

EPD Director's Office

2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
Suite 1456, East Tower
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
404-656-4713

Mr. Eric Duff, State Environmental Administrator Aug 03, 2023
Georgia Department of Transportation
Office of Environmental Services
600 W. Peachtree Street, NW, 16th Floor
Atlanta, Georgia 30308
Attention: Amelia Mahfood

Re: Request for Variance under Provisions O.C.G.A. 12-7-6(b)(17)
GDOT Project - PI # 0013738
SR 25 at Whiteoak Creek, 5 Miles North of Woodbine
Camden County

Dear Mr. Duff:

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has reviewed your buffer variance application for the above-referenced project. The review was conducted to consider the potential impacts of the proposed project's encroachment on buffers to State waters within the context of the Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Act. This review, and the variance granted herein, is limited to only the request(s) in the buffer variance application for permission to conduct land-disturbing activities within 25-foot buffer along coastal marshlands as measured horizontally from the coastal marshland-upland interface in accordance with the Coastal Marshlands Protection Act.

Pursuant to Ga. Comp. R. and Regs. 391-3-7-.11(2)(a) & (h) and subject to the conditions and contingencies described further below, authorization is hereby granted to encroach within the 25-foot buffer adjacent to State waters as delineated in your application, dated June 6, 2023. ***Buffer impacts authorized by this variance must be completed within five years of the date of this approval letter. If the approved buffer impacts cannot be completed prior to the expiration date, a time extension request must be submitted to EPD in writing at least 90 calendar days prior to the expiration date and must demonstrate justifiable cause for the extension.***

Authorization for the above-referenced project is subject to the following conditions and contingencies:

- 1) All graded slopes 3:1 or greater within the buffer encroachment areas must be hydroseeded and covered with Georgia DOT approved wood fiber matting or coconut fiber matting. If not hydroseeded, Georgia DOT approved matting that has been incorporated with seed and fertilizer must be used. All slopes must be properly protected until a permanent vegetative stand is established;
- 2) The amount of land cleared during construction must be kept to a minimum;

- 3) All disturbed areas must be seeded, fertilized and mulched as soon as the final grade is achieved. Also, these disturbed areas must be protected until permanent vegetation is established;
- 4) Georgia DOT type "C" silt fence or an approved high performance silt fence must be installed on the site perimeter wherever the stormwater may be discharged, and a double row must be installed between the land disturbing activities and State waters where appropriate; and
- 5) The applicant must purchase 0.8 saltwater marsh mitigation credits from within the same 12-digit HUC as the buffer impacts and the sales receipt verifying the credit purchase shall be forwarded to the EPD by return receipt certified mail (or similar service) or delivery receipt email by the applicant to document buffer mitigation compliance at least 14 days prior to any land disturbance on site. Proof of delivery and receipt is the applicant's responsibility.

The granting of this approval does not relieve you of any obligation or responsibility for complying with the provisions of any other law or regulations of any federal, local or additional State authority, nor does it obligate any of the aforementioned to permit this project if they do not concur with its concept of development/control. If you have questions concerning this letter, please contact Josh Hanselman, Erosion and Sedimentation Control Unit, Nonpoint Source Program, at (470) 524-0599.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David B. Dove", written in a cursive style.

David B. Dove
Interim Director

DBD;jh

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cc: Bianca Wilson, GDOT Project Manager
Keisha Jackson, GDOT Environmental Analyst
Daryl Williams, GDOT ECB
Lisa Westberry, GDOT Special Projects Coordinator/Mitigation
GDOT Environmental Inbox
EPD-GDOT Inbox
GDOT IOEQ
Sunshine Beba, GDOT Environmental Program Manager
Sara Carey Smith, Edwards-Pitman Consultant
Collin Lane, Edwards-Pitman Ecology Group Manager
Beth Stevenson, EPD Coastal District (Brunswick)
Robert Amos, GSWCC
Tim Barrett, Region 6 Fisheries
Ben Casey, Camden County Commission Chairman