

## **Public Notice**

US Army Corps of Engineers Philadelphia District

Wanamaker Building 100 Penn Square East Philadelphia, PA 19107-3390 ATTN: CENAP-OP-R Public Notice No. CENAP-OP-R-2016-00599 Date **February 20, 2018** 

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) 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: New Jersey Department of Transportation Office of Maritime Resources Attn: Ms. Genevieve Clifton P.O. Box 600 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0600
- WATERWAY: Little Egg Harbor/Barnegat Bay Channels: Cedar Run Channel, Westecunk Creek Channel, and Parkers Run Channel
- LOCATION: Stafford Township, Eagleswood Township, and Little Egg Harbor Township, all located within Ocean County, New Jersey.
- ACTIVITY: The applicant, New Jersey Department of Transportation Office of Maritime Resources, has requested Department of the Army authorization to perform tenyear maintenance dredging of three (3) channels within Little Egg Harbor/Barnegat Bay, identified as Cedar Run Channel, Westecunk Creek Channel, and Parkers Run Channel. All of the work would be accomplished via hydraulic cutterhead dredge. All resultant dredged material, estimated to be approximately 275,000-cubic yards of sand and silt, would be transported via floating and submerged pipeline to the West Creek Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) located on Dock Road in Eagleswood Township, Ocean County, New Jersey. The pipeline would be marked in accordance with U.S. Coast Guard regulations. Return water from the West Creek CDF is proposed.

Each maintenance dredging event is anticipated to be approximately 120-days in duration, comprised of 30-days for mobilization/demobilization and 90-days for dredging and CDF placement activities.

Cedar Run Channel:

Maintenance dredging of an approximately 6,457.0-linear foot long channel to -6.0-feet below the plane of Mean Low Water (MLW), plus 1.0-foot of allowable overdredge, is proposed. The channel design width is 75.0-linear feet, with 3:1 side slopes. Dredging of Cedar Run Channel was last conducted in 1985.

## Westecunk Creek Channel:

Maintenance dredging of an approximately 15,405.0-linear foot long channel to -6.0-feet below the plane of MLW, plus 1.0-foot of allowable overdredge, is proposed. The channel design width is 70.0-linear feet from deep water to approximately station 77+89.5, where it narrows to 50.0-linear feet for the remainder. Between station 119+83.9 and station 115+36.6 a channel design width of 120-linear feet is proposed to accommodate the adjacent marina. 3:1 side slopes are proposed for the entire channel. Dredging of Westecunk Creek Channel was last conducted in 1983.

## Parkers Run Channel:

Maintenance dredging of an approximately 3,593.0-linear foot long channel to -6.0-feet below the plane of MLW, plus 1.0-foot of allowable overdredge, is proposed. The channel design width is 100.0-linear feet from deep water to approximately station 19+21, where it narrows to 70-linear feet for the remainder. 3:1 side slopes are proposed for the entire channel. Dredging of Parkers Run Channel was last conducted in 1968.

PURPOSE: The stated purpose of this project is to restore and maintain safe navigational depths at Cedar Run Channel, Westecunk Creek Channel, and Parkers Run Channel for transiting emergency, commercial, and recreational marine vessels.

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.

From a review of this application concerning Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the permit area has been so extensively modified from past use, including previous maintenance dredging, that little likelihood exists for the proposed project to impact an historic property.

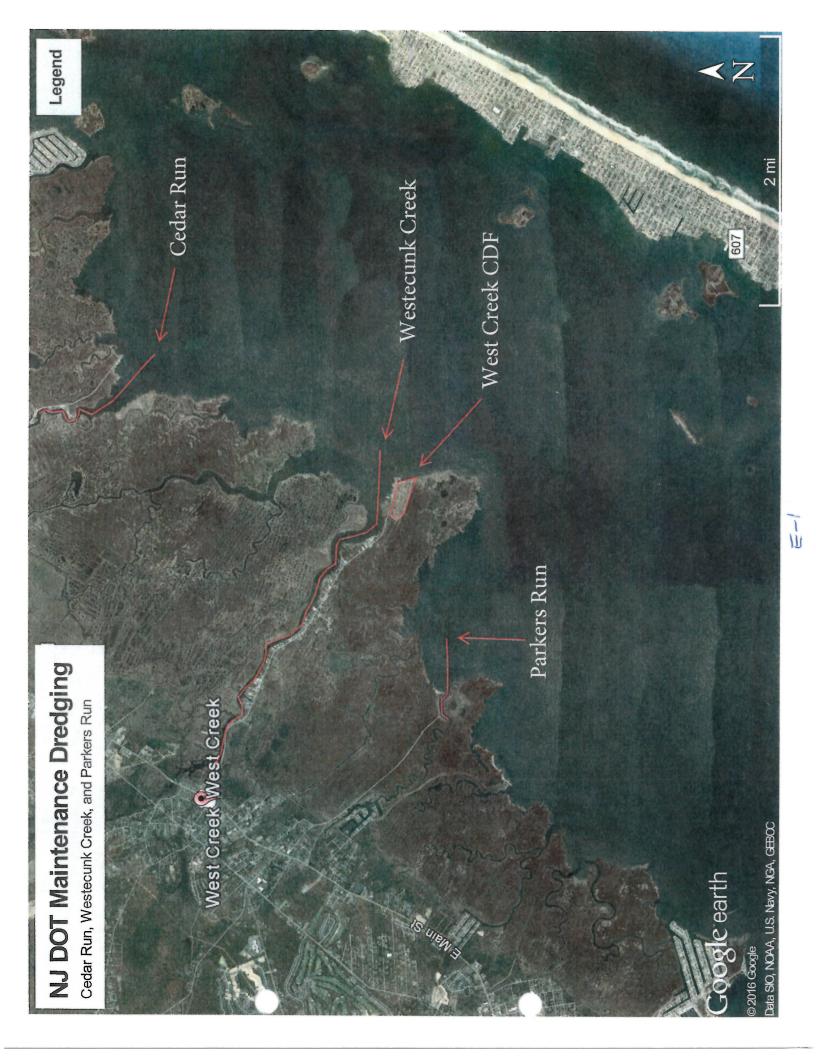
A preliminary review of this application indicates that the proposed work would not affect listed species or their critical habitat pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act as amended. As a result, consultation with NOAA Fisheries pursuant to Section 7 of the ESA is not necessary. As the evaluation of this application continues, additional information may become available which could modify this preliminary determination.

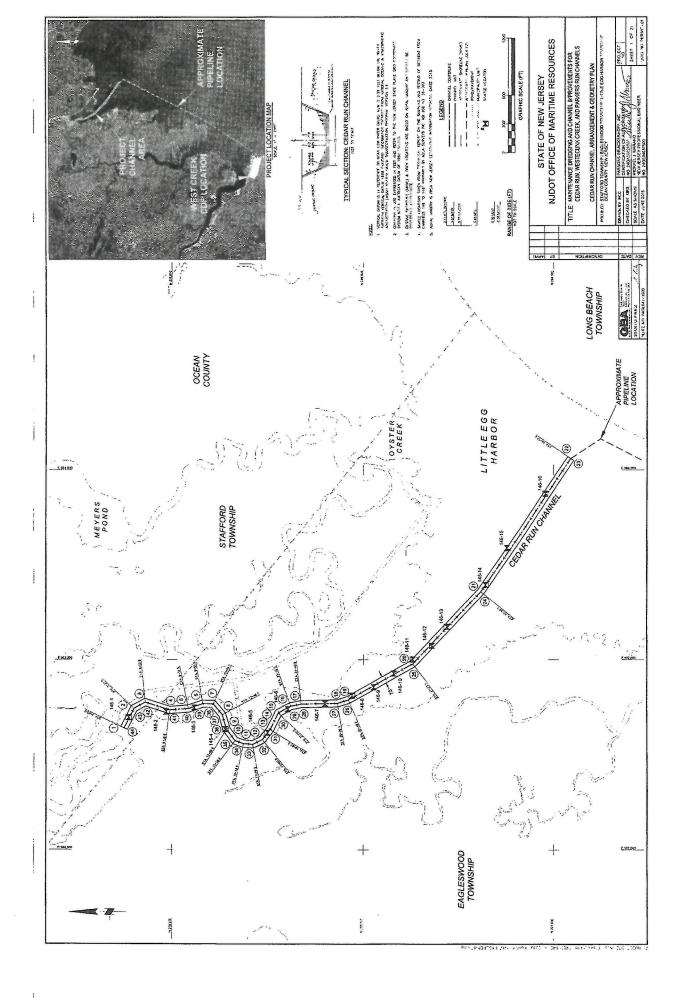
The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requires all federal agencies to consult with the NOAA Fisheries all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). A preliminary review of this application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

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.

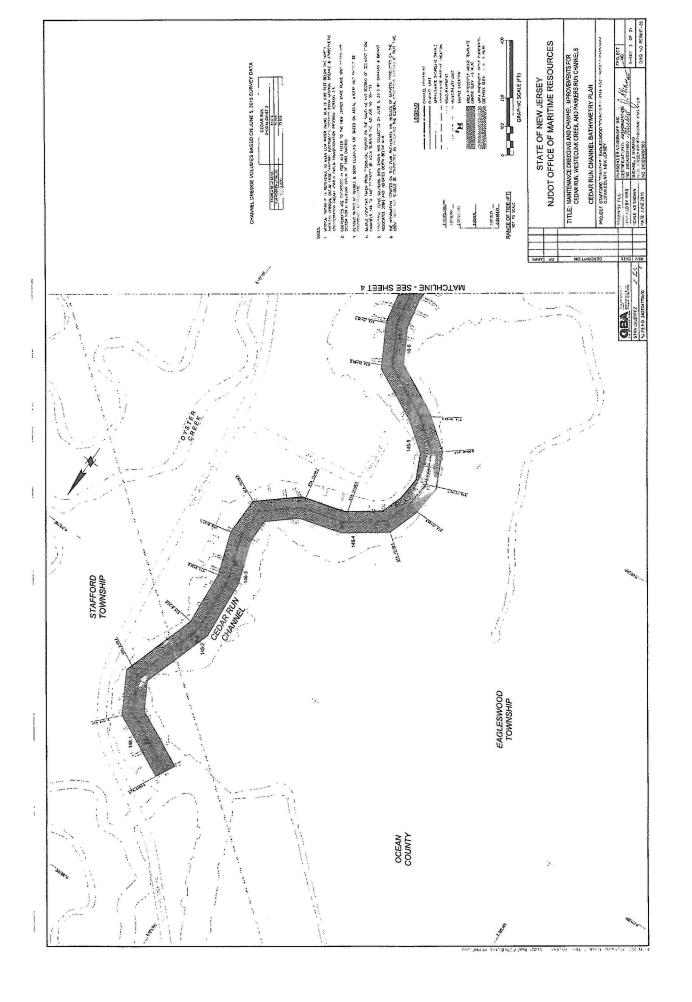
Any person may request, in writing, to the District Engineer, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for a public hearing shall state in writing, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. Additional information concerning this permit application may be obtained by contacting Mr. Robert Youhas of my staff at via email at robert.youhas@usace.army.mil, by phone at 215-656-6729, or by writing this office at the above address.

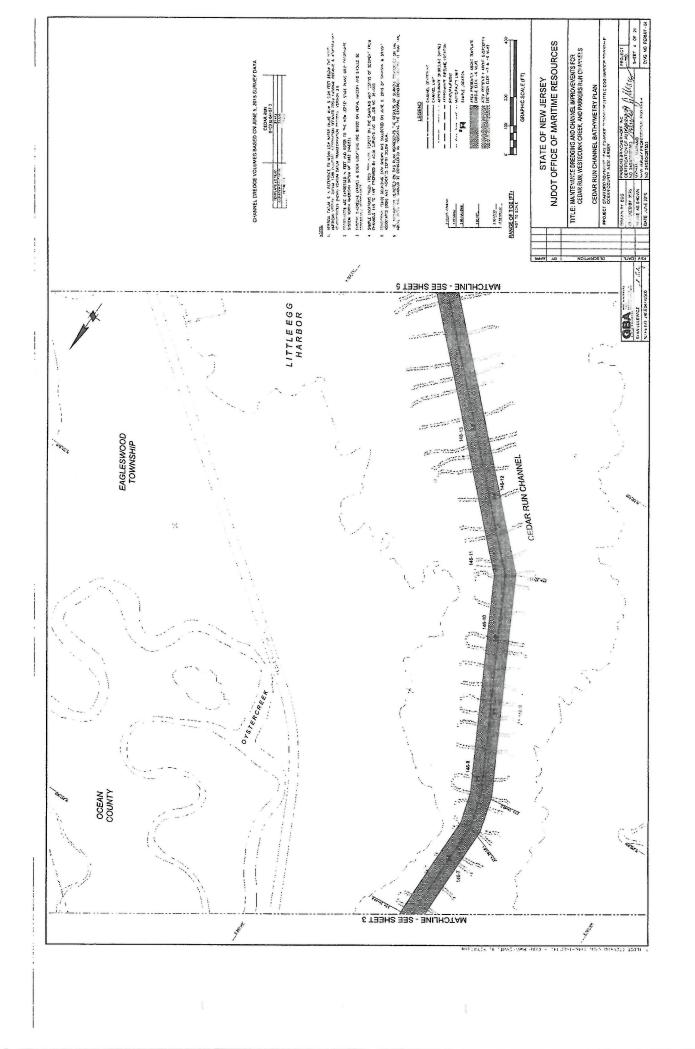
> Edward E. Bonner Chief, Regulatory Branch



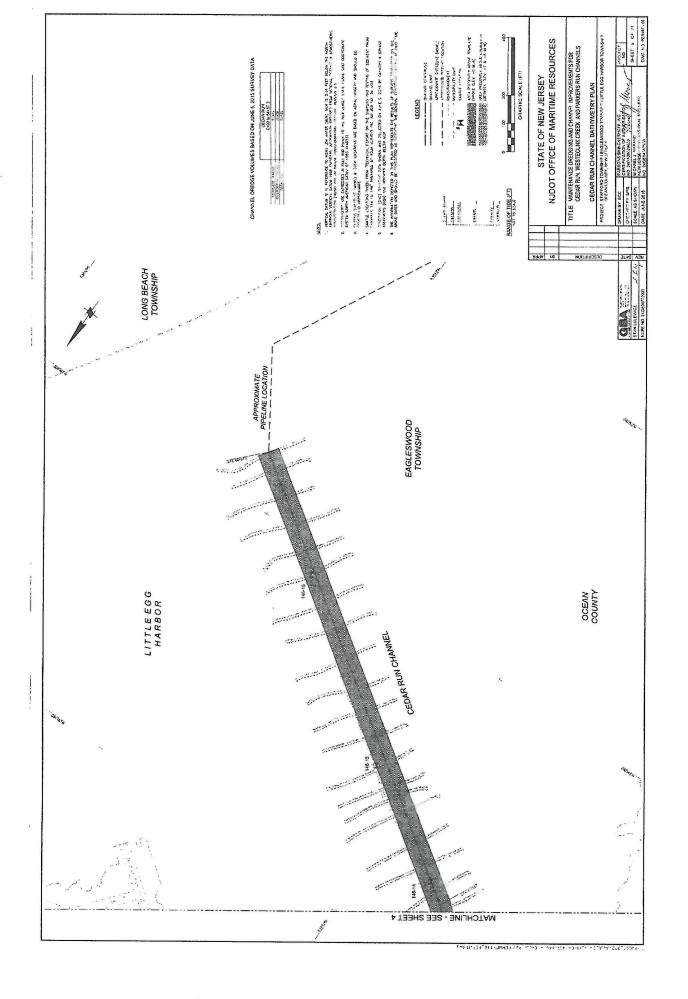


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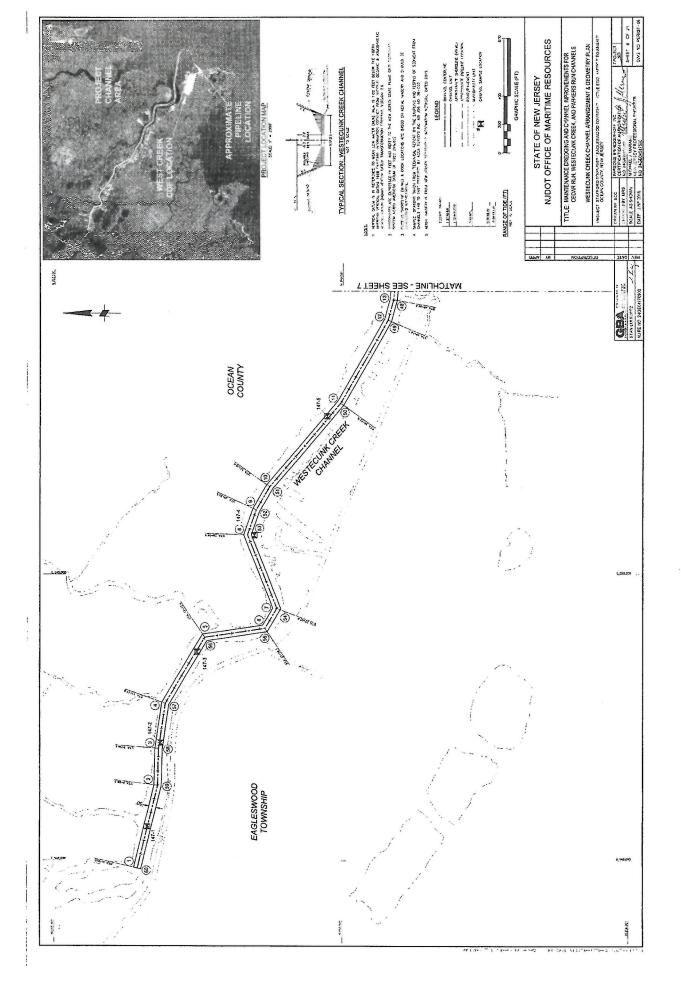


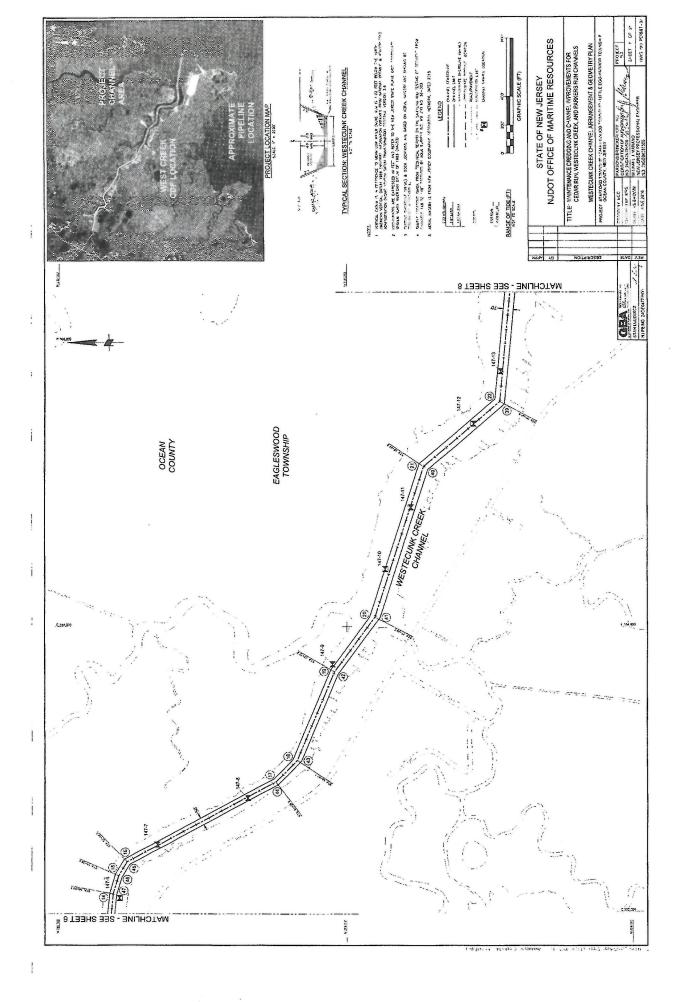


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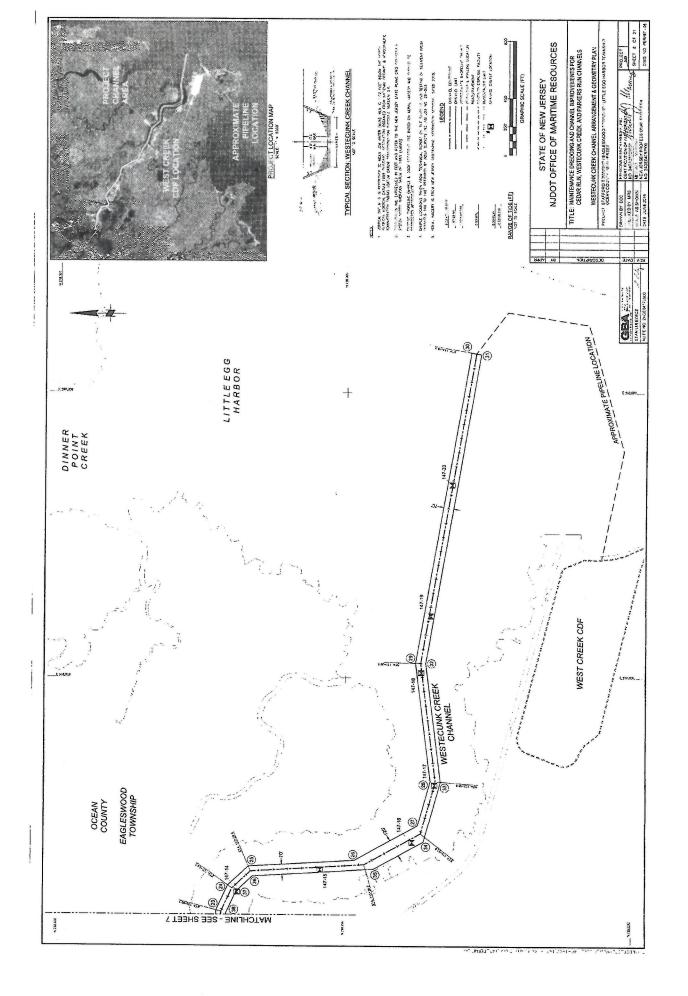
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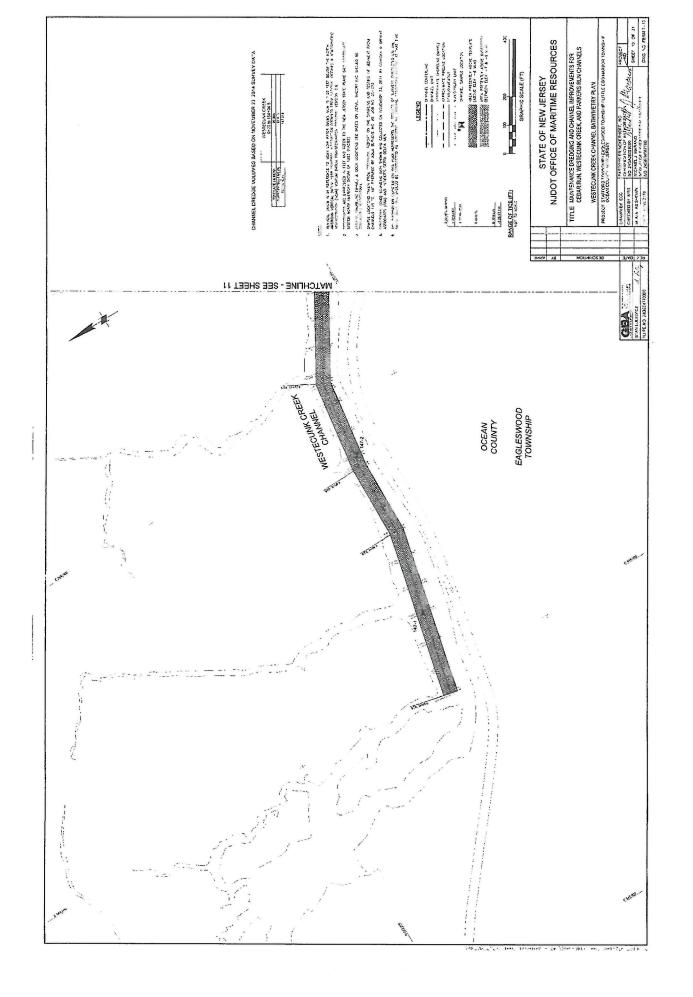


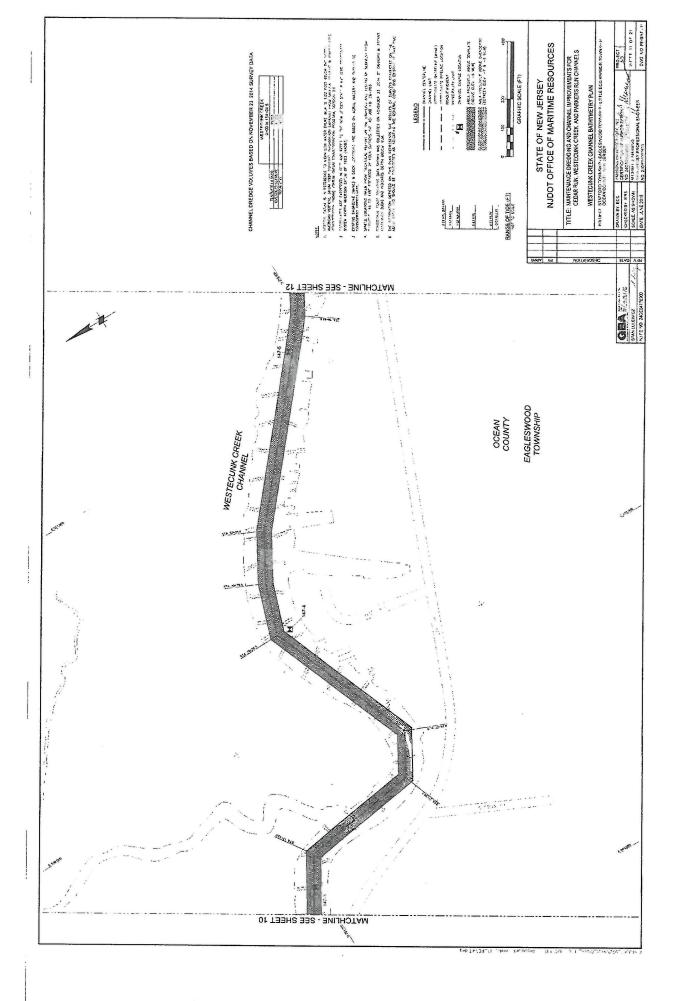
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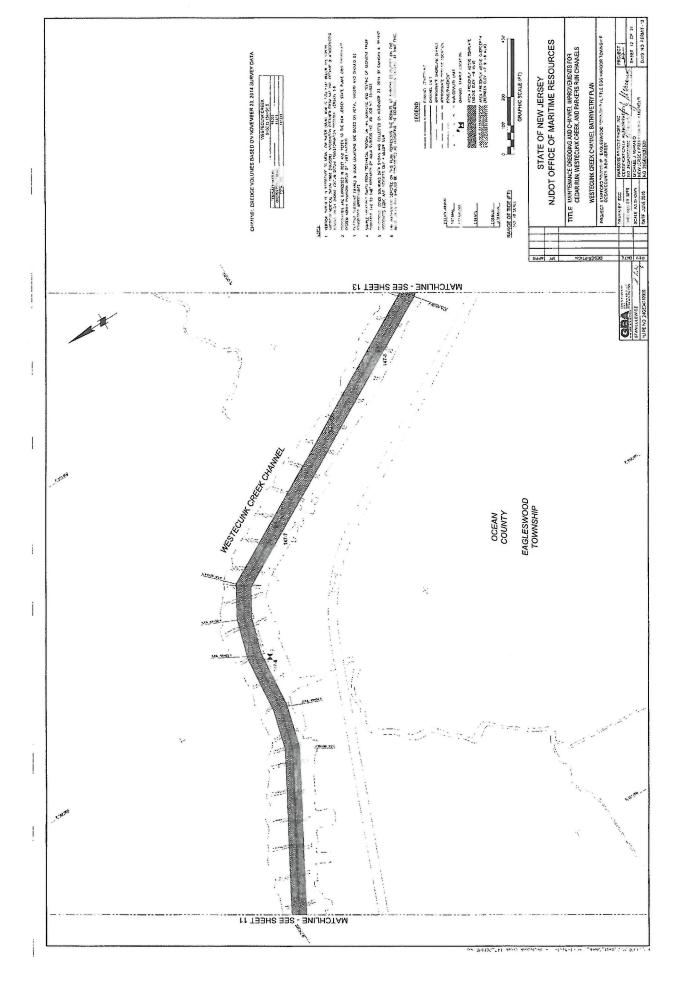


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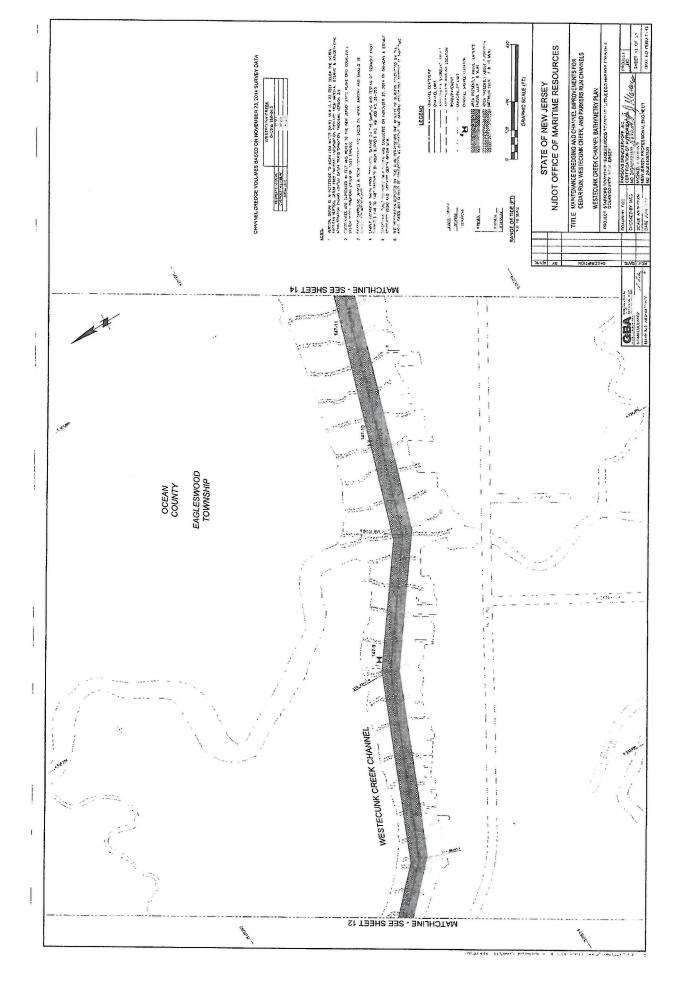




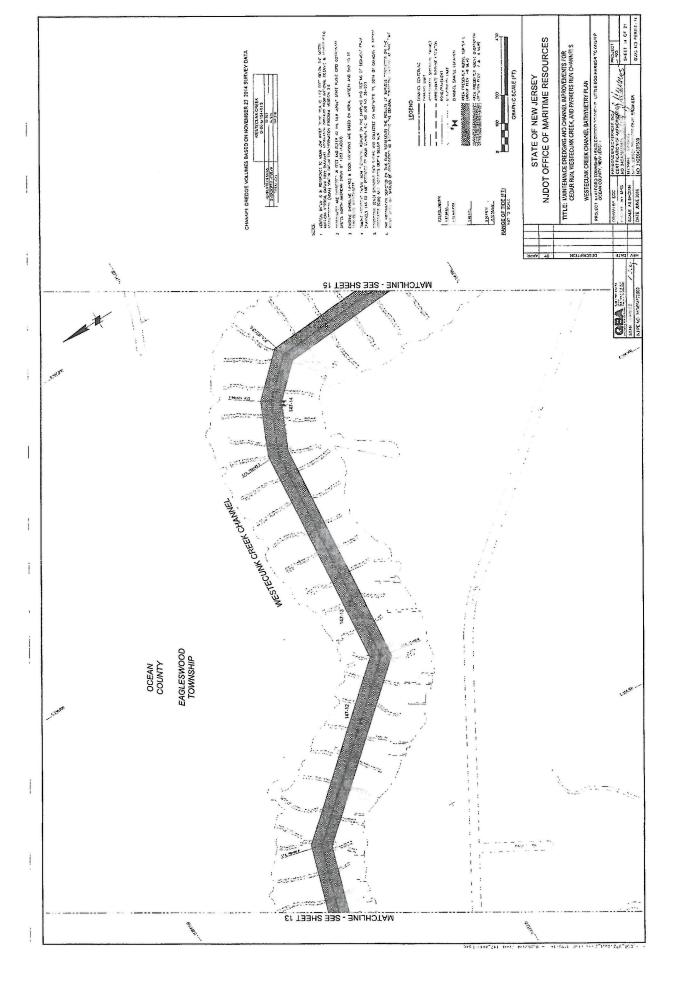
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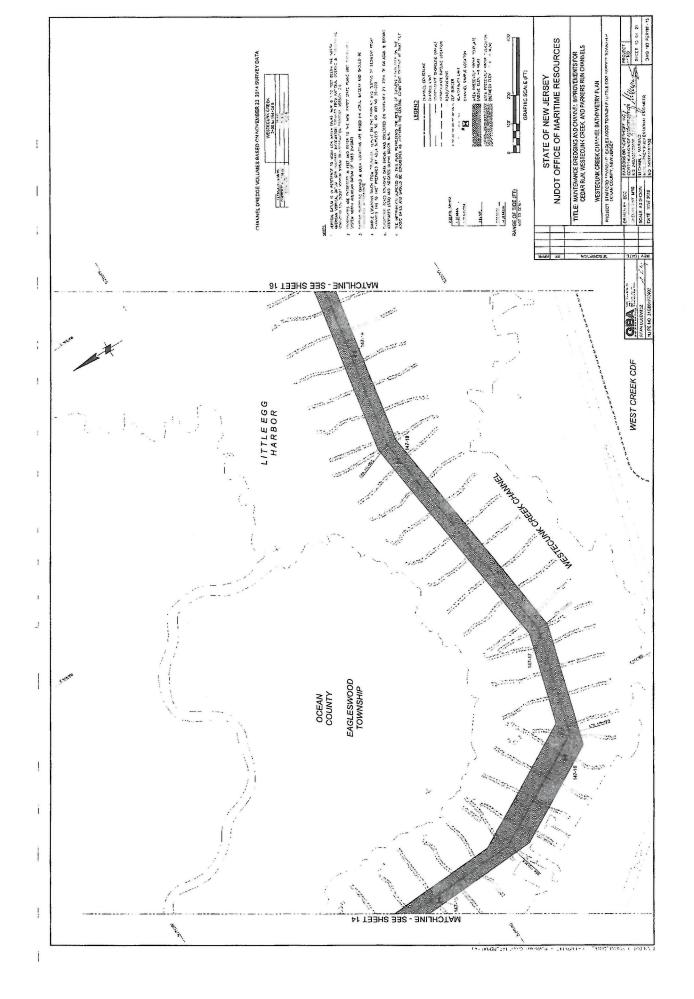


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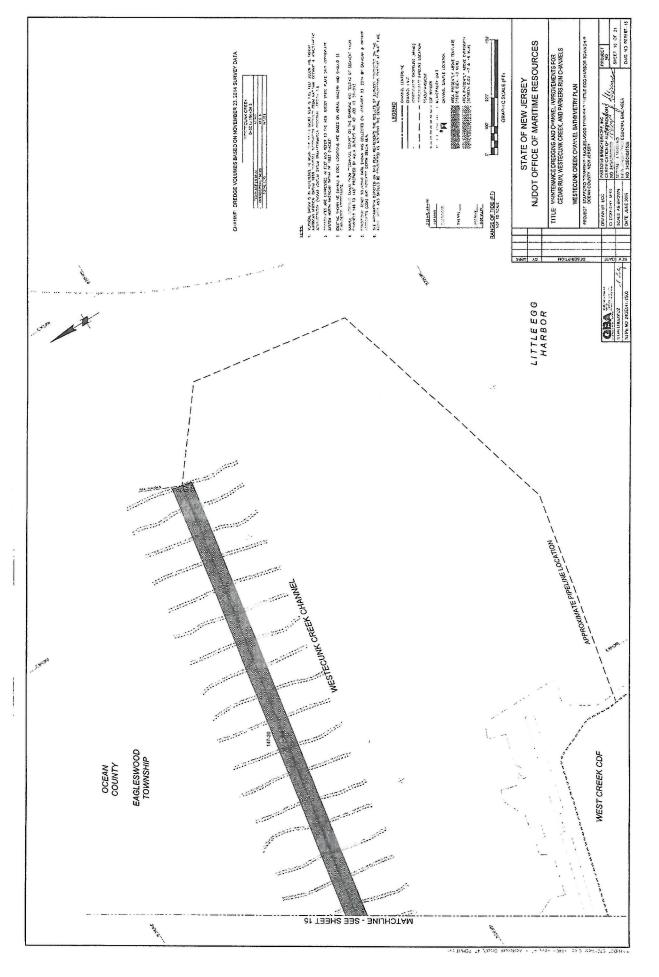
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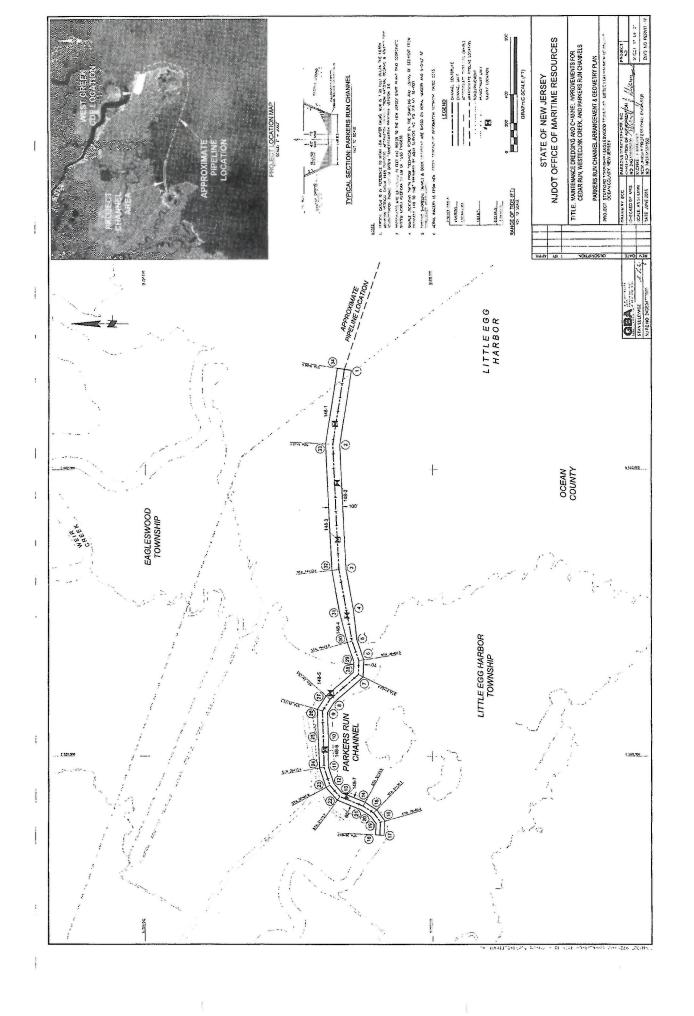


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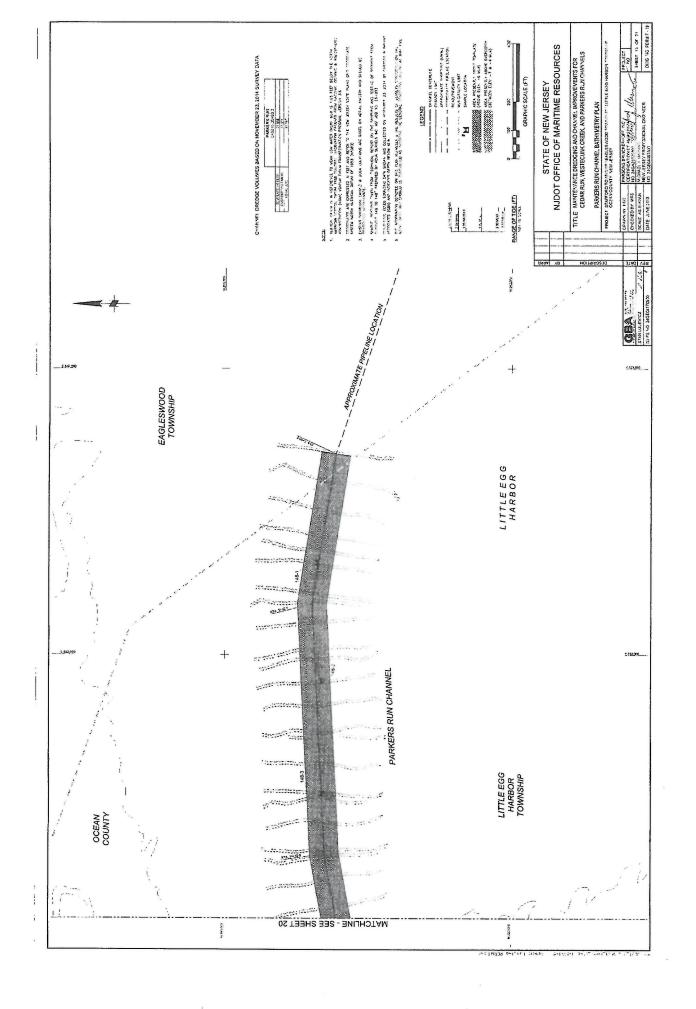
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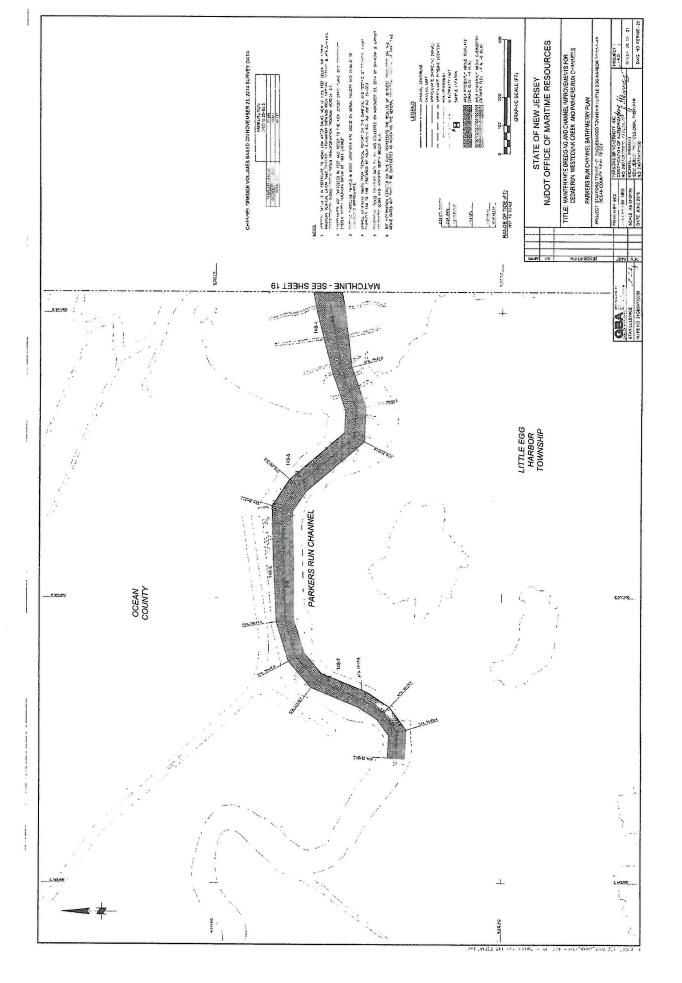


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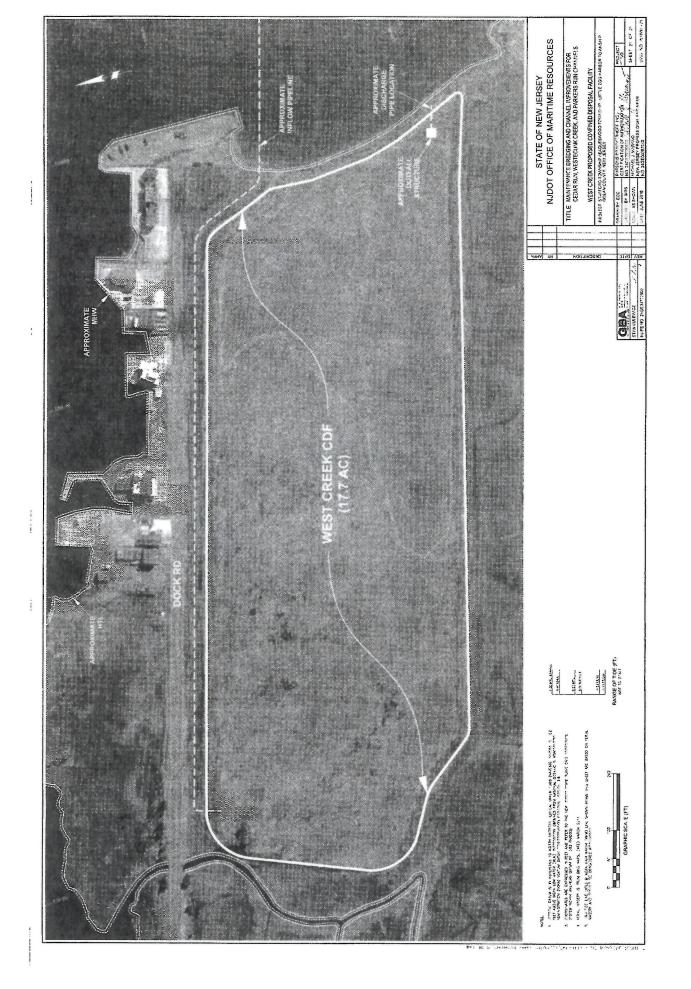
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