



October 13, 2021

Harvey Gonzalez
Morgan Group
2750 NW 3rd Avenue, Suite 2
Miami, FL 33127

Proj: Anclote Harbor Site – Pinellas County, Florida
(BTC File #1119-03)
Re: Wetland and Upland Buffer Enhancement Plan

Dear Mr. Gonzalez:

Based on the site plan provided by Kimley Horn, the Anclote Harbor Project Site is proposing to impact two isolated wetland systems (0.78 acres and 0.14 acres) that total 0.92 acres. A Unified Mitigation Assessment Methodology (UMAM) evaluation has been conducted on the proposed wetland impacts that require mitigation, as well as the enhancement of the remaining post-development on-site wetlands (22.08 acres). The UMAM evaluation calculated a 0.39 functional loss with the proposed direct wetland impacts and a 1.77 functional gain with the on-site wetland enhancement. Therefore, the proposed wetland impacts should be more than offset with the on-site wetland enhancement activities. The following provides details to the proposed wetland enhancement plan:

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

ANCLOTE RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

Section 5.2 - Natural System Enhancement East of US Highway 19 North within the Anclote River Watershed Management Plan (ARWMP) provides recommendations for Best Management Practices (BMP's) that will be followed and/or have already been provided. These recommendations include,

- Mapping and ecological assessment of the existing natural systems.
(Please see Environmental Assessment)
- Confirmation of bald eagle nest location and activity of the nest by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.
(Please see Environmental Assessment)

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- Identification of area for improved habitat and scenic view, including removal of Brazilian pepper and selective planting of appropriate vegetation.
 (This document provides information for above recommended BMP)

WETLAND ENHANCEMENT

In order to enhance and restore the 22.08 acres of on-site wetlands and associated upland buffers in the post-development condition, an initial maintenance event will be implemented with the goal of elimination of existing exotic vegetative species. Once maintenance activities have eliminated the exotic vegetation, the wetlands and upland buffers will then be planted with the following species, See Tables 1 & 2 below:

Table 1. Wetland Enhancement Plantings.

Species	# Planted	Size	Centers
<u>Canopy</u>			
Red Maple (<i>Acer rubrum</i>)	1,143	15-gallon	20'
Slash Pine (<i>Pinus elliottii</i>)	1,143	15-gallon	20'
Bald Cypress (<i>Taxodium distichum</i>)	2,093	15-gallon	15'
Sweet Gum (<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>)	300	15-gallon	20'
Sea Grape (<i>Coccoloba uvifera</i>)	300	15-gallon	20'

Table 2. Buffer Enhancement Plantings.

Species	# Planted	Size	Centers
<u>Canopy</u>			
Southern Magnolia (<i>Magnolia grandiflora</i>)	536	15-gallon	10'
Slash pine (<i>Pinus elliottii</i>)	536	15-gallon	10'
Sweetgum (<i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i>)	200	15-gallon	10'

All trees will be 15-gallon specimens and average caliper size of 2”.

No herbaceous plantings are proposed with this enhancement plan. However, the enhancement areas will be maintained to promote the natural recruitment of native desirable species, including herbaceous groundcover.

ENHANCEMENT MAINTENANCE

Maintenance of the enhancement areas will consist of hand-removal and non-restricted use herbicide application. All exotic woody species will be cut at the stump and treated with an

appropriately rated herbicide. The cut material will be removed from the enhancement area. Off-site and brought to an appropriate dump site. This will be conducted by hand specifically to not impact any native species and/or their root systems. No heavy equipment will be used within the drip line of native trees to remain post development. The maintenance will be conducted monthly for the first two (2) years, and quarterly for the last three (3) years to ensure that the level of exotic and/or noxious vegetation (as defined by the Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council) present within the enhancement areas does not exceed 10% aerial coverage between maintenance activities and exotic vegetation is less than 5% total aerial coverage. Once the enhancement area has been released for required monitoring the area will be perpetually maintained to maintain the success levels identified in the success criteria below.

ENHANCEMENT MONITORING

The wetland and upland buffer enhancement areas will be monitored on a semi-annual basis to verify the survivorship of the planted species and ensure the exotic coverage is below the required threshold. Additionally, these areas will be placed under a conservation easement dedicated to the SWFWMD.

The monitoring will consist of quantitative and general qualitative observations in the wetland and upland buffer enhancement areas. A Baseline monitoring event will be conducted after the proposed plantings are installed and will include photographs of the enhancement areas. The Baseline Monitoring Report will be submitted to the City of Tarpon Springs and SWFWMD. A summary of the bi-annual data collected will be included in an annual report submitted to SWFWMD and the City of Tarpon Springs each year. The recorded data obtained from the vegetative monitoring will be provided in report form and will be submitted on an annual basis. Reports will include the following:

- A. The dates and time of the monitoring event.
- B. The person responsible for performing the measurements.
- C. The analytical techniques or methods utilized.
- D. The results of such analyses including:
 1. Status of invader species
 2. Coverage by wetland and FACW vegetation.
 3. Survivorship of the planted species.
 4. Groundcover photographs from established photo stations.

In addition to the vegetative portion of the monitoring to be conducted, wildlife information will also be gathered and described in the report.

SUCCESS CRITERIA

The success criteria for the wetland and upland buffer enhancement areas will consist of greater than 85 percent survivorship of planted species, 90 percent coverage by desirable species, and less than 5 percent areal coverage by exotic species in the enhancement areas after five (5) years.

Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact our office at (407) 894-5969. Thank you.

Regards,



Daniel Gough
Project Manager



John Miklos
President

Attachments:

Enhancement Areas Map

Tree Replanting Areas Map

Analysis of Potential Topographic Alteration