



**Jeffrey W. Cown, Director**

**EPD Director's Office**  
2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive  
Suite 1456, East Tower  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334  
404-656-4713

Oct 16, 2025

Ms. Amber Phillips, State Environmental Administrator  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
Office of Environmental Services  
600 W. Peachtree Street, NW, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Atlanta, Georgia 30308  
**Attention: Alex Terry**

Re: Request for Variance under the Provisions of O.C.G.A. § 12-7-6(b)(17)  
GDOT Project - PI # 0019219  
SR 404 Spur at Talmadge Memorial Bridge  
Chatham County

Dear Ms. Phillips:

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-.05(2)(a) 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 August 11, 2025. ***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; and
- 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.

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 Jacob Kelley, Erosion and Sedimentation Control Unit, Nonpoint Source Program, at (470) 531-2938.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey W. Cown  
Director

JWC: jk

CMV-025-25-01

cc: Trevor Brown, GDOT Project Manager  
Suncica Beba, GDOT Environmental Program  
Manager Elliott Robertson, GDOT Env Analyst  
Daryl Williams, GDOT ECB  
Lisa Westberry, GDOT Mitigation  
EPD-GDOT Inbox  
GDOT IOEQ  
GDOT Environmental Inbox  
Robert (Bobby) Dollar, GDOT Environmental Program Manager  
Quinn Hiers, Ecologist, Edwards-Pitman  
Collin Lane, Ecologist Group Leader, Edwards-Pitman  
Beth Stevenson, EPD Coastal District (Brunswick)  
Robert Amos, GSWCC  
Tim Barrett, Region 6 Fisheries  
Chester Ellis Thrift, Chatham County Commission Chairman