



August 4, 2025

A. Morton Thomas and Associates, Inc (AMT) c/o Kyle Mundy A Morton Thomas and Associates, Inc 800 King Farm Boulevard, 4th Floor Rockville, MD 20850

Via email: kmundy@amtengineering.com

Re: Agency Interest Number: 178496 Tracking Number: 202360750

Tidal Authorization Number: 25-WQC-0018

Dear Saint Mary's County Dept of Recreation and Parks:

Your project did not qualify for approval under the Maryland State Programmatic General Permit (MDSPGP); therefore a separate review and issuance of the federal permit will be required by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The federal permit is not attached.

Additionally, your project required a Wetlands License to be approved and issued by the Maryland Board of Public Works (BPW). The Wetlands License will be sent to you by BPW's Wetlands Administrator.

A project that does not qualify for approval under the MDSPGP requires an individual Water Quality Certification (WQC) to be issued by the Maryland Department of the Environment, which is attached. Please take a moment to read and review your WQC to ensure that you understand the limits of the authorized work and all of the general and special conditions.

You should not begin any work until you have obtained all necessary State, local, and federal authorizations. Please contact Justin Bereznak at justin.bereznak@maryland.gov or 410-537-3782 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Stewart, Chief Tidal Wetlands Division



STATE OF MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT WATER AND SCIENCE ADMINISTRATION WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION



25-WQC-0018

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 4, 2025

CERTIFICATION HOLDER: Saint Mary's County Dept of Recreat

ADDRESS: Attn: Arthur Shepherd PO Box 653

Leonardtown, MD 20650

PROJECT LOCATION: 26582 S Sandgates Rd

Mechanicsville, MD 20659

UNDER AUTHORITY OF SECTION 401 OF THE FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT AND ITS AMENDMENTS AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 9-313 THROUGH § 9-323, INCLUSIVE, OF THE ENVIRONMENT ARTICLE, ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND SCIENCE ADMINISTRATION HAS DETERMINED THAT THE REGULATED ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED IN THE REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATION FOR THE PROPOSED LIVING SHORELINE, BEACH NOURISHMENT AND DREDGING AS DESCRIBED IN THE ATTACHED PLAN SHEETS DATED May 19, 2025 AND ANY SUBSEQUENT MODIFICATIONS APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT WILL NOT VIOLATE MARYLAND'S WATER QUALITY STANDARDS, IF CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONDITIONS OF THIS CERTIFICATION.

THIS CERTIFICATION DOES NOT RELIEVE THE APPLICANT OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR OBTAINING ANY OTHER APPROVALS, LICENSES, OR PERMITS IN ACCORDANCE WITH FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL REQUIREMENTS AND DOES NOT AUTHORIZE COMMENCEMENT OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT. A COPY OF THIS REQUIRED CERTIFICATION HAS BEEN SENT TO THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS. THE CERTIFICATION HOLDER SHALL COMPLY WITH THE CONDITIONS LISTED BELOW.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- 1. To mechanically maintenance dredge an approximate 109-foot long by 36-foot wide area to the maximum depth of 4.0 feet at mean low water. The total area to be dredged is approximately 3,906 square feet with 3,367 square feet of impacts to shallow water habitat requiring mitigation; approximately 139 cubic yards of dredged material to be transported to an approved dredge material placement site located within Snow Hill Park;
- 2. To mitigate for the 3,367 square feet of proposed dredging in shallow water habitat by planting 7,334 square feet of marsh vegetation and installing coir fiber logs along 135 feet of eroding shoreline emplaced within a maximum of 75 feet channelward of the mean high water line;
- 3. Construct a 12-foot wide by 36-foot long boat ramp with two timber wing walls and a 48-foot long by 6-foot wide timber pier within a maximum of 77 feet channelward of the mean high water line;
- 4. Construct a 20-foot long by 6-foot wide timber pier with a 8.5-foot by 10-foot platform, an 8.5-foot by 24-foot platform and a 40-foot long by 5-foot 4-inch wide kayak launch, all within a maximum of 43 feet channelward of the high waterline;

5. Emplace 12 feet of stone revetment within a maximum of 8 feet channelward of the mean high water.line.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

- 1. All water quality-related performance standards and conditions required by the Department in any state issued authorization for activities in tidal wetlands, nontidal wetlands, their 100-year floodplains, nontidal wetlands buffers, or nontidal wetland expanded buffers to ensure that any discharges will not result in a failure to comply with water quality standards in COMAR 26.08.02 or any other water uality requirements of state law or regulation shall be met.
- 2. This Certification does not obviate the need to obtain required authorizations or approvals from other State, federal or local agencies as required by law.
- 3. All additional authorizations or approvals, including self-certifying General Permits issued by the Department, shall be obtained and all conditions shall be completed in compliance with such authorizations.
- 4. The proposed project shall be constructed in accordance with the approved final plan by the Department, or, if Department approval is not required, the plan approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and its approved revisions.
- 5. All fill and construction materials not used in the project shall be removed and disposed of in a manner which will prevent their entry into waters of this State.
- 6. This Certification does not authorize any injury to private property, any invasion of rights, or any infringement of federal, state, or local laws or regulations.
- 7. Authorized representatives of the Department shall be provided access to the site of authorized activities during normal business hours to conduct inspections and evaluations of the operations and records necessary to assure compliance with this Certification.
- 8. No stockpiles of any material shall be placed in Waters of the U.S. or state or private tidal wetlands.
- 9. Temporary construction trailers or structures, staging areas and stockpiles shall not be located within tidal wetlands, nontidal wetlands buffers, or the 100-year floodplain unless specifically included on the Approved Plan.
- 10. This Certification is valid for the project identified herein and the associated U.S. Army Corps of Engineers NAB-2023-60750, until such time as that federal approval expires or is not administratively extended.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

- 1. All Critical Area requirements shall be followed and all necessary authorizations from the Critical Area Commission ("Commission") shall be obtained. This Certification does not constitute authorization for disturbance in the 100-foot Critical Area Buffer. "Disturbance" in the Buffer means clearing, grading, construction activities, or removal of any size of tree vegetation. Any anticipated Buffer disturbance requires prior written approval, before commencement of land disturbing activity, from local jurisdiction in the form of a Buffer Management Plan.
- 2. All work performed under this Water Quality Certificate shall be conducted by a marine contractor licensed by the Marine Contractors Licensing Board (MCLB) in accordance with Title 17 of the Environment Article of Annotated Code of Maryland. Licensing by MCLB shall occur prior to the beginning of construction activities. A list of licensed marine contractors may be obtained by contacting the MCLB at 410-537-3249, by e-mail at MDE.MCLB@maryland.gov or by accessing the Maryland Department of the Environment, Environmental Boards webpage.
- 3. The issuance of this Certificate is not a validation or authorization by the Department for any of the existing structures depicted on the plan sheets on the subject property that is not part of the authorized work description, nor does it relieve the Certificate Holder of the obligation to resolve any existing noncompliant structures and activities within tidal wetlands.
- 4. The Certificate Holder shall construct the marsh establishment area in accordance with the following conditions:
 - a. The Certificate Holder shall use clean substrate fill material, no more than 10% of which shall pass through a standard number 100 sieve.
 - b. The marsh establishment area shall be planted within one year following completion of the filling operation.
 - c. The marsh establishment project shall be maintained as a wetland, with non-nuisance species' aerial coverage of at least 85% for three consecutive years. If 85% coverage is not attained, the reasons for failure shall be determined, corrective measures shall be taken, and the area shall be replanted.
 - d. If the fill is graded hydraulically, the Certificate Holder shall use a turbidity curtain around the perimeter of the instream work.
 - e. If the existing bank is to be cleared or graded:
 - The Certificate Holder shall perform all work under and in accordance with an approved Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan from the applicable sediment and erosion control agency; and
 - ii. The Certificate Holder shall perform all work under and in accordance with the Critical Area requirements of the local jurisdiction in the form of an approved Buffer Management Plan.
- 5. The Certificate Holder shall follow the requirements of the marsh maintenance plan as required by Wetlands License 23-WL-0807 and any subsequent modifications.

- 6. The Certificate Holder shall conduct subsequent maintenance dredging within the scope of this Certificate in terms of authorized dredge area and authorized depths. The Certificate Holder shall:
 - 1. Dredge no more than 500 cubic yards of material at each maintenance dredging.
 - 2. Comply with all applicable conditions of this Certificate.
 - 3. Submit a detailed dredged material disposal plan to be approved by the Water and Science Administration, Tidal Wetlands Division prior to the start of dredging.
 - 4. Notify and receive approval from the Water and Science Administration, Compliance Program a minimum of 10 days prior to the start of each maintenance dredging operation.
- 7. The Certificate Holder shall transport all dredged material in watertight containers. No dredged material shall be discharged into waters of the State.
- 8. The Certificate Holder shall stake the dredge area and receive approval from the Water and Science Administration's, Compliance Division prior to the start of dredging.
- 9. The Certificate Holder shall conduct a post dredge bathymetric survey and forward to the Water and Science Administration, Tidal Wetlands Division within 45 days after the termination of any phase of dredging.
- 10. The Certificate Holder shall dispose of dredged material only at the dredge disposal site(s) approved by this Wetland License. The Certificate Holder shall submit an application for modification of the License to MDE for approval of any dredge disposal site not authorized within this License.
- 11. The Certificate Holder shall design and construct the stone revetment to prevent the loss of fill material to waters of the State of Maryland.
- 12. The Certificate Holder shall not use asphalt rubble in the revetment. Filter cloth shall be placed between the riprap and the soil. Prior to emplacement of the revetment, all rebar is to be cut off flush with the concrete. After emplacement of the revetment, any rebar exposed as a result of the concrete breaking during the emplacement is to be cut flush with the concrete. Except for the larger material placed along the leading edge of the revetment, the concrete shall be broken prior to emplacement so that random sized interlocking pieces are formed.

CITATIONS AND STATEMENTS OF NECESSITY

1. Statement of Necessity for General Conditions 1, 2, 3, 4, and Special Conditions 1, 3, 4: These conditions are necessary to ensure that water quality standards are met, and designated uses are maintained.

Citations: Federal and state laws which authorize this condition include but are not limited to: 33 U.S.C. § 1341(a), (b), & (d); 33 U.S.C. § 1251(b); 33 U.S.C. § 1370; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 1, Subtitles 3 and 4; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 5, Subtitles 5 and 9; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 9, Subtitle 3; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 16; COMAR 26.08; COMAR 26.08.02.10G(3); COMAR 26.23.02.06; COMAR 26.17.01; COMAR 26.23; COMAR 26.24

2. Statement of Necessity for General Conditions 5, 8, 9 and Special Conditions 4, 5: Fill or construction material within or adjacent to regulated resources may cause discharges resulting in turbidity in excess of water quality standards and interfere with designated uses of growth and propagation of fish, other aquatic life, wildlife; and other designated uses; and fail to meet general water quality criteria that waters not be polluted by substances in amounts sufficient to be unsightly or create a nuisance.

Citation: 26.08.02.03B(1)-B(2); COMAR 26.23; COMAR 26.24; COMAR 26.17.04

3. Statement of Necessity for General Condition 6: This condition is necessary to clarify the scope of this certification to ensure compliance with water quality regulations, without limiting restrictions through other requirements.

Citation: Federal and state laws which authorize this condition include but are not limited to: 33 U.S.C. § 1341(a), (b), & (d); 33 U.S.C. § 1251(b); 33 U.S.C. § 1370; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 1, Subtitles 3 and 4; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 5, Subtitles 5 and 9; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 9, Subtitle 3; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 16; COMAR 26.08, COMAR 26.08.02.10E; COMAR 26.23.02.06; COMAR 26.17.04; COMAR 26.23; COMAR 26.24

4. Statement of Necessity for General Condition 7: Conditions of certification involve precise actions to comply with water quality standards. Site inspection may be necessary to ensure that limits, methods, and other requirements are met to ensure that water quality standards are met and designated uses are maintained. These conditions are necessary to ensure that the activity was conducted, and project completed according to terms of the authorization/certification, while allowing for review of in-field modifications which may have resulted in discharges to ensure that water quality standards were met. Designated uses include support of estuarine and marine aquatic life and shellfish harvesting and for growth and propagation of fish, other aquatic life, and wildlife.

Citation: Federal and state laws that authorize this condition include but are not limited to: 33 U.S.C. § 1341(a), (b), & (d); 33 U.S.C. § 1251(b); 33 U.S.C. § 1370; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 1, Subtitles 3 and 4; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 5, Subtitles 5 and 9; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 9, Subtitle 3; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 16; COMAR 26.08; COMAR 26.08.02.03B(1)(b); COMAR 26.08.02.03B(2); COMAR 26.23.02.06; COMAR 26.23; COMAR 26.24; COMAR 26.17.04

5. Statement of Necessity for General Condition 10: This condition is necessary to qualify the period of applicability of the terms and conditions of this Certification to be protective of Maryland water quality standards.

Citations: Federal and state laws which authorize this condition include but are not limited to: 33 U.S.C. § 1341(a), (b), & (d); 33 U.S.C. § 1251(b); 33 U.S.C. § 1370; 40 C.F.R. 121, 15 C.F.R. 930, Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 1, Subtitles 3 and 4; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 5, Subtitles 5 and 9; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 9, Subtitle 3; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 16; COMAR 26.08; COMAR 26.17.04; COMAR 26.23; COMAR 26.24

6. Statement of Necessity for Special Condition 2: Expertise for conducting certain activities is required to ensure that there is no violation of water quality standards nor interference with designated uses. This condition is necessary to ensure that discharges will be conducted in a manner which does not violate water quality criteria nor interfere with designated uses.

Citation: COMAR 26.08.02.02B(2)- B(4); COMAR 26.08 02.03B(2)(d) – (e); COMAR 26.08.02.03B(1)(b); 26.08.02.03B(2); COMAR 23.02.04.04

7. Statement of Necessity for Special Conditions 4, 5: Stabilization of the site with vegetation is required to ensure that waters continue to meet designated uses. Loss of substrate fill material may result in discharges which reduce water quality and interfere with designated uses, including the support of estuarine and marine aquatic life, and the protection of shellfish harvesting, shallow water submerged aquatic vegetation, and migratory fish spawning and nurseries in tidal wetlands. Loss limits will maintain the designated use.

Citation: 1) COMAR 26.08.02.02.B.(3) 2) COMAR 26.08.02.03-3.C.(2)d.(5); 33 U.S.C. § 1341(a), (b), & (d); 33 U.S.C. § 1251(b); 33 U.S.C. § 1370; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 1, Subtitles 3 and 4; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 9, Subtitle 3; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 16; COMAR 26.08; COMAR 26.24

8. Statement of Necessity for Special Condition 6: This condition is necessary to clarify the scope of this certification to ensure compliance with water quality regulations, without limiting restrictions through other requirements.

Citation: Federal and state laws which authorize this condition include but are not limited to: 33 U.S.C. § 1341(a), (b), & (d); 33 U.S.C. § 1251(b); 33 U.S.C. § 1370; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 1, Subtitles 3 and 4; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 5, Subtitles 5 and 9; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 9, Subtitle 3; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 16; COMAR 26.08, COMAR 26.08.02.10E; COMAR 26.23.02.06; COMAR 26.17.04; COMAR 26.23; COMAR 26.24

9. Statement of Necessity for Special Condition 7: The condition is necessary to ensure that no dredged material enters waters of the United States or State and will not result in a violation of water quality standards for turbidity and interfere with designated uses.

Citation: COMAR 26.08.02.02B(1)(d); COMAR 26.08.02.02B(3); COMAR 26.08.02.03B

10. Statement of Necessity for Special Conditions 8, 9: Conditions of certification involve precise actions to comply with water quality standards. Site inspection may be necessary to ensure that limits, methods, and other requirements are met to ensure that water quality standards are met and designated uses are maintained. These conditions are necessary to ensure that the activity was conducted, and project completed according to terms of the authorization/certification, while allowing for review of infield modifications which may have resulted in discharges to ensure that water quality standards were met. Designated uses include support of estuarine and marine aquatic life and shellfish harvesting and for growth and propagation of fish, other aquatic life, and wildlife.

Citation: Federal and state laws that authorize this condition include but are not limited to: 33 U.S.C. § 1341(a), (b), & (d); 33 U.S.C. § 1251(b); 33 U.S.C. § 1370; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 1, Subtitles 3 and 4; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 5, Subtitles 5 and 9; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 9, Subtitle 3; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 16; COMAR 26.08; COMAR 26.08.02.03B(1)(b); COMAR 26.08.02.03B(2); COMAR 26.23.02.06; COMAR 26.23; COMAR 26.24; COMAR 26.17.04

11. Statement of Necessity for Special Condition 10: This condition is necessary to ensure that dredged material is removed and placed at a site and in a manner which prevents its re-entry into Waters of the United States, where its release may result in failure to meet turbidity standards and failure to meet designated uses for Turbidity; Discharge of dredged material may interfere with designated uses or support of estuarine and marine aquatic life and shellfish harvesting and may result impacts to water quality, clarity, growth and propagation of fish, other aquatic life, and wildlife.

Citation: 33 U.S.C. § 1341(a), (b), & (d); 33 U.S.C. § 1251(b); 33 U.S.C. § 1370; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 1, Subtitles 3 and 4; Md. Ann. Code, Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 9, Subtitle 3; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 16; COMAR 26.08; COMAR 26.08.02.10G(3); COMAR 26.24; 26.08.02.01B(2); 26.08.02.02B(1) and 26.08.02.02B(3) 26.08.02.03B

12. Statement of Necessity for Special Conditions 11, 12: Stabilization of the site is required to ensure that waters continue to meet designated uses. Loss of substrate fill material and use of material exceeding limits of the condition may result in discharges which reduce water quality and interfere with designated uses, including the support of estuarine and marine aquatic life, and the protection of shellfish harvesting, shallow water submerged aquatic vegetation, and migratory fish spawning and nurseries in tidal wetlands. Additionally, the issuance of the water quality certification does not relieve the applicant of their responsibility to comply at all times with federal and State law.

Citation: 1) COMAR 26.08.02.02.B.(3) 2) COMAR 26.08.02.03-3.C.(2)d.(5); 33 U.S.C. § 1341(a), (b), & (d); 33 U.S.C. § 1251(b); 33 U.S.C. § 1370; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 1, Subtitles 3 and 4; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 9, Subtitle 3; Md. Ann. Code, Env. Article, Title 16; COMAR 26.08; COMAR 26.24

Date

CERTIFICATION APPROVED

Matthew C. Rowe Aug 12, 2025 D. Lee Currey, Director

Water and Science Administration

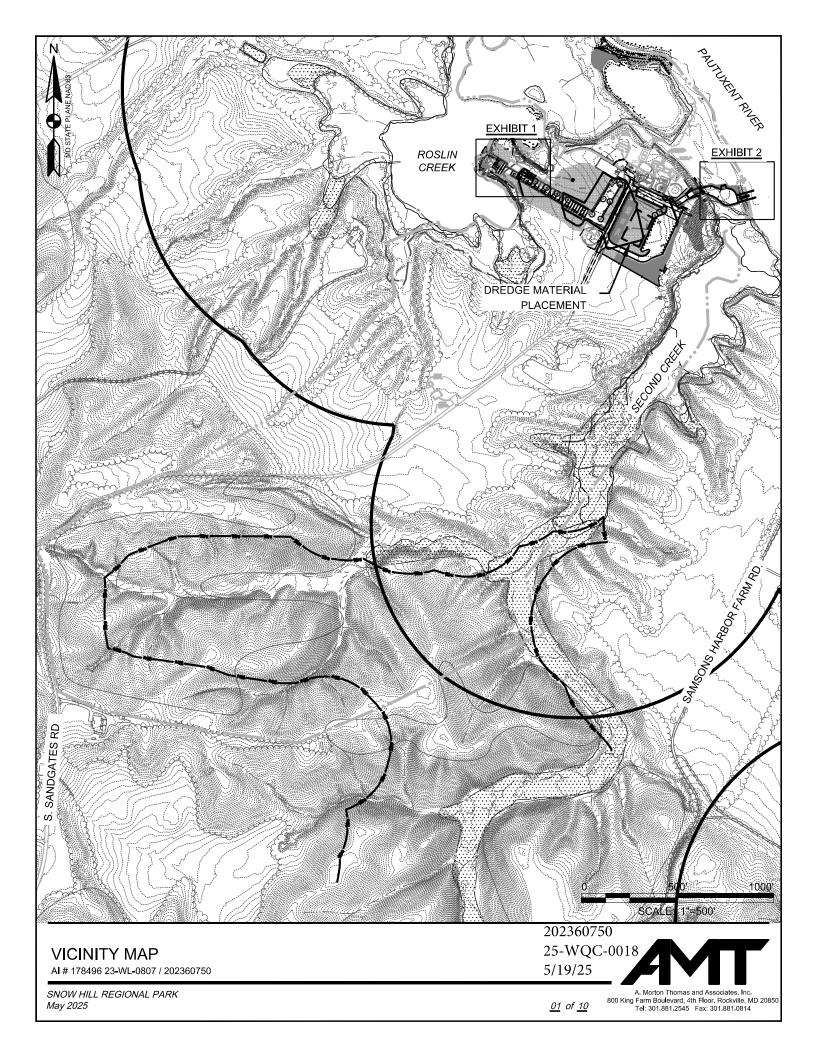
Tracking Number: 202360750 Agency Interest Number: 178496

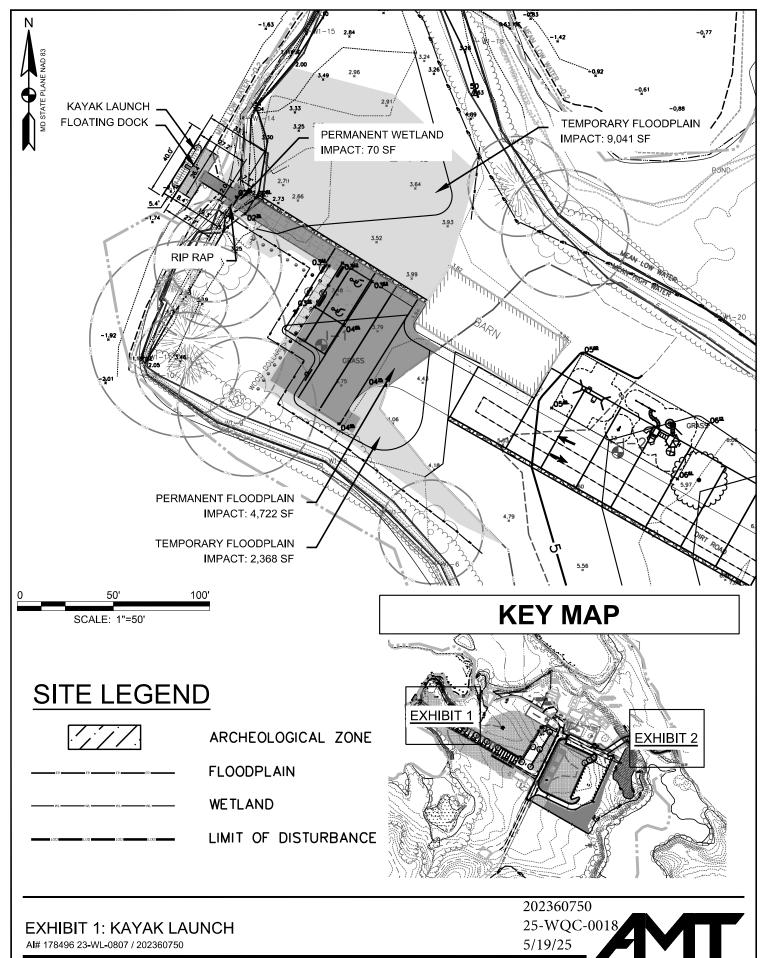
Effective Date: August 4, 2025

Enclosure: Plan Sheets dated May 19, 2025

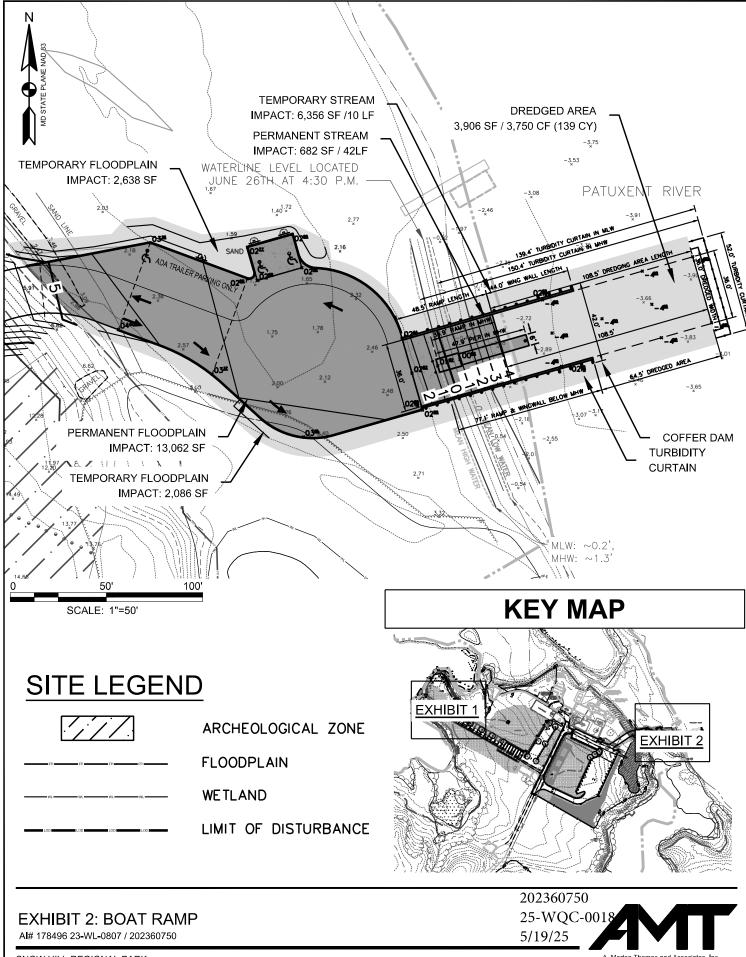
WSA Inspection & Compliance Program cc:

Army Corps of Engineer





A. Morton Thomas and Associates, Inc. 800 King Farm Boulevard, 4th Floor, Rockville, MD 20850 Tel: 301.881.2545 Fax: 301.881.0814



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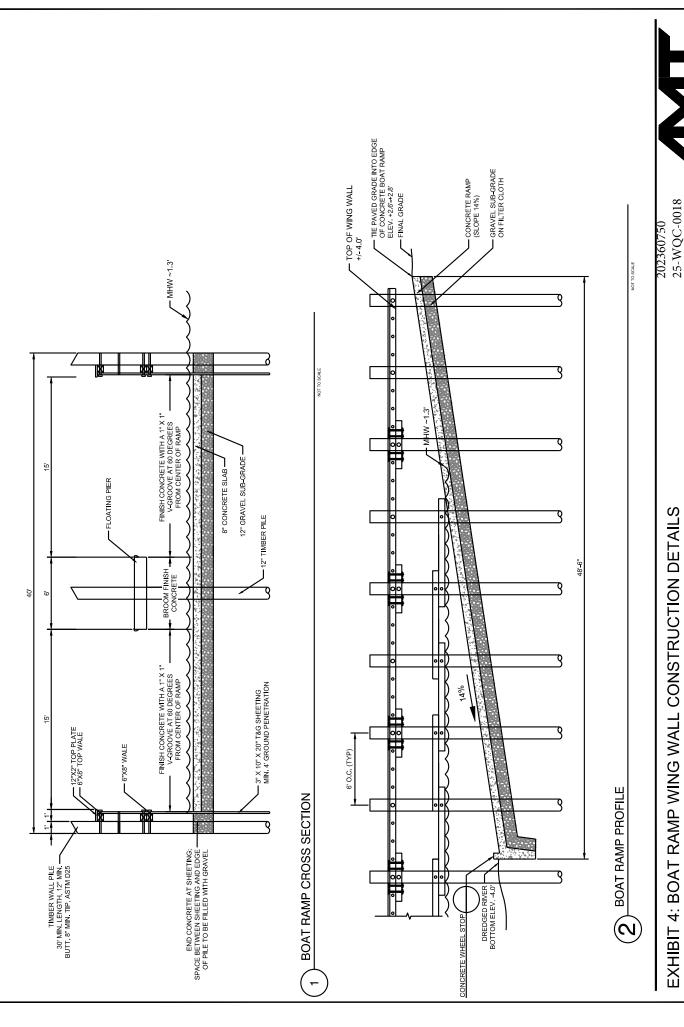


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SNOW HILL COMMUNITY PARK May 2025



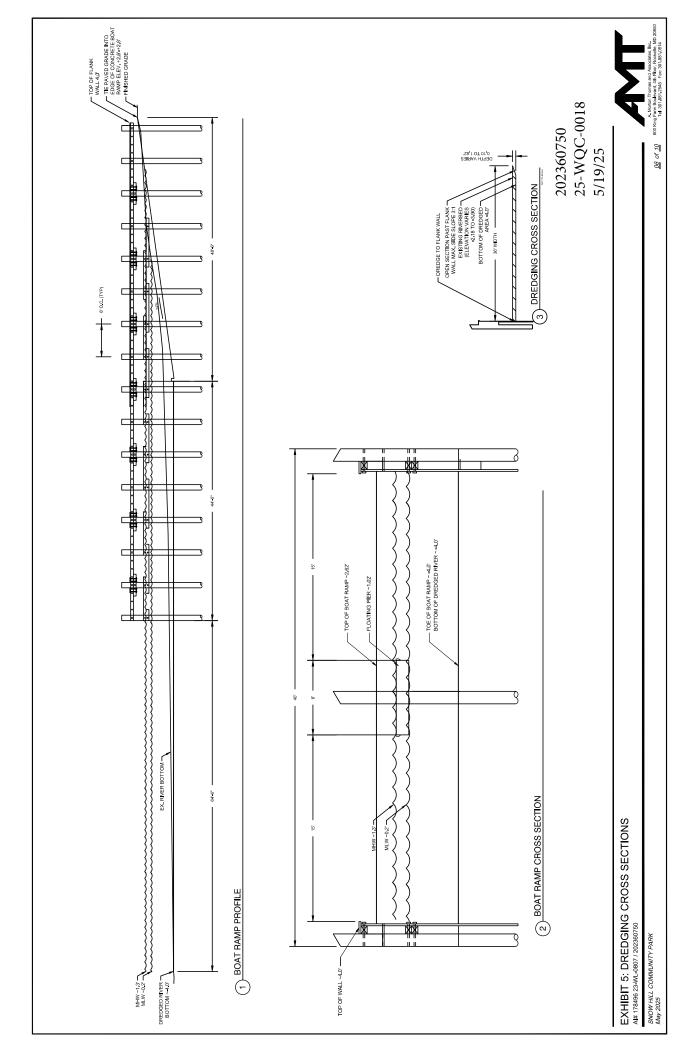
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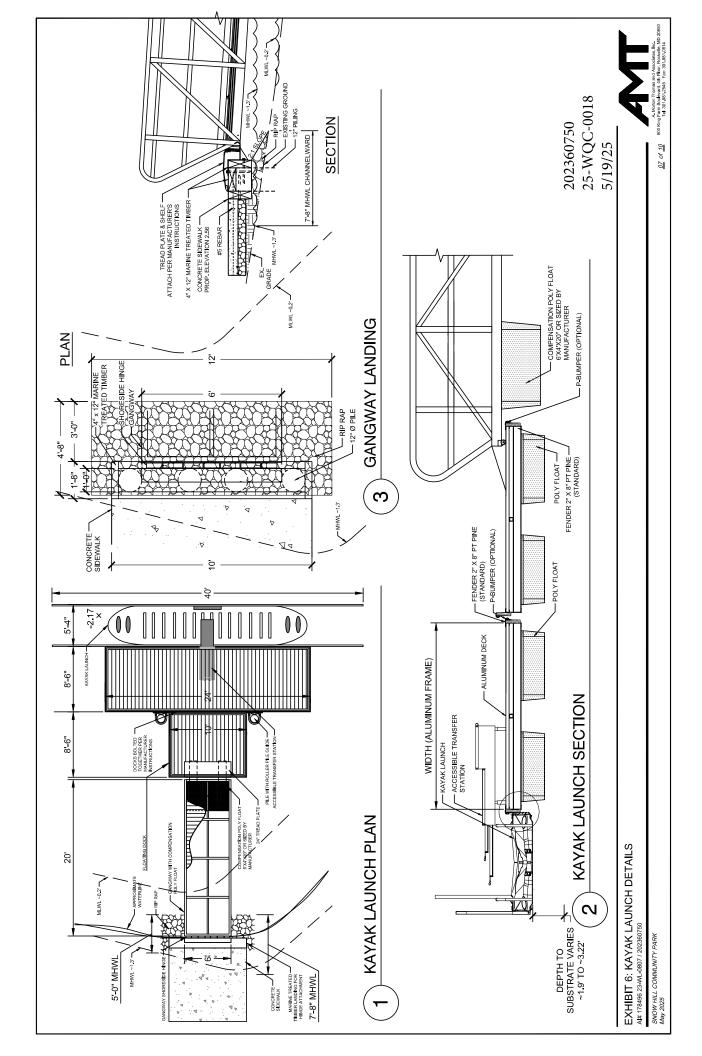
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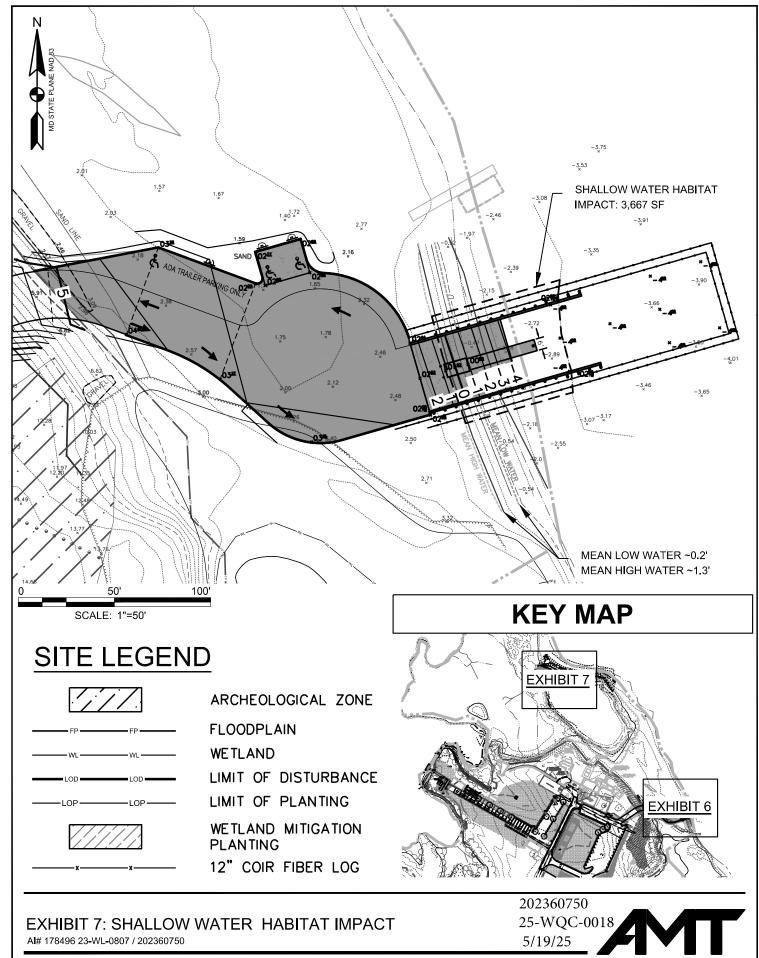
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SNOW HILL COMMUNITY PARK May 2025

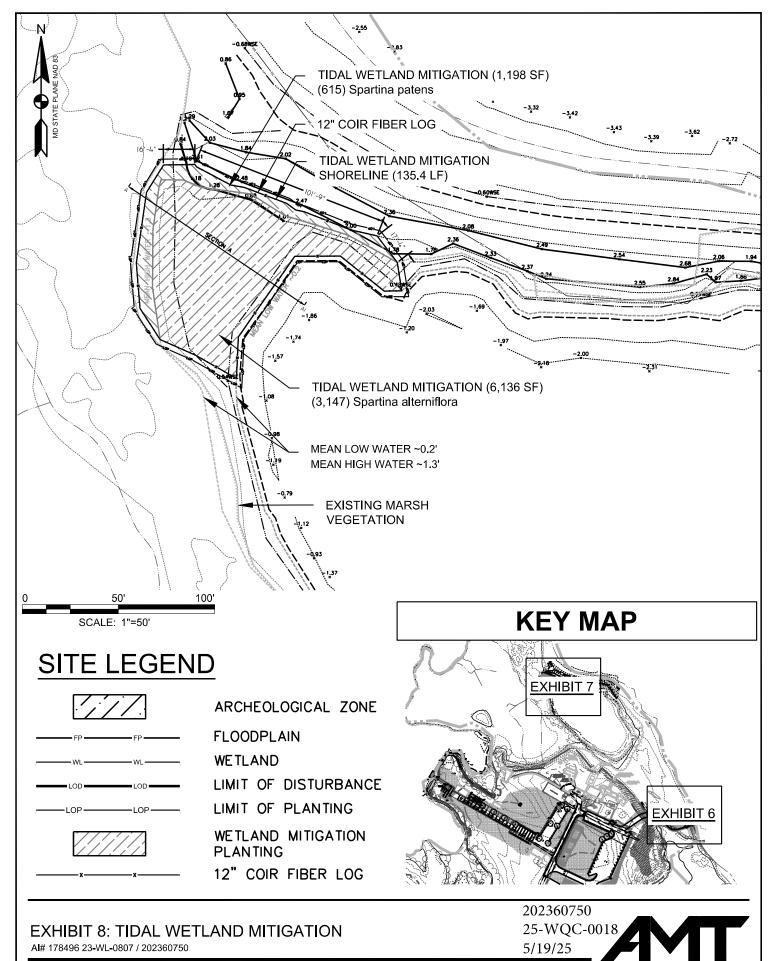
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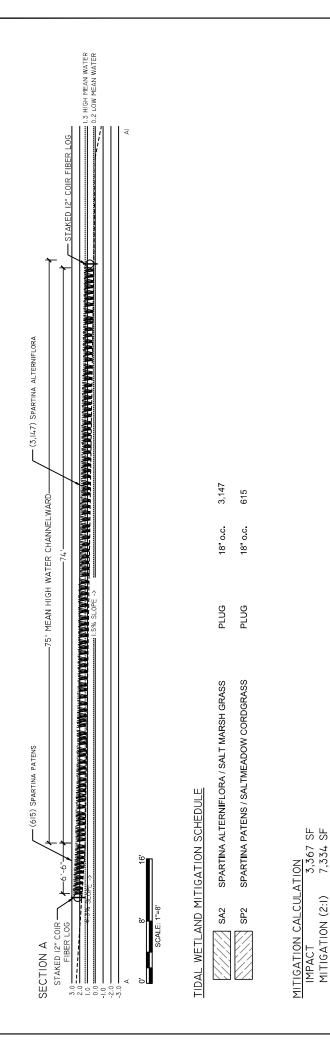


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25-WQC-0018 202360750 5/19/25

EXHIBIT 9: PLANTING CROSS SECTIONS & SCHEDULE
A# 178469 23-ML-0807/ 202360750
SNOW HILL COMMUNITY PARK
May 2025

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25-WQC-0018

Final Audit Report 2025-08-12

Created: 2025-08-07

By: Jonathan Stewart (jon.stewart@maryland.gov)

Status: Signed

Transaction ID: CBJCHBCAABAA8e6JEeNwXGEtByk2BzvsawKTVI2OfSbs

"25-WQC-0018" History

Document created by Jonathan Stewart (jon.stewart@maryland.gov) 2025-08-07 - 2:42:02 AM GMT

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Email viewed by mde.wsaepermits@maryland.gov 2025-08-12 - 10:24:27 AM GMT

Signer mde.wsaepermits@maryland.gov entered name at signing as Matthew C. Rowe 2025-08-12 - 10:25:17 AM GMT

Document e-signed by Matthew C. Rowe (mde.wsaepermits@maryland.gov)
Signature Date: 2025-08-12 - 10:25:19 AM GMT - Time Source: server

Agreement completed.
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