



US Army Corps
Of Engineers
Wilmington District

PUBLIC NOTICE

Issue Date: November 17, 2006
Comment Deadline: December 18, 2006
Corps Action ID 200500197

The Wilmington District, Corps of Engineers (Corps) has received an application from the **City of Jacksonville** seeking Department of the Army authorization to impact **approximately 25 acres of wetlands and 400 linear feet of stream** associated with a **proposed wastewater treatment plant and sprayfield expansion in Onslow, North Carolina.**

Specific plans and location information are described below and shown on the attached plans. This Public Notice and all attached plans are also available on the Wilmington District Web Site at www.saw.usace.army.mil/wetlands

Applicant: City of Jacksonville
Attn: Kristoff T. Bauer
Post Office Box 128
Jacksonville, North Carolina 28541

AGENT (if applicable): Malcolm Pirnie, Inc.
Attn: Steven W. Miller
701 Town Center Drive, Suite 600
Newport News, Virginia 23606

Authority

The Corps will evaluate this application and decide whether to issue, conditionally issue, or deny the proposed work pursuant to applicable procedures Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

Location

A portion of the project is located within the limits of the City of Jacksonville while the remainder of the project is located outside the City limits, Onslow County. The existing treatment facility and sprayfields are located west of Jacksonville comprised of approximately 6500 acres between Five Mile Road and Blue Creek Road with drainage to Southwest Creek, Stewart Creek, and Deep Run. The proposed flow equalization tank is located within the City limits of Jacksonville with drainage to Chaney Creek and Sandy Run Branch. The existing LTS can be located at 34 47.22 N 77 34.12 W and the proposed flow equalization tank can be located at 34 45.31 N and 77 25.19 W.

Existing Site Conditions

The existing Land Treatment System site contains the existing storage and treatment lagoons, the administration building, the equipment storage building, and numerous auxiliary structures associated with the treatment process. The LTS contains several miles of buried transmission mains, irrigation header and lateral pipes which transport the pretreated effluent to approximately 19,000 sprinkler heads. The land surrounding the treatment works and the land currently being irrigated is managed as a pine plantation. The land surface of the current LTS property slopes eastward toward Deep Run with elevations ranging from 30 to 90 feet above mean sea level. As you head down gradient toward Deep Run the vegetation will change to a more bottomland hardwood system. The land surrounding the LTS is rural with sparse housing and the majority of the land being utilized for farming and silviculture.

The location of the proposed flow equalization tank contains two sanitary sewer lines and several man made structures including the main sewer pump station. The vegetation within this parcel is primarily pine forest. The land slopes generally to the south and west towards Chaney Creek but does lie above the 100 year floodplain. The site elevation varies from 0 to 15 feet above mean sea level. The surrounding land use is an urban stretch of Highway 17 in the heart of Jacksonville.

Parcels 2, 3, 11, 12, 23 and 62 which are proposed for land treatment expansion areas have existing unpaved access roads and drainage ditches. Parcel 62 contains a cemetery which was determined as not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The majority of the expansion area is forested with the exception of a couple small agricultural fields on Parcel 12. Forests within the project area can be divided into the following communities: Pine plantation, mesic mixed hardwood, small depression ponds, bottomland hardwood, and pocosin. Relief of Parcels 2, 3, and 23 is slight and elevations range from 62 to 94 feet above mean sea level. The land surface of Parcel 62 is moderately sloped generally to the southwest towards Southwest Creek with elevations ranging from 44 to 78 feet above mean sea level. As with the existing LTS site, the surrounding land use is rural primarily utilized for farming and silviculture.

Applicant's Stated Purpose

The applicant's stated purpose is to provide the City of Jacksonville with the increased storage and treatment capacity to be able to handle the increasing demand on the system. The City currently is under a Special Order of Consent from NCDENR-DWQ which requires the City to pursue plant expansions and improvements within six years from the issuance of the Order in May of 2005. The need for the plant expansion stems from the fact the LTS is the City's sole treatment system which was selected as the preferred treatment alternative in the 201 Facilities Plan.

Project Description

Expansion of the LTS facility to increase treatment capacity from an average daily flow of 6.0 mgd to 9.0 mgd will involve:

1. Developing a new effluent storage lagoon with a nominal capacity of 180 to 365 MG located on adjacent properties,
2. Pumping and piping improvements to convey flow between the new effluent storage lagoon and the existing storage lagoon system,
3. Construction of new Flow Equalization Tank to be connected to the existing force main,
4. Expansion of the existing spray irrigation system using approximately 319 acres within the existing LTS property,
5. Upgrades to the existing spray irrigation areas to enhance their suitability for spray irrigation, and
6. Acquisition and expansion of the spray irrigation system on approximately 220 acres of property adjacent to the existing LTS.

Construction of the storage lagoon. Parcels 11 and 12 contain a total of 75 acres of wetlands. An estimated 24.4 acres of forested headwater wetlands and 400 linear feet of intermittent channelized stream will be impacted through the construction of the storage lagoon. Red maple, sweetgum and swamp chestnut oak dominate the above-referenced wetlands. The remaining approximate 50 acres of wetlands on Parcels 11 and 12 will not be impacted as part of this project.

Irrigation Spray Field Expansion. Where practical, piping will be placed in existing road corridors, through uplands and previously cleared areas. However, some of the transmission mains and header pipes cannot avoid wetlands. Permanent forested wetland impacts associated with irrigation spray field expansion will total approximately 1.2 acre. These impacts will be permanent because of construction of access roads over the top of buried piping. Permanent conversion from forested to herbaceous wetland caused by piping installation will total 5.9 acres. These permanent conversions will result from clearing of corridors through which irrigation piping will be installed. These areas will remain wetland but will be maintained in an herbaceous state to allow access for repairs and normal maintenance.

Flow Equalization Tank Construction. The construction of the proposed Flow Equalization Tank site and associated force mains will result in permanent conversion of approximately 0.06 acres of forested wetland to herbaceous wetland and temporary impact to approximately 0.17 acres of existing herbaceous wetlands.

To offset the projected unavoidable wetland impacts the applicant has designed the following mitigation proposal. The applicant proposes a combination of onsite wetland preservation and offsite wetland restoration.

To mitigate for the permanent conversion of over 5 acres of forested wetlands the City proposes to preserve 51 acres of wetlands and 37 acres of upland inclusions on Parcels 11 and 12. This represents a 9:2:1 mitigation ratio for the permanent conversion.

The City proposes to compensate for the permanent forested wetland impacts by preserving approximately 640 acres of wetlands within Parcels 2, 3, and 23 and by purchasing 25.56 credits from the Hoffman Forest Mitigation Bank. The combination of preservation on Parcels 2, 3, and 23 and the purchase of credits at Hoffman Forest provide 1 acre of restoration and 25 acres of preservation for each acre of permanent impact.

In order to mitigate for the stream impacts necessary for lagoon construction, the City proposes to create approximately 400 feet of intermittent channel.

Detailed plans of the project proposal can be viewed at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer Wilmington District Office. For more information to view the plans, please contact Brad Shaver, Regulatory Specialist at (910) 251-4611 or Gwen Robinson, Regulatory Program Assistant at (910) 251-4494.

Other Required Authorizations

This notice and all applicable application materials are being forwarded to the appropriate State agencies for review. The Corps will generally not make a final permit decision until the North Carolina Division of Water Quality (NCDWQ) issues, denies, or waives State certification required by Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (PL 92-500). The receipt of the application and this public notice combined with the appropriate application fee at the North Carolina Division of Water Quality central office in Raleigh will constitute initial receipt of an application for a 401 Water Quality Certification. A waiver will be deemed to occur if the NCDWQ fails to act on this request for certification within sixty days of the date of the receipt of this notice in the NCDWQ Central Office. Additional information regarding the Clean Water Act certification may be reviewed at the NCDWQ Central Office, 401 Oversight and Express Permits Unit, 2321 Crabtree Boulevard, Raleigh, North Carolina 27604-2260. All persons desiring to make comments regarding the application for certification under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act should do so in writing delivered to the North Carolina Division of Water Quality (NCDWQ), 1650 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1650, Attention: Ms. Cyndi Karoly by December 11, 2006.

The applicant has not provided to the Corps, a certification statement that his/her proposed activity complies with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the approved North Carolina Coastal Zone Management Program. Pursuant to 33 CFR 325.2(b)(2), the Corps can not issue a permit for the proposed work until the applicant submits such a certification to the Corps and the North Carolina Division of Coastal Management (NCDCM), and the NCDCM notifies the Corps that it concurs with the applicant's consistency certification.

Essential Fish Habitat

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The Corps' initial determination is that the proposed project will not adversely impact EFH or associated fisheries managed by the South Atlantic or Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Councils or the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Cultural Resources

The Corps has consulted the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places and is not aware that any registered properties, or properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein are located within the project area or will be affected by the proposed work. Presently, unknown archeological, scientific, prehistoric, or historical data may be located within the project area and/or could be affected by the proposed work.

The applicant has conducted a Phase 1 Archeological Survey as requested by the State Historic Preservation Office for the impact area. The Phase 1 surveys determined that the project area does not involve a National Register listed or eligible property.

Endangered Species

The Corps has reviewed the project area, examined all information provided by the applicant and consulted the latest North Carolina Natural Heritage Database. Based on available information, the Corps is not aware of the presence of species listed as threatened or endangered or their critical habitat formally designated pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) within the project area. A final determination on the effects of the proposed project will be made upon additional review of the project and completion of any necessary biological assessment and/or consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or National Marine Fisheries Service."

Evaluation

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. 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 proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal 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 (in accordance with Executive Order 11988), land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. For activities involving

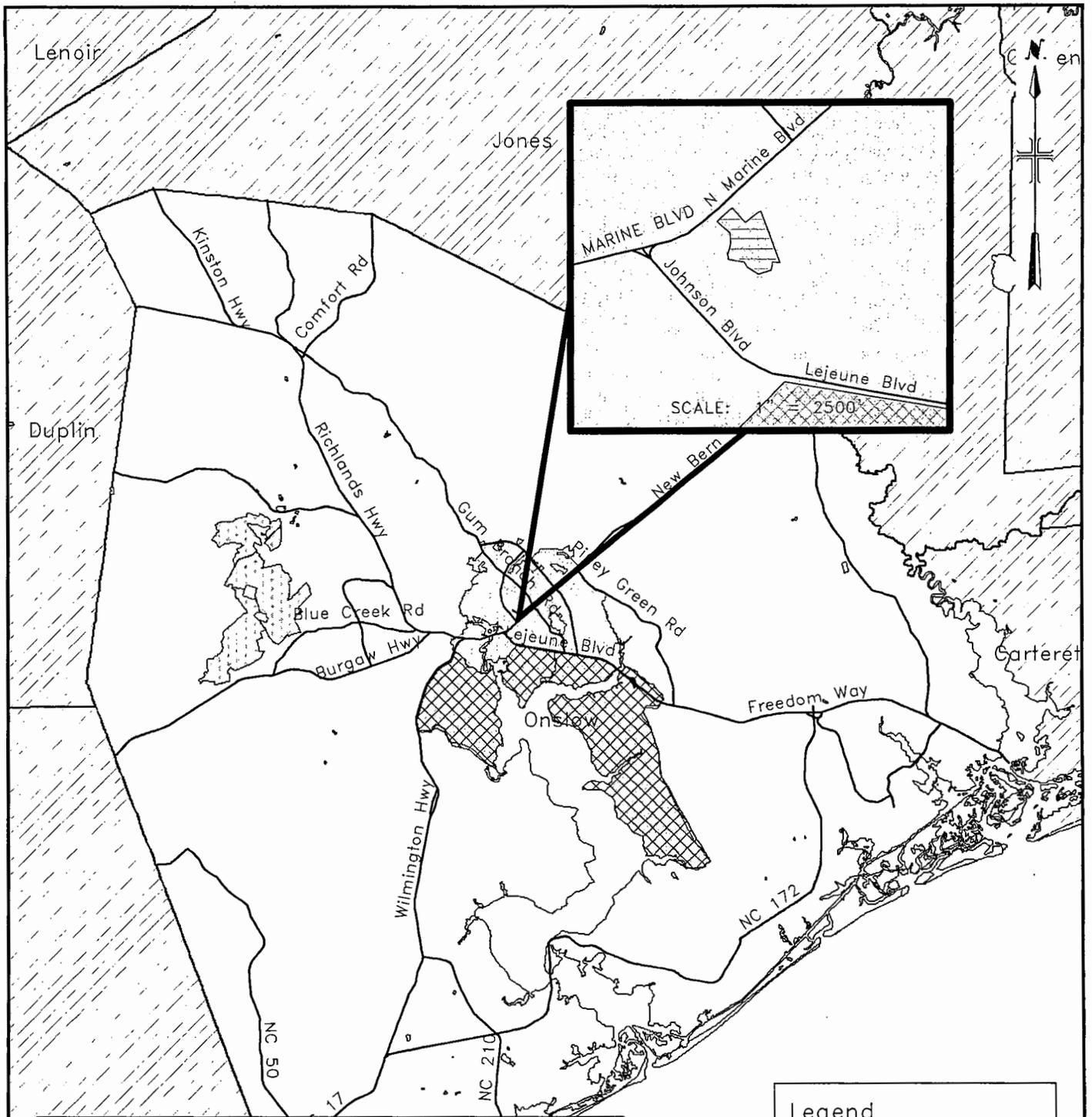
the discharge of dredged or fill materials in waters of the United States, the evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines.

Commenting Information

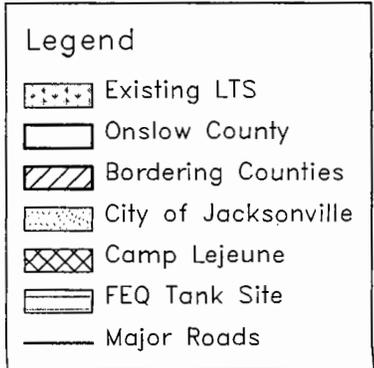
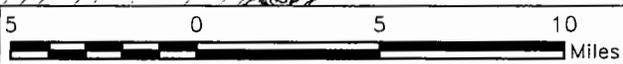
The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State and local agencies and officials, including any consolidate State Viewpoint or written position of the Governor; Indian Tribes and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. 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 (EA) and/or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

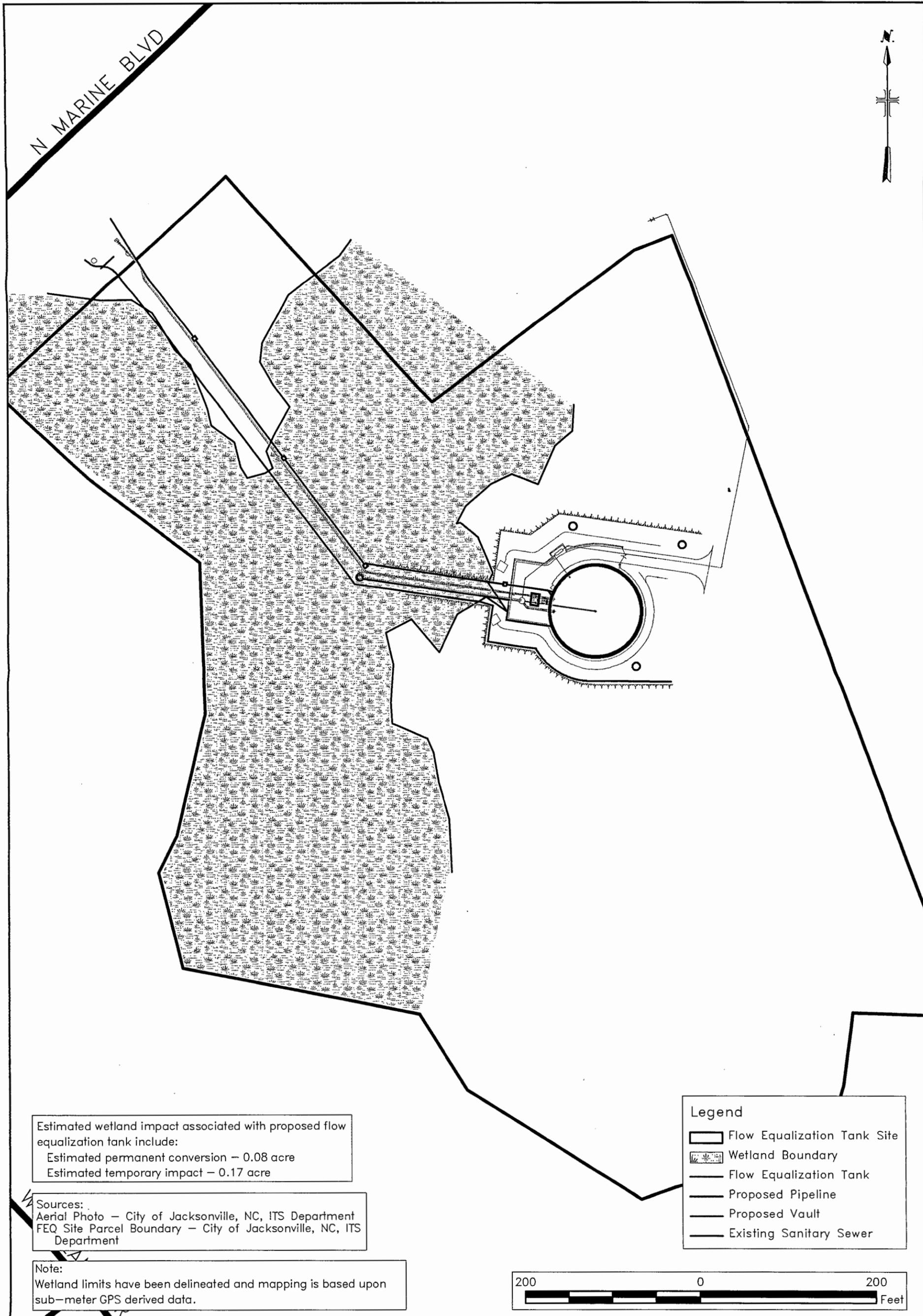
Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. Requests for a public hearing shall be granted, unless the District Engineer determines that the issues raised are insubstantial or there is otherwise no valid interest to be served by a hearing.

Written comments pertinent to the proposed work, as outlined above, will be received by the Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, until 5pm, December 18, 2006. Comments should be submitted to Brad Shaver, Post Office Box 1890, Wilmington, North Carolina, 28402-1890 or (910) 251-4611.



Sources:
 County Borders – ESRI
 Jacksonville City Limits – City of Jacksonville, NC, ITS Department
 Camp Lejeune – City of Jacksonville, NC, ITS Department
 Existing LTS – City of Jacksonville, NC, ITS Department
 Roads – City of Jacksonville, NC, ITS Department





N MARINE BLVD



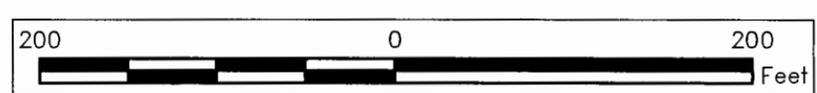
Estimated wetland impact associated with proposed flow equalization tank include:
 Estimated permanent conversion – 0.08 acre
 Estimated temporary impact – 0.17 acre

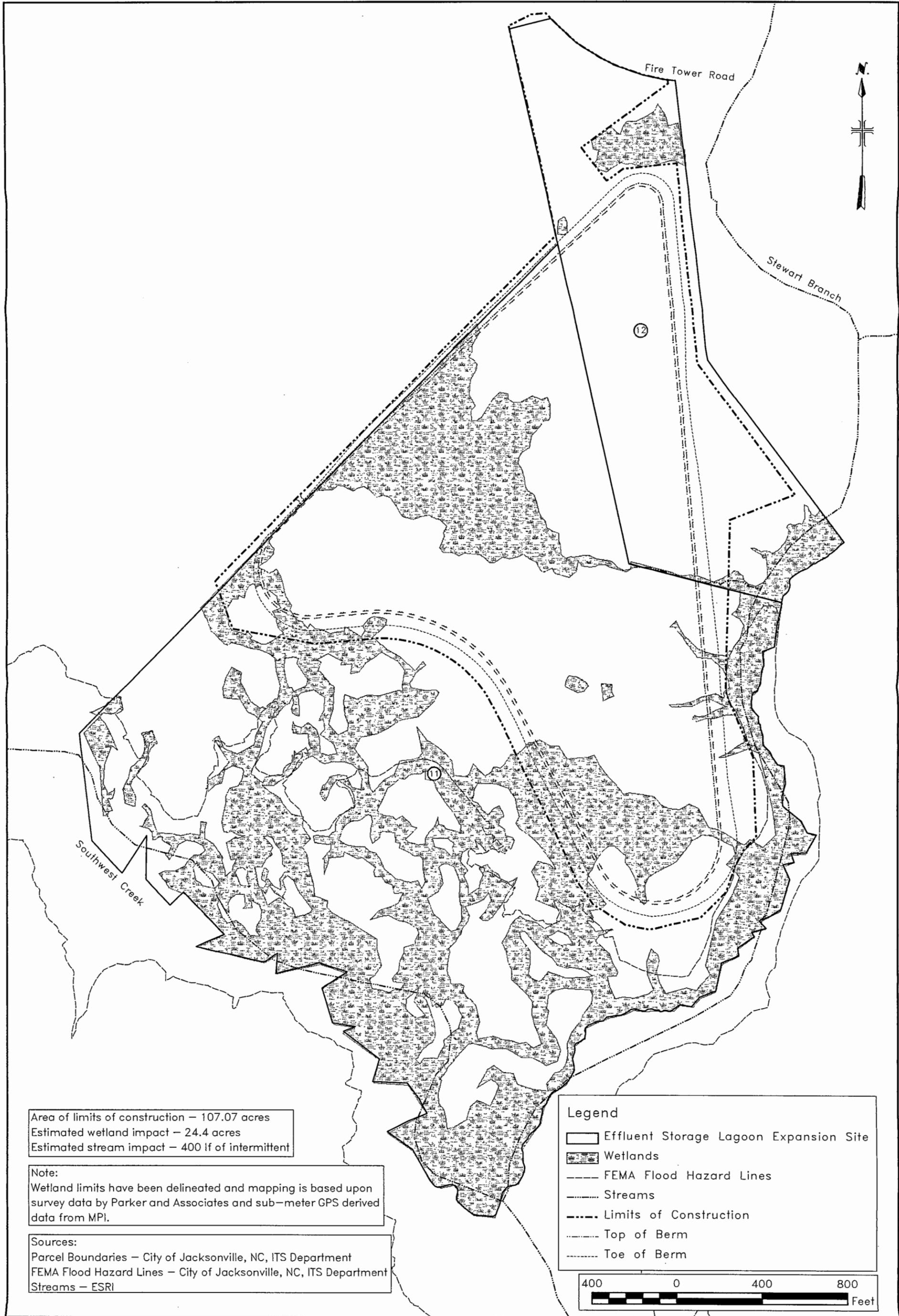
Sources:
 Aerial Photo – City of Jacksonville, NC, ITS Department
 FEQ Site Parcel Boundary – City of Jacksonville, NC, ITS Department

Note:
 Wetland limits have been delineated and mapping is based upon sub-meter GPS derived data.

Legend

- Flow Equalization Tank Site
- Wetland Boundary
- Flow Equalization Tank
- Proposed Pipeline
- Proposed Vault
- Existing Sanitary Sewer





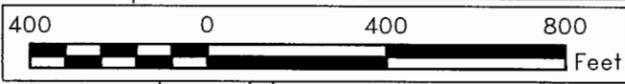
Area of limits of construction – 107.07 acres
 Estimated wetland impact – 24.4 acres
 Estimated stream impact – 400 lf of intermittent

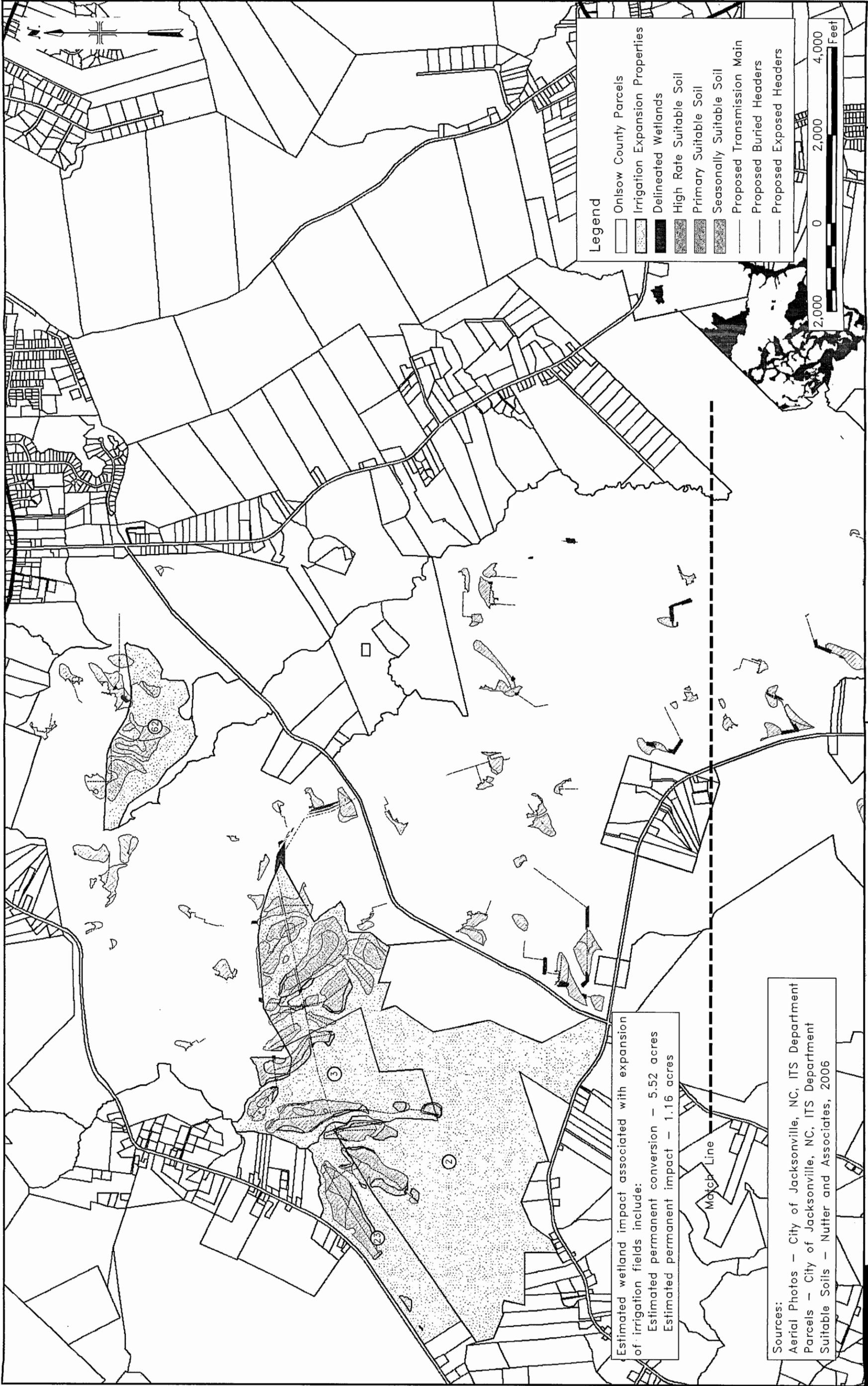
Note:
 Wetland limits have been delineated and mapping is based upon survey data by Parker and Associates and sub-meter GPS derived data from MPI.

Sources:
 Parcel Boundaries – City of Jacksonville, NC, ITS Department
 FEMA Flood Hazard Lines – City of Jacksonville, NC, ITS Department
 Streams – ESRI

Legend

- Effluent Storage Lagoon Expansion Site
- Wetlands
- FEMA Flood Hazard Lines
- Streams
- Limits of Construction
- Top of Berm
- Toe of Berm





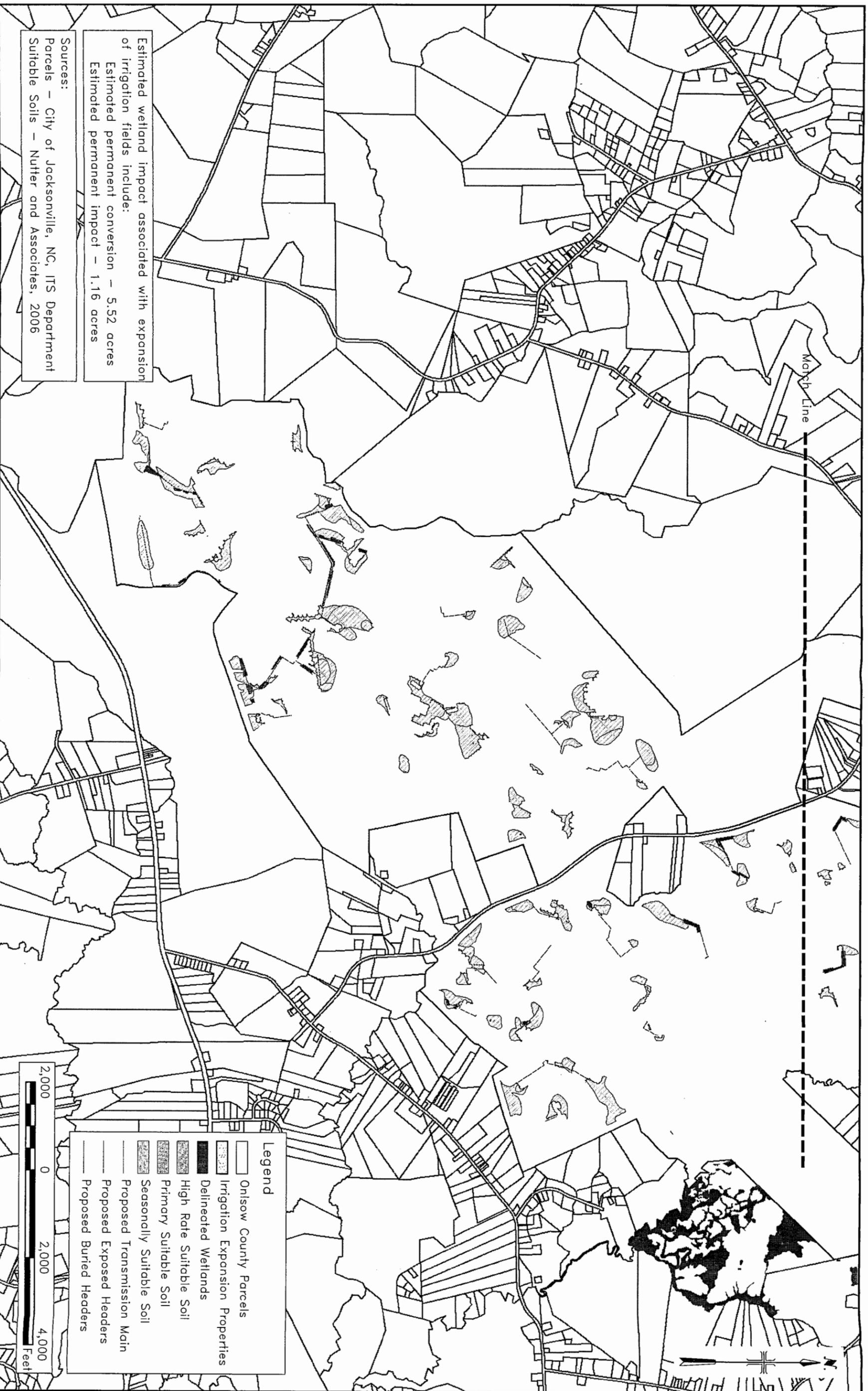
Legend

- Onslow County Parcels
- Irrigation Expansion Properties
- Delineated Wetlands
- High Rate Suitable Soil
- Primary Suitable Soil
- Seasonally Suitable Soil
- Proposed Transmission Main
- Proposed Buried Headers
- Proposed Exposed Headers



Estimated wetland impact associated with expansion of irrigation fields include:
 Estimated permanent conversion - 5.52 acres
 Estimated permanent impact - 1.16 acres

Sources:
 Aerial Photos - City of Jacksonville, NC, ITS Department
 Parcels - City of Jacksonville, NC, ITS Department
 Suitable Soils - Nutter and Associates, 2006



Estimated wetland impact associated with expansion of irrigation fields include:
 Estimated permanent conversion - 5.52 acres
 Estimated permanent impact - 1.16 acres

Sources:
 Parcels - City of Jacksonville, NC, ITS Department
 Suitable Soils - Nutter and Associates, 2006



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**MALCOLM
PIRNIE**

CITY OF JACKSONVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
**LAND TREATMENT SYSTEM UPGRADE
 AND EXPANSION**

PROPOSED IRRIGATION EXPANSION

SCALE: 1" = 2,000'

MALCOLM PIRNIE, INC.
 NOVEMBER 2006
FIGURE 2A