



**U.S. Army Corps  
of Engineers**

Baltimore District  
PN-24-14

# Public Notice

**In Reply to Application Number  
NAB-2022-61194-M30 (Piney Point Lighthouse/Living  
Shoreline)**

Comment Period: April 29, 2024 to May 29, 2024

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**THE PURPOSE OF THIS PUBLIC NOTICE IS TO INFORM INTERESTED PARTIES OF THE PROPOSED ACTIVITY AND TO SOLICIT COMMENTS. NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE AS TO WHETHER OR NOT A PERMIT WILL BE ISSUED AT THIS TIME.**

This District has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (33 USC 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344), as described below:

## **APPLICANT:**

St. Mary's County Department of Public Works and Transportation  
44825 St. Andrews Church Road  
California, Maryland 20619

## **WATERWAY AND LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED WORK:**

The proposed project is located in the Potomac River, at 44720 Lighthouse Rd, Piney Point, St Mary's County, Maryland. (38.1349°N; -76.529208°W)

## **OVERALL PROJECT PURPOSE:**

To establish/enhance habitat, to provide shoreline erosion protection, to provide protection from sea level rise, and to provide resiliency to climate change along the shoreline at the Piney Point Lighthouse and beach.

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

To construct a living shoreline project including a series of breakwaters measuring 30-foot wide by 180-foot long breakwater; 30-foot wide by 160-foot long breakwater, 24-foot wide by 110-foot long breakwater, 30-foot wide by 100-foot long stone spur to extend no more than 143 feet channelward of the approximate mean high water shoreline and to backfill with approximately 9,320 cubic yards of clean sloped sand and to create approximately 15,841 square feet of new *Spartina patens* marsh. Please refer to the table below for a summary of aquatic resource impacts.

**EFFECTS ON AQUATIC RESOURCES:**

Activity (i.e. culvert)	River Impact (sq.ft.)	River Impact (lf)	Authority (Section 10/404/408)
Breakwaters	15,630	570	10/404
Sand fill	57,070	1,100	10/404
Marsh Creation	15,841	1,100	10/404

**LEAD FEDERAL AGENCY:**

The United States Army Corps of Engineers, as the lead federal agency, is responsible for all coordination pursuant to applicable federal authorities.

**APPLICANT'S PROPOSED AVOIDANCE, MINIMIZATION, AND COMPENSATORY MITIGATION:**

As part of the planning process for the proposed project, steps were taken to ensure avoidance and minimization of impacts to aquatic resources to the maximum extent practicable based on the existing site conditions.

The applicant considered several alternative designs to meet the project goals of providing long term protection of the property from sea level rise and resiliency to climate change, using nature-based restoration techniques, and creating/enhancing habitat while also avoiding and minimizing impacts to the Potomac River. Alternative designs considered include creating a narrow living shoreline design with low profile sills and creating a living shoreline with one long headland structure and sand/cobble fill. The proposed living shoreline design described above provides shoreline erosion protection, protection from sea level rise and resiliency to climate change, while also using nature-based techniques and minimizing impacts to the Potomac River to the maximum extent practicable.

No compensatory mitigation is proposed. No wetlands or submerged aquatic vegetation would be permanently impacted as a result of the proposed project. The proposed project upon completion would result in a net gain of approximately 15,841 sf of intertidal marsh.

**CORPS EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS:**

This project will be evaluated pursuant to Corps Regulatory Program Regulations (33 CFR Parts 320-332). The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts of the proposed

activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonable may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economic, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, and consideration of property ownership and in general, the needs and welfare of the people. The evaluation of the impact of this project will also include application of the Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, United States Environmental Protection Agency.

#### **ENDANGERED SPECIES:**

A preliminary review of this application indicates that the proposed work is not likely to adversely affect federally listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat, pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, as amended. As the evaluation of this application continues, additional information may become available which could modify this preliminary determination.

#### **ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT:**

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA), as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996 (Public Law 04-267), requires all federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), including species of concern, life cycle habitat, or Habitat Areas of Particular Concern. The project site lies in or adjacent to EFH as described under MSFCMA for managed species under the MSFCMA. The Baltimore District has made a preliminary determination that the project will not have a substantial adverse effect on EFH. The Baltimore District has made a preliminary determination that mitigative measures are not required to minimize adverse effects on EFH at this time. This determination may be modified if additional information indicates otherwise.

#### **HISTORIC RESOURCES:**

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and applicable guidance, the Corps has reviewed the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places and initially determined that registered properties listed as eligible for

inclusion, therein, are located at the site of the proposed work. The Corps has made the preliminary determination that the proposed project would have no effect on historic properties. The Corps final eligibility and effect determination will be based on coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office as appropriate and required, and with full consideration given to the proposed undertaking's potential direct and indirect effects on historic properties within the Corps' identified permit area.

#### **TRIBAL RESOURCES:**

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act also requires federal agencies to consult with federally recognized American Indian tribes that attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties that may be affected by the agency's undertaking. Corps Tribal Consultation Policy mandates an open, timely, meaningful, collaborative, and effective deliberative communication process that emphasizes trust, respect, and shared responsibility. The policy further emphasizes that, to the extent practicable and permitted by law, consultation works toward mutual consensus and begins at the earliest planning stages before decisions are made and actions taken. The Corps final eligibility and effect determination will be based on coordination with interested tribes, in accordance with the Corps current tribal standard operating procedures as appropriate and required, and with full consideration given to the proposed undertaking's potential direct and indirect effects on tribal resources.

#### **MODIFICATION OF CIVIL WORKS PROJECTS: 33 USC 408 (SECTION 408):**

All Section 408 proposals will be coordinated internally at the United States Army Corps of Engineers. The Section 408 decision will be issued along with the Section 404 and/or Section 10 decision. Please see the following link for more information regarding Section 408: <https://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Section-408-Requests/>.

#### **WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION:**

The applicant is required to obtain a water quality certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act.

#### **COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS:**

Where applicable, the applicant has certified in this application that the proposed activity complies with and will be conducted in a manner consistent with the approved Coastal Zone Management Program. By this public notice, we are requesting the state concurrence or objection to the applicant's consistency statement.



The applicant must obtain any state or local government permits which may be required.

### **SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS:**

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments provided will become part of the public record for this action and are subject to release to the public through the Freedom of Information Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Written comments concerning the work described above related to the factors listed above or other pertinent factors must be received by the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District within the comment period specified above through postal mail at the address below or electronic submission to the project manager email address below. Written comments should reference the Application Number NAB-2022-61194-M30.

### **PUBLIC HEARING REQUESTS:**

Any person who has an interest which may be adversely affected by the issuance of this permit may request a public hearing. The request, which must be in writing, must be received within the comment period as specified above to receive consideration. Also, it must clearly set forth the interest which may be adversely affected by this activity and the manner in which the interest may be adversely affected. The public hearing request may be submitted by electronic mail or mailed to the following address:

Erica Schmidt  
[erica.schmidt@usace.army.mil](mailto:erica.schmidt@usace.army.mil)  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District  
Regulatory Branch  
2 Hopkins Plaza  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

It is requested that you communicate this information concerning the proposed work to any persons known by you to be interested, who did not receive a copy of this notice.

General information regarding the Corps' permitting process can be found on our website at <https://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx>. This public notice has been prepared in accordance with Corps implementing regulations at 33 CFR 325.3. If you have any questions concerning this specific project or would like to request a paper copy of this public notice, please contact Ms. Erica Schmidt at 410-962-6029 or [erica.Schmidt@usace.army.mil](mailto:erica.Schmidt@usace.army.mil) . This public notice is issued by the Chief, Regulatory Branch.



**COASTLINE DESIGN, P.C.**

  
 P.O. BOX 157  
 ACHILLES, VIRGINIA 23001  
 (757) 288-9062

**ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:**

1. DOUGLAS & MELANIE MCGINNES
2. SUNOCO LLC

**DATUM:** MEAN LOW WATER

**Piney Point Lighthouse Living Shoreline Project  
 LOCATION MAP**

**AT:** LIGHTHOUSE ROAD  
 ON THE POTOMAC RIVER

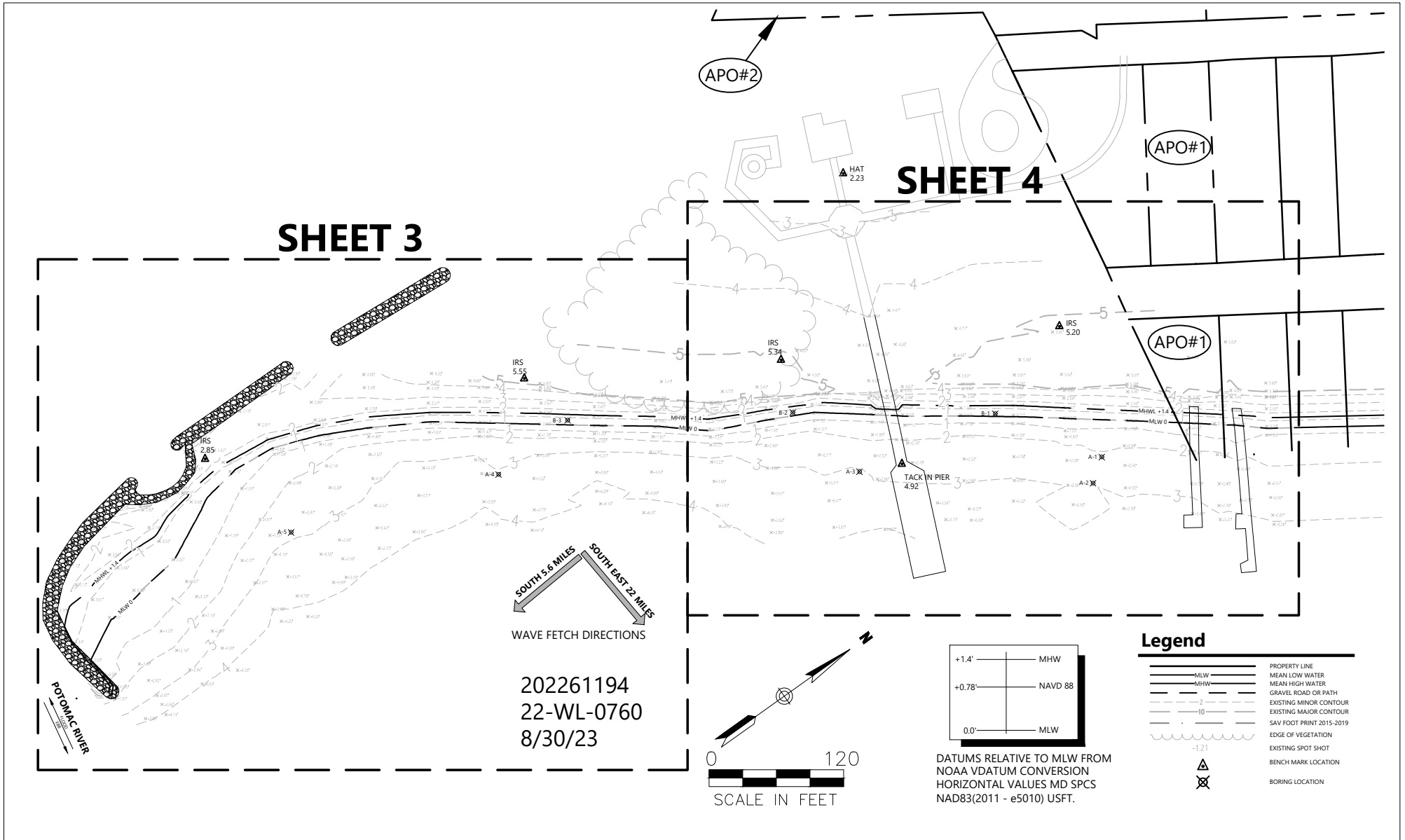
**IN:** ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

**PURPOSE:** LIVING SHORELINE AND  
 BEACH RESTORATION

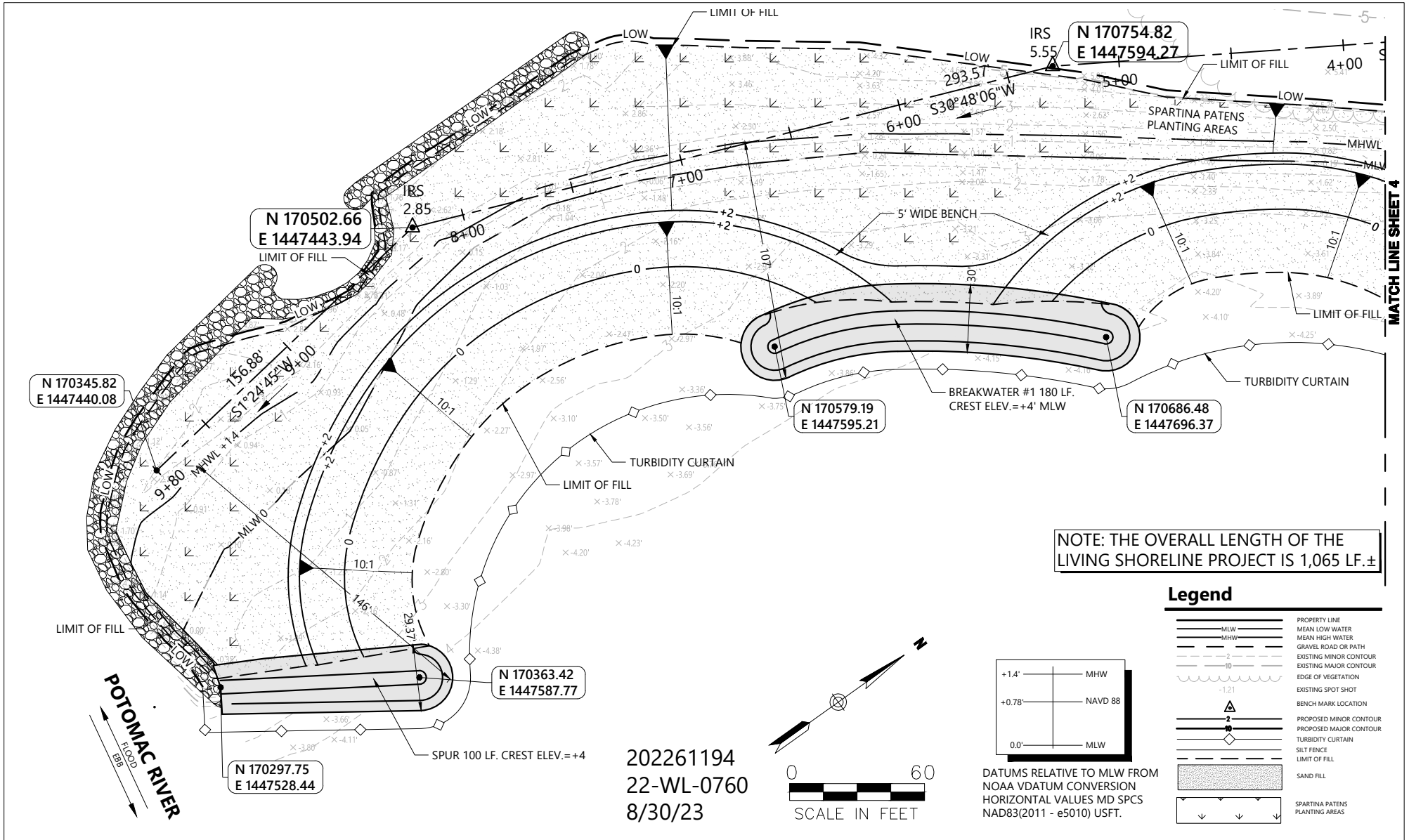
**APPLICATION BY:**  
 ST. MARYS DEPARTMENT OF  
 RECREATION & PARKS

**DATE:** AUGUST, 2023

**SHEET 1 OF 5**



<p><b>COASTLINE DESIGN, P.C.</b></p> <p>P.O. BOX 157 ACHILLES, VIRGINIA 23001 (757) 288-9062</p>	<p><b>ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. DOUGLAS &amp; MELANIE MCGINNES</li> <li>2. SUNOCO LLC</li> </ol> <p><b>DATUM: MEAN LOW WATER</b></p>	<p><b>Piney Point Lighthouse Living Shoreline Project</b></p> <p><b>EXISTING CONDITIONS &amp; SHEET LAYOUT</b></p> <p><b>AT: LIGHTHOUSE ROAD ON THE POTOMAC RIVER</b></p> <p><b>IN: ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND</b></p> <p><b>PURPOSE: LIVING SHORELINE AND BEACH RESTORATION</b></p>	<p><b>APPLICATION BY:</b></p> <p><b>St. MARYS DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION &amp; PARKS</b></p> <p><b>DATE: AUGUST, 2023</b></p> <p><b>SHEET 2 OF 5</b></p>
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NOTE: THE OVERALL LENGTH OF THE LIVING SHORELINE PROJECT IS 1,065 LF.±

Legend	
	PROPERTY LINE
	MEAN LOW WATER
	MEAN HIGH WATER
	GRAVEL ROAD OR PATH
	EXISTING MINOR CONTOUR
	EXISTING MAJOR CONTOUR
	EDGE OF VEGETATION
	EXISTING SPOT SHOT
	BENCH MARK LOCATION
	PROPOSED MINOR CONTOUR
	PROPOSED MAJOR CONTOUR
	TURBIDITY CURTAIN
	SILT FENCE
	LIMIT OF FILL
	SAND FILL
	SPARTINA PATENS PLANTING AREAS

**COASTLINE DESIGN, P.C.**  
  
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 2. SUNOCO LLC  
**DATUM:** MEAN LOW WATER

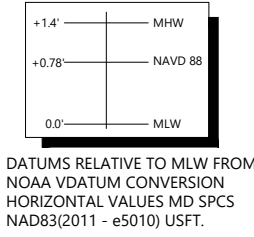
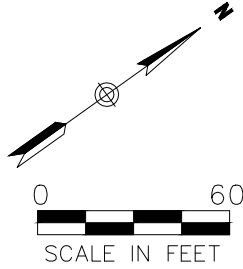
**Piney Point Lighthouse Living Shoreline Project**  
**PROPOSED SHORELINE LAYOUT**

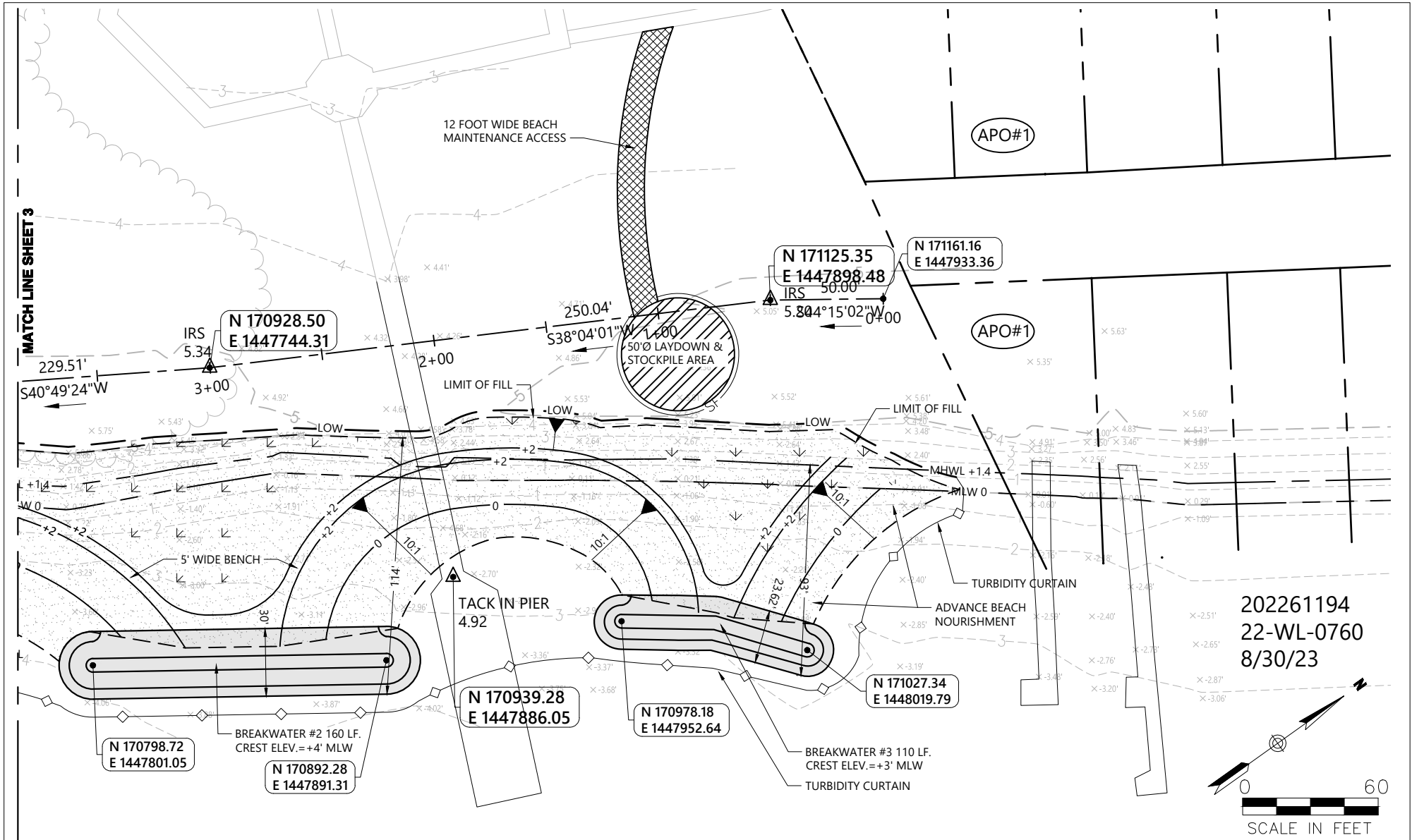
**AT: LIGHTHOUSE ROAD ON THE POTOMAC RIVER**  
**IN: ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND**

**PURPOSE: LIVING SHORELINE AND BEACH RESTORATION**

**APPLICATION BY:**  
**St. MARYS DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION & PARKS**  
**REVISED: October 6, 2022**  
**DATE: AUGUST, 2023**  
**SHEET 3 OF 5**

202261194  
 22-WL-0760  
 8/30/23





202261194  
22-WL-0760  
8/30/23

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(757) 288-9062

**ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:**

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**DATUM:** MEAN LOW WATER

**Piney Point Lighthouse Living Shoreline Project  
PROPOSED SHORELINE LAYOUT**

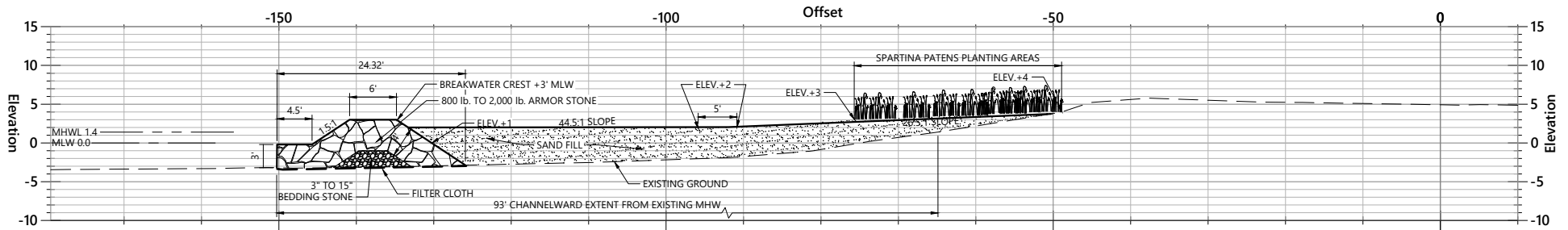
**AT:** LIGHTHOUSE ROAD  
ON THE POTOMAC RIVER  
**IN:** ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

**PURPOSE:** LIVING SHORELINE AND  
BEACH RESTORATION

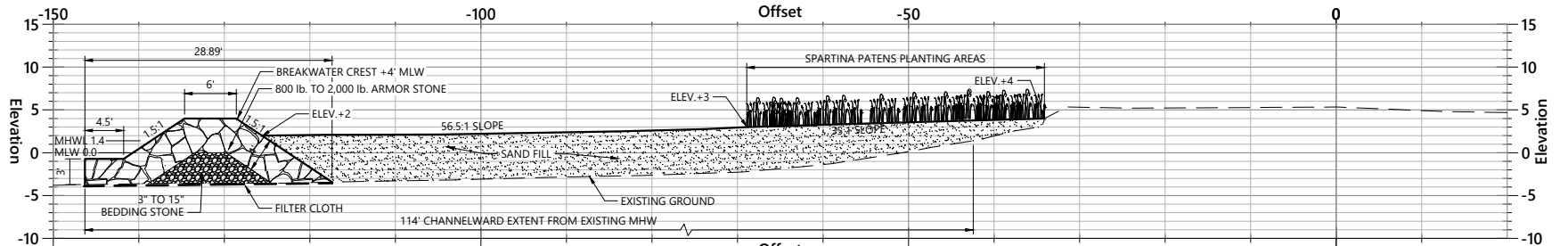
**APPLICATION BY:**  
ST. MARYS DEPARTMENT OF  
RECREATION & PARKS

**REVISED:** JUNE 4, 2023  
**DATE:** AUGUST, 2023

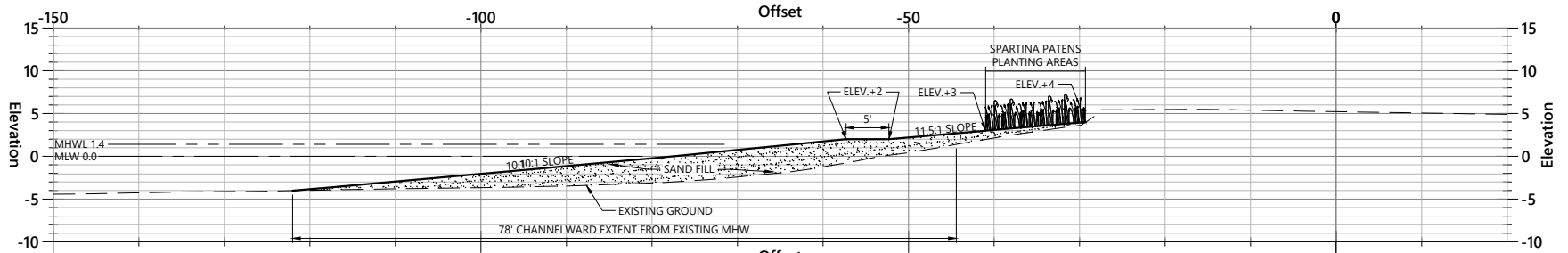
**SHEET 4 OF 5**



**1+00 TYPICAL BREAKWATER FLANK**



**3+00 TYPICAL BREAKWATER TOMBOLO**



**4+00 TYPICAL BAY BEACH**



202261194  
22-WL-0760  
8/30/23

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**ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNERS:**

- DOUGLAS & MELANIE MCGINNES
- SUNOCO LLC

**DATUM: MEAN LOW WATER**

**Piney Point Lighthouse Living Shoreline Project  
SHORELINE TYPICAL SECTIONS**

**AT: LIGHTHOUSE ROAD  
ON THE POTOMAC RIVER  
IN: ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND**

**PURPOSE: LIVING SHORELINE AND  
BEACH RESTORATION**

**APPLICATION BY:  
ST. MARYS DEPARTMENT OF  
RECREATION & PARKS**

**REVISED: JUNE 4, 2023  
DATE: AUGUST, 2023**

**SHEET 5 OF 5**