



COASTAL RESOURCES DIVISION
ONE CONSERVATION WAY • BRUNSWICK, GA 31520 • 912-264-7218

WALTER RABON
COMMISSIONER

DOUG HAYMANS
DIRECTOR

July 7, 2025

Skidaway Institute of Oceanography
Chuck Hartman
10 Ocean Circle Drive
Savannah, GA 31411

Re: Letter of Permission (LOP) and Revocable License (RL), Maintenance of an Existing Bank Stabilization Project, 10 Ocean Science Circle, Skidway River, Chatham County, Georgia, (GPS 31.98886°N/-81.02486°W), SAS-2013-00338

Dear Mr. Hartman,

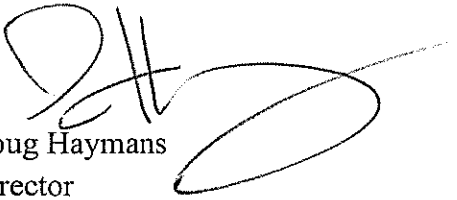
This Letter of Permission (LOP) is in response to your request dated May 28, 2025, for replacement of an existing bulkhead located in Coastal Marshlands Protection Act (CMPA) jurisdiction at 10 Ocean Science Circle, Chatham County. The timber and vinyl sheet pile bulkhead is approximately 1,680ft. x 1ft. x 4ft. and is beginning to exhibit structural failure. The project will begin no sooner than fifteen (15) days from the date of this letter and be completed within six (6) months.

The Department authorizes the bulkhead replacement in the originally permitted footprint as depicted in the attached description and drawings. No unauthorized equipment, materials, or debris may be placed in, disposed of, or stored in jurisdictional areas. All material removed must be disposed of at an appropriate upland disposal area. Any visible alterations in marsh topography will be restored immediately using low-impact hand tools. Any damage to the marsh vegetation that has not recovered naturally during the next growing season may require restoration by a method acceptable to the Department.

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. If you have any questions, please contact Cheyenne Osborne at 912-264-7218.

Sincerely,


Doug Haymans
Director

Enclosures: Federal Consistency Certification Statement, Revocable License, Project Request, Project Plans, Site Photographs

Cc: Sherelle.D.Reinhardt@usace.army.mil
acbliss@chathamcounty.org
marclotson@chathamcounty.org

File: LOP20250049

FEDERAL CONSISTENCY CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

Printed Name of Applicant(s): Charles Hartman - Skidaway Institute of Oceanography

Applicant Email: chuck.hartman@sklo.uga.edu Phone: (912) 598-2442

Agent Name (if applicable): Brandon Wall - Sligh Environmental Consultants Phone: (912) 232-0451

To Whom It May Concern:

This is to certify that I have made application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for authorization to impact Waters of the United States and that such proposed work is, to the best of my knowledge, consistent with Georgia's Coastal Management Program.

I understand I must provide this Consistency Certification Statement, along with a copy of my permit application submitted to USACE, to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Coastal Resources Division (CRD) before they can begin evaluating my proposed project for consistency with Georgia's enforceable policies. I understand additional information may be required to facilitate review.

Once any required authorizations or permits from CRD have been issued, and CRD has concurred with my findings by signing this Consistency Certification Statement, CRD must submit it to USACE in order for them to issue any required federal permits or authorizations, or to validate any provisional authorizations they have already issued. A USACE provisional authorization or permit will not be valid until they receive this Certification Statement signed by CRD.

☒ Attached is a copy of my application to USACE (required)

Signature of Applicant: M.M. Hartman Date: 5-28-25

FOR AGENCY INTERNAL USE ONLY:	Date Received (Commencement Date): <u>5/28/25</u>
USACE Authorization/Permit Number (assigned by USACE):	<u>SAS-2013-00338</u>
USACE Authorization Type (select one):	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Permit <input type="checkbox"/> General Permit # <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NWP # <u>13</u>
USACE Project Manager:	<u>Sherelle Reinhardt</u>
CRD Authorization/Permit Number (assigned by CRD):	<u>LOP20250049</u>
CRD Project Manager:	<u>Cherylene Osborne</u>

CRD CONCURS WITH THIS CONSISTENCY CERTIFICATION STATEMENT TO THE EXTENT THAT USACE AUTHORIZATION IS CONSISTENT WITH THE PROJECT AS DESCRIBED IN ANY CRD AUTHORIZATION.

CRD Signature: _____ Date: _____
Printed Name: Doug Hayman Title: Director

For questions regarding consistency with the Georgia Coastal Management Program, please contact the Federal Consistency Coordinator at (912) 264-7218 or visit www.CoastalGADNR.org.

STATE OF GEORGIA

REVOCABLE LICENSE FOR THE USE OF TIDAL WATERBOTTOMS

APPLICANT NAME(S): _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____
(Street) (City) (State) (Zip)

PROJECT ADDRESS/LOCATION: _____

COUNTY: _____ WATERWAY: _____

LOT, BLOCK & SUBDIVISION NAME FROM DEED: _____

The State of Georgia hereby grants you a revocable license not coupled with an interest¹. 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: _____

Enclosures:

¹ 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.

sligh environmental consultants, inc

May 28, 2025

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Regulatory Division, Southern Branch
100 West Oglethorpe Avenue
Savannah, Georgia 31401-3640

Mr. Josh Noble
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
One Conservation Way
Brunswick, Georgia 31520

**Subject: Nationwide Permit 3 and Revocable License Application
 Skidaway Institute of Oceanography
 Bulkhead Replacement
 Chatham County, Georgia**

On behalf of the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography (SKIO), Sligh Environmental Consultants, Inc. respectfully requests authorization under Letter of Permission and Nationwide Permit 3 for replacement of an existing bulkhead. The proposed project will replace approximately 1,680 linear feet of existing timber bulkhead in-kind and in the same location. The project site consists of an existing marine research and educational facility located at 31.9900°, -81.0209°, 0.1 mile west of Modena Island Drive on the northern end of Skidaway Island, Chatham County, Georgia. The attached information includes the following:

- Pre-Construction Notification Form
- Revocable License Request Form
- Federal Consistency Certification Form
- Project Description
- Project Maps and Permit Exhibits
- IPac List

If you have any questions or comments, or if you wish to discuss the project in further detail, please do not hesitate to contact me at (912) 232-0451.

Sincerely,



Brandon W. Wall
Senior Project Manager
Sligh Environmental Consultants, Inc.

Enclosures

Cc: Mr. Chuck Hartman – SKIO (applicant)
 Mr. Jason Ball – Ball Maritime Group
 Mr. David Hedeem – EPD
 Ms. Kelie Moore – CRD

Nationwide Permit # 3 / Revocable License Application
Skidaway Institute of Oceanography
Bulkhead Replacement
Chatham County, Georgia

Project Description:

The Skidaway Institute of Oceanography (SKIO) requests authorization under Nationwide Permit 3 and Revocable License to replace the existing bulkhead at the SKIO facility. The project site consists of an existing marine research and educational facility located at 31.9900°, -81.0209°, 0.1 mile west of Modena Island Drive on the northern end of Skidaway Island, Chatham County, Georgia.

Proposed Site Plan:

The shoreline is currently stabilized with approximately 1,680 linear feet (lf) of timber (1,500 lf) and vinyl sheetpile (180 lf) bulkhead. Timber sections consist of wooden walls supported by 6" x 6" timber posts, 6' on-center with timber whalers. A 2" x 8" cap is located on top of the bulkhead. The vinyl sheetpile consists of approximately 12" x 24" sheets with a 12" aluminum cap. The bulkhead averages approximately 4 feet high.

Portions of the existing bulkhead are separating from the bank and leaning out towards the river. Other portions of the timber structure exhibit rot and decay. Without repair, the existing bulkhead would eventually fail resulting in shore line erosion and sedimentation. The proposed project consists of replacement of the existing bulkhead in-kind and in the same location. No new impacts to marsh beyond a minimum amount of disturbance necessary to replace the structure are proposed.

Permitting History

In 2013 a Nationwide Permit 3 authorization from the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) (SAS-2013-00338) and a Letter of Permission and Revocable License from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources – Coastal Resources Division (CRD) was issued to replace the bulkhead with a vinyl sheetpile wall. The permit authorized the applicant to install the sheetpile in front of the timber bulkhead. Approximately 178 lf of the wall was replaced on the northern end of the facility, and approximately 140 lf of sheetpile was installed near the southern end of the project. The remainder was not installed. The proposed project will remove both sections of vinyl sheetpile (along with the remaining timber bulkhead) and replace it with a new timber bulkhead. Other permits have been issued on the SKIO property to improve existing dock structures such as CMPA #819/SAS-2008-01433 and SAS-2009-00015/CMPA #832, but those permitted activities would not be affected by the subject project. The proposed project is considered maintenance and repair.

Minimization Measures:

All construction activities will be conducted in accordance with best management practices for the prevention of erosion and sedimentation during construction. The applicant will ensure that no oils, grease, or other pollutants are released into the receiving waterway during construction.

Threatened and Endangered Species:

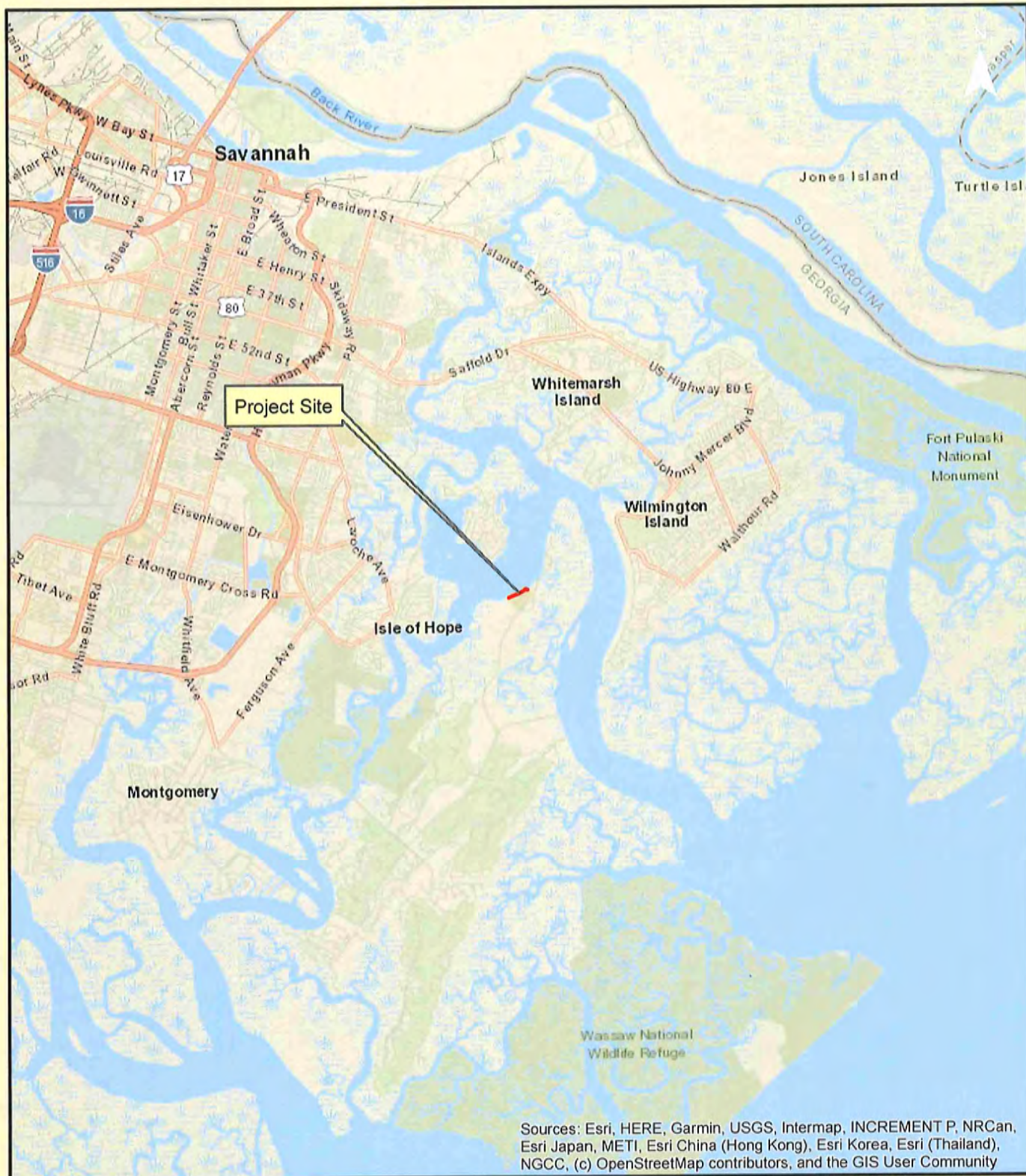
SECI completed a threatened and endangered species survey within the proposed project area where plant communities and habitats were observed and noted to determine if they match the habitat types where the listed species have potential to occur. The project area contains salt marsh and intertidal waters considered to be habitat for wood stork, eastern black rail, and west Indian manatee. Wood storks could use intertidal waters for foraging; however, an abundant amount of other foraging opportunities are available for wood storks throughout the area. For black rails, an abundant amount of vegetated marsh habitat is available upstream and downstream of the project site, and proposed impacts to vegetation are very minimal. Any black rails in the area could easily relocate during construction, and no loss of marsh habitat would occur as part of the bulkhead replacement project. For manatees, the project site could only be accessible at high tides. Standard manatee conditions will be followed during construction. It was therefore concluded that replacement of the existing bulkhead would not impact any individual or population of a listed threatened or endangered species.

Essential Fish Habitat

Projects proposing impacts to tidal waters must be evaluated with respect to Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The proposed project, being located in tidal waters, has the potential to impact the estuarine marsh, which is identified as essential fish habitat by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. The project involves replacing an existing bulkhead within the same footprint. Any disturbance within jurisdictional area would be minimal and temporary - only during construction. Therefore, impacts are minor and will not significantly affect EFH for managed species.

Cultural Resources:

SECI conducted a cursory review of public data available through the National Register of Historic Places and the Georgia Natural, Archeological, and Historical Resources GIS (GNAHRGIS) Database. The review revealed that no eligible resources or any sites listed on the GNAHRGIS Database are located within or in the vicinity of the project site. The proposed project consists of replacement of an existing bulkhead within the same footprint. The project site consists of a fully developed research facility, and the area immediately landward of the existing bulkhead has already been disturbed (excavated and backfilled) as part of the installation of the existing bulkhead. Currently, the landward side of the bulkhead consists of mowed/maintained grass lawn. Based on the lack of known sites within the vicinity of the project area along with the disturbed and developed condition of the property and the minimal amount of disturbance associated with the project, it was determined that the project would have no potential to cause effects to any sites eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.



Prepared By:

sligh environmental consultants, inc.
31 Park of Commerce Way, Suite 200B
Savannah, Georgia 31405
phone (912) 232-0451
fax (912) 232-0453

Project Site
SKIO Bulkhead Replacement
Chatham County, Georgia

2

Miles

Exhibit Date: 5/6/25

Drawn By: BWW

Reviewed By: BWW

Job Number : 01-25-041



Existing Bulkhead
(CMPA/Section 10 Line)

Prepared By:

sligh environmental consultants, inc.
31 Park of Commerce Way, Suite 200B
Savannah, Georgia 31405
phone (912) 232-0451
fax (912) 232-0453

2023 Aerial Photograph
SKIO Bulkhead Replacement
Chatham County, Georgia

200

Feet

Exhibit Date: 5/6/25

Drawn By: BWW

Reviewed By: BWW

Job Number : 01-25-041



TIMBER BULKHEAD START
N: 725684.8923
E: 1011396.0942
LAT: N31.990068
LONG: W81.020868

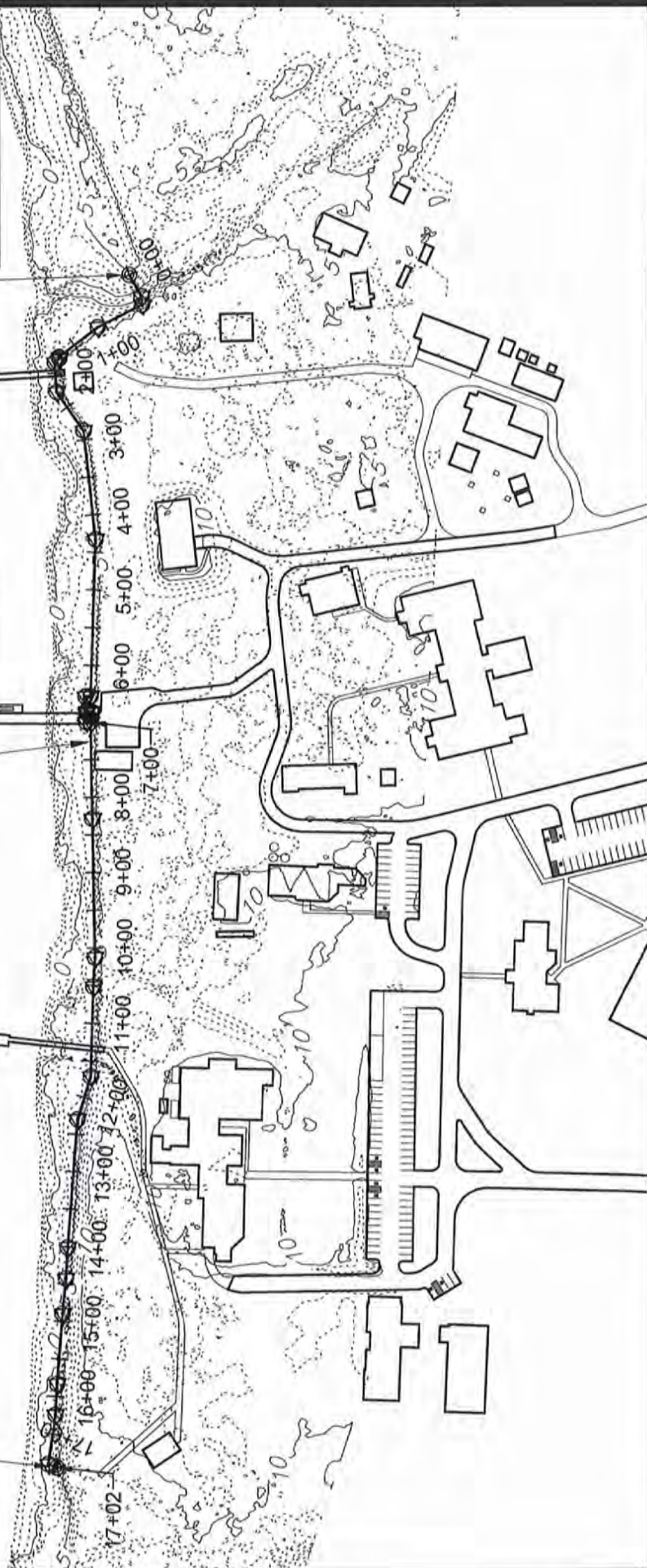
FLOOD
EBB

MAIN DOCK
APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF
EXISTING TIMBER BULKHEAD
(CMPA/SECTION 10
JURISDICTION LINE)

UGA DOCK

TIMBER BULKHEAD END
N: 725047.5043
E: 1009942.6335
LAT: N31.988358
LONG: W81.025577

SKIDAWAY RIVER



EXISTING CONDITIONS PLAN

UGA SKIDAWAY INSTITUTE BULKHEAD

PROPOSED ACTIVITY: BULKHEAD REPLACEMENT

Applicant: UGA SKIDAWAY INSTITUTE

Date: 4/11/25

County: CHATHAM COUNTY

JOB#: 25-1022

SCALE: 1" = 200'

DATUM: NAD 83

SHEET: 3 of 5

SCALE: 1"=200'

(IN FEET)



GENERAL NOTES:

1. LOCATION OF ALL FEATURES ARE APPROXIMATE AND ARE SUBJECT TO VERIFICATION OF SURVEY. ALL STRUCTURES, ROADWAYS, WALKS, AND DOCKS WERE DIGITIZED FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY.
2. TOPOGRAPHY IS BASED FROM 2009 LIDAR FROM CHATHAM CO.
3. SEE SHEET 4 FOR TIMBER BULKHEAD ELEVATION
4. SEE SHEET 5 FOR TYPICAL TIMBER BULKHEAD SECTION

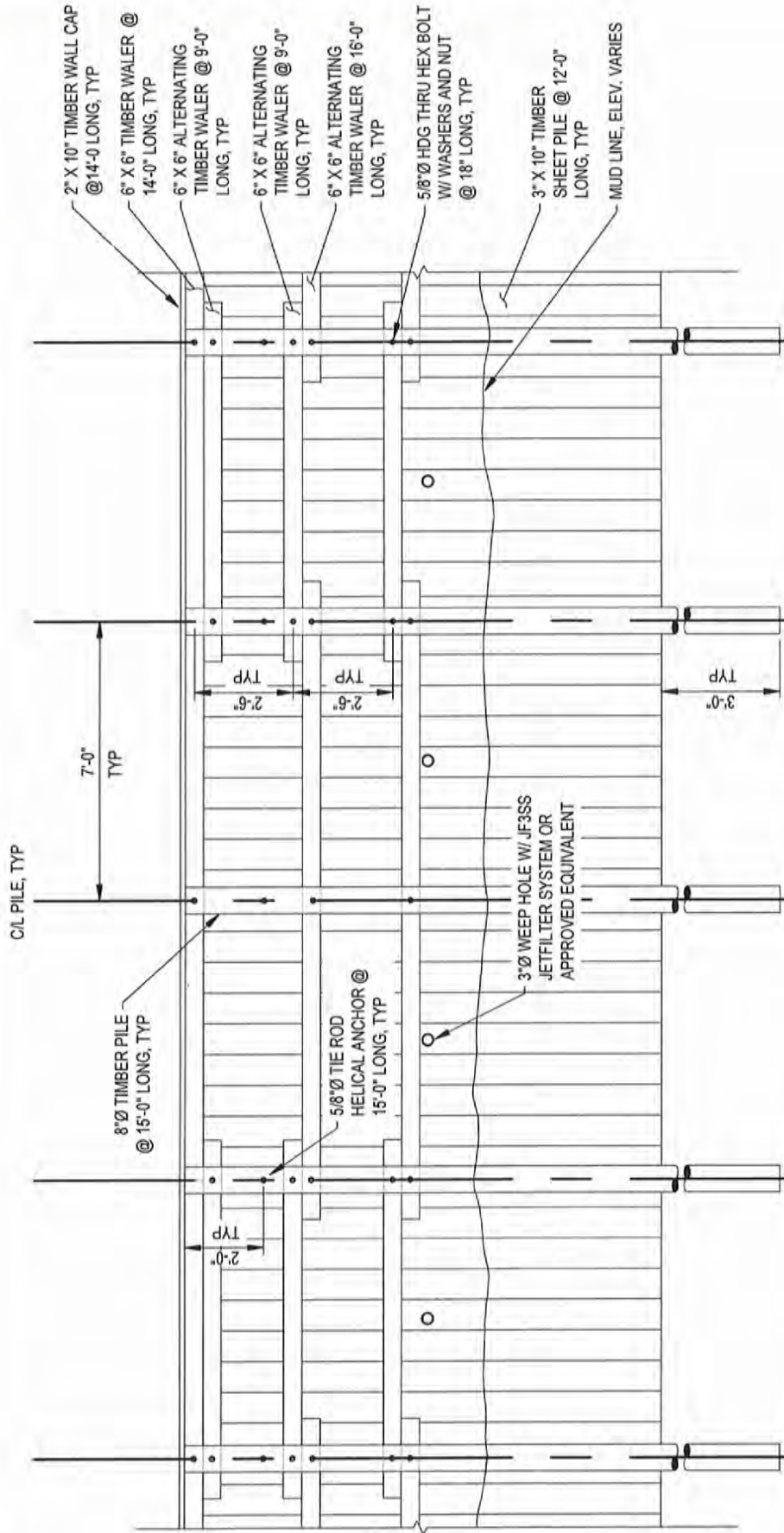


Ball Maritime Group

4 Cedar View Court | Savannah, GA 31410
www.ballmaritime.com | (912) 662-2914

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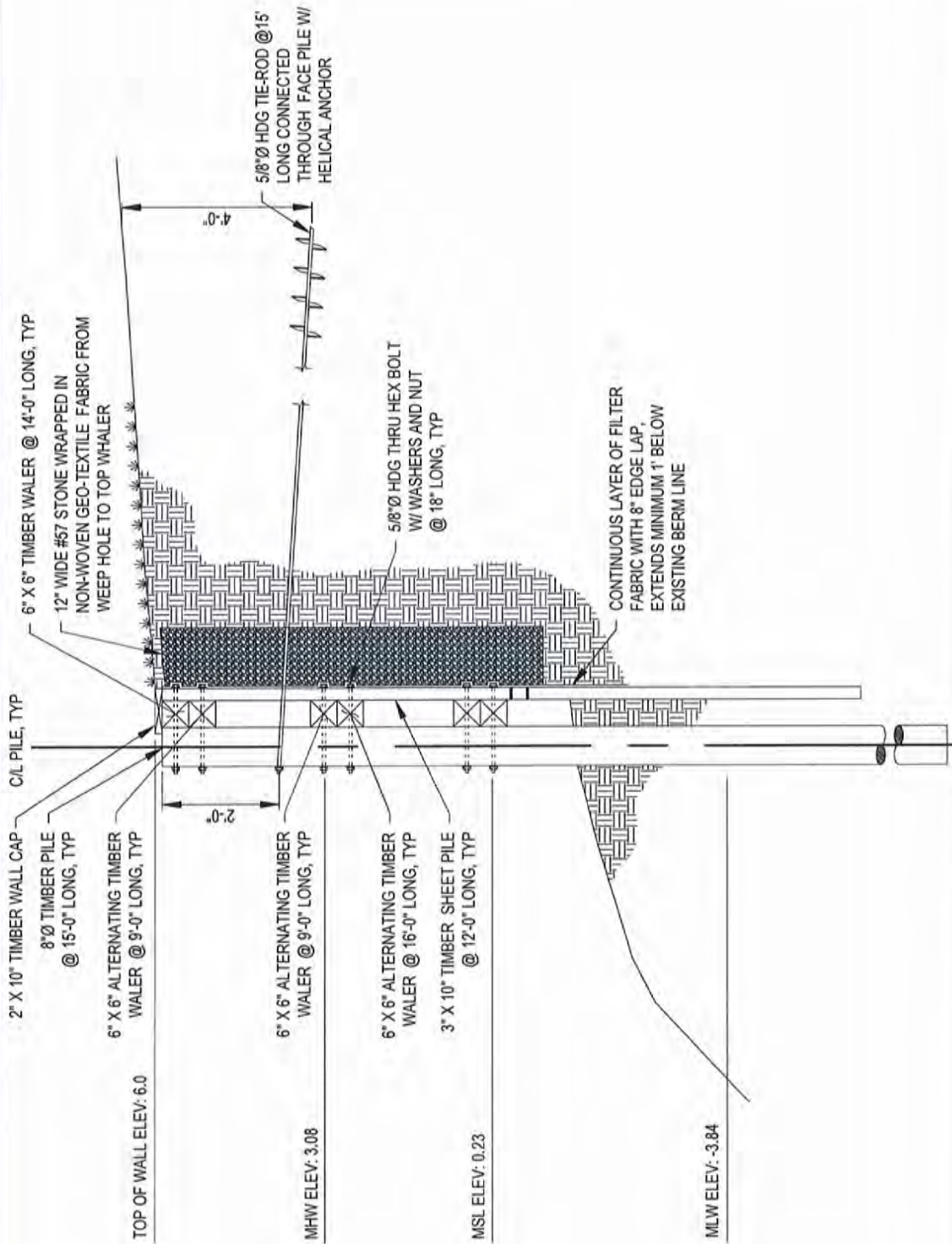
Ball Maritime Group
 4 Cedar View Court | Savannah, GA 31410
 www.ballmaritime.com | (912) 662-2914
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GENERAL NOTES:
 1. DEPTH OF MUD LINE VARIES. DRIVE EACH PILE TO A MINIMUM DEPTH OF 12' BELOW MUD LINE. FINAL LOCATION OF PILES WITHIN BULKHEAD TO BE DETERMINED BY DOCK CONTRACTOR.

ELEVATION
 UGA SKIDAWAY INSTITUTE BULKHEAD REPLACEMENT
 3 OCEAN SCIENCE RD

Applicant: UGA SKIDAWAY INSTITUTE
 Date: 4/11/25
 County: CHATHAM COUNTY
 Job#: 25-1022
 Scale: 1/4" = 1'-0"
 Datum: MAD 83
 Sheet: 4 of 5

SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0" (IN FEET)
 0 2' 4' 8'



Ball Maritime Group

4 Cedar View Court | Savannah, GA 31410
www.ballmaritime.com | (912) 662-2914

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GENERAL NOTES:

1. DEPTH OF MUD LINE VARIES. DRIVE EACH PILE TO A MINIMUM DEPTH OF 12' BELOW MUD LINE. FINAL LOCATION OF PILES WITHIN BULKHEAD TO BE DETERMINED BY DOCK CONTRACTOR.

TYPICAL SECTION

UGA SKIDAWAY INSTITUTE BULKHEAD REPLACEMENT

Applicant: UGA SKIDAWAY INSTITUTE

Date: 4/11/25

County: CHATHAM COUNTY

JOB#: 25-1022

SCALE: 3/8" = 1'-0"

DATUM: MAD 83

SHEET: 5 of 5

SCALE: 3/8" = 1'-0" (IN FEET)





Site visit – LOP20250049 – Bulkhead – 10 Ocean Science Circle: PM Cheyenne Osborne w/ Mariana S.



Site visit – LOP20250049 – Bulkhead – 10 Ocean Science Circle: PM Cheyenne Osborne w/ Mariana S.



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