#### JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

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

THE S.C. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL
Water Quality Certification and Wetlands Section
2600 Bull Street
Columbia. South Carolina 29201

REGULATORY DIVISION

Refer to: P/N SAC-2015-00812 July 19, 2021

Pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) and Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1341), an application has been submitted to the Department of the Army and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control by

South Carolina Department of Transportation
Attn: Ms. Jackie Galloway
SCDOT
PO Box 191
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

for a permit to construct the US 21 & SC 51 widening project (SCDOT ID 42332) in York County, South Carolina. This project will widen a 2.4 miles segment of US 21 and approximately one mile of SC 51 to improve traffic safety, traffic efficiency to meet current design criteria and to improve stormwater drainage in

#### tributaries to Sugar and tributaries to Steele Creek

at a location on SC 51 from the SC/NC boundary to the intersection with US 21 and continues along US 21 to its intersection with SC 460 (Springfield Parkway) in York County, South Carolina (Latitude: 35.07424°, Longitude: -80.93534°). **Fort Mill, SC quadrangle**.

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.

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The proposed work consists of the widening of a 2.4 miles segment of US 21 and approximately one mile of SC 51 to improve traffic safety, traffic efficiency to meet current design criteria and to improve stormwater drainage. This project will include impact to a total of 635 linear feet of three separate tributaries and 0.1 acres of three separate wetland areas. Specifically, this project will include placement of fill and piping in 469 linear feet of tributaries, placement of 166 linear feet of rock rip rap, placement of fill (including cut/fill) in 0.054 acres of wetlands and mechanical clearing of 0.045 acre of wetlands.

The applicant has proposed to mitigate for impacts to wetlands and/or waters of the United States by purchasing 2,607.1 compensatory stream mitigation credits and 0.878 wetland mitigation credits from Turners Branch Mitigation bank and from one of the other Corps approved mitigation banks that serves this project location.

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. 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 within tributaries to Toms Branch and tributaries to Congaree River, well inland from the Atlantic Ocean, would not impact 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 is not likely to adversely affect any Federally endangered, threatened, or proposed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated or proposed critical habitat. Specifically, the presence of Schweinitz's Sunflower (*Helianthus schweinitzii*) in York County and the projects location within the range of the Northern Long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*). 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

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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 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 and, as appropriate, the criteria established under authority of Section 102 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972, as amended. 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 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:

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ATTN: REGULATORY DIVISION 1865 Assembly St., Room 865B Columbia SC 29201

If there are any questions concerning this public notice, please contact Stephen A. Brumagin, Project Manager, at (803) 253-3445 or by email at <a href="mailto:Stephen.A.Brumagin@usace.army.mil">Stephen.A.Brumagin@usace.army.mil</a>.























