



**Contract No. 99771**

**Revised Submittal**

**Notice of Intent – New Bedford**

**New Bedford Main Line**

*Prepared for:*

*Massachusetts Department of Transportation*

*10 Park Plaza*

*Boston, Massachusetts*

*Prepared by:*

*The VHB/HNTB Team – a Joint Venture*

*99 High Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor*

*Boston, Massachusetts*



*July 11, 2018*

Back of cover page



July 11, 2018

Ref: 12815.00

Mr. Craig P. Dixon, Chairman  
New Bedford Conservation Commission  
133 William Street, Room 304  
New Bedford, MA 02740

Re: DEP File No. SE 049-0805  
Revised Notice of Intent: South Coast Rail – New Bedford Main Line NOI  
New Bedford, Massachusetts

Dear Chairman Dixon,

On behalf of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, VHB respectfully submits the attached responses to comments received from Nitsch Engineering, Inc. (July 2, 2018) and Conservation Agent Sarah Porter (June 29, 2018) for the proposed South Coast Rail Project (DEP File No. SE 049-0805). Provided are revised track and stormwater reports, as well as a revised mitigation plan, revised drainage plans for the Whale's Tooth station, and a Response to Comments table.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me via email at [lcarlson@vhb.com](mailto:lcarlson@vhb.com) or by phone at (617) 607-6237.

Sincerely,

Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.

Lars Carlson  
Senior Project Manager  
[lcarlson@vhb.com](mailto:lcarlson@vhb.com)

CC: James Eng, MassDOT

Engineers | Scientists | Planners | Designers

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Mr. Craig P. Dixon  
Ref: 12815.00  
July 11, 2018  
Page 2



Holly Palmgren, MBTA  
MassDEP, Southeast Regional Office, attn: Chris Ross

**Enclosures:**

Notice of Intent with 11x17 inch plan sets

# Notice of Intent Revised Submittal

- Response to Comments Table
- Attachment A: Revised Plan Set
- Attachment B: NBS (3) Appendix A and B Wildlife Habitat Evaluations
- Attachment C: Revised Stormwater Report (Track Corridor) Bound Separately
- Attachment D: Revised Stormwater Report (Whale's Tooth Station) Bound Separately



Author	Comment	Response
<b>Sarah Porter: Conservation Agent of New Bedford</b>		
SP	Attachment B- the Wildlife Habitat Evaluation only included an evaluation of the Bank of NBS-23 (which was inadvertently attached twice). We are in need of the Wildlife Habitat Evaluations A & B for Bank - NBS-3 and Land Under Water Ways for NBS-3.	Attached please find the Wildlife Habitat Evaluations A & B for Bank - NBS-3 and Land Under Water Ways for NBS-3.
SP	I consulted with Mary Rapoza on the appropriate mulch to use on the shrub plantings. She suggested that pine bark mulch will not stay in place on side slopes and that leaf mulch works better. Both of which should be 100% organic. The shrub plantings for this mitigation area are not on much of a slope so pine bark mulch is acceptable or leaf mulch.	Thanks for looking into which mulch would be best for this application. We prefer to use the pine bark mulch, as shown in the drawings. It will be specified that the mulch shall be 100% Organic.
SP	The cross section for the wetland mitigation area shows excavation of 12" of wetland soil in the temporarily impacted adjacent wetland and replacement with 12" of manufactured wetland soils. I could not find this discussed in the NOI but I am in favor of it since the wetland soils at this location contain Japanese knotweed ( <i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i> ) rhizomes. The temporarily impacted wetland should then be planted with a few wetland shrubs and seeded with the wetland seed mix.	Agreed. Additional shrub plantings have been added to Sheet EV-303 provided in Attachment A, Revised Plan Sheets.
SP	Is the fence proposed for the entire length of the track? It appears to be located in front of the wildlife crossings at Stations 2545 (East & West), 2558 (West) and 2559 (West) and a portion of the vernal pool at Station 2558 to 2558 +80 (West). At other wildlife crossings no fence is shown. It should not be located in front of wildlife crossings. I could not find a detail of the fence to determine if it leaves a 6" opening at the bottom for wildlife movement.	Fencing is to be installed 6" above the ground project-wide to allow for wildlife movement.
SP	Similar Special Conditions related to the wetland mitigation shall be placed in this Order of Conditions as were recommended for the Tarkiln Hill Rail Intersection SE49-0797 in the memo dated April 2, 2018 to DPI.	Acknowledged. We do not have a problem with the suggested Special Conditions.
<b>Nitsch Engineering, Inc. - NMBL Track</b>		
Nitch	The plans submitted for permitting are 30% plans. Therefore, there is detail that is not included on the plans that is customarily submitted. For instance, there is limited grading shown on the plans for the rail improvements. Although swales are depicted graphically and shown on the cross sections, they are not graded in plan views. The narrative also describes the inclusion of water quality best management practices at stormwater discharge points and sediment forebays that are not shown clearly on the plans. Fill of Bordering Land Subject to Flooding is shown graphically but not graded.	We agree to a condition to provide final plans before construction. Final plans for linear construction such as rail design do not include plan views of proposed grading contours. The contractor builds from the profile and cross sections. The limit of erosion control/Limit of Work defines the boundaries of work linearly along the track corridor.
Nitch	The stormwater report describes the project as a redevelopment project since the rail bed has previously been disturbed and there does not appear to be any additional impervious surfaces proposed. We do not have details regarding the increase in rail trips on this line. We expect there will be more activity on the line once the South Coast Rail is active, which could have increased impacts than are typically experienced now.	An increase in rail trips does not change the project's status as a redevelopment project, and does not outweigh the water quality benefit provided by the proposed BMPs. As a redevelopment project, the design meets the requirement to improve existing conditions because of the 25% TSS removal provided by the sedimentation basins upstream of resource areas.

Nitch	The project involves the replacement of three cross culverts under the proposed tracks. The plans have not included any details for the cross culverts. We recommend that culvert details be included on the plans.	The work associated with the replacement of the three referenced cross culverts is exempt pursuant to c. 79 § 24 of the Acts of 2014 Footprint Bridge exemption, as noted on the plans. A detail is provided for CV-NB-4 (@Pig Farm Rd.), which is not exempt and included in the filing.
Nitch	As described above, the plans do not clearly show the water quality measures described in the stormwater report. It is unclear whether the proposed measures, including sediment forebays with check dams, are proposed to treat water generated by all areas of the tracks. Underdrains with filter fabric are not acknowledged by the Stormwater Management Guidelines as a TSS removal best management practice. We recommend that the Applicant clearly show which areas of the proposed rail bed are receiving additional TSS removal and also quantify the removal rates.	The proposed sedimentation basins and check dams do not treat all areas of the tracks because not all track drainage discharges to resource areas. The design proposes sedimentation basins only upstream of resource areas. The sedimentation basins provide 25% TSS removal. A calculation that applies that removal rate to the impervious catchment area draining to each sedimentation basin is not relevant, and therefore not included, because all catchment areas that drain to the sedimentation basins consist of pervious railroad ballast.
Nitch	The Stormwater Report acknowledges the presence of a vernal pool near station 2553 of the proposed rail and identifies this resource as an Outstanding Resource Water. There does not appear to be any special consideration given to this area. No water quality Best Management Practices are proposed to provide additional protection to this critical area. The Notice of Intent (NOI) also identifies Priority Habitat in the vicinity of the rail. The impacts to this Priority Habitat are unclear. It does not appear that there are any measures proposed to protect this Habitat.	Regarding the consideration given to the protection of the vernal pool, as stated on page 5 of the Stormwater Report, no point discharges exist, or are proposed, uphill of the vernal pool. In fact, proposing a BMP near the vernal pool would degrade existing conditions, because that would require additional disturbance and channelizing runoff that otherwise sheet flows across pervious surfaces. Regarding the consideration given to the protection of the Priority Habitat, measures to avoid and minimize impacts to Priority Habitat are addressed in the NHESP CMP, which we expect will be reflected in their comment letter. Several wildlife crossings are proposed as an improvement to existing conditions throughout Priority Habitat areas.
Nitch	The Stormwater Report describes the installation of a water quality treatment structure to treat stormwater in the vicinity of Kings Highway Station site. This water quality unit does not appear on the plans.	The Stormwater Report has been revised to clarify that the water quality treatment structure will be detailed in a future Notice of Intent associated with the Kings Highway Station.
Nitch	The Stormwater Report states that a SWPPP will be prepared prior to construction and then an erosion and sedimentation plan will be included in the NOI Application. The NOI application includes some language regarding erosion controls. This language appears generic in that it describes pavement sweeping and catch basin inlet protection. Neither of these items are part of the rail improvements. To comply with the requirements of the Guidelines, we would expect that an erosion and sedimentation plan would be submitted as part of the Stormwater Report. The NOI also states that a SWPP will be prepared prior to construction.	The Track Plans and Profiles (Sheets TK-3055 to 3089) include Erosion Control lines that serve as the Erosion Control and Sedimentation Plans with details provided on Sheet CV-309. We agree to provide a SWPPP prior to construction.



Nitch	The Stormwater Report describes that a Long Term Stormwater Operations and Maintenance Plan will be included in the NOI application. The NOI states that a Long Term Stormwater Operations and Maintenance Plan will be developed during the final design phase of the project. An Operations and Maintenance Plan has not been submitted.	The Stormwater Report has been revised to clarify that a Long Term Stormwater Operations and Maintenance Plan will be developed during the final design phase of the project.
Nitch	Typically, an Illicit Discharge Statement is included in the Stormwater Report. This statement was not included.	The Stormwater Checklist has been revised with a box checked for "No Illicit Discharge Compliance Statement is attached but will be submitted prior to the discharge of any stormwater to post-construction BMPs."
Nitch	The Stormwater Report includes a table showing dimensions for rip-rap pads at the underdrain discharge points. The dimensions shown in this table should be reflected in the plans, either with labels at each location or a table on the detail sheet. The pads should be drawn to scale on the plans. The rip-rap pads prevent scour and erosion at the discharge points. However, they do not provide TSS removal.	Sheet CV-308, the detail titled Flared End Section with Stone Protection, has been revised to include the Pipe End Protection table from the Stormwater Report and is included in Attachment A: Revised Plan Sheets.
Nitch	The Stormwater Report includes a sketch of the layout for the Kings Highway station. The submitted plans do not include any design information for this station. It is unclear if this station is part of the project or not since this area is not included in the plans. The sketch shows a site layout, no grading information, and a schematic layout of the site drainage system. The drainage system does not have rims, inverts, pipe sizes, etc. The sketch shows 'PROP. STORMWATER QUALITY STRUCTURE,' which we presume to be Stormceptor because sizing information for a Stormceptor unit is provided. A Stormceptor detail is not included in the plans.	The Stormwater Report has been revised to clarify that the water quality treatment structure will be detailed in a future Notice of Intent associated with the Kings Highway Station. The plans in the stormwater report were inadvertently included and should be omitted. A separate filing for that station will be made in the near future.
Nitch	The Stormwater Report does not include any pipe sizing information, sediment forebay sizing information, or TSS removal calculations.	For pipe sizing, the Stormwater Report has been revised to include calculations for sizing the perforated HDPE underdrains. For sediment forebay sizing, the sizing calculations are included in the report as Vegetated Swale Discharge End Protection. They are sized for end protection, rather than as a forebay, because all catchment areas that drain to the sedimentation basins consist of pervious railroad ballast. Zero impervious area results in a forebay volume of zero. For TSS removal calculations, as stated in the response to comment No. 4, the sedimentation basins provide 25% TSS removal. A calculation that applies that removal rate to the impervious catchment area draining to each sedimentation basin is not relevant, and therefore not included, because all catchment areas that drain to the sedimentation basins consist of pervious railroad ballast.
Nitch	The detail sheets include an Oil/Water Separator detail. It is unclear where this unit is proposed.	Revised Sheet CV-308 is included with this resubmittal with the detail for the Oil/Water Separator removed, since it is not proposed for this project.

Nitch	The detail sheets include a Stone Diaphragm Pretreatment Filter Strip detail. It is unclear where this is proposed.	Revised Sheet CV-311 is included with this resubmitted with the detail for the Stone Diaphragm Pretreatment Filter Strip removed, since it is not proposed for this project.
<b>Nitsch Engineering, Inc. - Whale's Tooth station</b>		
Nitch	The piping from the platform canopy is shown as reinforced concrete pipe. The HydroCadd model shows this piping as PVC. The plans show this pipe's slope at 8% while it is modeled at 4.8%. The plans show 48 feet of pipe and the model shows 83 feet. The plans and model should be consistent.	The HydroCAD model has been updated to match the CAD.
Nitch	We recommend a minimum Time of Concentration of six minutes be used consistent with TR-20.	The HydroCAD models have been updated for a Time of Concentration of 6 minutes.
Nitch	We recommend the weir overflow elevations be depicted on the plans consistent with the HydroCadd calculations.	Weir overflow invert elevations have been added to the plans for clarity.
Nitch	Bioretention basins should show a foot of freeboard for all storms. Both bioretention basin 1 and 2 do not meet this requirement for the 10-year and 100-year storms. The Guidelines require a foot of freeboard in bioretention basins.	The top edge of Bioretention Basin 1 has been raised to 7.5'. This provides 8.5 inches of freeboard in the 100-year storm, which is adequate for 6" of ponding. The top edge of Bioretention Basin 2 has been raised to 10.8, providing over 12 inches of freeboard in the 100-year storm.
Nitch	The HydroCadd calculations show the stone overflow elevation at 9.5. They also show the bottom of the forebay at elevation 9.5, effectively indicating that there is no berm between the sediment forebay and the bioretention basin.	Low Flow Sediment Forebay Berm invert elevation has been raised to 10.0.
Nitch	The detention basin underdrain detail shows the crushed stone surrounding the underdrain to be brought to the bottom of the bioretention basin. The bioretention basin shows the under drain sitting in a 12-inch stone bed. We agree with the under drain shown in the bioretention basin detail.	Yes, the underdrain should be installed at the bottom of the stone bed. The detention basin underdrain detail has been removed from the plans.
Nitch	The bioretention basin 1 design shows the bottom of the basin at elevation 2.5. Existing grade in this area is approximately 7.3. It is unclear whether the excavation will intrude upon the cap. It is also unclear what groundwater elevations are in this area.	The Bioretention Basin lies outside the limit of the existing soil cap area on the site. The basin will be lined to prevent groundwater from entering the basin, and to prevent stormwater from infiltrating into the ground. Per test wells WTS-11 and WTS-12 at Bioretention Basin 1, groundwater elevation is at -0.7 and 0.6, respectively. Per test well GTSB-EA-23 at Bioretention Basin 2, groundwater elevation is 5' below the surface. For both basins, the groundwater elevation is below the bottom of the facility.
Nitch	A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) was not provided for review.	The contractor will be required to prepare and implement the SWPPP. The contractor will provide a copy to the commission prior to construction. We recommend a condition stating thus, consistent with special condition # 51 from the Wamsutta order of conditions.

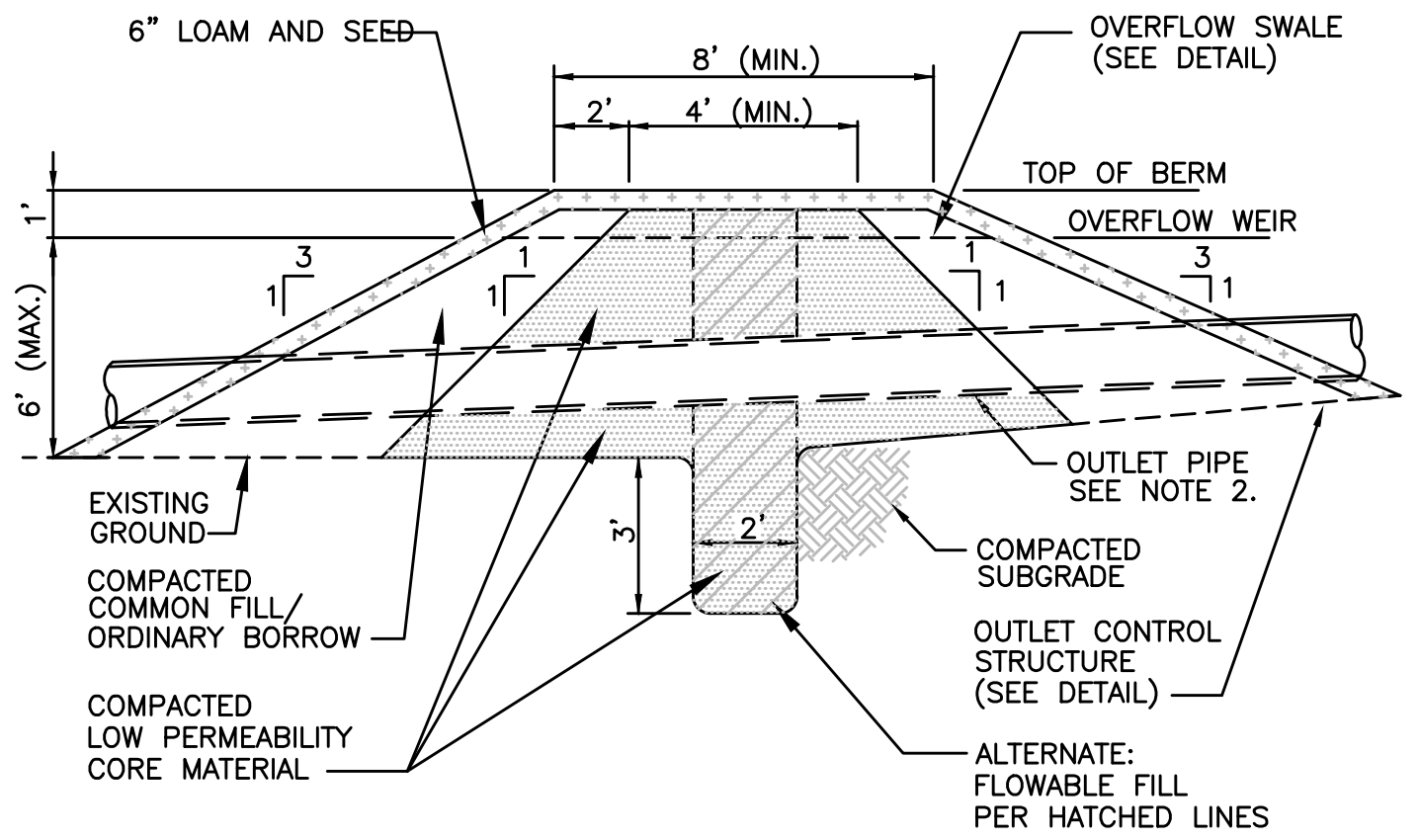


## Attachment A - Revised Plan Sheets

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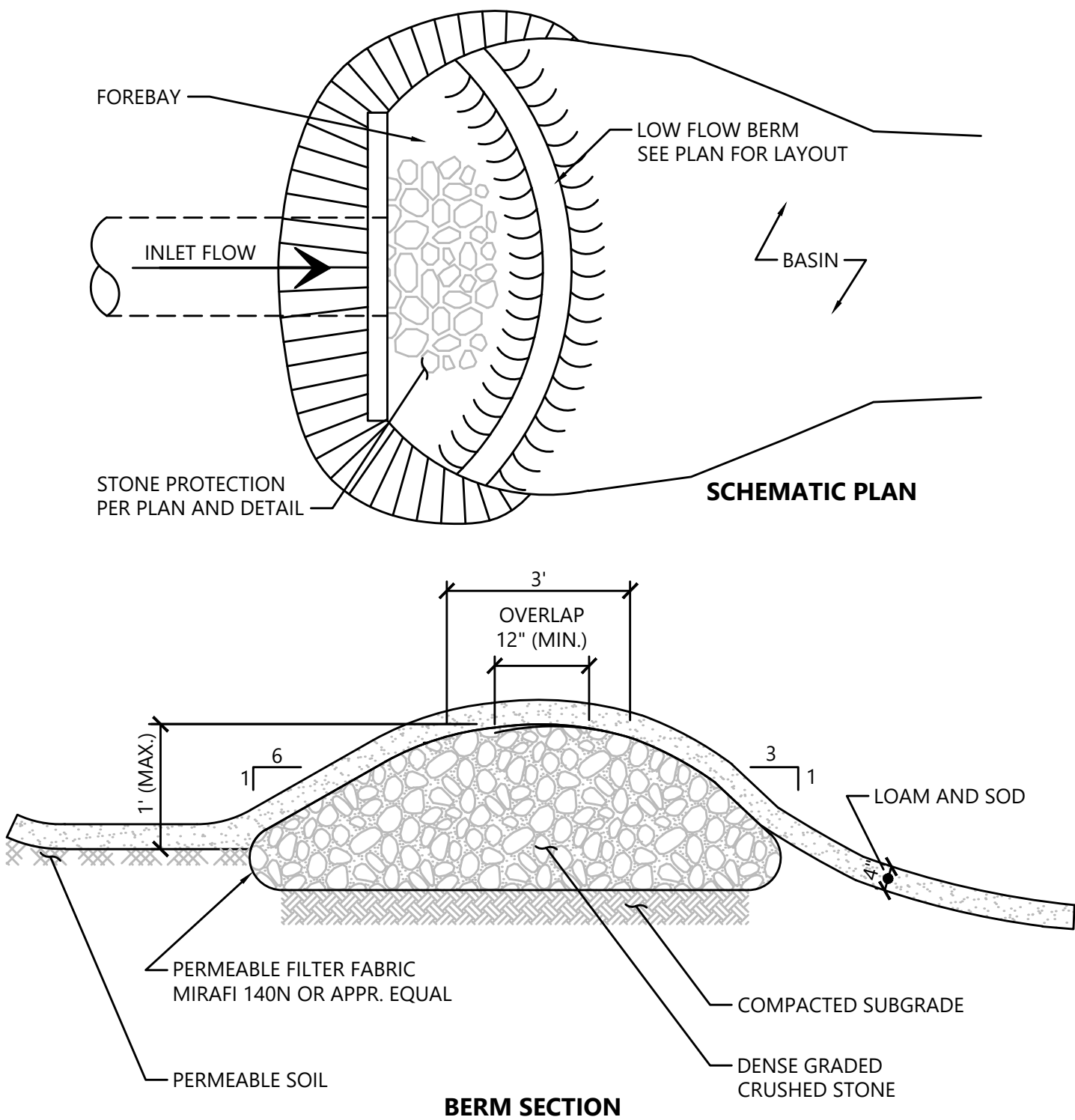
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- Notes:**
1. LOW PERMEABILITY CORE MATERIAL IS CONTINUOUS FOR THE FULL LENGTH OF THE EMBANKMENT.
  2. WHERE PIPES PENETRATE THE LOW PERMEABILITY CORE, PIPE SHALL BE BEDDED IN THE LOW PERMEABILITY CORE MATERIAL.
  3. THE BERM SECTION IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND WILL BE BASED ON THE RESULTS OF FURTHER GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATIONS.

### Detention Basin Berm Section

SCALE: N.T.S.

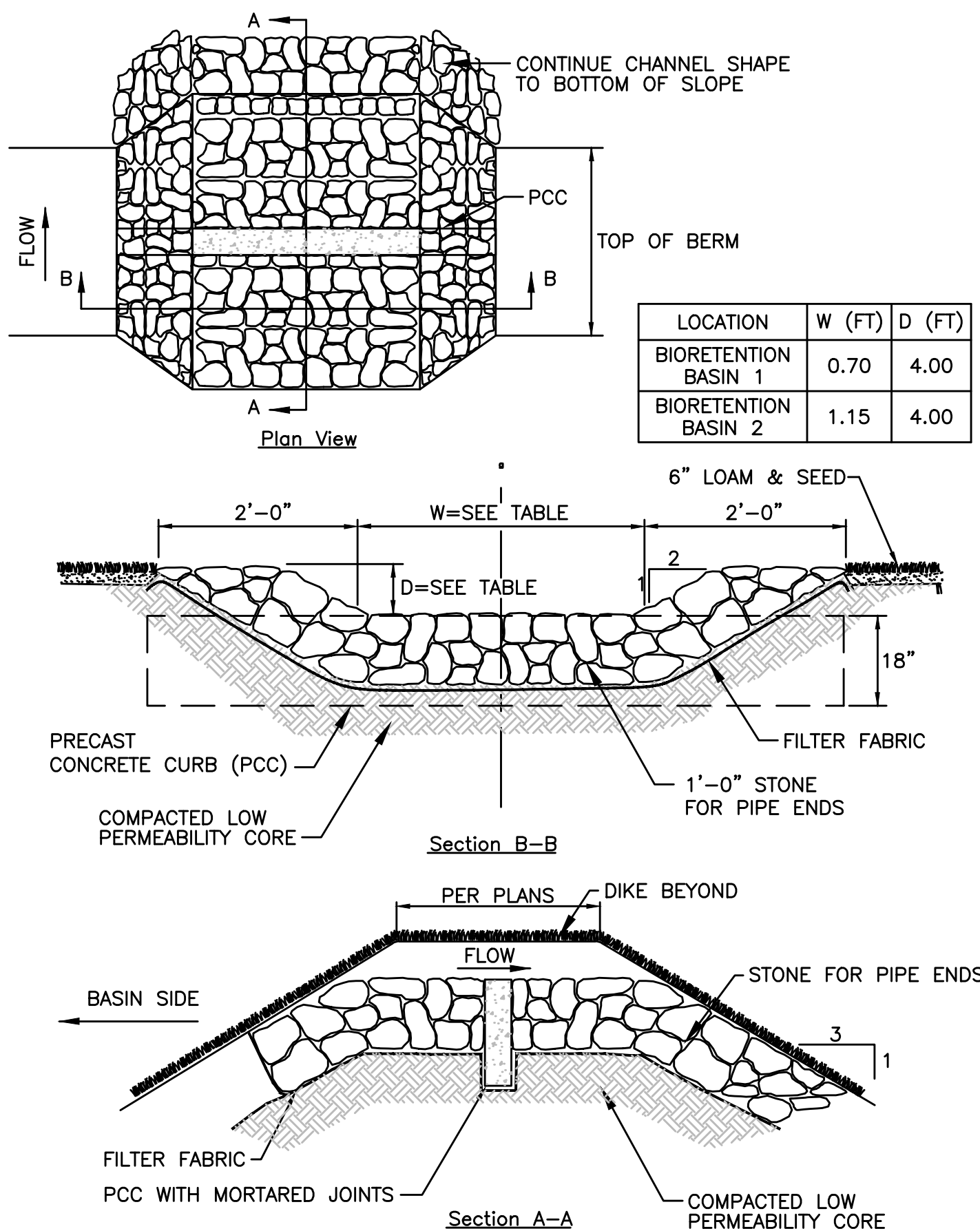


#### NOTES

1. FOREBAY DESIGNED TO CAPTURE 0.1 INCHES OF RUNOFF FROM IMPERVIOUS SURFACES

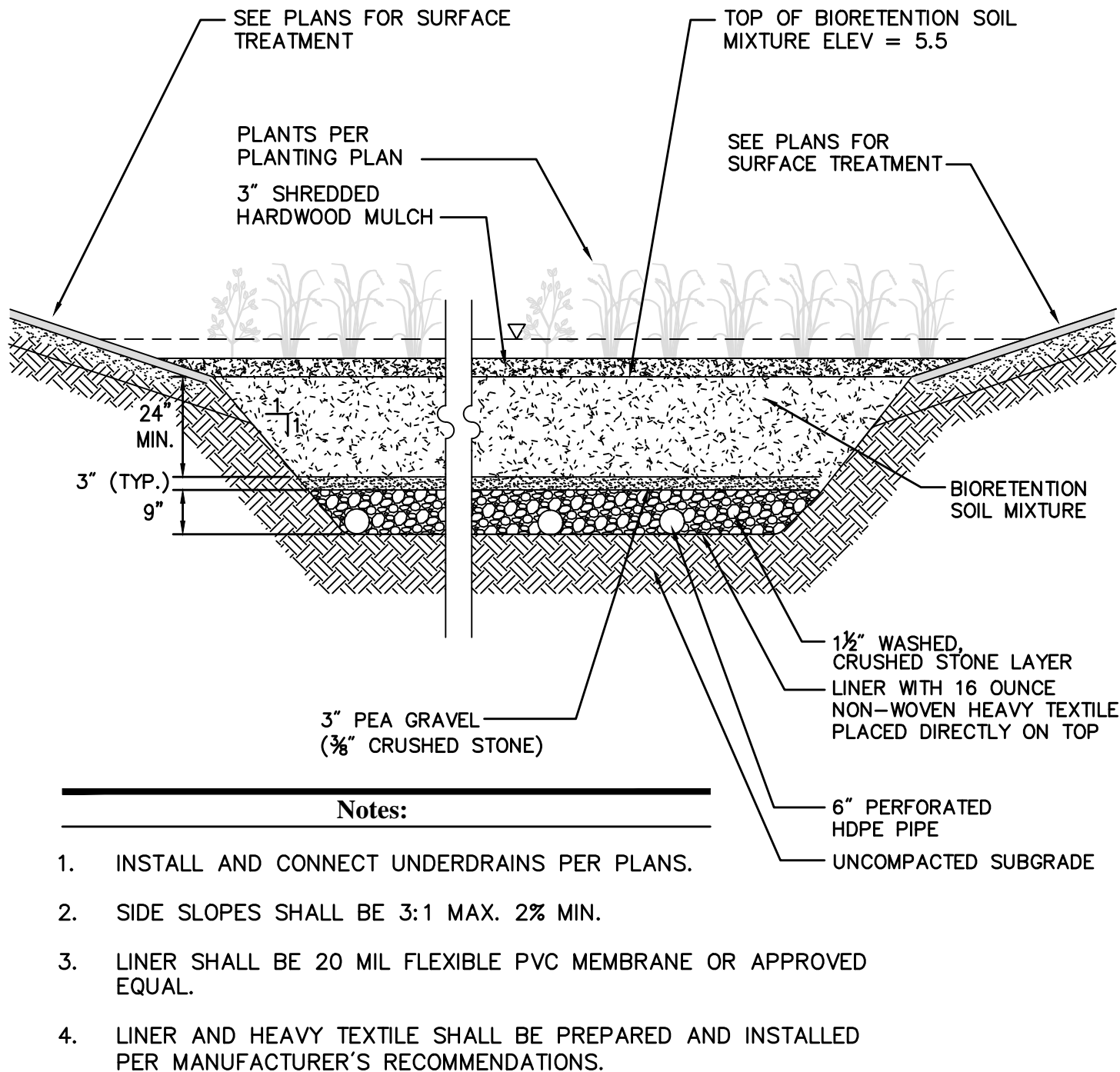
### Low Flow Sediment Forebay Berm

SCALE: N.T.S.



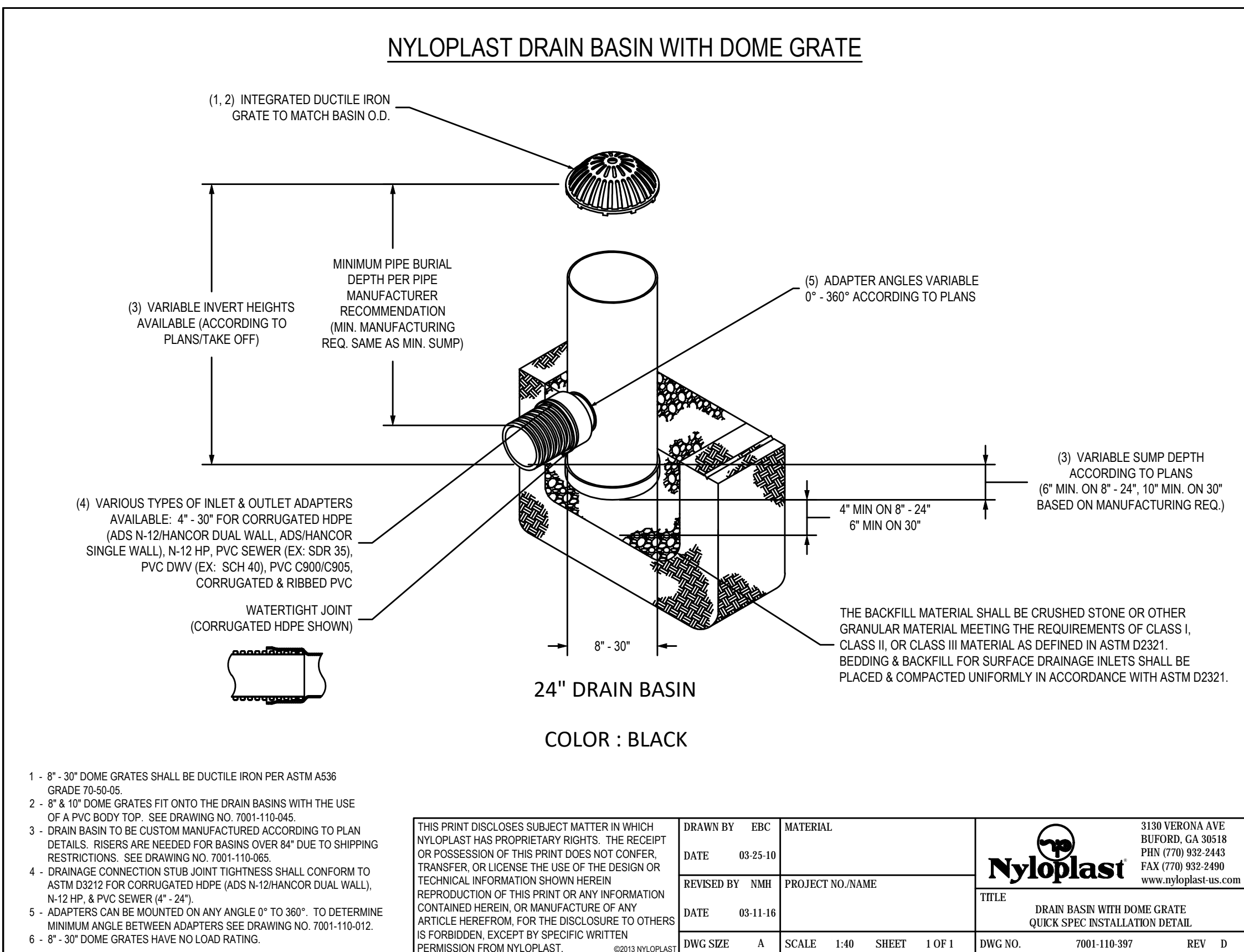
### Overflow Stone Swale

SCALE: N.T.S.



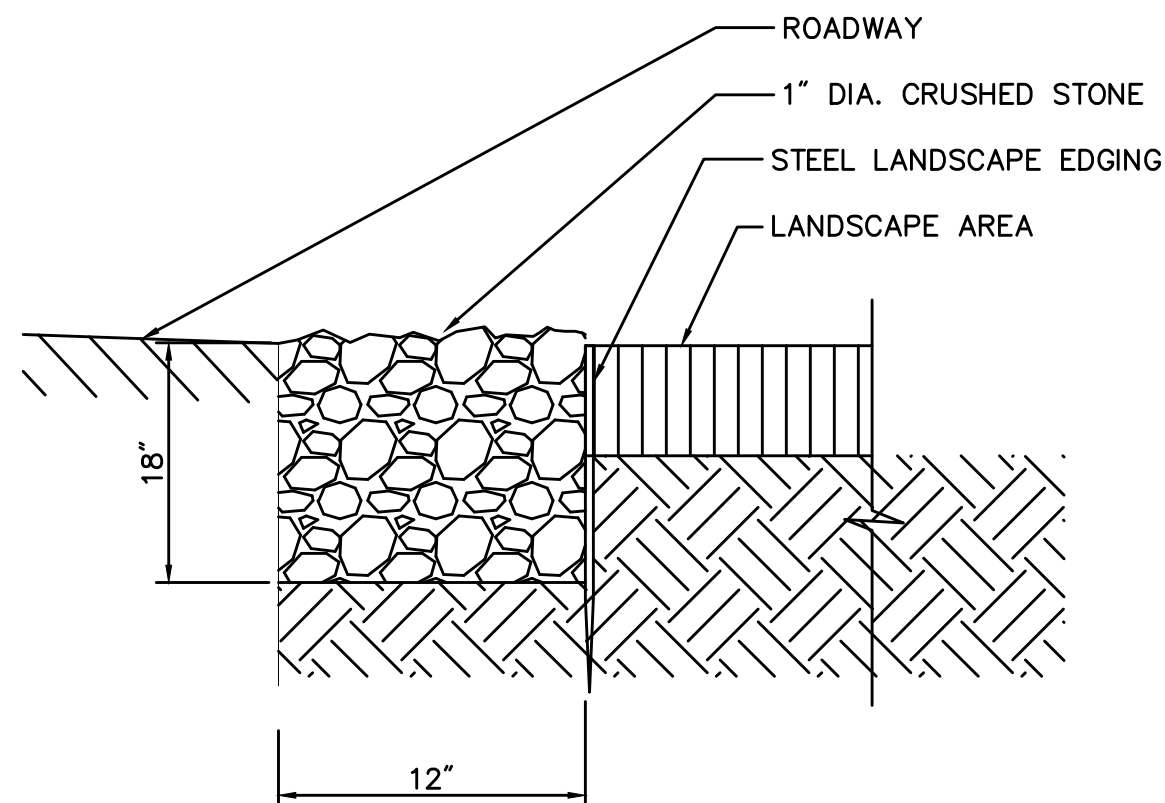
### Lined Bioretention Basin W/ Underdrain

SCALE: N.T.S.



- 1 - 8" - 30" DOME GRATES SHALL BE DUCTILE IRON PER ASTM A536 GRADE 70-50-05.
- 2 - 8" & 10" DOME GRATES FIT ONTO THE DRAIN BASINS WITH THE USE OF A PVC BODY TOP. SEE DRAWING NO. 7001-110-045.
- 3 - DRAIN BASIN TO BE CUSTOM MANUFACTURED ACCORDING TO PLAN DETAILS. RISERS ARE NEEDED FOR BASINS OVER 84" DUE TO SHIPPING RESTRICTIONS. SEE DRAWING NO. 7001-110-065.
- 4 - DRAINAGE CONNECTION STUB JOINT TIGHTNESS SHALL CONFORM TO ASTM D3212 FOR CORRUGATED HDPE (ADS N-12/HANCOR DUAL WALL), N-12 HP, & PVC SEWER (4" - 24").
- 5 - ADAPTERS CAN BE MOUNTED ON ANY ANGLE 0° TO 360°. TO DETERMINE MINIMUM ANGLE BETWEEN ADAPTERS SEE DRAWING NO. 7001-110-012.
- 6 - 8" - 30" DOME GRATES HAVE NO LOAD RATING.

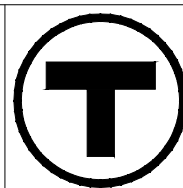
THIS PRINT DISCLOSES SUBJECT MATTER IN WHICH NYLOPLAST HAS PROPRIETARY RIGHTS. THE RECEIPT OR POSSESSION OF THIS PRINT DOES NOT CONFER, TRANSFER, OR LICENSE THE USE OF THE DESIGN OR TECHNICAL INFORMATION SHOWN HEREIN. REPRODUCTION OF THIS PRINT OR ANY INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN, OR MANUFACTURE OF ANY ARTICLE HEREFROM, FOR THE DISCLOSURE TO OTHERS IS FORBIDDEN EXCEPT BY SPECIFIC WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM NYLOPLAST.		DRAWN BY DATE 03-25-10	EBK	MATERIAL	3130 VERONA AVE. BLUFORD, CA 95018 PHN (770) 932-2443 FAX (770) 932-2490 www.nyloplast-us.com
REVISED BY DATE 03-11-16	NMH	PROJECT NO./NAME		TITLE DRAIN BASIN WITH DOME GRATE QUICK SPEC INSTALLATION DETAIL	
DWG SIZE A	SCALE 1:40	SHEET 1 OF 1		DWG NO. 7001-110-397	REV D



### Stone Diaphragm Pretreatment Filter Strip

SCALE: N.T.S.

### ISSUED FOR NOTICE OF INTENT



MASSACHUSETTS BAY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
SOUTH COAST RAIL - PHASE I  
DESIGN ENGINEERING AND PM/CM SERVICES  
CONTRACT NO.


### NEW BEDFORD MAIN LINE DETAILS 6

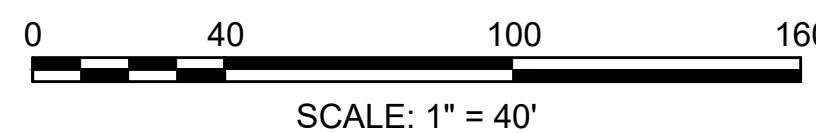
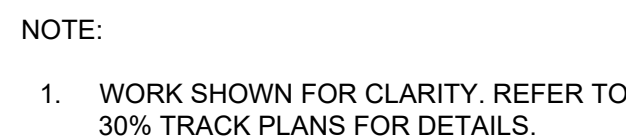


99 HIGH STREET  
BOSTON, MA 02110  
(617) 728-7777

MASSACHUSETTS BAY TRANSPORTATION  
AUTHORITY

APPROVED BY:

										<div> <b>vhb HNTB</b></div> <div>99 HIGH STREET BOSTON, MA 02110 (617) 728-7777</div>		MASSACHUSETTS BAY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY		
1	7/11/18	RESPONSE TO CON COMM COMMENTS	JHC	RTW	KS					APPROVED BY:				
ISSUE	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY	CHKD.	APP.	PROJECT MANAGER				Date	PROJECT MANAGER		Date	
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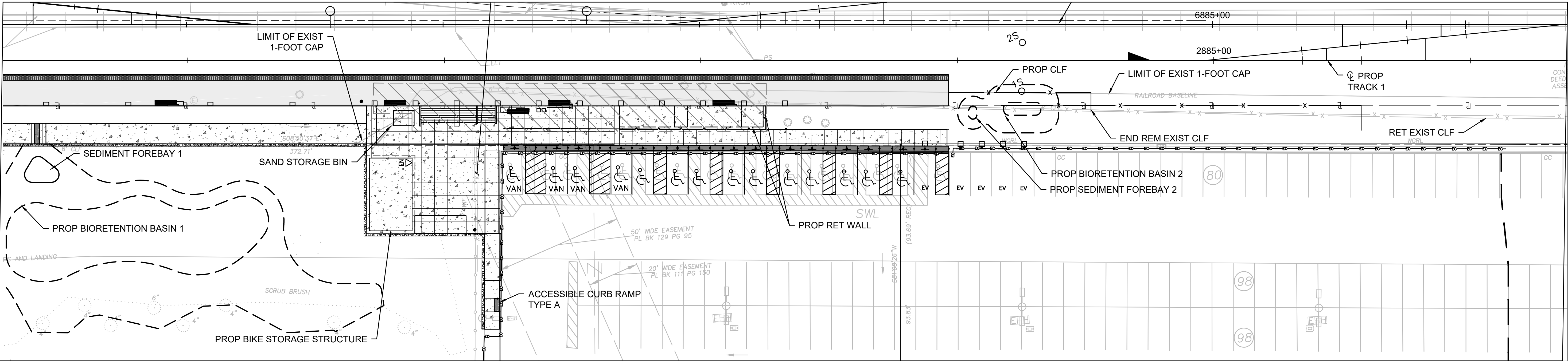
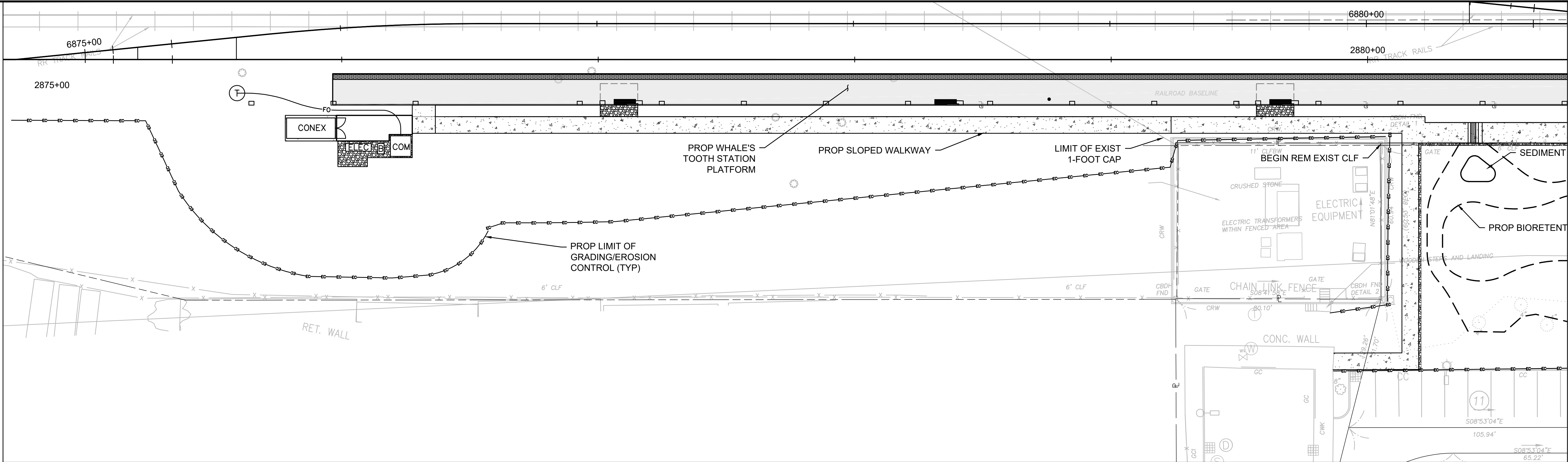


PROJECT MANAGER		Date
PLAN NO.		ISSUE C
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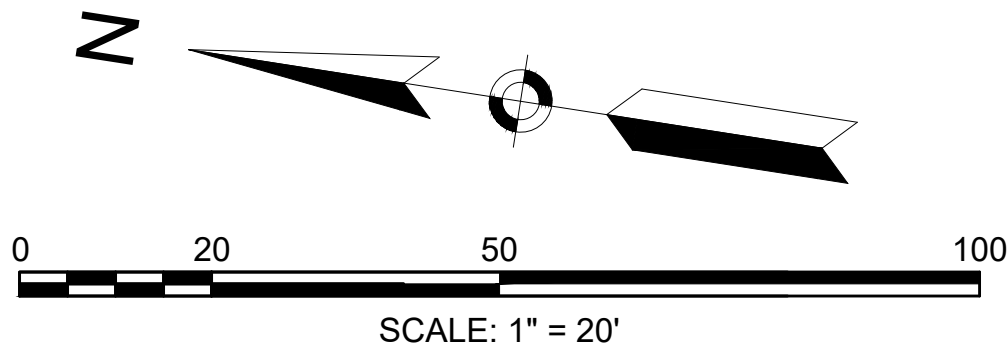
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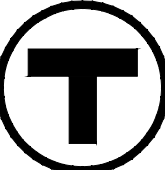
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NOTE:  
1. WORK SHOWN FOR CLARITY. REFER TO  
30% TRACK PLANS FOR DETAILS.



ISSUED FOR NOTICE OF INTENT



MASSACHUSETTS BAY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
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NEW BEDFORD MAIN LINE  
WHALE'S TOOTH STATION  
SITE PLAN



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AUTHORITY

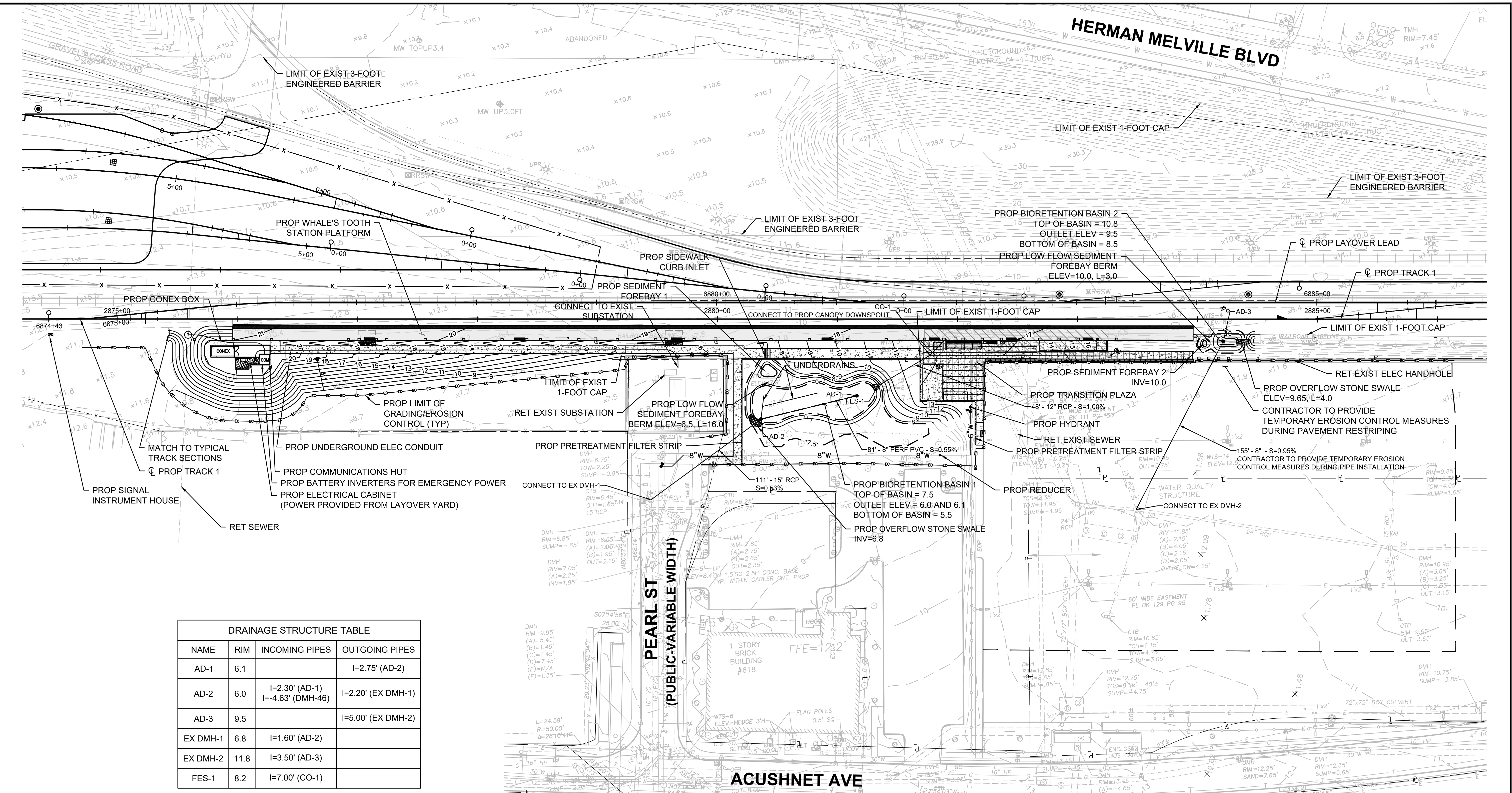
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1	7/11/18	RESPONSE TO CON COMM COMMENTS	JHC	RTW	KS

PROJECT MANAGER  
HORIZ: 1" = 40'  
VERT: NONE  
DATE: 06/01/2018

PROJECT MANAGER  
PLAN NO.  
SHEET LO-301

ISSUE

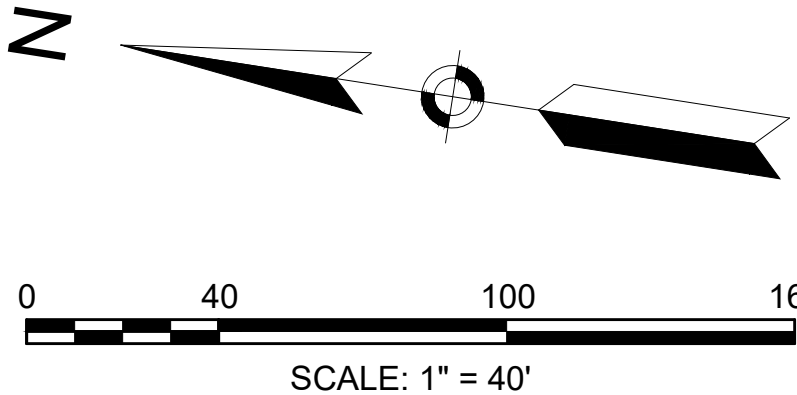


DRAINAGE STRUCTURE TABLE			
NAME	RIM	INCOMING PIPES	OUTGOING PIPES
AD-1	6.1		I=2.75' (AD-2)
AD-2	6.0	I=2.30' (AD-1) I=-4.63' (DMH-46)	I=2.20' (EX DMH-1)
AD-3	9.5		I=5.00' (EX DMH-2)
EX DMH-1	6.8	I=1.60' (AD-2)	
EX DMH-2	11.8	I=3.50' (AD-3)	
FES-1	8.2	I=7.00' (CO-1)	

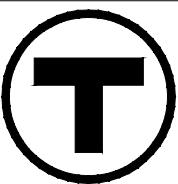
100 YEAR FLOOD ELEVATION - 6.0  
500 YEAR FLOOD ELEVATION - 15.2

NOTES:

1. TRACK CENTERLINE SHOWN FOR INFORMATION ONLY.



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MASSACHUSETTS BAY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
SOUTH COAST RAIL - PHASE I  
DESIGN ENGINEERING AND PM/CM SERVICES  
CONTRACT NO.

NEW BEDFORD MAIN LINE  
WHALE'S TOOTH STATION  
GRADING AND UTILITY PLAN



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AUTHORITY

APPROVED BY:

1	7/11/18	RESPONSE TO CON COMM COMMENTS	JHC	RTW	KS
ISSUE	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY	CHKD.	APP.

PROJECT MANAGER  
HORIZ: 1"=40'  
VERT: NONE  
DATE: 06/01/2018

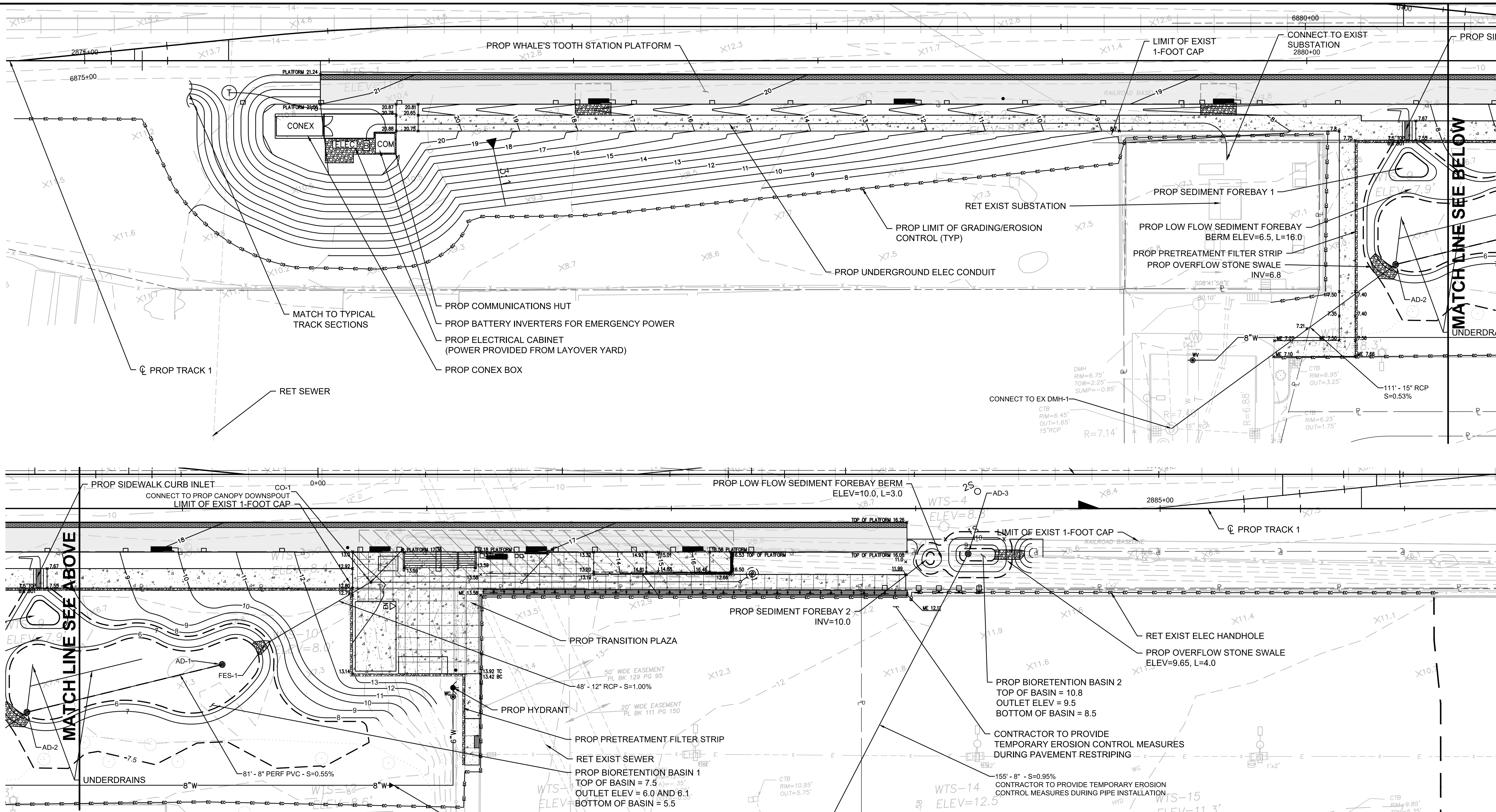
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DR. BY: JHC  
CHK. BY: RTW

PROJECT MANAGER  
PLAN NO.  
SHEET  
GD-300

ISSUE





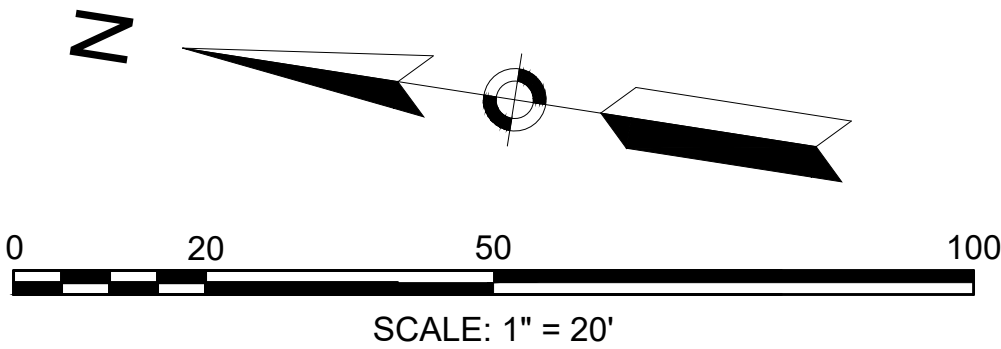


DRAINAGE STRUCTURE TABLE			
NAME	RIM	INCOMING PIPES	OUTGOING PIPES
AD-1	6.1		I=2.75' (AD-2)
AD-2	6.0	I=2.30' (AD-1) I=-4.63' (DMH-46)	I=2.20' (EX DMH-1)
AD-3	9.5		I=5.00' (EX DMH-2)
EX DMH-1	6.8	I=1.60' (AD-2)	
EX DMH-2	11.8	I=3.50' (AD-3)	
FES-1	8.2	I=7.00' (CO-1)	

100 YEAR FLOOD ELEVATION - 6.0  
500 YEAR FLOOD ELEVATION - 15.2

NOTES:

- TOP OF BALLAST ELEV. IN YARD = 14.03 (UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)
- TOP OF RAIL ELEV. IN YARD = 14.70 (UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)
- DITCH SIDE SLOPES ARE 2:1, SEE TYPICAL SECTIONS
- 2:1 SLOPE GRADING BETWEEN  $\phi$  PROP TRACK 1 TYPICAL SECTION AND YARD
- TRACK CENTERLINE SHOWN FOR INFORMATION ONLY.



ISSUED FOR NOTICE OF INTENT



MASSACHUSETTS BAY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY  
SOUTH COAST RAIL - PHASE I  
DESIGN ENGINEERING AND PM/CM SERVICES  
CONTRACT NO.

NEW BEDFORD MAIN LINE  
WHALE'S TOOTH STATION  
GRADING AND UTILITY PLAN



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MASSACHUSETTS BAY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

APPROVED BY:

ISSUE	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY	CHKD.	APP.
1	7/11/18	RESPONSE TO CON COMM COMMENTS	JHC	RTW	KS

PROJECT MANAGER  
HORIZ: 1"=20'  
VERT: NONE  
DATE: 06/01/2018

DES. BY: JHC  
CHK. BY: JHC  
RTW

PROJECT MANAGER  
PLAN NO.  
SHEET  
GD-301

ISSUE

ISSUE  




## Attachment B - NBS (3) Wildlife Habitat Assessments

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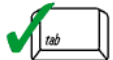


# Wildlife Habitat Protection Guidance

## Appendix A: Simplified Wildlife Habitat Evaluation

### Project Information

**Important:**  
When filling out forms on the computer, use only the tab key to move your cursor - do not use the return key.



Project Location (from NOI)

Name of Person Completing Form

Date

### Important Habitat Features

Direct alterations to the following important habitat features in resource areas may be permitted only if they will have no adverse effect (refer to Section V).

- ☐ Habitat for state-listed animal species (receipt of a positive opinion or permit from MNHESP shall be presumed to be correct. Do not refer to Section V).
- ☐ Sphagnum hummocks and pools suitable to serve as nesting habitat for four-toed salamanders
- ☐ Trees with large cavities ( $\geq 18$ " tree diameter at cavity entrance)
- ☐ Existing beaver, mink or otter dens
- ☐ Areas within 100 feet of existing beaver, mink or otter dens (if significant disturbance)
- ☐ Existing nest trees for birds that traditionally reuse nests (bald eagle, osprey, great blue heron)
- ☐ Land containing freshwater mussel beds
- ☐ Wetlands and waterbodies known to contain open water in winter with the capacity to serve as waterfowl winter habitat
- ☐ Turtle nesting areas
- ☐ Vertical sandy banks (bank swallows, rough-winged swallows or kingfishers)

The following habitat characteristics when not commonly encountered in the surrounding area:

- ☐ Stream bed riffle zones (e.g. in eastern MA)
- ☐ Springs
- ☐ Gravel stream bottoms (trout and salmon nesting substrate)
- ☐ Plunge pools (deep holes) in rivers or streams
- ☐ Medium to large, flat rock substrates in streams



# Wildlife Habitat Protection Guidance

## Appendix A: Simplified Wildlife Habitat Evaluation

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### Activities

When any one of the following activities is proposed within resource areas, applicants should complete a Detailed Wildlife Habitat Evaluation (refer to Appendix B).

- ☐ Activities located in mapped “Habitat of Potential Regional or Statewide Importance”
- ☐ Activities affecting certified or documented vernal pool habitat, including habitat within 100’ of a certified or documented vernal pool when within a resource area
- ☐ Activities in bank, land under water, bordering land subject to flooding (presumed significant) where alterations are more than twice the size of thresholds
- ☐ Activities affecting vegetated wetlands >5000 sq. ft. occurring in resource areas other than Bordering Vegetated Wetland
- ☐ Activities affecting the sole connector between habitats >50 acres in size
- ☐ Installation of structures that prevent animal movement
- ☐ Activities for the purpose of bank stabilization using hard structure solutions that significantly affect ability of stream channel to shift and meander, or disrupt continuity in cover that would inhibit animal passage
- ☐ Dredging (greater than 5,000 sf)



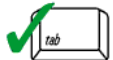
# Wildlife Habitat Protection Guidance

## Appendix B: Detailed Wildlife Habitat Evaluation

### Part 1. Summary Sheet

**Important:**

When filling out forms on the computer, use only the tab key to move your cursor - do not use the return key.



Project Name

Location

Size of Area Being Impacted

Date

Impact Areas (linear feet, square feet, or acres for each of the impact areas within the site)

Name	Waterbody/ Waterway	Wetland	Upland*	Total Area
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				

\*Riverfront Area/BLSF

Attach Sketch map and/or photos of the Impact Areas

Narrative Description of Site (attach separate page if necessary)

### Certification

I hereby certify that this project has been designed to avoid, minimize, and mitigate adverse effects on wildlife habitat, and that it will not, following two growing seasons of project completion and thereafter, substantially reduce its capacity to provide important wildlife habitat functions.

Signature of Wildlife Specialist (per 310 CMR 10.60 (1) (b))

Typed or Printed Name



# Wildlife Habitat Protection Guidance

## Appendix B: Detailed Wildlife Habitat Evaluation

### Part 2. Field Data Form (for each wetland or non-wetland resource area)

#### I. General Information

Project Location (from NOI page 1)

Impact Area (number/name)

Date(s) of Site Visit(s) and Data Collection

Weather Conditions During Site Visit (if snow cover, include depth)

Person completing form per 310 CMR 10.60(1)(b)

Date this form was completed

The information on this data sheet is based on my observations unless otherwise indicated

Signature

#### II. Site Description (complete A or B under Classification - see instructions for full description)

##### A. Classification

###### 1. For Wetland Resource Areas, complete the following:

System: \_\_\_\_\_

Subsystem: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Subclass: \_\_\_\_\_

Hydrology/Water Regime

☐ Permanently flooded

☐ Saturated

☐ Intermittently exposed

☐ Temporarily flooded

☐ Semi-permanently flooded

☐ Intermittently flooded

☐ Seasonally flooded

☐ Artificially flooded

###### 2. For Riverfront or Bordering Land Subject to Flooding Resource Areas, complete the following.

Use a terrestrial classification system such as one of the two listed below:

a. "Classification of the Natural Communities of Massachusetts (Draft)" by Patricia C. Swain and Jennifer B. Kearsley, MA DFW NHESP, Westborough, MA. July 2000. ([Department of Fish & Game Website](#))

b. "New England Wildlife: Habitat, Natural History, and Distribution" by Richard M. DeGraaf and Deborah D. Rudis, USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Forest Experiment Station. General Technical Report NE-108. August 1992. 491 pages.

Community Name

Vegetation Description

Physical Description



# Wildlife Habitat Protection Guidance

## Appendix B: Detailed Wildlife Habitat Evaluation

## Part 2. Field Data Form (continued)

B. Inventory (Plant community)

% Cover:

Trees (> 20')

---

Shrubs (< 20')

## Woody vines

---

## Mosses

Herbaceous

Plant Lists (species that comprise 10% or more of the vegetative cover in each strata; “\*” designates a dominant plant species for the strata):

## Strata

## Plant Species

## Strata

## Plant Species


### C. Inventory (Soils)

---

Soil Survey Unit

Drainage Class

Texture (upper part)

## Depth

---

### Depth to Water Table

### III. Important Habitat Features (complete for all resource areas)

If the following habitat characteristics are present, describe & quantify them on a separate sheet & attach.

## Wildlife Food

Important Wetland/Aquatic Food Plants (smartweeds, pondweeds, wild rice, bulrush, wild celery)

☐ Abundant

☐ Present☐ Absent

Important Upland/Wetland Food Plants (hard mast and fruit/berry producers)

☐ Abundant

☐ Present☐ Absent

Shrub thickets or streambeds with abundant earthworms (American woodcock)

☐ Present☐ Absent

Shrub and/or herbaceous vegetation suitable for veery nesting

☐ Present☐ Absent



# Wildlife Habitat Protection Guidance

## Appendix B: Detailed Wildlife Habitat Evaluation

### Part 2. Field Data Form (continued)

Number of trees (live or dead) > 30" DBH: \_\_\_\_\_

Number (or density) of Standing Dead Trees (potential for cavities and perches):

6-12" dbh

12-18" dbh

18-24" dbh

> 24" dbh

Number of Tree Cavities in trunks or limbs of:

6-12" diameter (e.g., tree swallow, saw whet owl, screech owl, bluebird, other songbirds)

12-18" diameter (e.g., hooded merganser, wood duck, common goldeneye, mink)

>18" diameter (e.g., hooded merganser, wood duck, common goldeneye, common merganser, barred owl, mink, raccoon, fisher)

Small mammal burrows

☐ Abundant ☐ Present ☐ Absent

Cover/Perches/Basking/Denning/Nesting Habitat

☐ Dense herbaceous cover (voles, small mammals, amphibians & reptiles)

☐ Large woody debris on the ground (small mammals, mink, amphibians & reptiles)

☐ Rocks, crevices, logs, tree roots or hummocks under water's surface (turtles, snakes, frogs)

☐ Rocks, crevices, fallen logs, overhanging branches or hummocks at, or within 1m above the water's surface (turtles, snakes, frogs, wading birds, wood duck, mink, raccoon)

☐ Rock piles, crevices, or hollow logs suitable for:

☐ otter

☐ mink

☐ porcupine

☐ bear

☐ bobcat

☐ turkey vulture

☐ Live or dead standing vegetation overhanging water or offering good visibility of open water (e.g., osprey, kingfisher, flycatchers, cedar waxwings)

Depressions that may serve as seasonal (vernal/autumnal) pools

☐ Present

☐ Absent

Standing water present at least part of the growing season, suitable for use by

☐ Breeding amphibians

☐ Non-breeding amphibians (foraging, re-hydration)

☐ Turtles

☐ Foraging waterfowl

Sphagnum hummocks or mats, moss-covered logs or saturated logs, overhanging or directly adjacent to pools of standing water in spring (four-toed salamander)

☐ Present

☐ Absent



# Wildlife Habitat Protection Guidance

## Appendix B: Detailed Wildlife Habitat Evaluation

### Part 2. Field Data Form (continued)

Important habitat characteristics (if present, describe and quantify them on a separate sheet)

Medium to large (> 6"), flat rocks within a stream (cover for stream salamanders and nesting habitat for spring & two-lined salamanders)

☐ Present ☐ Absent

Flat rocks and logs on banks or within exposed portions of streambeds (cover for stream salamanders and nesting habitat for dusky salamanders)

☐ Present ☐ Absent

Underwater banks of fine silt and/or clay (beaver, muskrat, otter)

☐ Present ☐ Absent

Undercut or overhanging banks (small mammals, mink, weasels)

☐ Present ☐ Absent

Vertical sandy banks (bank swallow, kingfisher)

☐ Present ☐ Absent

Areas of ice-free open water in winter

☐ Present ☐ Absent

Mud flats

☐ Present ☐ Absent

Exposed areas of well-drained, sandy soil suitable for turtle nesting

☐ Present ☐ Absent

Wildlife dens/nests (if present, describe & quantify them on the back of this sheet)

Turtle nesting sites

☐ Present ☐ Absent

Bank swallow colony

☐ Present ☐ Absent

Nest(s) present of

☐ Bald Eagle

☐ Osprey

☐ Great Blue Heron

Den(s) present of

☐ Otter

☐ Mink

☐ Beaver



# Wildlife Habitat Protection Guidance

## Appendix B: Detailed Wildlife Habitat Evaluation

### Part 2. Field Data Form (continued)

Project area is within:

- ☐ 100' of beaver, mink or otter den, bank swallow colony or turtle nesting area
- ☐ 200' of Great Blue Heron or osprey nest(s)
- ☐ 1400' of a Bald Eagle nest<sup>1</sup>

Emergent Wetlands (if present, describe & quantify them on a separate sheet)

Emergent wetland vegetation at least seasonally flooded during the growing season (wood duck, green heron, black-crowned night heron, king rail, Virginia rail, coot, etc.)

Flooded > 5 cm ☐ Present ☐ Absent

Flooded > 25 cm (pied-billed grebe) ☐ Present ☐ Absent

Persistent emergent wetland vegetation at least seasonally flooded during the growing season (mallard, American bittern, sora, common snipe, red-winged blackbird, swamp sparrow, marsh wren)

Flooded > 5 cm ☐ Present ☐ Absent

Flooded > 25 cm (least bittern, common moorhen) ☐ Present ☐ Absent

Cattail emergent wetland vegetation at least seasonally flooded during the growing season

Flooded > 5 cm (marsh wren) ☐ Present ☐ Absent

Flooded > 25 cm (least bittern, common moorhen) ☐ Present ☐ Absent

Fine-leaved emergent vegetation (grasses and sedges) at least seasonally flooded during the growing season (common snipe, spotted sandpiper, sedge wren)

Flooded > 5 cm ☐ Present ☐ Absent

Flooded > 25 cm (least bittern, common moorhen) ☐ Present ☐ Absent

#### IV. Landscape Context

A. **Habitat Continuity** (if present, describe the landscape context on a separate sheet and its importance for area-sensitive species)

- |   |                     |                              |                             |
|---|---------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Is the impact area part of an emergent marsh at least | 1.0 acre in size?   | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| (marsh and waterbirds)                                | 2.0 acres in size?  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
|   | 5.0 acres in size?  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
|   | 10.0 acres in size? | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

<sup>1</sup> 1400 feet is the distance used by NHESP for evaluating potential disturbance impacts on eagle nests under MESA. Keep in mind, however, that this doesn't give jurisdiction within 1400' of an eagle's nest; it only identifies it on the checklist so that adverse effects can be avoided if work in a resource area is within 1400 feet.



# Wildlife Habitat Protection Guidance

## Appendix B: Detailed Wildlife Habitat Evaluation

### Part 2. Field Data Form (continued)

Is the impact area part of a wetland complex at least	2.5 acres in size?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
(turtles, frogs, waterfowl, mammals)	5.0 acres in size?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	10.0 acres in size?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	25.0 acres in size?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

For upland resource areas is the impact area part of contiguous forested habitat at least

(forest interior nesting birds)	50 acres in size?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	100 acres in size?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	250 acres in size?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
	500 acres in size?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
(grassland nesting birds)	> 1.0 acre in size?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
(special habitat such as gallery floodplain forest, alder thicket, etc.)	> 1.0 acre in size?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

#### B. Connectivity with adjoining natural habitats

- ☐ No direct connections to adjacent areas of wildlife habitat (little connectivity function)
- ☐ Connectors numerous or impact area is embedded in a large area of natural habitat (limited connectivity function)
- ☐ Impact area contributes to a limited number of connectors to adjacent areas of habitat (somewhat important for connectivity function)
- ☐ Impact area serves as *part of* a sole connector to adjacent areas of habitat (important for connectivity function)
- ☐ Impact area serves as *only* connector to adjacent areas of habitat (very important for connectivity function)

#### V. Habitat Degradation (describe degradation and wildlife impacts on the back of the sheet)

- ☐ Evidence of significant chemical contamination
- ☐ Evidence of significant levels of dumping
- ☐ Evidence of significant erosion or sedimentation problems
- ☐ Significant invasion of exotic plants (e.g., purple loosestrife, *Phragmites*, glossy buckthorn)
- ☐ Disturbance from roads or highways ☐ Other human disturbance
- ☐ Is the site the only resource area in the vicinity of an otherwise developed area

Note: These are not the only important habitat features that may be observed on a site. If the wildlife specialist identifies other features they should be noted in the application.



# Wildlife Habitat Protection Guidance

## Appendix B: Detailed Wildlife Habitat Evaluation

### Part 2. Field Data Form (continued)

#### VI. Quantification Table for Important Habitat Characteristics

Habitat Characteristic	Amount Impacted in Impact Area	Current (entire site)	Post-Construction (entire site)
Example: standing dead trees 6-12" dbh	4	12	8



**Attachment C - Revised NBML Track Stormwater Report**  
**-Bound Separately**



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Attachment D - Revised Whales Tooth Station  
Stormwater Report - Bound Separately



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