#### JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

### CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS 69A Hagood Avenue Charleston, SC 29412 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-2018-01822 May 4, 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

# MR. CHRIS BECKHAM SCDOT P.O. BOX 191 COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29202

for a permit for an Interstate 26 (I-26) widening and interchange improvements project in

freshwater wetlands and waters that drain to Timothy Creek, Thompson Creek, Four Hole Swamp, Cypress Swamp and two unnamed tributaries with ultimate drainage to the Edisto River and Ashley River

along a 7.47-mile corridor of I-26 between mile marker (MM) 187 and MM 193, in Berkeley County, South Carolina (Start Latitude: 33.146569°N, Longitude: 80.329805°W / End Latitude: 33.088918°N, Longitude: 80.220848°W), Quad Sheet - Pringletown, Ridgeville, and Summerville.

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.

The South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) proposes to widen and improve interchanges along I-26 from MM 187 to MM 193 in Berkeley County. The proposed project will permanently impact 1,250 linear feet (0.403 acre) of tributaries and 8.089 acres of freshwater wetlands through clearing and filling activities. SCDOT has proposed to mitigate for impacts to wetlands and/or waters of the United States by purchasing a total of 6,577.3 stream mitigation credits and 89.42 wetland mitigation credits from a USACE-approved mitigation bank. Since the project extends across two watersheds (i.e., the Four Hole Swamp Sub-Basin and the Cooper River Sub-Basin), SCDOT proposes to purchase appropriate mitigation credits in both watersheds. The project purpose is to improve traffic operations to accommodate projected increases in traffic volume and correct geometric and structural deficiencies associated with the existing roadway and bridges along I-26 between MM 187 and MM 193.

### 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 activities 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 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, based on the most recently available information that the Northern long-eared bat, a Federally threatened species, is present in the vicinity of the project. However, it has been determined that the project will have <u>no effect</u> on this species and will not result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated or proposed critical habitat. Furthermore, the District Engineer has determined that the project will have <u>no effect</u> on any additional 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 Programmatic Agreement among the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Charleston District (Corps), the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SC DOT), the South Carolina State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) regarding Section 106 implementation for Federal-Aid Transportation Projects in the State of South Carolina, FHWA is the Lead Federal Agency for this undertaking. FHWA has 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 any other interested parties to provide any information they may have with regard to historic properties.

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.

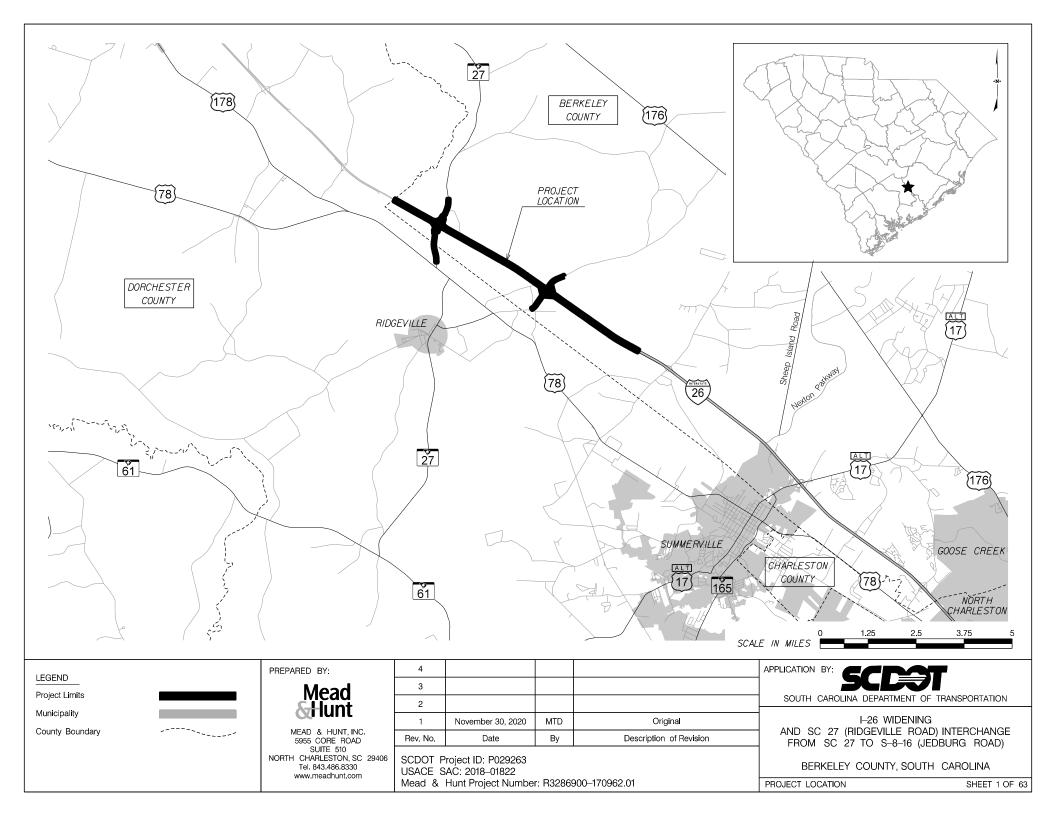
The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the activity on the public interest and will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), under authority of Section 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 cannot undertake to adjudicate rival claims.

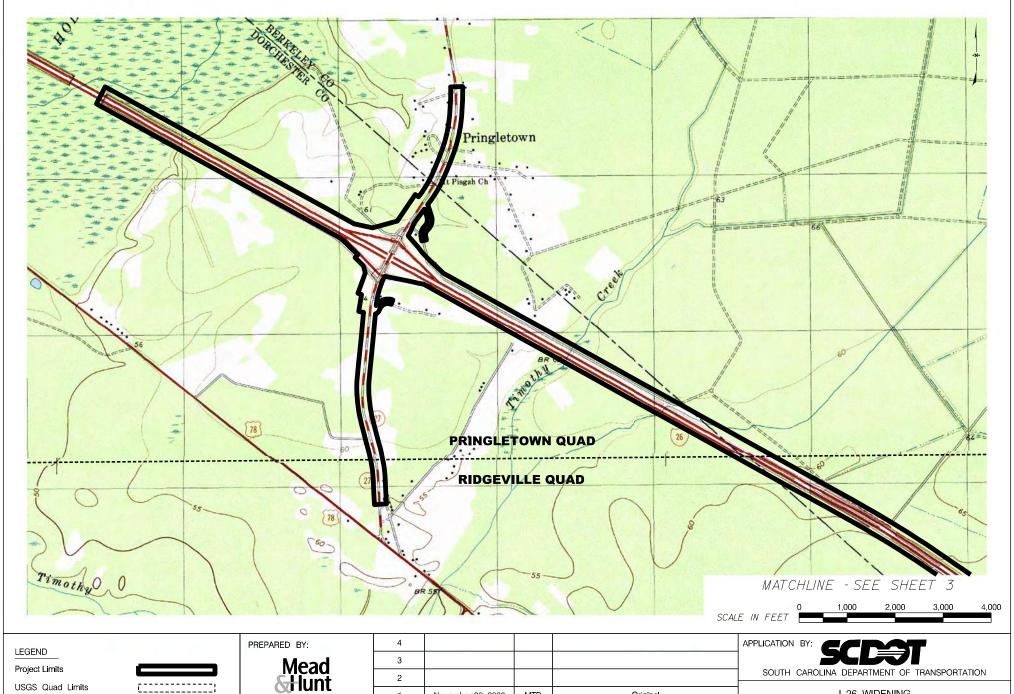
The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, 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 69A Hagood Avenue Charleston, SC 29412

If there are any questions concerning this public notice, please contact Ivan W. Fannin, Project Manager, at (843) 329-8134, toll free at 1-866-329-8187 or by email at ivan.fannin@usace.army.mil.





USGS Quad Limits



MEAD & HUNT, INC. 5955 CORE ROAD SUITE 510 NORTH CHARLESTON, SC 29406

Tel. 843.486.8330 www.meadhunt.com

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1	November 30, 2020	MTD	Original
Rev. No.	Date	Ву	Description of Revision

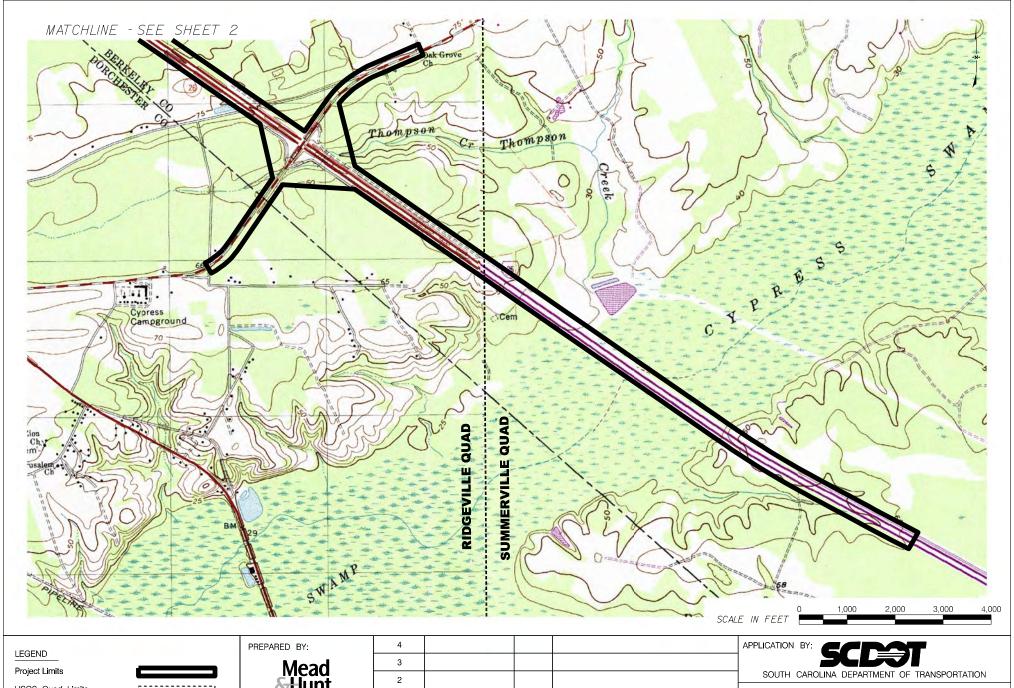
SCDOT Project ID: P029263 USACE SAC: 2018–01822

Mead & Hunt Project Number: R3286900-170962.01

I-26 WIDENING AND SC 27 (RIDGEVILLE ROAD) INTERCHANGE FROM SC 27 TO S-8-16 (JEDBURG ROAD)

BERKELEY COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

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USGS Quad Limits



### Mead Hunt

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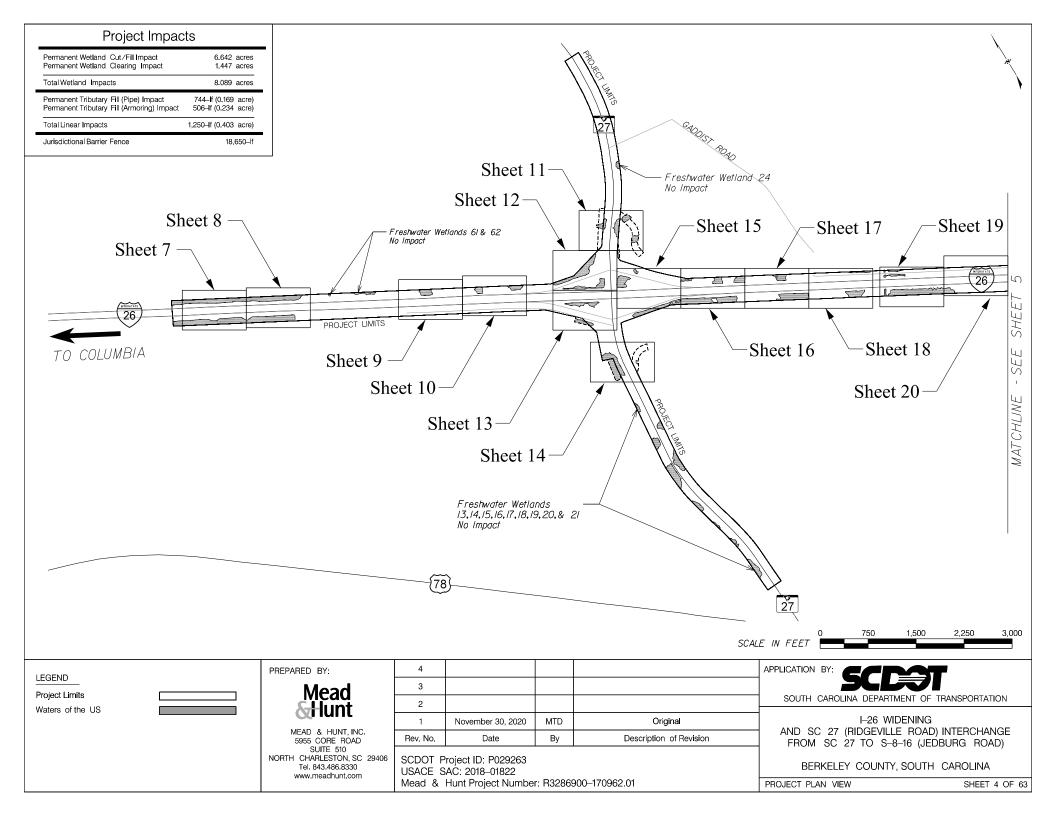
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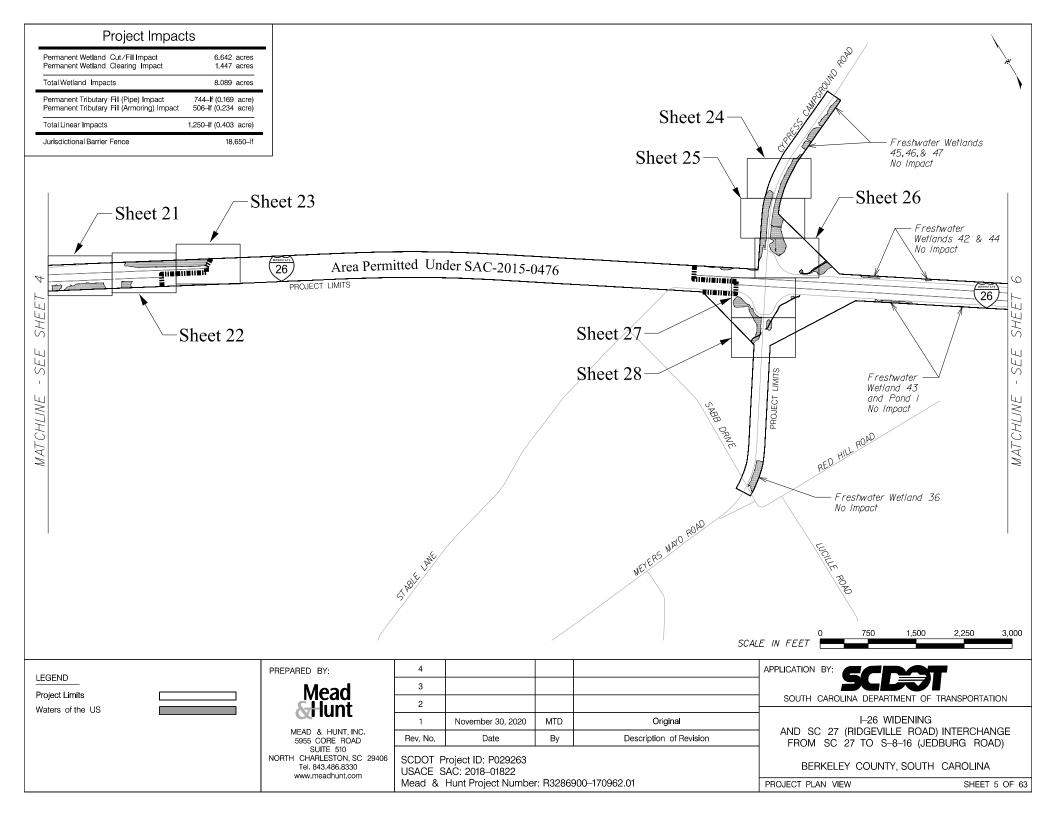
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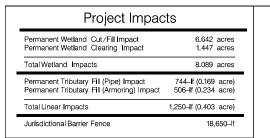
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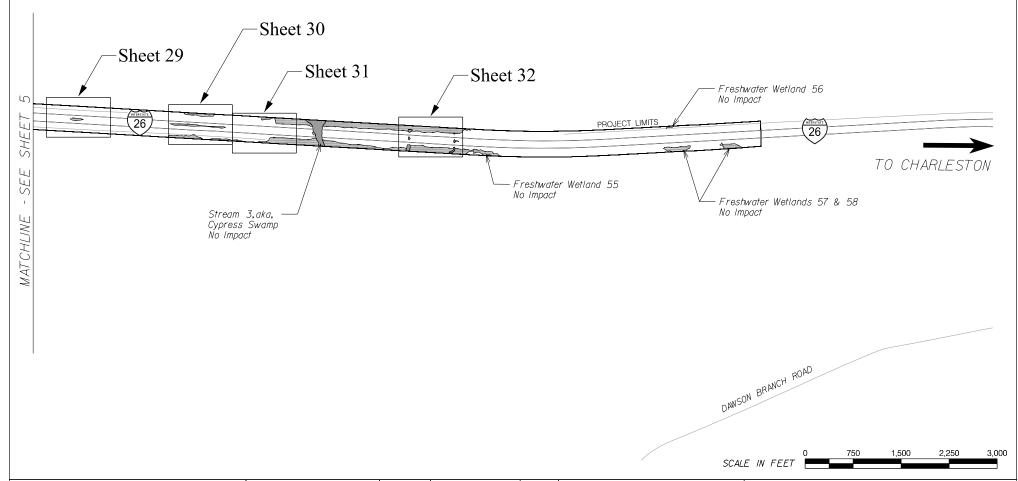
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USGS TOPOGRAPHY SHEET 3 OF 63









Project Limits
Waters of the US

Mead Hunt

PREPARED BY:

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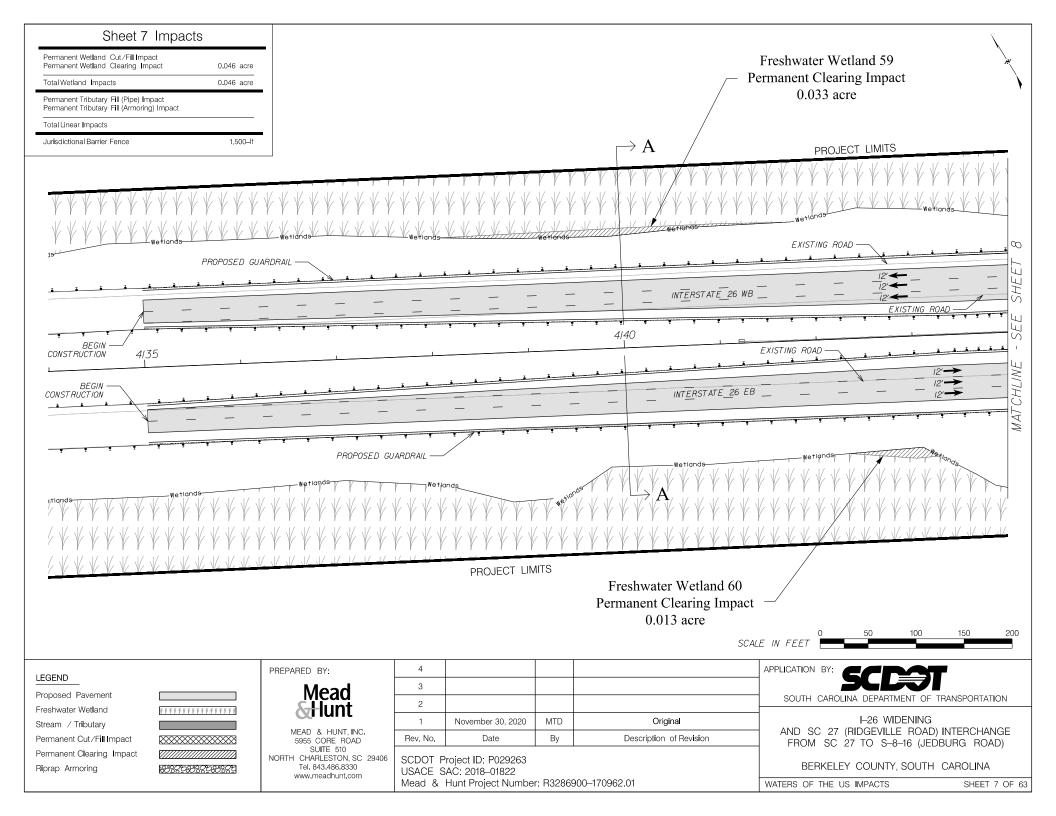
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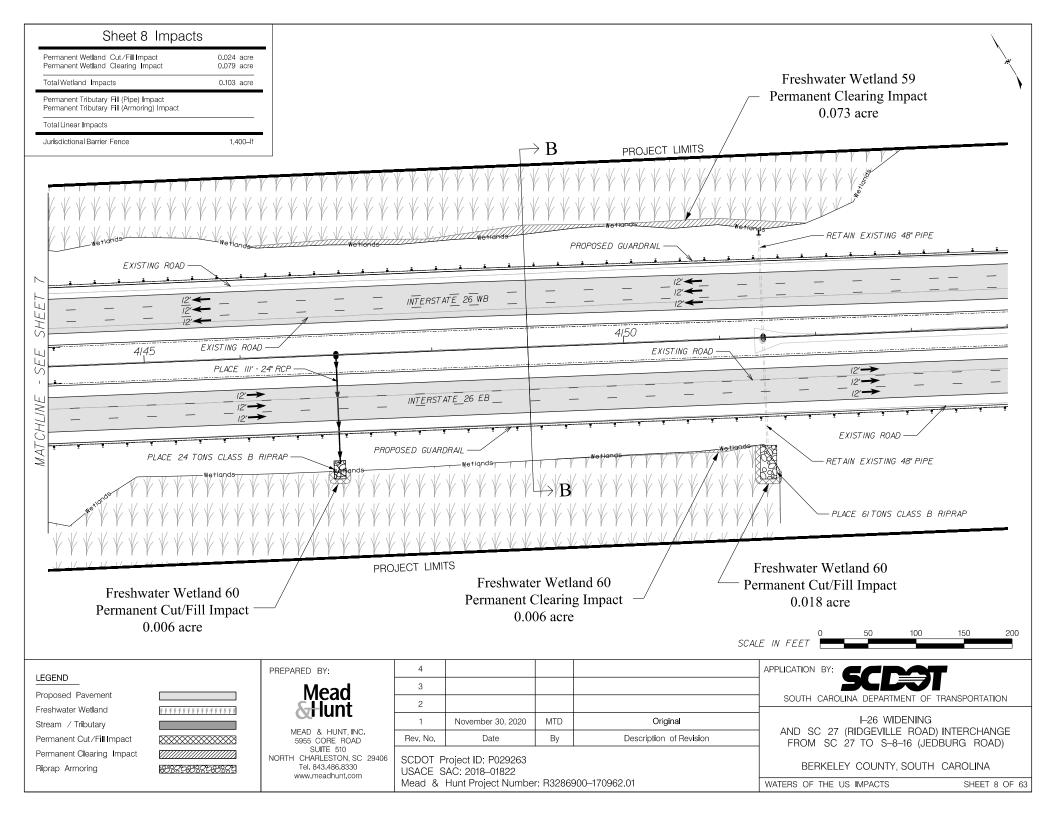
SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

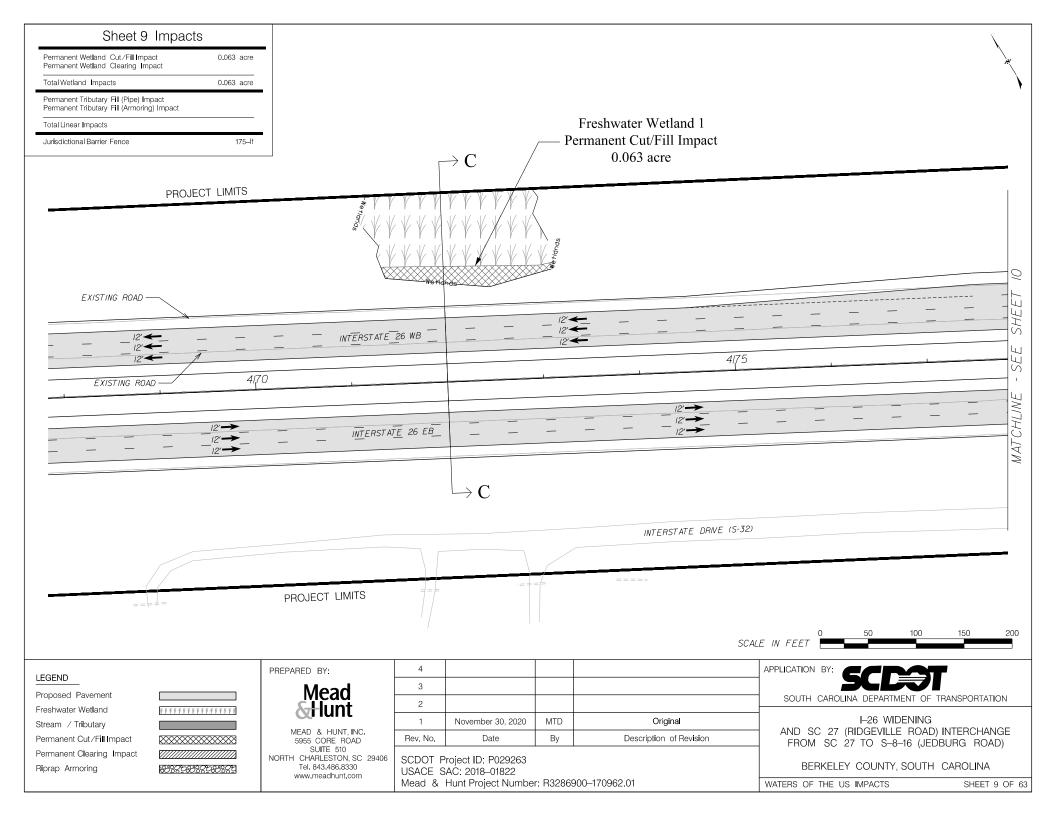
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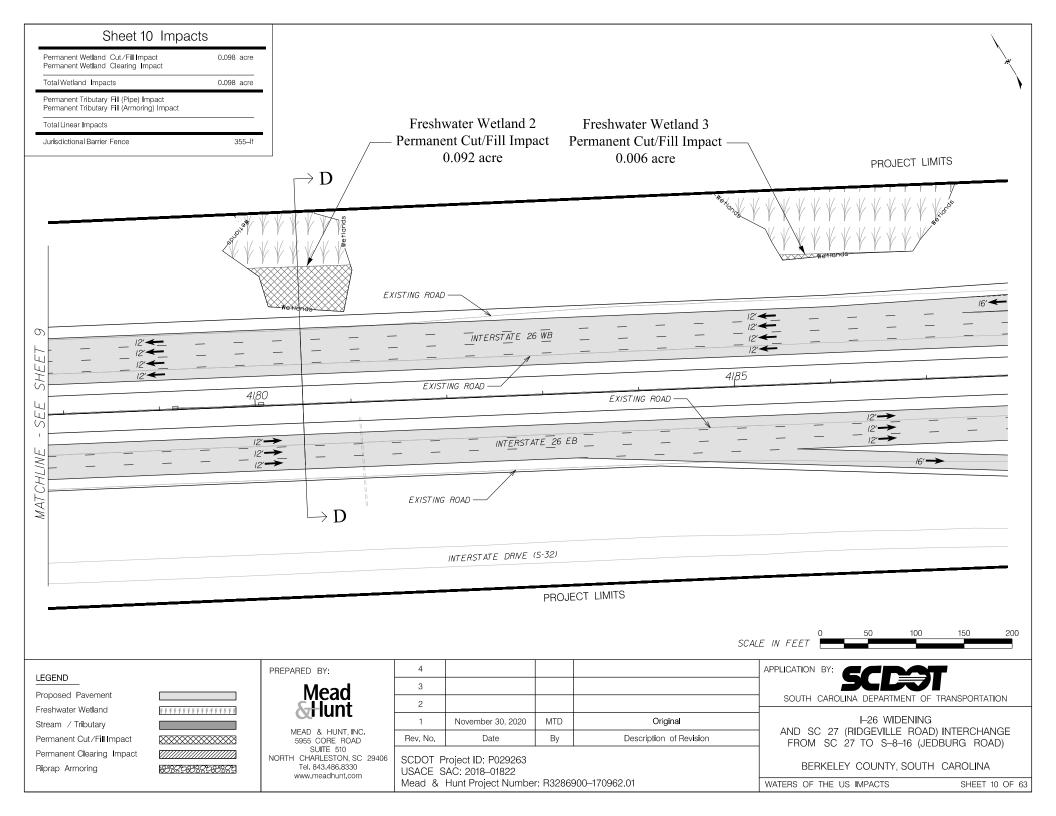
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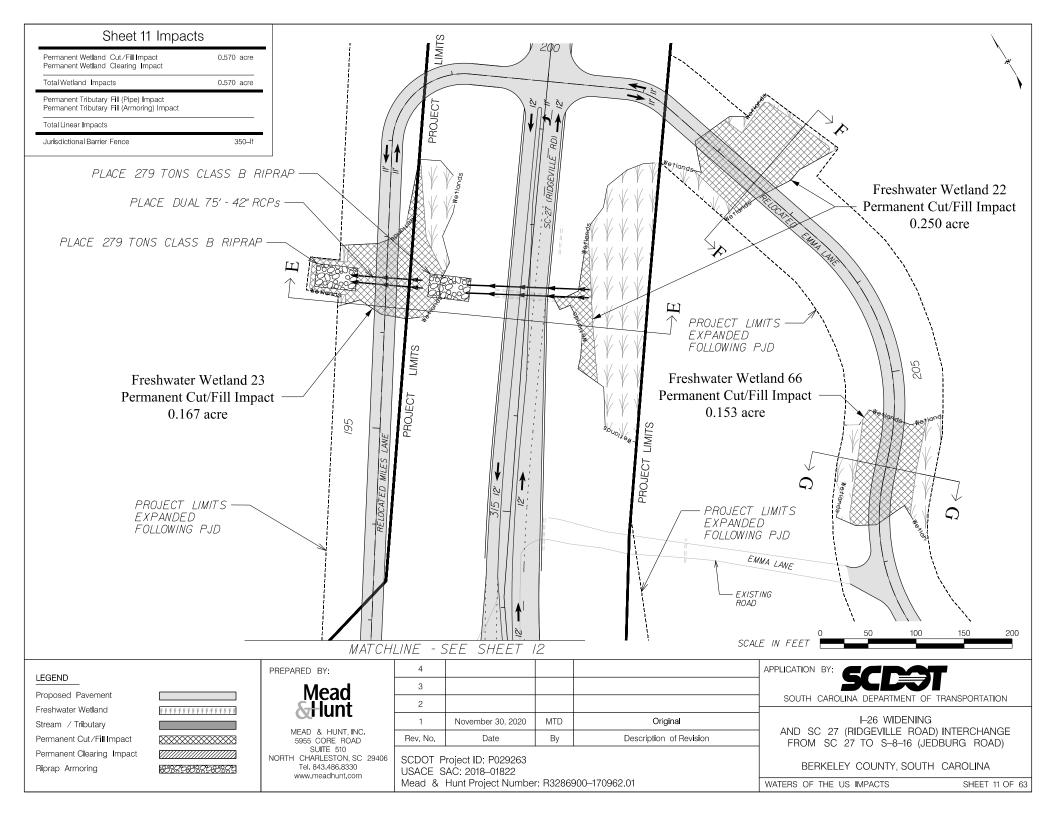
PROJECT PLAN VIEW SHEET 5 OF 63

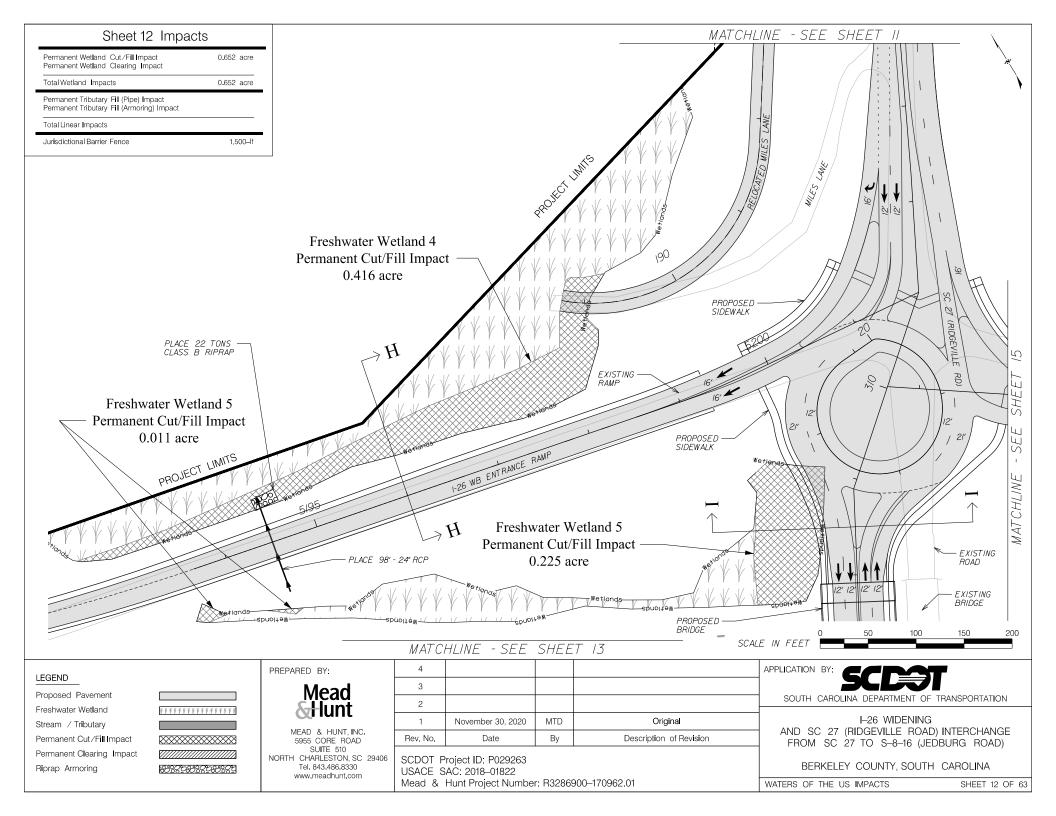


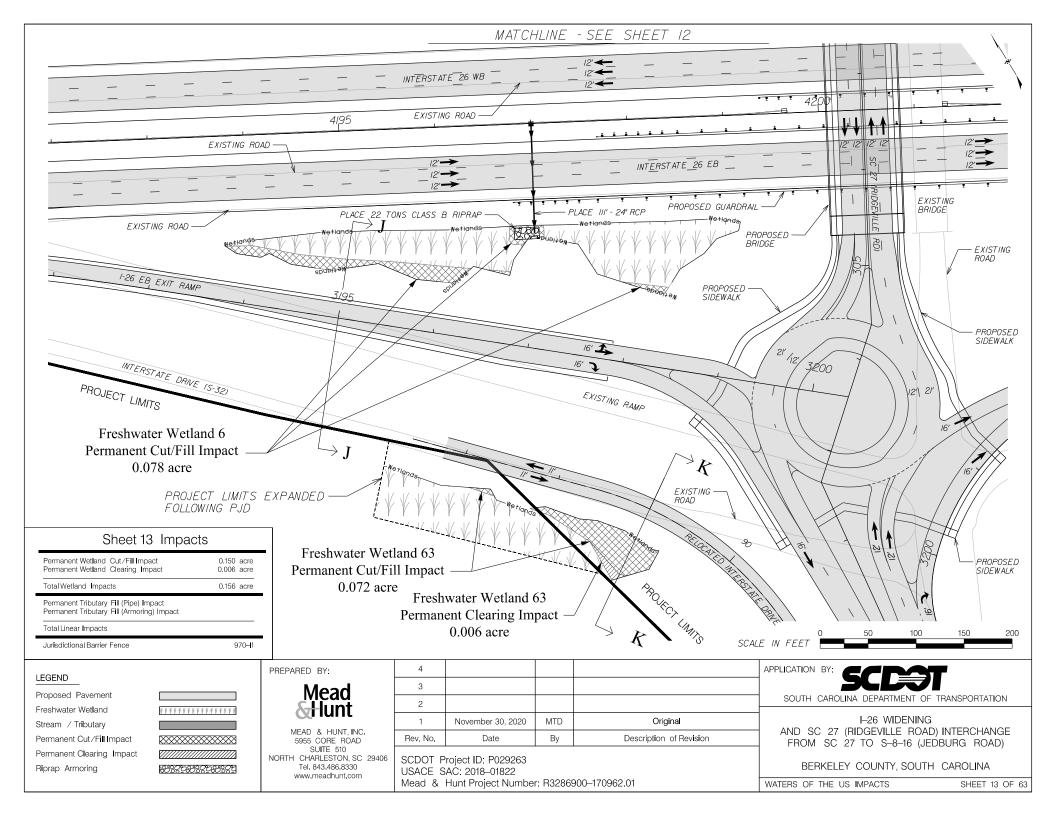


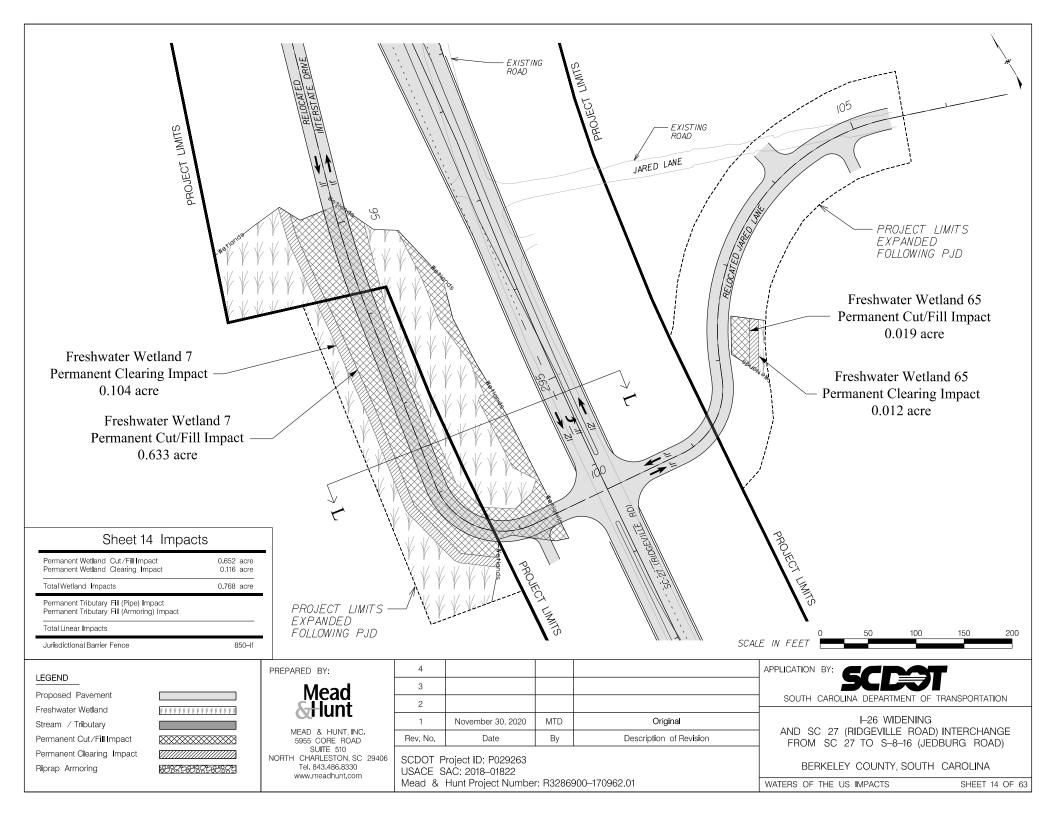


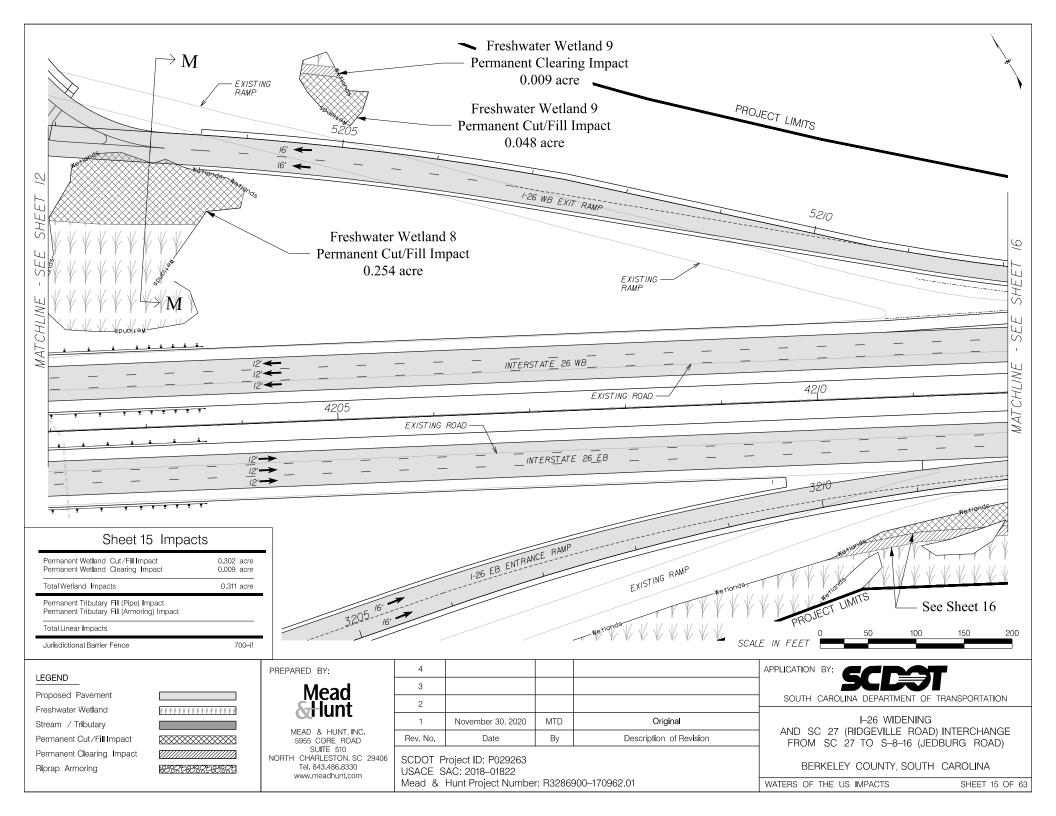


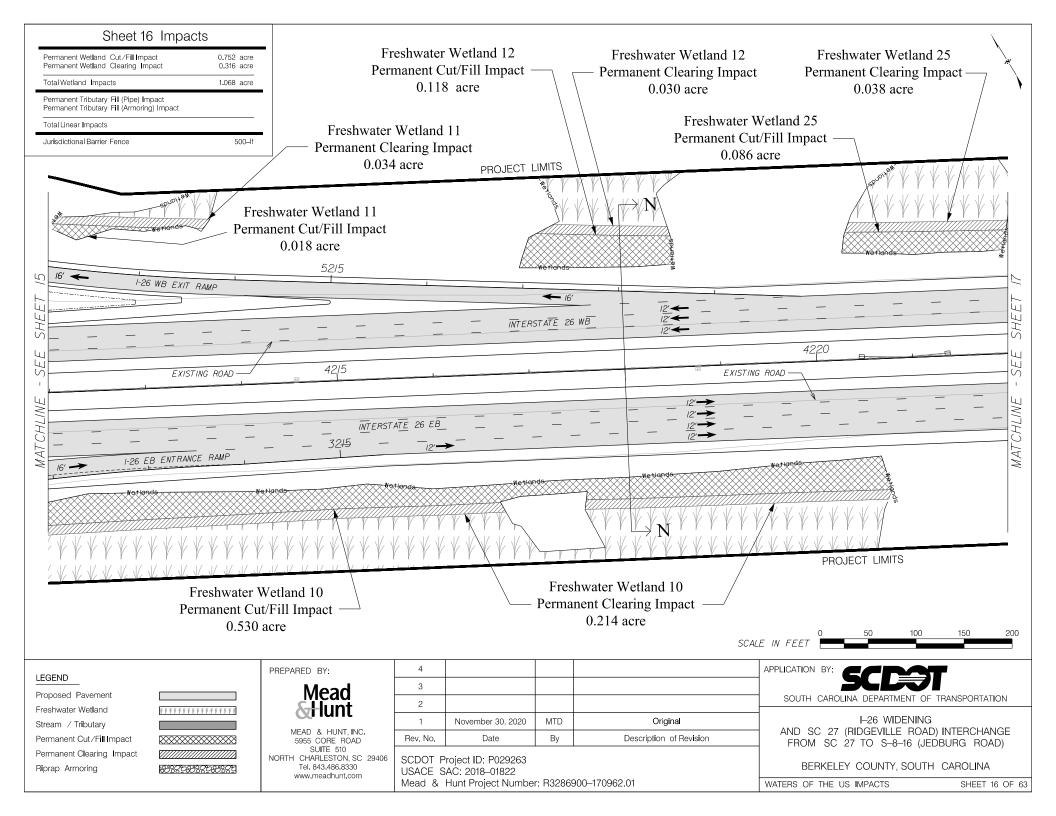


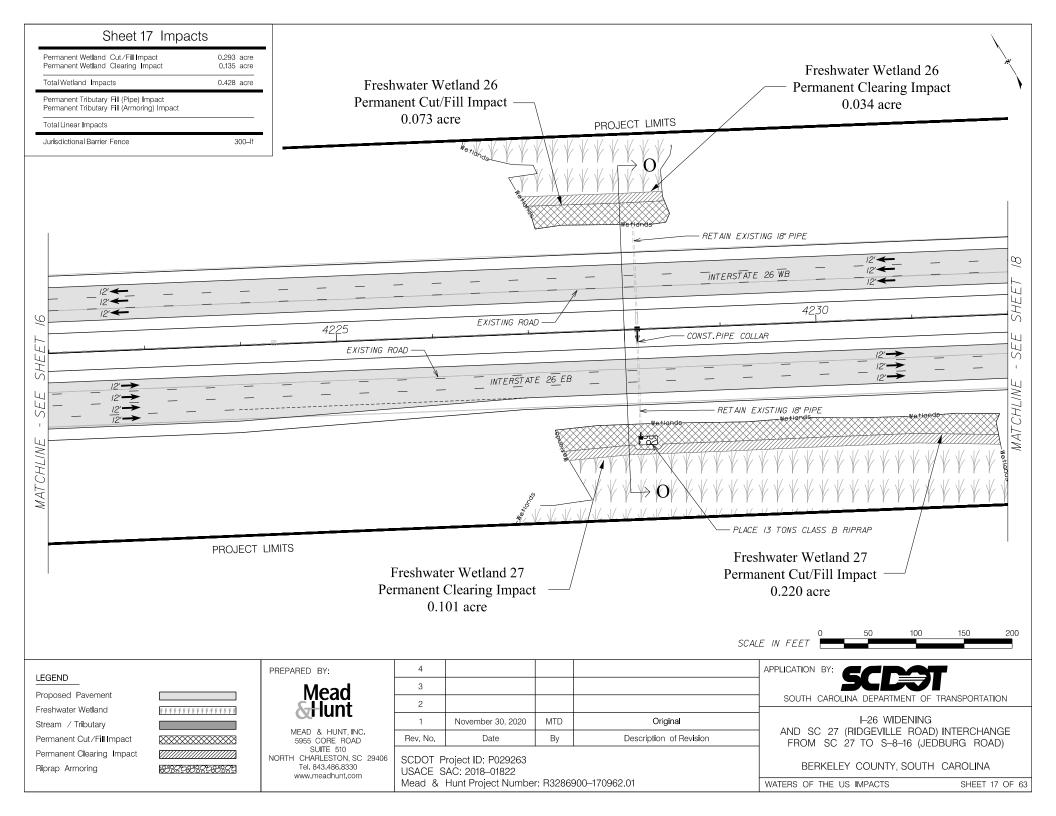


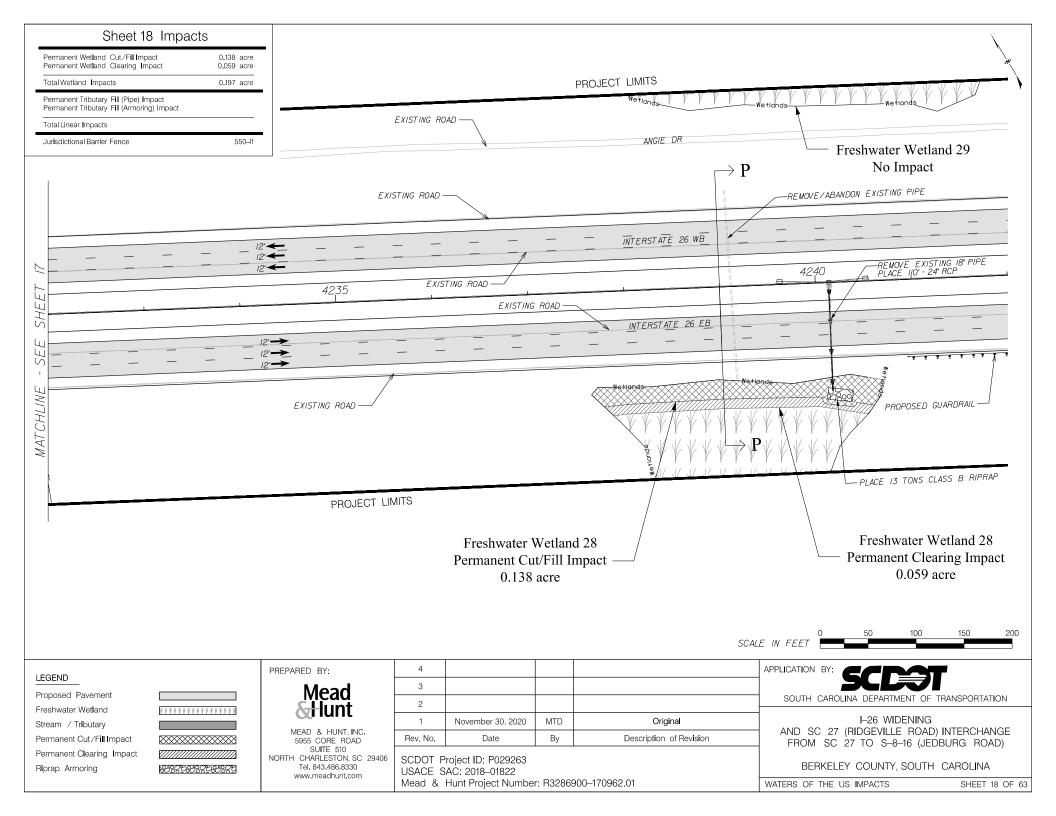


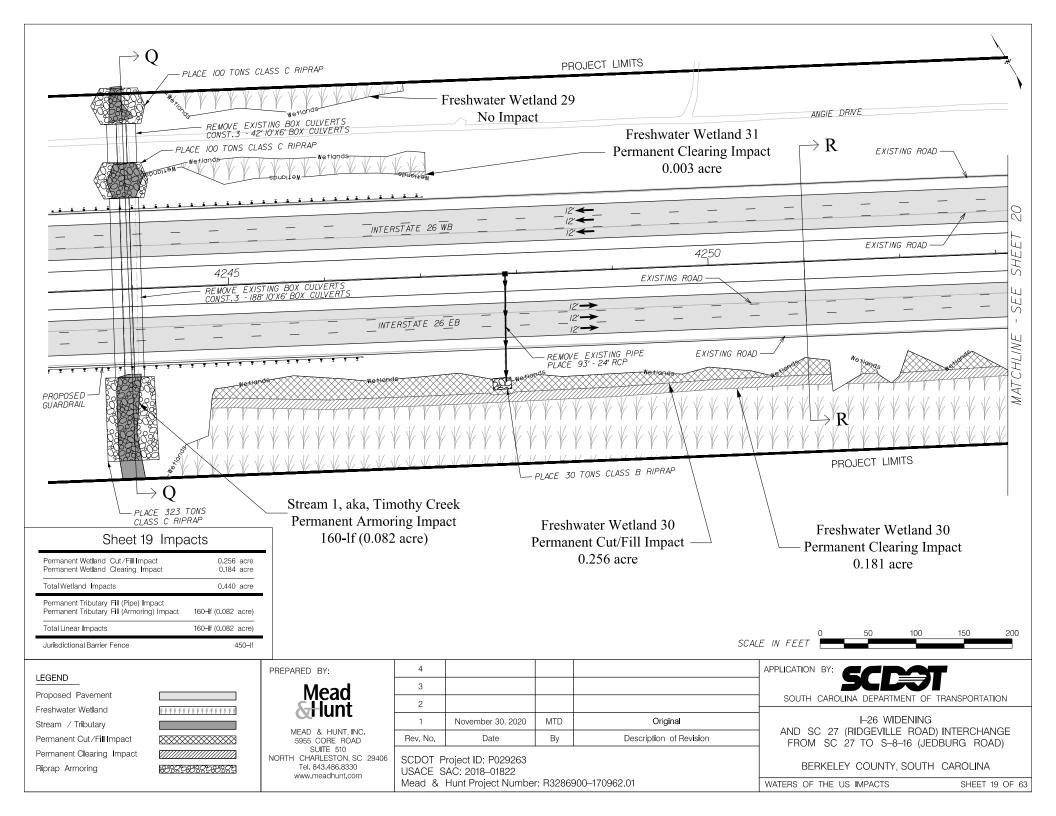


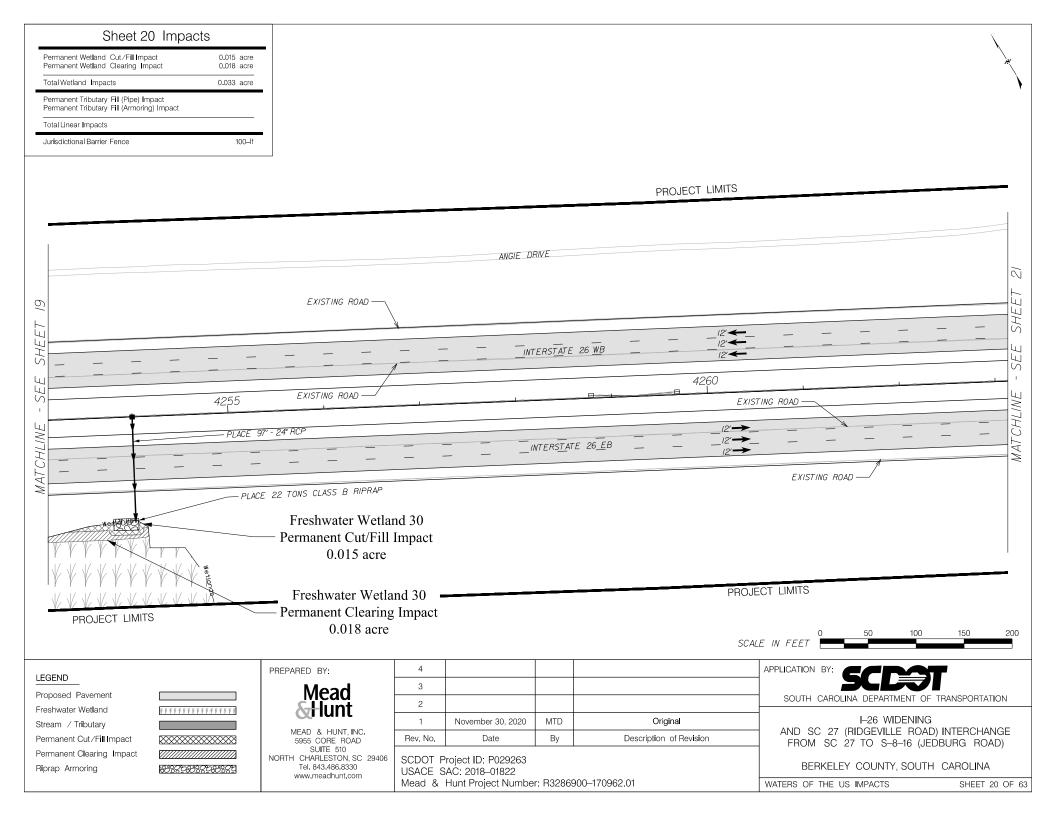


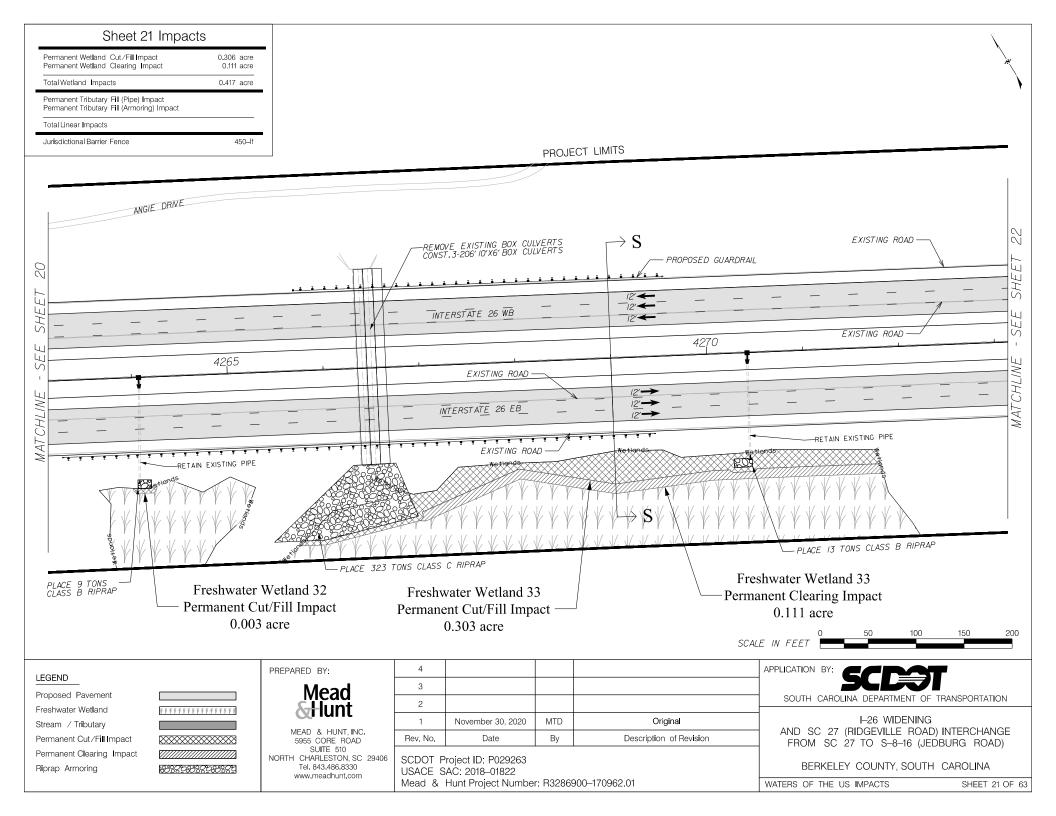


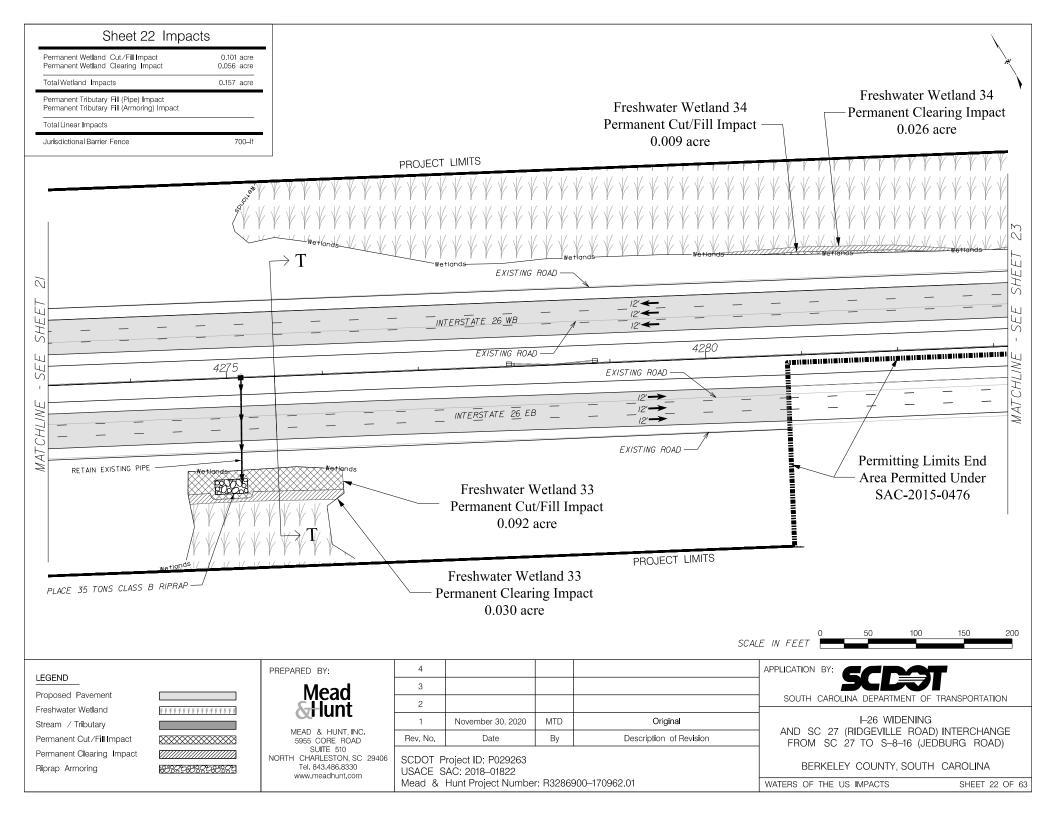


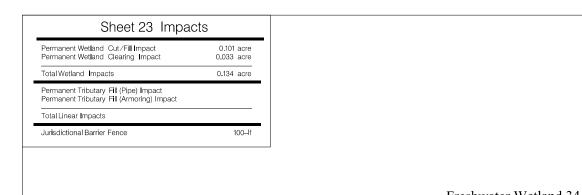


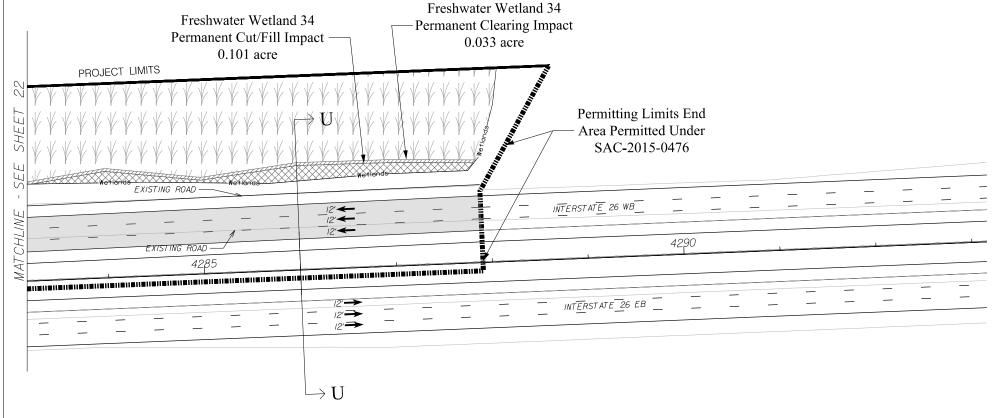


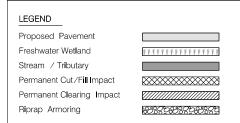












PREPARED	BY:
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