

US Army Corps

Philadelphia District

Philadelphia, PA 19107-3390

of Engineers.

Wanamaker Building

ATTN: CENAP-OP-R

100 Penn Square East

Public Notice

Public Notice No. **NAP-2022-00377-86**

July 8, 2022

Date

Application No.

File No. NAP-2022-00377-86

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) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

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: Fawn McGee, NJDEP Blue Acres Program

AGENT: Steven Hafner, Stockton University Coastal Research Center

WATERWAY: Nantuxent Cove on the Delaware Bay

LOCATION: The project is located along the Delaware Bay shoreline in Nantuxent Cove between Nantuxent Creek and Cedar Creek adjacent to West Bay Point Road and Paris Road in Lawrence Township, Cumberland County, New Jersey. (39.294237, -75.249969)

ACTIVITY: NJDEP Blue Acres Program is proposing beach habitat restoration through several restoration methods. First the applicant proposes to remove old pilings, surface debris and rubble covering 4.49 acres of the existing shoreline, 2.38 acres of the removal is below the high tide line.

Next, the applicant proposed to place clean sand 3.8 acres along the shoreline, grading it as needed. 1.4 acres of this total is between Mean High Water (MHW) and Mean Low Water (MLW). The remaining 1.8 acres of sand will be placed below MLW. Sand placement will also be used to create a landward dune with toe dune fence and dune grass plantings, establishing 3 dune/beach access pathways.

Following the sand placement, the applicant proposes to install 6 nearshore submerged uniform rock breakwaters. The base of the breakwater unit will be set approximately 4-6 feet below MLW at elevation -6 to -9 feet NAVD88 with a crest elevation at approximately 2 feet NAVD88, below MHW. The crest width will be approximately 3 feet, base width

approximately 37.5 feet, and will be set on a 6-inch thick tensar filter mattress. The tensar filter mattress is approximately 44 feet wide for foundation stability and to allow for anticipated modest deformation of crest elevation under local wave climate. Units range 75-125 linear feet in length. Total fill impact for breakwater is 0.51 acres.

Then the applicant will install a series of 6 segmented rock sills, each 55 linear feet by 18 feet wide with a minimum 25-foot gap between units along an erosional degraded marsh edge at -2 feet NAVD88. Geofabric and grid foundation will be used for stabilization. A row of 24" diameter coir logs will be placed 25-50 feet landward of the sill to retain suspended sediments and flood the marsh at high tide, to help build back marsh elevation and help restore degraded marsh conditions. Total area of impacts for rock sills is 0.138 acres.

Lastly, the applicant proposes to replace an existing deteriorating concrete/timber cribbed wing wall located adjacent to a small tidal creek at the southeast end of the project area. To prevent failure of the existing degraded structure, a new extended steel sheet wing wall will be installed. Total area of impact for replacing the wing wall is 0.018 acres.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the project is to restore beach habitat at a severely eroded shoreline. Additionally, the project aims to improve conditions for spawning horseshoe crabs, foraging endangered Red Knots and other migratory shorebirds, and uplifting ecological production in the region. Lastly the project will improve local community and ecological resilience.

A preliminary review of this application indicates that species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) or their critical habitat pursuant to Section 7 of the ESA as amended, maybe present in the action area. The District will forward this PN to the US Fish and Wildlife Service or 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 District will evaluate the potential effects of the proposed actions on ESA listed species or their critical habitat and will consult with 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.

Comments on the proposed work should be submitted, in writing, within 30 days to the District Engineer, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Philadelphia District, Wanamaker Building, 100 Penn Square East, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107-3390.

The USACE Cultural Resource Specialist is currently reviewing the proposed permit action for potential impacts to Historic Properties eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A determination of effects will be coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office, the Tribes and other consulting parties.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requires all federal agencies to consult with the NOAA Fisheries all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). A preliminary review of this application indicates that EFH is present within the project area. The 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.

Compensatory mitigation is not required by this office because the proposed project does not change an aquatic area to dry land; does not cumulatively increase the bottom elevation of a waterbody; does not change the use of a waterbody; and does not result in the loss of water of the United States.

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) Program. 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 State's Office of Coastal Zone Management.

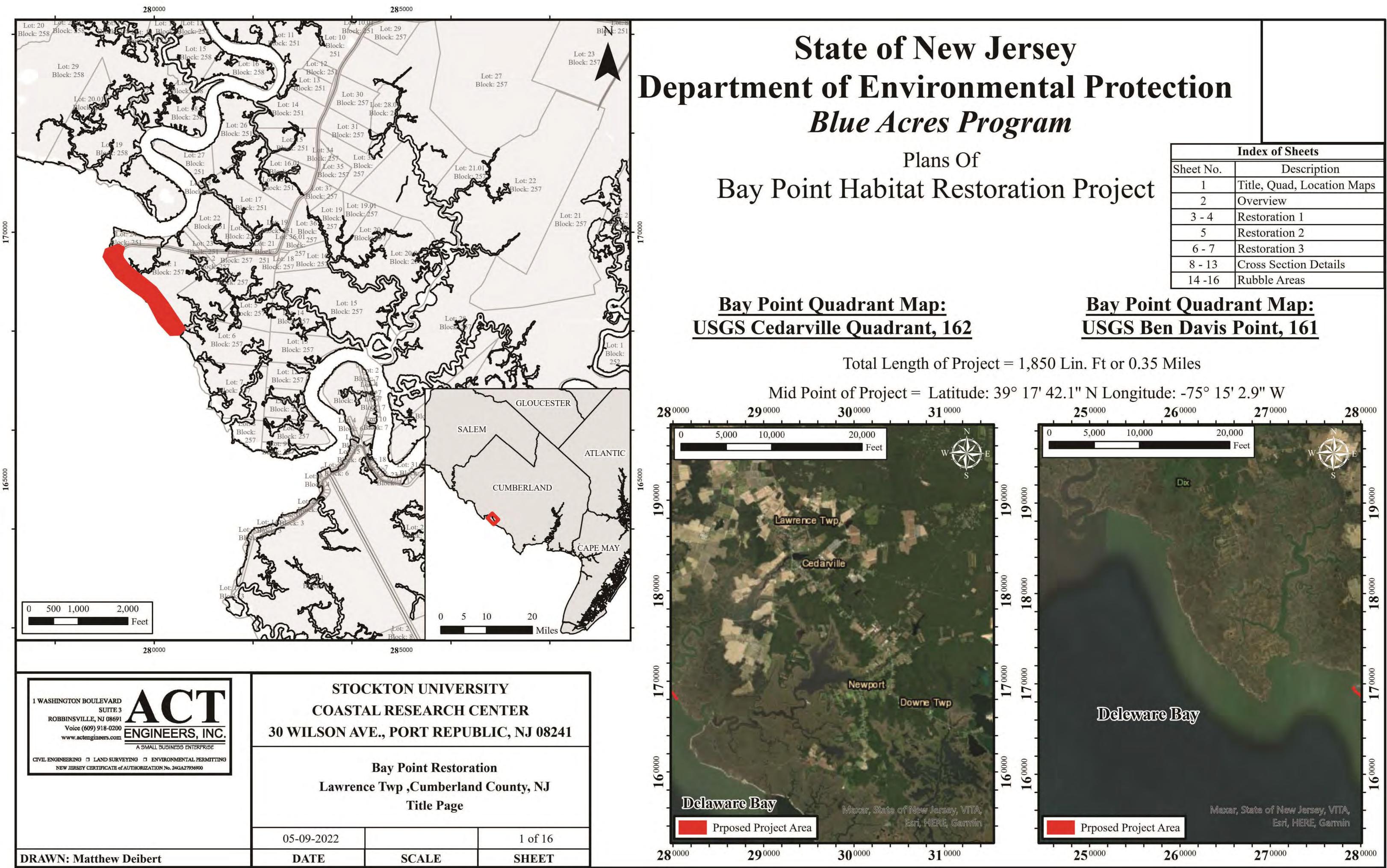
In accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, a Water Quality Certificate is necessary from the State government in which the work is located. Any comments concerning the work described above which relate to Water Quality considerations should be sent to this office with a copy to the State.

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.

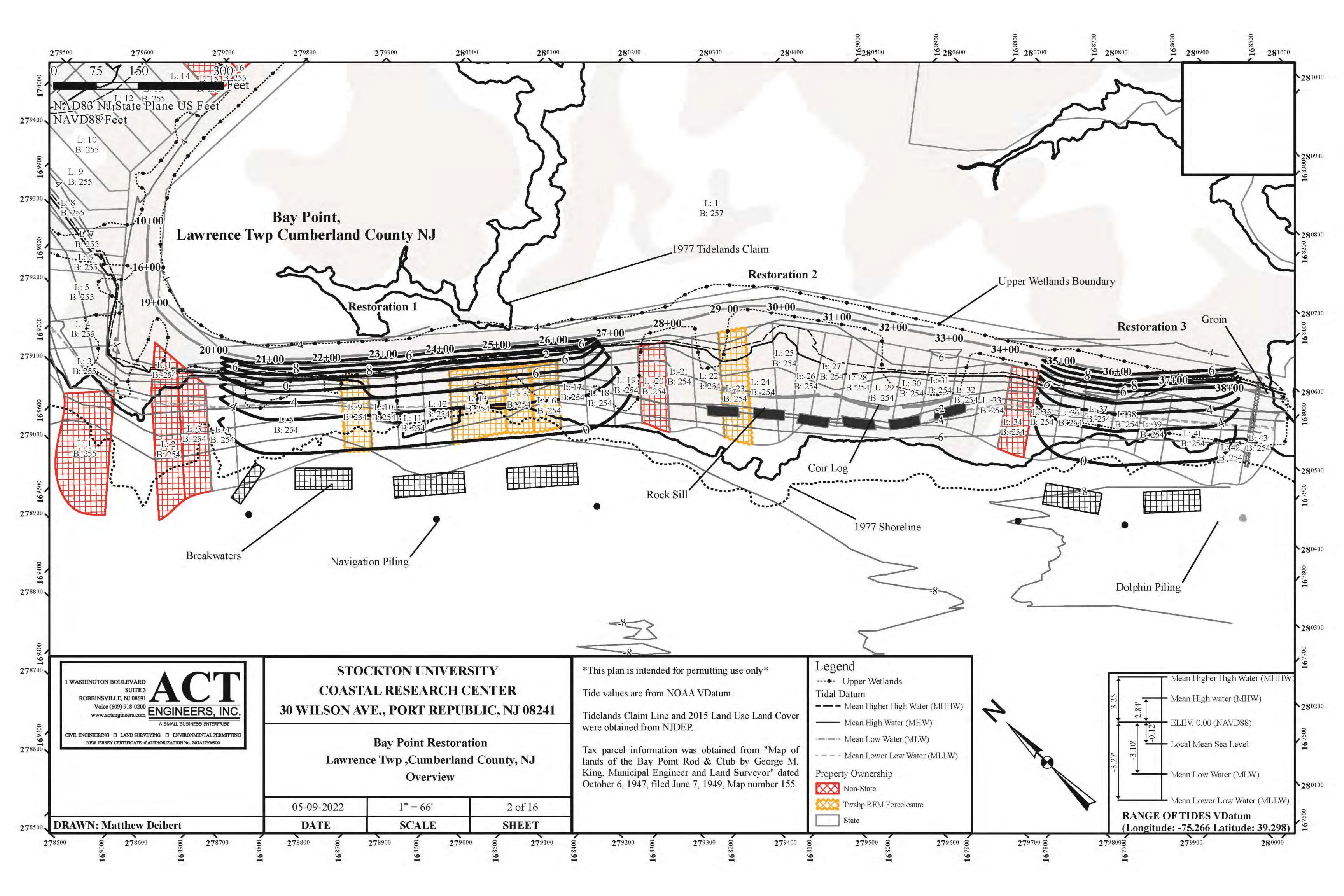
Any person may request, by email, to the District Engineer at the <u>PhiladelphiaDistrictRegulatory@usace.army.mil</u>, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reasons 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.

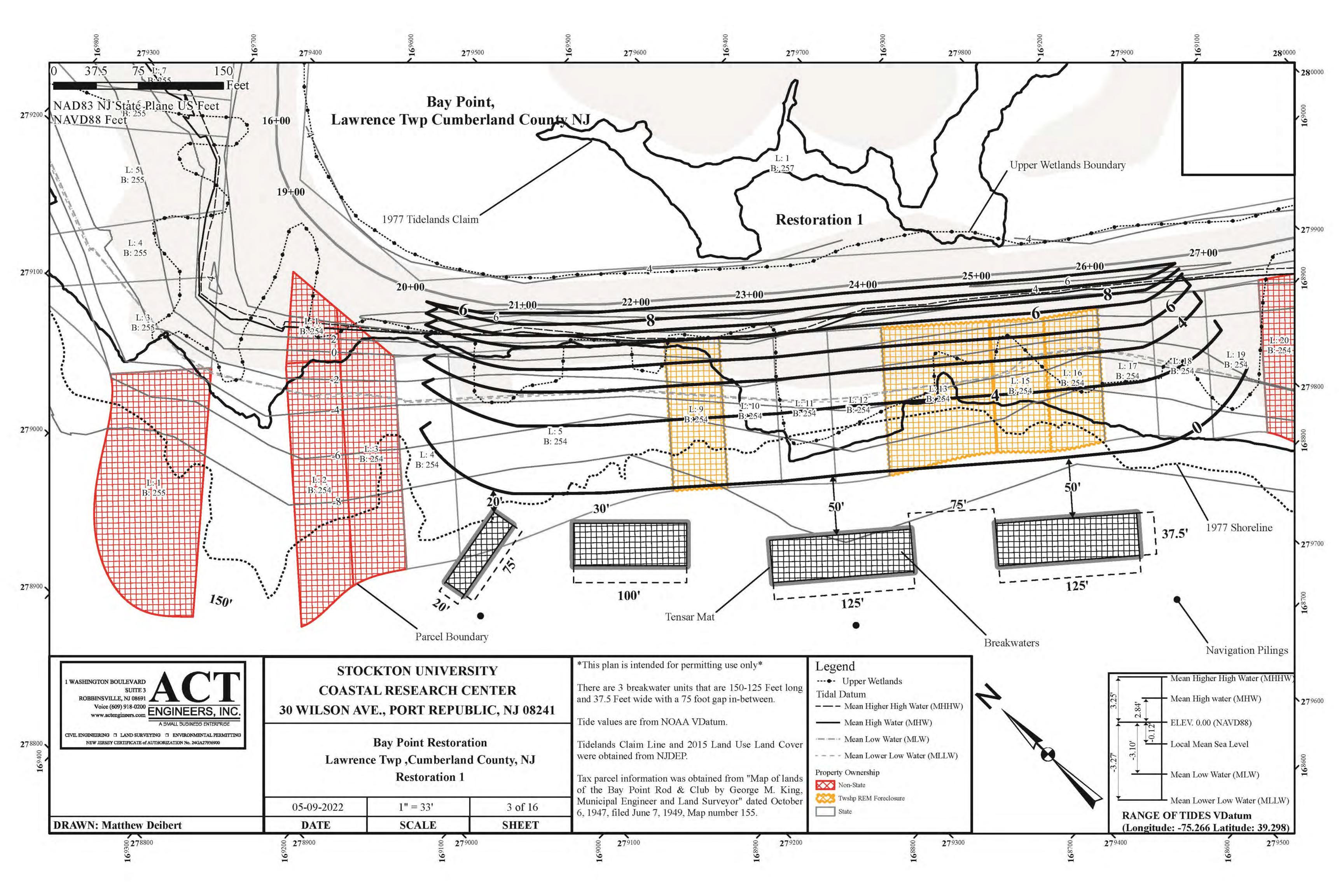
Additional information concerning this permit application may be obtained by emailing Genevieve Sarlo at <u>Genevieve.T.Sarlo@usace.army.mil</u>.

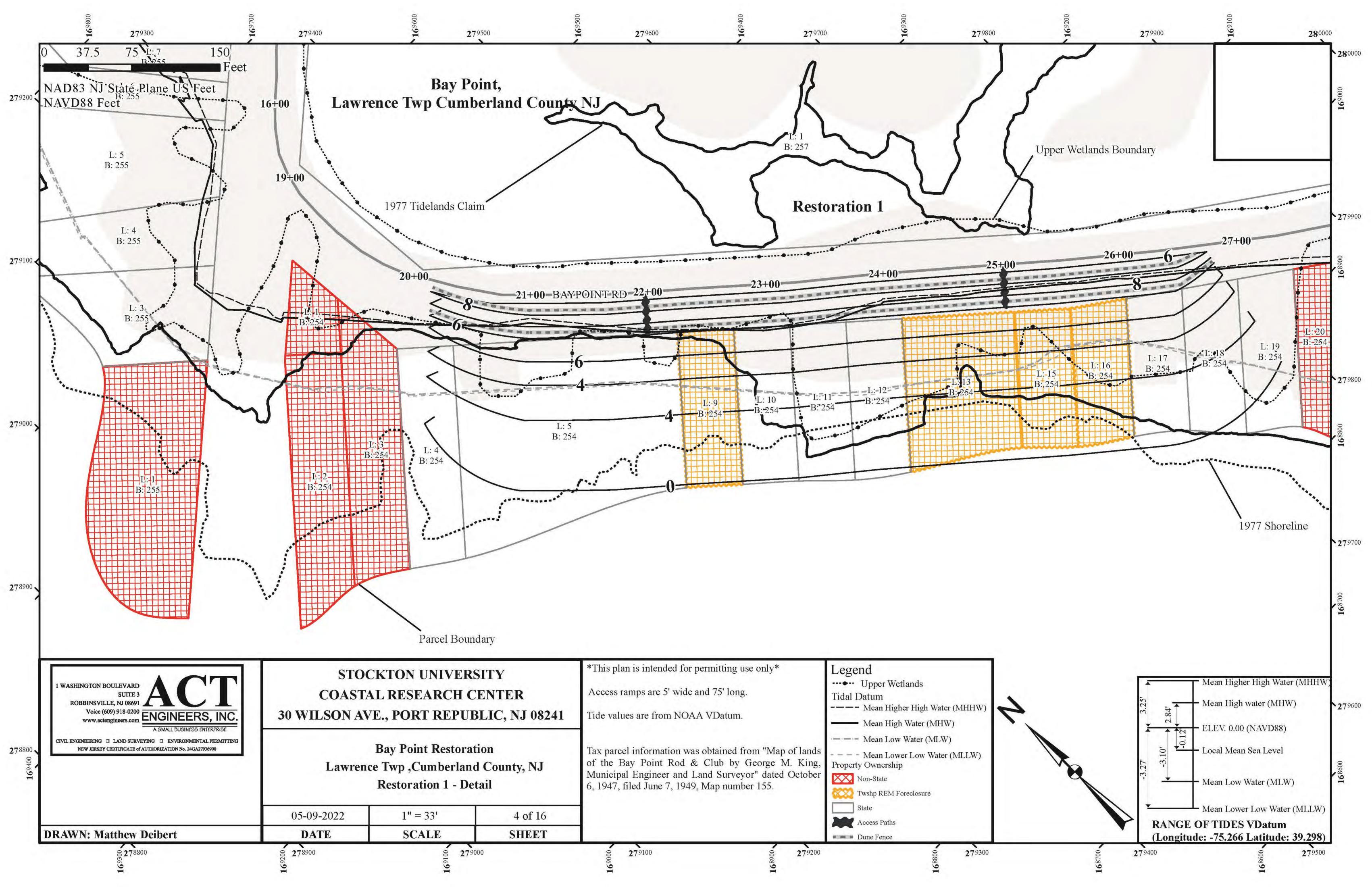
For: Todd A. Schaible Chief, Regulatory Branch



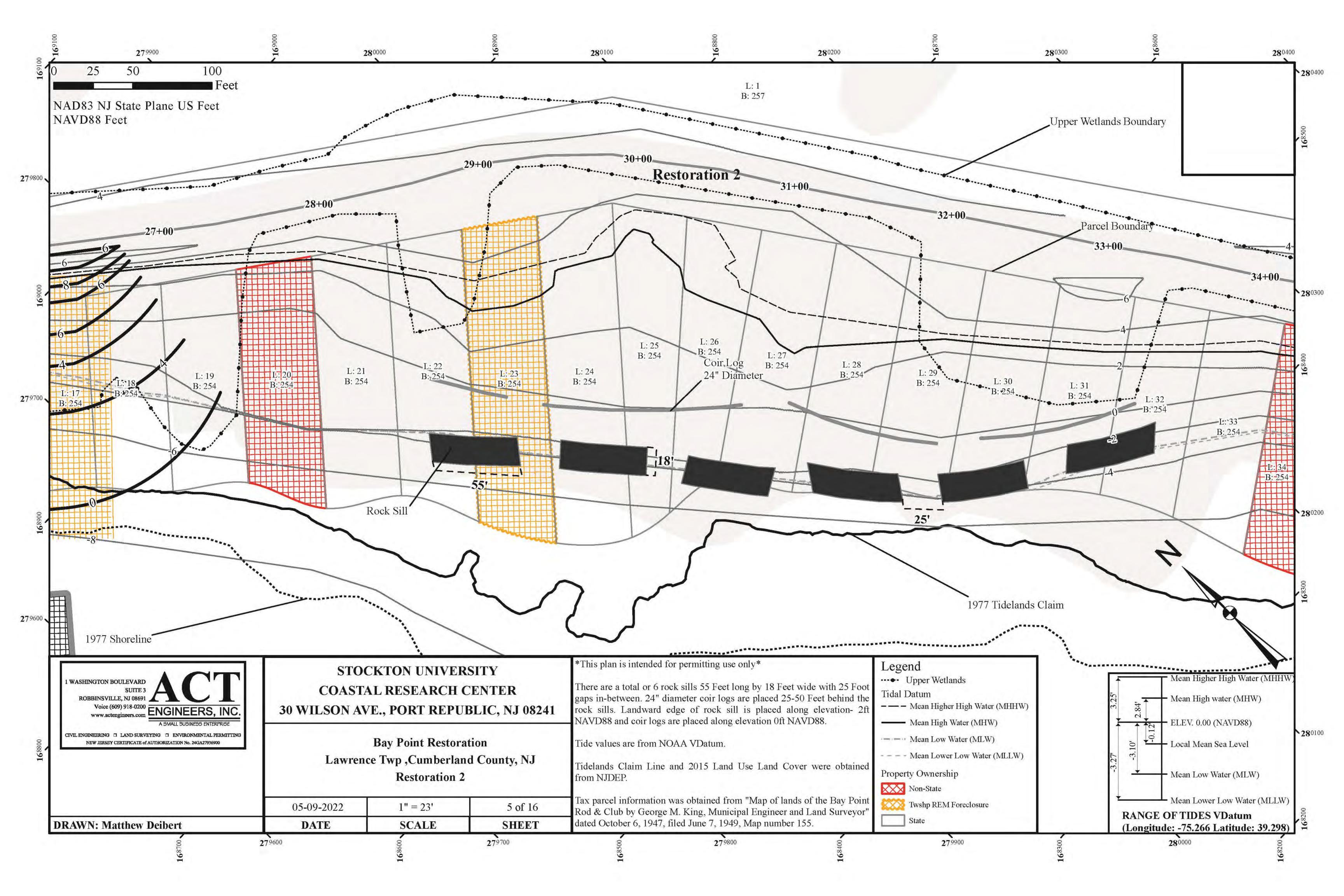
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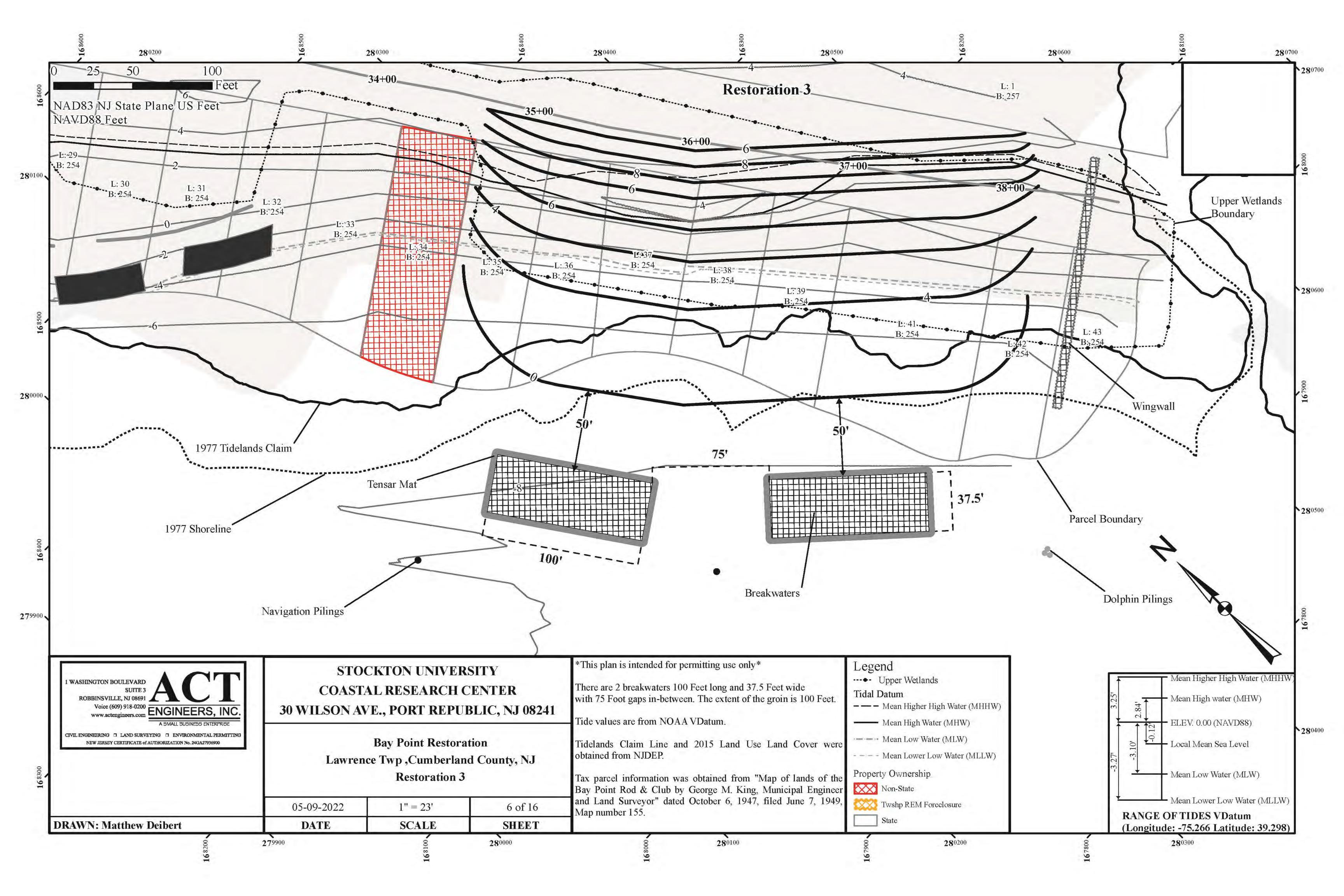


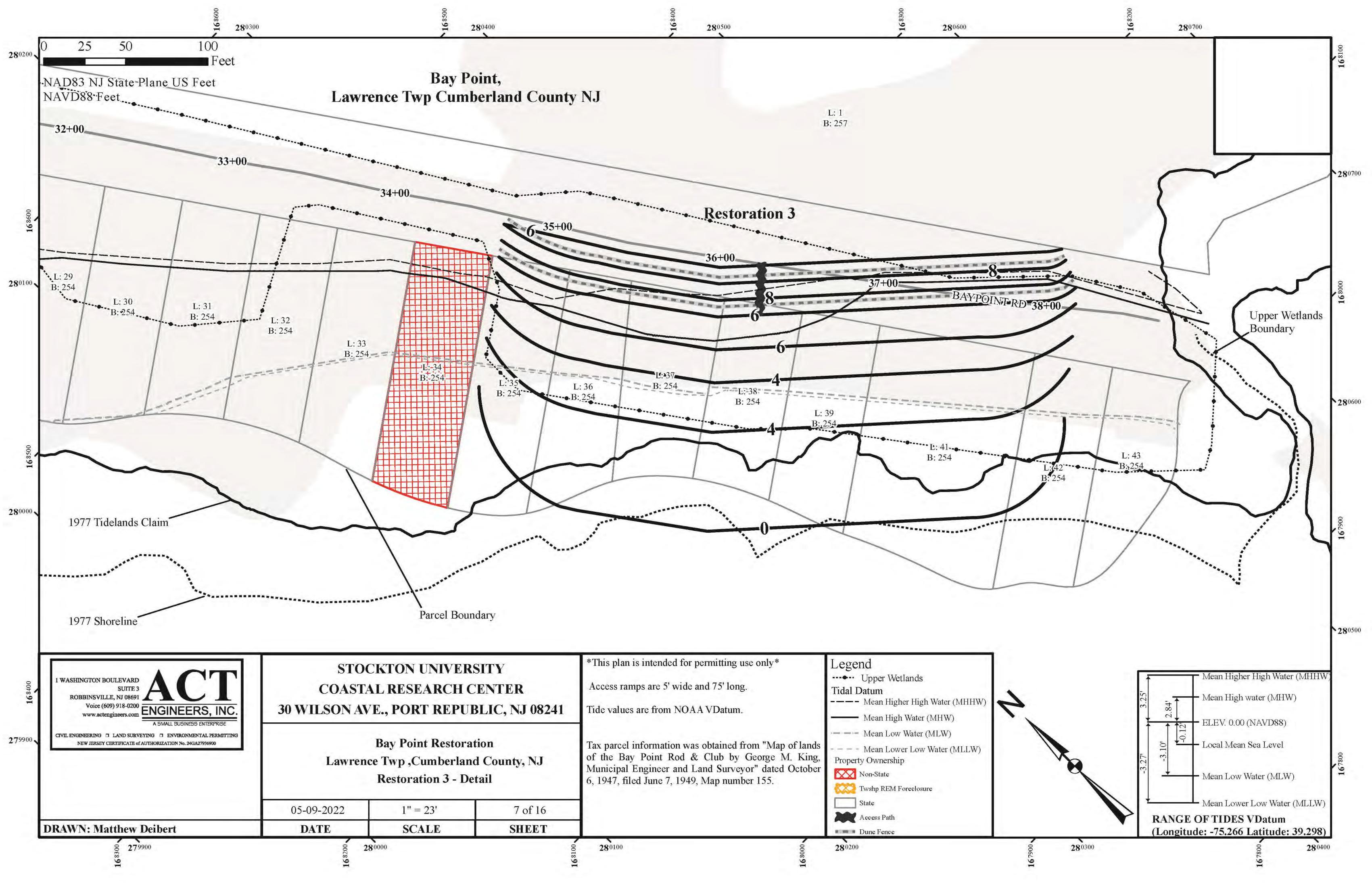




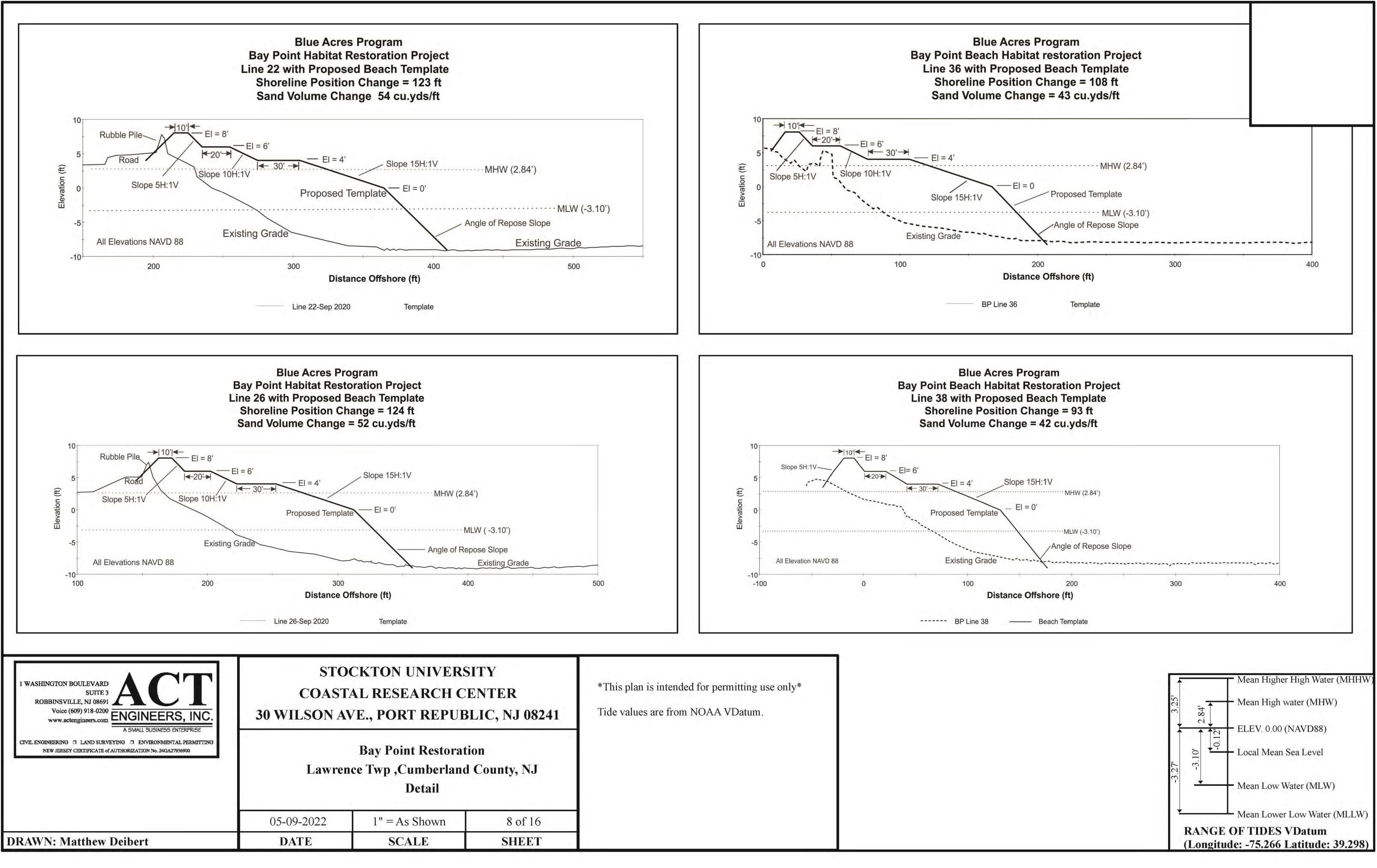
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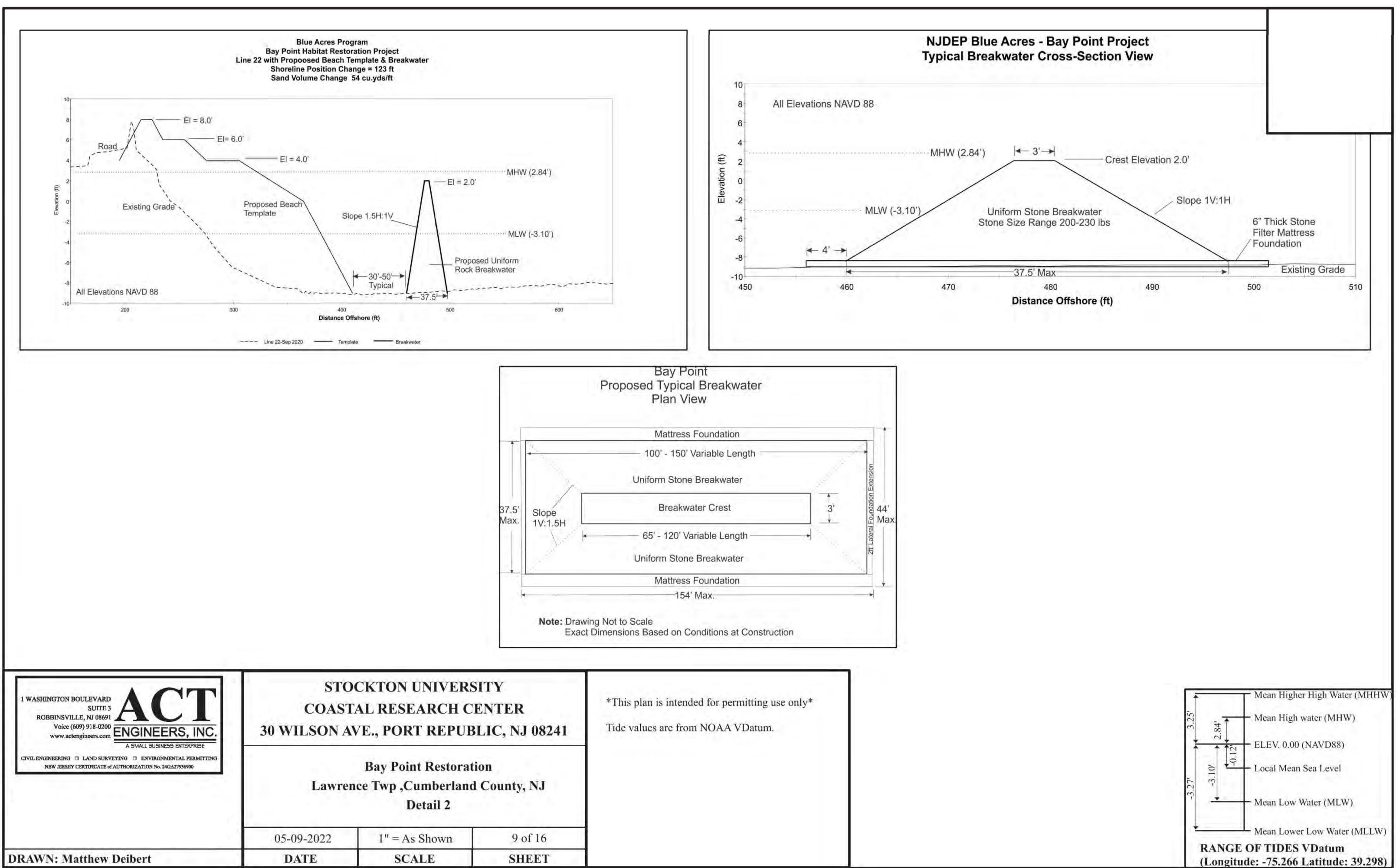




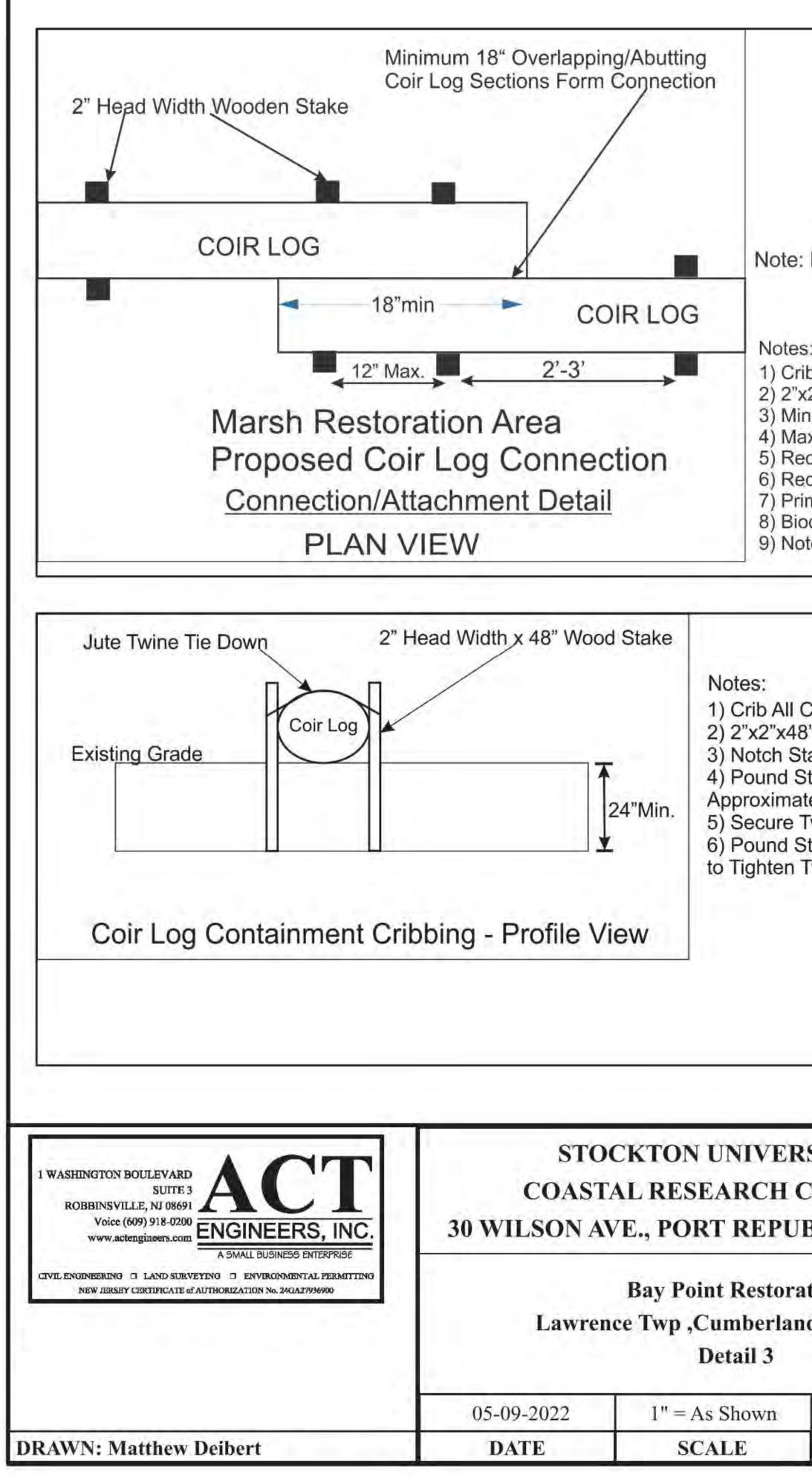
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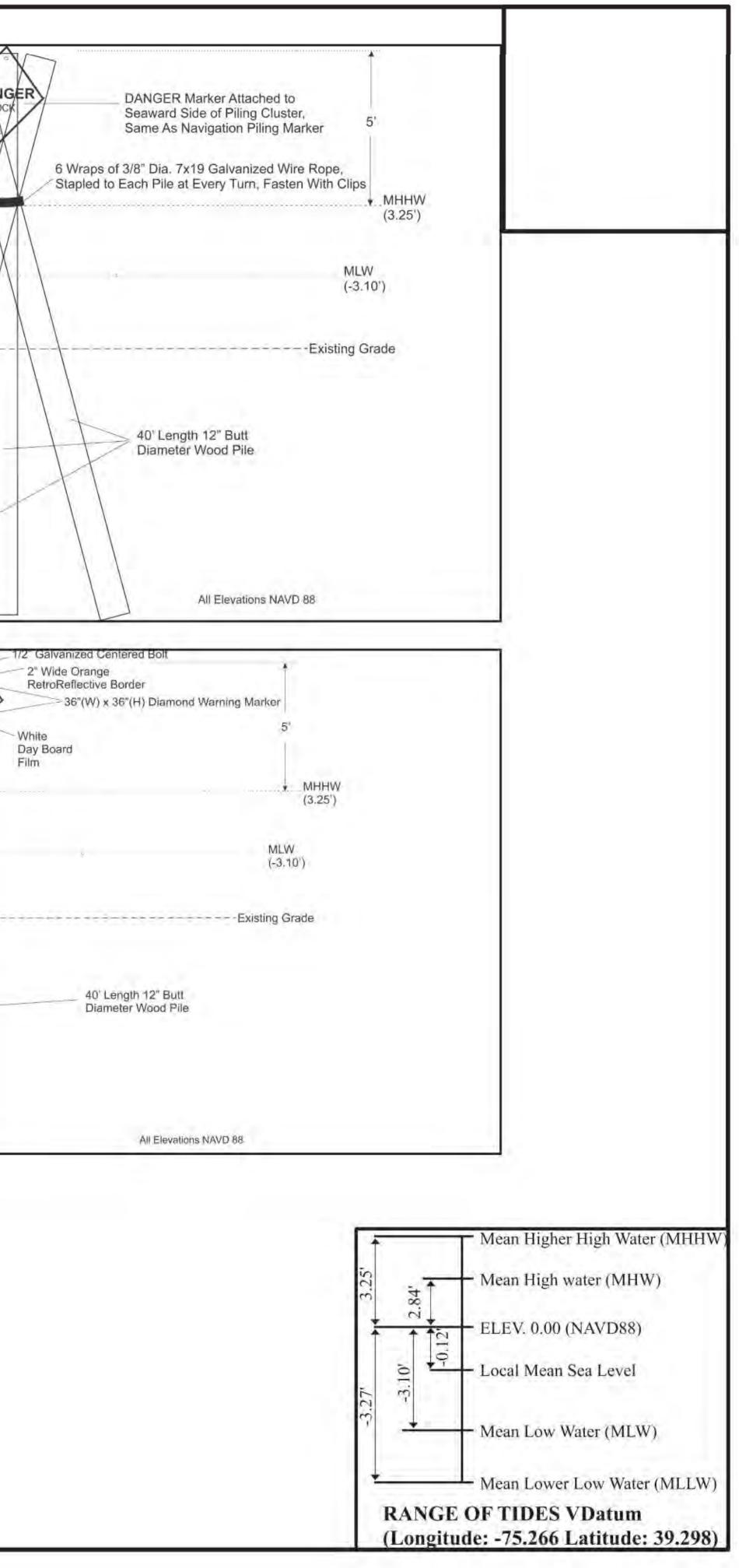


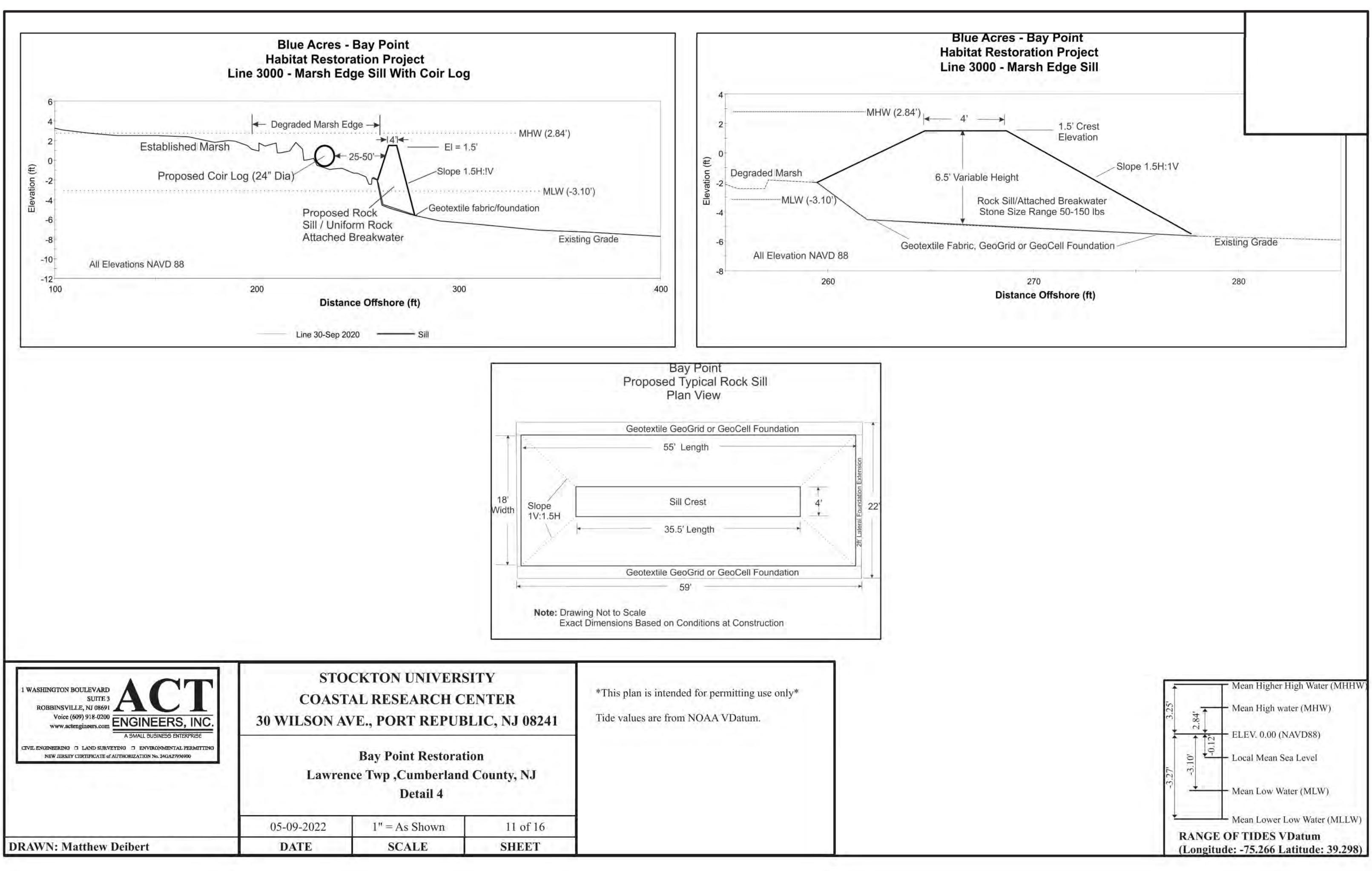
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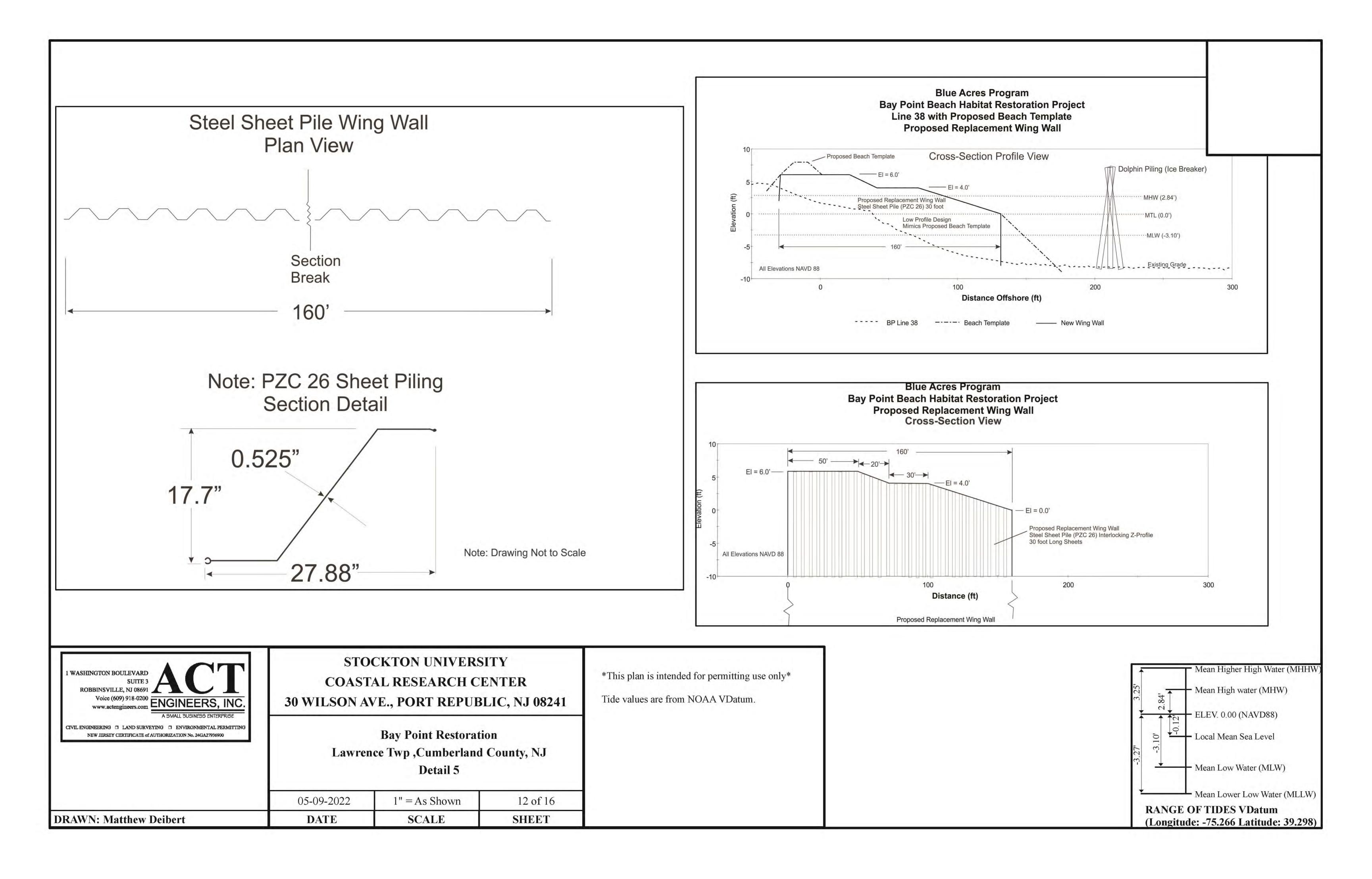
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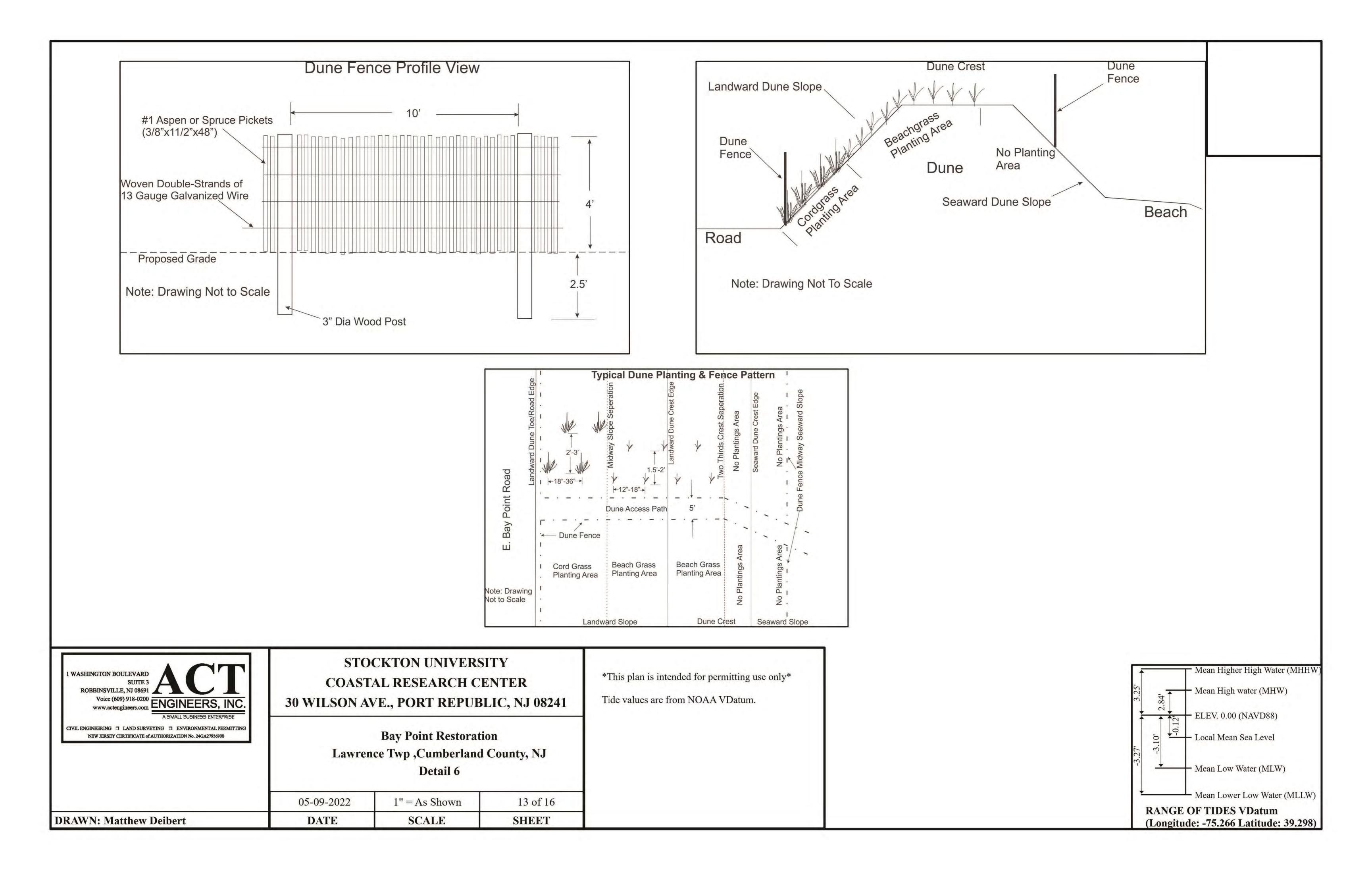


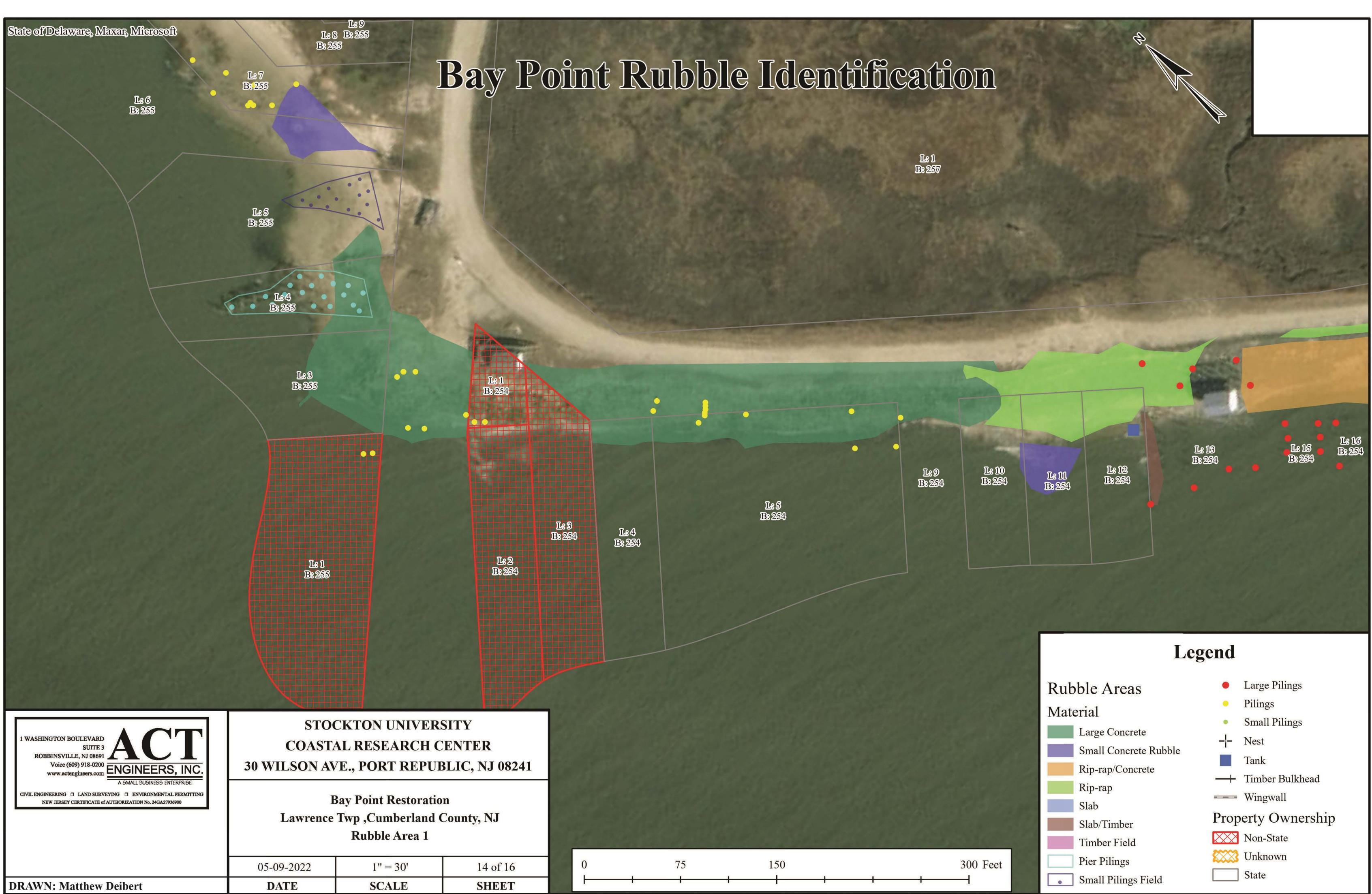


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