



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

JOSH STEIN
GOVERNOR

DANIEL H. JOHNSON
SECRETARY

January 22, 2026

MEMORANDUM TO: Division Environmental and Construction Units

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

SUBJECT: Environmental Permits for the Replacement of:
Buncombe Bridge 307 over Shope Creek on SR 2426 (Shope Creek Road)
Division 13, WBS DF18313.2011272

Please find enclosed the following permits for this project:

Agency	Permit Type	Expiration
US Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Clean Water Act Permit	Regional General Permit 50 Action ID: SAW-2025-02113 Dated January 22, 2026	May 25, 2030
NC Division of Water Resources Section 401 Water Quality Certification	Project ID: 202520251547 General Certification No. 7679, <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

January 22, 2026

Regulatory Division
SAW-2025-02113

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: maturchy@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 November 17, 2025, for a Department of the Army general permit verification to replace a bridge that was damaged by **Hurricane Helene**. This project will replace **Bridge No. 307** over Shope Creek on SR 2426 in Buncombe County, North Carolina (35.6460, -82.4470) and has been assigned file number SAW-2025-02113. 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 (If)	
		Temporary	Permanent	Temporary	Permanent	Temporary	Permanent
Site 1 (Shope Creek)	<u>RGP 50</u>					91' / dewater / pipes for temporary detour	
						75' / dewater / removal of bridge and construction access	49' / bank stabilization
Impact Totals		0	0	0	0	*166'	49'
Total Loss of waters of the U.S. (wetlands and/or open waters)		0	Total Loss of waters of the U.S.		0		

*59' of temporary bank stabilization will be located in part of the 49' of permanent bank stabilization and 75' of temporary impact.

We have reviewed the proposed activities in waters of the U.S. and have determined that these activities are authorized by Regional General Permit (RGP) 50 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 RGP 50 terms, general conditions, and special conditions
- 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 **May 25, 2030**, unless the subject RGP is suspended, revoked, or is modified prior to that date such that the activity no longer complies with the terms and conditions of the RGP.

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 RGP 50 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 RGP 50. 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 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 at 828-230-0483, by mail at the above address, or 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,



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-2025-02113

Permit Type: General Permit

General Permit Number and Name (*if applicable*): RGP 50

Name of Permittee: NCDOT, Division of Highways

Project Name: NCDOT/Hurricane Helene/DF18313.2011272/ Br 307 / SR 2426 / Buncombe / Div 13

Project Location (*physical address*): Bridge 307 on SR 2426 in Buncombe County, 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

401

Certification
(NCDWR)

*Written
Authorization
Not Required*

Permitted Drawings



North Carolina Department of Transportation

Highway Stormwater Program
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

(Version 3.02; Released April 23, 2024)

WBS Element: TIP/Proj No: DF18313.2011272 County(ies): Buncombe Page 1 of 2

General Project Information

WBS Element:		TIP Number:	DF18313.2011272	Project Type:	Bridge Replacement	Date:	11/13/2025	
NCDOT Contact:		Joel M. Davis		Contractor / Designer:	Angela B. Pridgen, PE			
	Address:	20 Old 74 Asheville, NC 28803			Address:	One Glenwood Ave. Suite 900 Raleigh, NC 27603		
	Phone:	828-250-3360			Phone:	919-420-7660		
	Email:				Email:			
City/Town:		Asheville		County(ies):	Buncombe			
River Basin(s):		French Broad		CAMA County?	No			
Wetlands within Project Limits?		No						
Project Description								
Project Length (lin. miles or feet):	0.06	Surrounding Land Use:	Rural, wooded					
Proposed Project				Existing Site				
Project Built-Upon Area (ac.)	0.1635 (bridge replacement) + 0.07 temp detour ac.			0.1	ac.			
Typical Cross Section Description:	Proposed project is a 20', 2 lane road with a paved shoulder on the southwest side of the bridge				Existing site is a 2-lane, 18' road with no shoulder			
Annual Avg Daily Traffic (veh/hr/day):	Design/Future:	610	Year:	2045	Existing:	500	Year:	2025

General Project Narrative:
(Description of Minimization of Water Quality Impacts)
The purpose of this project is to replace Bridge #307 after being damaged from Hurricane Helene. Roadway improvements were minimized to reduce impacts to maximum extent practicable. Drainage on the south end of the bridge is conveyed through concrete flumes on both sides and then through a rip-rap pad before entering the stream. Drainage on the north side of the bridge sheet flows off the road. There are less than 0.01ac of permanent impacts for bank stabilization to be installed as needed



North Carolina Department of Transportation

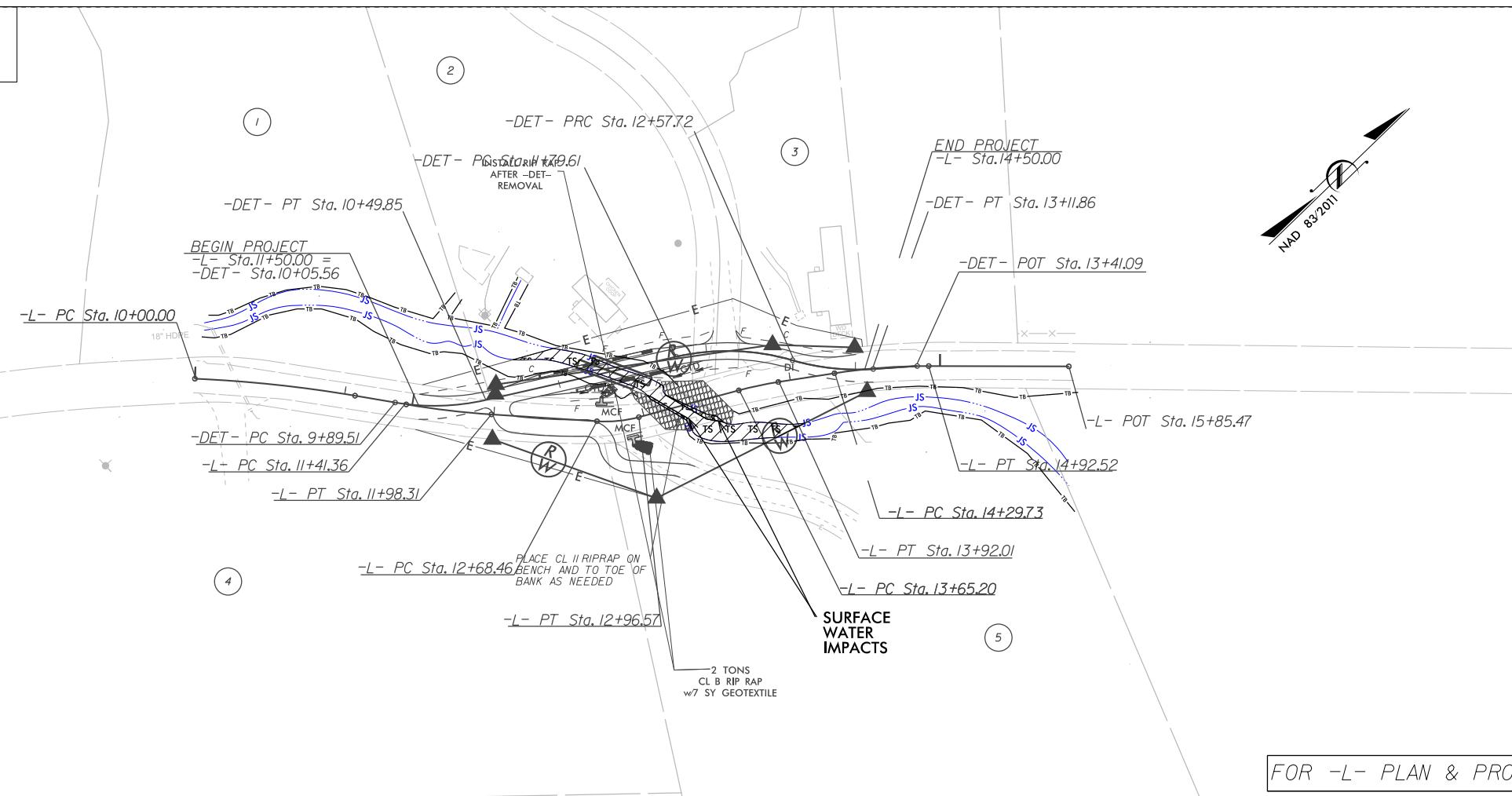
Highway Stormwater Program
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN
FOR NCDOT PROJECTS

(Version 3.02; Released April 23, 2024)

WBS Element:	TIP/Proj No.: DF18313.2011272		County(ies): Buncombe	Page	2	of	2
General Project Information							
Waterbody Information							
Surface Water Body (1):	Shope Creek		NCDWR Stream Index No.:	6-78-18-3			
NCDWR Surface Water Classification for Water Body		Primary Classification:	Class C				
		Supplemental Classification:	None				
Other Stream Classification:	None						
Impairments:	None						
Aquatic T&E Species?	No	Comments:					
NRTR Stream ID:				Buffer Rules in Effect:	N/A		
Project Includes Bridge Spanning Water Body?	Yes	Deck Drains Discharge Over Buffer?	No	Dissipator Pads Provided in Buffer?	No		
Deck Drains Discharge Over Water Body?	No	(If yes, provide justification in the General Project Narrative)			(If yes, describe in the General Project Narrative; if no, justify in the General Project Narrative)		
Surface Water Body (2):			NCDWR Stream Index No.:				
NCDWR Surface Water Classification for Water Body		Primary Classification:					
		Supplemental Classification:					
Other Stream Classification:							
Impairments:							
Aquatic T&E Species?		Comments:					
NRTR Stream ID:				Buffer Rules in Effect:			
Project Includes Bridge Spanning Water Body?		Deck Drains Discharge Over Buffer?		Dissipator Pads Provided in Buffer?			
Deck Drains Discharge Over Water Body?		(If yes, provide justification in the General Project Narrative)			(If yes, describe in the General Project Narrative; if no, justify in the General Project Narrative)		
Surface Water Body (3):			NCDWR Stream Index No.:				
NCDWR Surface Water Classification for Water Body		Primary Classification:					
		Supplemental Classification:					
Other Stream Classification:							
Impairments:							
Aquatic T&E Species?		Comments:					
NRTR Stream ID:				Buffer Rules in Effect:			
Project Includes Bridge Spanning Water Body?		Deck Drains Discharge Over Buffer?		Dissipator Pads Provided in Buffer?			
Deck Drains Discharge Over Water Body?		(If yes, provide justification in the General Project Narrative)			(If yes, describe in the General Project Narrative; if no, justify in the General Project Narrative)		

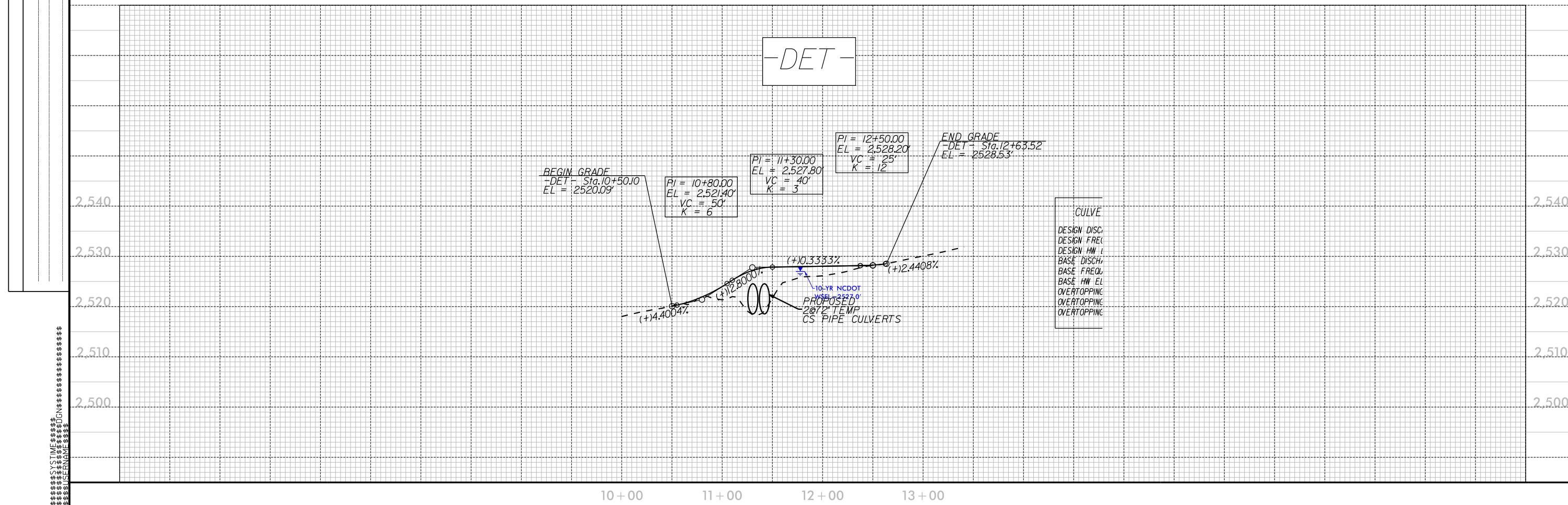
PERMIT DRAWING SHEET 2 OF 6

TS/TS
TEMPORARY SURFACE WATER IMPACTS
S/S
SURFACE WATER IMPACTS



FOR -L- PLAN & PROFILE, SEE SHEET 4

REVISIONS

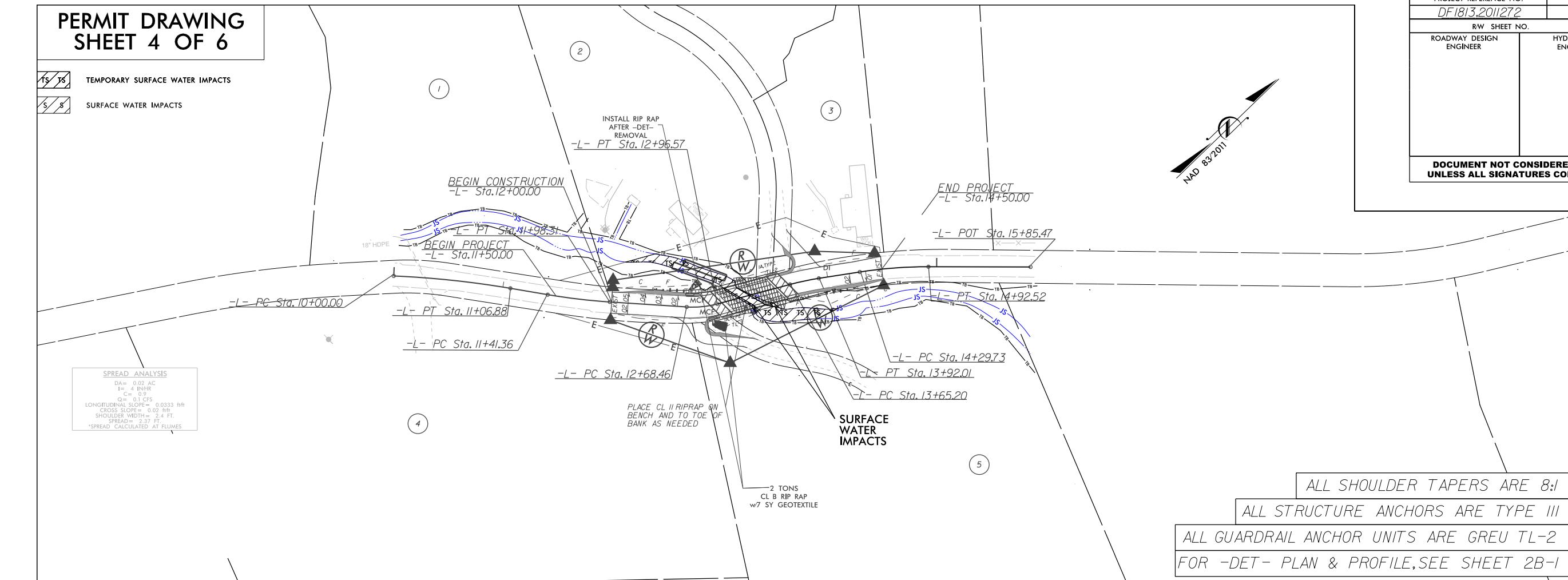


PROJECT REFERENCE NO.		SHEET NO.
DF1813.2011272		2B-1
RW SHEET NO.		
ROADWAY DESIGN ENGINEER	HYDRAULICS ENGINEER	
DOCUMENT NOT CONSIDERED FINAL UNLESS ALL SIGNATURES COMPLETED		

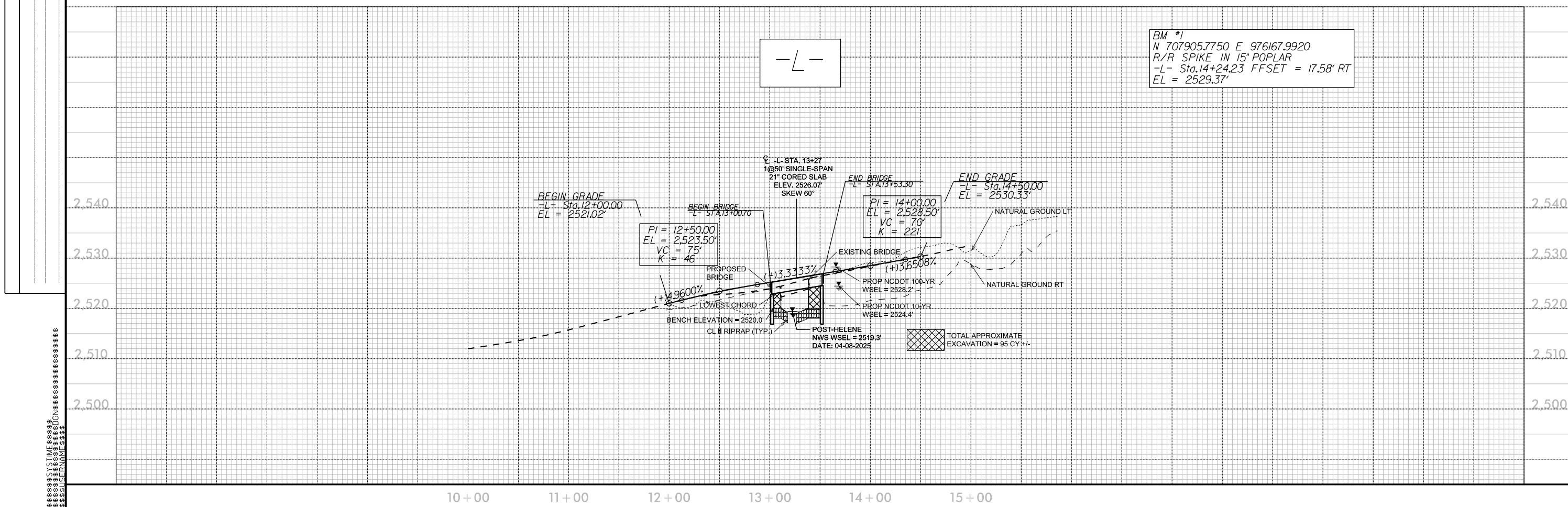
PERMIT DRAWING SHEET 4 OF 6

TS/TS
TEMPORARY SURFACE WATER IMPACTS
S/S
SURFACE WATER IMPACTS

SPREAD ANALYSIS
DA = 0.02 AC
I = 4 IN/HR
C = 0.75
Q = 0.125 SF
LONGITUDINAL SLOPE = 0.0333 ft/ft
CROSS SLOPE = 0.02 ft/ft
SHOULDER WIDTH = 2.37 FT
SPREAD = 2.37 FT, FT
*SPREAD CALCULATED AT FLUMES



BM #1
N 707905.7750 E 976167.9920
R/R SPIKE IN 15" POPLAR
-L- Sta.14+24.23 FFSET = 17.58' RT
EL = 2529.37'



PROJECT REFERENCE NO. DF1813.2011272	SHEET NO. 4
RW SHEET NO.	
ROADWAY DESIGN ENGINEER	HYDRAULICS ENGINEER

DOCUMENT NOT CONSIDERED FINAL
UNLESS ALL SIGNATURES COMPLETED

			WETLAND AND SURACE WATER IMPACTS SUMMARY									
Site No.	Station (From/To)	Structure Size / Type	WETLAND IMPACTS					SURFACE WATER IMPACTS				
			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	-DET- 11+13 - 11+61	TEMP. DETOUR CONSTRUCTION							0.02		91	
1	-L- 13+04 - 13+52	BANK STABILIZATION (SEE NOTE)						< 0.01	0.01	49	59	
1	-L- 12+10 - 14+05	EXISTING BRIDGE REMOVAL/ PROP. BRIDGE CONST. (SEE NOTE)							0.01		75	
TOTALS*:								< 0.01	0.04	49	225	0

*Rounded totals are sum of actual impacts

NOTES:

*BANK STABILIZATION 59' LENGTH OF TEMP. IMPACTS INCLUDES 49' OF PERMANENT IMPACTS

NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DIVISION OF HIGHWAYS

11/13/2025

BUNCOMBE

DF18313.2011272