



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

JOSH STEIN
GOVERNOR

DANIEL H. JOHNSON
SECRETARY

August 5, 2026

MEMORANDUM TO: Division Environmental and Construction Units

FROM:  Michael A. Turchy, ECAP Group Leader
Environmental Analysis Unit

SUBJECT: Environmental Permits for the Replacement of:
Mitchell Bridge 154 over Cane Creek on SR 1188 (Dale Hill Road) Division 13,
WBS DF18313.2061259.

Please find enclosed the following permits for this project:

Agency	Permit Type	Expiration
US Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Clean Water Act Permit	Nationwide Permit 3 Action ID: SAW-2026-00927 Dated July 30, 2026	March 14, 2031
NC Division of Water Resources Section 401 Water Quality Certification	Water Quality Certification No. 8562 Project ID: 20260604, V1 Dated May 15, 2026 <i>Written authorization not required.</i>	expires with above Permit

Work is authorized by the above-referenced documents and must be accomplished in strict accordance with the permitted plans.

The Environmental Coordination and Permitting Group (ECAP) or the Division Environmental Office must be consulted if any deviation from the permit(s) or accompanying drawings is required.

404 Permit (USACE)



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, WILMINGTON DISTRICT
151 Patton Avenue, Room 208
Asheville, NC 28801-5006

July 30, 2026

Regulatory Division
SAW-2026-00927

North Carolina Department of Transportation
Attn: Mr. Michael A. Turchy
Environmental Coordination and Permitting Group Leader
1598 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1598
Sent Via Email: recrowther@ncdot.gov

Dear Mr. Turchy,

This letter is in response to the application you submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Wilmington District, WRDA/Transportation Branch on May 13, 2026, for a Department of the Army general permit verification to replace a bridge that was destroyed by **Hurricane Helene**. This project will replace **Bridge No. 154** over Cane Creek on SR 1188 in Mitchell County, North Carolina (36.0161, -82.1717) and has been assigned file number SAW-2026-00927. In order to perform this work, NCDOT proposes to conduct the following activities in waters of the U.S.:

Summary of Proposed Impacts

Impact ID #	NWP / GP #	Open Water (ac)		Wetland (ac)		Stream (lf)	
		Temporary	Permanent	Temporary	Permanent	Temporary	Permanent
Site 1 (Cane Creek)	<u>NWP 3</u>					76' (0.06 ac) / dewater	60' (0.01 ac) / bank stabilization
Impact Totals		0	0	0	0	76' (0.06 ac)	60' (0.01 ac)
Total Loss of waters of the U.S. (wetlands and/or open waters)		0		Total Loss of waters of the U.S.		0	

We have reviewed the proposed activities in waters of the U.S. and have determined that these activities are authorized by Nationwide Permit (NWP) 3 pursuant to authorities under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C § 1344). The proposed work must be accomplished in strict accordance with the following:

- enclosed terms, general conditions, and regional conditions of NWP 3
- special conditions of the verification letter (see below)
- information in the PCN and attachments
- enclosed plans

If the extent of the project area and/or nature of the authorized impacts to waters are modified, a request detailing the proposed changes must be submitted to this office for written approval before work is initiated. Any deviation from the terms and conditions of the permit, the special conditions of this letter, the information contained in the PCN, or your submitted plans, may subject the permittee to enforcement action.

This verification is valid until **March 14, 2031**, unless the subject NWP is suspended, revoked, or is modified prior to that date such that the activity no longer complies with the terms and conditions of the NWP.

Project Specific Special Conditions:

1. This verification letter does not authorize you to take a federally listed species. In order to legally take a federally listed species, you must have separate authorization under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (e.g., an ESA Section 10 permit, or a Biological Opinion (BO) under ESA Section 7, with “incidental take” provisions with which you must comply). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) issued a document titled, “Biological and Conference Opinions and Informal Consultations – Batch Format, Replace Multiple Crossing Structures Destroyed by Tropical Storm Helene in Buncombe, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, and Yancey Counties, North Carolina, Service Log #25-276 through 25-299” on September 4, 2025. This document contains mandatory terms and conditions to implement the reasonable and prudent measures that are associated with incidental take for this project. Your authorization under this verification letter and NWP 3 is conditional upon your compliance with the mandatory terms and conditions associated with incidental take listed in this document for this project. Failure to comply with the terms and conditions associated with incidental take detailed in this document, where a take of a federally listed species occurs, would constitute an unauthorized take, and it would also constitute non-compliance with your verification letter and NWP 3. The USFWS is the appropriate authority to determine compliance with the terms and conditions of its Opinion and with the ESA.

2. The permittee shall comply with conditions #1-3 of the attached letter from the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission dated May 21, 2026.

3. The permittee shall require its contractors and/or agents to comply with the terms and conditions of this authorization letter in the construction and maintenance of this project and shall provide each of its contractors and/or agents associated with the construction or maintenance of this project with a copy of this authorization letter, all conditions, and any authorized modifications. A copy of this authorization letter, all conditions, and any authorized modifications, shall be available at the project site during construction and maintenance of this project.

This general permit verification and any associated authorizations does not preclude the necessity to obtain any other Federal, State, or local permits, licenses, and/or certifications, which may be required.

If you have any questions related to this verification or have issues accessing documents referenced in this letter, please contact Lori Beckwith, Regulatory Project Manager of the WRDA/Transportation Branch by email at loretta.a.beckwith@usace.army.mil. Please take a moment to complete our customer satisfaction survey located at <https://regulatory.ops.usace.army.mil/customer-service-survey/>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Scott Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

M. Scott Jones, PWS
WRDA / Transportation Branch Chief
USACE, Wilmington District

Enclosures

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMIT For use of this form, see Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, and Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act; the proponent agency is CECW-COR.		Form Approved - OMB No. 0710-0003 Expires 2027-10-31
The Agency Disclosure Notice (ADN)		
The Public reporting burden for this collection of information, 0710-0003, is estimated to average 10 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or burden reduction suggestions to the Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Services, at whs.mc-alex.esd.mbx.dd-dod-information-collections@mail.mil. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number.		
PURPOSE: This form is used by recipients of U.S. Army Corps of Engineer Regulatory permits to certify compliance with the permit terms and conditions. Your permitted activity is subject to a compliance inspection by a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers representative. If you fail to comply with this permit, you are subject to permit suspension, modification, or revocation.		
Upon completion of the activity authorized by this permit and any mitigation required by the permit, sign this certification and return it to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, Regulatory Office. The certification can be submitted by email at loretta.a.beckwith@usace.army.mil or by mail at the below address: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District Asheville Field Office Street Address: 151 Patton Avenue, Room 208 Asheville, North Carolina 28801-5006		
Corps Action Number: SAW-2026-00927 Permit Type: General Permit General Permit Number and Name (if applicable): NWP 3 Name of Permittee: NCDOT, Division of Highways Project Name: NCDOT/Hurricane Helene/DF18313.2061259.PR/ Br 154 /SR 1188 /Mitchell/Div 13 Project Location (physical address): Bridge 154 over the Cane River SR 1188 Mitchell Co., NC		
PERMITTEE'S CERTIFICATION		
Date Work Started: Date Work Completed: Enclose photographs showing the completed project (if available). I _____ hereby certify that the work authorized by the above referenced permit has been completed in accordance with all of the permit terms and conditions, and that any required compensatory mitigation has been completed in accordance with the permit conditions.		
Name	Date	Signature

The NCWRC requests that the following conditions be included in authorizations to help conserve trout and other aquatic resources affected by the project:

1. Applicable measures from the current *NCDOT Erosion and Sediment Control Design and Construction Manual* should be adhered to. *Design Standards in Sensitive Waters* should be incorporated into the erosion control of this project to target 25-year performance (see part (d) of 15A NCAC 04B .0124).
2. In accordance with standard GC conditions, matting used in riparian areas should not contain nylon mesh because it entangles and kills wildlife. Coir matting should be used on disturbed stream banks that are steep or susceptible to high water. Matting should be anchored with wooden stakes according to NCDOT specifications.
3. Sandbags, rock berms, cofferdams, or other diversion structures should be used whenever possible to isolate flowing water from in-channel construction.
4. Any additional rip rap placed on streambanks should only extend to the ordinary high water elevation and matting and vegetation should be used above the ordinary high water elevation.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide recommendations on this project. Please contact me at david.mchenry@ncwildlife.gov or (828) 476-1966 if you have any questions about these comments.

Sincerely,



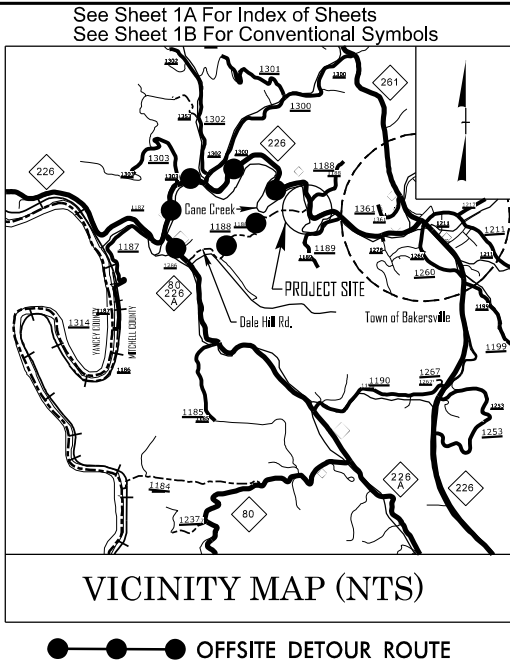
Dave McHenry, NCWRC Western DOT Coordinator

cc: Yates Allen, NCDOT Division 14 Environmental Specialist II
Mike Sanderson, NCDOT Division 14 Environmental Supervisor
Rob Crowther, PWS, NCDOT ECAP

401 Certification (NCDWR)

*Written
Authorization
Not Required*

Permitted Drawings



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS

MITCHELL COUNTY

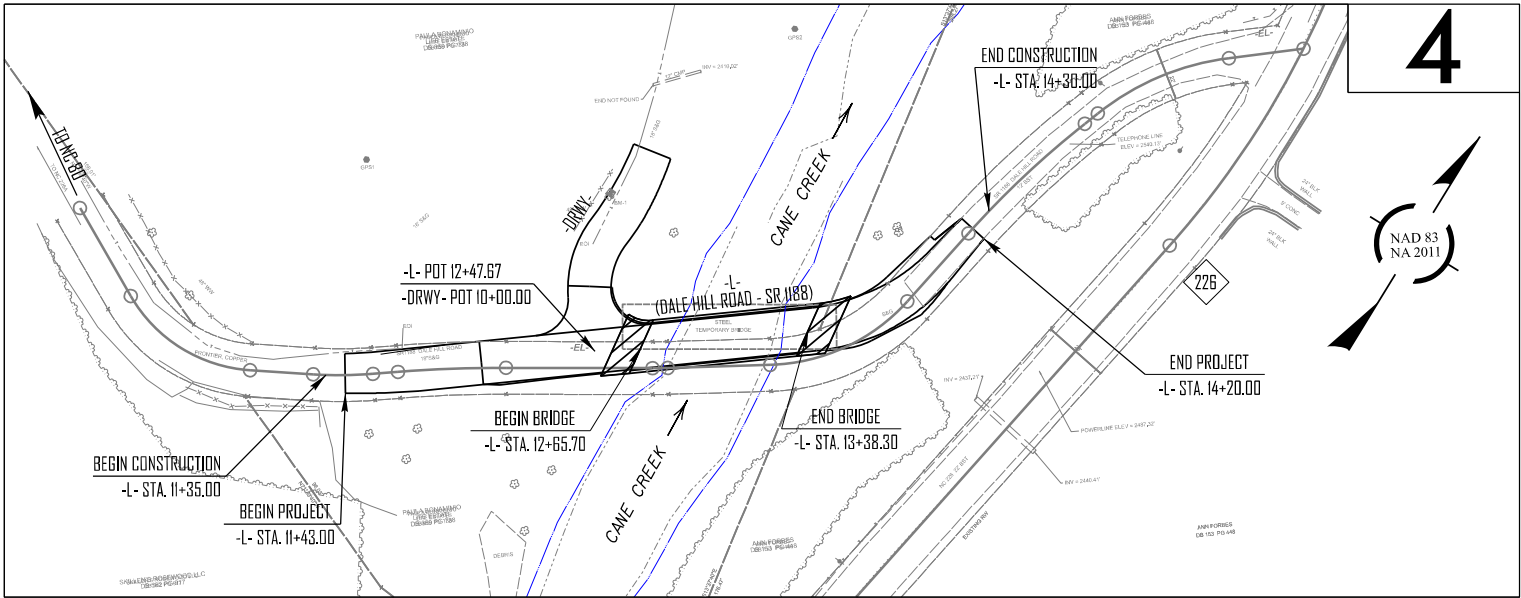
LOCATION: *REPLACE BRIDGE NO. 600154 ON SR1188
(DALE HILL ROAD) OVER CANE CREEK*

TYPE OF WORK: *GRADING, PAVING, DRAINAGE,
AND STRUCTURE*

PERMIT DRAWING
SHEET 1 OF 5

STATE	STATE PROJECT REFERENCE NO.	SHEET NO.	TOTAL SHEETS
N.C.	DF18313.2061259.PR	11	
STATE PROJ. NO.	F.A. PROJ. NO.	DESCRIPTION	
DF18313.2061259.PR	NA	P.E.	
DF18313.2061259.PR	NA	RW & UTIL.	
DF18313.2061259.PR	NA	CONSTR.	
SUBMITTAL: S-0002 PREL. PLANS		MAY 16, 2025	
RESPONSE: S-0002 PREL. PLANS		MAY 22, 2025	
SUBMITTAL: S-0007 ROW PLANS		NOV. 25, 2025	
RESPONSE: S-0007 ROW PLANS		DEC. 5, 2025	
SUBMITTAL: S-000x FINAL PLANS		xxx. xx, 2026	
RESPONSE: S-000x FINAL PLANS		xxx. xx, 2026	
SUBMITTAL: S-000x RFC PLANS		xxx. xx, 2026	

WETLAND AND SURFACE WATER IMPACTS PERMIT



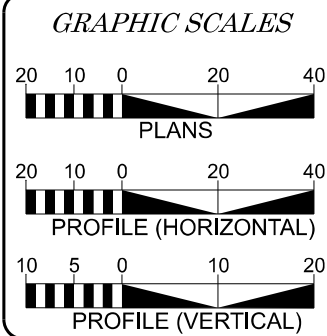
NOTE:
THIS PROJECT IS NOT WITHIN MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES.

PROJECT FALLS UNDER DISASTER SPECIFIC GUIDANCE (DSG) ISSUED ON MAY 9, 2025, ON THE REPAIR/REPLACEMENT OF PUBLICLY OWNED ROADS AND BRIDGES FOR DR-4827-NC.

CHANGED STRUCTURE LENGTH FROM RFP RECOMMENDED LENGTH OF 60' TO 70'

MC MOUNTAIN CREEK
CONTRACTORS
License #44699

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UNLESS ALL SIGNATURES COMPLETED



DESIGN DATA
ADT 2022 = 100

V = 20 MPH

FUNC CLASS =
RURAL LOCAL
SUBREGIONAL TIER

PROJECT LENGTH

LENGTH OF ROADWAY
PROJECT DF18313.2061259.PR = 0.038 MILES

LENGTH OF STRUCTURE
PROJECT DF18313.2061259.PR = 0.014 MILES

TOTAL LENGTH OF
PROJECT DF18313.2061259.PR = 0.052 MILES

Prepared in the Office of:
KCI ASSOCIATES OF N.C., P.A.
4800 Falls of Neuse Road, Suite 200
Raleigh, NC 27609
Phone (919) 783-9214
NC Firm License No: C-0764

RIGHT OF WAY DATE:
JANUARY 21, 2025

LETTING DATE:
JANUARY 21, 2025

Plans Prepared For:
DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS
1000 Birch Ridge Dr.
Raleigh NC, 27610

BARRY SMITH, P.E.
PROJECT ENGINEER

MATT ARMSTRONG, P.E.
PROJECT DESIGN ENGINEER

ANDY HUSSEY, P.E.
NCDOT CONTACT

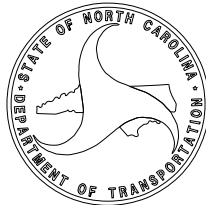
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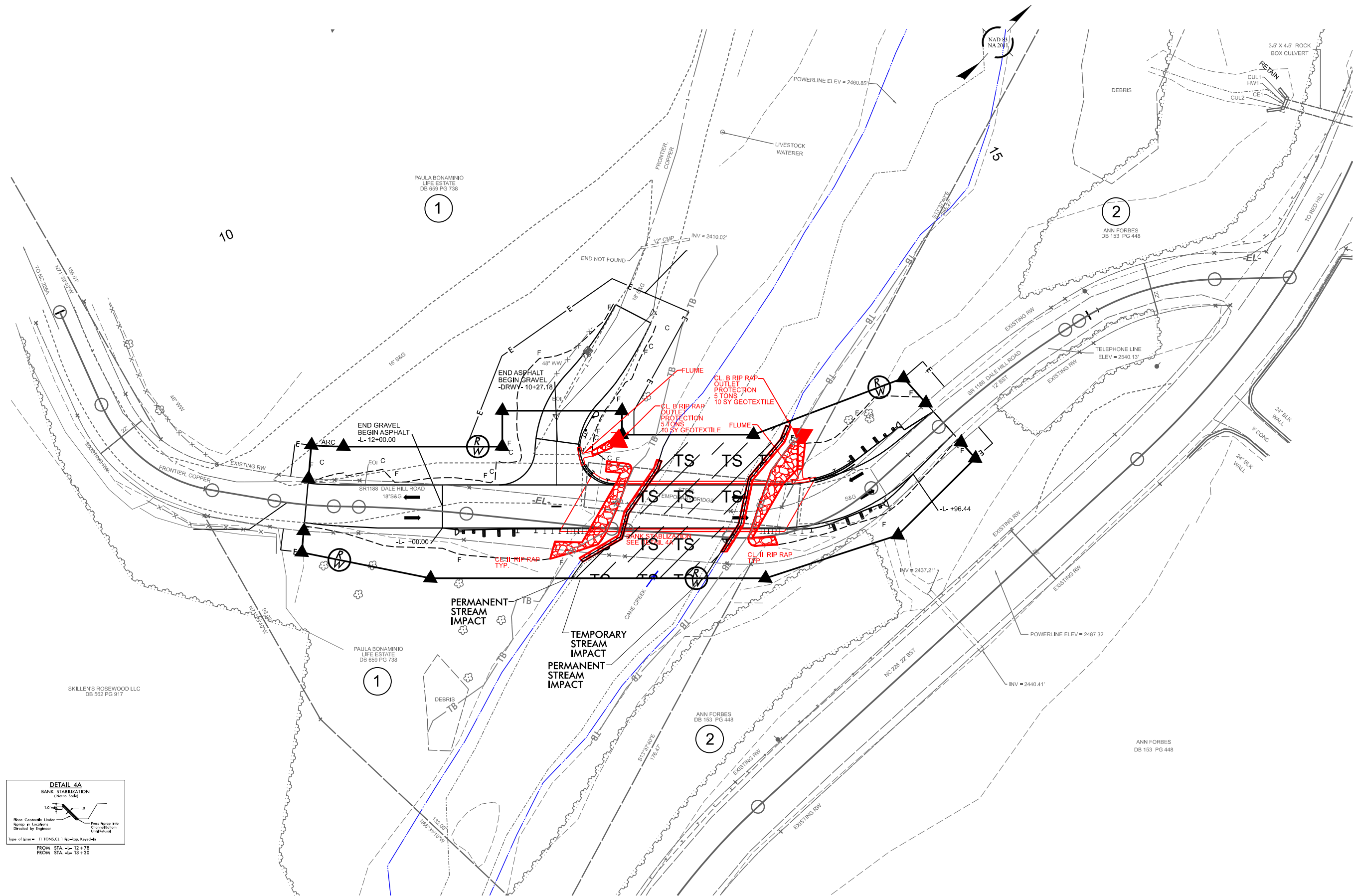
P.E.

SIGNATURE:
ROADWAY DESIGN ENGINEER

P.E.

SIGNATURE:





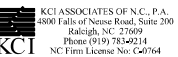
PERMIT DRAWING
SHEET 2 OF 5

NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
MITCHELL

ROADWAY DESIGN
ENGINEER

HYDRAULICS
ENGINEER

PREPARED BY

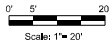


REVIEWS



TEMPORARY SURFACE WATER IMPACTS

SURFACE WATER IMPACTS



PERMIT DRAWING
SHEET 3 OF 5

600154 DF18313.2061259.PR

NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
MITCHELL

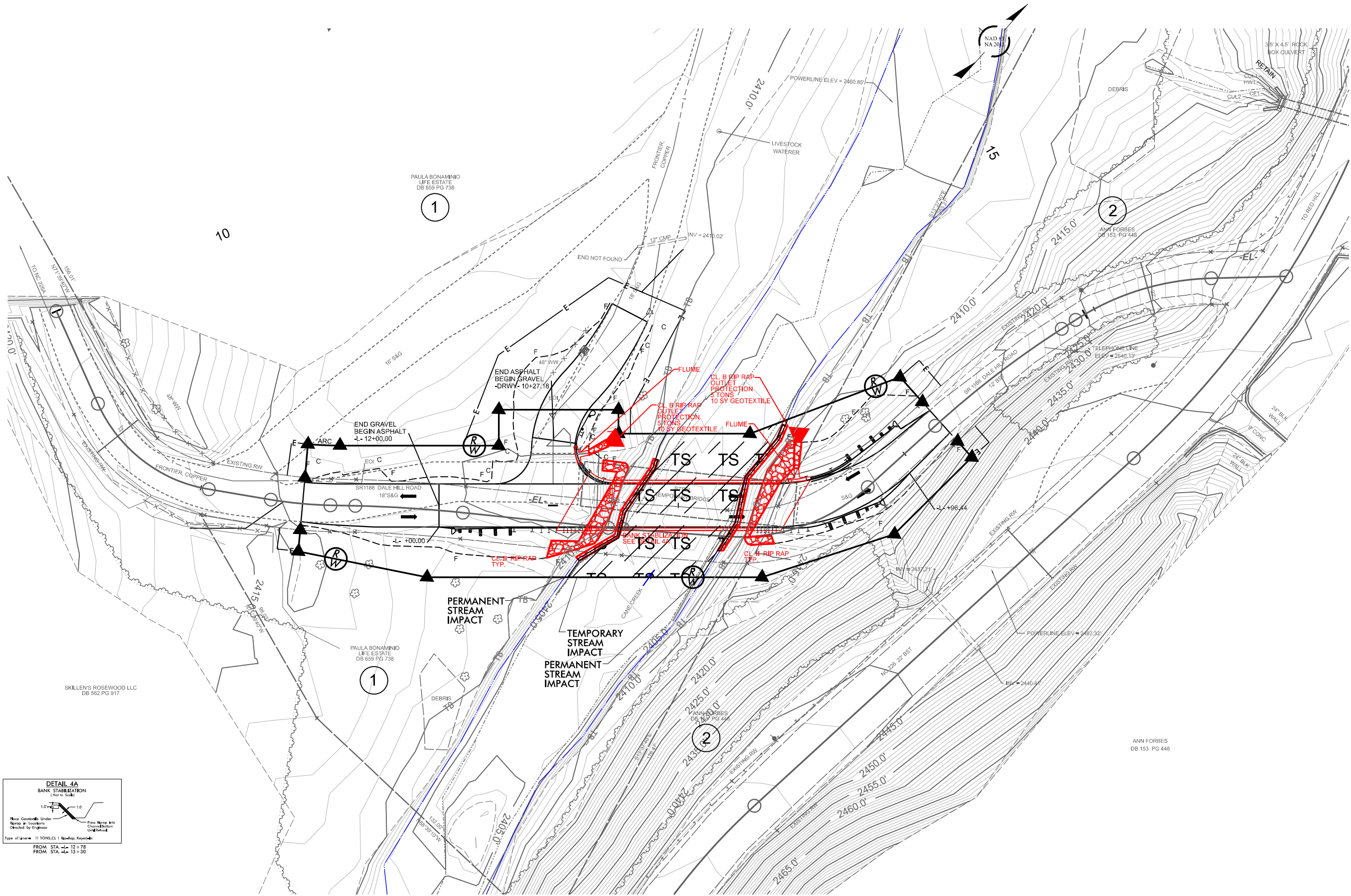
ROADWAY DESIGN
ENGINEER

HYDRAULICS
ENGINEER

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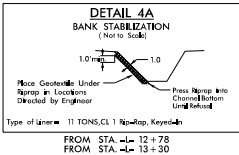
REVISIONS

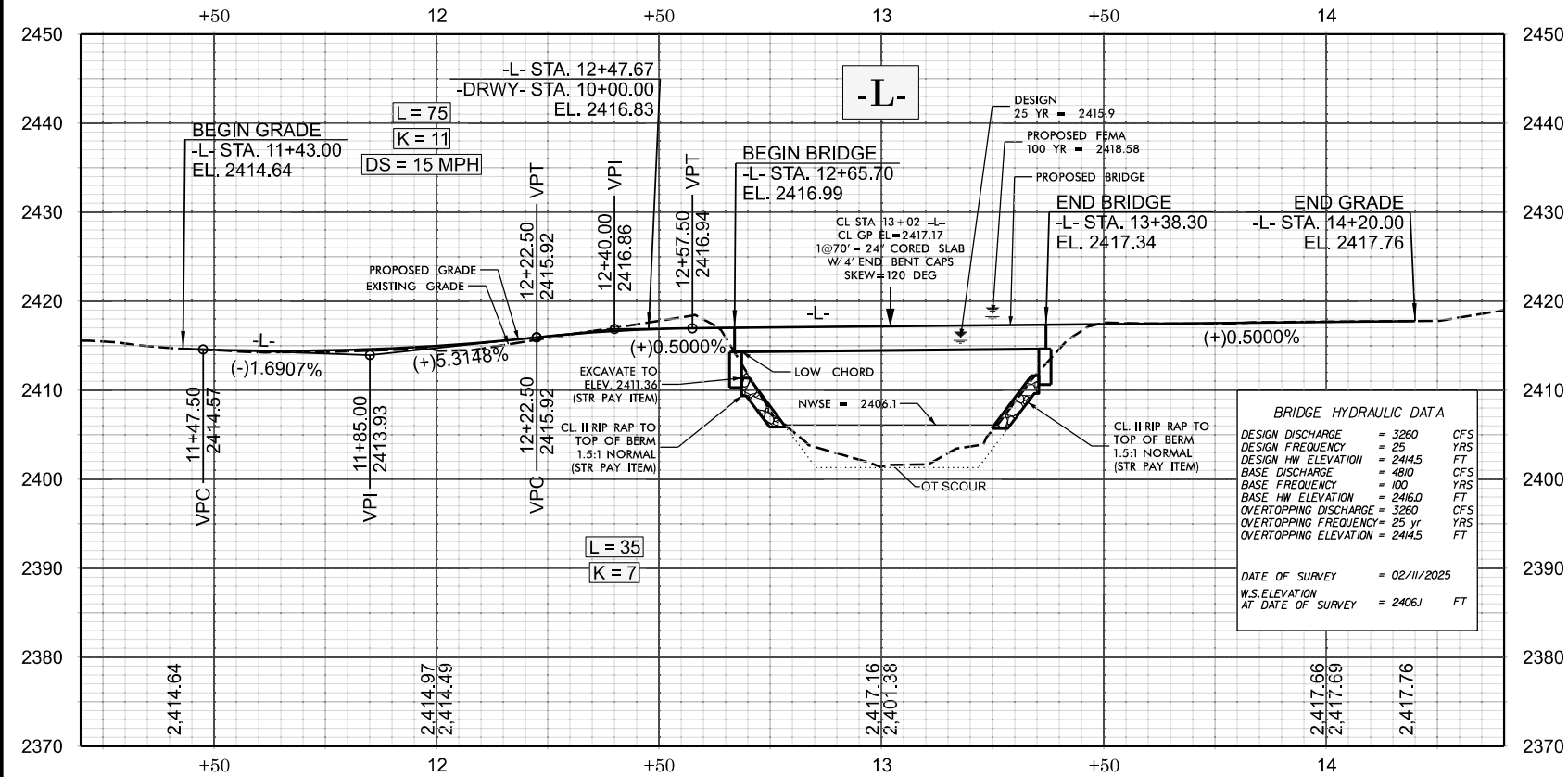


SKILLEN'S ROSEWOOD LLC
DB 562 PG 917

PAULA BONAMINIO
LIFE ESTATE
DB 659 PG 738

ANN FORBES
DB 153 PG 448





PERMIT DRAWING
SHEET 4 OF 5

600154 DF18313.2061259.PR

FINAL 05

NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
MITCHELL



ROADWAY DESIGN
ENGINEER



HYDRAULICS
ENGINEER

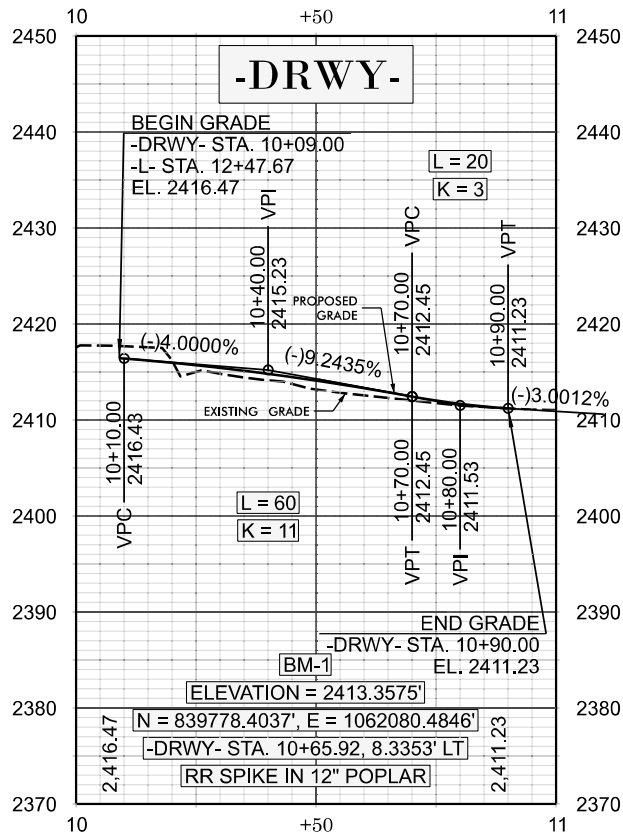


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REVISIONS



FOR -L- PLAN, SEE SHEET 04
FOR -DRV1- PLAN, SEE SHEET 04

WETLAND AND SURFACE WATER IMPACTS SUMMARY												
			WETLAND IMPACTS					SURFACE WATER IMPACTS				
Site No.	Station (From/To)	Structure Size / Type	Permanent Fill In Wetlands (ac)	Temp. Fill In Wetlands (ac)	Excavation in Wetlands (ac)	Mechanized Clearing in Wetlands (ac)	Hand Clearing in Wetlands (ac)	Permanent SW impacts (ac)	Temp. SW impacts (ac)	Existing Channel Impacts Permanent (ft)	Existing Channel Impacts Temp. (ft)	Natural Stream Design (ft)
1	-L- STA 12+53 RT TO 13+45 LT	BRIDGE							0.06		76	
1	-L- STA 12+78	BANK STABILIZATION						< 0.01				
1	-L-STA 13+30	BANK STABILIZATION						< 0.01		60		
TOTALS*								< 0.01	0.06	60	76	0

5