



COASTAL RESOURCES DIVISION

ONE CONSERVATION WAY · BRUNSWICK, GA 31520 · 912-264-7218

WALTER RABON  
COMMISSIONER

DOUG HAYMANS  
DIRECTOR

**JUN 25 2024**

Dan Bucey  
Resource & Land Consultants (RLC)  
41 Park of Commerce Way, Suite 101  
Savannah, GA 31405

**Re: Letter of Permission (LOP) and Revocable License (RL) for Maintenance of an Existing Bridge in Coastal Marshlands Protection Act (CMPA) Jurisdiction, Sylvan Island, Williamson Creek, Chatham County, Georgia.**

Dear Mr. Bucey:

This Letter of Permission (LOP) is in response to your request on behalf of Charles H. Morris to maintain the existing Sylvan Island vehicular bridge located on Williamson Creek, Sylvan Island, Chatham County. The project will begin no sooner than fifteen (15) days from the receipt of this letter and be completed no later within six (6) months.

The existing bridge constructed in the late 1940's or early 1950's provides the only vehicular access to Sylvan Island. The existing structure is constructed of 7-inch concrete slabs on steel beam stringers supported by four (4) existing concrete-wrapped wooden pilings. A recent structural inspection revealed the existing concrete-wrapped wood pilings have deteriorated and as a result, the load limit for the bridge has been reduced to include passenger type vehicles only. In the current state the bridge cannot safely accommodate large trucks necessary for safety and fire protection, refuse removal, deliveries, construction, and other non-passenger-type vehicles. Impacts to CMPA jurisdiction for the existing structure total approximately 2,450sq.ft.

Maintenance of the existing structure includes the installation of eight (8) new coated-steel transverse beams supported by sixteen (16) new coated steel H-piles on each side of the existing support beams. The design also includes installation of two (2) new coated steel transverse beams supported by four (4) new coated steel H-piles under the north and south approach slabs. The modified bridge support system would maintain the existing vertical clearance of approximately 6ft. above Mean High Water (MHW) at the project site and would result in a horizontal clearance of approximately 21ft., only slightly less than the existing +/-22ft. The work would be conducted with pile driving equipment and crane from the existing bridge and small watercraft for under-bridge work. No materials will be stored in jurisdiction. Any materials removed from the existing structure would be disposed of at an upland disposal site.

The approval is based upon the description that was submitted June 13, 2024. Please find enclosed a fully executed revocable license for the above-described project. This license serves as authorization to utilize state owned tidal water bottoms for your project as per the dimensions and configuration described. Any change in the use, location, dimensions, or configuration of the approved project, without prior notification and approval from this office could result in revocation of this license and in required removal of the materials and related structures. It is the responsibility of the Agent and Licensee to review the scope of work authorized by this LOP

with any and all contractors or subcontractors. It is the joint responsibility of all parties to abide by the conditions set forth in this LOP. This LOP is not meant to exempt the above referenced activity from future environmental laws. **No unauthorized equipment, materials or debris may be placed, disposed of, or stored in jurisdictional areas.** Any incidental impacts associated with this project must be rectified by fully restoring areas to their pre-operational topographic and vegetative states.

Please find enclosed a fully executed Revocable License (RL) for the project described above. This license serves as an authorization to utilize state owned tidal water bottoms for your project. Any change in the use, location, dimensions, or configuration of the approved project, without prior notification and approval from this office could result in revocation of this permission and in the required removal of the related structures.

This authorization does not relieve you from obtaining any other required federal, state, or local permits. Tidal water bottoms and marshlands of coastal Georgia are public trust lands controlled by the State, except for such lands where a validated Crown Grant or State Grant exists. Future maintenance activities that occur within tidal waters and have the potential to cause adverse impact, either temporary or permanent, or that will be in the public's interest shall be reported to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Coastal Resources Division.

If you have any questions you may contact Deb Barreiro at 912.266.3695.

Sincerely,



Jill Andrews  
Chief, Coastal Management Section

Enclosures: Project Description, Plans, Revocable License

cc: Marcus Lotson, Chatham County Building Department

LOP20240045

STATE OF GEORGIA

REVOCABLE LICENSE FOR THE USE OF TIDAL WATERBOTTOMS

APPLICANT NAME(S): Charles H. Morris  
MAILING ADDRESS: 24 Abercorn Street Savannah, GA 31401  
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)  
PROJECT ADDRESS/LOCATION: Sylvan Island road  
COUNTY: Chatham WATERWAY: Williamson Creek  
LOT, BLOCK & SUBDIVISION NAME FROM DEED: Williamson Island

The State of Georgia hereby grants you a revocable license not coupled with an interest<sup>1</sup>. This area may now or in the future be utilized by boats employing power drawn nets under the provisions for commercial or sport bait shrimping. In its occupancy and use of the premises, licensee shall not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, gender, color, national origin, religion, age, or disability. This covenant by licensee may be enforced by termination of this license, by injunction, and/or by any other remedy available at law to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

Attached hereto as Attachments A and B and made a part of this license are the project description, drawing(s), and terms and conditions that are the subject of this license. The project approved for this license must be constructed and completed within the specified timeframe noted in the terms and conditions and must be maintained in serviceable condition. Otherwise, action will be initiated to revoke this license and all structures must be removed immediately at the licensee's expense.

STATE OF GEORGIA  
Office of the Governor

By:   
For: Walter Rabon  
Commissioner-DNR

Date: JUN 25 2024

Enclosures: Attachment A: Project Description, Terms and Conditions  
Attachment B: Project Drawing(s)

LOP20240045

<sup>1</sup> Tidal water bottoms and marshlands of coastal Georgia are public trust lands owned by the State, except where ownership of such lands is demonstrated through an unbroken chain of title to a valid Crown or State Grant, which explicitly conveys the beds of such tidewaters. The Revocable License authorizes use of lands presumed to be owned by the State of Georgia, and which are under control of the State. This Revocable License is issued with the understanding and condition that it could be rendered invalid should another person demonstrate ownership to such lands pursuant to a valid Crown Grant or State Grant. This Revocable License is issued with the understanding that such lands are subject to the public trust doctrine.



June 13, 2023

Mr. Josh Noble  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
Coastal Resources Division  
One Conservation Way, Suite 300  
Brunswick, Georgia 31520-8687

**Subject: Request for Letter of Permission; Coastal Marshlands Protection Act  
Sylvan Island, Chatham County, Georgia**

Dear Mr. Noble:

Charles H. Morris, a resident of Sylvan Island, is requesting a Letter of Permission in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 12-5-286(a)(2) to conduct maintenance on the existing private bridge located on Lawrence Street, spanning Richardson Creek, in Thunderbolt, Chatham County, Georgia (32.02245, -81.04812).

The existing bridge was constructed in the late 1940's or early 1950's consisting of four (4) concrete-wrapped wooden piling supports with steel beams. In or around 1984, the bridge deck was resurfaced with concrete. A recent structural inspection has revealed that the existing support system consisting of the concrete-wrapped wood pilings have deteriorated and as a result the load limit for the bridge has been reduced to include passenger type vehicles only. The bridge in its current state cannot safely accommodate large trucks necessary for refuse removal, deliveries, construction, safety and fire protection, etc.

The property owners contracted with Thomas & Hutton to develop a maintenance plan that would allow for the bridge support system to be installed while allowing the bridge to remain in place and operational while maintaining the existing vertical clearance and a slightly narrower horizontal clearance over Richardson Creek. The plan produced by T&H titled *Sylvan Island Bridge Support Permit*, dated April 25, 2024 (attached) includes the following:

- Installation of eight (8) new coated-steel transverse beams supported by sixteen (16) new coated steel H-piles on each side of the existing support beams
- Installation of two (2) new coated steel transverse beams supported by four (4) new coated steel H-piles under the north and south approach slabs

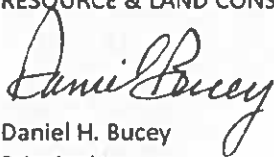
The modified bridge support system would maintain the existing vertical clearance of approximately 6' above MHW and would result in a horizontal clearance of approximately 21', only slightly less than the existing +/-22'. The work would be conducted with pile driving equipment and crane from the existing bridge and small watercraft for under-bridge work. No materials will be stored in jurisdiction. Any materials removed from the existing structure would be disposed of at an upland disposal site. All work would be conducted in compliance with standard manatee protection conditions.

The United States Coast Guard, as the federal regulatory agency overseeing bridges over navigable waters, has reviewed the proposed work and determined that a Coast Guard Bridge Permit is not required and that they do not object to the plan as proposed (see attached email correspondence dated May 3, 2024).

Due to the complex nature of the work, there is a limited number of qualified contractors that can perform the required work. The applicant has secured one such contractor with a projected work window to start on July 1, 2024, with work to conclude within six months unless delayed to unforeseen circumstances.

At your earliest convenience, please issue a letter of Permission authorizing the proposed maintenance of this existing bridge. If you have any questions, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,  
RESOURCE & LAND CONSULTANTS

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel H. Bucey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Daniel H. Bucey  
Principal

cc: Mr. Charles Morris  
Mr. Frank Peeples, Jr.

STATE OF GEORGIA

REQUEST FOR A REVOCABLE LICENSE FOR THE USE OF TIDAL WATERBOTTOMS

APPLICANT NAME(S): Charles H. Morris

MAILING ADDRESS: 27 Abercorn St. Savannah Georgia 31401  
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

PROJECT ADDRESS/LOCATION: Sylvan Island Road

COUNTY: Chatham WATERWAY: Williamson Creek

LOT, BLOCK & SUBDIVISION NAME FROM DEED: WILLIAMSON ISLAND

Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
Coastal Resources Division  
One Conservation Way  
Brunswick, Georgia 31520-8687

I am requesting that I be granted a revocable license from the State of Georgia to encroach on the beds of tidewaters, which are state owned property. Attached hereto and made a part of this request is a copy of the plans and description of the project that will be the subject of such a license. I certify that all information submitted is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and understand that willful misrepresentation or falsification is punishable by law.

I understand that if permission from the State is granted, it will be a revocable license and will not constitute a license coupled with an interest. I acknowledge that this revocable license does not resolve any actual or potential disputes regarding the ownership of, or rights in, or over the property upon which the subject project is proposed, and shall not be construed as recognizing or denying any such rights or interests. I acknowledge that such a license would relate only to the property interests of the State and would not obviate the necessity of obtaining any other State license, permit, or authorization required by State law. I recognize that I waive my right of expectation of privacy and I do not have the permission of the State of Georgia to proceed with such project until the Commissioner of DNR or his/her designee has executed a revocable license in accordance with this request.

Sincerely,

By: *Charles H. Morris, Sr.*  
Signature of Applicant

Date: 6/14/2024

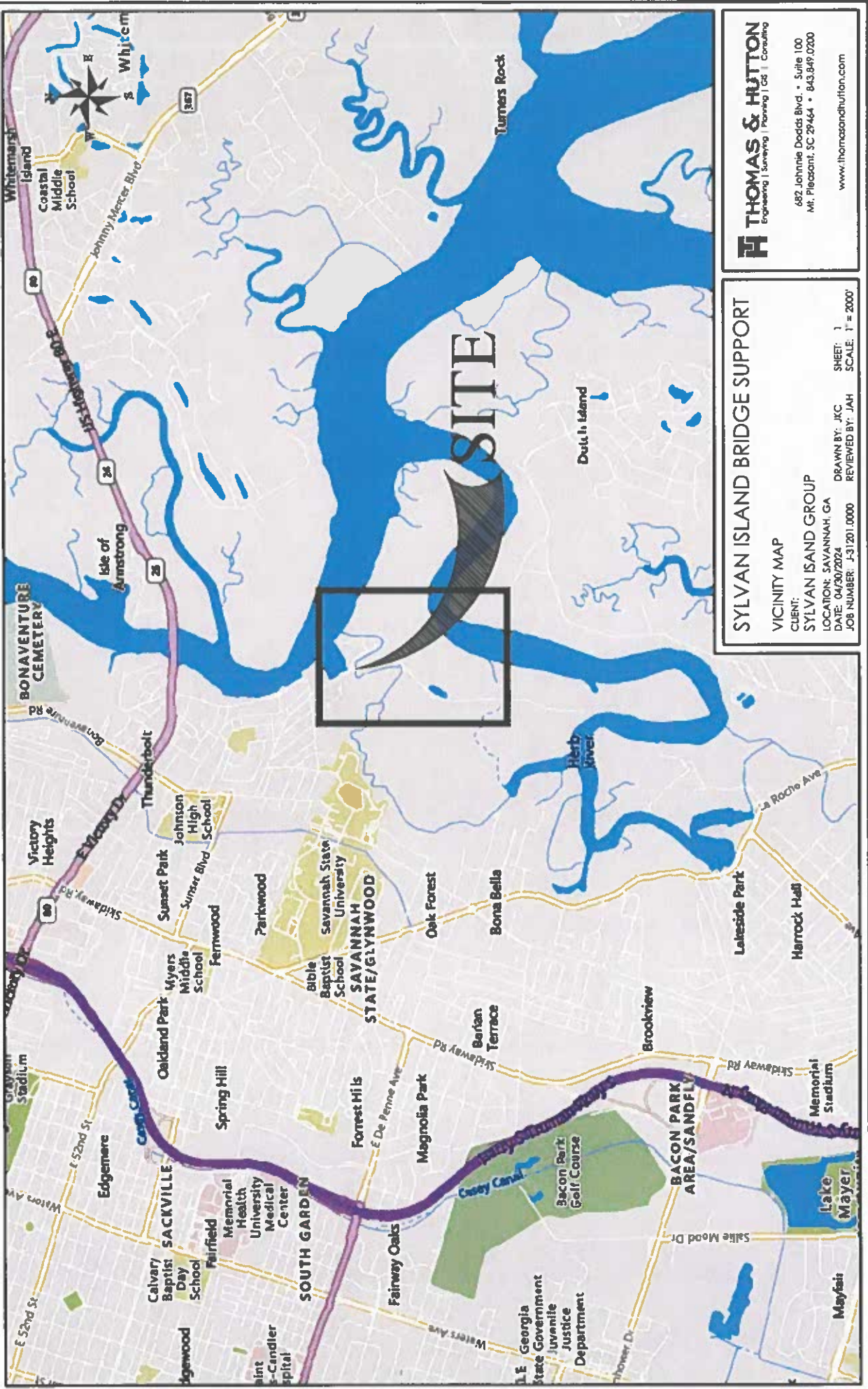
Charles H. Morris  
Title, if applicable

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Applicant

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

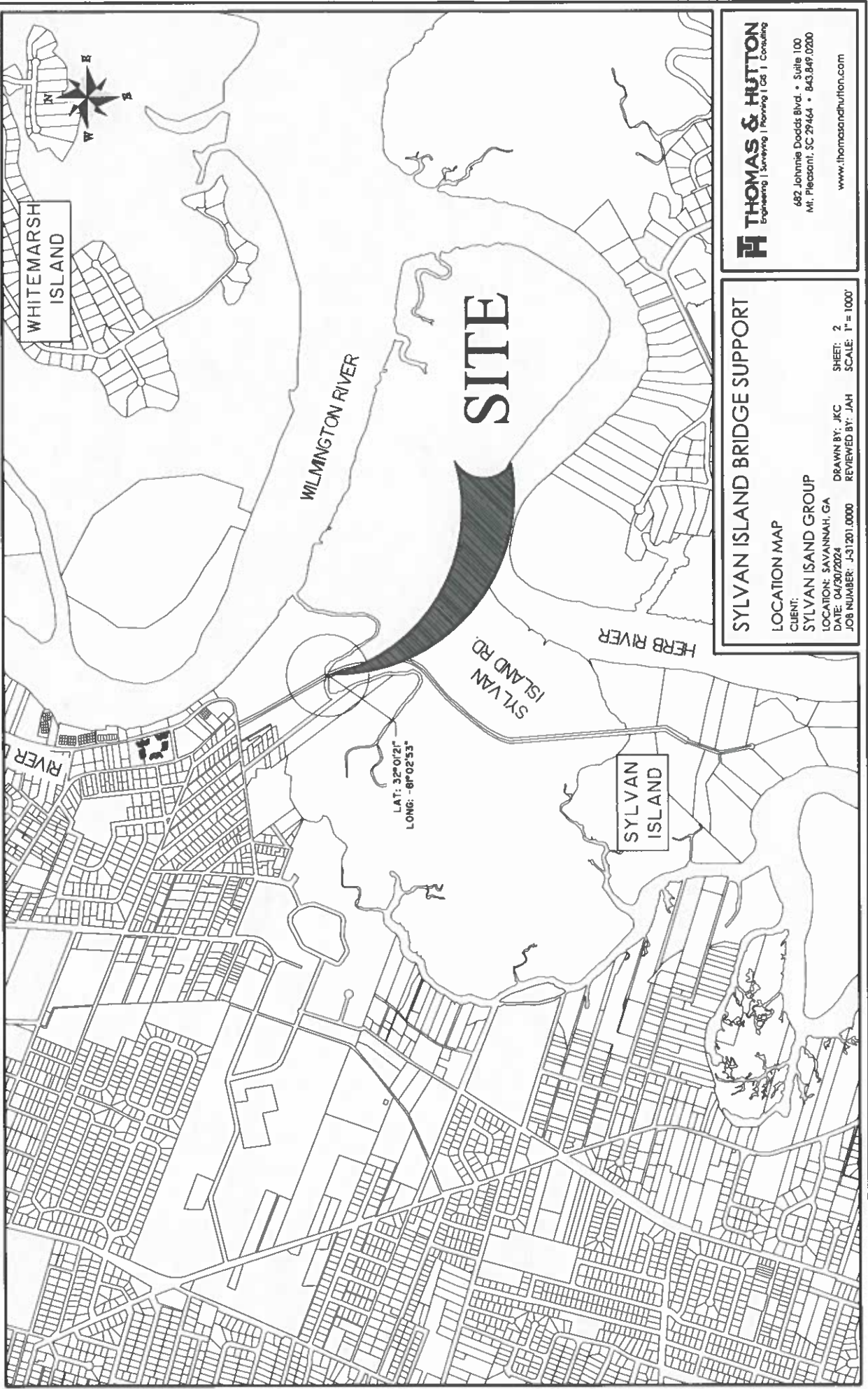
\_\_\_\_\_  
Title, if applicable

Attachments



**THOMAS & HUTTON**  
 Engineering | Surveying | Planning | GIS | Consulting  
 682 Johnnie Dodds Blvd. • Suite 100  
 Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464 • 843.349.0200  
 www.thomasandhutton.com

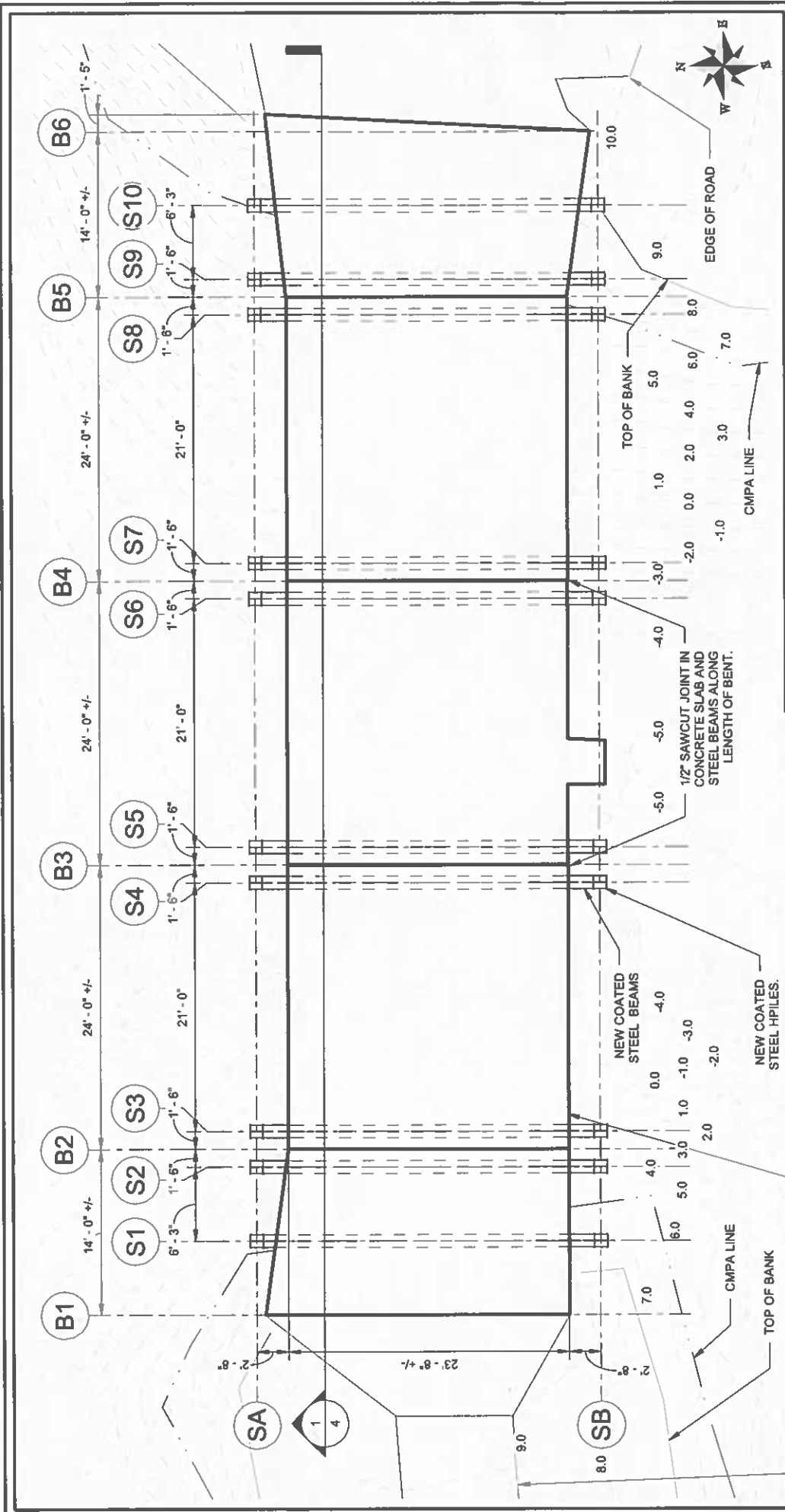
**SYLVAN ISLAND BRIDGE SUPPORT**  
 VICINITY MAP  
 CLIENT: SYLVAN ISLAND GROUP  
 LOCATION: SAVANNAH, GA  
 DATE: 04/30/2024  
 JOB NUMBER: J-31201.0000  
 DRAWN BY: JKC  
 REVIEWED BY: JAH  
 SHEET: 1  
 SCALE: 1" = 200'



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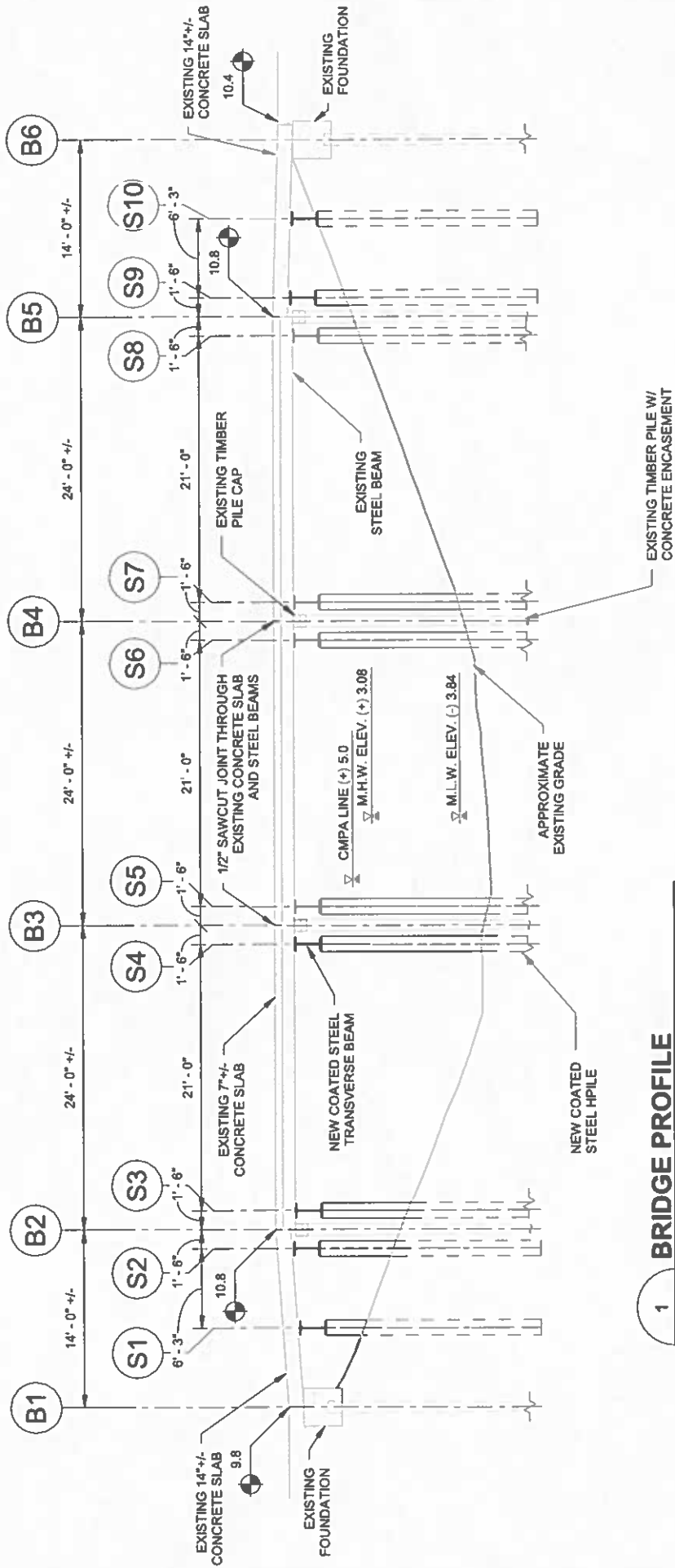
**SYLVAN ISLAND BRIDGE SUPPORT**  
 LOCATION MAP  
 CLIENT: SYLVAN ISLAND GROUP  
 LOCATION: SAVANNAH, GA  
 DATE: 04/30/2024  
 JOB NUMBER: J-31.201.0000  
 DRAWN BY: JKC  
 REVIEWED BY: JAH  
 SHEET: 2  
 SCALE: 1" = 1000'





**THOMAS & HUTTON**  
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 Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464 • 843.849.0200  
 www.thomasandhutton.com

**SYLVAN ISLAND BRIDGE SUPPORT**  
 BRIDGE PLAN  
 CLIENT: SYLVAN ISLAND GROUP  
 LOCATION: SAVANNAH, GA  
 DATE: 04/30/2024  
 JOB NUMBER: J-31201-0000  
 DRAWN BY: JKC  
 REVIEWED BY: JAH  
 SHEET: 3  
 SCALE: 1" = 1'-0"



1  
4  
BRIDGE PROFILE  
1/8" = 1'-0"

**SYLVAN ISLAND BRIDGE SUPPORT**  
 BRIDGE PROFILE  
 CLIENT: SYLVAN ISLAND GROUP  
 LOCATION: SAVANNAH, GA  
 DATE: 04/30/2024  
 JOB NUMBER: J-31.201.0000  
 DRAWN BY: JKC  
 REVIEWED BY: JAH  
 SHEET: 4  
 SCALE: 1" = 1'-0"

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 Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464 • 843.847.0200  
 www.thomasandhutton.com

**From:** [Overton, Randall D CIV USCG D7 \(USA\)](#)  
**To:** [Dan Bucey](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Sylvan Island bridge, Chatham County Georgia  
**Attachments:** [31201\\_0000 Bridge Support Permit Set - USACE.pdf](#)  
**Sent:** 5/3/2024 9:40:27 AM

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Mr. Bucey,

The repair work, as described, does not require a Coast Guard bridge permit. Richardson Creek at the location of the bridge, while Navigable Waters of the United States (33 CFR 2.36) and under the jurisdiction of the Coast Guard for bridge permitting, meets the Advance Approval criteria as defined in 33 CFR 115.70 based on the type and size of vessels plying these waters. Because this location meets the Advance Approval criteria, the proposed work does not require a Coast Guard bridge permit, and the Coast Guard has no objection to the proposed repair/rehabilitation project.

Please let me know if you have questions/concerns regarding this determination.

Thank you,

Randall Overton, MPA  
Director Bridge Program  
USCG District 7  
909 SE 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. (Ste 432)  
Miami, FL 33131  
Office Team's # (571) 607-6759  
Cell (305) 205-0795

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**From:** Dan Bucey <[dbucey@rlandc.com](mailto:dbucey@rlandc.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 2, 2024 3:32 PM  
**To:** Overton, Randall D CIV USCG D7 (USA) <[Randall.D.Overton@uscg.mil](mailto:Randall.D.Overton@uscg.mil)>  
**Subject:** [Non-DoD Source] Sylvan Island bridge, Chatham County Georgia

Dear Sir;

My client has an existing bridge providing sole access for a private island spanning Richardson Creek that was constructed sometime in the late 40's/50's (32.02245, -81.04812).

There are four full-time residents on the island. A recent inspection of the bridge has resulted in a drastic load reduction to passenger cars and light trucks only, leaving them with no fire protection, refuse pick-up, package delivery, etc. The bridge will require eleven new bents to be constructed on each side of the existing bents with steel girders spanning under the bridge to restore a suitable load bearing rating. No fill is required for the proposed repairs. The new pilings would be driven outside of the existing bridge footprint and the bridge would remain operational for the residents during construction.

Would submittal of the Assessment and Response Checklist for Applying 23 U.S.C. 144(c)(2) exceptions to USCG Bridge Permits be satisfactory to obtain permission to conduct the repairs?

Sincerely,

**Daniel Bucey, PRINCIPAL**

41 Park of Commerce Way, Suite 101  
Savannah GA, 31405

P 912 443 5896 F 912 443 5898 C 912 659 0988

<http://www.rlandc.com>



**From:** [Dan Bucey](#)  
**To:** [Barreiro, Deb](#); [Noble, Josh](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Sylvan Island Bridge Maintenance  
**Date:** Monday, June 24, 2024 8:49:06 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Deb;  
The existing bridge covers 2450 SF. The new pilings for repair total 62 SF outside of existing bridge deck.  
Thanks,

**Daniel Bucey, PRINCIPAL**  
41 Park of Commerce Way, Suite 101  
Savannah GA, 31405  
P 912 443 5896 F 912 443 5898 C 912 659 0988  
<http://www.rlandc.com>

---

**From:** Barreiro, Deb <Deb.Barreiro@dnr.ga.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 21, 2024 4:12 PM  
**To:** Dan Bucey <dbucey@rlandc.com>; Noble, Josh <Josh.Noble@dnr.ga.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Sylvan Island Bridge Maintenance

just wanted to follow up and make sure you saw my request for the sq.ft. of impacts as proposed for the structure.

let me know if you have any questions.  
enjoy the weekend  
db

---

**From:** Barreiro, Deb  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 18, 2024 10:46 AM  
**To:** Dan Bucey <dbucey@rlandc.com>; Noble, Josh <[Josh.Noble@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:Josh.Noble@dnr.ga.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Sylvan Island Bridge Maintenance

great news that the proposed fix is permanent.  
the 6.13.2024 LOP request also references Richardson Creek,  
though GPS is correct.

impacts for new structure in SF please.  
any temporary impacts?

**From:** Dan Bucey <[dbucey@rlandc.com](mailto:dbucey@rlandc.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 18, 2024 10:40 AM

**To:** Barreiro, Deb <[Deb.Barreiro@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:Deb.Barreiro@dnr.ga.gov)>; Noble, Josh <[Josh.Noble@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:Josh.Noble@dnr.ga.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: Sylvan Island Bridge Maintenance

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Typo on the USCG approval. The description in LOP request is correct. Small boat in water may be required at times but no barge or work deck. No plan to remove existing pilings or beams. This fix is considered permanent.

Do you need SF of new structure?

Daniel Bucey, Principal  
41 Park of Commerce Way, Suite 101  
Savannah, GA, 31405  
P 912 443 5896 F 912 443 5898  
C 912 659 0988  
[Http://www.rlandc.com](http://www.rlandc.com)

---

**From:** Barreiro, Deb <[Deb.Barreiro@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:Deb.Barreiro@dnr.ga.gov)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 18, 2024 9:59:37 AM

**To:** Dan Bucey <[dbucey@rlandc.com](mailto:dbucey@rlandc.com)>; Noble, Josh <[Josh.Noble@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:Josh.Noble@dnr.ga.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: Sylvan Island Bridge Maintenance

working on this.

reviewing the project description & plans you have provided.

the letter to USCG says 11 new bents on Richardson Creek.

the LOP request & plans submitted to CRD for the project states 20 H piles on Williamson Creek.

please provide clarification on the waterway & impacts.

please provide a statement for total impacts to CMPA jurisdiction for the project as proposed.

will there be any temporary impacts associated with the project (barge or temporary work deck in CMPA Jurisdiction, removal of existing pilings, stringers, etc)?

will there be a new bridge proposed in the future or is this fix permanent?

THANKS

---

**From:** Dan Bucey <[dbucey@rlandc.com](mailto:dbucey@rlandc.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 13, 2024 12:36 PM

**To:** Noble, Josh <[Josh.Noble@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:Josh.Noble@dnr.ga.gov)>

**Cc:** Barreiro, Deb <[Deb.Barreiro@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:Deb.Barreiro@dnr.ga.gov)>

**Subject:** Sylvan Island Bridge Maintenance

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Josh;

As discussed, attached is LOP request for Sylvan Island bridge repair. Will send revocable license shortly.

Thanks,

**Daniel Bucey, PRINCIPAL**

41 Park of Commerce Way, Suite 101

Savannah GA, 31405

**P** 912 443 5896 **F** 912 443 5898 **C** 912 659 0988

<http://www.rlandc.com>

