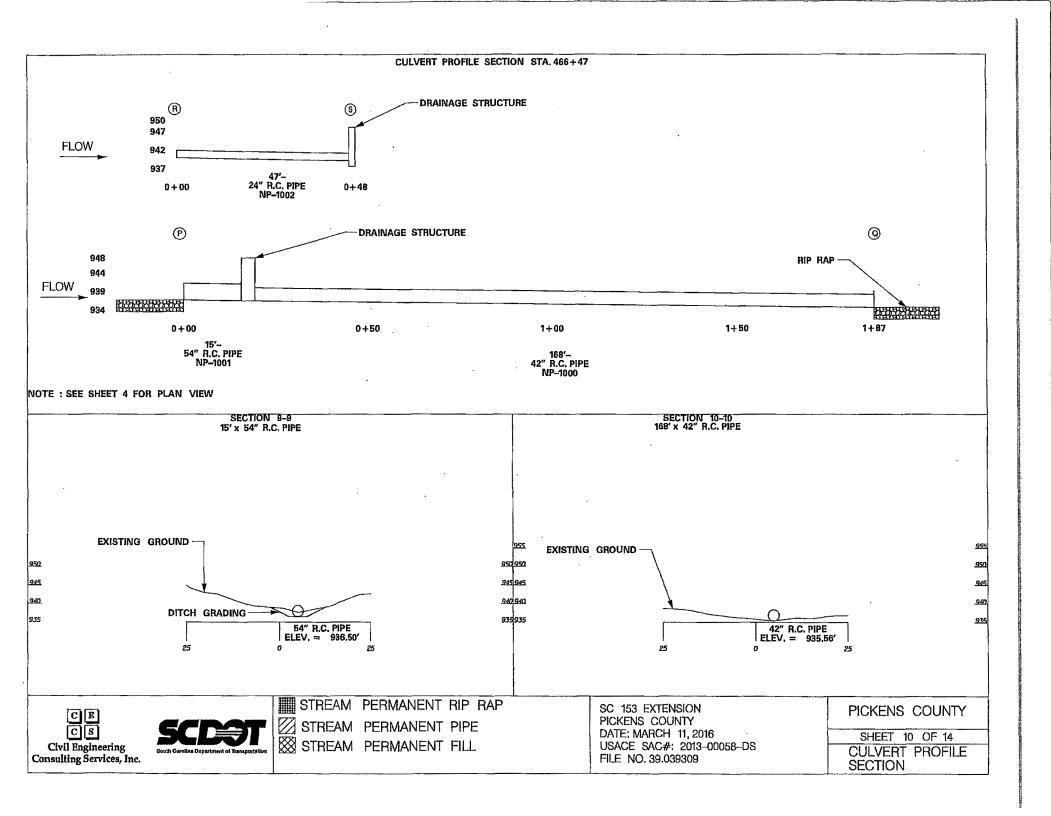


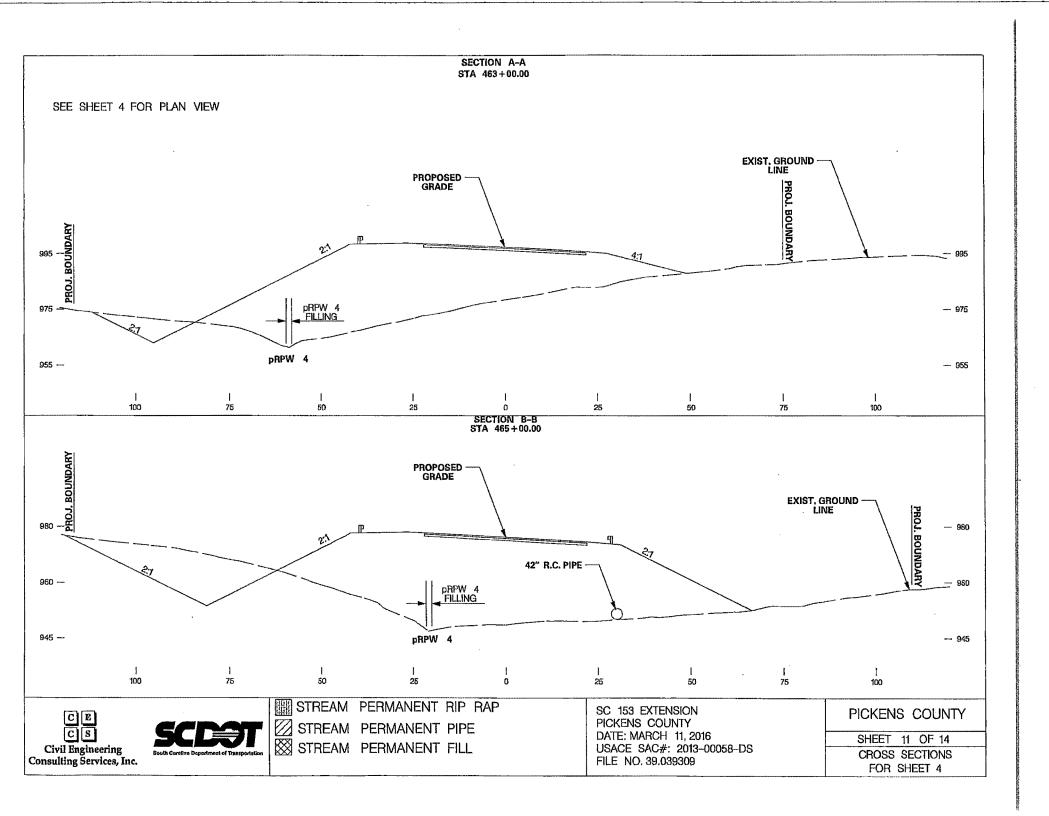


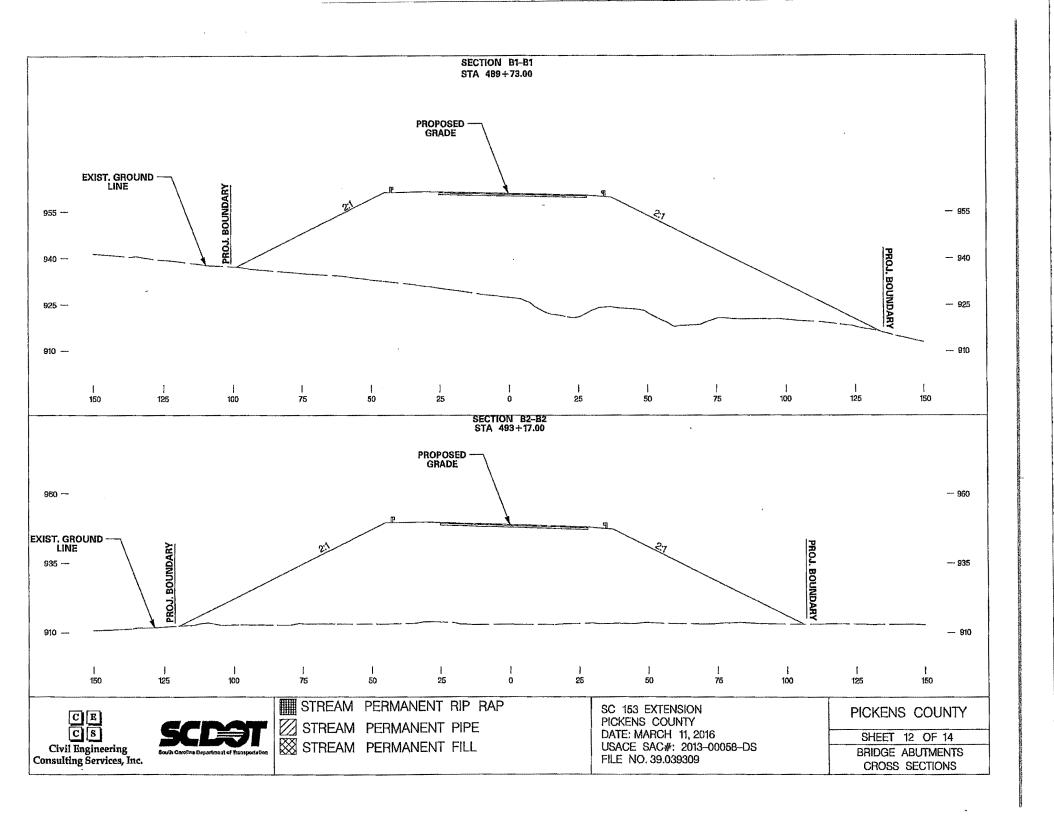


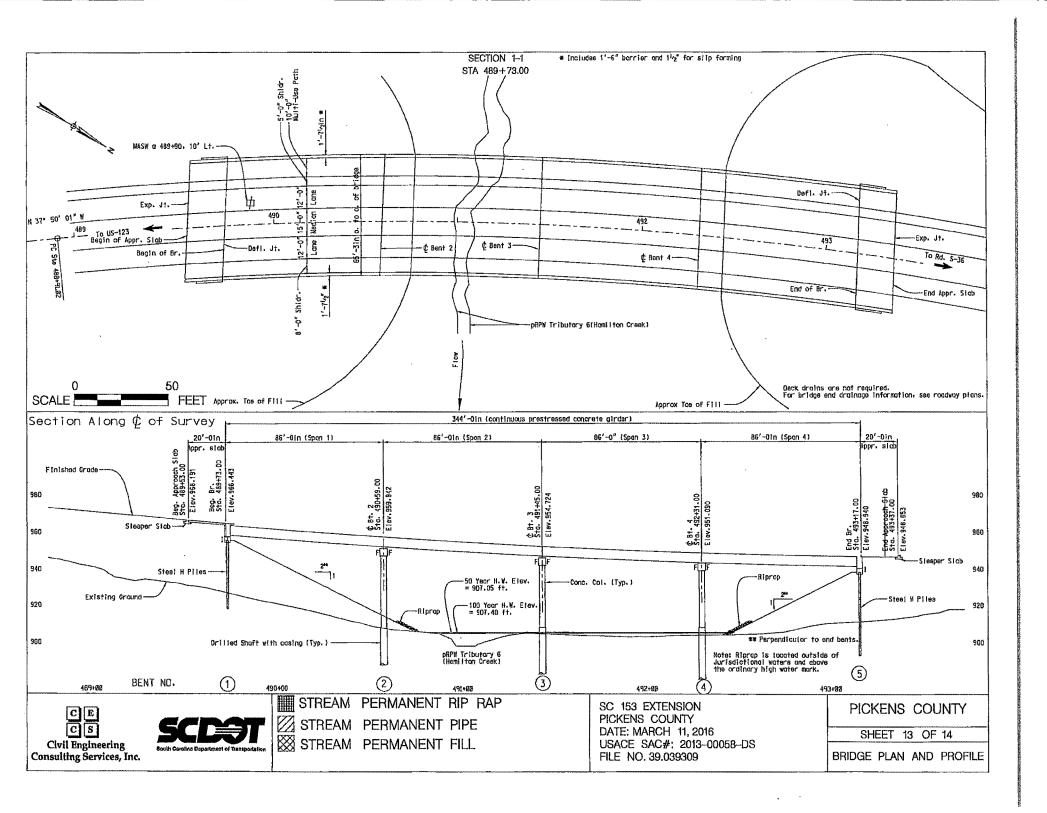












	Description	Sheet 2	Sheet 3	Sheet 4	Sheet 5	***************************************			-	Total
1.	Stream Permanent Rip Rap	41.6 LF	28.2 LF	109.5 LF						179,3 LF
2.	Piped Stream	182.7 LF	115.7 LF	570.8 LF						869.2 LF
3.	Stream Permanent Fill		145,4 LF	224.3 LF						369.7 LF

TOTAL IMPACTS

1418.2 LF

Location of Project is: Latitude 34.832448° Longitude -82.546228°





SC 153 EXTENSION
PICKENS COUNTY
DATE: MARCH 11, 2016
USACE SAC#: 2013-00058-DS
FILE NO. 39.039309

PICKENS COUNTY
SHEET 14 OF 14

IMPACT SUMMARY

