

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

Public Notice

In Reply to Application Number
CENAB-OP-RMS 2013-00122 (JOINT BASE ANDREWS-TAXIWAY
SIERRA REPLACEMENT)

PN 13-10

Comment Period: February 14, 2013 to March 15, 2013

THE PURPOSE OF THIS PUBLIC NOTICE IS TO SOLICIT COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE WORK DESCRIBED BELOW. AT THIS TIME, NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE AS TO WHETHER OR NOT A PERMIT WILL BE ISSUED.

The Baltimore District has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), as described below:

APPLICANT: Mr. Steve Richards, Chief of Natural & Cultural Resources
Joint Base Andrews
3466 North Carolina Street
Andrews AFB, Maryland 20762

LOCATION: In nontidal wetlands adjacent to the Piscataway Creek at Taxiway Sierra on Joint Base Andrews, Prince George's County, Maryland.

WORK: To remove the existing deteriorated taxiway and to construct a replacement taxiway with enhanced shoulders permanently impacting approximately 10,369.77 square feet (0.24 acres) and temporarily impacting approximately 15,370.80 square feet (0.35 acres) of emergent nontidal wetlands for grading and to improve drainage. All work is to be completed in accordance with the proposed plan(s). If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Ms. Erica Schmidt at (410) 962-6029 or Erica.Schmidt@usace.army.mil.

Site layout for this project was based upon the existing alignment of the taxiway. The applicant is required to upgrade the taxiway to comply with the current Air Force criteria for modified heavy load aircraft and designed for Type A traffic.

As part of the planning process for the proposed project, steps were taken to ensure avoidance and minimization of impacts to wetland resources to the maximum extent practicable. However, due to specific safety, operational, and engineering requirements, it was determined that the proposed project would result in unavoidable impacts to wetland resources. The applicant proposes to mitigate for the permanent impacts by creating approximately 0.36 acres of emergent nontidal wetlands adjacent to Zekiah Swamp Run on the Hancock Property in LaPlata, Charles County, Maryland.

The purpose of the project is to provide increased safety by meeting the current modified heavy load requirement for the taxiway.

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 (NMFS) on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency that may adversely affect essential fish habitat (EFH). The project site does not lie in or adjacent to EFH as described under the MSFCMA.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact 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 reasonably 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, economics, 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, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

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 are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

The applicant is required to obtain a water quality certification in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act from the Maryland Department of the Environment. Any written comments concerning the work described above which relate to water quality certification must be received by the Wetlands and Waterways Program, Maryland Department of the Environment, 1800 Washington Blvd. Suite 430, Baltimore, Maryland 21230 within the comment period as specified above to receive consideration. Written comments concerning the work described above related to the factors listed above or other pertinent factors must be received by the District Engineer, US Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, PO Box 1715, Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1715, within the comment period as specified above to receive consideration. The 401 certifying agency has a statutory limit of one year to make its decision.

The applicant has certified in this application that the proposed activity complies with and will be conducted in a manner consistent with the Maryland Coastal Zone Program. This certification statement is available for inspection in the District Office; however, public comments relating to consistency must be received by the Coastal Zone Division, Maryland Department of the Environment, 1800 Washington Blvd. Suite 430, Baltimore, Maryland 21230, within the comment period as specified above. It should be noted that CZ Division has a statutory limit of 6 months in which to make its consistency determination.

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

A preliminary review of this application indicates that the proposed work will not affect listed 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.

Review of the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places indicates that no registered properties listed as eligible for inclusion therein are located at the site of the proposed work. Currently unknown archeological, scientific, prehistoric, or historical data may be lost or destroyed by the work to be accomplished under the requested permit.

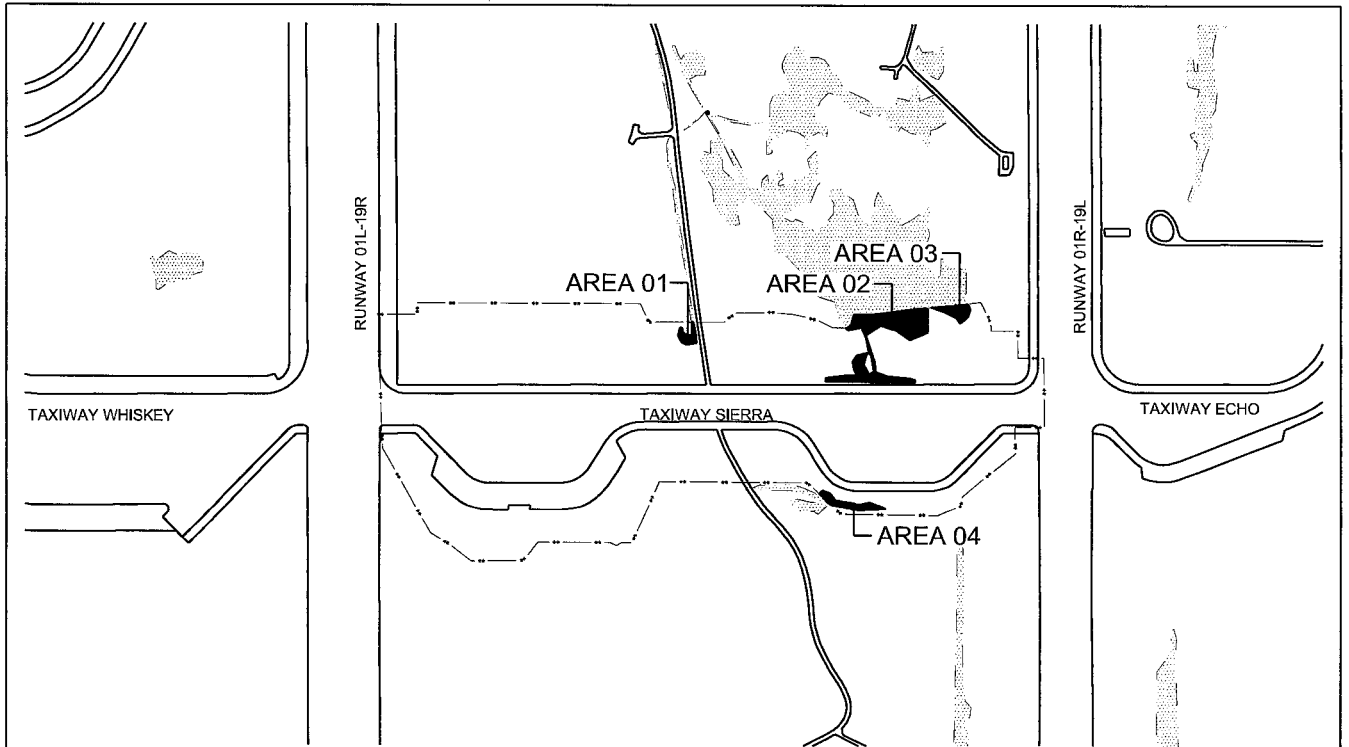
The evaluation of the impact of the work described above on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Any person who has an interest, which may be adversely affected by the issuance of this permit, may request a public hearing. The District Engineer must receive the request, which must be in writing, US Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District, PO Box 1715, Baltimore, Maryland 21203-1715, within the comment period as specified as above to receive consideration. Also, it must clearly state forth the interest that may be adversely affected by this activity in the manner in which the interest may be adversely affected.

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






FOR THE DISTRICT ENGINEER:

Kathy B. Anderson
Chief, Maryland Section Southern

Appendix F- Wetland Impacts



LEGEND:

-  EXISTING EDGE OF WETLAND (APPROX.)
-  PROPOSED LIMIT OF DISTURBANCE
-  TOTAL IMPACTED WETLAND AREAS
-  TEMPORARY IMPACTED WETLAND AREAS
-  PERMANENT IMPACTED WETLAND AREAS

JOINT BASE ANDREWS AFB									
REPLACEMENT OF TAXIWAY SIERRA									
IMPACTED WETLANDS AREAS									
AREA	TOTAL			TEMPORARY			PERMANENT		
	SQ. FT.	AC.		SQ. FT.	AC.		SQ. FT.	AC.	
1	1704.21	0.04	100.00%	242.75	0.01	14.24%	1461.46	0.03	85.76%
2	18355.02	0.42	100.00%	9997.68	0.23	54.47%	8357.34	0.19	45.53%
3	2692.89	0.06	100.00%	2692.89	0.06	100.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00%
4	2988.45	0.07	100.00%	2437.49	0.06	81.56%	550.96	0.01	18.44%
TOTAL	25740.57	0.59		15370.80	0.35		10369.77	0.24	

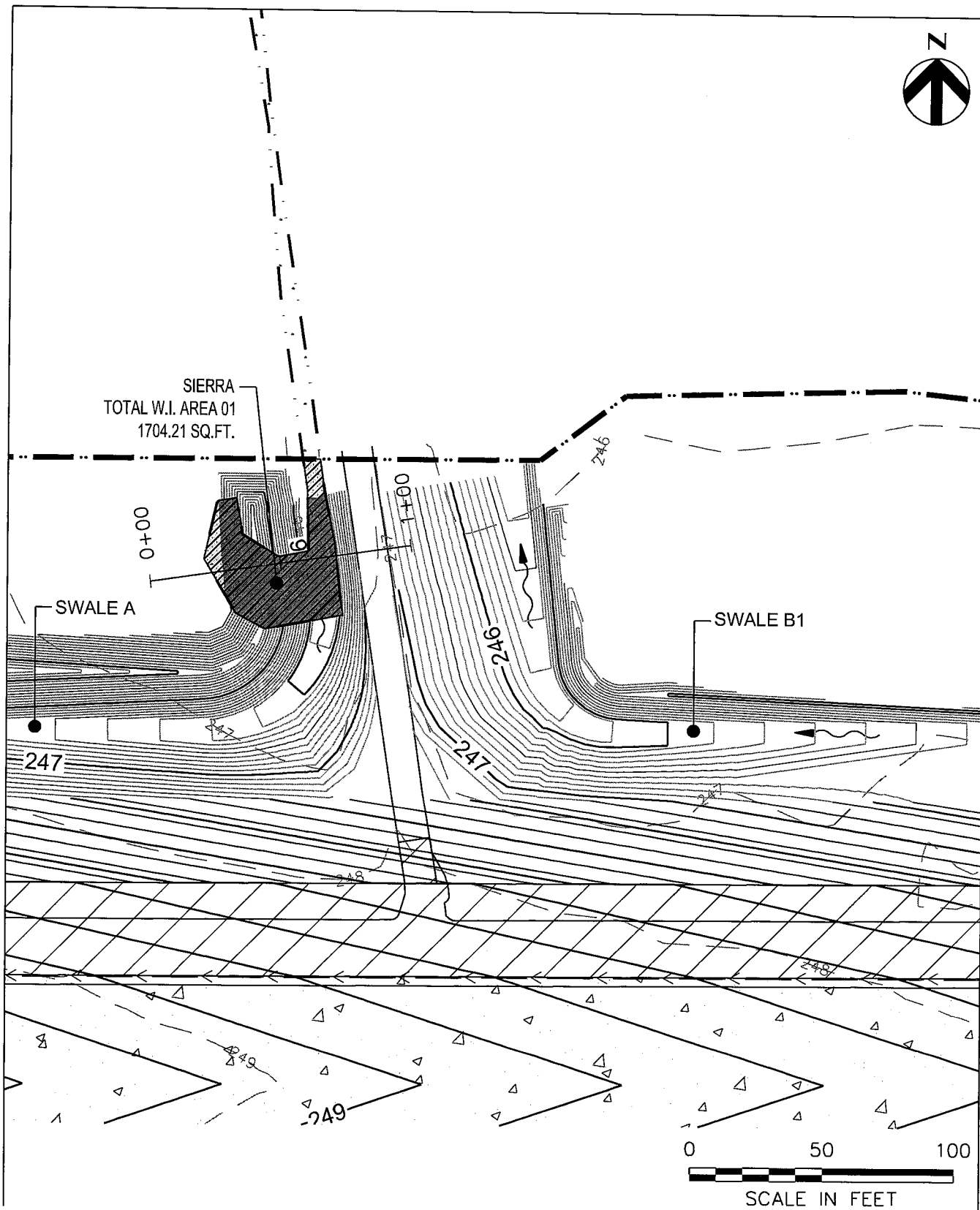


REPLACEMENT OF TAXIWAY SIERRA
AT JOINT BASE ANDREWS, MARYLAND

IMPACTED WETLAND KEY MAP, LEGEND & TABLE

DATE
JAN. 2013

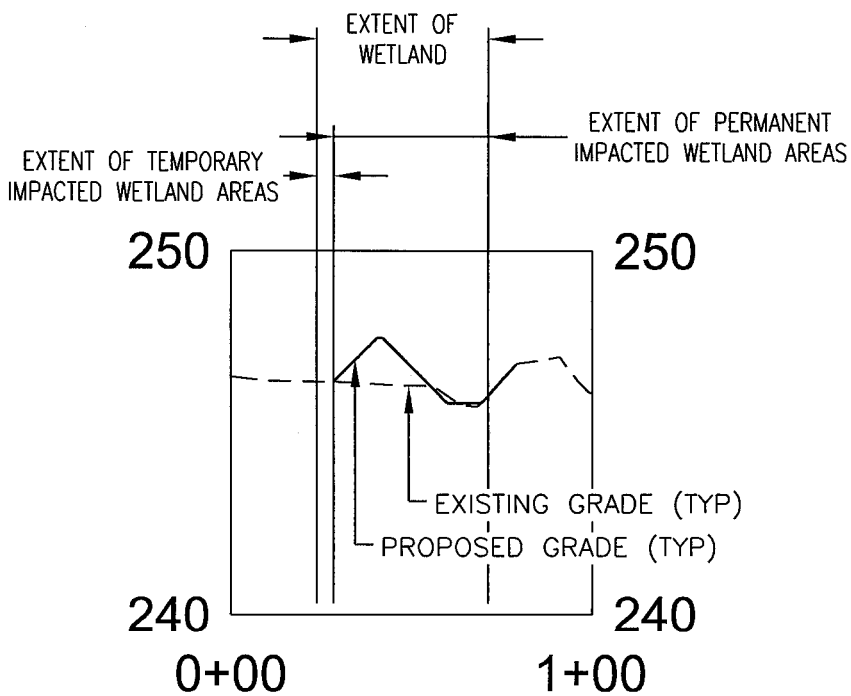
FIGURE
1



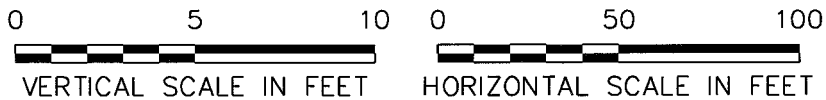
REPLACEMENT OF TAXIWAY SIERRA
AT JOINT BASE ANDREWS, MARYLAND

IMPACTED WETLAND AREA 01 - PLAN

DATE	JAN. 2013
FIGURE	2



WETLAND IMPACTED AREA 01
PROFILE

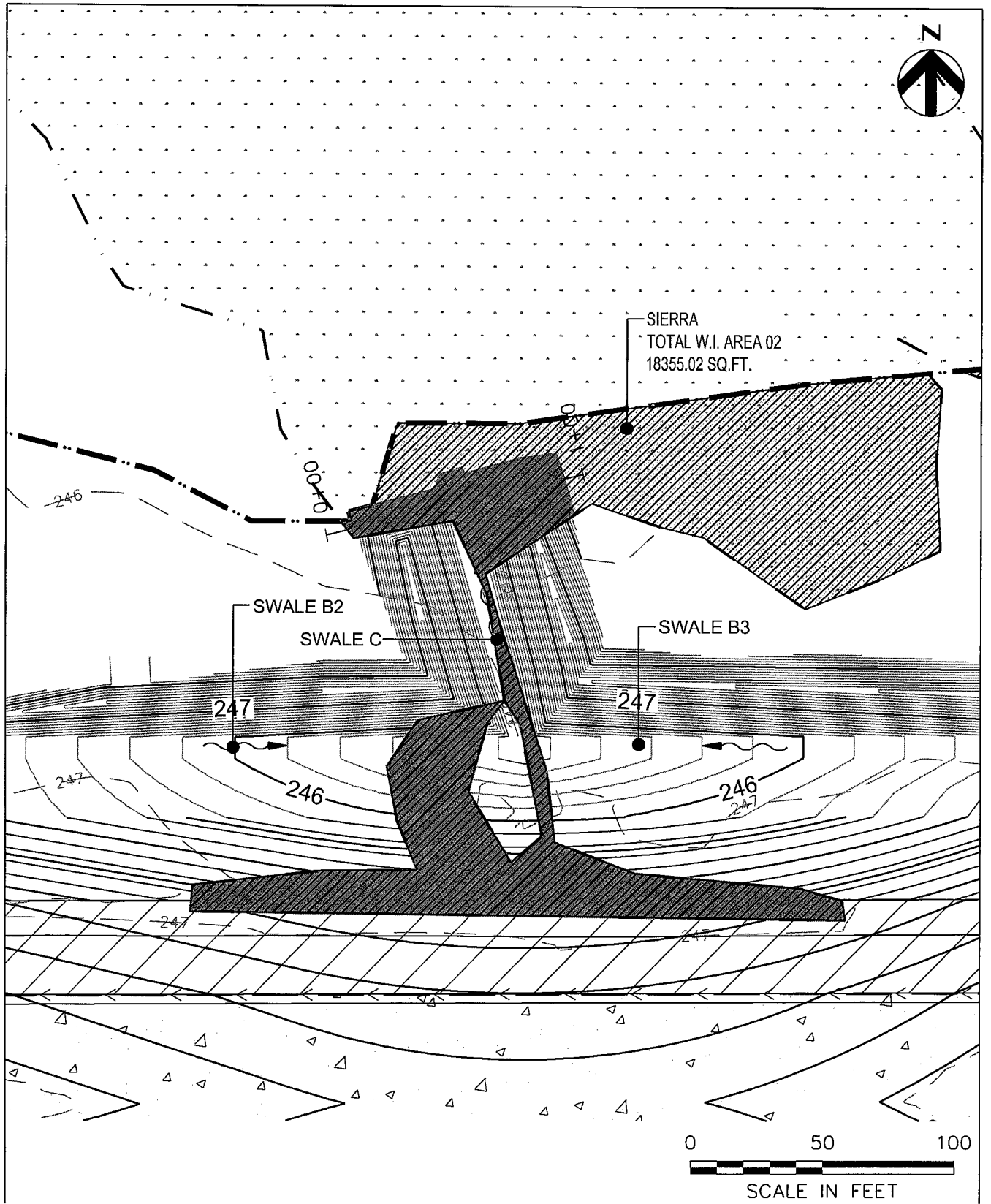


REPLACEMENT OF TAXIWAY SIERRA
AT JOINT BASE ANDREWS, MARYLAND

IMPACTED WETLAND AREA 01 – PROFILE

DATE
JAN. 2013

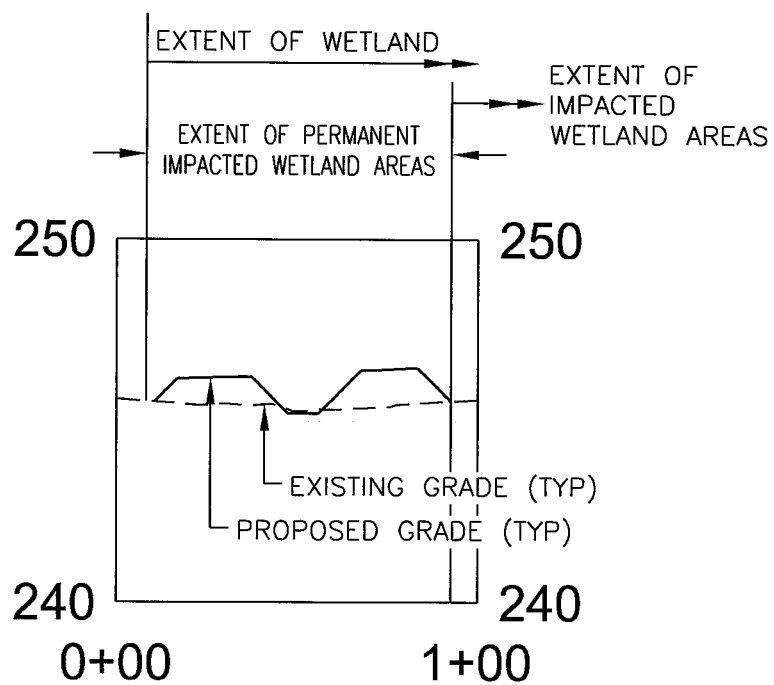
FIGURE
3



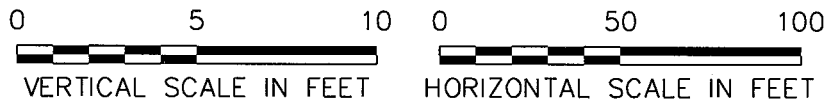
REPLACEMENT OF TAXIWAY SIERRA
AT JOINT BASE ANDREWS, MARYLAND

IMPACTED WETLAND AREA 02 – PLAN

DATE	JAN. 2013
FIGURE	4



WETLAND IMPACTED AREA 02
PROFILE



HDR

REPLACEMENT OF TAXIWAY SIERRA
 AT JOINT BASE ANDREWS, MARYLAND

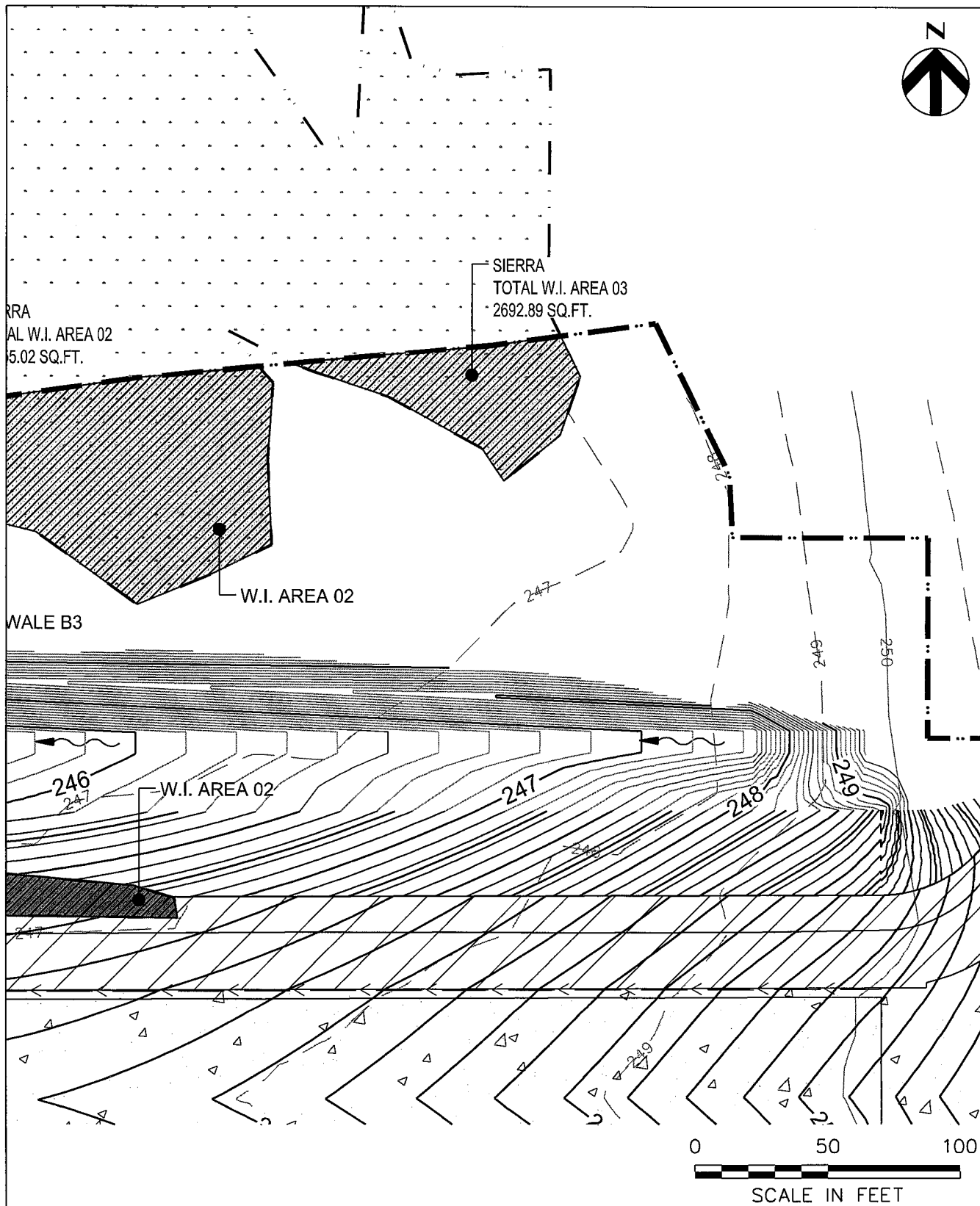
IMPACTED WETLAND AREA 02 – PROFILE

DATE

JAN. 2013

FIGURE

5



HDR

REPLACEMENT OF TAXIWAY SIERRA
AT JOINT BASE ANDREWS, MARYLAND

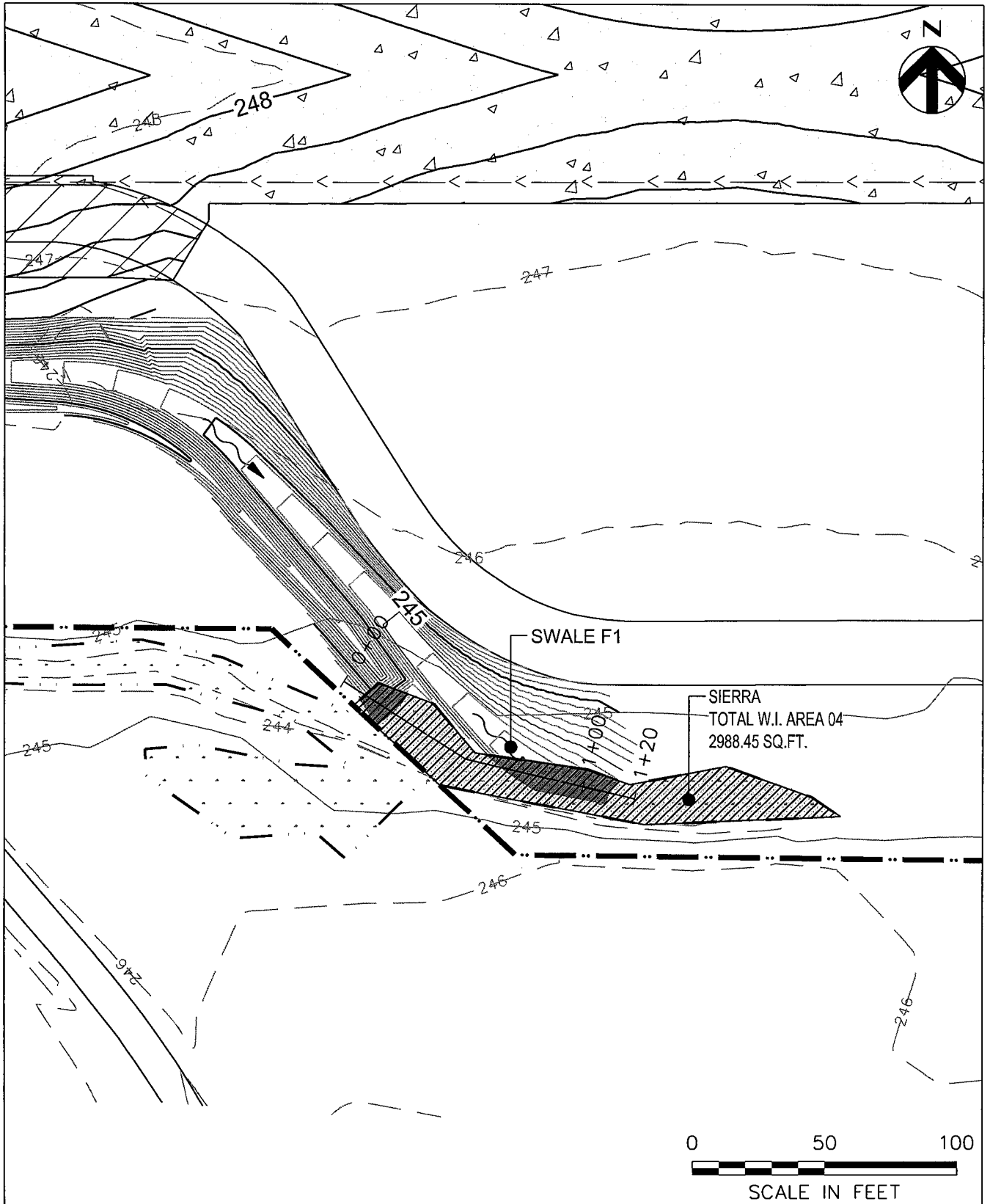
IMPACTED WETLAND AREA 03 - PLAN

DATE

JAN. 2013

FIGURE

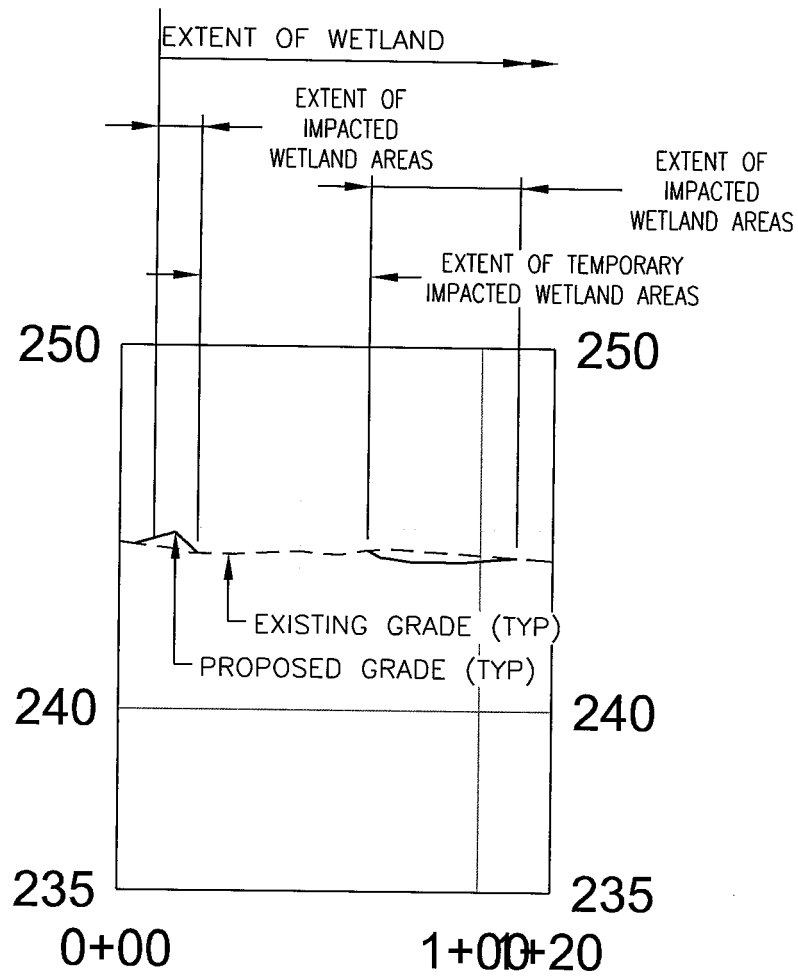
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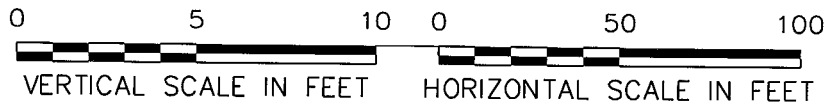
REPLACEMENT OF TAXIWAY SIERRA
 AT JOINT BASE ANDREWS, MARYLAND

IMPACTED WETLAND AREA 04 – PLAN

DATE	JAN. 2013
FIGURE	7



WETLAND IMPACTED AREA 04
PROFILE



REPLACEMENT OF TAXIWAY SIERRA
 AT JOINT BASE ANDREWS, MARYLAND

IMPACTED WETLAND AREA 04 - PROFILE

DATE
 JAN. 2013

FIGURE
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