## City of Sugar Hill Planning Staff Report VAR-24-001

DATE: March 27, 2024; *Updated 4/5/2024* 

TO: Mayor and City Council FROM: Planning Director

SUBJECT: Stream Buffer Variance Request, VAR-24-001.

REQUEST

Applicant 30AIP Sugar Hill, LLC is seeking a stream buffer variance to allow disturbance and construction within the 50-foot undisturbed stream buffer and the 75-foot impervious surface setback.

## RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approval of the stream buffer variance with condition that on-site mitigation is accomplished in accordance with the procedures provided in the Gwinnett County Storm Water Design Manual prior to receiving a *certificate of occupancy*.

## DISCUSSION

- Site is proposed for development to construct a 2,325 square foot restaurant with drive-thru lane (for mobile pick-up orders only) and inter-parcel access to the adjacent Zaxby's restaurant (west) and proposed bank facility (east).
- Improvements proposed within the 50' stream buffer include paving for a drive-thru pickup lane, parking, enclosed dumpsters, and a retaining wall.
- Improvements proposed within the 75' impervious setback include paving for driveways, the remainder of the enclosed dumpster area, the primary restaurant structure, and exterior sidewalk paving.
- Applicant has also applied for a variance from Georgia Environmental Protection Division for a portion of the state buffer. *US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) nationwide permit is not applicable due to no proposed wetland disturbance.*
- A variable width zoning buffer in accordance with AX-07-010 along the southern property line adjacent to residential uses.

## **BACKGROUND**

APPLICANT: 30AIP Sugar Hill, LLC c/o Robert McCann

OWNER: Bruce D. Duncan

EXISTING ZONING: General Business District (BG)

REQUEST: Stream buffer variance to disturb and construct improvements

within the 50' stream buffer and 75' impervious surface

setback.

4/5/2024 VAR-24-001 Page 1 of 2

PROPERTY SIZE:  $\pm$  0.738 acres

LOCATION: 5962 Cumming Highway

Parcel: R7-339-017

## FINDINGS OF FACT

The subject property accesses Highway 20 via inter-parcel access through adjacent properties. The property is currently developed with an 840 square foot single family residence constructed in the 1980's. A stream with associated state and city buffers is currently located adjacent to the rear property line and encroaches approximately 93 feet into the property. Proposed storm water management improvements include an underground detention facility located beneath the proposed parking lot. A water quality outlet is proposed to feed into the existing stream, which is bounded by a modular block retaining wall. Storm water management facilities are exempt from the city's stream buffer requirements.

Additionally, under Section 4.2.2.5 of the Sugar Hill Stream Buffer Protection Ordinance, a variance may be considered if the buffer intrusion is mitigated using the procedure established in the Gwinnett County Storm Water Design Manual.

"The amount and type of on-site mitigation does not have to be determined at the time of the [Stream Buffer Protection Ordinance] application. The applicant can identify areas of mitigation if the applicant so desires. On-site mitigation can be determined after a [Stream Buffer Protection Ordinance] variance is granted. (*Gwinnett County Stormwater Design Manual*)"

4/5/2024 VAR-24-001 Page 2 of 2

Civil • Structural • Bridge
Since 1968

RANDALL W. GIPSON, P.E.
DANIEL D. CAMPBELL, P.E.
JEFFREY B. STRICKLAND, P.E.
GLENN A. GRAHAM, P.E.
SCOTT E. SAMUEL, P.E.
STONEY C. ABERCROMBIE, P.E.
JEFFREY L. VANDIVER, P.E.
JOSEPH C. MCCOWN, P.E.

R. CLAY LEWIS, P.E.
STEPHEN J. SYWY, P.E.
ROBERT A. MCCANN, P.E.
DAVID A. DOMYSLAWSKI, P.E.
DAVID H. LOVVORN, P.E.
KEVIN M. SOUTHERLAND, P.E.
M. BRUCE BAKER, P.E.
T. LUKE FERGUSON, P.E.

February 19, 2024

Mr. Kaipo Awana Planning and Development Department Director City of Sugar Hill 5039 West Broad Street Sugar Hill, Georgia 30518

Re: Letter of Intent

Stream Buffer Protection Variance Application 5962 Cumming Highway, Parcel No. 7339 017

Sugar Hill, Georgia 30518

Dear Mr. Awana,

Please accept the attached Stream Buffer Protection Variance Application package for the proposed retail/restaurant project located at 5962 Cumming Highway (Parcel No. 7339-017) in Sugar Hill, Georgia. The proposed use of the project is a quick serve restaurant. The variance requested is to encroach into the 50 foot undisturbed buffer and the additional 25 foot impervious buffer per Section 4.1.1and 4.1.2 of the City of Sugar Hill's Stream Buffer Protection Ordinance.

An aquatic resources and state waters delineation was performed on the parcel by Contour Environmental in October 2023. The project area was found to contain 0.001 acres of wetlands and 93.33 linear feet of intermittent stream. The proposed development will include the construction of a quick serve restaurant with drive thru, parking, and associated utilities. Due to the shape of the property and topography, the city's 50 foot undisturbed buffer and additional 25 foot impervious buffer would render the site undevelopable for the proposed retail/restaurant project and impossible to provide an inter-parcel access and connectivity from the proposed project to the adjacent parcels along Cumming Highway. The 50 foot undisturbed buffer comprises 34% of the entire parcel area. When the additional 25 foot impervious buffer is added to the undisturbed buffer, the total buffer area is 54% of the entire parcel area. Additionally, the existing topography on the site hinders development because the topography slopes steadily away from the Cumming Highway road frontage and includes a total elevation fall of more than 20 feet from the front to the rear of the property.

The proposed site and grading plans have been designed to minimize the impact on the stream buffers as much as possible. In fact, the proposed design includes a retaining wall along the rear of the site to eliminate any impact to the existing stream and wetlands areas. Unfortunately, the proposed development will encroach into the city's buffers. Accordingly, we have also submitted a variance application to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division to encroach into a portion of the state's 25 foot stream buffer. The project's stormwater management plan will be designed to comply with the Gwinnett County Stormwater Design Manual.

Mr. Kaipo Awana February, 19, 2024 Page 2

Based on the fact that we have designed the proposed project to eliminate any impacts to the existing intermittent stream and wetlands areas, and the fact that the proposed project would be undevelopable without a variance to encroach into city's buffers, we respectfully request your consideration and approval of the attached Stream Buffer Protection Variance Application. Thank you for your time and attention to this request. If you have any questions, please contact me at (770) 491-7550 or <a href="mailto:bmccann@hainesgipson.com">bmccann@hainesgipson.com</a>.

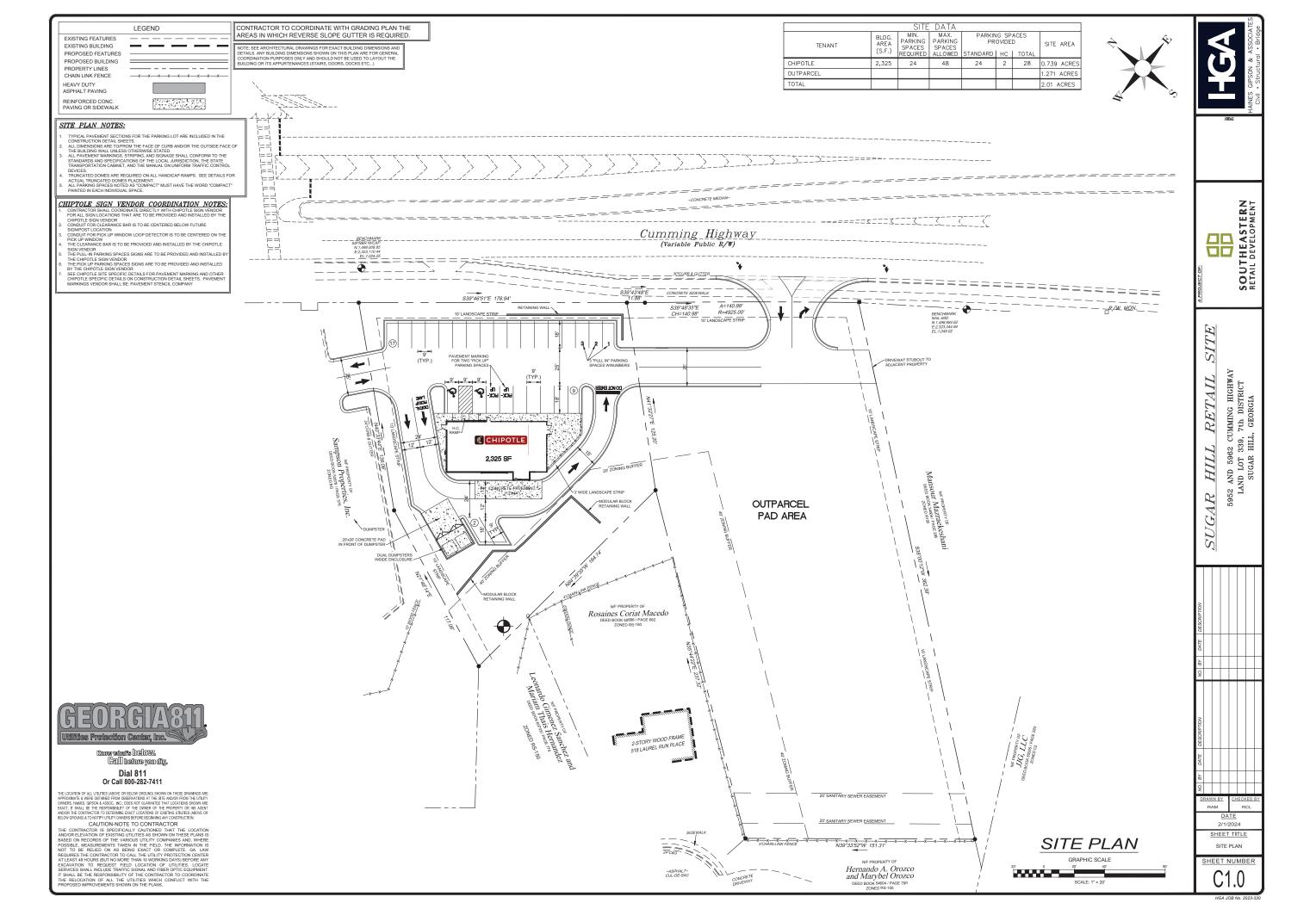
Very truly yours,

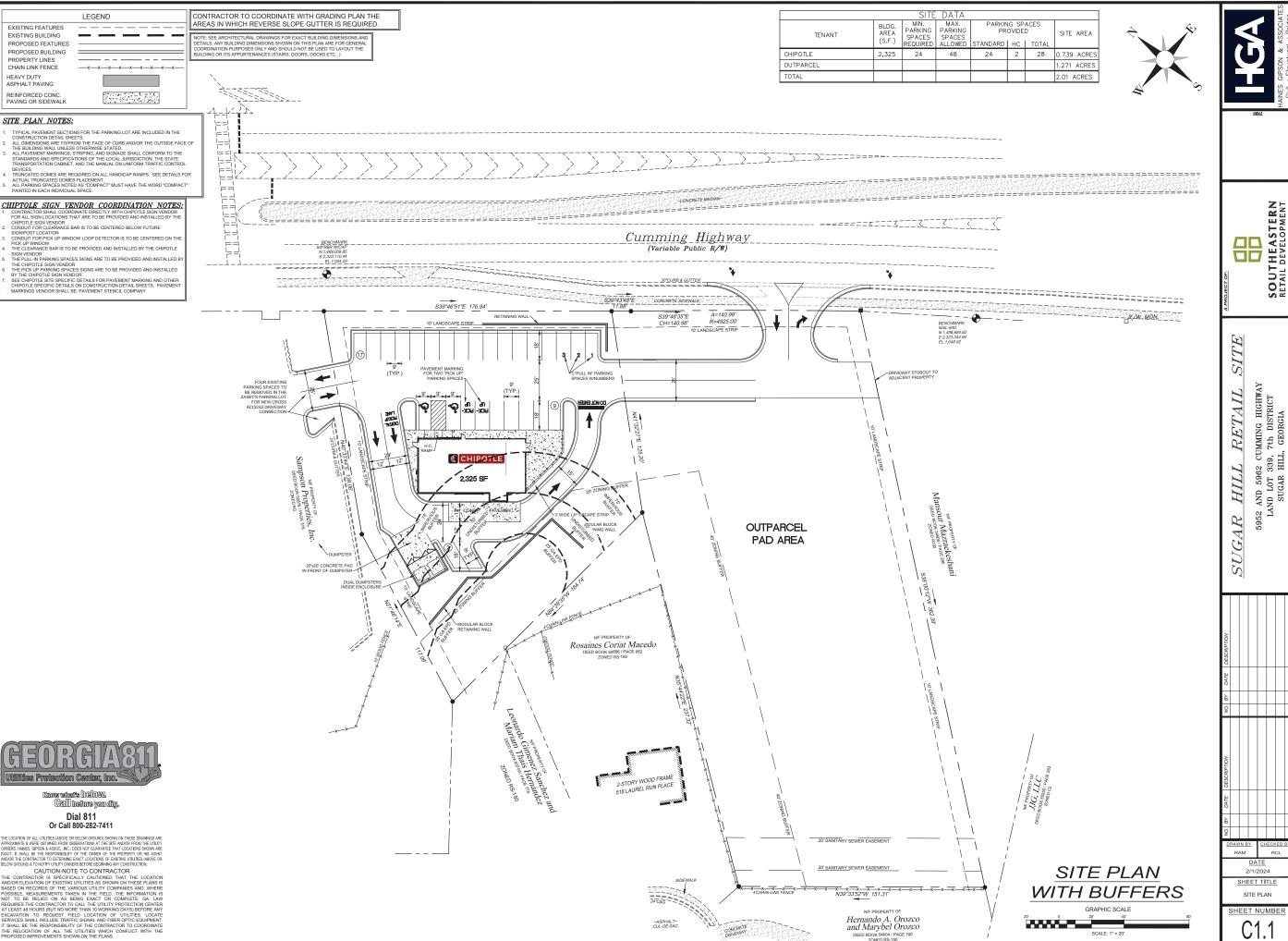
HAINES, GIPSON & ASSOCIATES, INC.

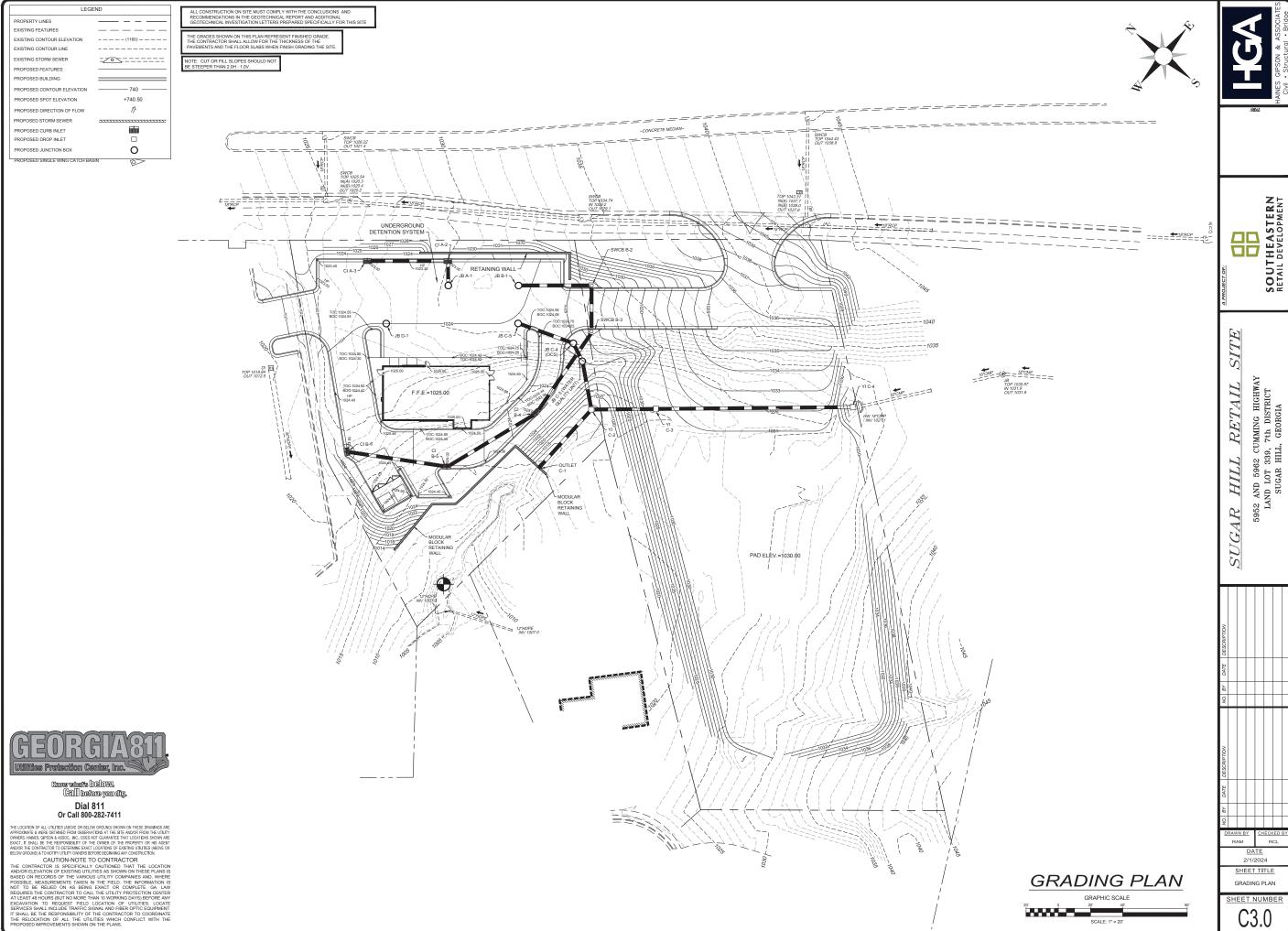
olut a. M. Com

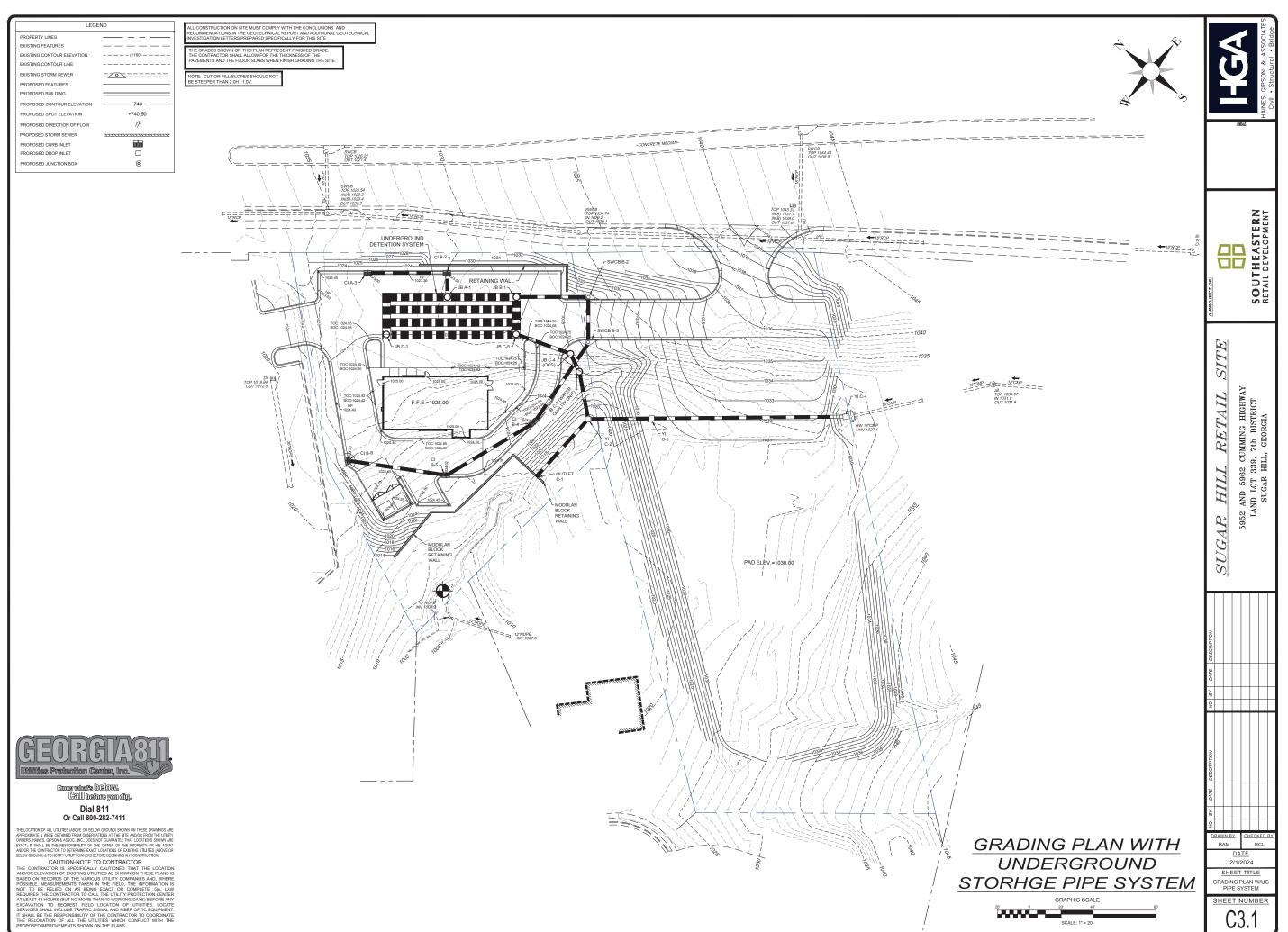
Robert A. McCann, P.E.

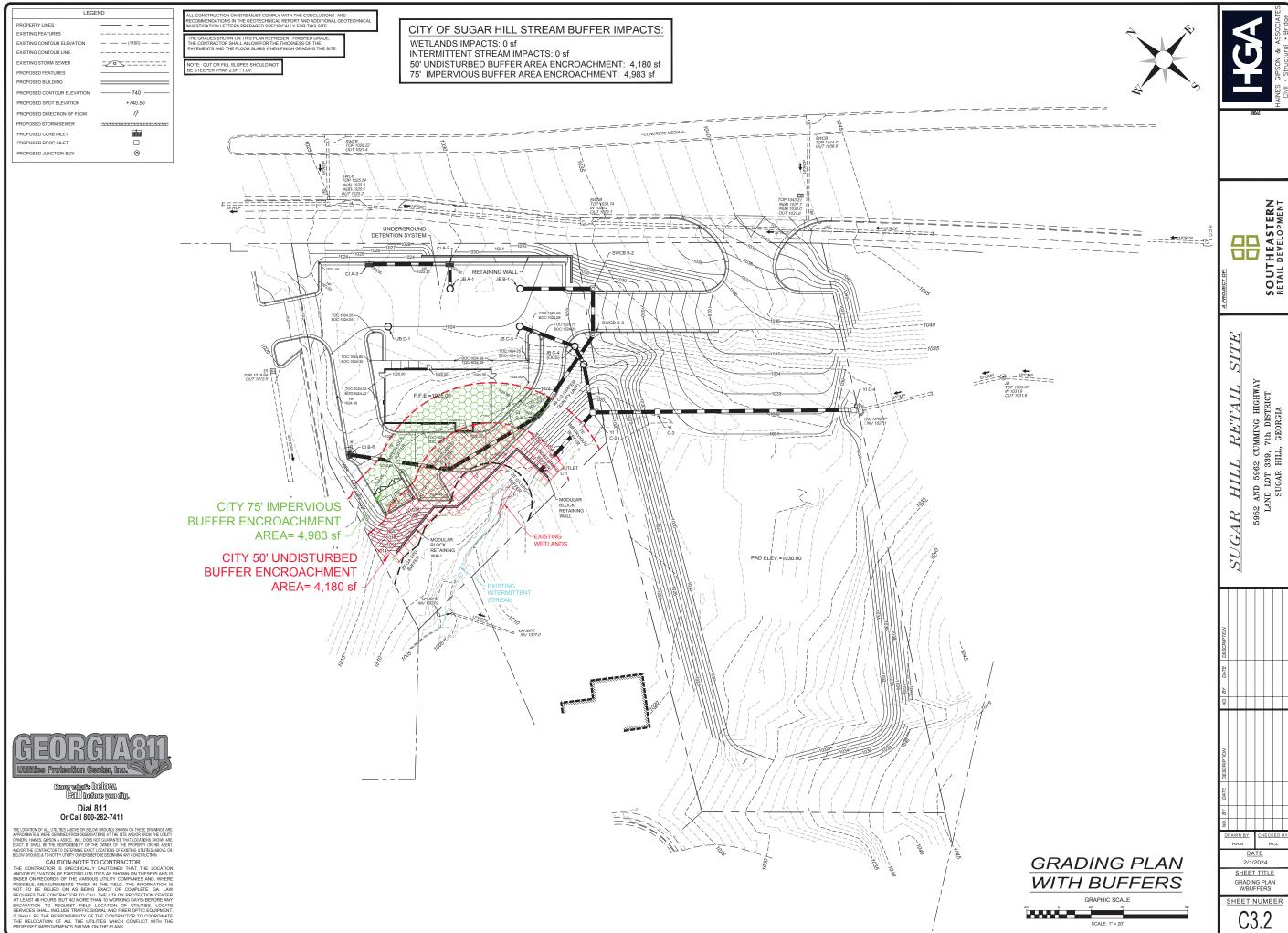
Principal

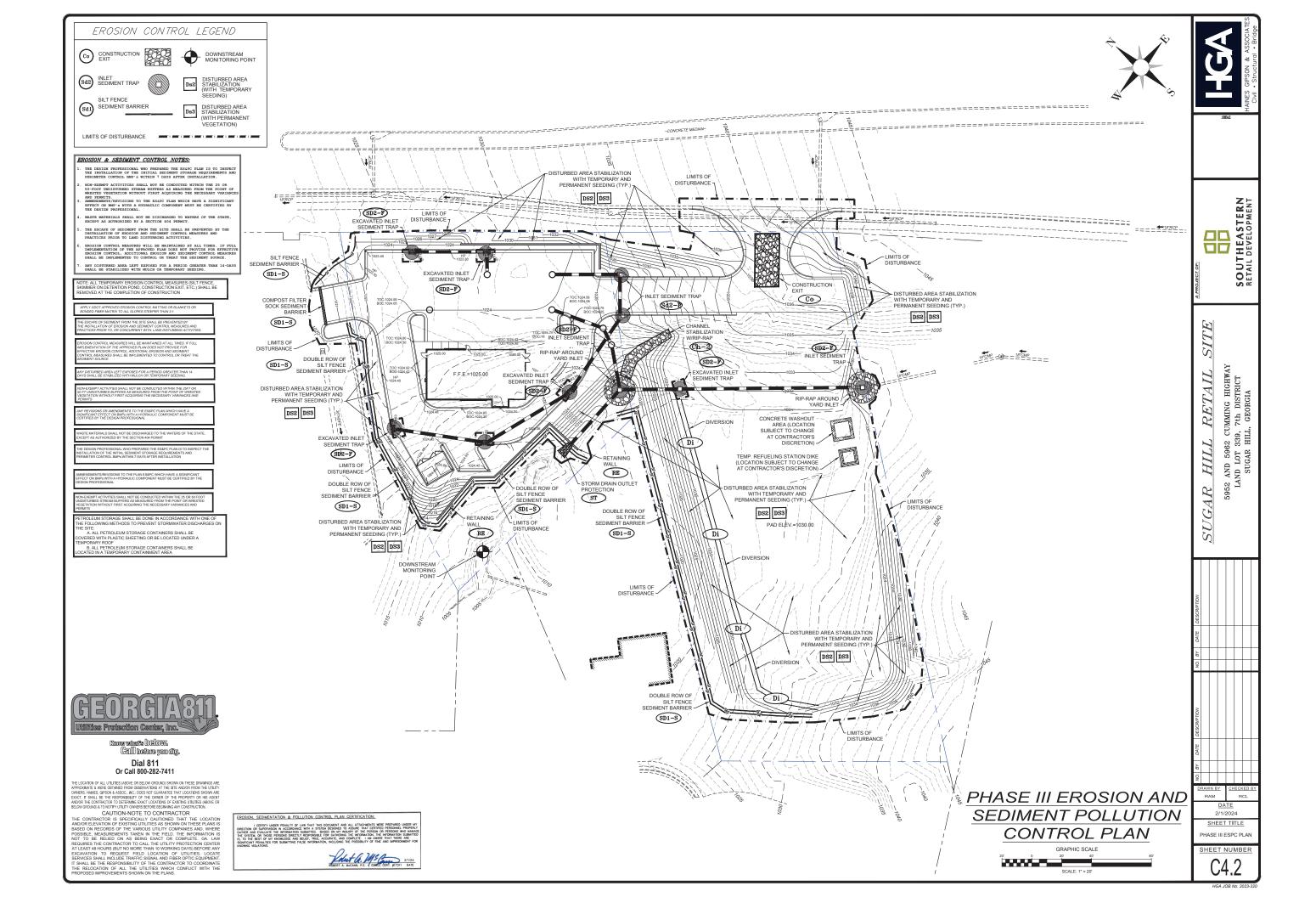














## SITE PHOTOGRAPHS













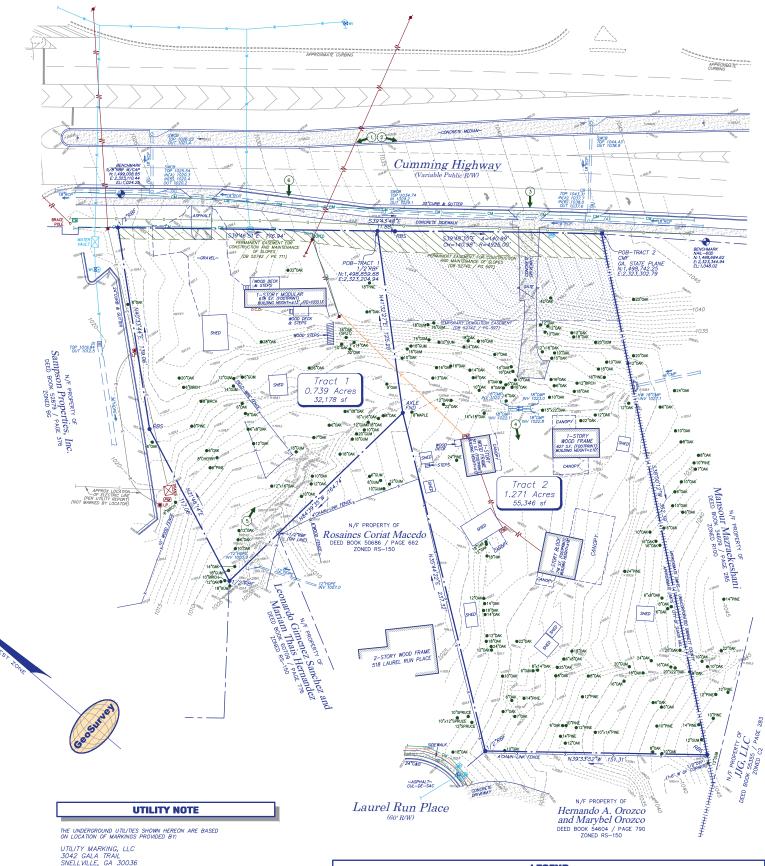
## **CLOSURE STATEMENT**

THIS PLAT HAS BEEN CALCULATED FOR CLOSURE AND WAS FOUND TO BE ACCURATE WITHIN ONE FOOT IN 143,717 FEET, ERP INIT.

## IF YOU DIG



Know what's below. before you dig. **Dial 811** Or Call 800-282-7411



UTILITY MARKING, LLC 3042 GALA TRAIL SNELLVILLE, GA 30036 (678) 357–1946

## LEGEND

## STANDARD ABBREVIATIONS

WATER VAULT GAS VALVE GAS METER WATER VALVE WATER METER

STANDARD SYMBOLS ELECTRIC TRANSFORMER

FIRE HYDRANT

E UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC LINE
UNDERGROUND GAS LINE
UNDERGROUND COMMUNICATION LINE
UNDERGROUND WATER LINE

PHOTO POSITION INDICATOR REGULAR PARKING SPACE COUNT HANDICAP PARKING SPACE TREE POSITION INDICATOR SIGN

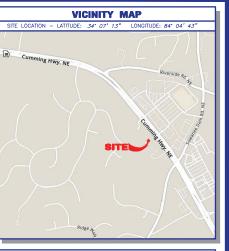
## **TITLE EXCEPTIONS**

### PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

## GRAPHIC SCALE



## SURVEYOR CERTIFICATION (GEORGIA)



## **GENERAL NOTES**

THIS SURVEY HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF THE PERSON OF ENTITIES NAMED HEREON. NO EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTIES WITH RESPECT TO

TURVEY. THE "SURVEY DATE" SHOWN HEREON IS THE APPLICABLE DATE AS RELATED O PROVISIONS OF STATUTES OF LIMITATION UNLESS SPECIFICALLY NOTED OTHERWISE.

THIS PROPERTY IS NOT LOCATED IN A SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREA BASED ON THE FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAP FOR THIS AREA. THE MAP NUMBER FOR THIS AREA. IT \$1335000156, AND THE DATE OF SAID MAP IS 3/4/2015. THIS DETERMINATION WAY MADE BY GRAPHICALLY DETERMINING THE POSITION OF THIS SITE ON SAID FIRE MAPS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTE.

RICHT-OF-WAY LINES SHOWN ON THIS SURVEY THAT ARE NOT ACTUAL BOUNDARIES OF THE SUBJECT TRACTIS) ARE DEPICITED GRAPHICALLY AND ARE SHOWN APPROXIMATELY FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY, SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY LINES SHOULD NOT BE UTILIZED FOR DESIGN PURPOSES

SURVEY REFERENCES

1. PLAT OF PROPERTY PREPARED FOR MINTON SUDDERTH, DATED 12-31-74, BY
MINZE BROTHERS, INC., RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 2, AT PAGE 194A, GWINNET
COUNTY RECORDS.
2. SURVEY FOR LARRY YOUNGBLOOD, DATED 10-24-72, BY JAMES AKINS &
ASSOCIATES, RECORDED IN PLAT BOOK 13, AT PAGE 2678, GWINNETT COUNT

CORDS.

BOUNDARY SURVEY FOR DONALD E. HUMPHRIES, PREPARED BY DIVERSIFIE.

HINICAL GROUP, LLC, DATED APRIL 9, 2014, PROJECT NO. 14133.

Bruce D. Duncan
DEED BOOK 53030 / PAGE 858
ZONED BG

TOTAL AREA 2.010 Acres

## SURVEYOR CERTIFICATION (ALTA/NSPS)

This is to certify that this map or plat and the survey on which it is based were made in accordance with the 2021 Minimum Standard Del Requirements for ALTA/NSPS Land Tills Curveys, jointly established a adopted by ALTA and NSPS, and includes Items 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7(a), 7(b-1), 8, 9, 10, 11a, & 13 of Table A thereof. The field work was completed on December 15, 2023.



ALTA/NSPS LAND TITLE SURVEY

*5952 & 5962 Cumming Highway* 

## Southeastern Retail Development, LLC Fidelity National Title Insurance Company

_	GS JOB NO: 20237800		DRAWING SCALE:		1"=30'	SU	JRVEY DAT	E: December 15,	2023	
	FIELD WORK	t: JE	CITY:	SUGAR HIL	1	REVISIONS (SEE GENERAL NOTES)				
0	TILLED WOTE			000/11/ ///	_	No.	Date	Description		
	PROJ MGR:	ERP	COUNTY:	GWINNETT	STATE: GA	1.	1/3/2024	Address Comments		
		270				2.	1/18/2024	Revise Title Exceptions		
	REVIEWED:	BDC	LAND LO	T: .3.3.9						
		550				_				
	DWG FILE:	20237800-1.dwg	DISTRICT:	7th						
	DITO TILL.	LoLorodo Hang	District.	7 (1)						



Professional Land Surveying Service

(770) 795-9900 (770) 795-8880

www.geosurvey.com EMAIL: info@geosurvey.com Certificate of Authorization #LSF-0006

# VAR 24-001 Photos of Site

By: City of Sugar Hill

**Planning Director** 

Kaipo Awana

4/4/2024

