



Draft Tiered Site-Specific Environmental Assessment

**Jacksonville Port Authority: Fire and
Rescue Marine Fire Station #40,
Jacksonville, Florida**

Port Security Grant Program
Project # 2008-GB-T8-K019

November 15, 2011



Federal Emergency Management Agency
Department of Homeland Security
500 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20472

I. Background

The Jacksonville Port Authority (JPA) has applied for fiscal year 2008 funding assistance from the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Port Security Grant Program (PSGP) on behalf of the Jacksonville Fire Rescue Department (JFRD). The Florida Division of Emergency Management administers the PSGP for FEMA. The Investment Justification (IJ) supplied as part of the funding request proposes to fund construction of a dock and boathouse as part of a new marine fire rescue facility, the IJ provides additional details. The JFRD received fiscal year 2006 PSGP funding to purchase a 70 foot emergency response vessel that will use the facility. Additionally, in 2010 the JFRD was awarded FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding (1679 DR FL 16R) to elevate and harden the land operation fire station that will be built as part of the new marine fire rescue facility.

In accordance with Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the regulations promulgated by the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1500-1508; and 44 CFR Part 10, FEMA's NEPA implementing procedures; a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) for Grant Programs Directorate projects, which includes the PSGP, was prepared and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) issued in July 2010. The PEA and FONSI are available at: <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=4143>. This Tiered Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (SEA) is being prepared for the dock/boathouse elements in accordance with and to augment the July 2010 PEA. The focus of this Tiered SEA is on environmental or historic preservation resources requiring additional discussion or analysis because they are not adequately addressed in the PEA which is not site-specific. Furthermore, the FEMA environmental review that was completed for the HMGP-funded land operation fire station did not include the boathouse or dock.

II. Purpose and Need

The JPA/JFRD has applied for PSGP funding under application number 2008-GB-T8-K019 IJ #16. The purpose of the PSGP is to provide for activities which help to enhance the security and safety of ports in the United States. The purpose of the JFRD is to provide all marine fire protection services for all navigable waterways within Duval County, in addition to having a standing Memorandum of Understanding with the US Coast Guard (USCG) of the Jacksonville (Jax) Port assuming the role of sole responding agency for marine fire emergencies within the USCG Port area/Duval County area of operation and Jax Port's 40 maritime cargo and cruise terminal facilities and all associated tenants. JFRD also provide the only marine based fire suppression mutual aid response capabilities to the surrounding counties of Clay, St. Johns, and Nassau.

JFRD currently has two marine firefighting stations facilitating four marine firefighting vessels and multi-agency/jurisdiction law enforcement vessels all of which protect all Jax Port and federal marine facilities. A third JFRD marine facility is needed to provide a 24-hour emergency response presence for faster marine firefighting response to the mouth of the St. Johns River and adjacent coastal waters, MS Mayport, cruise ship terminal, US Marine Corps Command BI, and Mayport Ferry. This combined area has significant marine recreational, commercial, and

military traffic. This location will be capable of supporting the new 70' CBRN Marine vessel being purchased utilizing 2006 PSGP funds as well as currently in-service vessels ranging in sizes of sixteen foot to fifty-two feet. The dock is also needed to accommodate and support other federal, state, and local law enforcement vessels, Florida environmental response vessels, and JaxPort security vessels when needed operationally.

III. Alternatives

Two project alternatives are evaluated in this draft SEA: 1) the No Action Alternative; and 2) the Proposed Action - construction of a new marine rescue dock facility. The Proposed Action herein is consistent with PEA Alternative 2: New Construction.

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, JFRD would continue to provide marine emergency response services from two existing facilities. The land-based infrastructure for the new marine fire rescue facility would be built, including the fire station. Emergency response capabilities would continue to be limited by the existing dock infrastructure and potentially result in longer marine response times.

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action includes construction of a new dock at the new marine fire rescue facility. The new facility is located along the Saint John's River at 9350 Hecksher Drive in Jacksonville, Florida; Latitude 30.3902, Longitude -81.4409 (see Appendix A, location maps). The proposed project site is a 1.5 acre vacant lot and is surrounded by low density residential land uses. The Proposed Action includes building a 200 feet long steel and concrete fixed pier, with the deck at 8 feet (NAVD) (the 100-year base flood elevation). Work also includes a fixed dock slip with a boat lift for a 52-foot boat under a steel canopy boat house, two fixed finger dock slips with boat lifts for 27-foot boats under a steel canopy, and one fixed finger dock slip for a 27-foot boat (see Appendix B, site design). The dock infrastructure has been designed to meet coastal construction standards, to withstand storm surge and wind forces of a Category III Hurricane (150 MPH wind and 1.15 importance factor).

The land operation fire station includes an approximately 9,700 square foot, two story masonry structure with three apparatus bays. The building will be designed to sustain 150 MPH Basic Wind Velocity and 1.15 Importance Factor which exceeds the Florida Building Code, thus it can withstand a Category III Hurricane. The apparatus bay's finished floor elevation will be about 1.25 feet above the based flood elevation and the living quarters will be about 20.34 feet above the base flood elevation, per the National Flood Insurance Program as implemented by the City. Site appurtenances include two storage buildings, parking, stormwater features, security fencing, and utilities. The new facility will have a deep domestic water well and onsite wastewater treatment and disposal. Electrical, telephone, and cable services will tie into existing utilities on Hecksher Drive.

IV. Affected Environmental and Potential Impacts - Floodplain

The environmental impacts associated with the No Action Alternative comport with those described in the July 2010 PEA, which is incorporated by reference, thus will not be further discussed in this SEA. Furthermore, review determined that the Proposed Action's effects to the full range of environmental/historic preservation resources are adequately addressed in the PEA, with the exception of floodplain impacts. The below narrative augments the PEA's discussion of floodplain actions, describing how the Proposed Action affects or is affected by the floodplain.

In compliance with FEMA regulations, 44 CFR Part 9, implementing Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, FEMA is required to carry out an eight-step decision-making process for actions that are proposed in the floodplain. Step 1 determines whether the project is located in the floodplain. The Proposed Action is located in a 100-year floodplain, Zone AE (EL 8) and Zone VE (EL 10) also called the Coastal High Hazard Area, as depicted on FEMA's Flood Insurance Rate Map Community Panel 1200770253F, effective date April 15, 1992 (see Appendix C). The fire station building is in Zone AE while the dock is in Zone VE. Furthermore, the marine rescue facility serves as an emergency response and command center and is thus considered a critical action (facility). Critical actions are evaluated for flood hazards and risks against the 500-year floodplain.

Step 2 requires the public is notified of proposed floodplain actions and given opportunity to participate in the decision-making process. Initial public noticing regarding potential floodplain actions was completed on March 4, 2007 by FEMA, in response to a Presidential Disaster Declaration (1679 -DR-FL) for a flood event that included Duval County. The notice was published in four north Florida daily newspapers. The new fire station is partially funded with funds from this disaster funded program (HMGP). The City of Jacksonville, on behalf of the JFRD, more recently issued a public notice of the project as part of the marine rescue facility's permitting process. A notice was published on August 26, 2010 in the Florida Times Union providing a 21-day comment period (see Appendix D). Furthermore, the marine rescue facility has been discussed at numerous regularly held City Council meetings, which are open to the public.

Step 3 requires identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating a project in the floodplain, including alternative sites outside of the floodplain. Furthermore, FEMA's regulations prohibit funding new construction in V zones unless it is a functionally dependent use. The JFRD selected the Hecksher Drive site because it is proximate to the mouth of the Saint Johns River, the area to be served by the new marine rescue facility, and staff working at the facility would have ready and quick access to response/patrol boats. Alternatives evaluation was completed as part of the HMGP funded land operation fire station work. The proposed dock constitutes new construction and is in the VE zone. However, the dock cannot perform its intended purpose without being located in or in close proximity to water, including the VE Zone, thus this infrastructure is considered functionally dependent to the floodplain. Accordingly, alternatives outside of the floodplain would not serve the purpose of a dock, nor the purpose and need described in Section II. Therefore practicable alternatives to the Proposed Action are precluded. The No Action alternative does not meet the stated purpose and need.

Step 4 requires identifying impacts associated with occupancy and modification of the floodplain and support of floodplain development that could result from the Proposed Action. Because of its location in a VE Zone, the dock is potentially at risk of inundation and structural damage due to hydrostatic and hydrodynamic forces caused by high velocity wave action and storm surge. Given the dock's design is consistent with coastal construction standards, the risk of damage up to and including a Category III Hurricane is low, however more severe events are likely to cause significant damage. Additional federal investment, in the form of FEMA Public Assistance Program or other federal disaster assistance, may be triggered in the event of flood damage to the dock infrastructure. Given the scale of the dock within the Saint John's River, it is not expected to cause an increase in the base flood elevation nor should it increase the flood hazard potential to other structures. The project area is already developed with low density residential uses, including many docks already present along this reach of the river, thus the Proposed Action is not expected to encourage future development in the floodplain.

Step 5 requires developing impact minimization measures and ways to restore and preserve the floodplain. In order to reduce the potential flood damages identified in Step 4, the dock facility has been design to meet coastal construction standards. The dock is being built with steel and concrete, on open pilings, and is anchored. The deck elevation will be to the base flood elevation.

Step 6 is to determine whether the proposed action is practicable and to reevaluate alternatives. Per the discussion above; including the Proposed Action's purpose and need, functional dependency on the floodplain (and VE Zone), and a dock design that meets coastal construction standards; the Proposed Action remains a practicable alternative.

Step 7 requires that the public be provided with an explanation of any final decision that the floodplain action is the only practicable alternative. Final public noticing will be completed as part of making this draft SEA available for public comment as discussed in Section VI.

Step 8 includes implementation of the Proposed Action following release of grant funding.

V. Agencies/Entities Consulted and Permitting

The following agencies/entities have been contacted regarding the new marine rescue facility:

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Jacksonville District
- Saint John's River Water Management District (SJRWMD)
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- City of Jacksonville Planning and Development Department
- Florida State Historic Preservation Office
- Choctaw Tribe
- Muscogee Creek Nation
- Poarch Band of Creek Indians
- Seminole Tribe of Florida
- Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
- Thlopthlocco Tribal Town

The City has secured the following permitting for the marine rescue facility:

- City Site Clearing and Building Permit, which complies with the City's floodplain ordinance (December 2010)
- USACE River's and Harbor's Act Section 10 and Clean Water Act permitting (December 2010)
- SJRWMD general surface water management system permitting (July 2010)

VI. Public Involvement

Public involvement for the PEA was completed in April and July 2010, the document may be viewed and downloaded at: <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=4143>. As discussed in Section IV, initial project public involvement has been completed. A public notice advertising the availability of this draft SEA for public review and comment has been posted in the Florida Times Union and the document may be viewed and downloaded at <http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region4.shtm#2>. The draft SEA has also been made available at the JFRD Headquarters located at 515 N Julia St, Jacksonville. The comment period is 15 days, substantive public comments received during the comment period will be addressed with JFRD.

VII. Project Conditions and Mitigation Measures

Before and during project implementation, the City will comply with the following conditions or mitigations measures, in addition to general conditions that are stated in the PEA FONSI, noted above:

- The dock facilities must be built per the proposed design, meeting coastal construction standards, to minimizing potential flood damage.
- The City must comply with all the terms and conditions of its USACE and SJRWMD permitting, which are incorporated by reference.
- Dock installation should be done during the non-flood season, as determined by the local floodplain administrator.

VIII. Conclusion

The draft SEA evaluated floodplain impacts of the Proposed Action and did not identify any significant adverse impacts to the floodplain. Implementing the Proposed Action, along with any conditions associated with permits or approvals, is expected to avoid or minimize adverse effects associated with the action. Following public involvement, FEMA will determine whether to issue a FONSI for the Proposed Action. If there are no significant adverse public comments, then this draft SEA will become the final SEA for the Proposed Action.

IX. List of Preparers

This document was prepared by Ms. Science Kilner, Deputy Regional Environmental Officer, FEMA Region X.

X. References

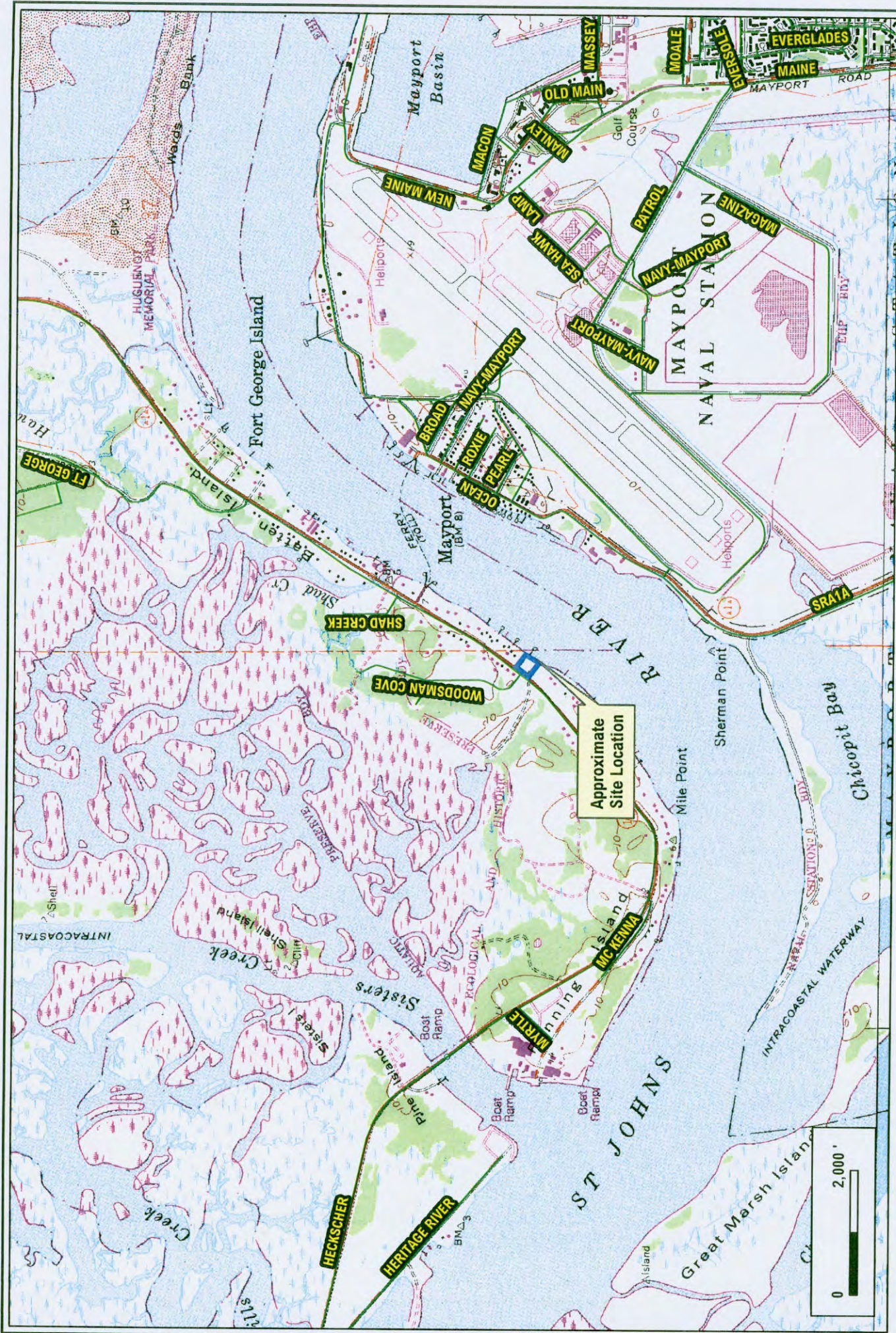
City of Jacksonville. Site and Building Designs. 2010.

Estep, William. Jacksonville Fire Rescue Department. August 26 email correspondence regarding design, engineering, and permitting. 2010.

Environmental Services Inc. *Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of the Fire Station #40*. City of Jacksonville. 2010.

Jacksonville Port Authority. *Port Security Grant Program Investment Justification*. 2010.

Appendix A
Location Mapu



Environmental
Resource
Solutions Inc.
1597 The Greens Way,
State 200
Jacksonville Beach, FL 32260

**COJ Fire Station #40
Location Map**

Project No.: 10039
Exhibit No.: 1
Date: 5-10-10
Rev. Date:



Lat: 30° 23' 26.22" N
Long: 81° 26' 24.20" W

Section: Unclassified
Township: 1 South
Range: 29 East



DRAFT



River Channel



Source(s): Aerials Express, January 2007.

Disclaimer: The information depicted on this figure is for conceptual purposes only, serves to aid a licensed engineer or geologist in rendering professional services, and is subject to review and approval by appropriate regulatory agencies.



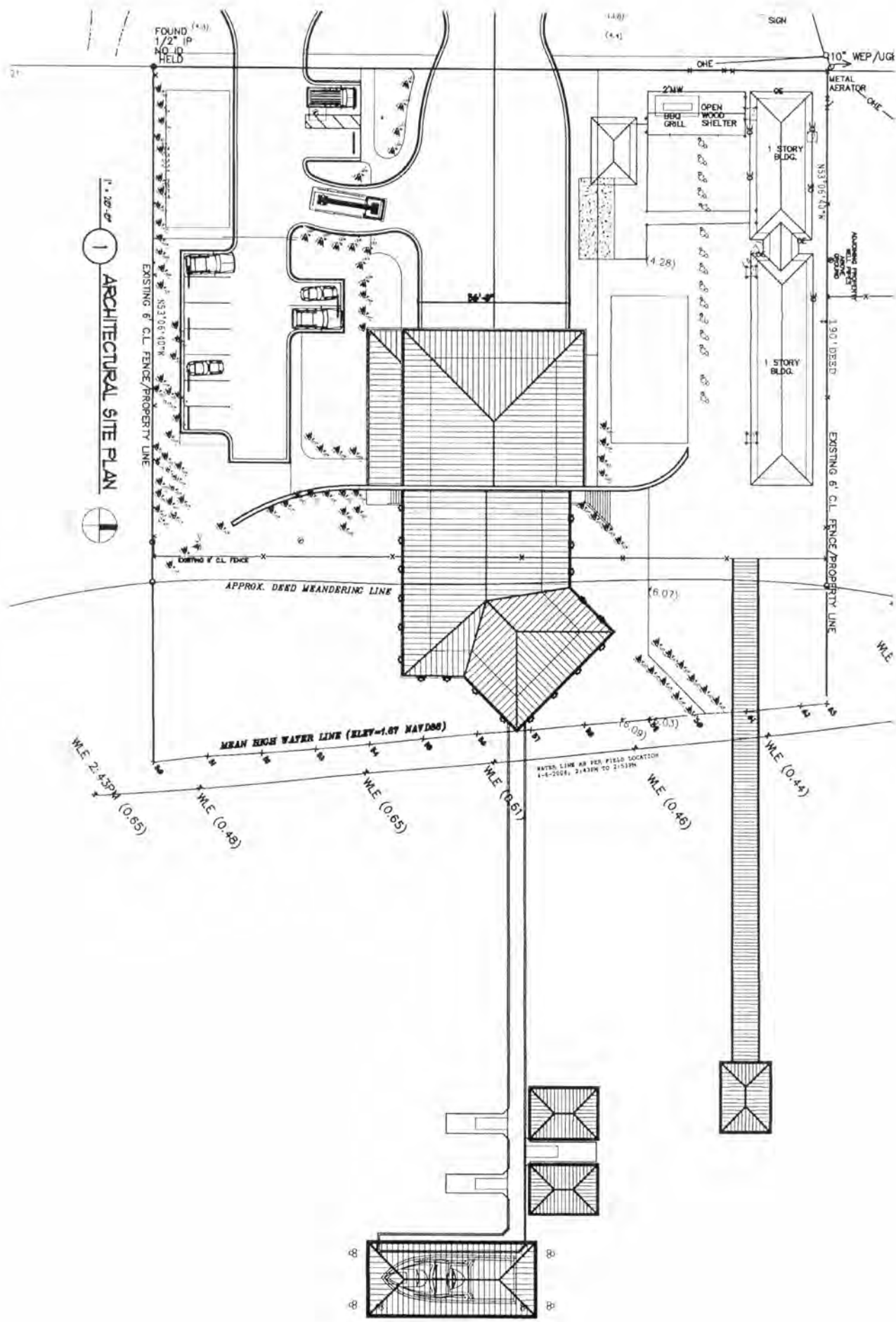
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.
7220 Financial Way, Suite 100
Jacksonville, Florida 32256
(904) 470-2200
(904) 470-2112 Fax
www.environmentalservicesinc.com

2007 Aerial Photograph
Fire Station 40
Duval County, Florida

Project:	EJ07091.00
Date:	Oct. 2007
Drwn/Chkd:	PG/
Figure:	1

Appendix B

Site Design



1" = 20'
 1 ARCHITECTURAL SITE PLAN

Appendix C
Floodplain Map

A

B

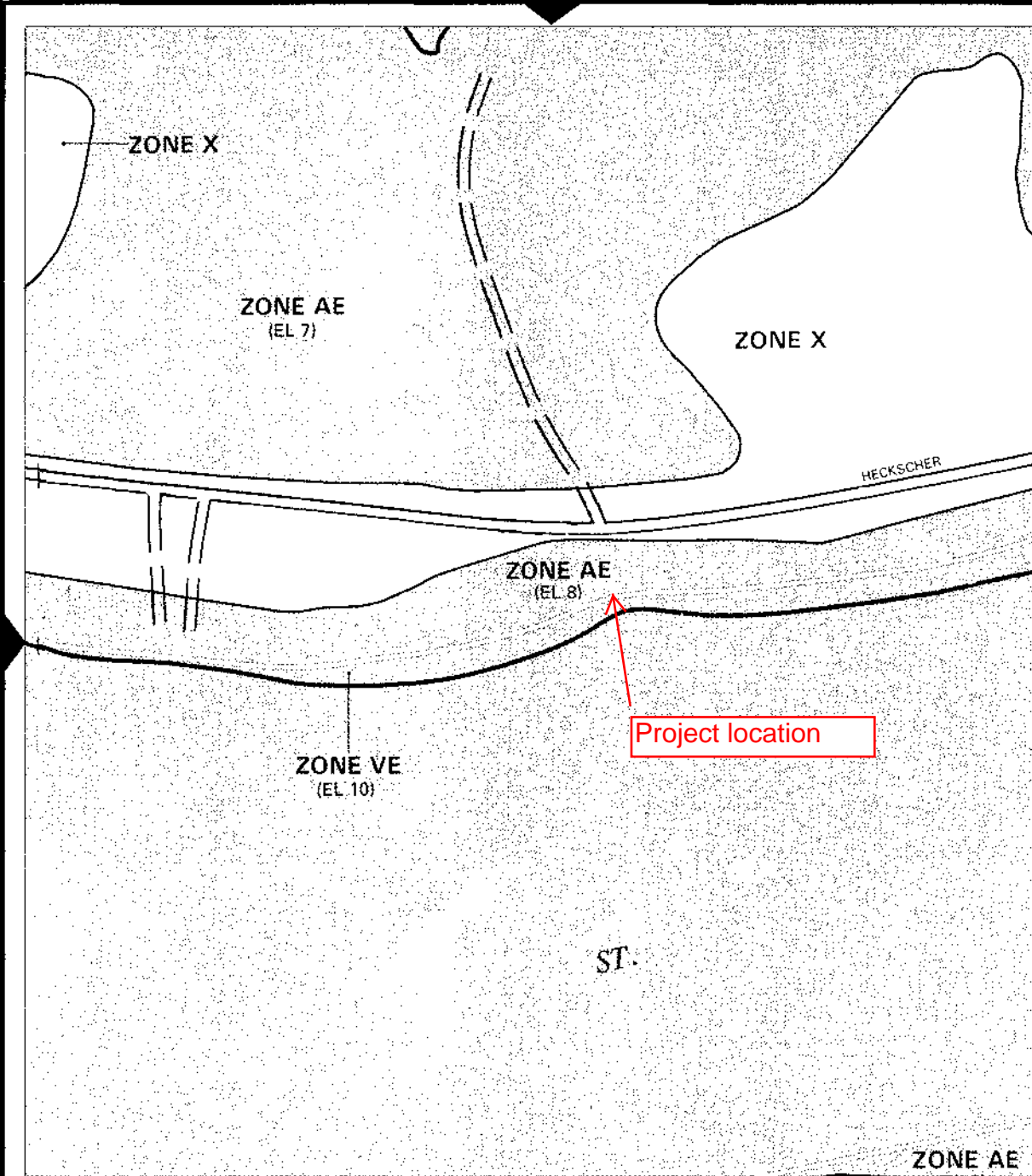


APPROXIMATE SCALE IN FEET



1

2



NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

FIRM
FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP

CITY OF
JACKSONVILLE,
FLORIDA
DUVAL COUNTY

PANEL 253 OF 310
(SEE MAP INDEX FOR PANELS NOT PRINTED)

-- NOTE --

THIS MAP INCORPORATES APPROXIMATE BOUNDARIES OF COASTAL BARRIER RE-SOURCES SYSTEM UNIT AND/OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED AREAS ESTABLISHED UNDER THE COASTAL BARRIER IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1990 (PL 101-5911).

COMMUNITY-PANEL NUMBER:

120077 0253 F

MAP REVISED:

APRIL 15, 1992



Federal Emergency Management Agency

ZONE AE

This is an official copy of a portion of the above referenced flood map. It was extracted using F-MIT On-Line. This map does not reflect changes or amendments which may have been made subsequent to the date on the title block. For the latest product information about National Flood Insurance Program flood maps check the FEMA Flood Map Store at www.msc.fema.gov

Appendix D

Initial Public Notice

THE FLORIDA TIMES-UNION
Jacksonville, FL
Affidavit of Publication

Florida Times-Union

COJ DEPT OF PUBLIC WORKS
ED BALL
214 N HOGAN ST 10TH FLR
JACKSONVILLE FL 32202

Reference: 1000495711
Ad Number: C13497904

State of Florida
County of Duval

Before the undersigned authority personally appeared Sharon Walker who on oath says he/she is a Legal Advertising Representative of The Florida Times-Union, a daily newspaper published in Duval County, Florida; that the attached copy of advertisement is a legal ad published in The Florida Times-Union. Affiant further says that The Florida Times-Union is a newspaper published in Duval County, Florida, and that the newspaper has heretofore been continuously published in Duval County, Florida each day, has been entered as second class mail matter at the post office in Jacksonville, in Duval County, Florida for a period of one year preceding the first publication of the attached copy of advertisement; and affiant further says that he/she has neither paid nor promised any person, firm or corporation any discount, rebate, commission, or refund for the purpose of securing this advertisement for publication in said newspaper.

PUBLISHED ON: 08/26/2010

FILED ON: 08/26/2010

**NOTICE OF AGENCY ACTION TAKEN BY THE
ST. JOHNS RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

Notice is given that the following permit was issued on July 20, 2010:

City of Jax, Dept. of Public Works, 214 N. Hogan St, 10th Flr Jax, FL 32202 permit #40-031-124446-1. The project is located in Duval County, Section 25, Township 1S South, Range 28E East. The permit authorizes a surface water management system on 1.05 acres for dry retention pond at 9350 Hecksher Drive, Jax, FL 32226 known as Fire Station No. 40. The receiving water body is St Johns River.

The file containing the application for the above listed permit is available for inspection Monday through Friday except for legal holidays, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the St. Johns River Water Management District (District) Headquarters, 4049 Reid Street, Palatka, FL 32178-1429. A person whose substantial interests are affected by the District permitting decision may petition for an administrative hearing in accordance with sections 120.569 and 120.57, Florida Statutes, or may choose to pursue mediation as an alternative remedy under section 120.573, Florida Statutes, before the deadline for filing a petition. Choosing mediation will not adversely affect the right to a hearing if mediation does not result in a settlement. The procedures for pursuing mediation are set forth in section 120.573, Florida Statutes, and rules 28-106.111 and 28-106.401-.404 Florida Administrative Code. Petitions must comply with the requirements of Florida Administrative Code Chapter 28-106 and be filed with (received by) the District Clerk located at District Headquarters, Highway 100 West, Palatka, FL 32177. Petitions for administrative hearing on the above application must be filed within twenty-one (21) days of publication of this notice. Failure to file a petition within this time period shall constitute a waiver of any right(s) such person(s) may have to request an administrative determination (hearing) under sections 120.569 and 120.57, Florida Statutes, concerning the subject permit. Petitions that are not filed in accordance with the above provisions are subject to dismissal.

Because the administrative hearing process is designed to formulate final agency action, the filing of a petition means that the District's final action may be different from the position taken by it in this notice of intent. Persons whose substantial interests will be affected by any such final decision of the District on the applicant have the right to petition to become a party to the proceeding, in accordance with the requirements set forth above.

Name: Sharon Walker Title: Legal Advertising Representative
In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official Seal, the day and year aforesaid.

NOTARY

