Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Protection Division
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Suite 1456, Atlanta, Georgia 30334
Judson H. Turner, Director
(404) 656-4713

JAN 2 0 2016

Ms. Hiral Patel
Georgia Department of Transportation
Office of Environmental Services
One Georgia Center
600 W. Peachtree Street, NW, 16th Floor
Atlanta, Georgia 30308
Attention: Doug Chamblin

Re: Request for Variance under Provisions of O.C.G.A. 12-7-6(b)(15)
GDOT Project
PI 0010413
Bridge Replacement on SR 43/US 378 over Soap Creek
Lincoln County
File: BV-090-15-02

Dear Ms. Patel:

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division's Watershed Protection Branch has reviewed your stream buffer variance application for the subject project. The review was conducted to consider the potential impacts of the proposed project's encroachment on State waters within the context of the Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Act and General Permits for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction Activities. This review, and the variance granted herein, is limited to only the request(s) in the stream buffer variance application for permission to conduct land-disturbing activities within 25-foot areas located immediately adjacent to the banks of State waters where vegetation has been wrested by normal stream flow or wave action. To the extent there is a request in the buffer variance application to conduct land-disturbing activities within 25-foot areas located immediately adjacent to State waters where there is no vegetation that has been wrested by normal stream flow or wave action, such request has not been considered, and is not included as a part of the variance granted herein.

Pursuant to DNR Rule 391-3-7.05(2)(h), authorization is hereby granted to encroach within the 25-foot buffer adjacent to State waters as delineated in your application dated September 28, 2015. ***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 must be requested in writing at least 90 calendar days prior to the expiration date with justifiable cause demonstrated.***

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

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; and

5) The applicant must purchase 1,035 stream mitigation credits from a mitigation bank that is within the same primary and secondary service area as the buffer impacts at least 14 days prior to any land disturbance on site. The sales receipt verifying the credit purchase shall be forwarded to EPD by return receipt certified mail (or similar service) by the applicant to document buffer mitigation compliance.

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 William Smith, Erosion and Sedimentation Control Unit, NonPoint Source Program, at (404) 651-8553.

Sincerely,

Judson H. Turner
Director

JHT:wfs

cc: Chris Covington – GDOT
Honorable H. Wade Johnson – Chairman of Lincoln County Board of Commissioners
Steve Schleiger – Wildlife Resources Division, Region 2 Fisheries Management
Robert Amos – Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission, Region 2
Don McCarty – EPD Northeast District – Athens

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