



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT
P. O. BOX 4970
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32232-0019

June 8, 2020

Regulatory Division
North Branch
Jacksonville Permits Section

PUBLIC NOTICE

Permit Application No. SAJ-2013-00244(SP-RPR)

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: The Jacksonville District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. §1344) as described below:

APPLICANT: Hampton West, LLC
Attn: Mr. Chris Funk
5711 Richard Street, Suite 1
Jacksonville, Florida 32216

WATERWAY AND LOCATION: The project would affect waters of the United States (wetlands) associated with Gulley Branch. The project site is located west of V.C. Johnson Road, in Section 6, Township 1 South, Range 26 East, Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida.

APPROXIMATE CENTRAL COORDINATES: Latitude 30.45085°
Longitude -81.736717°

PROJECT PURPOSE:

Basic: The basic project purpose is residential development.

Overall: The overall project purpose is to establish housing in Northwestern Duval County.

EXISTING CONDITIONS: The 22-acre project site encompasses two communities identified by the *Florida Land Use, Cover and Forms Classification System* (FLUCFCS) developed by the Florida Department of Transportation.

Uplands

Fallow Improved Pasture (FLUCFCS code 211) - The uplands on the site are pasture areas that have been left unmanaged for the last couple years. These areas are dominated by slash pine (*Pinus elliottii*). The understory consists of sparse patches of saw palmetto (*Serenoa repens*), bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*), and bahia grass (*Paspalum notatum*).

Wetlands

Forested Mixed (FLUCFCS code 630) - These areas are also formally managed as pasture but are now dominated by Chinese tallow tree with scattered slash pine and red maple (*Acer rubrum*). The understory consists of juvenile canopy species. The groundcover consists of Virginia chainfern (*Woodwardia virginica*) and royal fern (*Osmunda regalis*).

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant seeks authorization to discharge fill material over 0.91 acre of wetlands, including wetland-cut ditch (.041 acre), to facilitate the development of 22 lots and an access roadway.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION INFORMATION – The applicant has provided the following information in support of efforts to avoid and/or minimize impacts to the aquatic environment:

The project was designed to avoid 3.91 acres of wetlands and the construction of an upland buffer. The applicant would utilize best management practices, such as silt fencing, to minimize any adverse effects.

COMPENSATORY MITIGATION – The applicant has offered the following compensatory mitigation plan to offset unavoidable functional loss to the aquatic environment:

Compensatory mitigation would be accomplished through the purchase of palustrine forested federal credits from *Greens Creek Mitigation Bank* (SAJ-2008-04255).

CULTURAL RESOURCES:

The Corps is not aware of any known historic properties within the permit area. By copy of this public notice, the Corps is providing information for review. Our final determination relative to historic resource impacts is subject to review by and coordination with the State Historic Preservation Officer and those federally recognized tribes with concerns in Florida and the Permit Area.

ENDANGERED SPECIES:

The project site is approximately 11.2 miles from the nearest identified nest or cluster location for red-cockaded woodpecker; and, within the consultation area identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the Corps for this species. Habitat for red-cockaded woodpecker typically incorporates mature pine woodlands (not wetlands); and, optimal habitat is characterized as a broad savanna with a scattered overstory of large pines and a dense groundcover containing a diversity of grass and shrub species. Nesting and roosting occur in cavity trees that are almost exclusively old, living, flat-topped pine trees. The project site does not encompass typical or optimum habitat; or, trees capable of supporting cavities. Further, as significant forested habitat is located near the project site, it is likely that this species would only opportunistically forage at

the site, which the development of the site would not hinder; therefore the Corps has determined no effect to the woodpecker.

The project is within the *Core Foraging Area* of a wood stork colony; however, the project would affect less than 0.5 acre of suitable foraging habitat for wood storks. In consideration of this information, the Corps utilized *The Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Jacksonville Ecological Services Field Office and State of Florida Effect Determination Key for the Wood Stork in Central and North Peninsular Florida, September 2008*, to determine potential effects upon this species. Use of this key resulted in the sequence A-B-C-*may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect*, and no further consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service is necessary, per the programmatic agreement.

The Corps executed a *Resources At Risk* (RAR) report. The RAR did not indicate that the site is utilized by, or contains habitat critical to, any other federally listed threatened or endangered species. The Corps also reviewed geospatial data and other available information. The Corps has not received or discovered any information that the project site is utilized by, or contains habitat critical to, any other federally listed threatened or endangered species.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT (EFH): There is no essential fish habitat within the project area.

NOTE: This public notice is being issued based on information furnished by the applicant. This information has not been verified or evaluated to ensure compliance with laws and regulation governing the regulatory program. The jurisdictional line has been verified by Corps personnel.

AUTHORIZATION FROM OTHER AGENCIES: Water Quality Certification may be required from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and/or one of the state Water Management Districts.

COMMENTS regarding the potential authorization of the work proposed should be submitted in writing to the attention of the District Engineer through the Jacksonville Permits Section, P.O. Box 4970, Jacksonville, Florida 32232 within 21 days from the date of this notice.

The decision whether to issue or deny this permit application will be based on the information received from this public notice and the evaluation of the probable impact to the associated wetlands. This is based on an analysis of the applicant's avoidance and minimization efforts for the project, as well as the compensatory mitigation proposed.

QUESTIONS concerning this application should be directed to the project manager, Renee Riker, in writing at the Jacksonville Permits Section, Post Office Box 4970, Jacksonville, Florida 32232; by electronic mail at renee.p.riker@usace.army.mil; by facsimile transmission at (904)232-1904; or, by telephone at (904)232-1497.

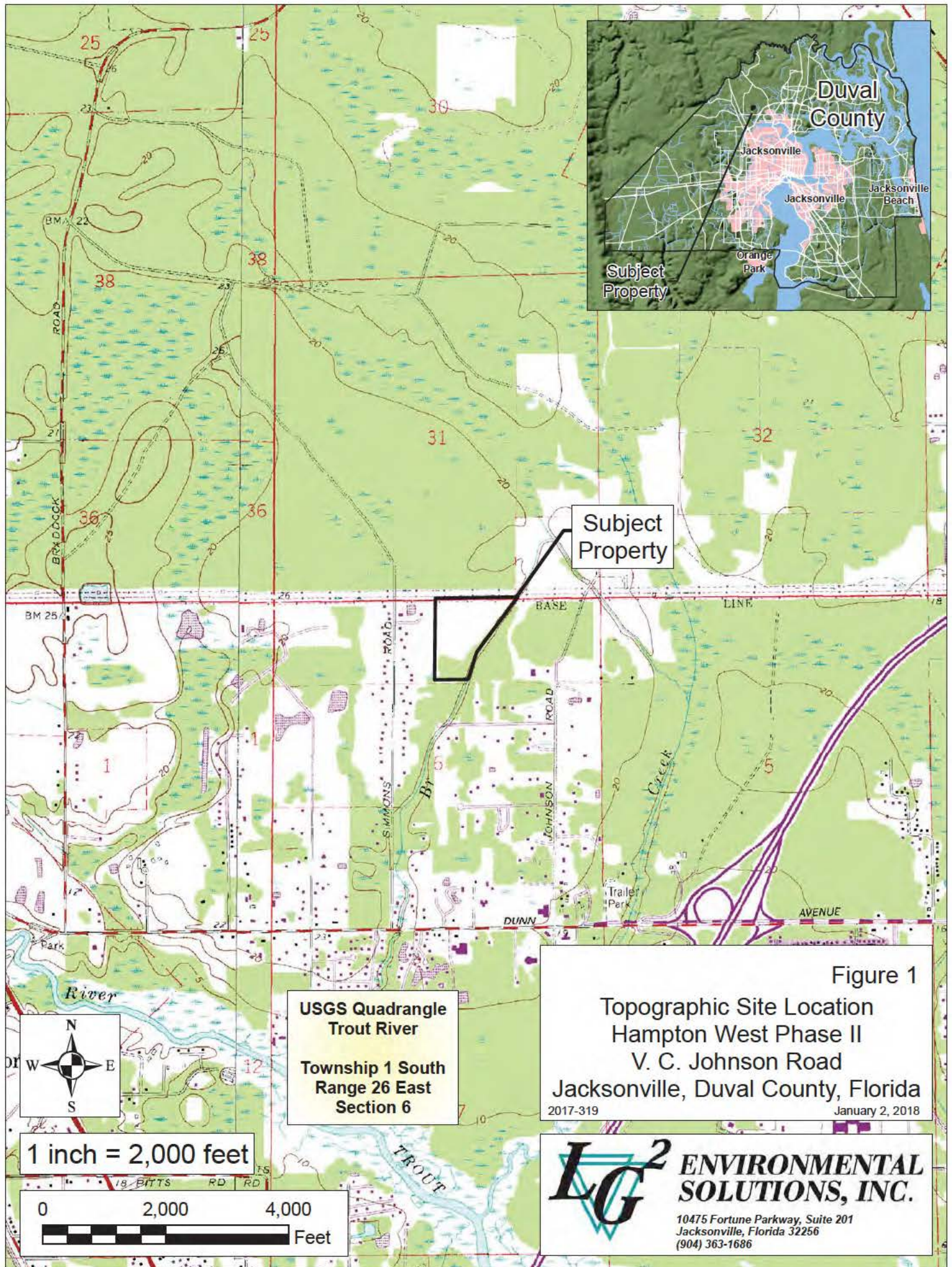
IMPACT ON NATURAL RESOURCES: Coordination with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the National Marine Fisheries Services, and other Federal, State, and local agencies, environmental groups, and concerned citizens generally yields pertinent environmental information that is instrumental in determining the impact the proposed action will have on the natural resources of the area.

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including cumulative impacts thereof; among these are conservation, economics, esthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historical properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food, and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, EPA, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act or the criteria established under authority of Section 102(a) of the Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972. A permit will be granted unless its issuance is found to be contrary to the public interest.

The US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other Interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this determination, comments are used to assess impacts to endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT CONSISTENCY: In Florida, the State approval constitutes compliance with the approved Coastal Zone Management Plan. In Puerto Rico, a Coastal Zone Management Consistency Concurrence is required from the Puerto Rico Planning Board. In the Virgin Islands, the Department of Planning and Natural Resources permit constitutes compliance with the Coastal Zone Management Plan.

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC HEARING: Any person may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the District Engineer within the designated comment period of the notice and must state the specific reasons for requesting the public hearing.



- 38** Mascotte Fine Sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- 51** Pelham Fine Sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- 63** Sapelo Fine Sand, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- 66** Surrency Loamy Fine Sand, Depressional, 0 to 2 percent slopes
- 82** Pelham Fine Sand, Depressional, 0 to 20 percent slopes

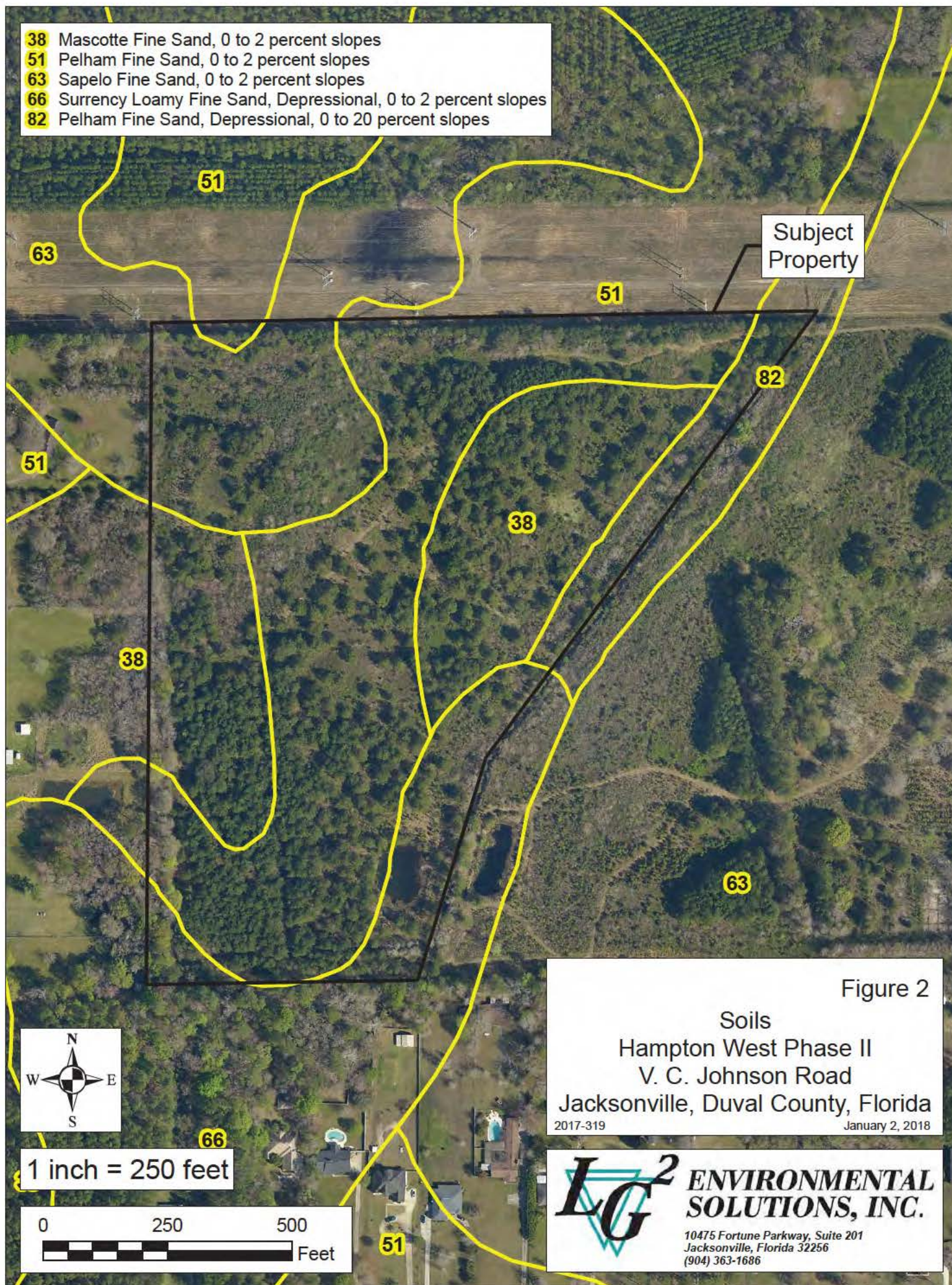


Figure 2

Soils
 Hampton West Phase II
 V. C. Johnson Road
 Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida
 2017-319 January 2, 2018

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