



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
POST OFFICE BOX 4970
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32232

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Regulatory Division
North Permits Branch
Jacksonville Permits Section

December 23, 2008

PUBLIC NOTICE

Permit Application No. SAJ-2008-4497(IP-RLT)

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: This district 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: Mr. Rick L. Townsend
Jacksonville Sheriff's Office
501 E. Bay Street
Jacksonville, Florida 32202

WATERWAY & LOCATION: The project is located in waters of the United States, including wetlands, contiguous with Thomas Creek. The project is located at 4727 Lannie Road in Section 40, Township 2 North, Range 26 East, Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida.

Directions to the site are as follows: Heading north on I-95, take exit 362B to merge on I-295 South. Go approximately 3.4 miles and take exit 32 for Lem Turner Road/State Hwy 115. Turn right onto Lem Turner Road and go approximately 4.9 miles. Turn right at Lannie Road and go approximately 3 miles. Turn Left onto Ethel Road. Go approximately .5 mile and project site will be on the left.

LATITUDE & LONGITUDE: Latitude 30.5416 North
Longitude -81.7325 West

PROJECT PURPOSE:

Basic: Police target training facility.

Overall: Construction expansion of a police weapons firing range facility at an existing police target facility in North Jacksonville.

PROPOSED WORK: The applicant proposes to impact 2.45 acres by placing fill into wetlands to construct target ranges, earth berms, backstops, buildings, roads and parking areas.

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 applicant has assessed the on-site wetlands and has designed the project's site plan to avoid and minimize wetland impacts to the maximum extent practicable.

Compensatory Mitigation: The applicant has offered the following compensatory mitigation plan to offset unavoidable functional loss to the aquatic environment:

Mitigation will consist of wetland hardwood preservation along with wetland creation. The 28 preservation acres will be placed in a conservation easement. An approximate 1.6 acre upland island will be brought to the surrounding wetland elevation and trees similar to the contiguous wetland will be planted.

EXISTING CONDITIONS: The project site consists of 126.6 acres. The project area is an expansion of an existing gun range, and is surrounded by long time plowed agricultural fields. The wetland system consists of a palustrine forested freshwater system. The onsite vegetative communities were classified according to the Florida Department of Transportation's *Florida Land Use, Cover and Forms Classification System* (FLUCFCS, 1999) as:

FLUCFCS 175/190, Government and Open Land (39.9 acres - 31%)
FLUCFCS 420, Upland Hardwood Forest (1.6 acres - 1%)
FLUCFCS 610, Wetland Hardwood (84.5 acres - 67%)
FLUCFCS 640, Vegetated Non-Forested Wetland (.6 acre - 1%)

ENDANGERED SPECIES: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has determined the proposal would have no effect on any listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat. 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 Florida Peninsular Florida, dated September 2008, was used to determine that this project would have no effect on the wood stork. This determination was reached with the following steps of the Key **A > B > no effect**.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT (EFH): This notice initiates consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service on EFH as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act 1996. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial adverse impact on EFH or Federally managed fisheries in Thomas Creek. Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

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 application should be submitted in writing to the District Engineer at the above address within 21 days from the date of this notice.

If you have any questions concerning this application, you may contact Mr. Randy Turner at the letterhead address, by electronic mail at Randy.L.Turner@usace.army.mil, by fax at 904-232-1904, or by telephone at 904-232-1670.

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.

IMPACT ON NATURAL RESOURCES: Preliminary review of this application indicates that an Environmental Impact Statement will not be required. 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. By means of this notice, we are soliciting comments on the potential effects of the project on threatened or endangered species or their habitat

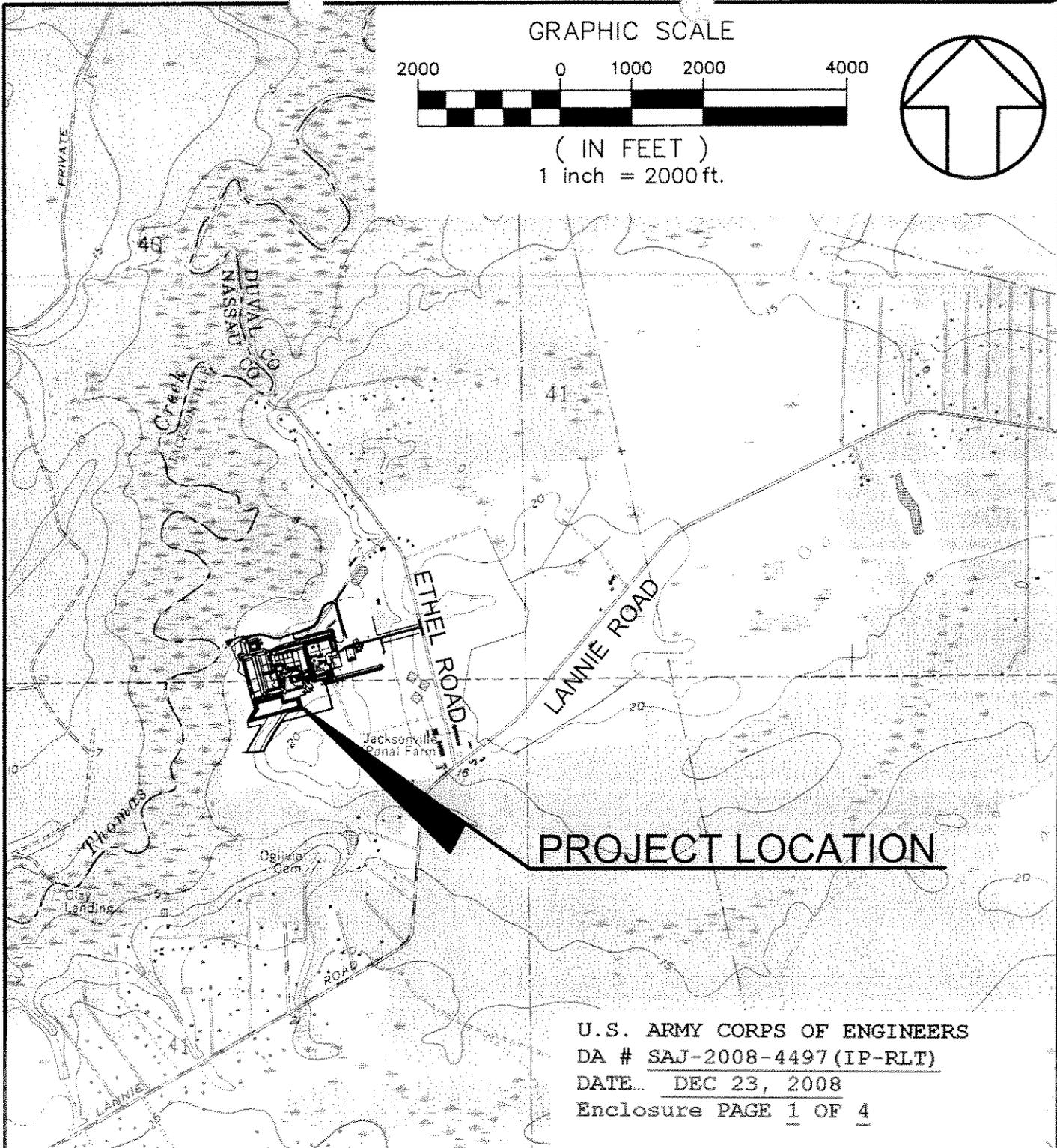
IMPACT ON CULTURAL RESOURCES: Review of the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places indicates that no registered properties or properties listed as eligible for inclusion therein are located at the site of the proposed work. Presently, unknown archaeological, scientific, pre-historical, or historical data may be lost or destroyed by the work to be accomplished.

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 deterrents. 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 of 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 of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make or deny this decision, comments are used to assess Impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. 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 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.


David S. Hobbie
Regulatory Division

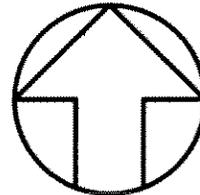


GRAPHIC SCALE



(IN FEET)

1 inch = 2000 ft.



PROJECT LOCATION

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LOCATION MAP

SCALE: 1" = 2000'

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JAX SC



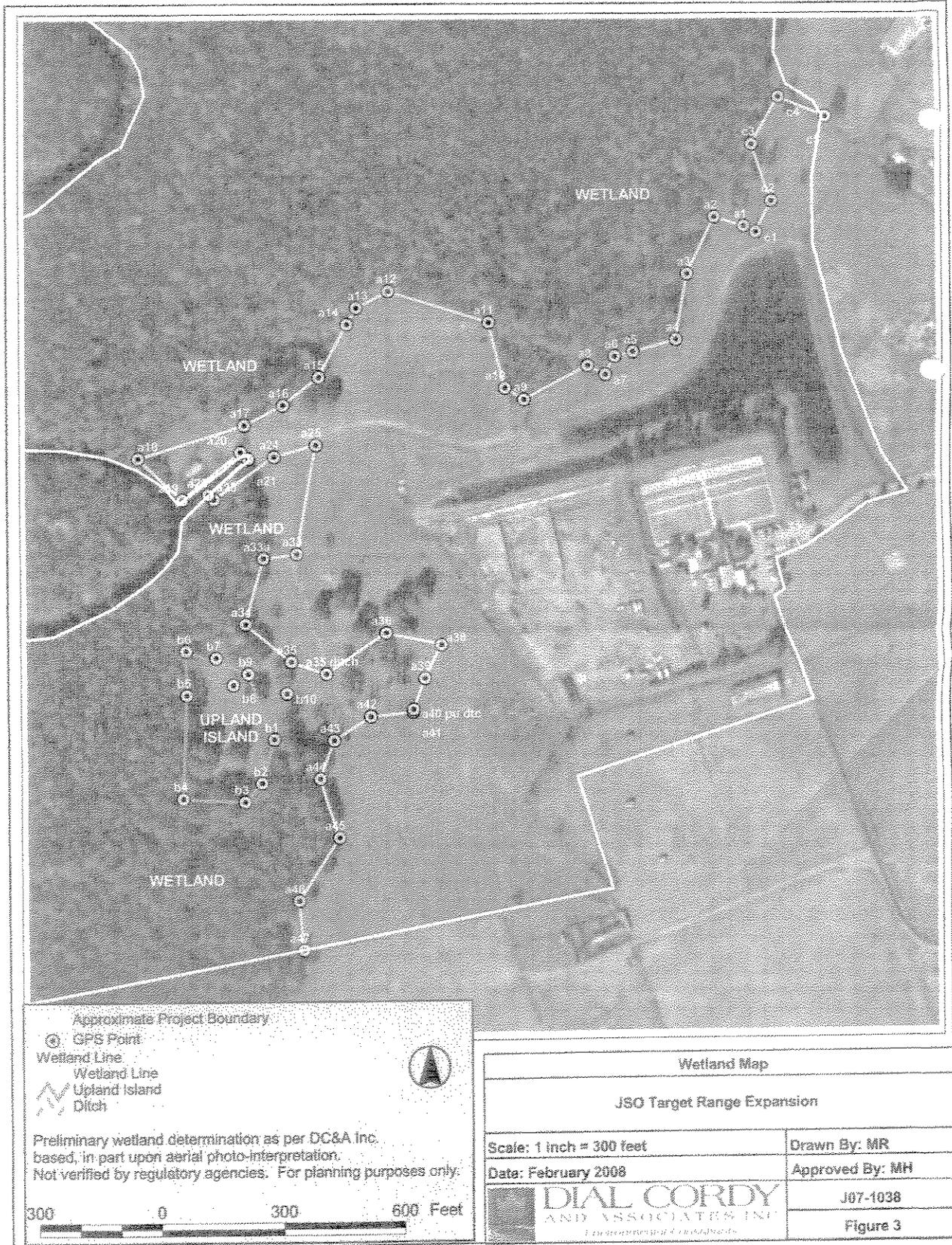
C. VARGAS & ASSOCIATES, LTD.
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

8808 ARLINGTON EXPRESSWAY
 JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32211 (904) 722-2294

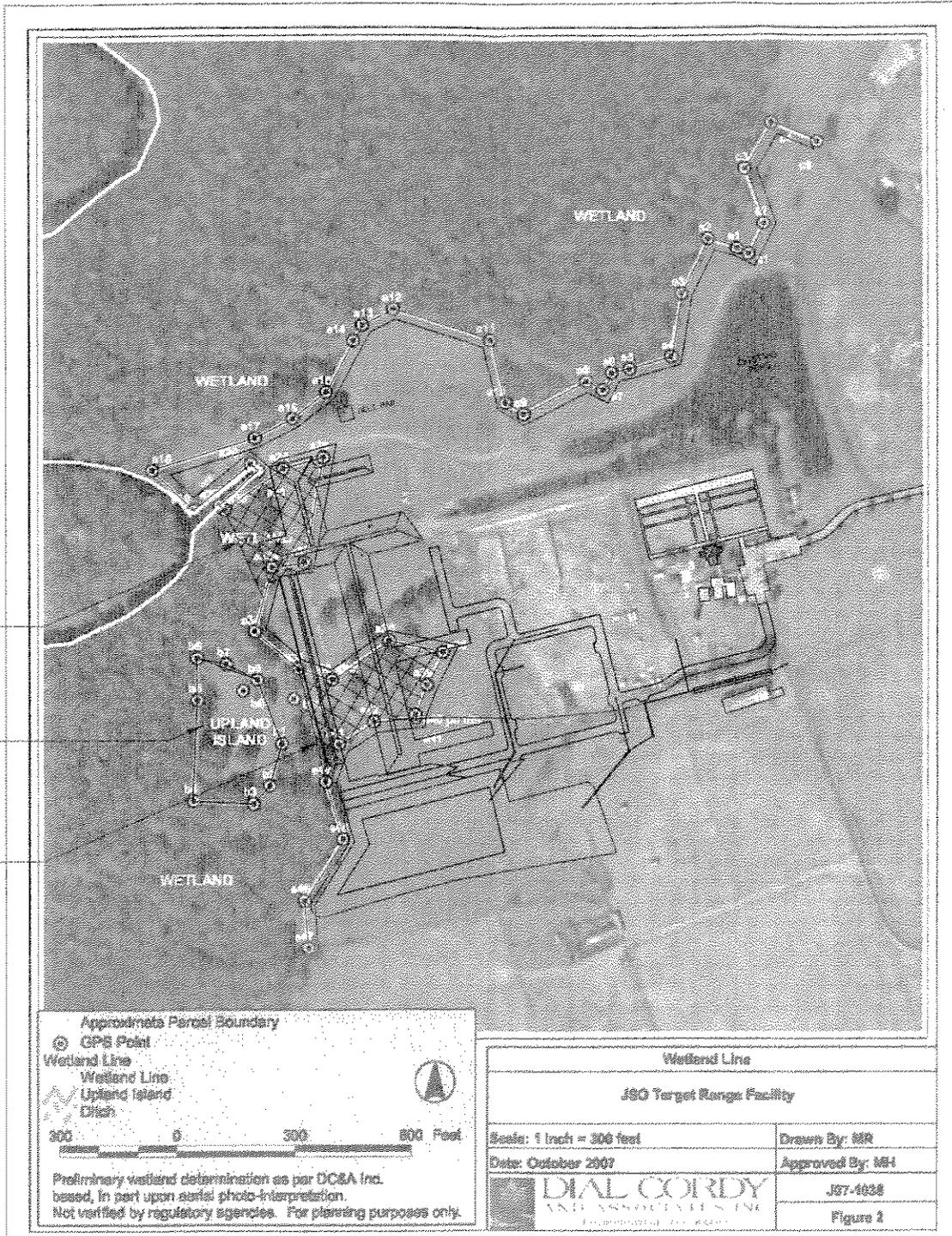
JACKSONVILLE SHERIFFS OFFICE
TARGET RANGE TRAINING FACILITY
LOCATION MAP

PROJECT No.
 05018.01

SHEET No.



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WETLAND EXHIBIT

SCALE: 1" = 300'



Approximate Project Boundary
Wetland Preservation Area (28 ac.)



400 0 400 800 Feet

Wetland Mitigation Area

JSO Target Range Expansion

Scale: 1 inch = 400 feet

Drawn By: MR

Date: February 2008

Approved By: MH

DIAL CORDY
AND ASSOCIATES, INC.
Engineering and Construction

J07-1038

Figure 5

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