



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT
701 SAN MARCO BOULEVARD
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32207

CESAJ-RD-WF

08 October 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Pre-2015 Regulatory Regime Approved Jurisdictional Determination in Light of *Sackett v. EPA*, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023),¹ SAJ-2024-00906 MFR#1²

BACKGROUND. An Approved Jurisdictional Determination (AJD) is a Corps document stating the presence or absence of waters of the United States on a parcel or a written statement and map identifying the limits of waters of the United States on a parcel. AJDs are clearly designated appealable actions and will include a basis of JD with the document.³ AJDs are case-specific and are typically made in response to a request. AJDs are valid for a period of five years unless new information warrants revision of the determination before the expiration date or a District Engineer has identified, after public notice and comment, that specific geographic areas with rapidly changing environmental conditions merit re-verification on a more frequent basis.⁴ For the purposes of this AJD, we have relied on section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (RHA),⁵ the Clean Water Act (CWA) implementing regulations published by the Department of the Army in 1986 and amended in 1993 (references 2.a. and 2.b. respectively), the 2008 *Rapanos-Carabell* guidance (reference 2.c.), and other applicable guidance, relevant case law and longstanding practice, (collectively the pre-2015 regulatory regime), and the *Sackett* decision (reference 2.d.) in evaluating jurisdiction.

This Memorandum for Record (MFR) constitutes the basis of jurisdiction for a Corps AJD as defined in 33 CFR §331.2. The features addressed in this AJD were evaluated consistent with the definition of “waters of the United States” found in the pre-2015 regulatory regime and consistent with the Supreme Court's decision in *Sackett*. This AJD did not rely on the 2023 “Revised Definition of ‘Waters of the United States,’” as

¹ While the Supreme Court's decision in *Sackett* had no effect on some categories of waters covered under the CWA, and no effect on any waters covered under RHA, all categories are included in this Memorandum for Record for efficiency.

² When documenting aquatic resources within the review area that are jurisdictional under the Clean Water Act (CWA), use an additional MFR and group the aquatic resources on each MFR based on the TNW, interstate water, or territorial seas that they are connected to. Be sure to provide an identifier to indicate when there are multiple MFRs associated with a single AJD request (i.e., number them 1, 2, 3, etc.).

³ 33 CFR 331.2.

⁴ Regulatory Guidance Letter 05-02.

⁵ USACE has authority under both Section 9 and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 but for convenience, in this MFR, jurisdiction under RHA will be referred to as Section 10.

amended on 8 September 2023 (Amended 2023 Rule) because, as of the date of this decision, the Amended 2023 Rule is not applicable in this state due to litigation.

1. SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS.

- a. Provide a list of each individual feature within the review area and the jurisdictional status of each one (i.e., identify whether each feature is/is not a water of the United States and/or a navigable water of the United States).

Wetland 1 (W1): Non-jurisdiction wetland that is 0.43 acres in size.

Wetland 2 (W2): Jurisdictional wetland that is 0.04 acres in size.

2. REFERENCES.

- a. Final Rule for Regulatory Programs of the Corps of Engineers, 51 FR 41206 (November 13, 1986).
- b. Clean Water Act Regulatory Programs, 58 FR 45008 (August 25, 1993).
- c. U.S. EPA & U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Clean Water Act Jurisdiction Following the U.S. Supreme Court's Decision in *Rapanos v. United States & Carabell v. United States* (December 2, 2008)
- d. *Sackett v. EPA*, 598 U.S. 651, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023)

3. REVIEW AREA. The proposed project is located on the north side of Oil Well Road 0.45 mile west of the intersection of Oil Well Road and Oil Well Grade Road, In Section 14, Township 48 South, Range 28 East, Collier County, Florida (Latitude: 26.29531°; Longitude: -81.49072°).

A total of 2.75 acres of the 7.84 -acre project site will be developed to construct an electric utility substation. The majority of the project site is contained within a berm that is approximately 7 feet high. A 0.43 acre wetland (w1) is located within the bermed area and will be impacted by the building and paving work. A driveway accessing the facility from Oil Well Road will impact 0.04 acre of wetland (W2) that is outside the bermed area. This was confirmed by a field investigation. A general WQC consistency concurrence is required has been issued for this permit. The South Florida Water Management District issued an individual environmental resource permit (11-111076-P) on 2 May 2025.

4. NEAREST TRADITIONAL NAVIGABLE WATER (TNW), INTERSTATE WATER, OR THE TERRITORIAL SEAS TO WHICH THE AQUATIC RESOURCE IS CONNECTED. N/A
5. FLOWPATH FROM THE SUBJECT AQUATIC RESOURCES TO A TNW, INTERSTATE WATER, OR THE TERRITORIAL SEAS. N/A
6. SECTION 10 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS⁶: Describe aquatic resources or other features within the review area determined to be jurisdictional in accordance with Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. Include the size of each aquatic resource or other feature within the review area and how it was determined to be jurisdictional in accordance with Section 10.⁷ N/A
7. SECTION 404 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS: Describe the aquatic resources within the review area that were found to meet the definition of waters of the United States in accordance with the pre-2015 regulatory regime and consistent with the Supreme Court's decision in *Sackett*. List each aquatic resource separately, by name, consistent with the naming convention used in section 1, above. Include a rationale for each aquatic resource, supporting that the aquatic resource meets the relevant category of "waters of the United States" in the pre-2015 regulatory regime. The rationale should also include a written description of, or reference to a map in the administrative record that shows, the lateral limits of jurisdiction for each aquatic resource, including how that limit was determined, and incorporate relevant references used. Include the size of each aquatic resource in acres or linear feet and attach and reference related figures as needed.
 - a. TNWs (a)(1): N/A
 - b. Interstate Waters (a)(2): N/A
 - c. Other Waters (a)(3): 0.04 acre of wetland (W2) that is outside the bermed area is a roadside swale that flows approximately 400 feet to the west to a cypress wetland area that is a RPW.
 - d. Impoundments (a)(4): N/A

⁶ 33 CFR 329.9(a) A waterbody which was navigable in its natural or improved state, or which was susceptible of reasonable improvement (as discussed in § 329.8(b) of this part) retains its character as "navigable in law" even though it is not presently used for commerce, or is presently incapable of such use because of changed conditions or the presence of obstructions.

⁷ This MFR is not to be used to make a report of findings to support a determination that the water is a navigable water of the United States. The district must follow the procedures outlined in 33 CFR part 329.14 to make a determination that water is a navigable water of the United States subject to Section 10 of the RHA.

- e. Tributaries (a)(5): N/A
- f. The territorial seas (a)(6): N/A
- g. Adjacent wetlands (a)(7): N/A

8. NON-JURISDICTIONAL AQUATIC RESOURCES AND FEATURES

- a. Describe aquatic resources and other features within the review area identified as “generally non-jurisdictional” in the preamble to the 1986 regulations (referred to as “preamble waters”).⁸ Include size of the aquatic resource or feature within the review area and describe how it was determined to be non-jurisdictional under the CWA as a preamble water. N/A
- b. Describe aquatic resources and features within the review area identified as “generally not jurisdictional” in the *Rapanos* guidance. Include size of the aquatic resource or feature within the review area and describe how it was determined to be non-jurisdictional under the CWA based on the criteria listed in the guidance. N/A
- c. Describe aquatic resources and features identified within the review area as waste treatment systems, including treatment ponds or lagoons designed to meet the requirements of CWA. Include the size of the waste treatment system within the review area and describe how it was determined to be a waste treatment system. N/A
- d. Describe aquatic resources and features within the review area determined to be prior converted cropland in accordance with the 1993 regulations (reference 2.b.). Include the size of the aquatic resource or feature within the review area and describe how it was determined to be prior converted cropland. N/A
- e. Describe aquatic resources (i.e. lakes and ponds) within the review area, which do not have a nexus to interstate or foreign commerce, and prior to the January 2001 Supreme Court decision in “*SWANCC*,” would have been jurisdictional based solely on the “Migratory Bird Rule.” Include the size of the aquatic resource or feature, and how it was determined to be an “isolated water” in accordance with *SWANCC*. N/A
- f. Describe aquatic resources and features within the review area that were determined to be non-jurisdictional because they do not meet one or more

⁸ 51 FR 41217, November 13, 1986.

categories of waters of the United States under the pre-2015 regulatory regime consistent with the Supreme Court's decision in *Sackett* (e.g., tributaries that are non-relatively permanent waters; non-tidal wetlands that do not have a continuous surface connection to a jurisdictional water).

Wetland 1 is non-tidal wetlands and waters that do not have a continuous surface connection to a jurisdictional water including a Relatively Permanent Water (RPW), or a Traditional Navigable Water (TNW).

9. DATA SOURCES. List sources of data/information used in making determination. Include titles and dates of sources used and ensure that information referenced is available in the administrative record.
 - a. USACE Data Forms and Location Map
 - b. National Regulatory Viewer (NRV) topographical information.
 - c. FLUCCS map showing the project site
 - d. USACE National Wetland Inventory map
 - e. USACE Soils Map
 - f. USACE LIDAR Imagery
 - g. USACE USA Soils Hydric Class
 - h. USACE Digital Elevation Map
 - i. Site inspection

10. OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION.

the 7.84 -acre project site will be developed to construct an electric utility substation. The majority of the project site is contained within a berm that is approximately 7 feet high. A 0.43 acre wetland (W1) is located within the bermed area and will be impacted by the building and paving work. A driveway accessing the facility from Oil Well Road will impact 0.04 acre of wetland (W2) that is outside the bermed area. W1 is not adjacent to, or indistinguishable from territorial seas, traditional navigable waterways (TNW) or tributaries to those waters, or relatively permanent waters (RPW). The nearest RPW is a cypress wetland located about 400 feet to the west and W2 is indistinguishable from the cypress wetland.

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11. NOTE: The structure and format of this MFR were developed in coordination with the EPA and Department of the Army. The MFR's structure and format may be subject to future modification or may be rescinded as needed to implement additional guidance from the agencies; however, the approved jurisdictional determination described herein is a final agency action.

Project Location Figure

Oil Well Road Future Substation

23-050

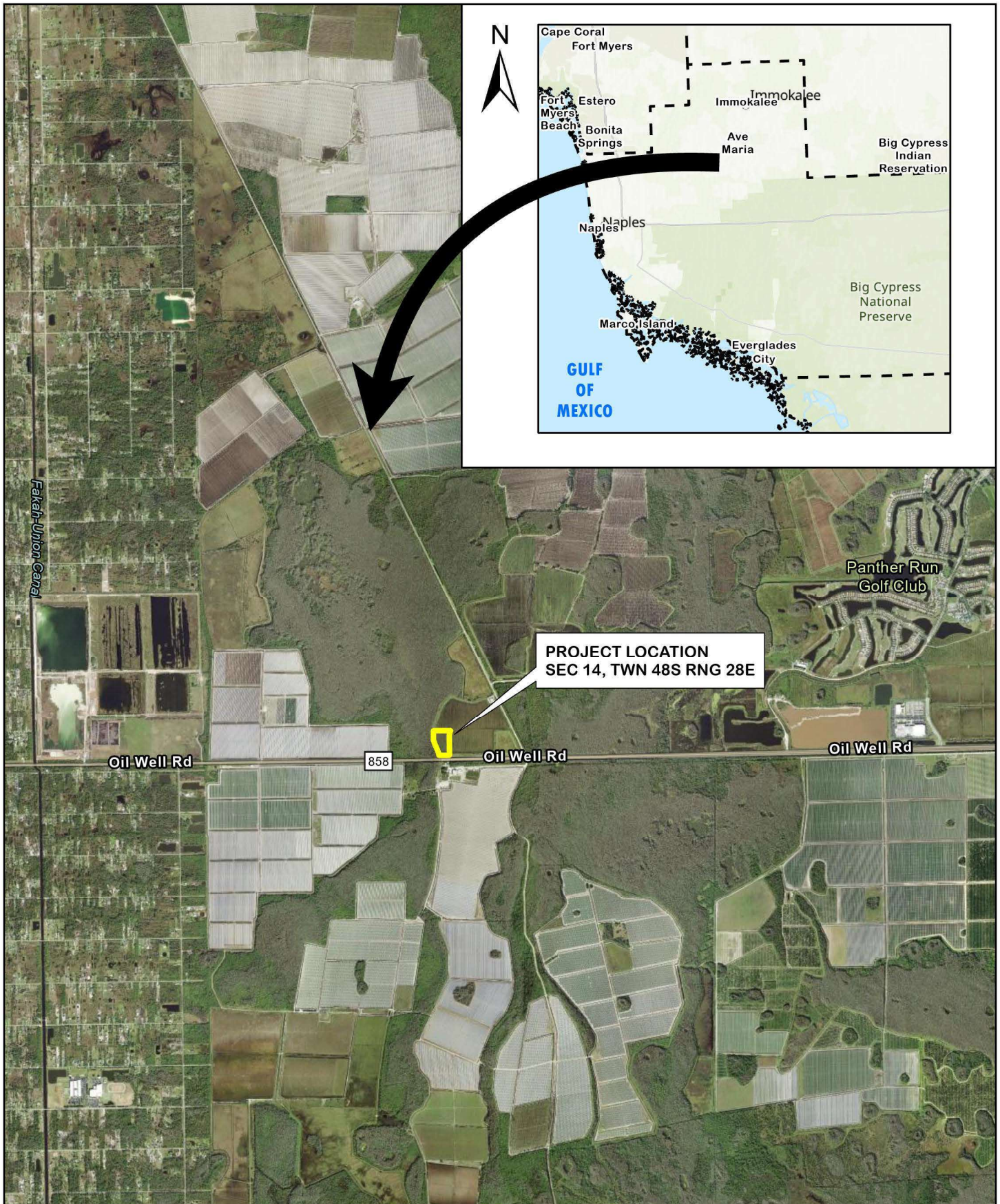
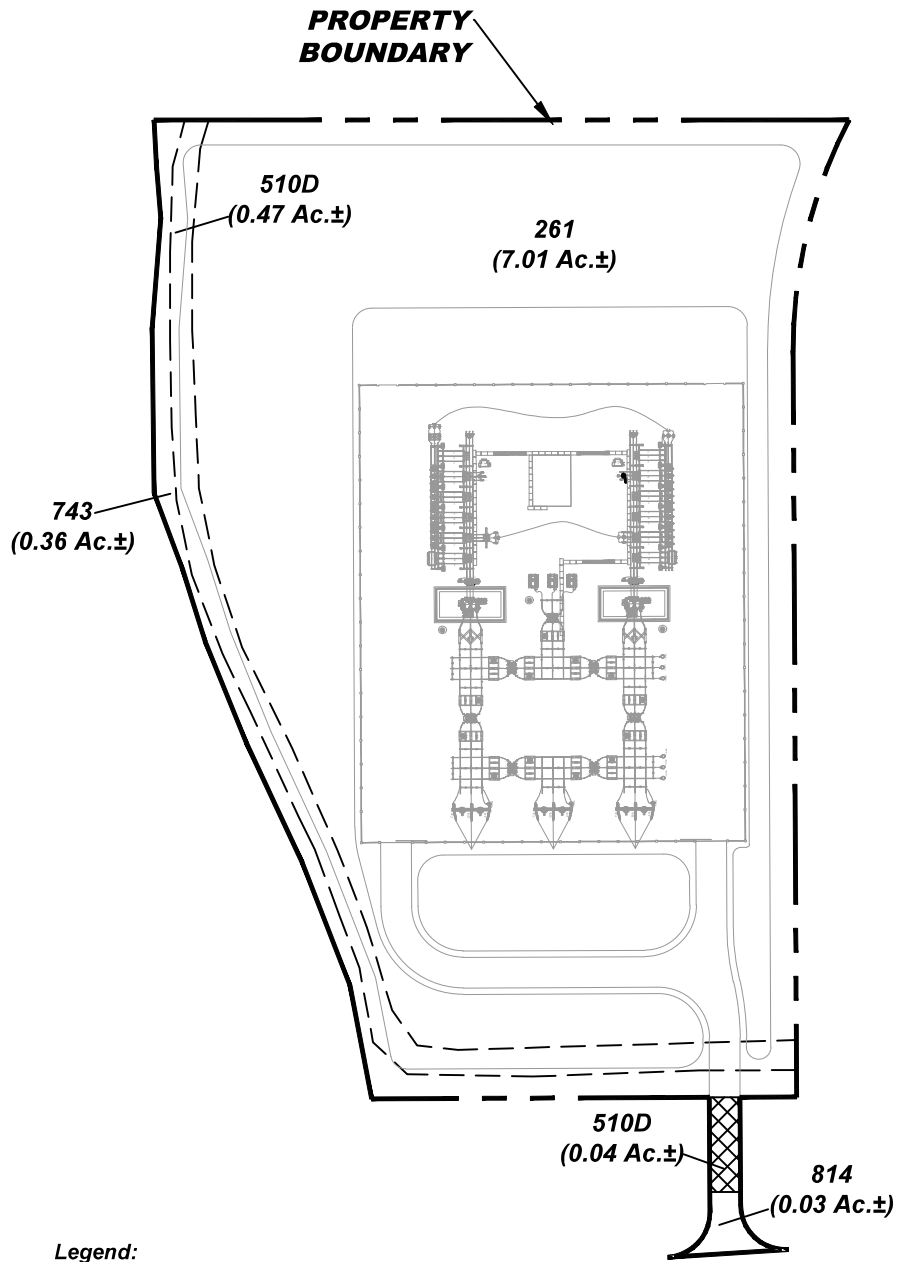


Figure 1. Project Location Map

**OWEN ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSULTING, LLC.**
FORT MYERS 239-994-9007

Map showing the Wetland Locations

Oil Well Road Future Substation



SECTION: 14
 TOWNSHIP: 48S
 RANGE: 28E

0 75 150
 SCALE FEET

Legend:

COE Jurisdictional Other Surface Water Impacts (0.04 Ac.±)

Notes:

1. Project boundary provided by Lee County Electric Cooperative.
2. Mapping based on photointerpretation of 2022 aerial photography and ground truthing in August 2023.
3. Delineation of jurisdictional wetlands is preliminary and subject to field review/approval by applicable regulatory agencies.

FLUCCS	Description	Acreage
261	Fallow Crop Land	7.01 ac.
510D	Ditches	0.51 ac.
743	Spoil Areas	0.36 ac.
814	Road	0.03 ac.
Total		7.91 ac.

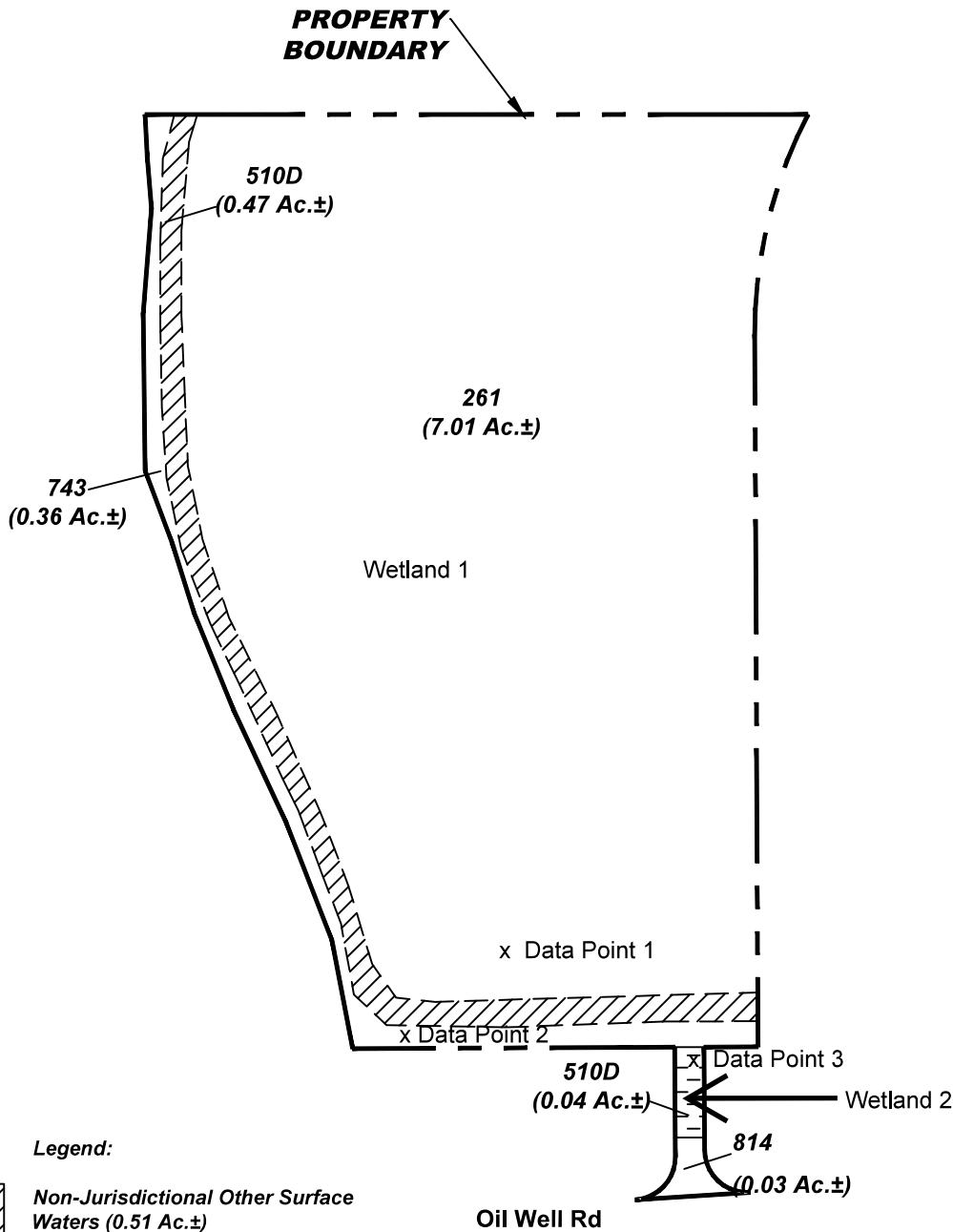
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Oil Well Road Future Substation



SECTION: 14
 TOWNSHIP: 48S
 RANGE: 28E

0 75 150
 SCALE FEET



Legend:

- Non-Jurisdictional Other Surface Waters (0.51 Ac.±)
- COE Jurisdictional Other Surface Waters (0.04 Ac.±)

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