#### 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 OCEAN AND COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT 1362 McMillan Avenue, Suite 400 Charleston, South Carolina 29405

REGULATORY DIVISION Refer to: P/N # SAC 2012-00232

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 <u>et.seq.</u>) an application has been submitted to the Department of the Army and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control by

#### SC Department of Transportation Post Office Box 191 Columbia, South Carolina 29202

for a permit to place fill material in wetlands and waters of the US of

#### EUHAW CREEK

at a location on SC Route 462 over Euhaw Creek in Jasper County, South Carolina (Latitude 32.453150, Longitude -80.899665)

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 Charleston District's US Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Division 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.

The proposed work consists of replacing the bridge on SC Route 462 over Euhaw Creek with a modern, cast-in-place, flat, concrete slab bridge 90 feet in length and having 45 feet clear roadway width. The new bridge will be replaced on similar alignment and will be supported on cast-in-place concrete bent caps and pre-stressed concrete piles, constructed on the existing straight horizontal alignment.

The applicant has stated that various alternatives were considered to achieve the minimal level of environmental impact while maintaining the SCDOT design requirements. Replacement of the bridge on its current alignment using a detour route during construction is the chosen

October 24, 2013

alternative. The roadway approaches will be improved to 12-foot travel ways with 10-foot shoulders (2-foot paved, 8-foot earth) for the Euhaw Creek approaches. Fill slopes of 2:1 will be constructed to minimize wetland impacts. The proposed automobile detour route for the project is Glover Road (S-389) and Cherry Hill(S-331) and is approximately 2 miles. The proposed truck detour is Highway 170, Highway 278, and Interstate 95 and is approximately 21.1 miles. The detour will eliminate the need for construction a temporary offset alignment or staged construction and will substantially reduce the temporary wetland impacts associated with construction. The new bridge will be 30 feet longer than the existing bridge and will be constructed using top-down construction methods to limit temporary wetland impacts. Other alternatives considered to replace the structurally deficient bridge and restore safe transportation were determined to either require greater environmental impacts than the proposed alternative or exceeded the total project cost.

The approach roadways will be widened to comply with the current bridge and roadway requirements and taper back to the current width approximately 563 feet south of the bridge and 481 feet north of the bridge. It is anticipated that additional ROW (approximately 0.7 acre) will be required; however displacements would not be required. The new bridge will be longer than the current one, and the creek channel will basically retain its current location and profile except that the channel will be slightly widened at some areas. The new bridge elevation will be approximately 2.5 feet higher than the current one.

The proposed project will result in 0.623 acre of impacts to critical areas/ navigable waters of the U.S., which consists of 0.405 acre of fill in waters of the US and 0.218 acre of clearing.

The applicant has stated that according to the Charleston District's Guidelines for preparing a Compensatory Mitigation Plan, 7.33 mitigation credits were determined to be required for the 0.63 acres of impact. SCDOT will withdrawal the required credits from Huspa Creek Mitigation Bank.

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 the Coastal Zone Management Program (15 CFR 930). 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 approximately 0.63 acres of estuarine substrates and emergent wetlands utilized by various life stages of species comprising the red drum, 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 Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended), the applicant has provided a protected species survey for the property associated with the activity described above. Based upon this report, 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. 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 the NHPA, the District Engineer has also 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 this worksite is not included as a registered property or property listed as being eligible for inclusion in the Register. To insure that other cultural resources 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 to provide any information it may have with regard to historic and cultural resources.

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 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 **Elizabeth Williams** at 843-329-8044 or toll free at 1-866-329-8187.























APPLICANT: SCDOT ACTIVITY: SC-462 BRIDGE REPLACEMENT AND ROADWAY APPROACH IMPROVEMENTS ROUTE: SC-462 TERRACON PROJECT NO. EN107006 USACE SD SAC 20120-00235-DJJ LOCATION: SC-462 OVER EUHAW CREEK SCDOT FILE: 27.04076 SCDOT PIN: BR27(015) COUNTY: JASPER STATE: SOUTH CAROLINA DATE: 10-15-2013

NOTE: OCRM CRITICAL AREA BOUNDARIES LOCATED IN THE FIELD BY TERRACON AND SURVEYED BY CHAO AND ASSOCIATES. THE OCRM LINE SETTING REQUEST WAS APPROVED BY SCDHEC -OCRM ON MAY 8, 2012. CRITICAL AREA BOUNDARY PLAT INCLUDED IN APPENDIX III OF PERMIT APPLICATION.

# <u>SUMMARY</u>

### EXISTING CONDITIONS

SITE AREA:	3.5	ACRES	(152,442	SF)
UPLANDS:	2.05	ACRES	(89,514	SF)

WETLANDS: 1.44 ACRES (62,928 SF)

## JURISDICTIONAL WETLAND IMPACTS

TIDAL CREEKS:	0.013 ACRES	FILL & PILES
TIDAL CREEKS:	0.005 ACRES	ACRES SHADING
WETLANDS:	0.001 ACRES	ACRES SHADING
WETLANDS:	0.393 ACRES	FILL
WETLANDS:	0.218 ACRES	CLEARING



TERRACON CONSULTING ENGINEERS AND SCIENTIST 1450 FIFTH STREET WEST, CHARLESTON SC 29406 PHONE: 843-884-1234 FAX: 843-884-9234

REPLACE SC ROUTE-462 OVER EUHAW CREEK JASPER, SOUTH CAROLINA

WATER OF THE U.S. IMPACTS SHEET 12 OF 12

