#### Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Florida Forest Service

## <u>Land Management Plan Amendment</u> <u>to the</u> Myakka State Forest <u>Ten-Year Land Management Plan</u>

May 8, 2020

The Florida Forest Service (FFS) is requesting ARC approval of a Land Management Plan Amendment to the Myakka State Forest (MSF) Ten-Year Land Management Plan. The Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) plans to install a water quality and bank stabilization feature in the southeast portion of MSF. The FFS-managed MSF is an approximately 8,500-acre, multiple-use state forest, located in Sarasota County. The Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund of the State of Florida (BOT) and the SWFWMD both hold an undivided 50% interest to the affected portion of the state forest.

The SWFWMD's project is proposing to repair significant erosion damage, install a low water crossing on a trail road to protect and preserve an existing natural wetland, perform bank stabilization along approximately 650 linear feet of surface flow-way to prevent sedimentation, and provide improved water quality and drainage near an adjacent roadway. A detailed project design is included.

The project will result in an environmental net benefit and will focus on recovering the functions of water storage and conveyance in an impacted stream and drainage swale. The project will also focus on recapturing the benefits of water quality and wildlife habitat formerly provided by the impacted system in its undisturbed state. A detailed environmental assessment including site photos is included, and all the appropriate permits have been obtained by the SWFWMD.

FFS staff and a certified archaeological resource monitor (ARM) surveyed the proposed site area for threatened or endangered species and possible historical and/or archaeological evidence. They concluded, no known archeological sites occur in the project area, as well as, no evidence of threatened or endangered species were observed at the project site vicinity.

FFS additionally consulted with the Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) and the Division of Historic Resources (DHR) regarding the proposed activities. Consulting agency (FNAI, DHR) response letters are included with this request, as are applicable maps and photos of the proposed sites.



1018 Thomasville Road Suite 200-C Tallahassee, FL 32303 850-224-8207 fax 850-681-9364 www.fnai.org

To: Todd Knapp

From: Dan, Hipes, Director, FNAI

Date: May 4, 2020

RE: Proposed Water Quality and Bank Stabilization Project

We have reviewed the materials for the proposed water quality and bank stabilization project at Myakka State Forest. There are no records in the FNAI database for rare species at the specific location of the project. The plan appears to minimize disturbance to natural systems. We see no conflicts with any resources of concern.

Thank you for the review request.



Florida Resources and Environmental Analysis Center

Institute of Science and Public Affairs

The Florida State University



RON DESANTIS
Governor

**LAUREL M. LEE**Secretary of State

April 27, 2020

Mr. Todd Knapp State Lands Supervisor, Florida Forest Service Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services 3125 Conner Boulevard Suite I-266, Mail Stop C-25 Tallahassee, FL 32399-1650

Re: DHR No.: 2020-2139

Project: Water Quality and Bank Stabilization Myakka State Forest, Sarasota County

Dear Mr. Knapp:

Our office reviewed the referenced project in accordance with Chapter 267, *Florida Statutes*, and implementing state regulations, for possible effects on historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the *National Register of Historic Places*, or otherwise of historical, architectural or archaeological value.

It is the opinion of this agency that ground disturbing activities for the above project be monitored by someone who has completed our Archaeological Resource Management (ARM) training program. Once a project is complete, the monitor should submit the appropriate monitoring forms to this agency. In the event that unmarked human remains are encountered during permitted activities, all work shall stop immediately and the proper authorities notified in accordance with Section 872.05. *Florida Statutes*.

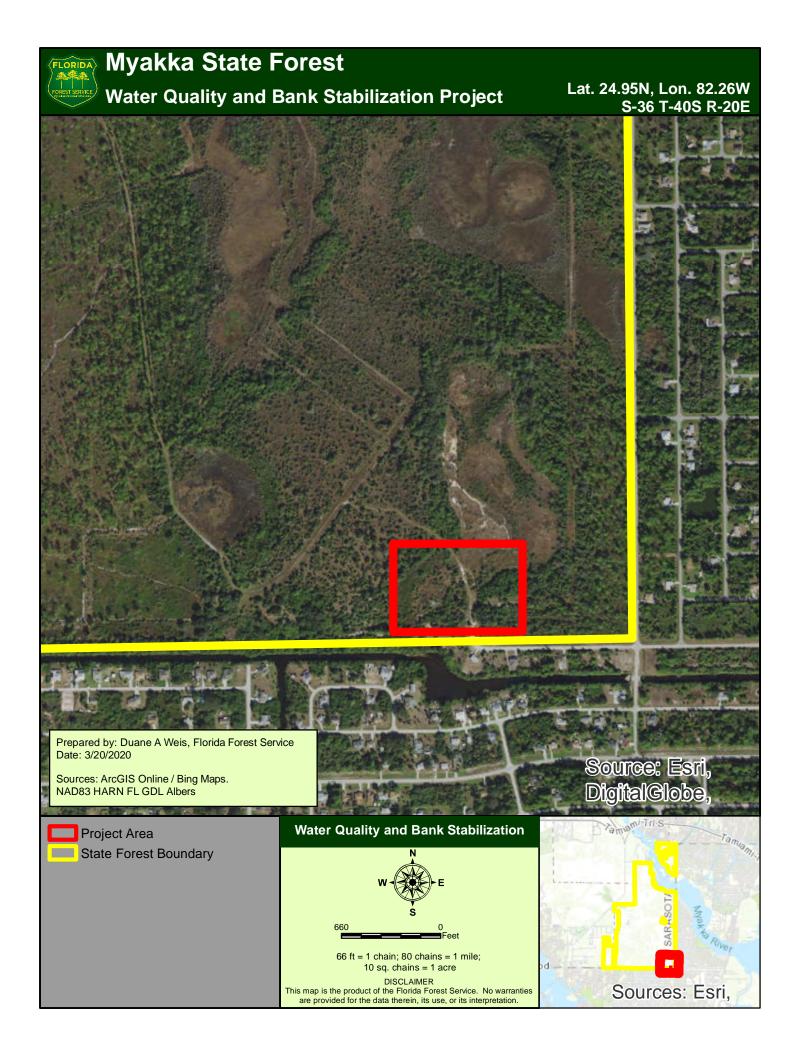
For any questions concerning our comments, please contact Robin Jackson, Historic Preservationist, Compliance and Review, by electronic mail at <a href="mailto:robin.jackson@dos.myflorida.com">robin.jackson@dos.myflorida.com</a>, or at 850.245.6496, or 800.847.7278.

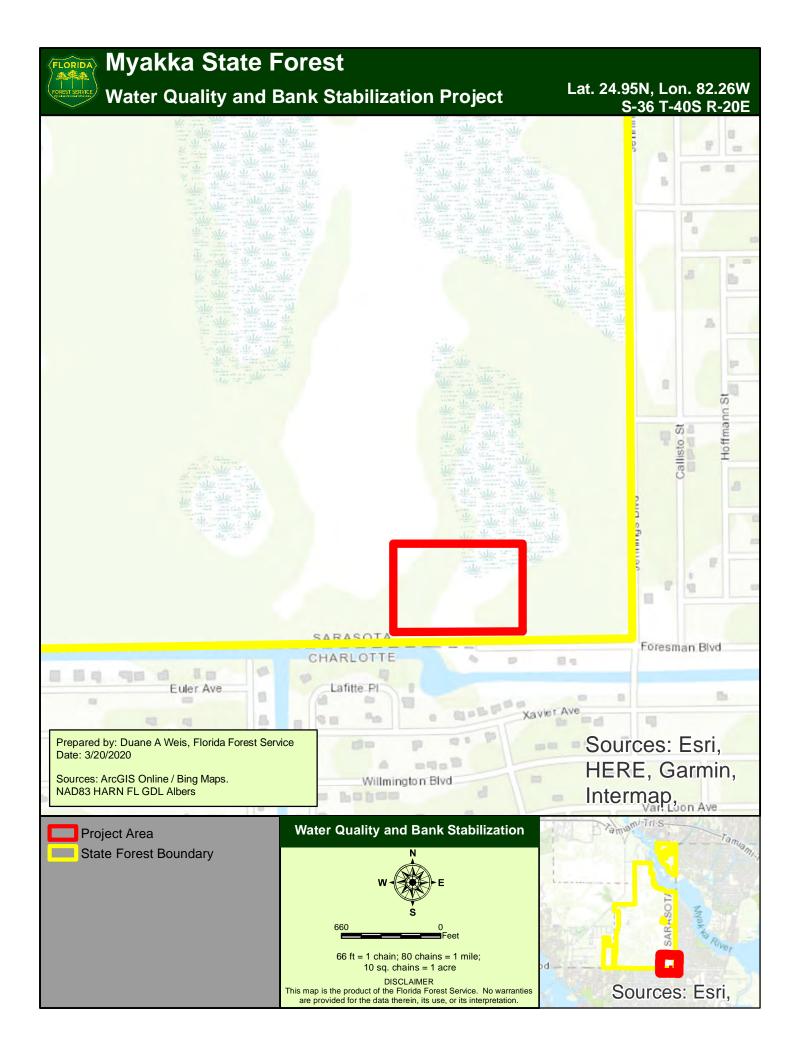
Sincerely,

Timothy A. Parsons, Ph.D.

Director, Division of Historical Resources and

State Historic Preservation Officer





## CONSTRUCTION PLANS OF MYAKKA STATE FOREST

## WATER QUALITY AND BANK STABILIZATION PROJECT

SECTION 36, TOWNSHIP 40S, RANGE 20E CITY OF NORTH PORT SARASOTA COUNTY, FLORIDA

UTILITY COMPANY OWNER TELEPHONE	T4				
<u>UTILITY COMPANY</u> <u>OWNER</u> <u>TELEPHONE</u>					
CABLE TV: COMCAST 941.342.3578 GOI	NZALO ROJAS				
ELECTRIC: FP&L DISTRIBUTION 941.723.4430 GRI	REG COKER				
FP&L TRANSMISSION 561.694.3459 PE	TER WASHIO				
TELEPHONE: CENTURY LINK 863.452.3185 KE	N LUTZ				
WASTEWATER BY OWNER					
WATER CHARLOTTE COUNTY 941.764.4364 ALE	EX CEGERENKO				
CITY OF NORTH PORT 941.240.8000 PAT	TRICK ZOELLER				
GAS TECO GAS 813.275.3731 FRA	RANK KISTNER				
UNDERGROUND FACILLITY LOCATION SERVICE 1.800.432.4770					
(THE SUNSHINE STATE)					

I AUDERDALE

(Part of) NORTH PORT MYAKKA STATE FOREST T405 ENGLEWOOD T41S CHARLOTTE COUNTY

**LOCATION MAP** NOT TO SCALE

## PREPARED FOR: SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

2379 BROAD STREET BROOKSVILLE, FL 34604 (352) 796-721 EXT. 4307

### PREPARED BY: AIM ENGINEERING & SURVEYING, INC.



2161 FOWLER STREET FORT MYERS, FLORIDA 33901 PHONE (239) 332-4569 A M CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORIZATION NO. 3114

#### SHEET INDEX

DESCRIPTION

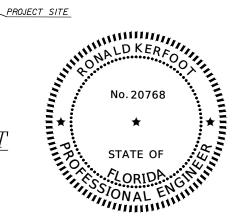
NO.

110.	DESCRIPTION
1	COVER
2	MASTER PLAN
3	FLOW-WAY PLAN & PROFILE
4	FLOW-WAY/LOW WATER ACCESS CROSSING
	PLAN & PROFILE
5	WATER QUALITY TREATMENT SWALE PLAN
	& PROFILE
6-8	FORESMAN BLVD PLAN & PROFILES
	WATER LEVEL RESTORATION STRUCTURE
10	DETAILS
11	EROSION CONTROL PLAN
12	GENERAL AND CONSTRUCTION NOTES
13 - 14	PLANTING PLANS
15	JURISDICTIONAL LINES / WETLAND IMPACTS
16	PROJECT AERIAL

#### SWFWMD PROJECT MANAGER

#### MARTHA GRUBER

TWA NO. 17TW0000813 AGREEMENT NO. 14MA0000003 (SA 25)



THIS ITEM HAS BEEN DIGITALLY SIGNED AND SEALED BY

ON THE DATE ADJACENT TO THE SEAL

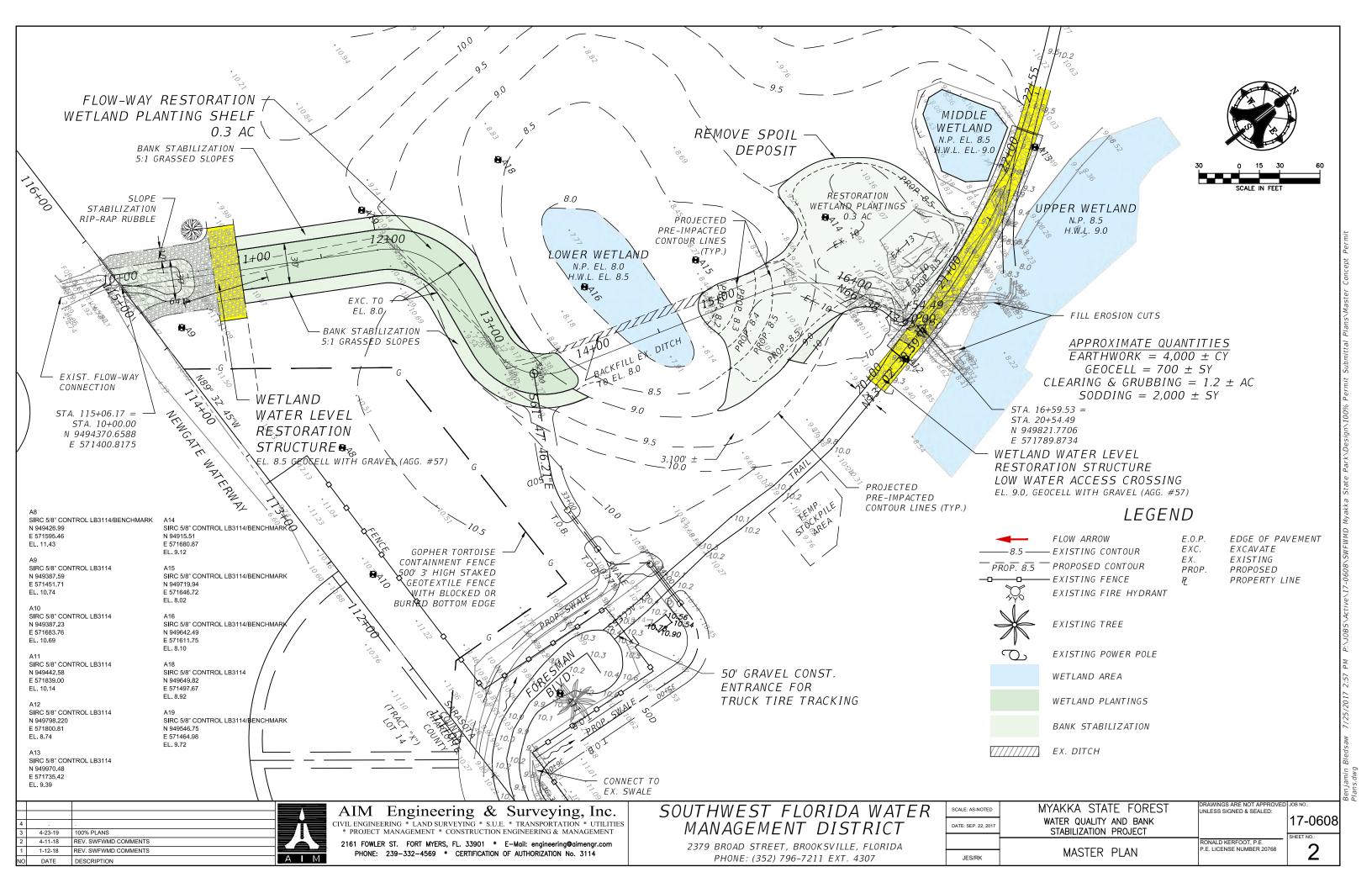
PRINTED COPIES OF THIS DOCUMENT ARE NOT CONSIDERED SIGNED AND SEALED AND THE SIGNATURE MUST BE VERIFIED ON ANY ELECTRONIC COPIES.

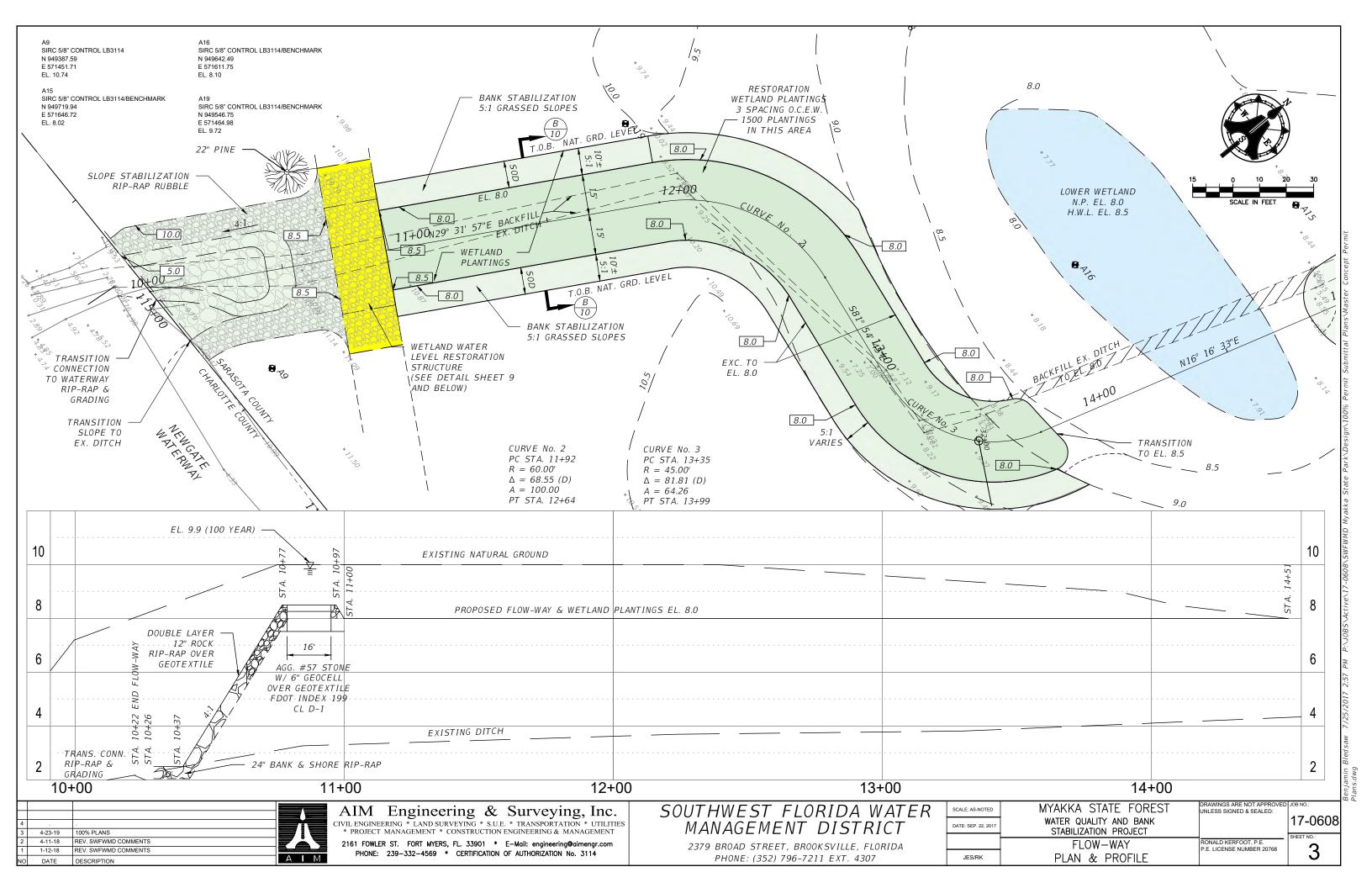
> TWA NO. 17TW0000813 **AGREEMENT** NO. 14MA0000003 (SA 25)

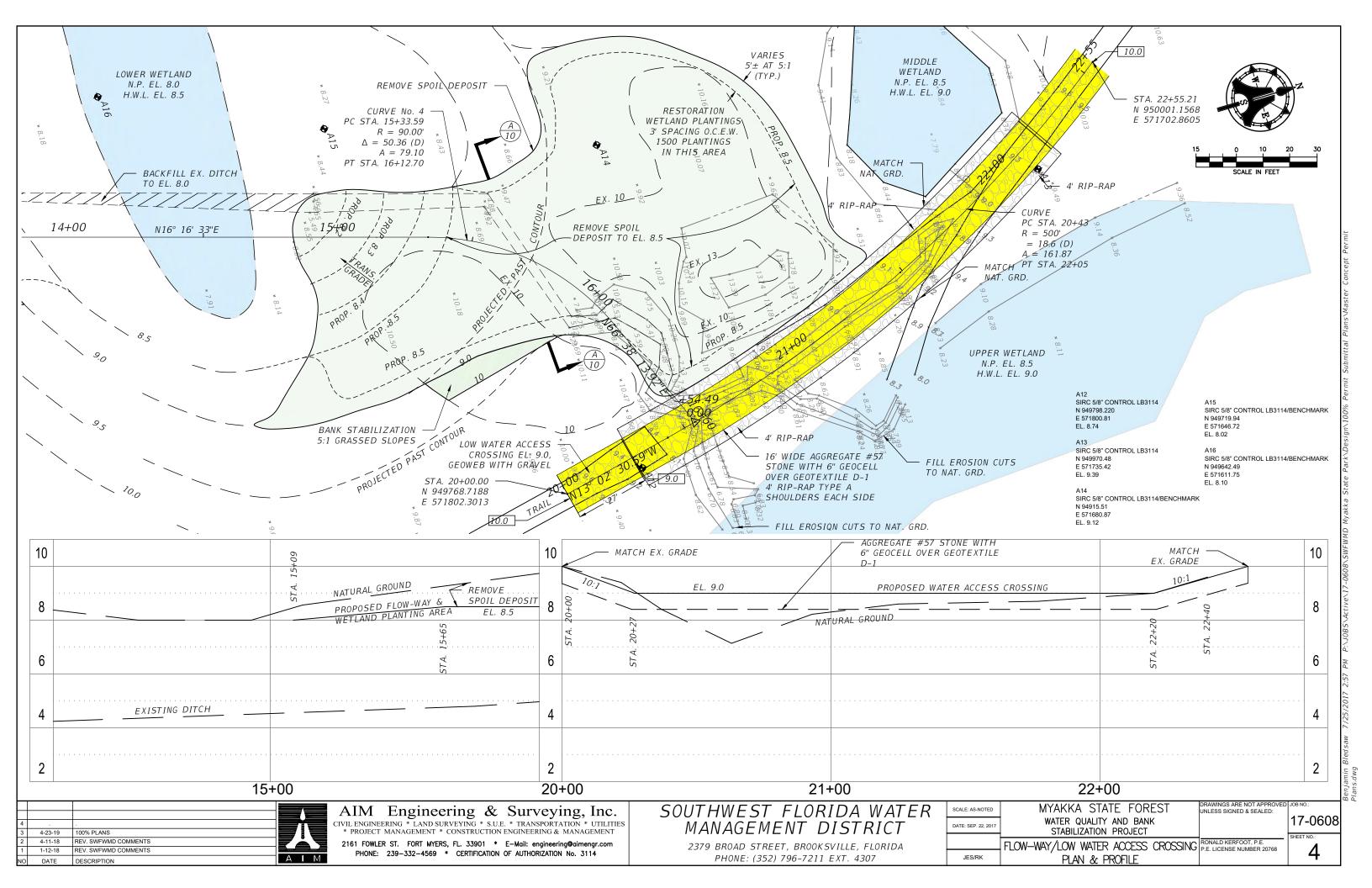
AIM PROJ. 17-0608 SHEET 01 APRIL 23, 2019

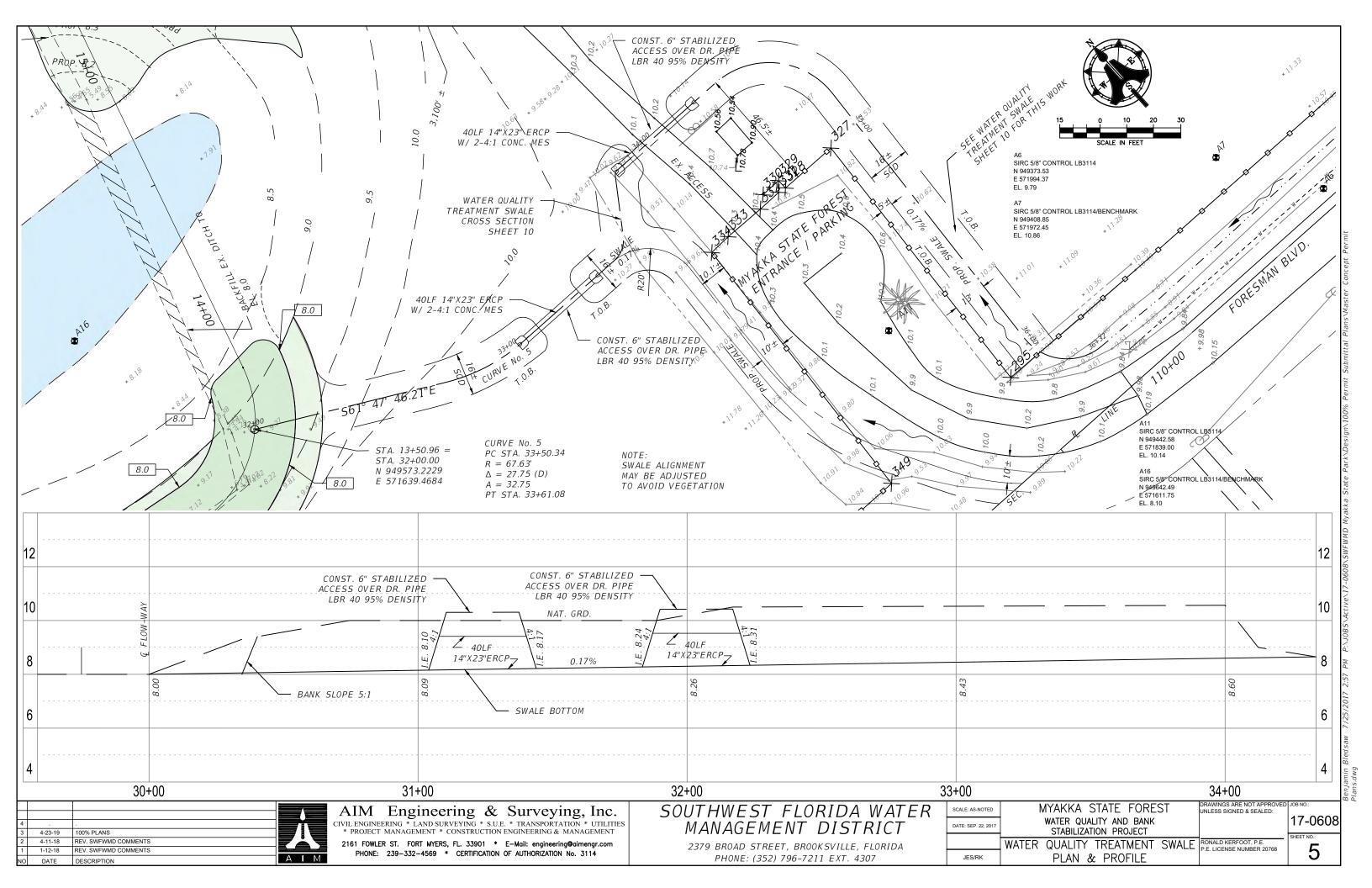
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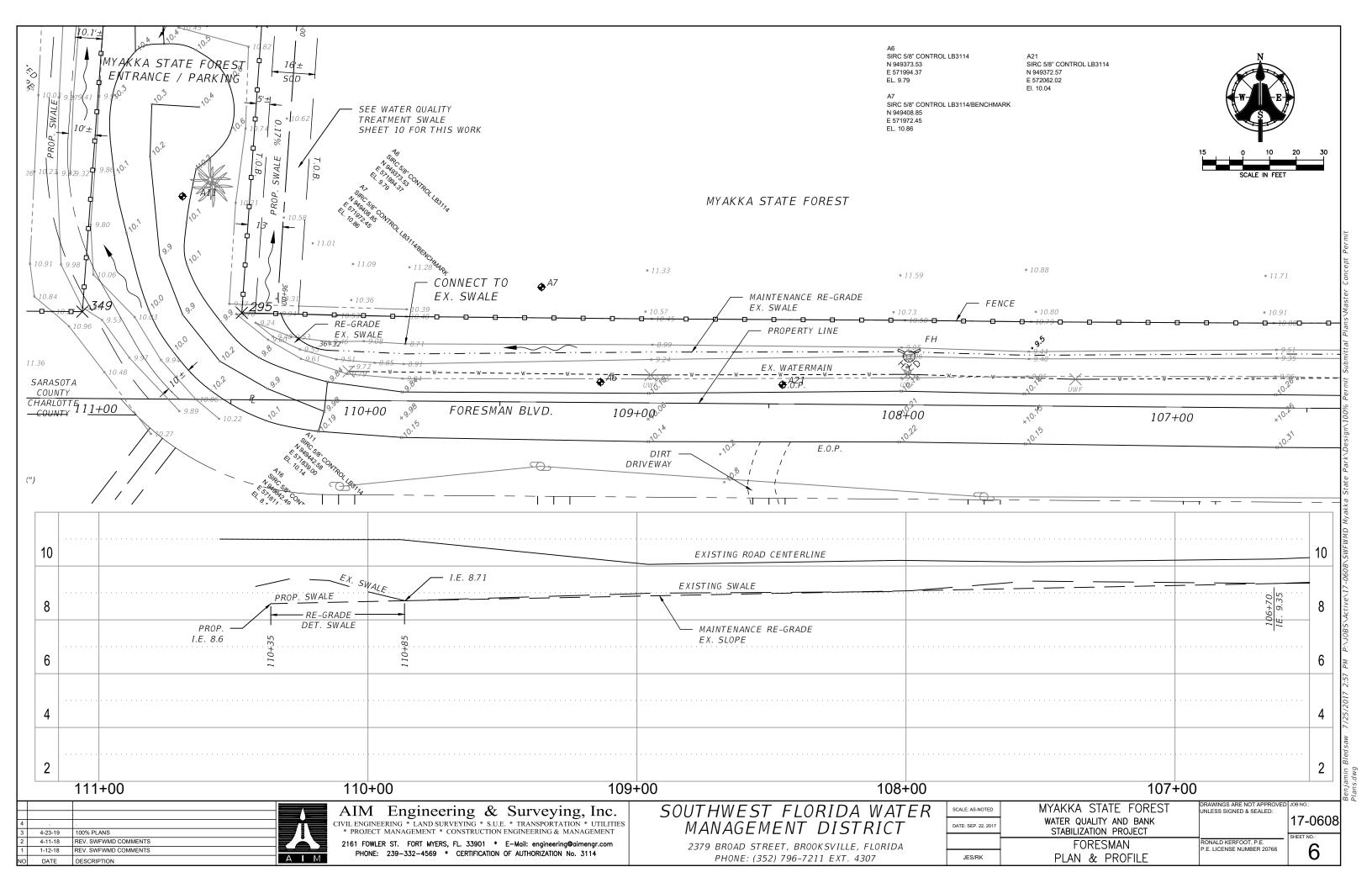
PROJECT LOCATION

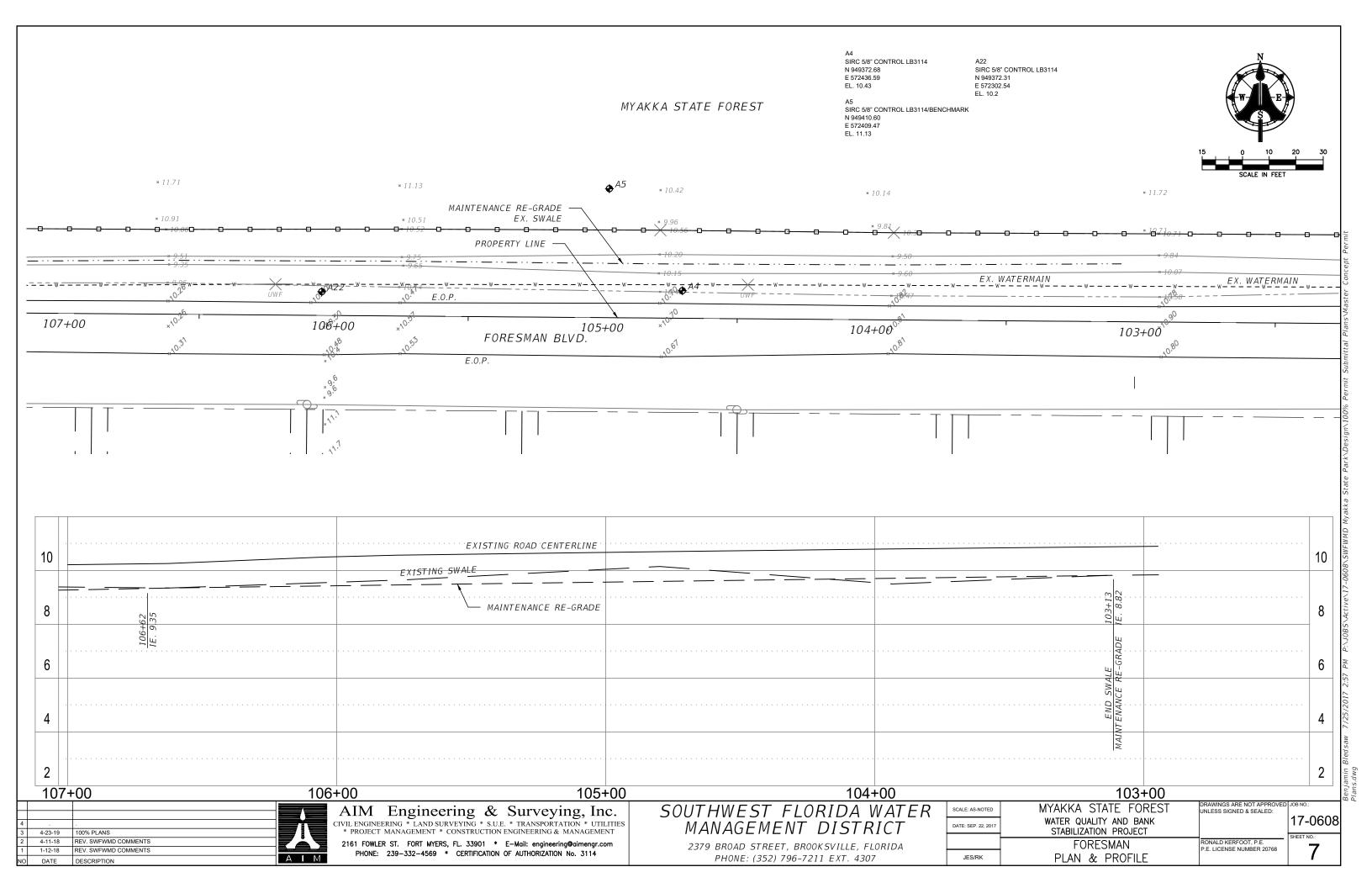


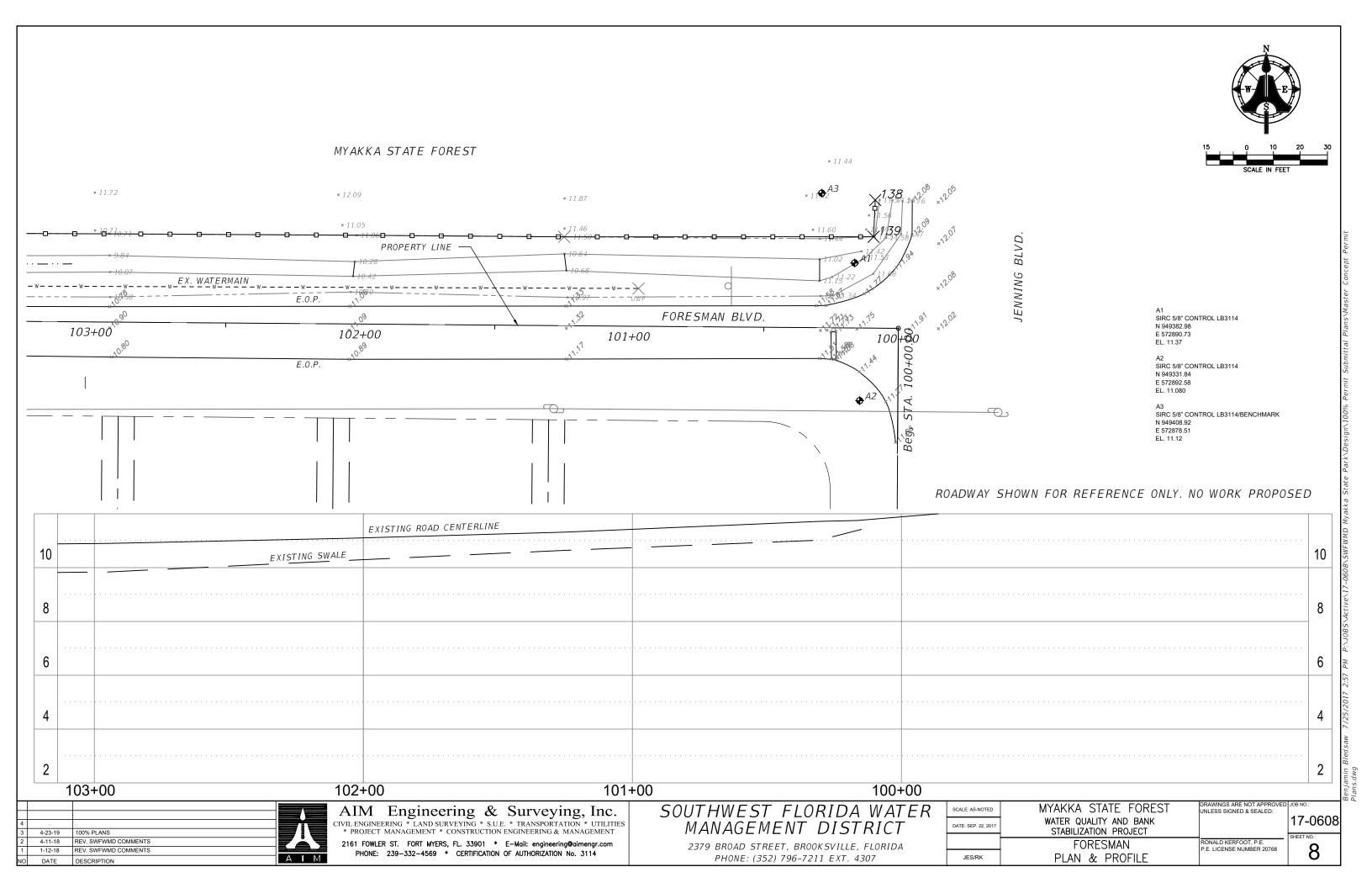


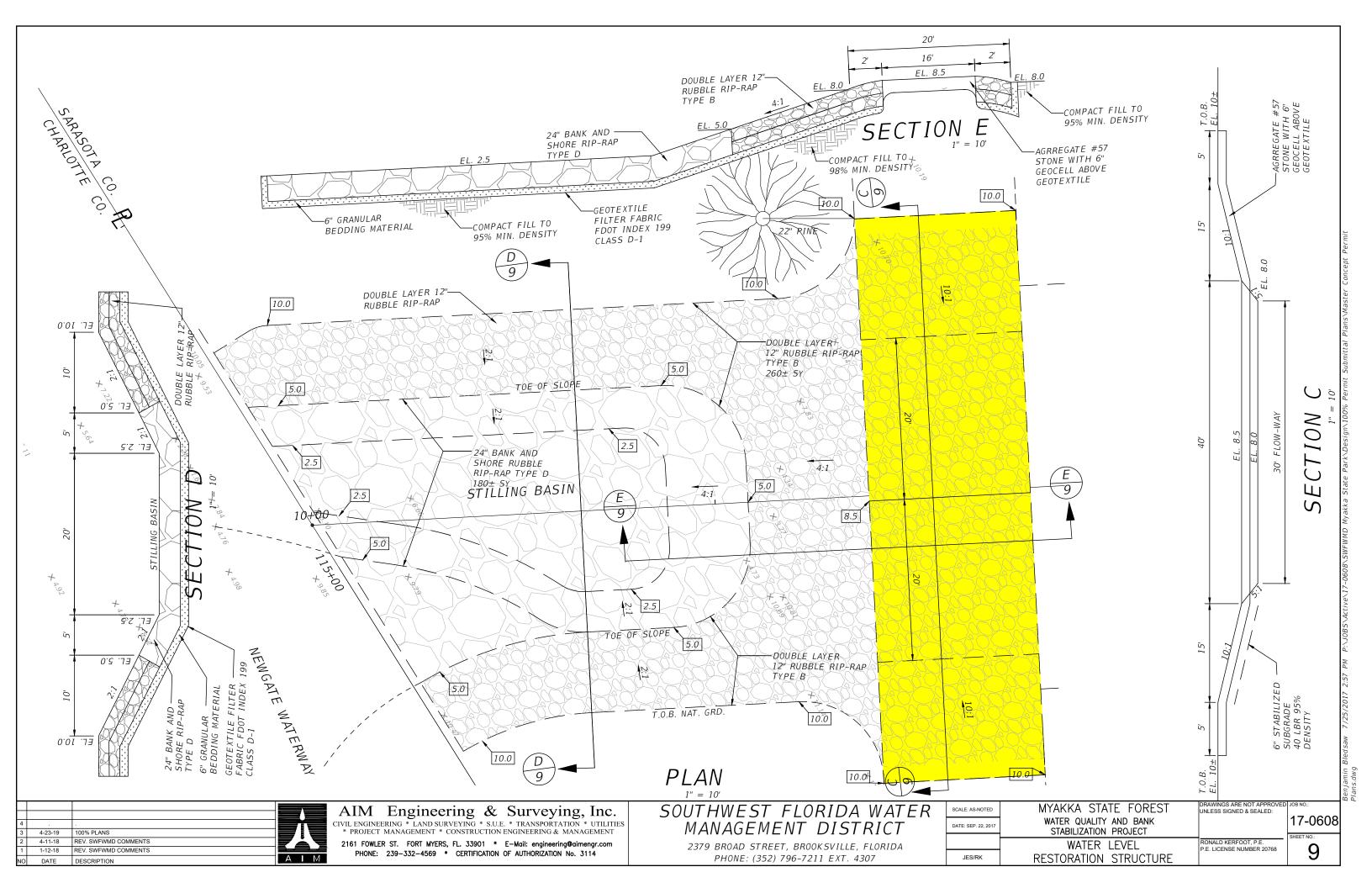


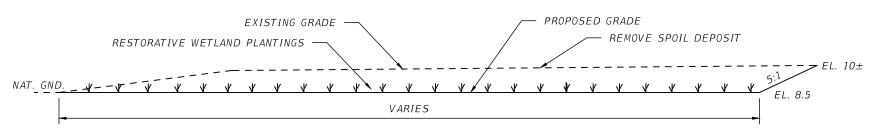






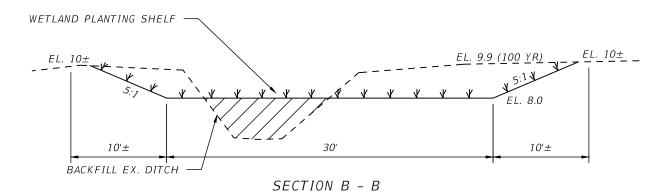




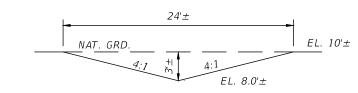


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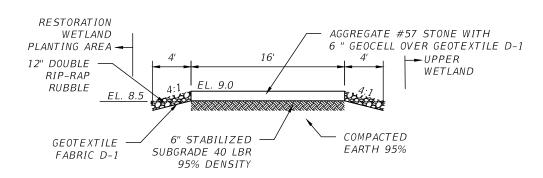
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TYPICAL FLOW-WAY SECTION



TYPICAL SWALE SECTION



TYPICAL LOW WATER ACCESS CROSSING SECTION

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#### AIM Engineering & Surveying, Inc. CIVIL ENGINEERING \* LAND SURVEYING \* S.U.E. \* TRANSPORTATION \* UTILITIES \* PROJECT MANAGEMENT \* CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING & MANAGEMENT

2161 FOWLER ST. FORT MYERS, FL. 33901 \* E-Mail: engineering@aimengr.com PHONE: 239-332-4569 \* CERTIFICATION OF AUTHORIZATION No. 3114

## SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

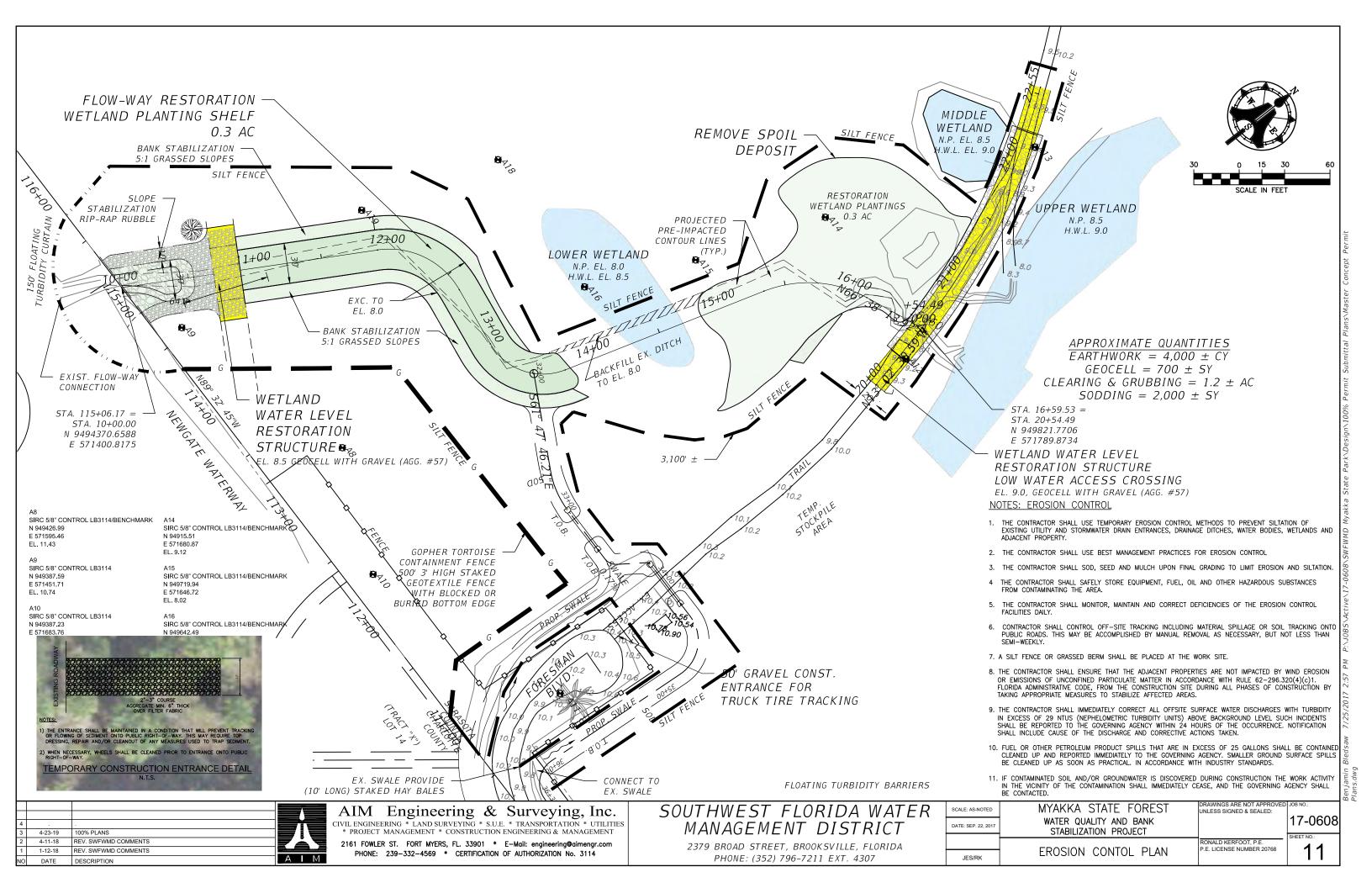
2379 BROAD STREET, BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA PHONE: (352) 796-7211 EXT. 4307

SCALE: AS-NOTED	MYAKKA STATE FOREST WATER QUALITY AND BANK STABILIZATION PROJECT
DATE: SEP. 22, 2017	
	B = T. II O
JES/RK	DETAILS

DRAWINGS ARE NOT APPROV UNLESS SIGNED & SEALED: RONALD KERFOOT, P.E.

17-0608

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- COPIES OF THESE PLANS AS DESIGNED BY THE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER HAVE BEEN
  RETAINED BY THE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER. SAID ENGINEER WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR
  ANY SUBSEQUENT CHANGES TO THE REPRODUCIBLE ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS.
- 2. RIGHT OF WAY LINES BASED ON ORIGINAL DEDICATION.
- 3. A STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION PLAN SHALL BE PREPARED BY THE CONTRACTOR, IN ACCORDANCE WITH FDEP N.P.D.E.S. THE NOTICE OF INTENT SHALL BE PREPARED FOR THE N.P.D.E.S. STORMWATER PERMIT AND SUBMITTED TO OBTAIN PERMIT COVERAGE. FULL COMPENSATION FOR ALL ITEMS AND WORK SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THE COST OF EROSION CONTROL PROGRAM.
- 4. APPROPRIATE TURBIDITY AND EROSION CONTROL FEATURES SHALL BE PLACED PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION.
- 5. IN THE EVENT OF EXCAVATION OF UNSUITABLE MATERIAL IS REQUIRED IT MAY BE USED TO FLATTEN SLOPES.
- 6. PRIOR AND DURING CONSTRUCTION THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COMPLETE STAKEOUT OF THE PROJECT, I.E., LINE, GRADE, SLOPE STAKE, UTILITY RELOCATIONS OR ANY OTHER STAKEOUT THAT MAY BE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT IN ACCORDANCE WITH PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS.
- 7. OVERALL CLEAN UP SHALL BE ACCOMPLISHED BY THE CONTRACTOR IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNTY STANDARDS OR AS DIRECTED BY THE ENGINEER AND DISTRICT. ANY AND ALL EXPENSE INCURRED FOR THIS WORK SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THE BID PRICE FOR THE RELATED ITEM
- 8. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL ENDEAVOR TO PROTECT PRIVATE PROPERTY, ANY DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE CONTRACTOR IN THE PERFORMANCE OF HIS WORK SHALL BE CORRECTED TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE ENGINEER AND DISTRICT AT THE CONTRACTOR'S EXPENSE.
- 9. ANY DAMAGE TO STATE, COUNTY OR LOCAL ROADS CAUSED BY THE CONTRACTOR'S HAULING OR EXCAVATION EQUIPMENT SHALL BE REPAIRED BY THE CONTRACTOR TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE ENGINEER
- 10. ANY SURVEY MARKER, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO SECTION MARKERS, BENCHMARKS, LOT CORNER, ETC., WHICH ARE DISTURBED DURING CONSTRUCTION SHALL BE REPLACED AT THE CONTRACTOR'S EXPENSE PRIOR TO FINAL PAYMENT. RESETTING OF MONUMENTS AND MARKERS SHALL BE PERFORMED BY A PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR, LICENSED TO PRACTICE IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA AND SHOWN ON THE AS-BUILT PLANS AS RESET. CONTRACTOR SHALL PROVIDE AS-BUILT DRAWINGS TO THE ENGINEER UPON COMPLETION.
- 11. THE ELEVATIONS SHOWN HERON ARE ON THE NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM (N.A.V.D.)

  OF 1988. ANY N.G.V.D. 1929 OR N.A.V.D. '88 MONUMENT WITHIN THE LIMITS OF CONSTRUCTION

  ARE TO BE PROTECTED.
- 12. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DISPOSAL OF EXCAVATED MATERIAL, DEBRIS, VEGETATION AND CONCRETE AT A LEGAL DISPOSAL SITE OR BY OTHER MANNER APPROVED BY THE ENGINEER. DO NOT DEPOSIT MATERIALS CLEARED FROM SITE ONTO ADJACENT PROPERTY WITHOUT WRITTEN APPROVAL FROM THE ENGINEER AND DISTRICT. CONTRACTOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MATERIALS REMOVED FROM SITE.
- 13. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL FURNISH THE ENGINEER, PRIOR TO INCORPORATION INTO THE PROJECT, A CERTIFICATION FROM THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES DIVISION OF PLANT INDUSTRY, STATING THAT THE SOD, HAY AND MULCH MATERIALS ARE FREE OF NOXIOUS WEED, INCLUDING TROPICAL SODA APPLE.
- 14. ANY DAMAGE BY THE CONTRACTOR TO ANY DRIVE TURNOUT DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROJECT SHALL BE REPAIRED TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE ENGINEER AT THE CONTRACTOR'S EXPENSE.
- 15. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL NOTIFY ALL REQUIRED UTILITIES AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AT LEAST 48 HOURS PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION (48 HOURS BEFORE DIGGING

CALL TOLL FREE 1-800-638-4097 SUNSHINE CALL CENTER - PREVIOUSLY U.N.C.L.E.)

- 16. CONSTRUCTION DEWATERING HAS NOT BEEN AUTHORIZED. IF DEWATERING IS NECESSARY, THE CONTRACTOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING A WATER USE PERMIT FROM THE WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT.
- 17. PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT, THE CONTRACTOR SHALL OBTAIN A COPY OF AND FOLLOW FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES (FDHR) DIRECTIVES FOR CONSTRUCTION WORK AND REPORTING OF HISTORICAL OR ARCHAEOLOGICAL ARTIFACTS DISCOVERED DURING GROUND DISTURBING ACTIVITIES FOR THE PROPOSED RESURFACING, INCLUDING REMOVAL OF THE PREVIOUS ROAD SURFACE, INSTALLATION OF SIGNAGE, AND TEMPORARY ACCESS AND STAGING AREAS.
- 18. CONTRACTOR SHALL PROVIDE A SUPERINTENDENT ON SITE AT ALL TIMES DURING CONSTRUCTION.
- 9. TEMPORARY DETOURS OF TRAFFIC SHALL BE PERMITTED ONLY UPON PRIOR WRITTEN APPROVAL
  BY THE DISTRICT. TEMPORARY SIGNS ARE PERMITTED AS LONG AS THEY ARE IN ACCORDANCE
  WITH THE MANUAL ON UNIFORM TRAFFIC CONTROL DEVICES (MUTCD). IF A ROAD CLOSURE IS
  ANTICIPATED TO BE IN EXCESS OF TWELVE (12) HOURS, POST MOUNTED SIGNAGE IS
  REQUIRED. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTACTING THE EMS, FIRE &
  SHERRIFFS, SCHOOL BOARD OFFICES PRIOR AND DURING ROAD CLOSURE.
- 20. THERE IS AN EXISTING WATERLINE WITHIN THE LIMITS OF THE PROJECT. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CONTRACTOR TO FIELD LOCATE THESE SAID WATERLINES. ANY UTILITY CONFLICTS SHALL BE COORDINATED WITH CHARLOTTE COUNTY UTILITIES FOR ADJUSTMENT AND RELOCATION OF THE WATERLINE.

#### GENERAL NOTES:

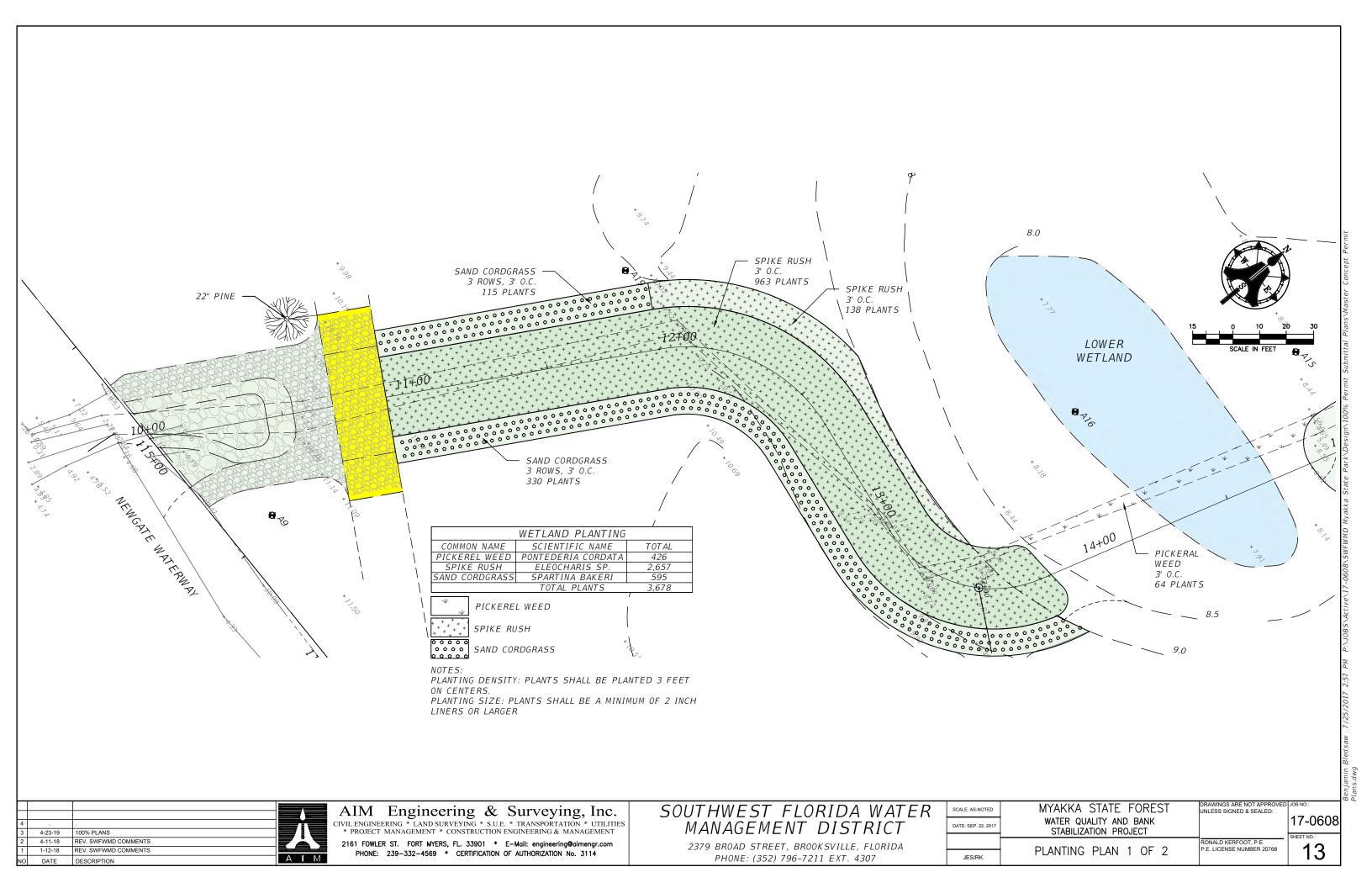
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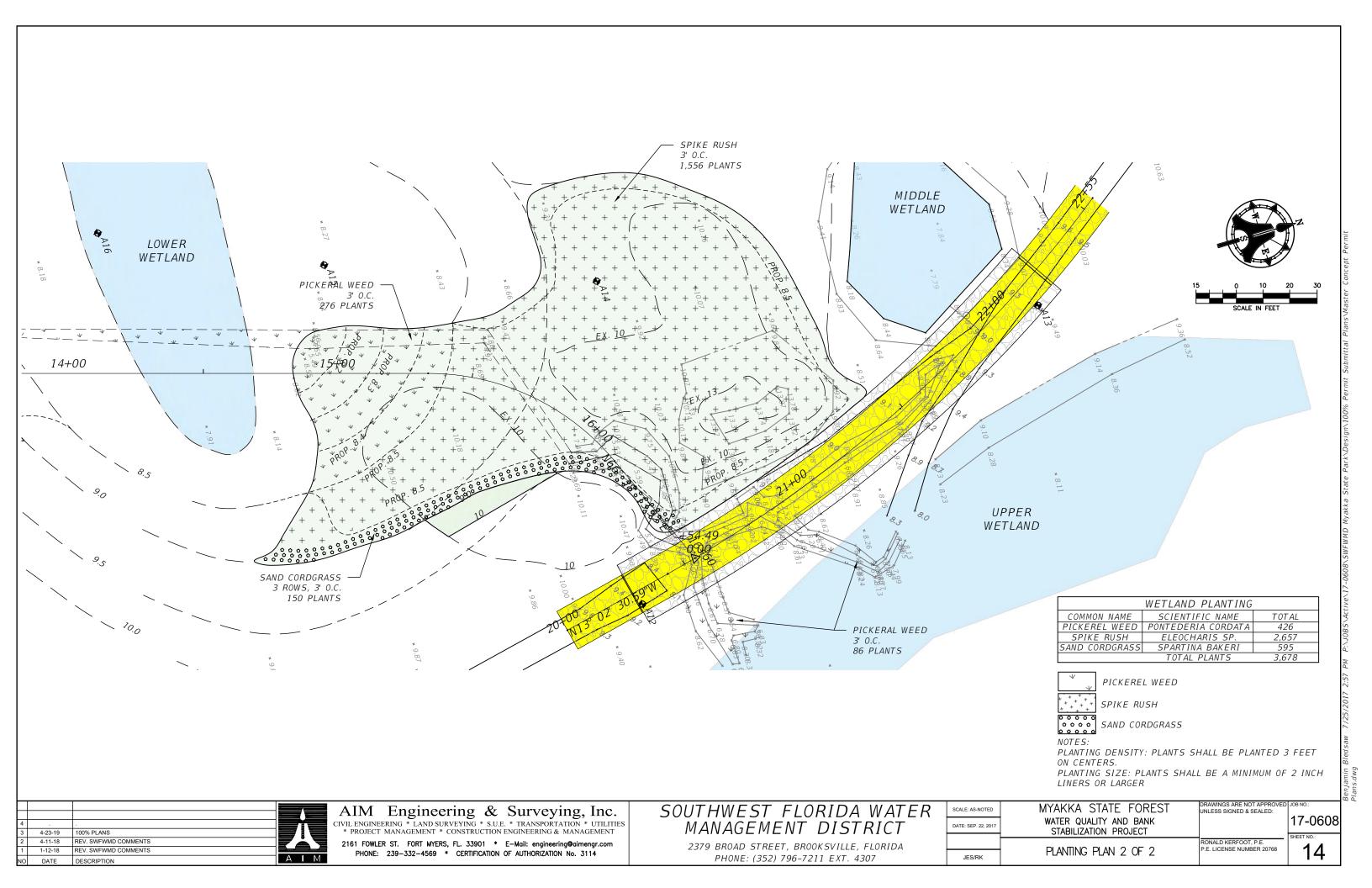
- 1. CONTRACTORS SHALL OBTAIN ALL REQUIRED PERMITS. CONTRACTOR SHALL RETAIN, ON THE WORK SITE. COPIES OF ANY PERMITS NECESSARY FOR CONSTRUCTION.
- THE CONTRACTOR SHALL OBTAIN PERMITS PRIOR TO WORK IN R/W'S. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL COMPLY WITH ALL REGULATORY AND PERMITTING AGENCIES REQUIREMENTS.
- CONTRACTOR SHALL FOLLOW THE INSPECTION AND NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS. A MINIMUM OF 72 HOURS NOTICE SHALL BE GIVEN PRIOR TO ALL REQUIRED INSPECTIONS.
- REFER TO SURVEY OF MYAKKA STATE FOREST FOR ALL PROPERTY LINE INFORMATION.
- 5. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL SUPPLY CONTROL POINTS FOR LINE AND GRADE SET BY A PROFESSIONAL SURVEYOR LICENSED BY THE STATE OF FLORIDA.
- 6. DISCREPANCIES IN FIELD CONDITIONS, PLAN CONDITIONS, OR CODES SHALL BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE ENGINEER, PRIOR TO PROCEEDING.
- 7. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL CONTACT THE ENGINEER AND THE APPROPRIATE UTILITY COMPANY IMMEDIATELY CONCERNING ANY CONFLICTS WITH THEIR UTILITIES/STRUCTURES ARISING DURING CONSTRUCTION OF ANY FACILITIES SHOWN ON THESE DRAWINGS.
- 8. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL PREPARE AND PROVIDE AS-BUILT AND RECORD DRAWINGS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATION AND TRANSFER TO OPERATIONS. ALL SIGNED AND SEALED RECORD SURVEY PLANS AND ELECTRONIC COPIES SHALL BE DELIVERED TO THE ENGINEER-OF-RECORD FOR REVIEW, APPROVAL AND TRANSMITTING TO THE PERMITTING AGENCIES.
- 9. A PRE-CONSTRUCTION MEETING SHALL BE CONDUCTED AND A NOTICE TO PROCEED SHALL BE ISSUED BY THE DISTRICT TO THE GENERAL CONTRACTOR BEFORE ANY PHYSICAL WORK IS STARTED.
- 10. IT IS THE CONTRACTOR'S RESPONSIBILITY TO LOCATE AND TAKE ALL POSSIBLE PRECAUTIONS
  TO AVOID ANY DAMAGE TO ALL UNDERGROUND PIPELINES, TELEPHONE, CABLE TV, ELECTRIC
  LINES/ CONDUITS AND DRAINAGE STRUCTURES IN ADVANCE OF ANY CONSTRUCTION.

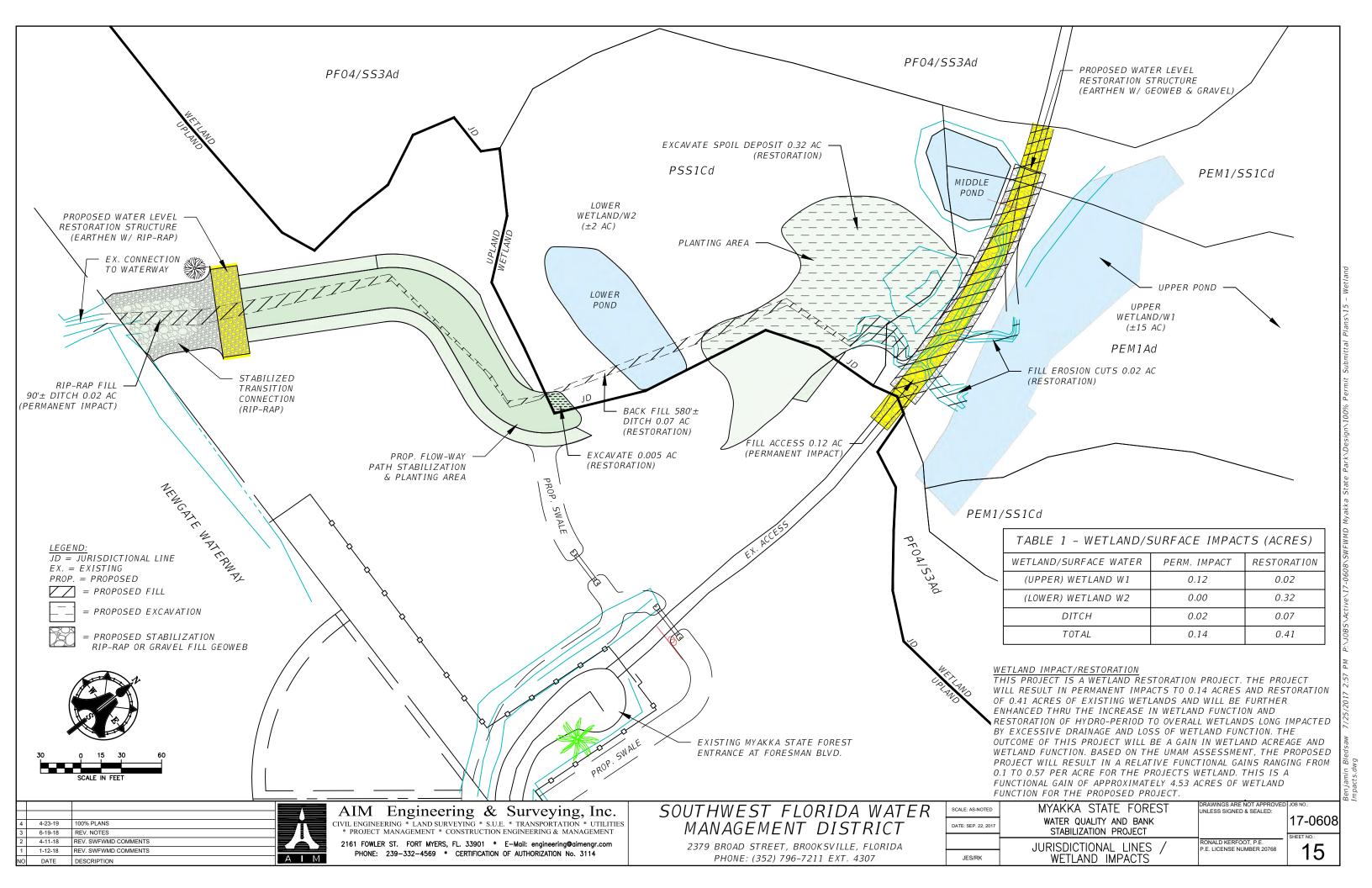
- 1. APPROPRIATE TURBIDITY CONTROL DEVICES (E.G. SILT FENCES, HAY BALES) WILL BE UTILIZED DURING ALL PHASES OF INSTALLATION AND GRADING. CONTRACTOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SUBMITTING THE NOTICE OF INTENT AND NOTICE OF TERMINATION TO THE FDEP. CONTRACTOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING AN EFFECTIVE STORM WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION PLAN WHICH SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE PROJECT MANAGER FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL BEFORE ANY PHYSICAL WORK HAS STARTED.
- 12. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL ADJUST ALL FRAMES, COVERS, VALVE BOXES, MANHOLES, ECT. TO FINISHED GRADE UPON COMPLETION OF PAVING OR RELATED CONSTRUCTION. ANY SUCH ITEMS WITHIN THE PROPOSED SIDEWALK SHALL BE FLUSH WITH THE SURFACE OF THE CONCRETE (ZERO TOLERANCE).
- 13. CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING TRAFFIC AND USAGE OF THE EXISTING STREETS ADJACENT TO THE PROJECT, ALL TRAFFIC MAINTENANCE CONTROL SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FLORIDA MANUAL OF TRAFFIC CONTROL AND SAFE PRACTICES FOR STREET AND HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, AND UTILITY OPERATIONS AND APPROVED BY CHARLOTTE COUNTY.

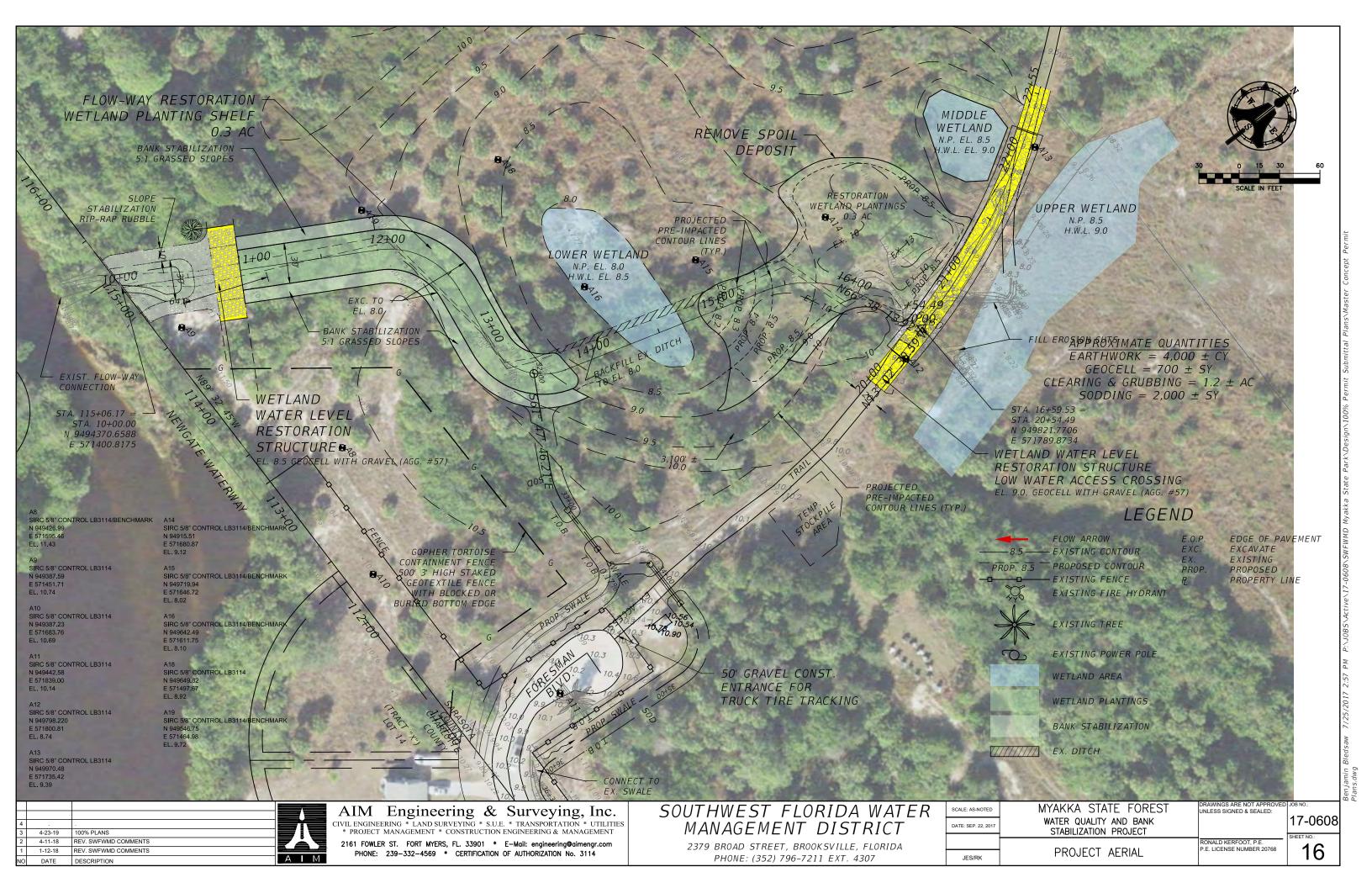
RAWINGS ARE NOT APPRO SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MYAKKA STATE FOREST SCALE: AS-NOTED AIM Engineering & Surveying, Inc. JNLESS SIGNED & SEALED: WATER QUALITY AND BANK CIVIL ENGINEERING \* LAND SURVEYING \* S.U.E. \* TRANSPORTATION \* UTILITIES MANAGEMENT DISTRICT DATE: SEP. 22, 2017 STABILIZATION PROJECT 4-23-19 100% PLANS \* PROJECT MANAGEMENT \* CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING & MANAGEMENT REV. SWFWMD COMMENTS 2161 FOWLER ST. FORT MYERS, FL. 33901 \* E-Mail: engineering@aimengr.com GENERAL AND RONALD KERFOOT, P.E. 2379 BROAD STREET, BROOKSVILLE, FLORIDA 1-12-18 REV. SWFWMD COMMENTS PHONE: 239-332-4569 \* CERTIFICATION OF AUTHORIZATION No. 3114 PHONE: (352) 796-7211 EXT. 4307 JES/RK CONSTRUCTION NOTES DATE DESCRIPTION

17-0608









## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

FOR

# MYAKKA STATE FOREST WATER QUALITY AND BANK STABILIZATION PROJECT

Sarasota and Charlotte Counties, Florida





#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This REPORT is to assist the Southwest Florida Water Management District (DISTRICT) with the design, plans preparation and permitting of the Myakka State Forest Water Quality and Bank Stabilization (PROJECT) at the southeastern corner of DISTRICT'S Myakka State Forest property. The PROJECT consists of water quality and flood improvements on the north side of Foresman Boulevard, installation of a low water crossing on a trail road to protect and preserve an existing natural wetland, surface water outfall improvements for the existing wetland upstream of the trail and approximately 650 linear feet of stream/flow-way restoration, to prevent sedimentation into Newgate and Lafitte Waterways, which flows into Oyster Creek and to Lemon Bay.

The PROJECT will result in an environmental net benefit and will focus on recovering the functions of water storage and conveyance in an impacted stream and drainage swale, and recapturing the benefits of water quality and wildlife habitat formerly provided by the impacted system in its undisturbed state.

The property is currently managed as a recreational facility by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Division of Forestry. The PROJECT is located in Section 36, Township 40 South, Range 20 East, Sarasota County, Florida. **Figure 1-1** 



Figure 1-1

#### 2.0 PRELIMINARY DATA COLLECTION

#### 2.1 EXISTING AND HISTORICAL AERIALS

Historical aerial photographs were reviewed as part of the Scope to develop a history of the previous land uses and vegetative communities within the PROJECT and to identify any areas of potential restoration. Historic aerial photographs were obtained from the FDOT Aerial Photograph Look Up System (APLUS) for the years 1969, 1975, 1985, 1995, 2005, and 2014, which are provided in Appendix A.

#### 2.1.1 1969 Aerial Photograph

Jennings Blvd. and a portion of Foresman Blvd. are visible to the east of the PROJECT. The location of the Sarasota/Charlotte County line appears to be delineated by a ditch or trail. The land appears predominately in its natural vegetative communities, freshwater marshes interconnected in a broad flat flow-ways fringed by hydric and upland forests.

#### 2.1.2 1975 Aerial Photograph

Foresman Blvd. appears newly constructed within the PROJECT. The canal that parallels the Sarasota/Charlotte County line appears newly constructed. The trail extends north from Foresome Blvd is visible. Areas of disturbance are visible extending from the trail into the wetlands to either side. Broad areas of clearing also extend from Foresman and from the trail. The remainder of the project are appears undisturbed and undeveloped.

#### 2.1.3 1985 Aerial Photograph

Little change appears from the 1975 photograph. Increased vegetation along the canal and previously disturbed areas. A residence is visible at the western end of Foresman Blvd. The remainder of the project are appears undisturbed and undeveloped.

#### 2.1.4 1995 Aerial Photograph

Little change appears from the 1985 photograph. Increased vegetation along the canal and previously disturbed areas. A second residence is visible on Foresman Blvd. The remainder of the project are appears undisturbed and undeveloped.

#### 2.1.5 2005 Aerial Photograph

Little change appears from the 1995 photograph. A third residence is visible on Foresman Blvd. A fence is visible along the Myakka State Forest boundaries. The remainder of the project are appears undisturbed and undeveloped.

#### 2.1.6 2015 Aerial Photograph

The drainage "cut" is visible extending from the wetland northeast of the trail thru the wetland southwest.

#### 2.2 LAND USE

Land use was reviewed for the project and areas adjacent to the project. Residential, low-density land is located east and south of the project. Within the project area, the predominate land use/land cover is wet prairie and pine flatwoods. **Figure 2-1** depicts the 2011 SWFWMD land use and land cover classifications within the proposed project's footprint. **Figure 2-2** depicts the 2014 NWI wetland classifications within the proposed project's footprint.



Figure 2-1



Figure 2-2

#### 4110 Pine Flatwoods



The pine flatwoods class is dominated by slash pine. The common flatwoods understory species include saw palmetto, wax myrtle, gallberry and a wide variety of herbs and brush.

#### 6430 Wet Prairie



The wet prairie classification is composed predominately of grassy vegetation on hydric soils and is usually distinguished from marshes by having less water and shorter herbage. These communities will be predominated by one or more of the following species; sawgrass, maidencane, cordgrass, spike rushes, beach rushes, St. Johns wort, spiderlily, swamplily, yellow-eyed grass and whitetop sedge.

#### PFO4/SS3Ad-Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland

Palustrine, Forested, Needle-leaved evergreen/Scrub-shrub, Broad-leaved evergreen, Temporarily flooded, Partially drained/ditched Wetland

#### PEM1/SS1Cd-Freshwater Emergent/Shrub Wetland

Palustrine, Emergent, Persistant/Scrub-shrub, Broad-leaved deciduous, Seasonally flooded, Partially ditched/drained Wetland

#### **PEM1Ad-Freshwater Emergent Wetland**

Palustrine, Emergent, Persistant/Scrub-shrub, Broad-leaved deciduous, Temporarily flooded, Partially ditched/drained Wetland

#### PSS1Cd-Freshwater Emergent/Shrub Wetland

Palustrine, Scrub-shrub, Broad-leaved deciduous, Seasonally flooded, Partially ditched/drained Wetland

#### 2.3 LISTED SPECIES

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended, federally protects endangered and threatened species throughout their range, and the ecosystems they rely on for survival. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) determines which species are in need of federal protection under the ESA. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commosion (FWC) maintains the state list of animals designated as Federally-designated Endangered or Threatened, State-designated Threatened or State-designated Species of Special Concern, in accordance with Rules 68A-27.003, and 68A27.005, respecatively, Florida Administrative Code (FAC). The Sate lists of plants, which are designated Endangered, Threatened, and Commercially Exploited, are administed and maintained by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DOACS) via Chapter 5B-40, FAC.

The project area was evaluated for potential occurrences of federal- and state-listed protected plant and animal species. The evaluation included literature review database searches, and field assessments of the project area to identify the potential occurrences of protected species and/or presence of federal-designated critical habitat.

Field evaluation of the project area was conducted by project biologist on July 6, 2017.

Based on the evaluation of the collected data and field reviews, the federal- and statelisted species discussed below were observed as having the potential to occur within or adjacent to the project area.

#### **Federal Protected**

The **eastern indigo snake** (*Drymarchon corais couperi*) is listed as threatened by the USFWS. No eastern indigo snakes were observed during field surveys. However, because areas of suitable habitat for this species occur adjacent to the project area, eastern indigo snake presence in the project area is possible. The owner will commit to implementing the USFWS Standard Protection Measures for the Eastern Indigo Snake.

The **wood stork** (*Mycteria americana*) is listed as endangered by the USFWS. The project area is located within the core foraging area (CFA) of five wood stork colonies. No wood storks were observed during field reviews the project area. Wetland impacts will be mitigated on-site.

#### **State Protected**

The **gopher tortoise** (*Gopherus polyphemus*) is listed as threatened by the FWC. Several gopher tortoise burrows were observed during the field review, suitable habitat is limited to the areas of spoil located along the northern edge of the canal and Foresman Blvd.

The **bald eagle** (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) is listed as threatened by the FWC. No nests were observed within the project area. A documented nest is located approximately 2.5 miles north of the project.

The **Florida sandhill crane** (*Grus Canadensis pratensis*) is listed as threatened by the FWC. No nests were observed within the project area, however, suitable habitat for nesting and foraging is present within the project area.

The **limpkin** (*Aramus guarauna*), **little blue heron** (*Egretta caerulea*), **reddish egret** (*Egretta rufescens*), **snowy egret** (*Egretta thula*), **tricolored heron** (*Egretta tricolor*), **white ibis** (*Eudocimus albus*), and **roseate spoonbill** (*Platalea ajaia*) are listed as species of special concern by the FWC. No nests were observed within the project area, however, suitable habitat for nesting and foraging is present within the project area.

The Florida scrub-jay (Aphelocoma coerulescens), black skimmer (Rynchops niger), brown pelican (Pelecanus occidentalis), burrowing owl (Athene cunicularia), and American oystercatcher (Haematopus palliates) are listed as species of special concern by the FWC. These species was not observed during field reviews and their preferred nesting habitat is not present within the project area.

#### 3.0 PERMITTING

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regulate works or other activities in, on or over wetlands and/or other surface waters within the project study area and will issue permits for this project. Other agencies, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) review and comment on wetland permitting and potential affects to listed wildlife species.

AIM will prepare permit applications and pursue approval for the proposed restoration improvements. An AIM scientist will assist in preparing certain specific permit applications for the proposed restoration PROJECT. AIM will prepare the required application forms and supporting documents to submit the following anticipated regulatory permit applications:

- Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Environmental Resource Permit for Restoration
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineer (USACE) Nationwide 27 Permit
- Sarasota County approval for restoration work as an exemption for maintenance activity
- Charlotte County approval for restoration work as an exemption for maintenance activity

CONSULTANT will also perform Request for Additional Information (RAI) coordination, and prepare responses to the above regulatory agencies regarding items submitted in the Applications. An AIM scientist will assist in RAI coordination and prepare responses regarding items submitted in the applications with FDEP, USACE, and other commenting agencies.

#### 3.1 EVALUATION OF DESIGN

**TBD** 

3.2 WETLAND IMPACTS/MITIGATION

**TBD** 

4.0 CONCLUSIONS, COMMITMENTS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

**TBD** 

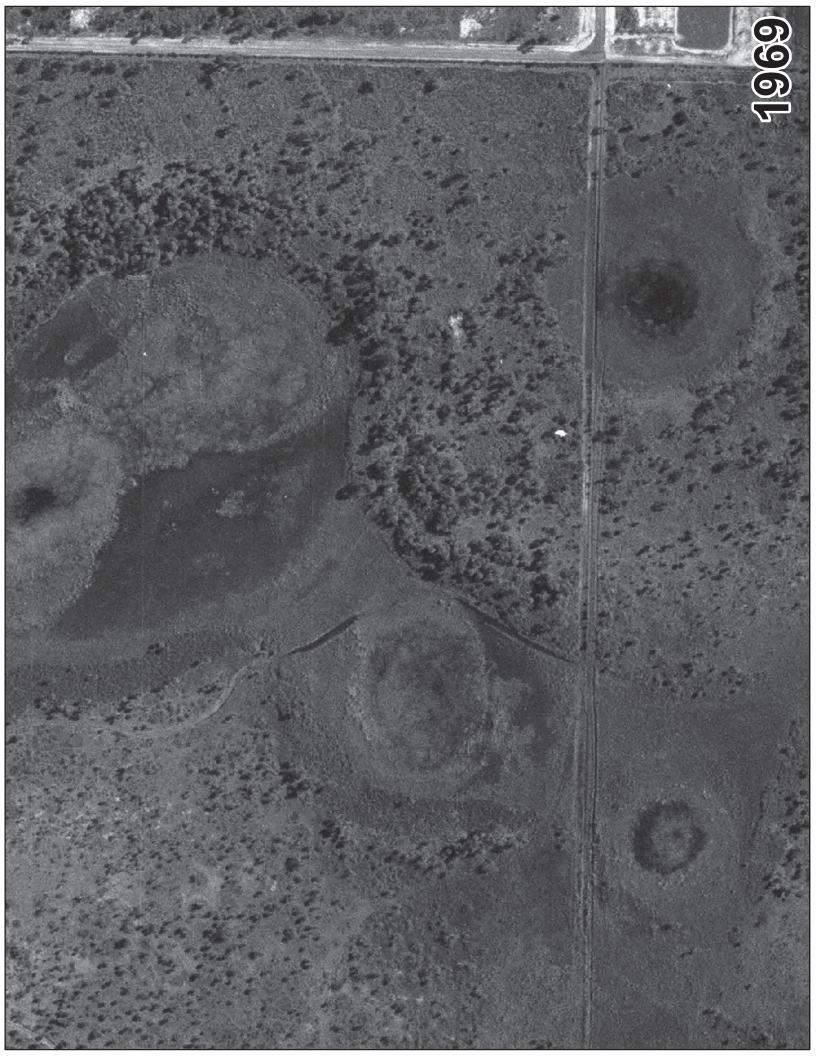
















Photograph 2





Photograph 4





Photograph 6





Photograph 8





Photograph 10





Photograph 12



Photograph 13



Photograph 14





Photograph 16





Photograph 18





Photograph 20





Photograph 22



Photograph 23



Photograph 24

