# JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

# CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS 1949 INDUSTRIAL PARK ROAD, ROOM 140 CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA 29526

#### and

THE S.C. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL
Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management
1362 McMillan Avenue, Suite 400
Charleston. South Carolina 29405

REGULATORY DIVISION Refer to: P/N SAC-2017-01914

DATE January 30, 2018

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. 1344), and the South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Act (48-39-10 et.seq.), an application has been submitted to the Department of the Army and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control by

Dredge SW, LLC / Ruell Hicks c/o GEL Engineering, LLC PO Box 30712 Charleston, South Carolina, 29417

for a permit to dredge the South Waccamaw Canal, adjacent to

### MAIN CREEK

at a location west of South Waccamaw Drive, near the town of Murrells Inlet, Horry and Georgetown Counties, South Carolina (Latitude: 33.56715 °N, Longitude: -79.0098 °W), **Brookgreen Quad**.

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** and SCDHEC 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.

The proposed work consists of hydraulic dredging in the South Waccamaw Canal. In detail, the project consists of removing approximately 60,000 cubic yards over approximately 8 acres. Once the dredged material is transferred through submerged pipes, mechanical dewatering will be accomplished through non simultaneous use of geotubes, mechanical belt press, or a

similar method. Once the dewatered material is sufficiently dried, it will be transported to a final upland disposal site.

### **Specific Project Details Provided by the Applicant:**

The proposed maintenance dredging project includes approximately 2.2 miles of canal at an average bottom width of 30-feet. The proposed dredge depth is -5.0 feet Mean Low Water (MLW) with a 1-foot allowable overdepth for a total dredge depth of -6.0 feet MLW. The dredged area will extend from the face of the existing docks 30 feet into the channel. The proposed material will be dredged by a hydraulic cutterhead suction dredge.

The proposed dredge material will be transported to the dewatering site via a temporary pipeline, which will extend under Highway 17 Business in the existing infrastructure used for the 2016-17 Murrell's Inlet dredge project. The effluent water from the dewatering system will be discharged via a second pipeline (via the same infrastructure) into Parsonage Creek. The temporary pipelines will be laid along existing creeks and will have weights and anchors to ensure the pipeline stays in place and does not impact the nearby marsh grass or oyster reefs. Additionally, it will not require heavy equipment so no impacts to wetlands will occur. The pipelines will be removed after the completion of dredging.

The pipeline will have weights and anchors to ensure the pipeline stays in place and does not impact the nearby marsh grass or oyster reefs. The pipeline will also have signs and buoys to mark its location and warn the boating public of its presence. Even though HDPE pipe floats, it immediately sinks to the bottom when dredged material is introduced during the dredging process. The pipeline will utilize Channel A in Murrells Inlet to access the dewatering site. The influent pipe will be submerged across Parsonage Creek and then move up the small slough adjacent to the SCDNR boat ramp, away from the Marshview Marina. The pipeline will traverse beneath Highway 17-Business via an existing 36-inch steel casing to access the dewatering site. The effluent pipeline from the dewatering site will utilize the same casing to return the water to Parsonage Creek between the SCDNR courtesy float and Marshview Marina.

The applicant included two layouts for the dewatering site which represent possible scenarios/configurations for either geotubes or belt-presses Mechanical dewatering. Both dewatering operations will not occur at the same time. The successful dredging contractor will have a specific layout for the selected dewatering method. After the dredged material has sufficiently dewatered, it will be trucked to an approved, authorized disposal site.

# **Avoidance and Minimization:**

The applicant stated that the proposed dredging will be performed with a hydraulic cutterhead dredge with dredged material transported via pipeline. In addition, the applicant stated that impacts to marsh grass and oyster reefs will be avoided by a 10-foot minimum setback and visual observations of effluent water.

### **Proposed Mitigation:**

The applicant offered no compensatory mitigation for the proposed impacts and stated: No mitigation is being proposed for the project as no impacts to saltwater or freshwater vegetation will occur. The bid package for the maintenance dredging project will require that the contractor maintain a setback from existing marsh grass or oyster reefs, and that all pipeline routes will be outside vegetated wetlands. The pipeline will be weighted and anchored to avoid movement and

potential impacts to any nearby vegetated wetlands.

## **Project Purpose:**

The project purpose as stated by the applicant is to provide year round boating access during all tidal cycles for private residencies on the creek and public access to the creek.

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>.

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 standards The work shown on this application must also be certified as consistent with applicable provisions of the Coastal Zone Management Program (15 CFR 930). 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 **8.0** acres of estuarine substrates and emergent wetlands utilized by various life stages of species comprising the shrimp, and snapper-grouper management complexes. The District Engineer's 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). The District Engineer's 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 that the project <u>may affect</u>, <u>not likely to adversely affect</u> any Federally endangered, threatened, or proposed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated or proposed critical habitat. However, it has been determined that the project will have <u>no effect</u> on Shortnose Sturgeon (Acipenser brevirostrum) and/or the Atlantic sturgeon (Acipenser oxyrinchus) and will not result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated or proposed critical habitat. This public notice serves as a request for written concurrence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service on this determination.

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 Section 106 of the NHPA, the District Engineer has consulted South Carolina ArchSite (GIS), for the presence or absence of historic properties (as defined in 36

C.F.R. 800.16)(I)(1)), and has initially determined that there are historic properties present, but they will not be affected; therefore, there will be no effect on historic properties. To ensure that other historic properties that the District Engineer is not aware of are not overlooked, this public notice also serves as a request to the State Historic Preservation Office and other interested parties to provide any information they may have with regard to historic properties. This public notice 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.

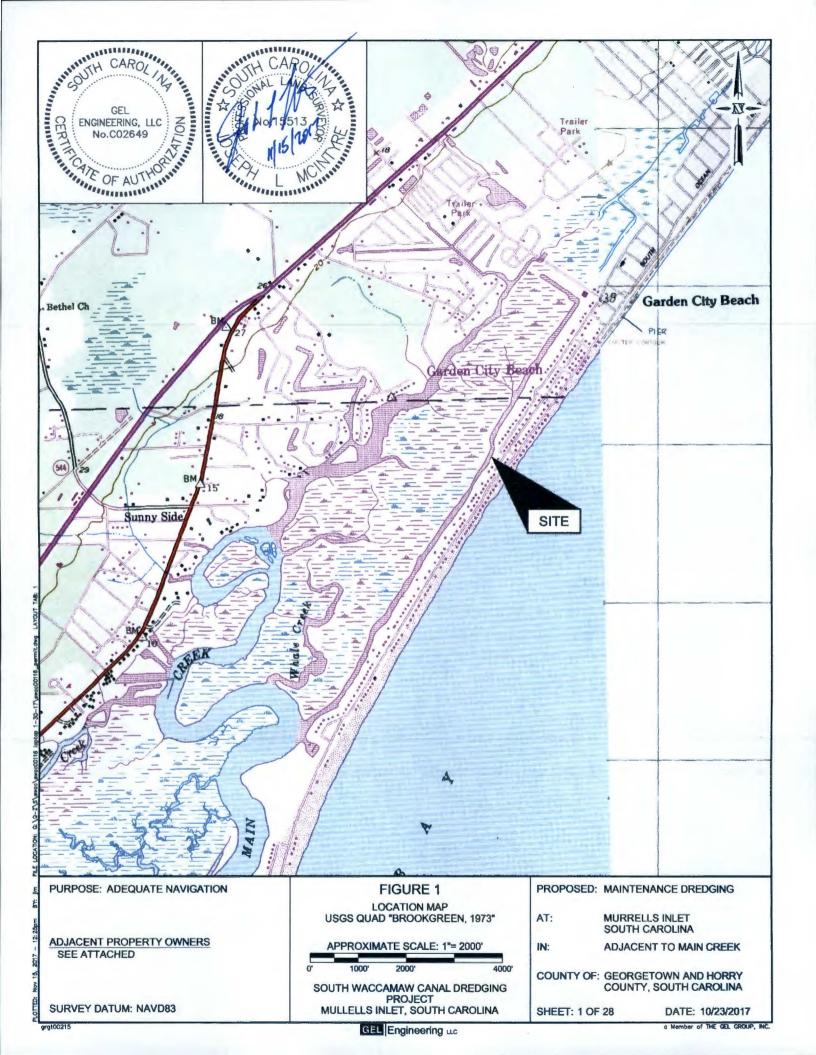
Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

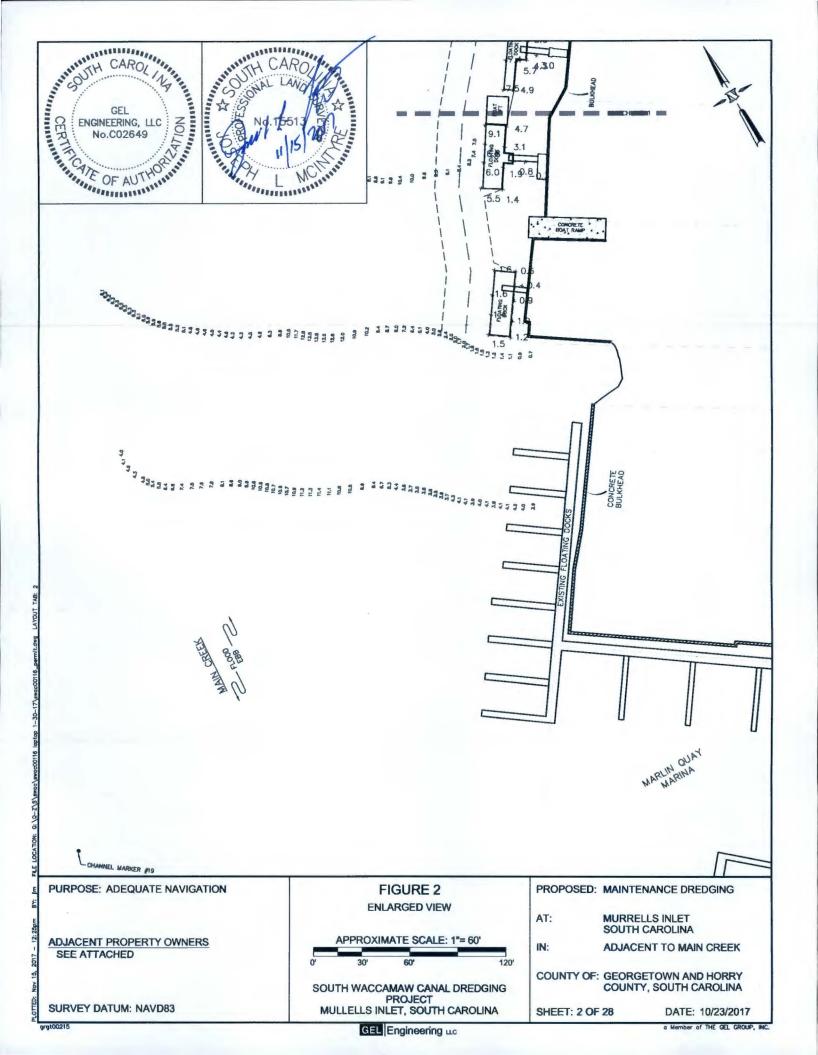
The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the activity on the public. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the project must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors 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 cannot undertake to adjudicate rival claims.

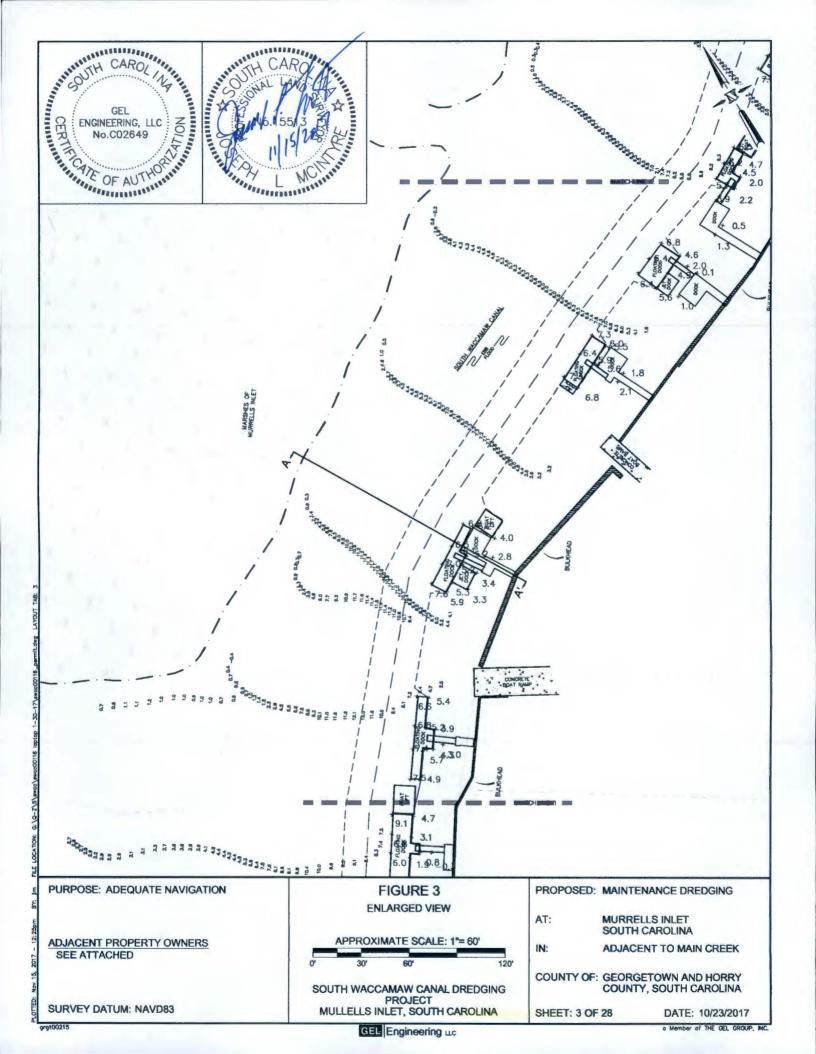
The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, 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. Please submit comments in writing, identifying the project of interest by public notice number, to the following address:

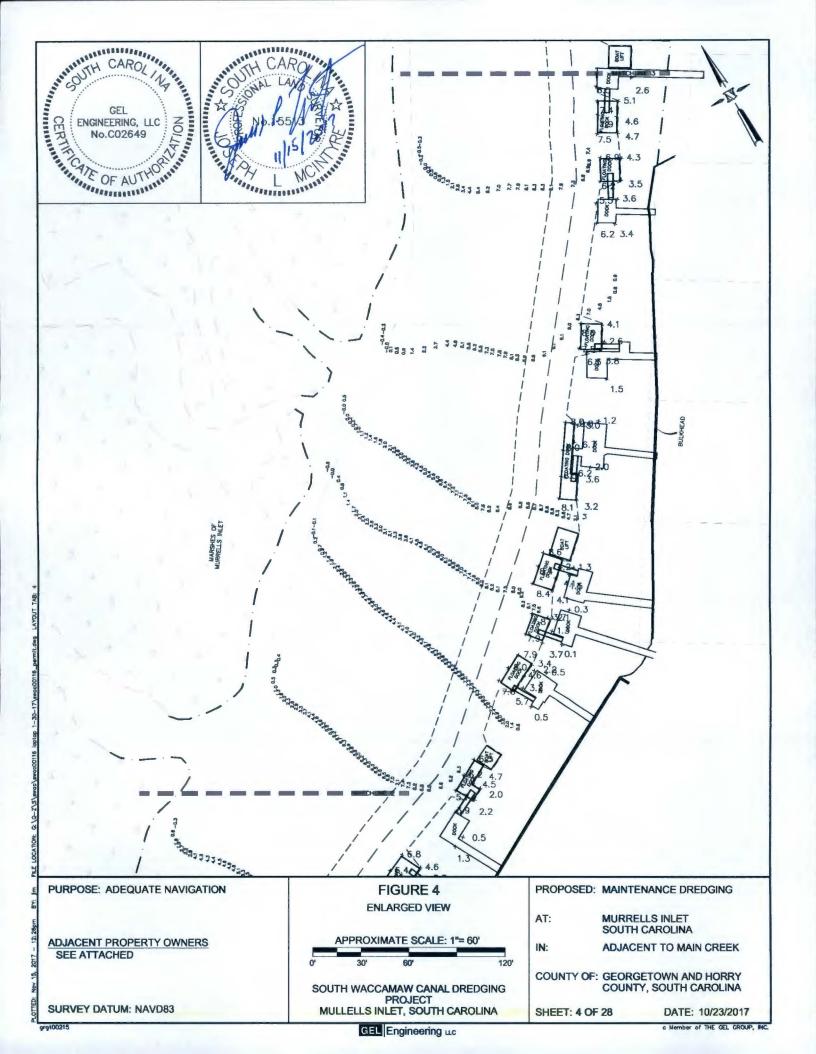
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ATTN: REGULATORY DIVISION 1949 INDUSTRIAL PARK ROAD, ROOM 140 CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA 29526

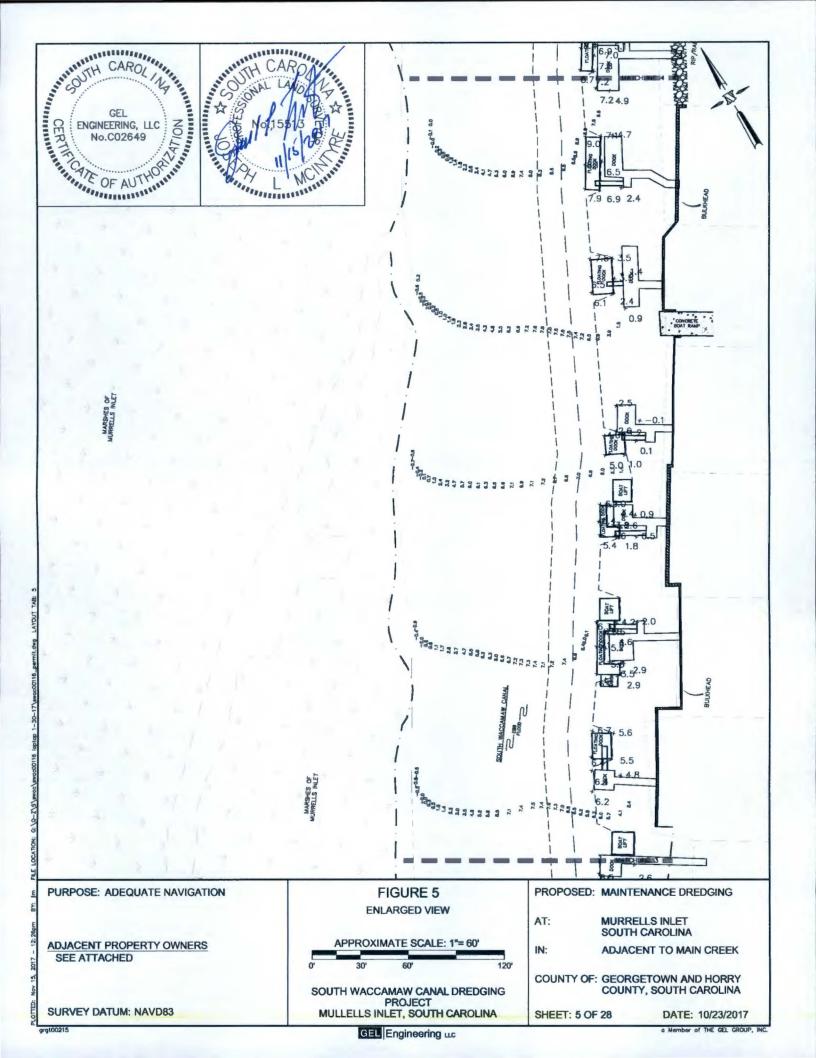
If there are any questions concerning this public notice, please contact T. Brian Hardee, Project Manager, at (843) 365-0848.

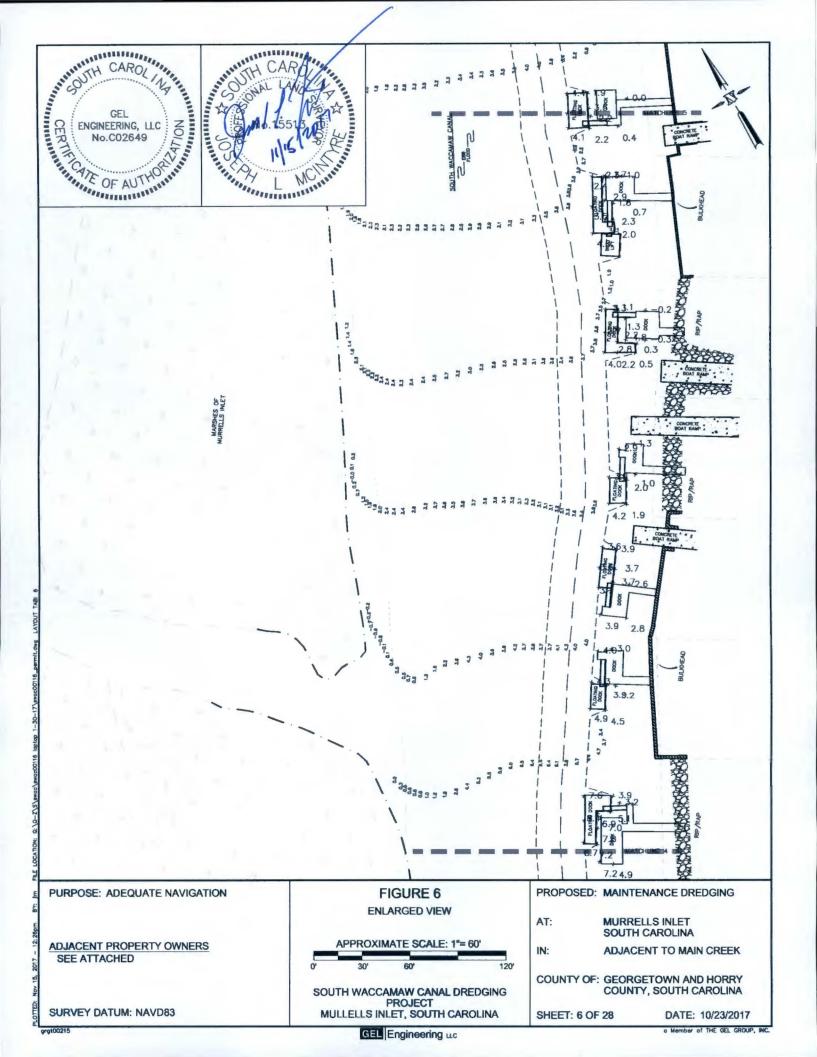


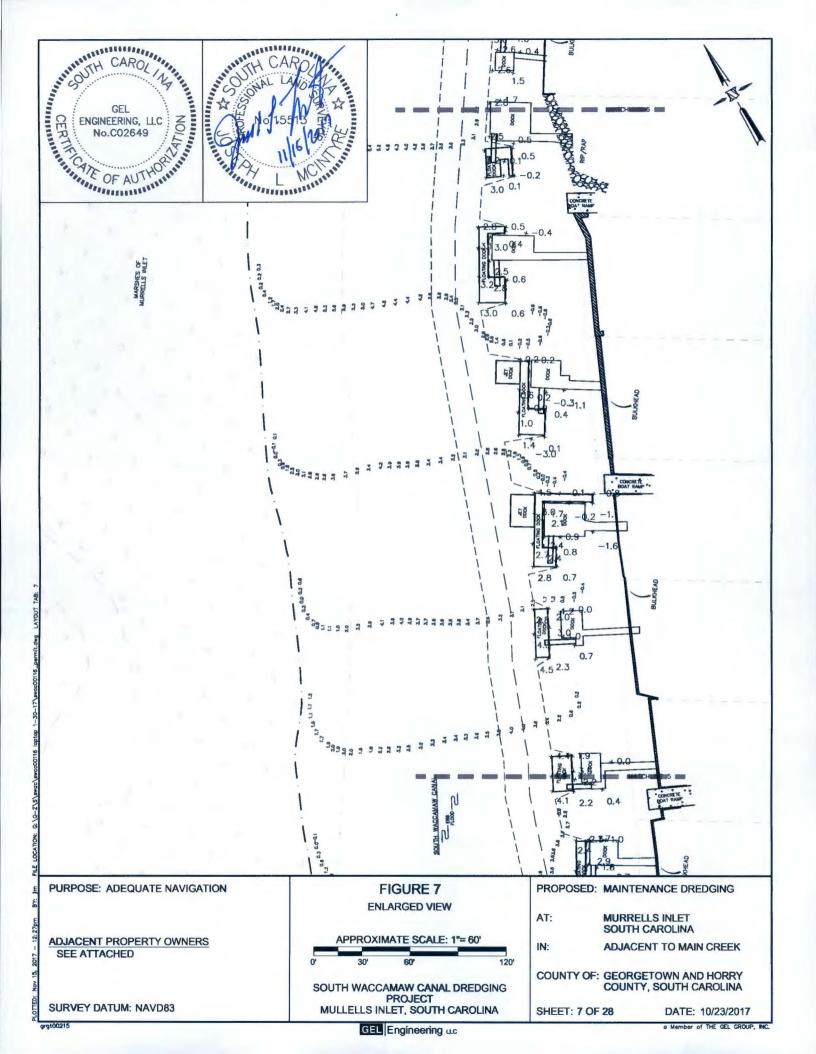


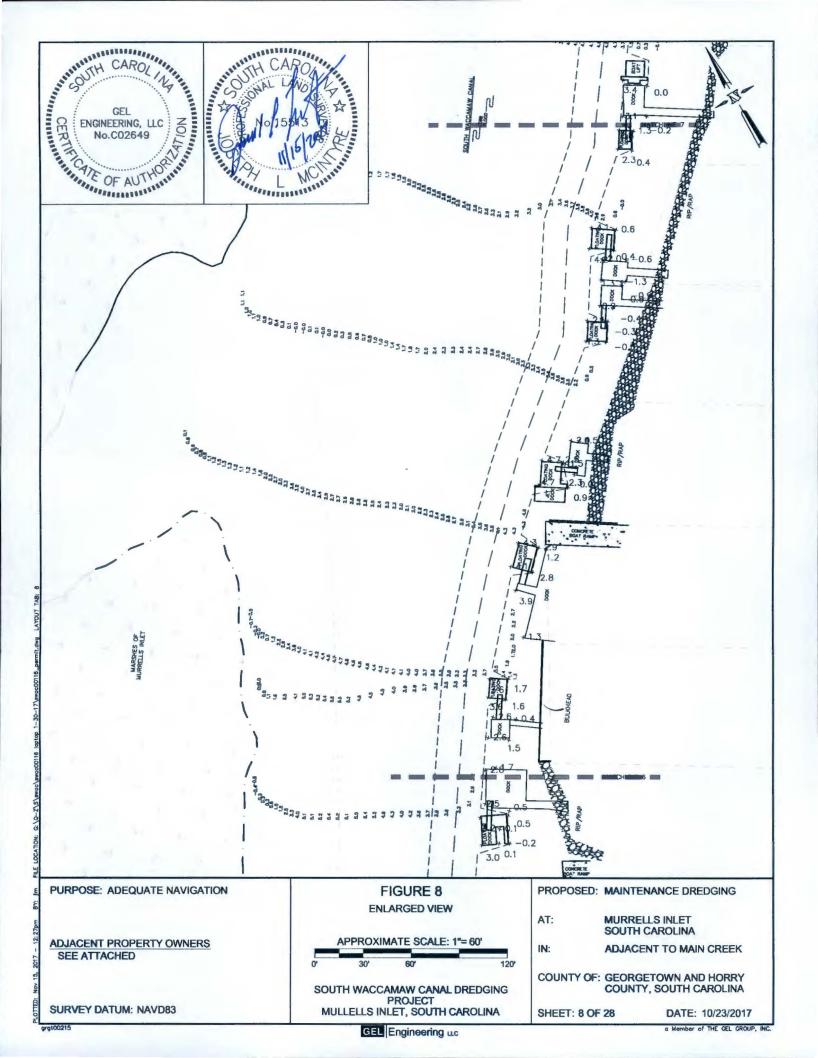


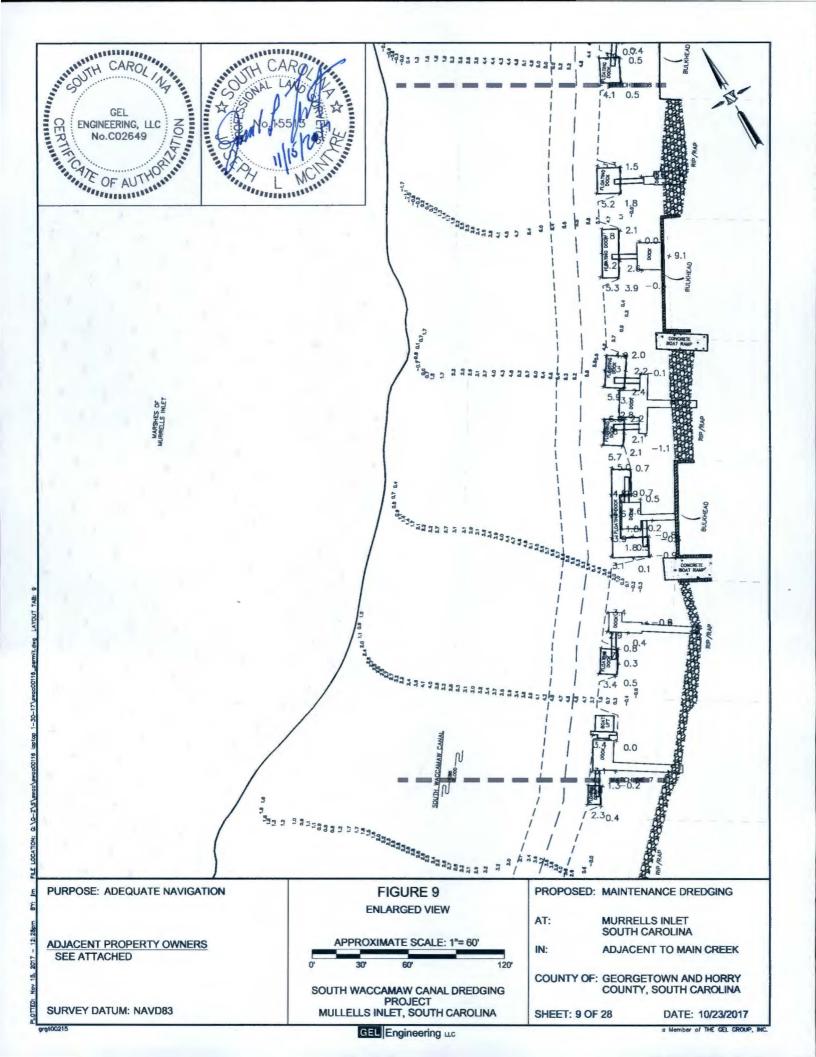


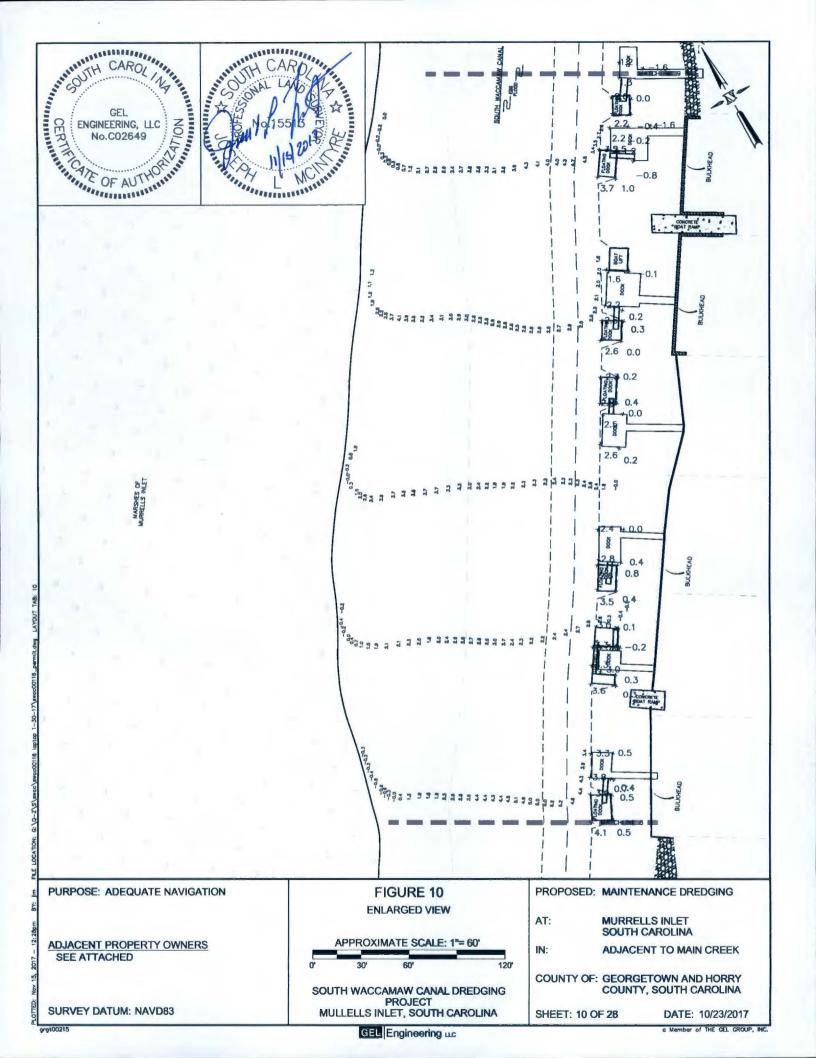


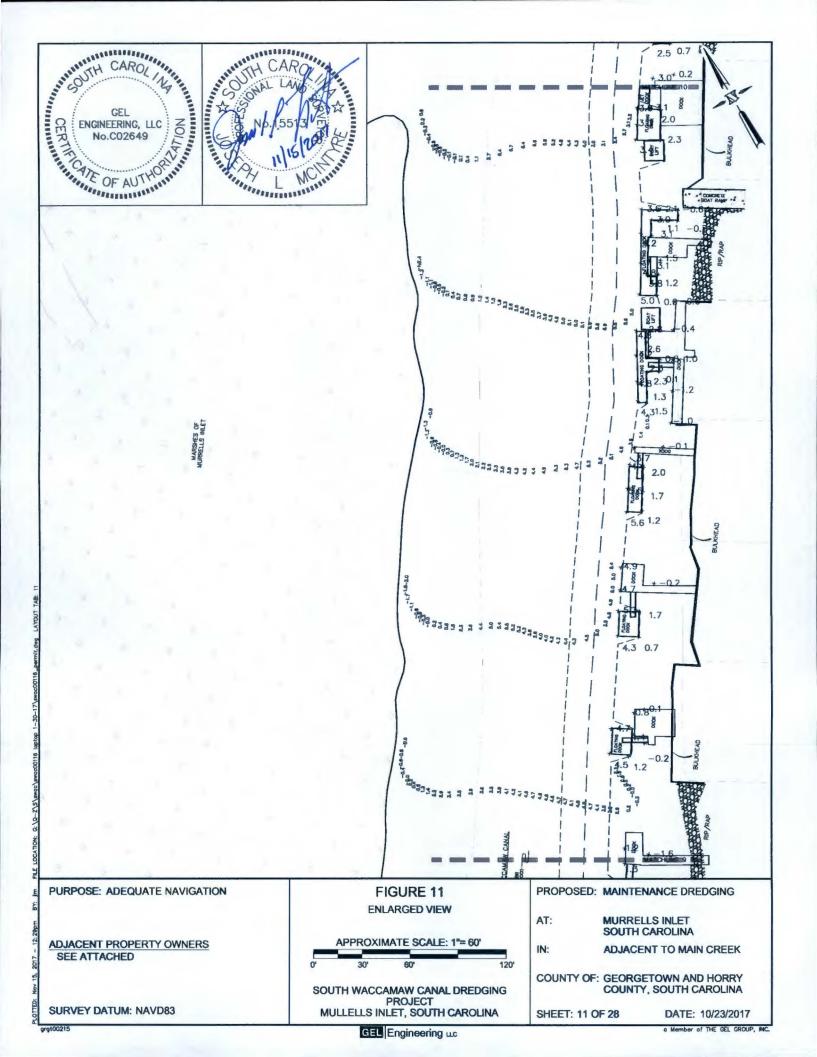


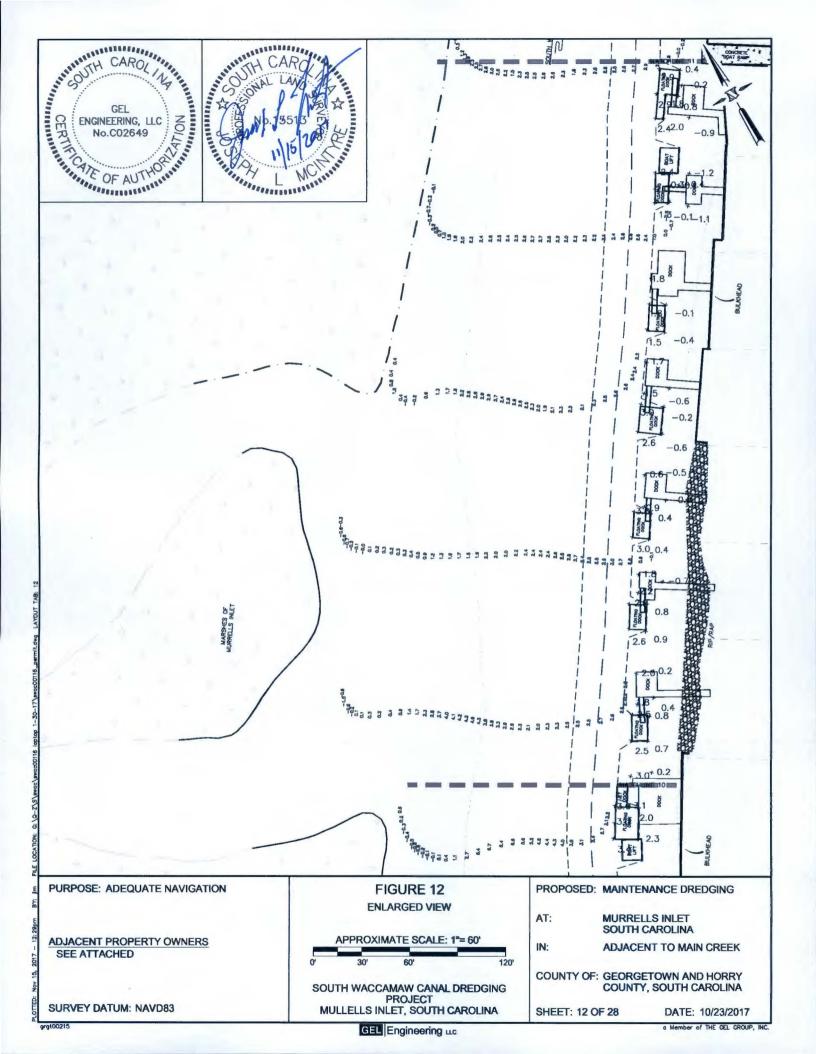


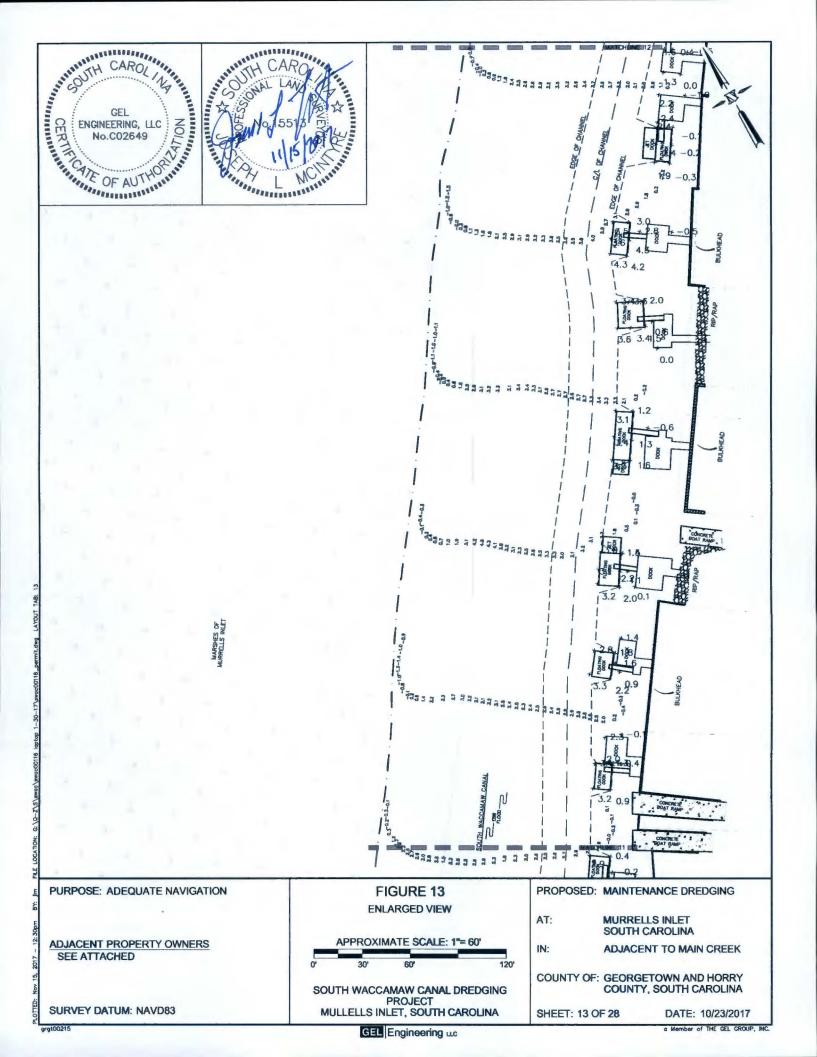


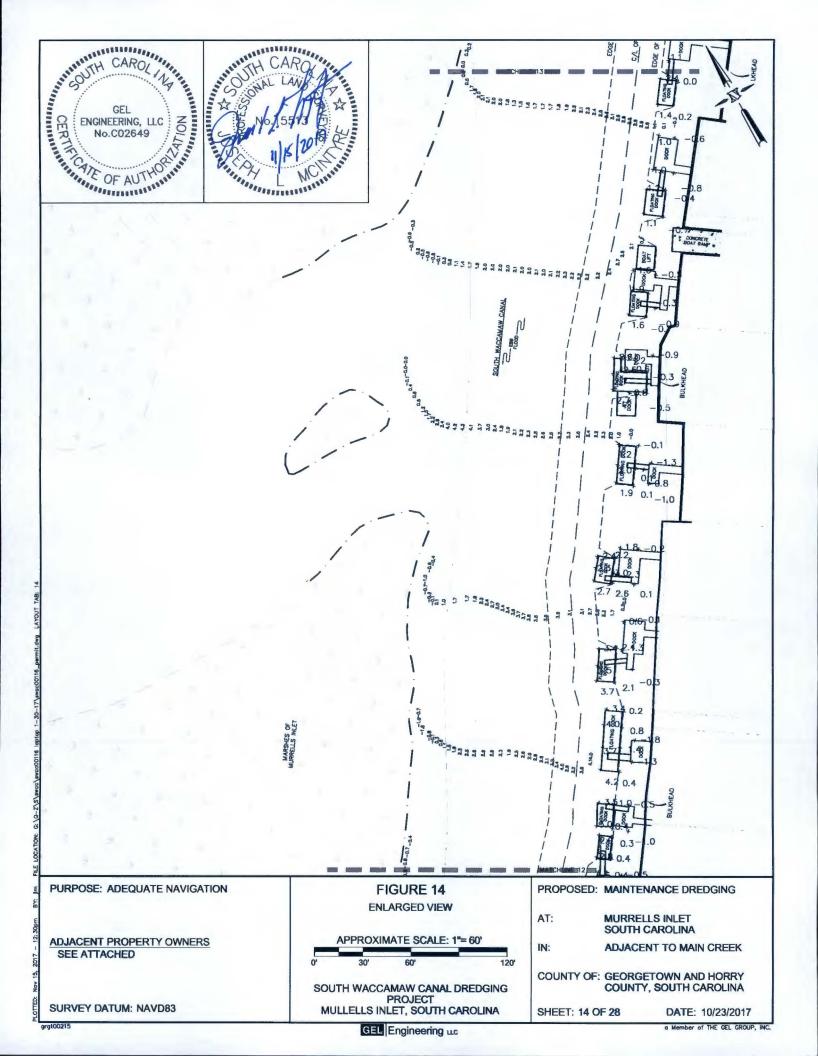


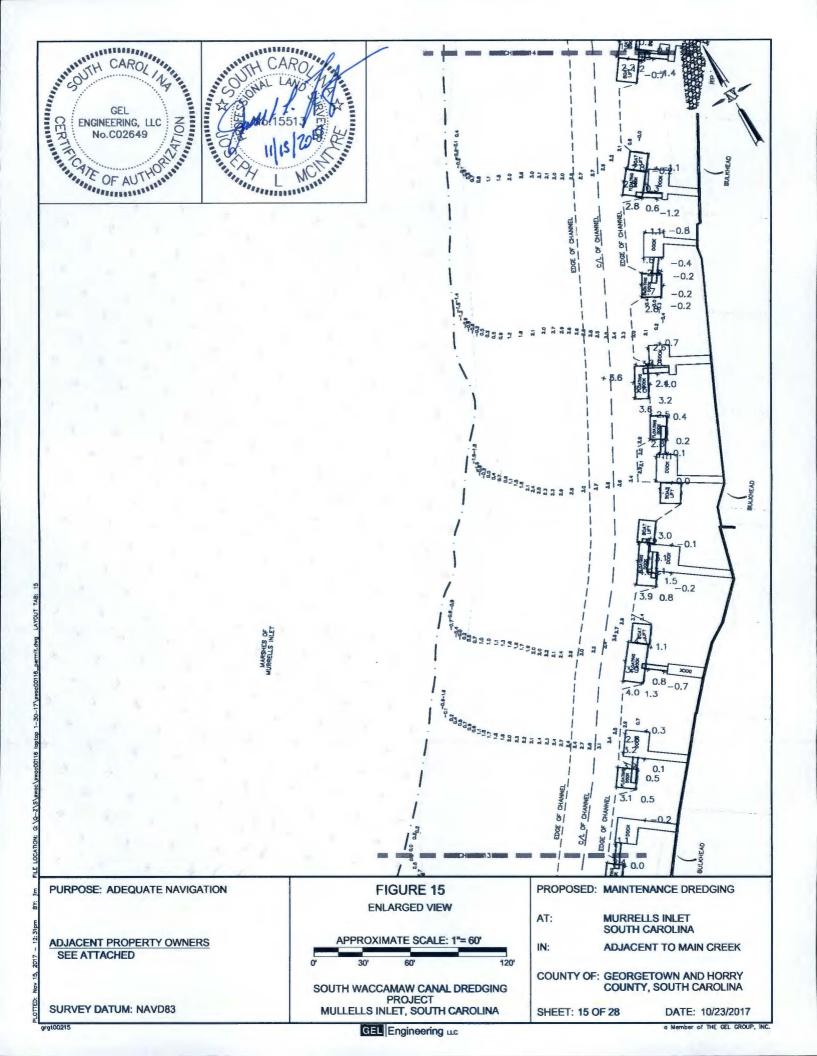


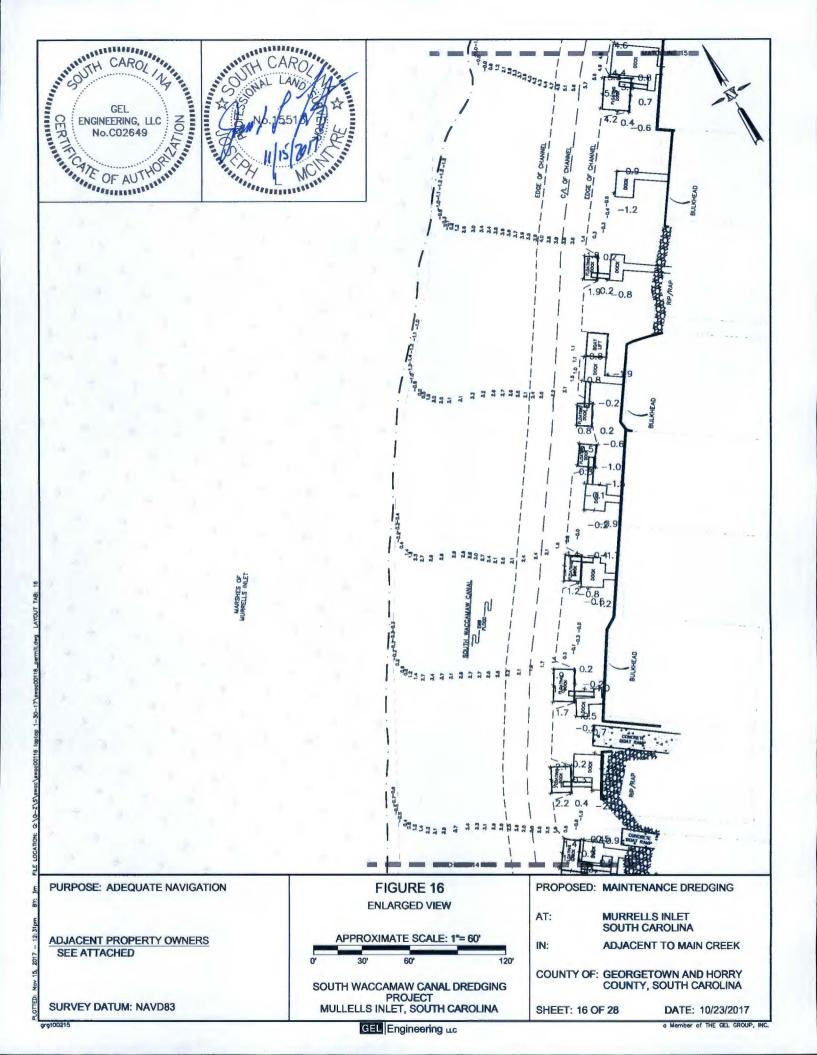


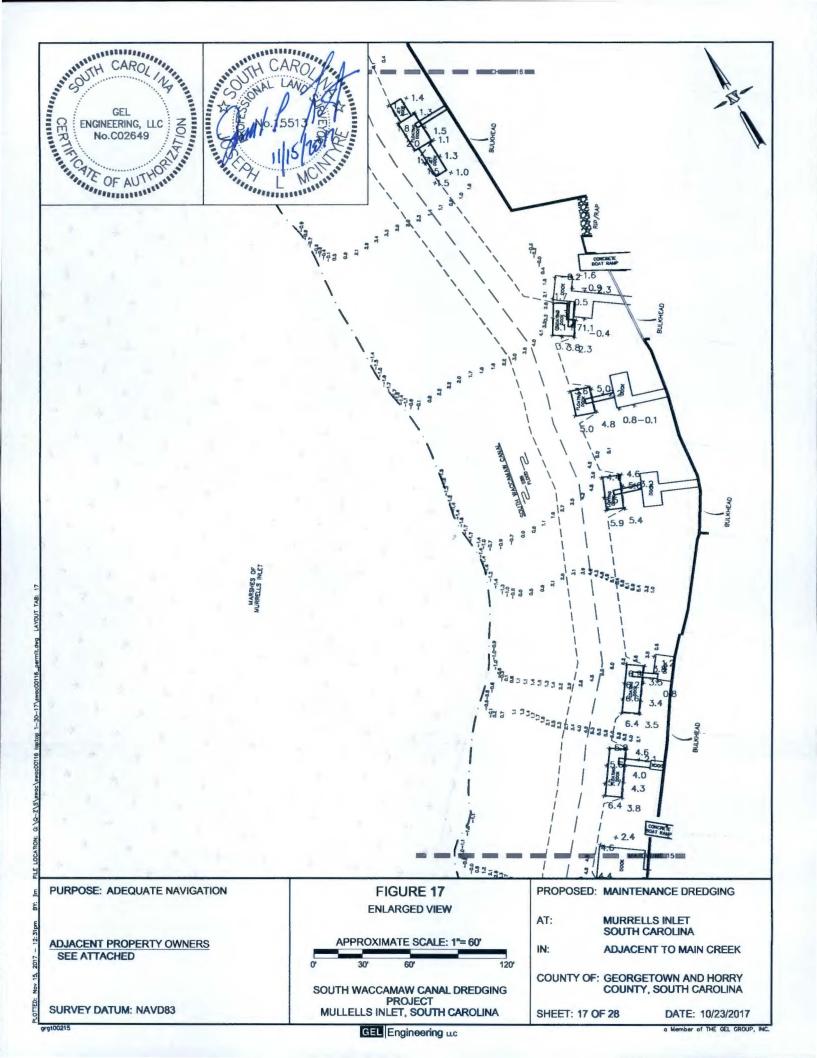


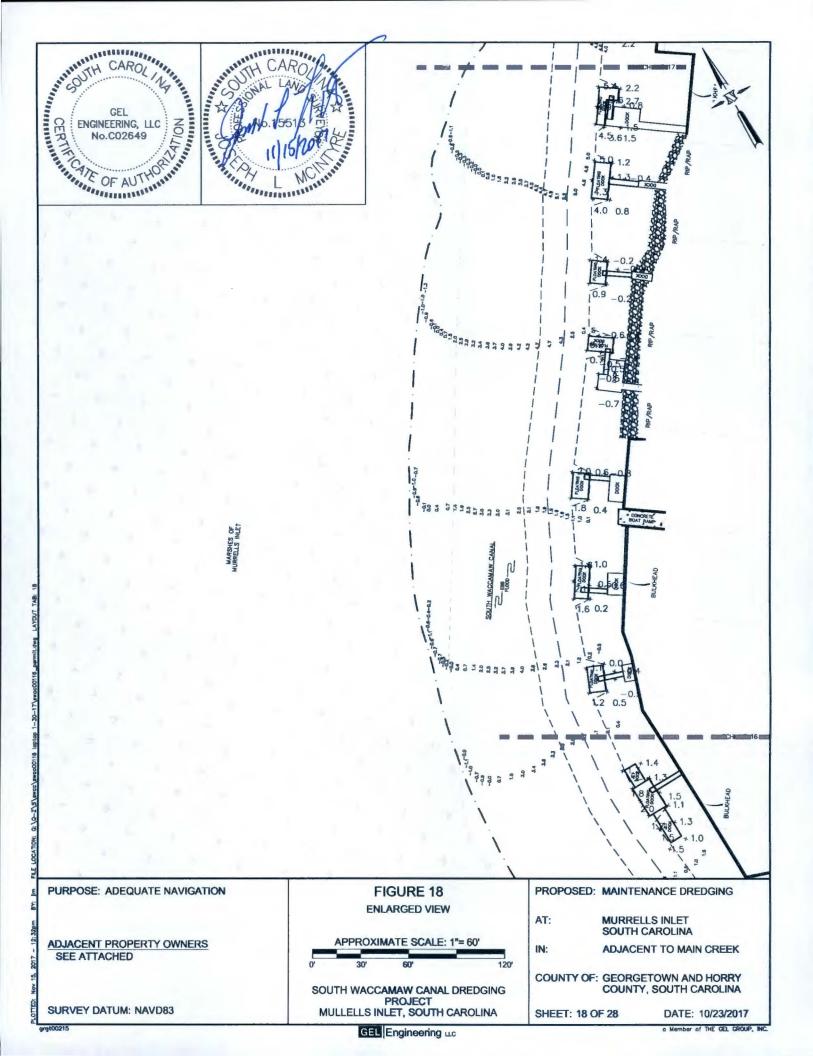


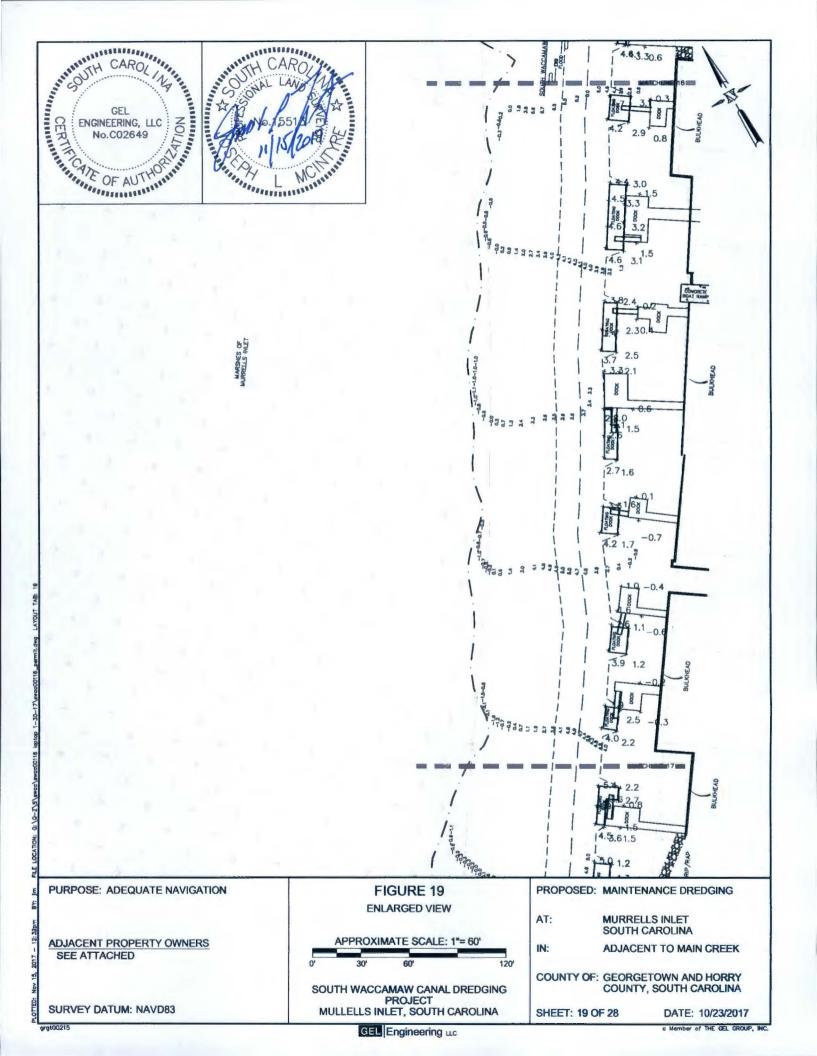


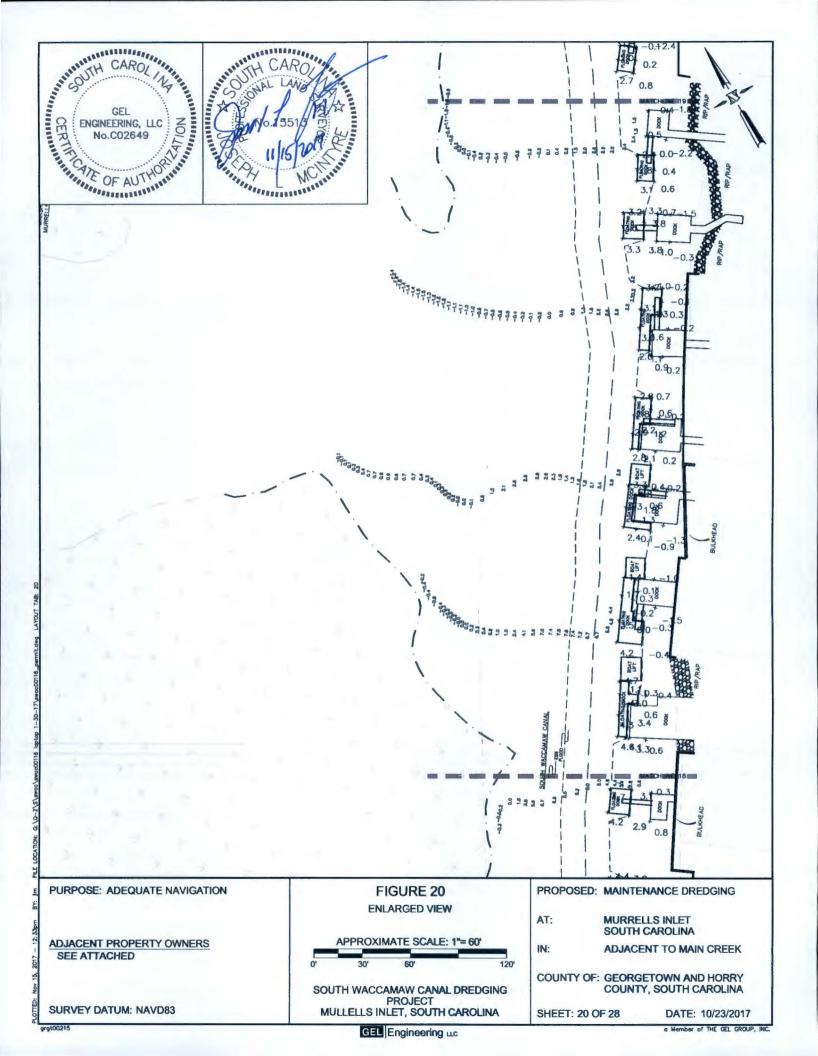


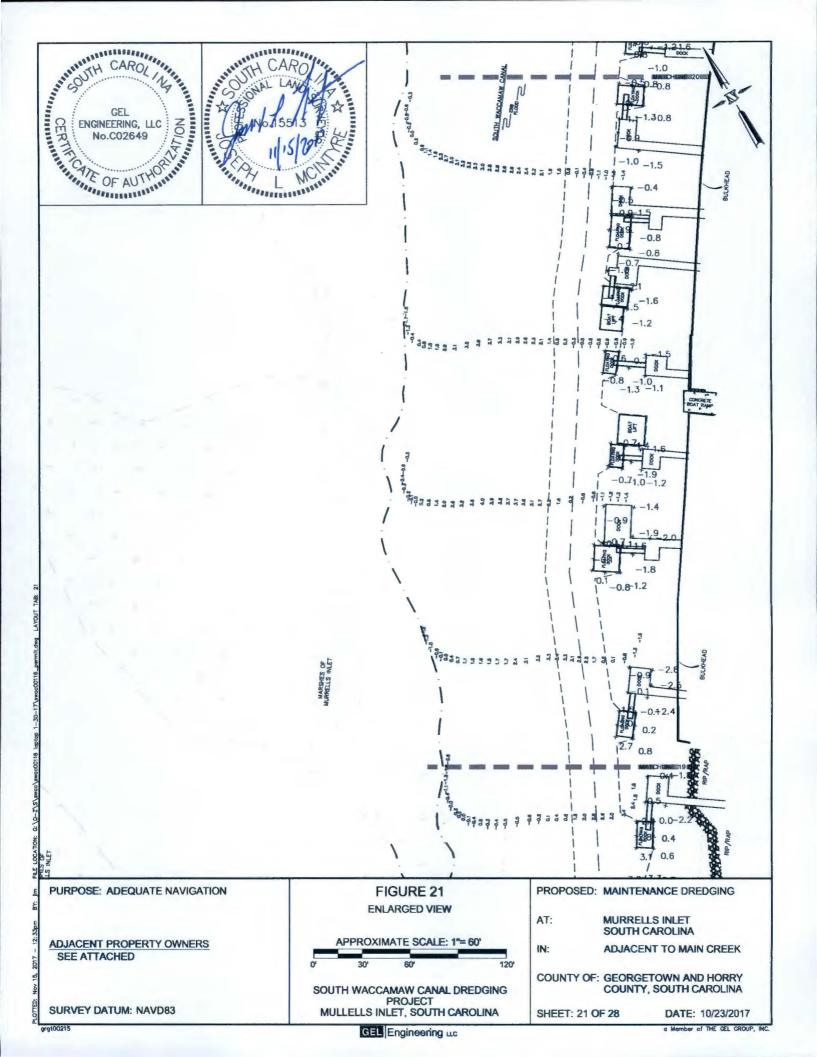


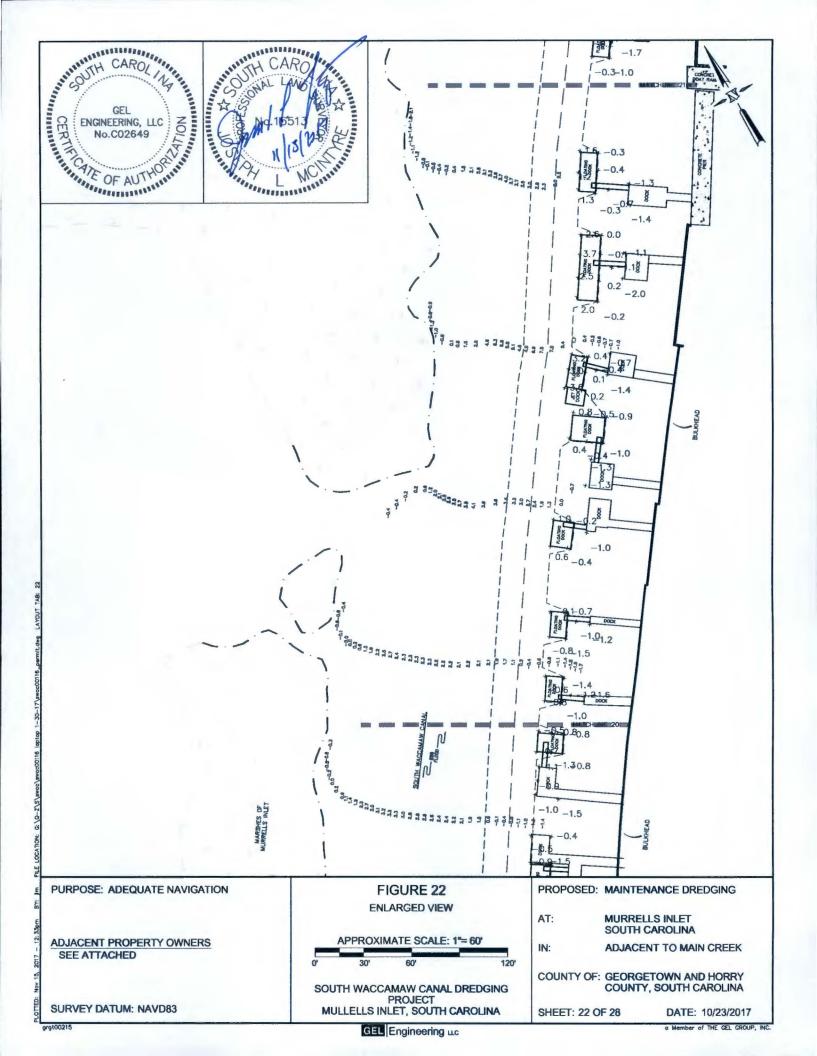


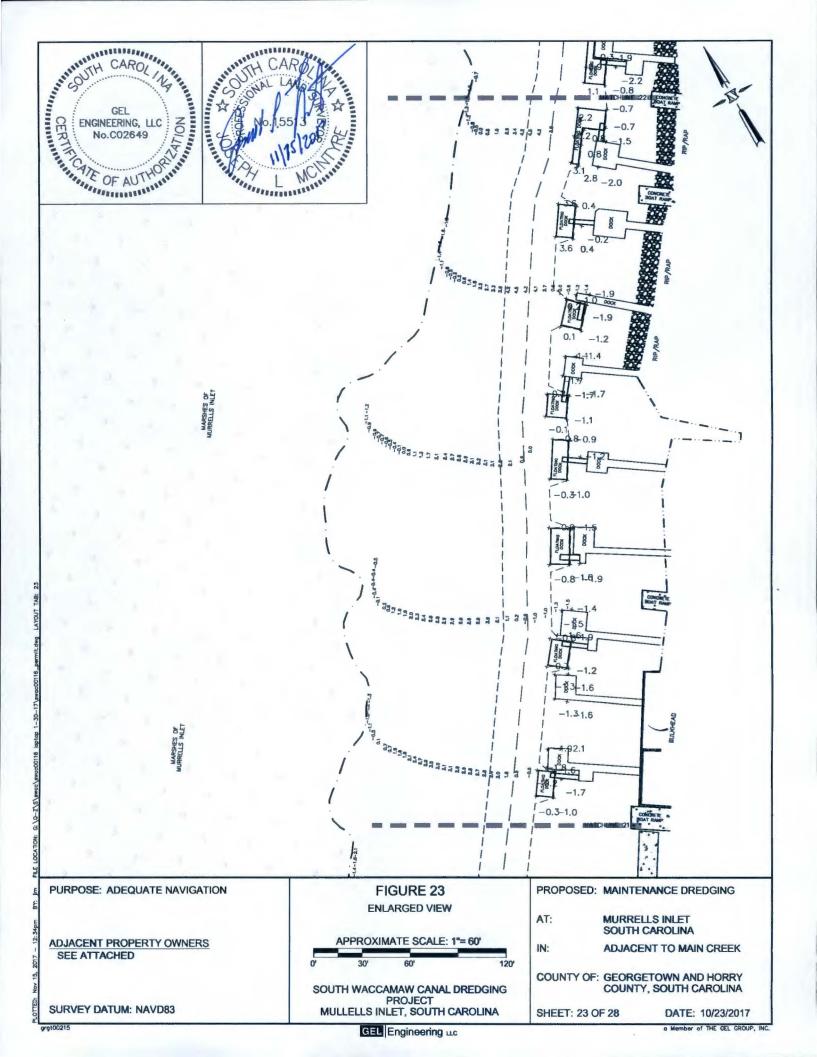


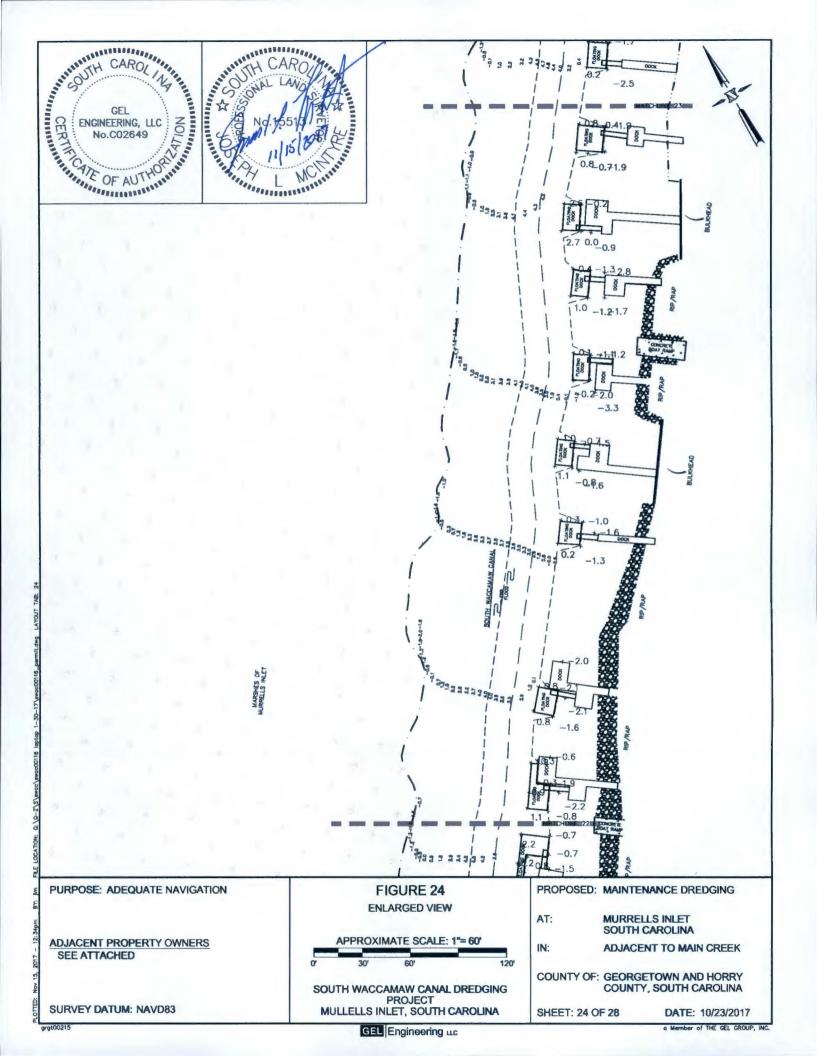


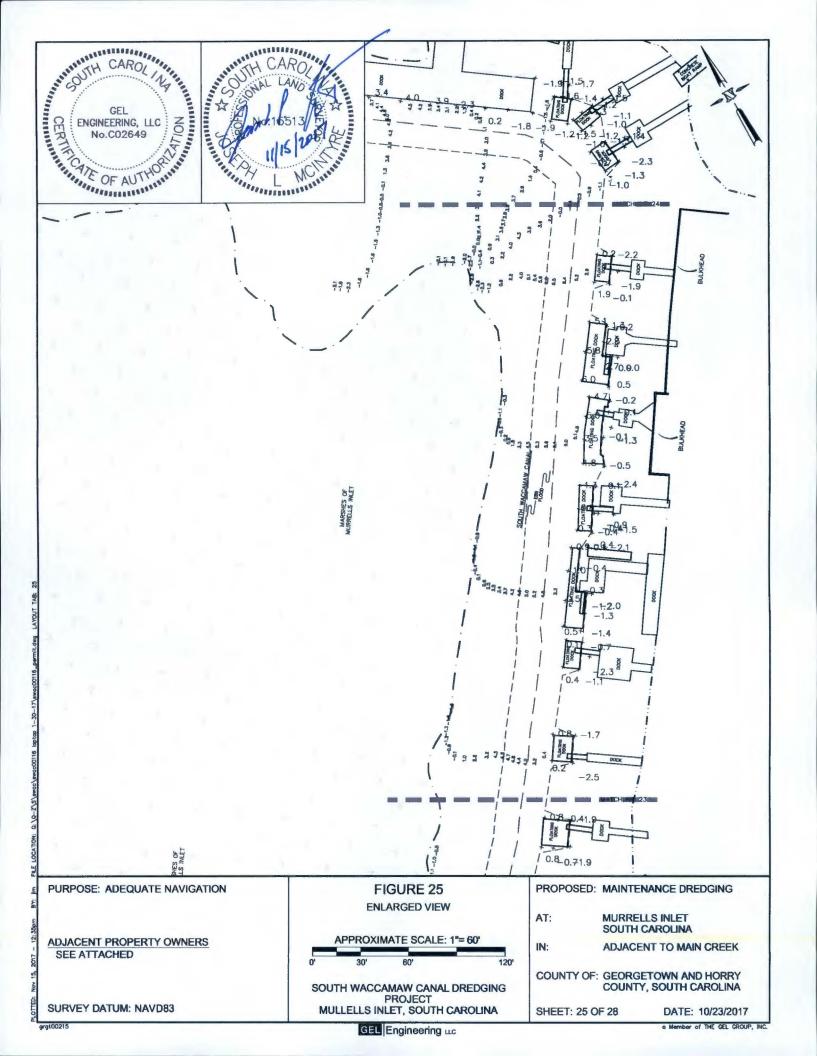


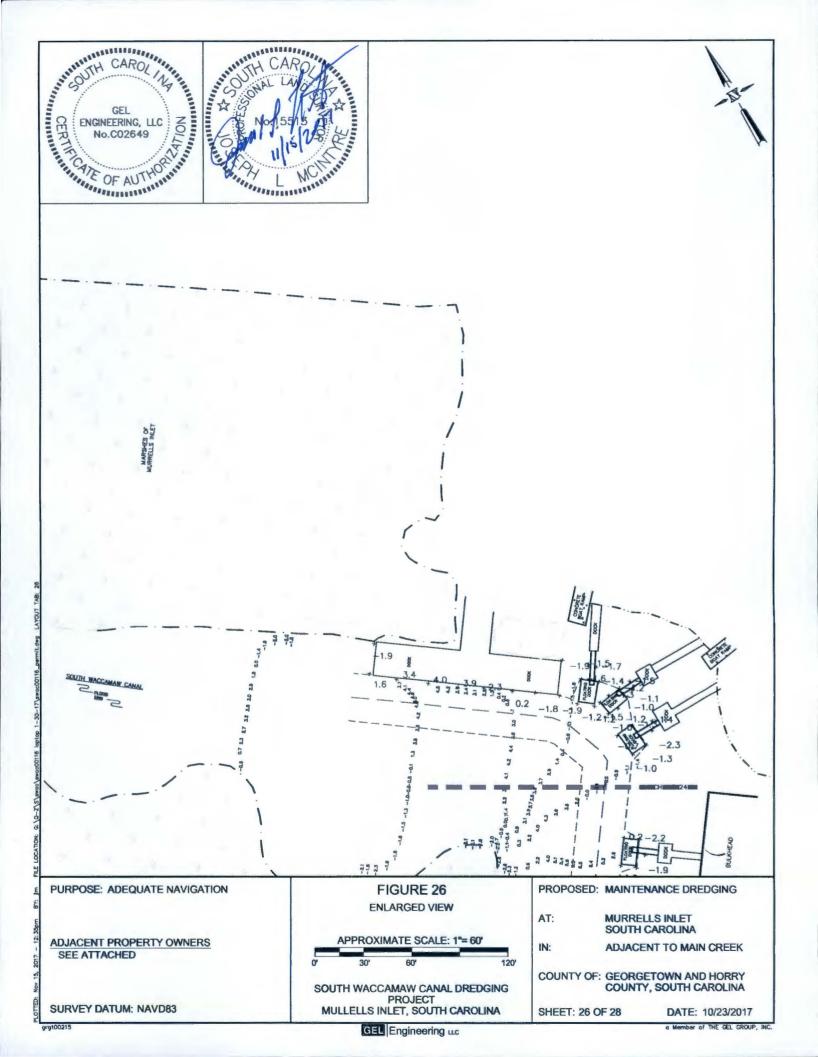






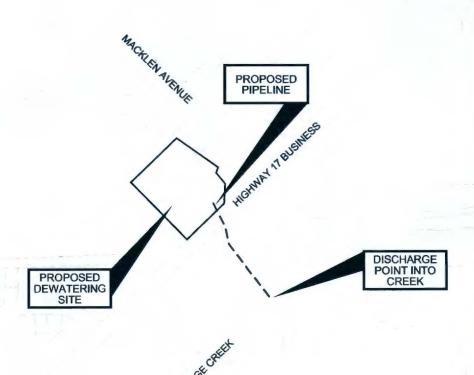












PURPOSE: ADEQUATE NAVIGATION

ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS
SEE ATTACHED

SURVEY DATUM: NAVD83

FIGURE 27

**DEWATERING SITE LOCATION MAP** 

APPROXIMATE SCALE: 1"= 500'
0' 250' 500' 1000'

SOUTH WACCAMAW CANAL DREDGING PROJECT MULLELLS INLET, SOUTH CAROLINA PROPOSED: MAINTENANCE DREDGING

T: MURRELLS INLET SOUTH CAROLINA

: ADJACENT TO MAIN CREEK

COUNTY OF: GEORGETOWN AND HORRY

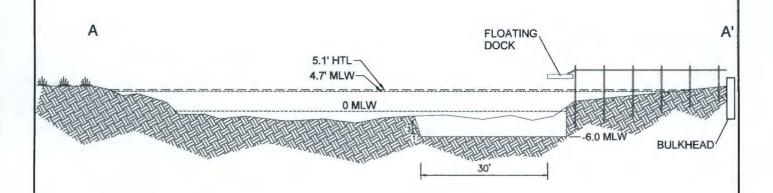
COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

SHEET: 27 OF 28

DATE: 10/23/2017

a Member of THE GEL CROUP, INC.





PURPOSE: ADEQUATE NAVIGATION ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS

FIGURE 28 TYPICAL CROSS SECTION A - A'

**NOT TO SCALE** 

SOUTH WACCAMAW CANAL DREDGING **PROJECT** MULLELLS INLET, SOUTH CAROLINA

PROPOSED: MAINTENANCE DREDGING

**MURRELLS INLET** SOUTH CAROLINA

ADJACENT TO MAIN CREEK

COUNTY OF: GEORGETOWN AND HORRY

COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA SHEET: 28 OF 28

DATE: 01/19/2018

SURVEY DATUM: NAVD83

SEE ATTACHED

GEL Engineering uc



