

**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-2020-01110

April 29, 2021

Pursuant to 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

**Mr. Ashley Kellahan**  
**Town of James Island**  
**1122 Dills bluff Road**  
**James Island, South Carolina 29412**  
**c/o William Wilson**  
**Sabine & Waters, Inc.**  
**PO Box 1072**  
**Summerville, South Carolina 29484**

for a permit to a excavate and fill non-tidal. Freshwater wetlands associated with

**Schooner Creek**

at a location along a drainage corridor between Stone Post Road and Oceanview Road in the Town of James Island, Charleston County, South Carolina (Latitude: 32.7240 °, Longitude: - 79.9422 °), **James Island**.

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 proposed work consists the discharge of fill material into approximately 0.453 acre of freshwater, non-tidal wetlands and waters and the excavation of approximately 0.452 acre of freshwater, non-tidal wetlands and waters for drainage improvements, bank stabilization, construction of a maintenance shelf and construction of an access road.

In detail, the proposed work includes the discharge of fill material into 0.453 acre of wetland and waters at the below eight (8) impact areas.

Proposed Impact Areas 1, 5, 6 and 8 consists of the discharge of clean, earthen fill material into non-wetland waters to repair eroded areas along the existing drainage channel. Impact details are as follows: Proposed Impact 1 consists of the discharge of 0.2 cubic yards of fill material into 0.002 acre of non-wetland waters; Proposed Impact 5 consists of the discharge of 0.1 cubic yards of fill material into 0.001 acre of non-wetland waters; Proposed Impact 6 consists of the discharge of 2.2 cubic yards of material into 0.005 acre of non-wetland waters; and Proposed Impact 8 consists of the discharge of 0.3 cubic yards of material into 0.003 acre of non-wetland waters. Permanent stabilization of these areas will be achieved through implementation of SCDHEC approved BMPs such as turf reinforcement mats, erosion control blankets and/or herbaceous vegetation seed mixes.

The proposed work also includes the replacement of an existing 36" culvert underneath Stone Post Road with a 38" pipe. Proposed Impact 3 involves the installation of 0.3 cubic yards of riprap into 0.007 acre of non-wetland waters. Proposed impact 4 involves the installation of 0.3 cubic yards of riprap into 0.01 acre of non-wetland waters. Impacts 3 and 4 would occur after the culvert replacement.

Proposed Impact 9 involves the discharge of approximately 866 cubic yards of material into 0.379 acre of wetlands and non-wetland waters for the construction of a maintenance shelf adjacent to the channel. To maintain the hydrologic connectivity of the wetland, four (4) 12-inch concrete cross culverts will be installed beneath the maintenance shelf. Proposed Impact 10 involves the discharge of 28 cubic yards into 0.045 acre of wetlands to provide an access road to the maintenance shelf and excavated channel. A critical component of the project success is providing a means of access for routine inspection and maintenance. Current site conditions make the access extremely difficult and equipment access impossible.

In addition to the fill, the proposed work also consists of the excavation of 0.452 acre of non-wetland waters at two (2) project areas for the creation of a drainage canal. Proposed Impact 2 consists of the excavation of 22 cubic yards of material from 0.031 acre of non-wetland waters. Proposed Impact 7 includes the excavation of 722 cubic yards of material from 0.421 acre of wetlands and non-wetland waters.

The purpose of the proposed project is to improve/restore the functionality of the existing drainage infrastructure between Oceanview Road and Stone Post Road and to provide a means for future inspection and maintenance.

### **Project Background and Project Purpose**

As stated in the permit application, the Oceanview Road Drainage Improvements project (the proposed project) is a 0.933 acre drainage corridor located between Oceanview Road and Stone Post Road on James Island, Charleston County, South Carolina. The western project limit is located between 1285 and 1289 Stone Post Road, approximately 200 feet west of the paved surface. The eastern project limit is located between 1125 and 1131 Oceanview Road. The Project's purpose is to improve/restore the functionality of the existing drainage infrastructure between Oceanview Road and Stone Post Road and to provide a means for future inspection and maintenance. Approximately 3.8 acres of jurisdictional wetlands and 0.3 acres of non-wetland waters have been delineated and subsequently verified on September 29, 2020 by the US Army Corps of Engineers (SAC-2020-01110). The project area is currently dominated by emergent herbaceous vegetation that is seasonally to semi-permanently flooded. Review of historical aerial imagery suggests the site has remained relatively unchanged over the previous thirty years.

The Town of James Island commissioned a study to complete an island-wide watershed study of James Island. It was determined that the entire island is "in need of critical repair due to system failures, issues related to tidal influences and sea level rise, and undersized or lack of drainage infrastructure." It was concluded that addressing these needs will require replacing/repairing all undersized and failed storm drain infrastructure with adequately sized conveyances to accommodate current regulatory standards, implementation of a routine inspection and maintenance program, as well as rehabilitation/re-establishment of roadside swales to provide positive drainage. The study's drainage masterplan delineated the approximately 10,000 acre island into 30 watershed basins. Each basin was then prioritized based on various metrics such as drainage area, elevation, existing drainage issues/needs, town, city and county work order requests and the number of FEMA flood claims. The proposed project is located within the upper portion of the 586.9 acre Mill Creek Basin. According to the study, the Mill Creek Basin is the 5th ranked priority basin within the study area based on metrics such as: 5th largest basin on the island, 3rd most combined work order requests, 95 WORs submitted to the City of Charleston, Charleston County and the Town of James Island between January 2015 and January 2019, 3rd most FEMA flood claims, and 39 claims between 1979 and 2018 (excluding Hurricane Hugo).

As such the project area is particularly vulnerable to flooding due to undersized, outdated and unmaintained infrastructure. Currently, stormwater runoff from the surrounding residential areas including Pemberton Farms, Five Oaks Court and Fort Johnson Road is conveyed through small swales and driveway culverts along Oceanview Road. It is directed to a narrow outfall channel located at the eastern project limits that is overgrown. The unmaintained outfall channel feeds into and ultimately ends near the eastern boundary of "Wetland A". Another drainage channel begins near the western boundary of "Wetland A" and flows through a standard 36 inch concrete pipe beneath Stone Post Road. The system has collected drainage from approximately 106 acres of residential and undeveloped wooded areas at this point.

### **Avoidance and Minimization**

Given the location of the existing drainage infrastructure and easement, impacts to aquatic resources are unavoidable; however, wetland impacts have been avoided and minimized to the greatest extent practicable. The top width of the maintenance shelf being 10 feet is the narrowest possible to allow safe vehicular access. Additionally, the typical 3:1 side slopes have been reduced to 1:1 to reduce the acreage of fill impact. Therefore, extra bank stabilization measures such as turf

reinforcement mats and erosion control blankets will be utilized in addition to the typical vegetative stabilization used for 3:1 slopes. The channel excavation has been limited to the minimum necessary to accomplish the project purpose. In order to allow for minimum adequate capacity the average bottom width of the excavated channel has been minimized to five feet. The resulting channel being narrower but deeper minimizes the acreage of disturbance while relieving the flooding pressure on Oceanview Road.

### **Mitigation**

To compensate for the proposed impacts, the applicant is proposing to purchase 6 credits from Palmetto Umbrella Mitigation Bank – Big Run Site.

**NOTE: This public notice and associated plans are available on the Corps' website at:**  
<http://www.sac.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/PublicNotices> .

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 0.905 acre of wetlands and non-wetland waters upstream and inland 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, based on the most recently available information that the project will have no 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.

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)(f)(1)), and has initially determined that no historic properties are present; 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. 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.

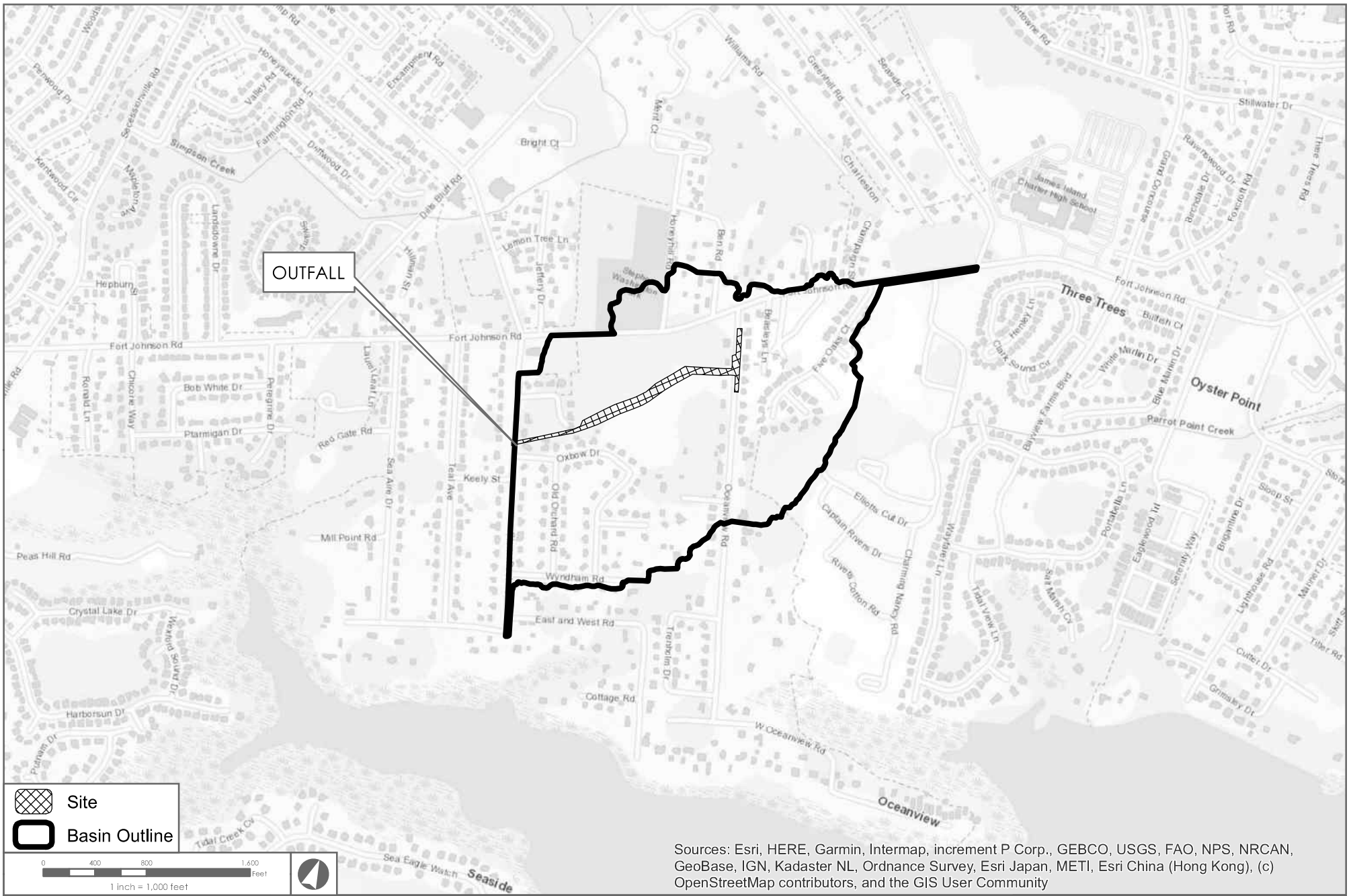
The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the activity on the public interest and will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), under authority of Section 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:**

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
ATTN: REGULATORY DIVISION**

**69A Hagood Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29403-5107**

If there are any questions concerning this public notice, please contact Tracy D. Sanders, Project Manager, at (843) 329-8190, toll free at 1-866-329-8187, or by email at [Tracy.D.Sanders@usace.army.mil](mailto:Tracy.D.Sanders@usace.army.mil).



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

# Oceanview Drainage Improvements

## Charleston County, SC

### Location Map

SHEET 1 OF 16



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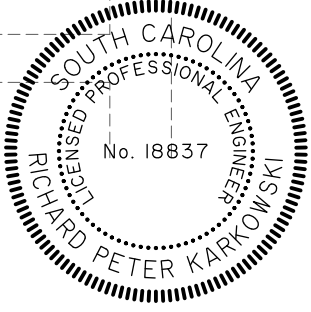
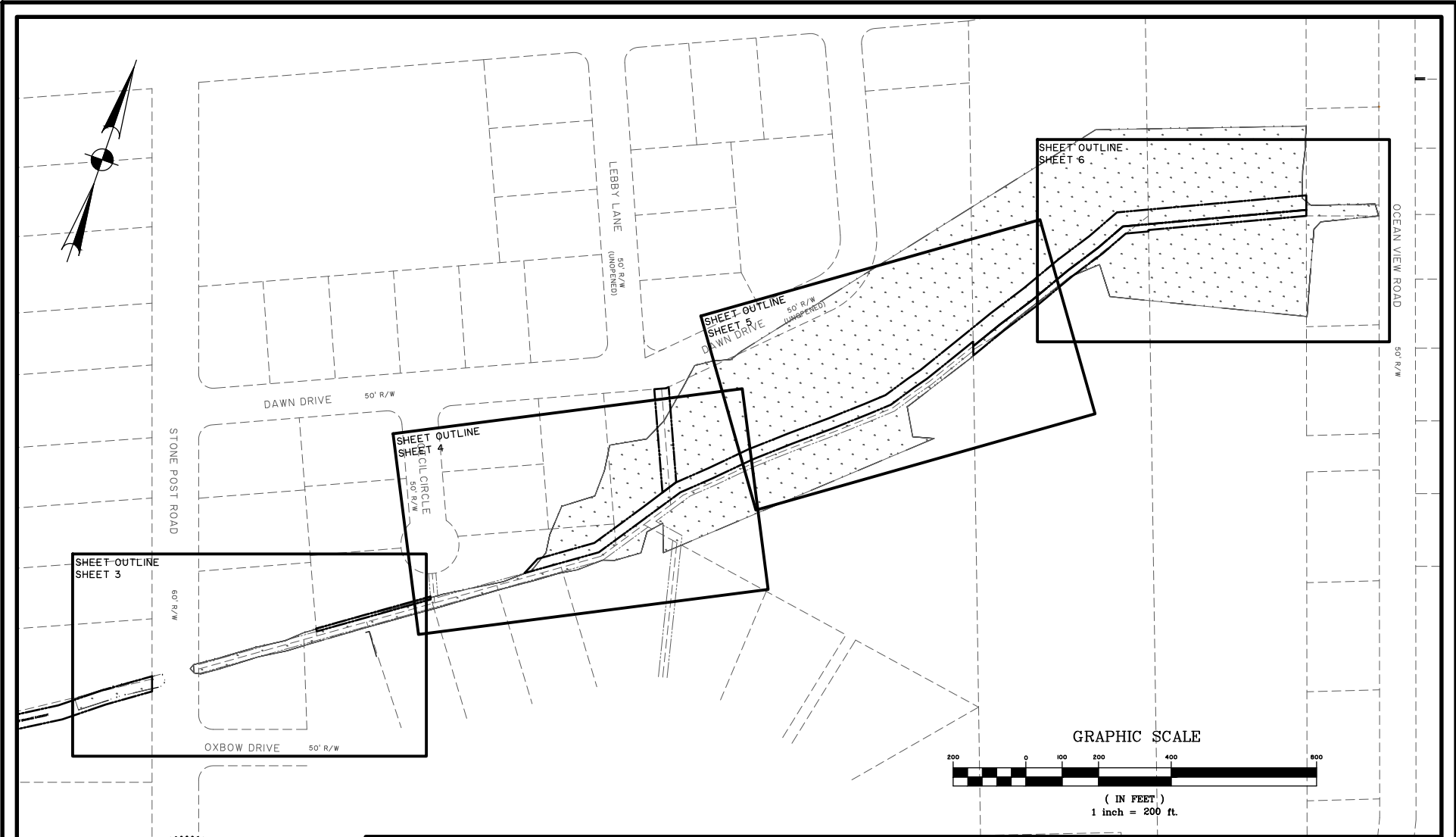
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

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- Site
- Basin Outline



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Thomas & Hutton compiled the map information from the following sources:			
Date	Source	Date	
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**OCEANVIEW DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS**

**SHEET KEY MAP**

CLIENT:  
**TOWN OF JAMES ISLAND**

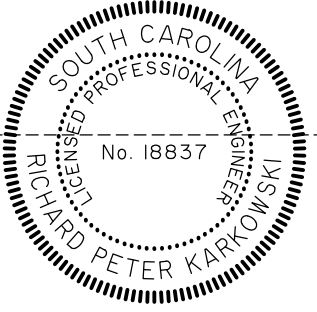
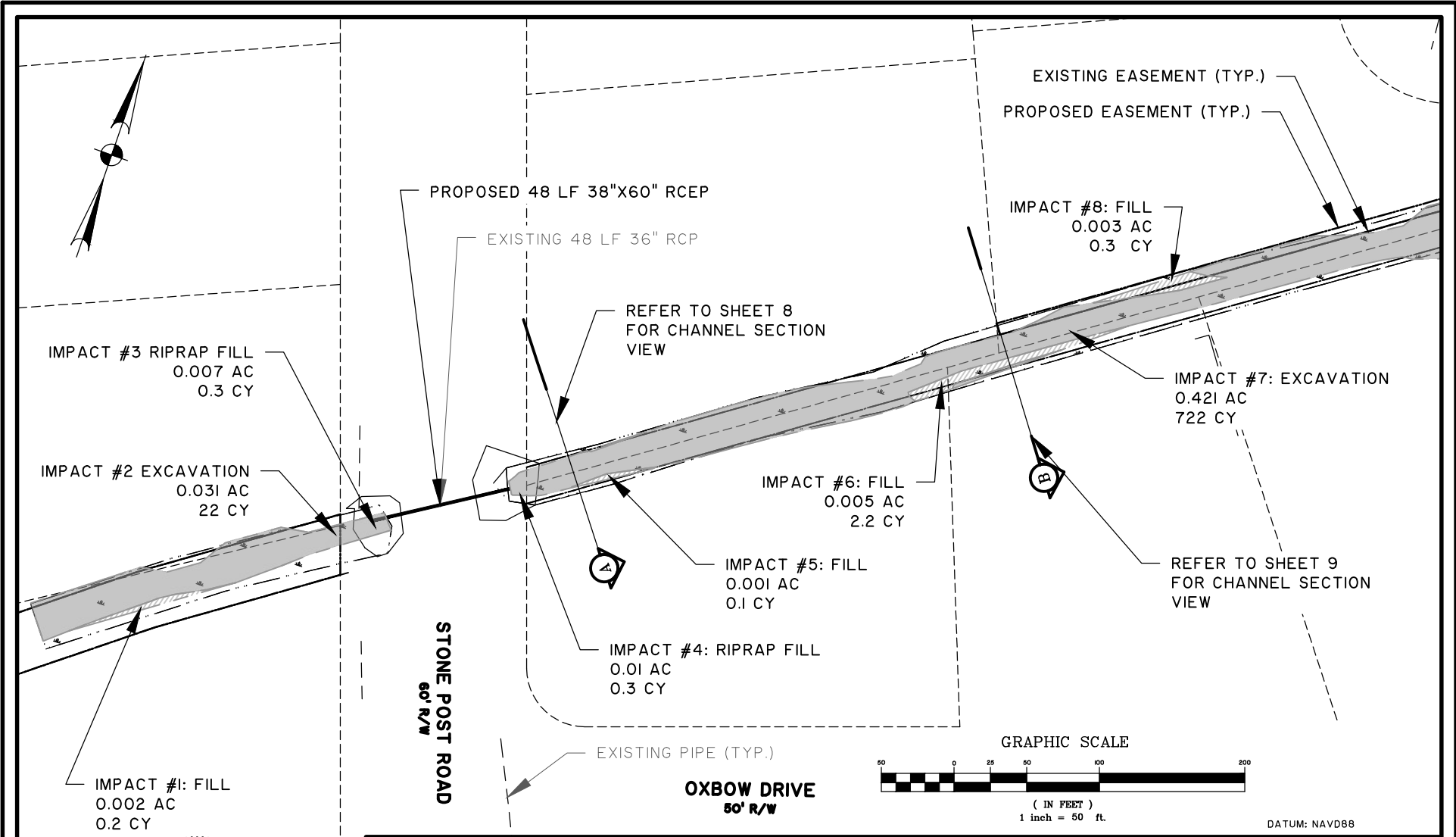
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 DATE: 10/27/2020      DRAWN BY: KNK      SHEET: 2 of 11  
 JOB NUMBER: J-28073.0000      REVIEWED BY: RPK      SCALE: 1" = 200'

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**OCEANVIEW DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS**

WETLAND IMPACTS PLAN VIEW #1

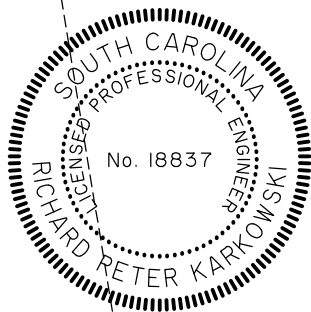
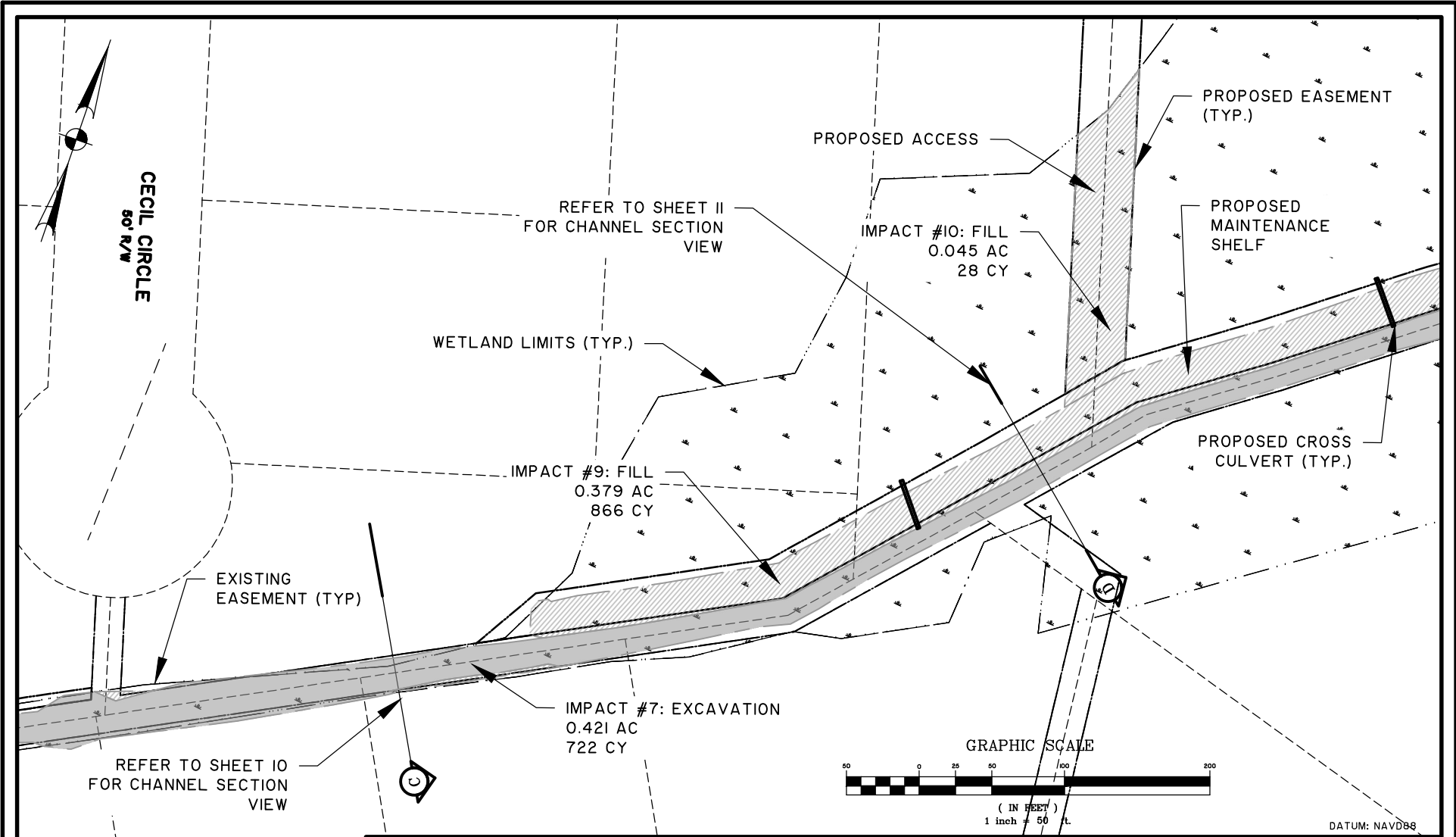
CLIENT:  
**TOWN OF JAMES ISLAND**

LOCATION: CHARLESTON COUNTY, SC  
DATE: 02/01/2021      DRAWN BY: KNK      SHEET: 3 of 11  
JOB NUMBER: J-28073.0000      REVIEWED BY: RPK      SCALE: 1" = 50'

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**OCEANVIEW DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS**

**WETLAND IMPACTS PLAN VIEW #2**

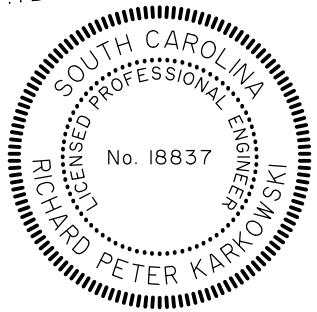
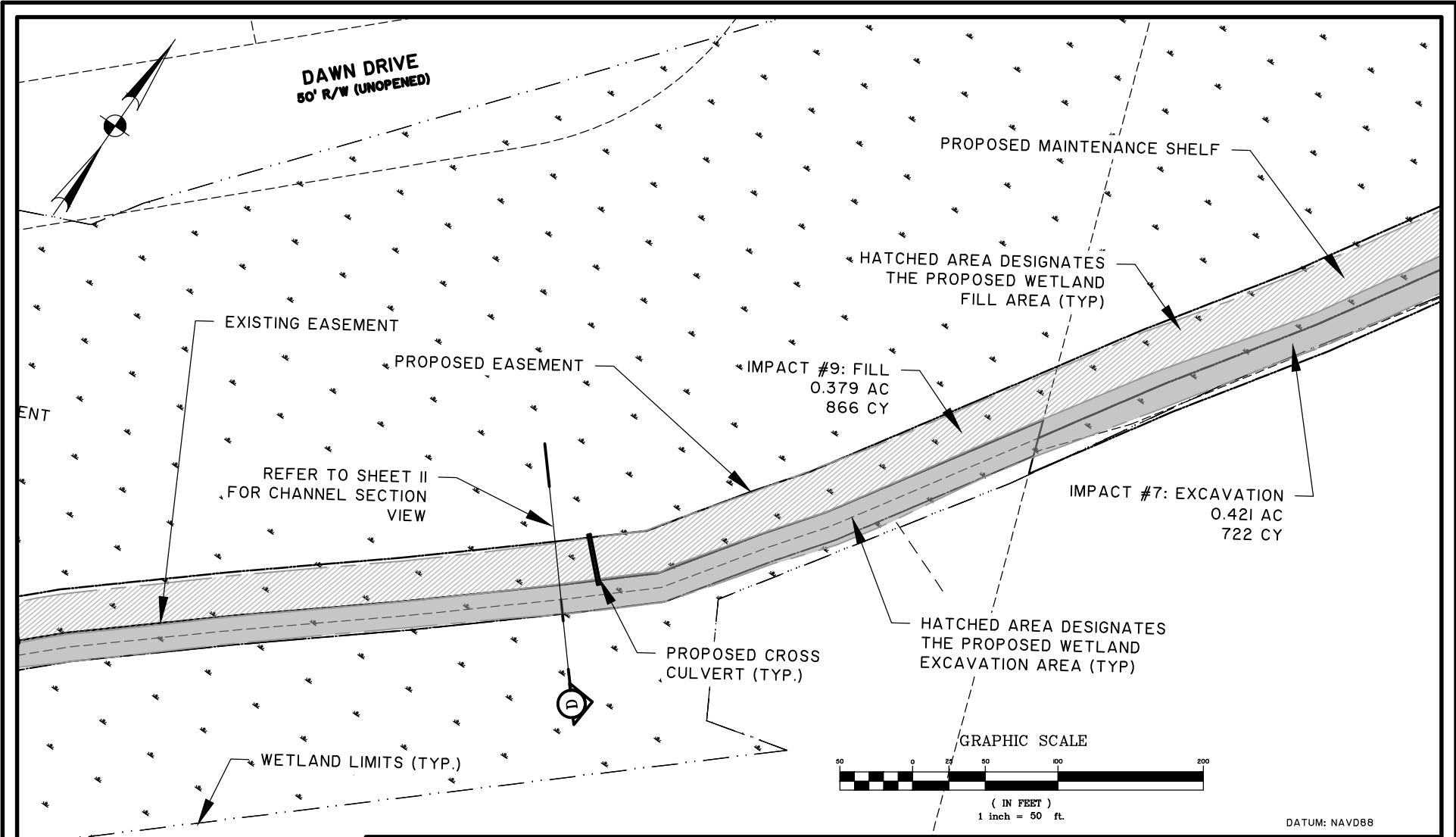
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**TOWN OF JAMES ISLAND**

LOCATION: CHARLESTON COUNTY, SC  
DATE: 02/01/2021      DRAWN BY: KNK      SHEET: 4 of 15  
JOB NUMBER: J-28073.0000      REVIEWED BY: RPK      SCALE: 1" = 50'

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**OCEANVIEW DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS**

**WETLAND IMPACTS PLAN VIEW #3**

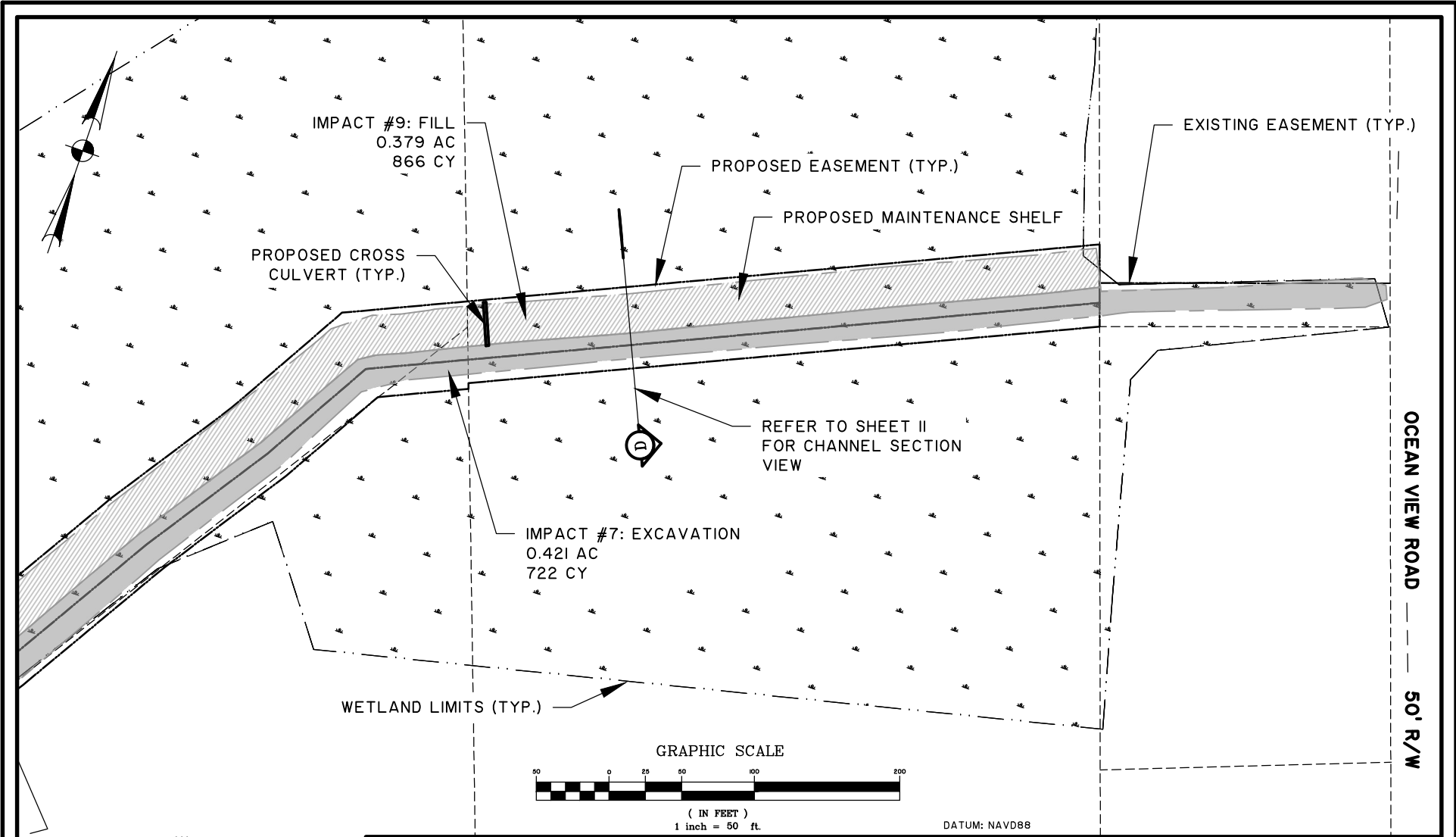
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**TOWN OF JAMES ISLAND**

LOCATION: CHARLESTON COUNTY, SC  
DATE: 02/01/2021      DRAWN BY: KNK      SHEET: 5 of 11  
JOB NUMBER: J-28073.0000      REVIEWED BY: RPK      SCALE: 1" = 50'

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WETLAND IMPACTS PLAN VIEW #4

CLIENT:  
TOWN OF JAMES ISLAND

LOCATION: CHARLESTON COUNTY, SC  
DATE: 02/01/2021      DRAWN BY: KNK      SHEET: 6 of 11  
JOB NUMBER: J-28073.0000      REVIEWED BY: RPK      SCALE: 1" = 50'

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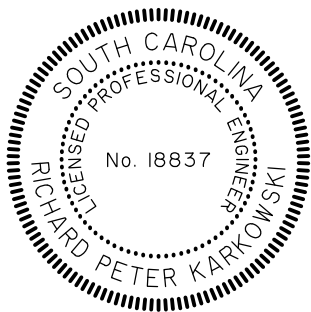
PROJECT LIMITS ACREAGE 0.933 AC

PERMIT AREA LIMITS ACREAGE 0.933 AC

PERMANENT IMPACTS

FRESHWATER WETLAND - PROPOSED EXCAVATION 0.452 AC  
744 CY

FRESHWATER WETLAND - PROPOSED FILL 0.453 AC  
897 CY



OCEANVIEW DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

WETLAND IMPACTS SUMMARY

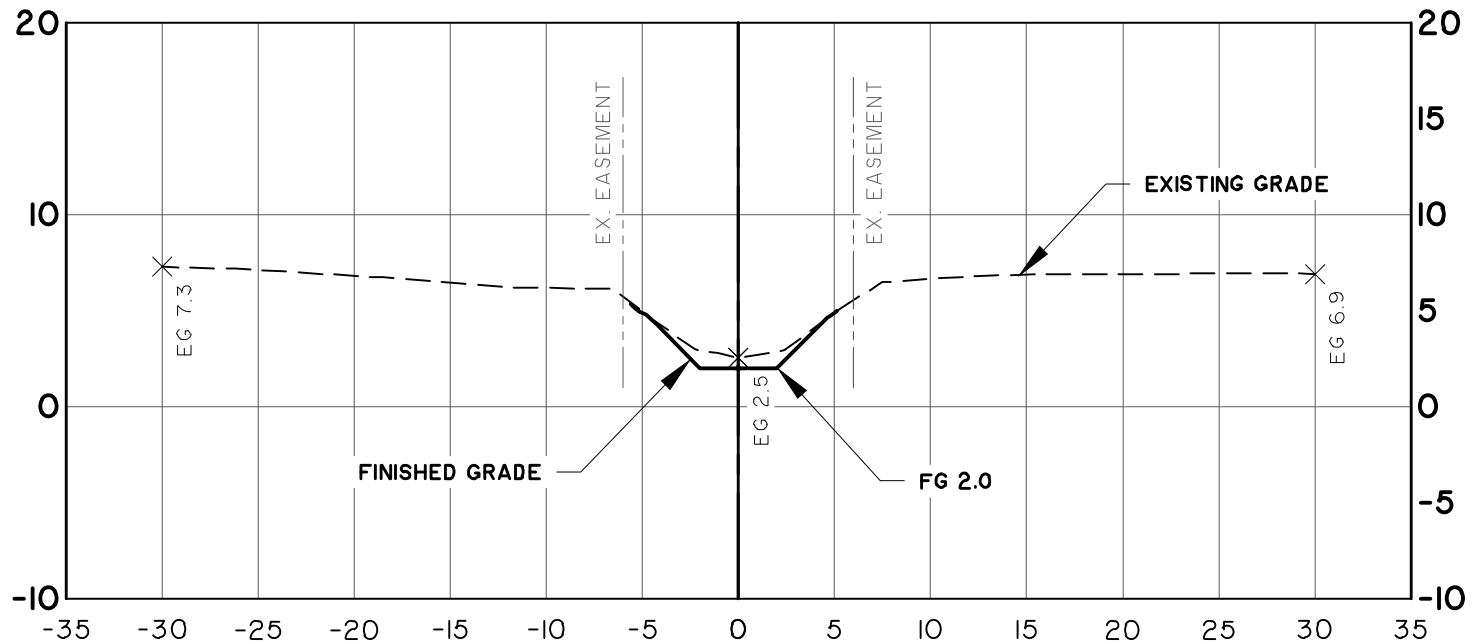
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TOWN OF JAMES ISLAND

LOCATION: CHARLESTON COUNTY, SC  
DATE: 02/01/2021 DRAWN BY: KNK SHEET: 7 of 11  
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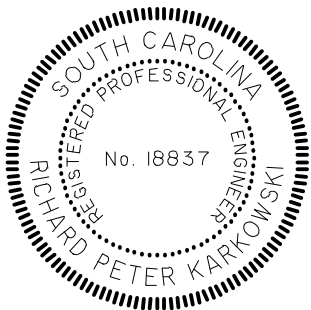


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SCALE: HORZ.: 1" = 10'  
 VERT.: 1" = 10'



## OCEANVIEW DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

### TYPICAL SECTION A

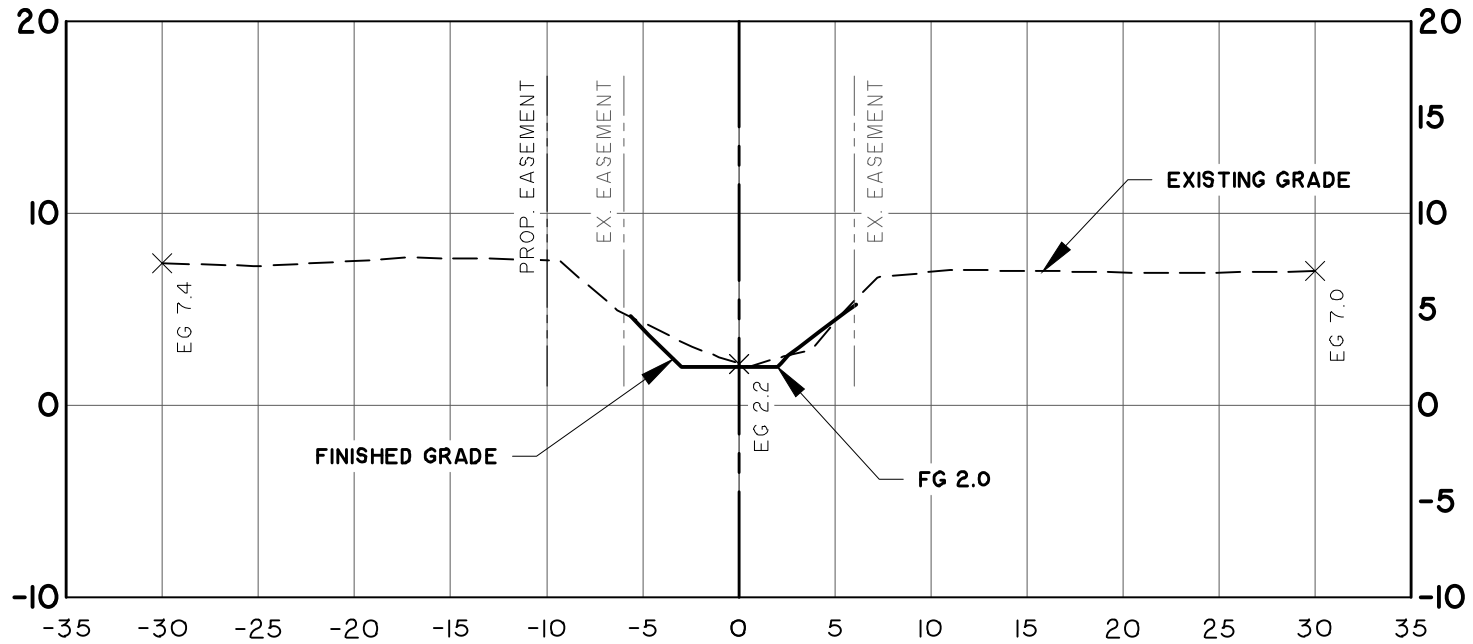
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 TOWN OF JAMES ISLAND

LOCATION: CHARLESTON COUNTY, SC  
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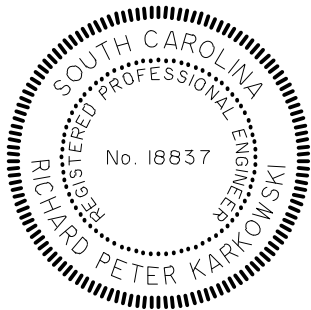


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## OCEANVIEW DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

TYPICAL SECTION B

CLIENT:

TOWN OF JAMES ISLAND

LOCATION: CHARLESTON COUNTY, SC

DATE: 01/29/2021

DRAWN BY: KNK

SHEET: 9 of 11

JOB NUMBER: J-28073.0000

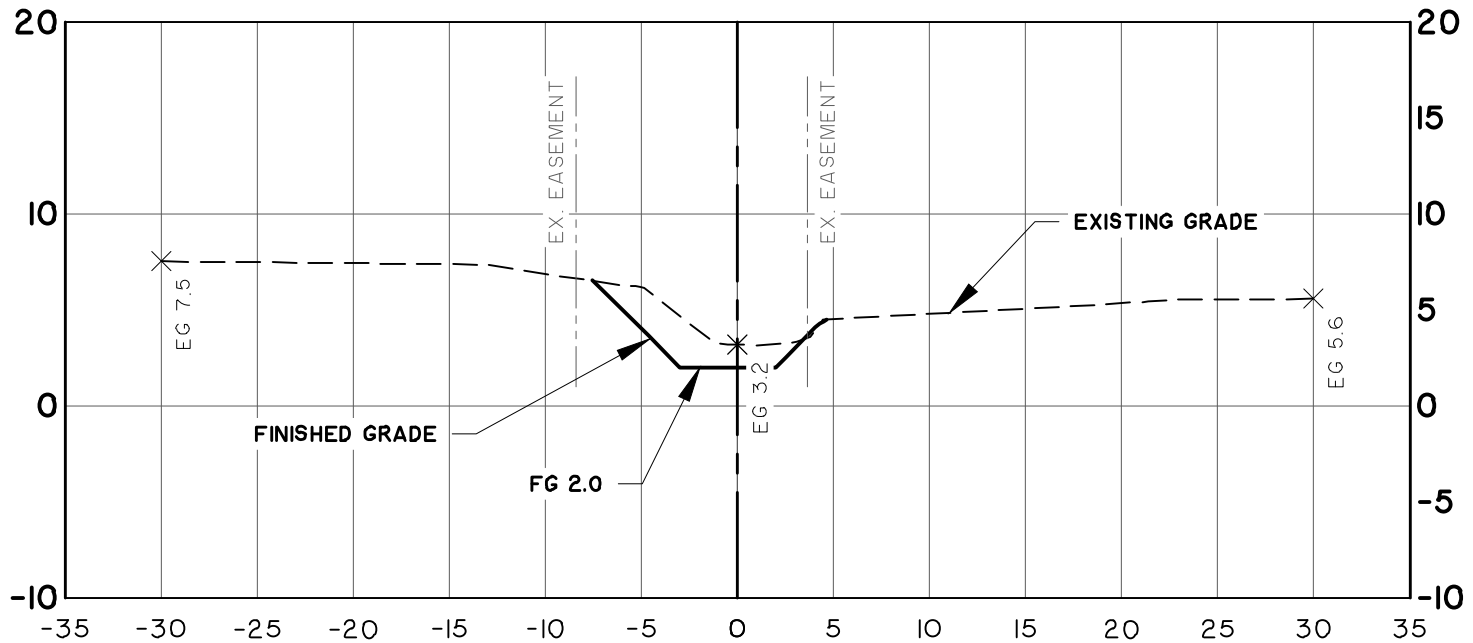
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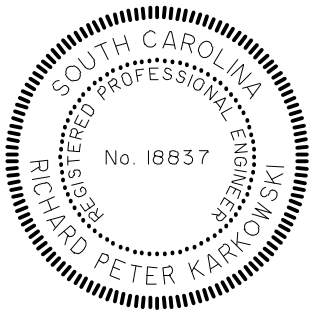


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## OCEANVIEW DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

### TYPICAL SECTION C

CLIENT:  
 TOWN OF JAMES ISLAND

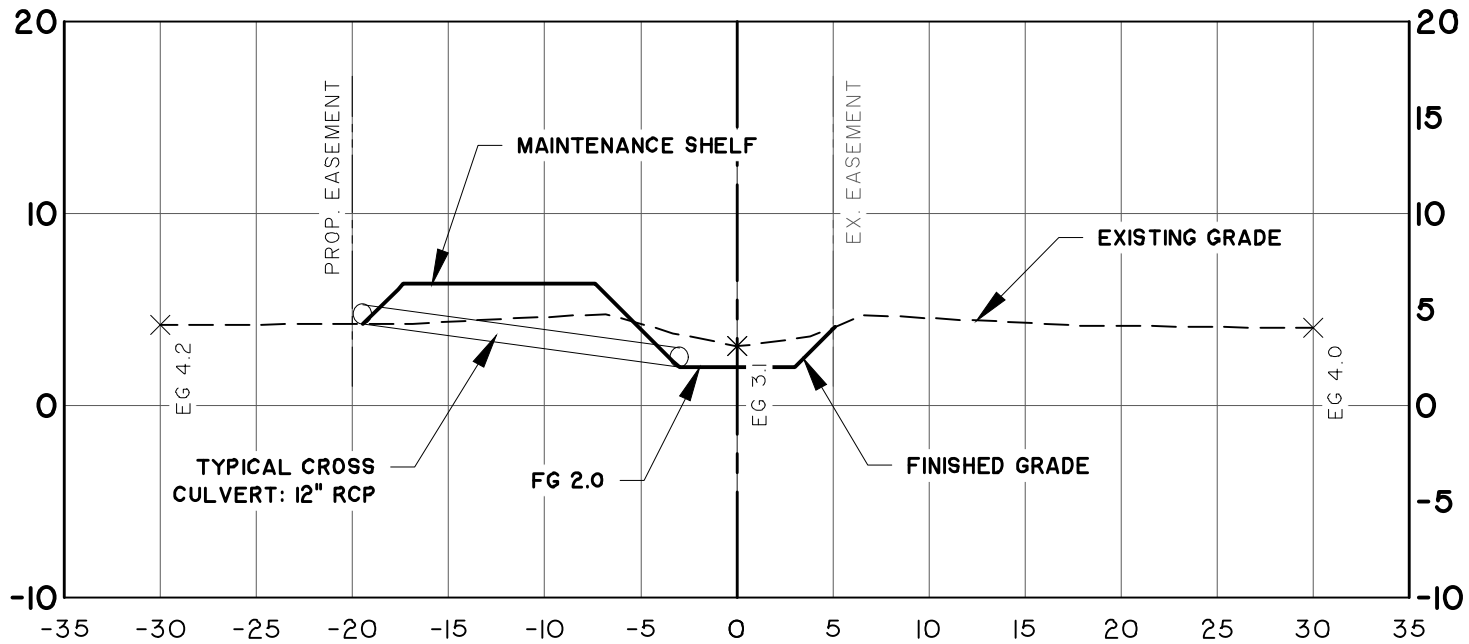
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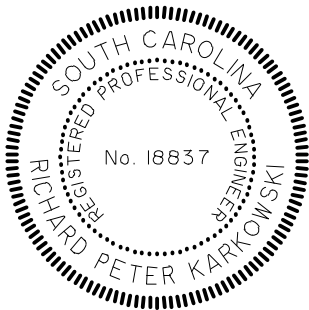
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## OCEANVIEW DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS

### TYPICAL SECTION D

CLIENT:  
 TOWN OF JAMES ISLAND

LOCATION: CHARLESTON COUNTY, SC  
 DATE: 01/29/2021      DRAWN BY: KNK      SHEET: 11 of 11  
 JOB NUMBER: J-28073.0000      REVIEWED BY: RPK      SCALE: 1" = 10'



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