



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
Philadelphia District

Wanamaker Building  
100 Penn Square East  
Philadelphia, PA 19107-3390  
ATTN: CENAP-OPR

# Public Notice

Public Notice No.	Date
<b>CENAP-OPR-2016-00439-46</b>	<b>NOVEMBER 24, 2020</b>

Application No.	File No.
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In Reply Refer to:  
**REGULATORY BRANCH**

This District has received an application for a Department of the Army permit pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403).

The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments and recommendations from the public concerning issuance of a Department of the Army permit for the work described below.

**APPLICANT:** City of Philadelphia and John Bartram Association

**CONTACT:** Ms. Jennifer Waters  
Urban Engineers, Inc.  
530 Walnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

**WATERWAY:** Schuylkill River

**LOCATION:** At the waterward terminus of 56<sup>th</sup> Street, City of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.

**ACTIVITY:** To construct a circular “FloatLab” floating educational structure within the Schuylkill River. The proposed project would consist of the installation of a partial landing platform and gangway that would lead out to the FloatLab ring (approximately 75 feet in diameter). The project would extend a minimum of 71 to 88 feet landward of the Federal Navigation Channel, would extend 130 feet waterward of the mean high water line, and would impact a total of 57 square feet through the discharge of approximately 78 cubic yards of fill within the river below the high tide line from pile and rip-rap placement.

The access deck/landing platform, an “L” shaped dock, would be 27’ x 10’ and 40’ x 12’ and would extend 45 feet waterward of the mean high water line. The structure would be constructed largely of steel and would be supported by nine concrete-filled, 16” diameter steel pipe piles. The piles would be driven by vibratory and impact hammer. A total of 10 square feet of waterway below the high tide line would be lost due to the placement of such concrete-filled piles. Prior to the placement of the 2 piles outside of the watercourse, existing rip-rap would be removed from above the high tide line along the bank, piles would then be driven, and 100 square feet (12 cubic yards) of rip-rap would then be replaced below the high tide line.

From the access deck/landing platform, a 65' long x 5' wide aluminum ramp would then extend to the 75' wide circular "FloatLab" structure. The structure would be tethered to five 36-inch diameter steel mooring piles by steel cable in a five-pointed star formation. The piles would be driven by rock socket method. A total of 35 square feet of waterway below the high tide line would be lost due to the placement of such concrete-filled piles.

The applicant has noted the following points. A waterline would be installed so that the platform, gangway and FloatLab ring can be cleaned, and a compost filter sock would be installed downslope of the waterline installation to protect wetlands that are located outside of the project area. A turbidity curtain would also be installed in the river and would temporarily impact approximately 0.55 acre (24,024 square feet) of open water around the project. Emergency egress lighting (1-foot candle) would be installed at handrail height on the FloatLab, dock, and gangway, which would generally shine light onto walking surfaces, rather than the river. Solar navigation lights would also be placed in the water around the dock. No lighting or sounds would be broadcasted into or near the river. Finally, the applicant has stated that the entire structure would stay in place throughout the year and is designed to withstand all weather events including the 100-year storm event.

**PURPOSE:** The applicant's stated purpose for the FloatLab is to highlight improvements of the water and not simply the waterfront and was designed for the purpose of educating and connecting the community to the Schuylkill River.

A preliminary review of this application indicates that species listed under the Endangered Species Act or their critical habitat pursuant to Section 7 of the ESA as amended, may be present in the action area. The ACOE will forward this PN to the US Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service with a request for technical assistance on whether any ESA listed species or their critical habitat maybe present in the area which would be affected by the proposed activity. The Philadelphia District will evaluate the potential effects of the proposed actions on ESA listed species or their critical habitat and will consult with US Fish and Wildlife Service and/or NOAA Fisheries as appropriate. ESA Section 7 consultation will be concluded prior to the final decision on this permit application.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the activity's probable impact including its cumulative impacts on the public interest. The decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the work must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the work 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, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs and welfare of the people. A Department of the Army permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

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.

Due to COVID-19, comments on the proposed work are encouraged to be submitted, by email, within 30 days to the District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District at [PhiladelphiaDistrictRegulatory@usace.army.mil](mailto:PhiladelphiaDistrictRegulatory@usace.army.mil). If it is necessary to provide a paper copy of your comments, they should be submitted by traditional mail within 30 days to: District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District, Wanamaker Building, 100 Penn Square East, Philadelphia Pennsylvania 19107-3390.

With regard to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, this office has noted that a historic properties investigation has been conducted within the permit area. Historic properties eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) are within the permit area but will not be affected by the proposed action. A determination of **“No Effect”** will be coordinated with the SHPO.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act 1996 (Public Law 104-267), 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 effect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). A preliminary review of this application indicates that, although the site is not designated as EFH, the project may have an effect on prey species of species of concern within EFH. The Philadelphia District will evaluate the potential effects of the proposed actions on EFH and will consult with NOAA Fisheries as appropriate. Consultation will be concluded prior to the final decision on this permit application.

With regard to compensatory mitigation, given the minor amount of fill below the high tide line for steel pile fill (approx. 145 square feet of aquatic resource loss), no compensatory mitigation is warranted.

In accordance with Section 307(c) of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, applicants for Federal Licenses or Permits to conduct an activity affecting land or water uses in a State's coastal zone must provide certification that the activity complies with the State's Coastal Zone Management Program. The applicant has stated that the proposed activity complies with and will be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the approved State Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Programs of Pennsylvania. No permit will be issued until the State has concurred with the applicant's certification or has waived its right to do so. Comments concerning the impact of the proposed and/or existing activity on the State's coastal zone should be sent to this office, with a copy to the States' Offices of Coastal Zone Management.

In accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, a Water Quality Certificate (WQC) is necessary from the State government in which the work is located. Any comments concerning the work described above which relate to Water Quality considerations should be sent to this office with a copy to the State.

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(b) of the Clean Water Act.

Due to COVID-19, any person may request, by email, to the District Engineer at the PhiladelphiaDistrictRegulatory@usace.army.mil, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. If it is necessary to provide a written request by traditional mail, such request should be submitted within the comment period specified in this notice to the District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District, Wanamaker Building, 100 Penn Square East, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107-3390.

Additional information concerning this permit application may be obtained by calling 215-605-7029, 215-656-6731, or by e-mailing Mr. David Caplan of my office at [David.J.Caplan@usace.army.mil](mailto:David.J.Caplan@usace.army.mil).

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Todd A. Schaible  
Chief, Regulatory Branch

## CS-1









1	06/23/20	ACOE UPDATES
2	06/23/20	PERMIT SUBMITTAL
NO.	DATE	REVISION

## CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS



Höweler+Yoon Architecture

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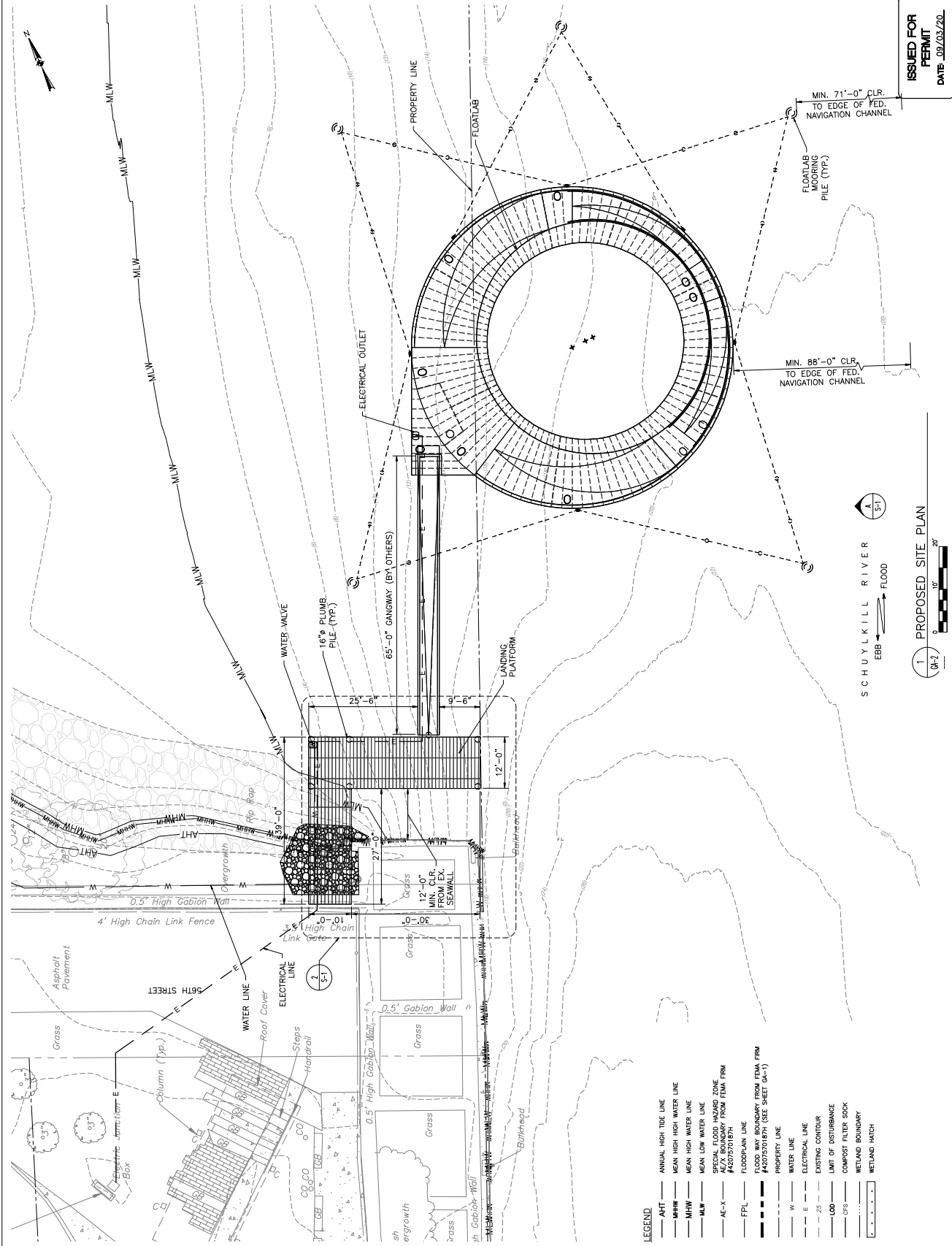
SCALE	PROJECT NUMBER
<b>AS SHOWN</b>	<b>1510</b>
DESIGNED BY	CHECKED BY
<b>FYC</b>	<b>PB/MGW</b>

FLOATLAB

5400 LINDBERGH BLVD  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19143

TITLE
PROPOSED SITE PLAN

DATE	SECTION	ACCOUNT NUMBER
09/03/20	GA	GA-2





GENERAL NOTES

NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION
1	09/03/20	ISSUED FOR PERMIT

CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS



ARCHITECT  
HOWLER+YOON ARCHITECTURE  
151 BUCKINGHAM STREET #8A  
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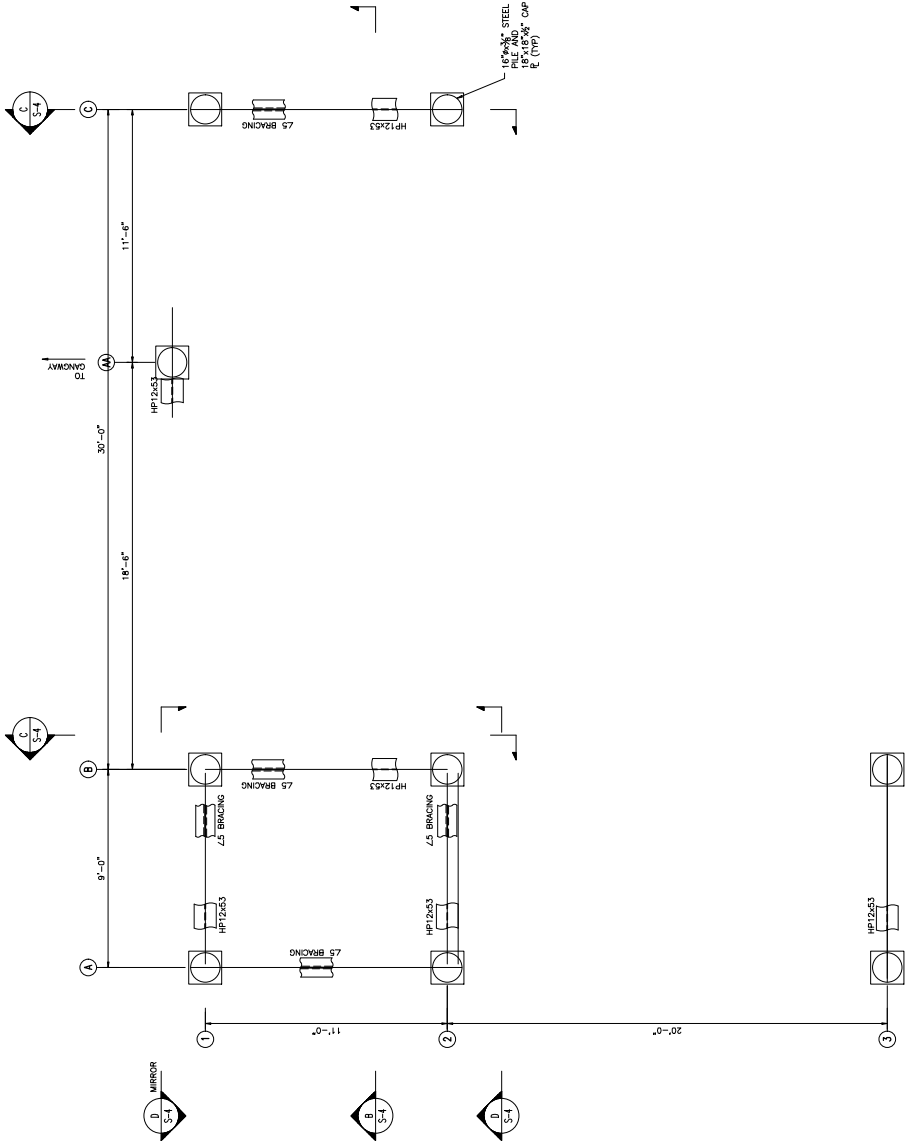
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AS SHOWN	1510
BY	PB/MGW

FLOATLAB  
5400 LINDERBERGH BLVD  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19143

PILE AND PILE CAP FRAMING PLAN

DATE	09/03/20	S	S-1
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NOTES:

1. FOR GENERAL NOTES, SEE DRAWINGS GH-1 & GH-2.

ISSUED FOR  
PERMIT  
DATE 09/03/20

PILE AND PILE CAP FRAMING PLAN



NO.	DATE	REVISION
1	06/03/02	ACQ UPDATER
2	06/25/02	FORM GUM FIELD

## CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS



**ARCHITECT**  
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STAMP

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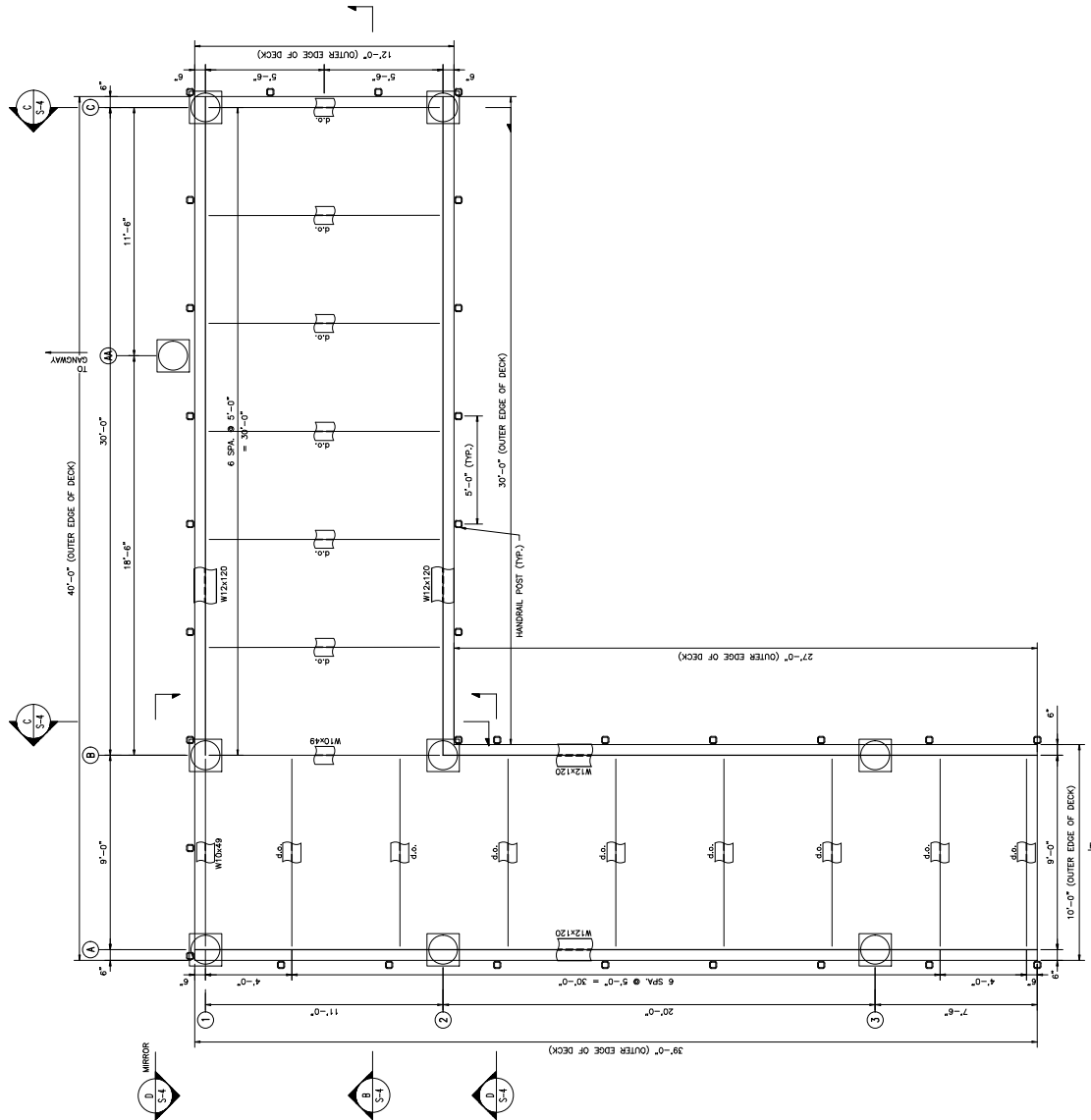
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<b>AS SHOWN</b>	<b>1510</b>
Drawn by	Checked by
<b>FYC</b>	<b>PB/MGW</b>
<small>         11/20/2014          11/20/2014       </small>	

**FLOATLAB**  
5400 LINDBERGH BLVD  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19143

1. FOR GENERAL NOTES, SEE DRAWINGS GN-1 & GN-2.

1. FOR GENERAL NOTES, SEE DRAWINGS GN-1 & GN-2.

DATE	SECTION	CHARGE NO NUMBER
09/03/20	S	S-2



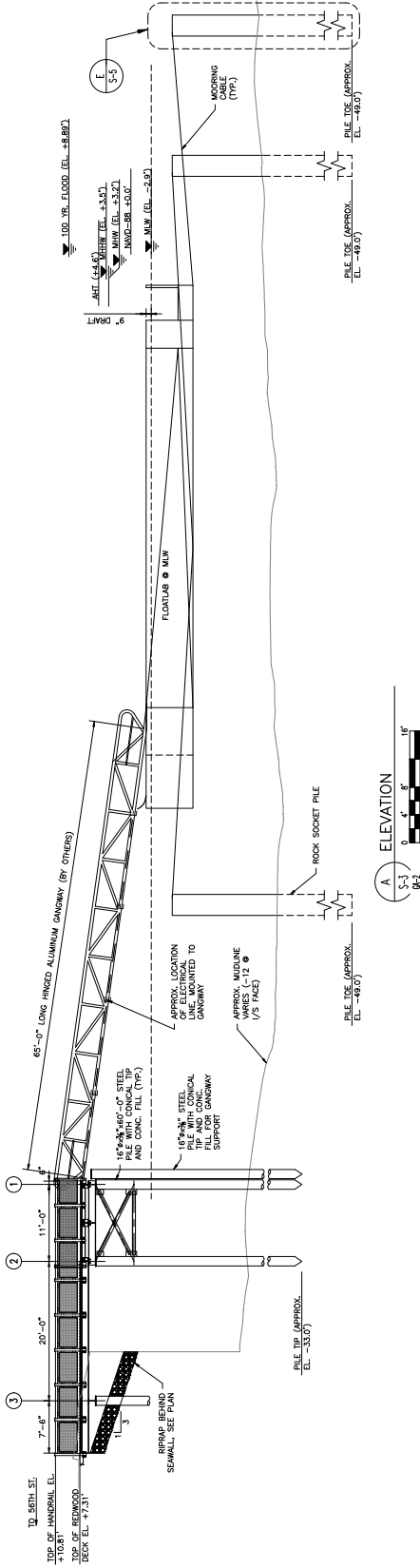
ISSUED FOR  
PERMIT  
DATE: 09/03/20

### 3 DECK FRAMING PLAN



GENERAL NOTES

TO 56TH ST.  
TOP OF MARSHAL EL.  
+10.81  
TOP OF REDWOOD  
DECK EL. +7.31



NOTES:

1. FOR GENERAL NOTES, SEE DRAWINGS GH-1 & GH-2.

ISSUED FOR  
PERMIT  
DATE 09/03/20

NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION
1	09/03/20	ISSUED FOR PERMIT

CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS



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09/03/20

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FYC	PB/MCW

FLOATLAB  
5400 LINDBERGH BLVD  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19143

ELEVATION AND SECTIONS PLAN

09/03/20	S	S-3
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GENERAL NOTES

NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION
1	08/03/20	ISSUED FOR PERMIT

CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS



ARCHITECT  
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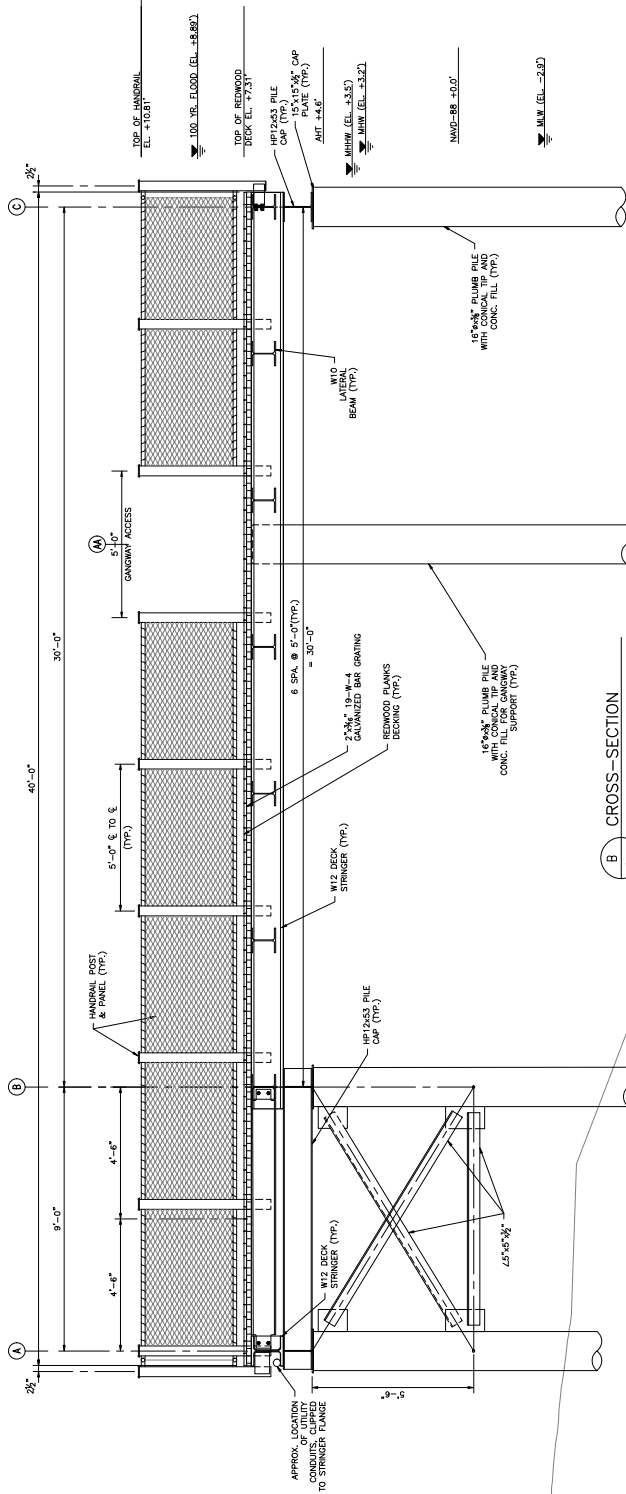
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BY	PB/MGW

FLOATLAB

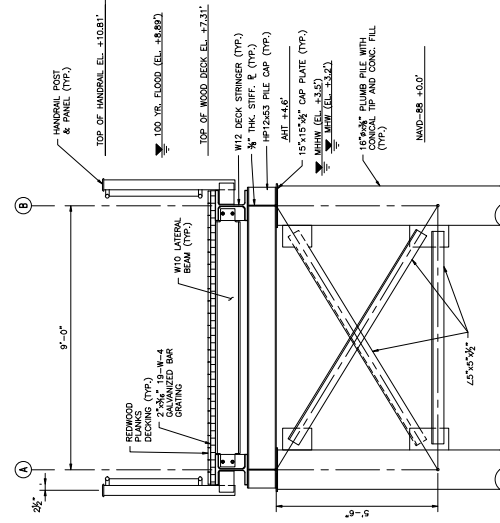
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SECTIONS AND DETAILS

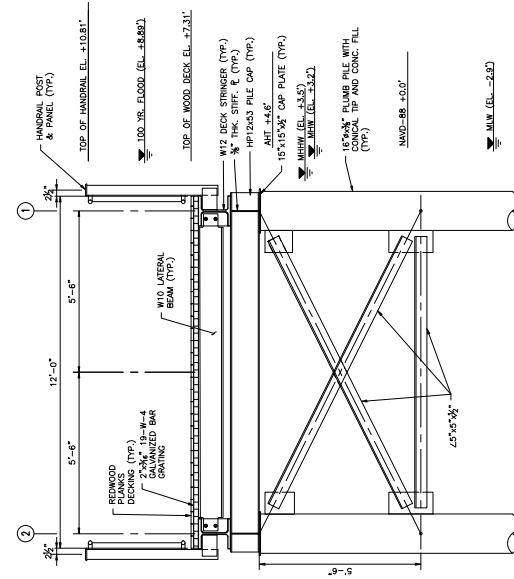
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B CROSS-SECTION  
S-4



D SECTION @ BENT 2  
S-4



C SECTION @ BENT B AND C  
S-4

NOTES:  
1. FOR GENERAL NOTES, SEE DRAWINGS OH-1 & OH-2.  
2. BREAK AWAY FROM POSTS UNDER FLOOD LOADING IN ACCORDANCE WITH ABCE 24.8.1.2.

ISSUED FOR  
PERMIT  
DATE: 09/03/20

GENERAL NOTES

NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION
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CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS



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DESIGN

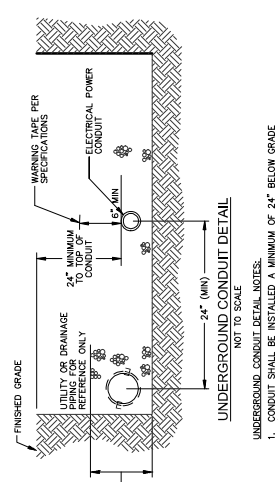
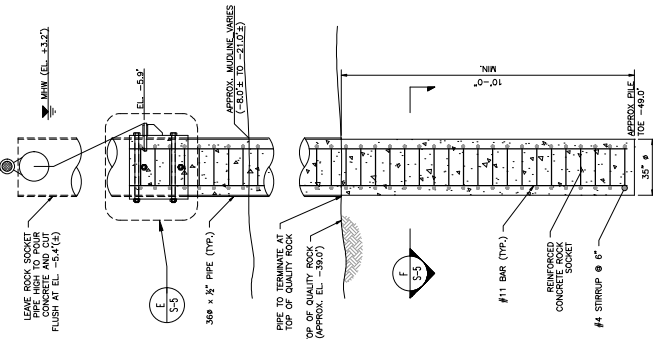
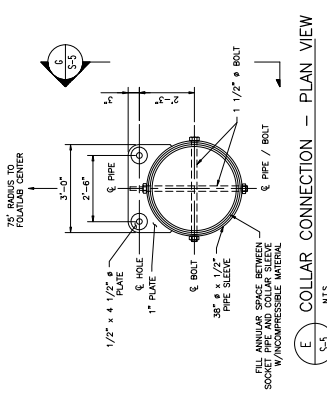
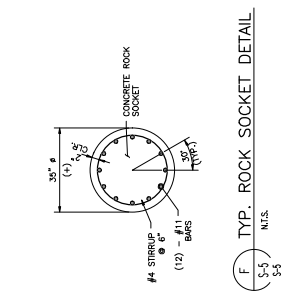
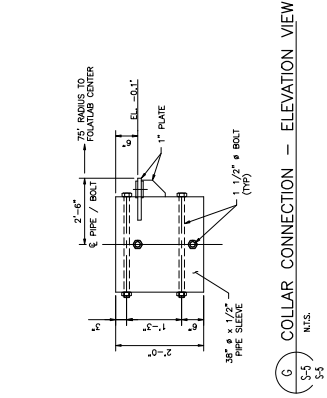
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FLOATLAB  
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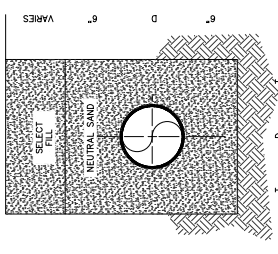
SECTIONS AND DETAILS

DATE	09/03/20	S	S-5
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TYPICAL WATER MAIN TRENCH	
D=NOMINAL DIA.	T
6\" DIA. AND LESS	6\"

COMPACTED SELECT GRANULAR MATERIAL FOR BACKFILL PER STANDARD ASTM D688 IN TRENCH.



- NOTES:
- FOR GENERAL NOTES, SEE DRAWINGS GN-1 & GN-2.
  - THE CONTRACTOR MAY POUR A 1 FT. CONCRETE SLAB IN THE BOTTOM OF THE ROCK SOCKET FOR USE IN CONSTRUCTION. IN THIS CASE, THE ROCK SOCKET MUST BE REINFORCED AT AN ADDITIONAL 1 FT INTO QUALITY ROCK.
  - INSTALL COLLAR SLEEVE AND BOLTS BEFORE POURING CONCRETE FOR THE ROCK SOCKET. THE ROCK SOCKET PIPE IN THE DRY, SO THAT THE PROPER FINISHED ELEVATIONS ARE ATTAINED.

ISSUED FOR PERMIT  
DATE: 09/03/20