



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Seattle District



# Joint Public Notice

## Application for a Department of the Army Permit and a Washington Department of Ecology Water Quality Certification and/or Coastal Zone Management Consistency Concurrence

US Army Corps of Engineers  
Regulatory Branch  
Post Office Box 3755  
Seattle, WA 98124-3755  
Telephone (206) 764-6985  
Randel Perry, Project Manager

WA Department of Ecology  
SEA Program  
Post Office Box 47600  
Olympia, WA 98504-7600  
Telephone (360) 407-6068  
Attn: SEA Program, Federal Permit  
Coordinator

Public Notice Date: December 26, 2007  
Expiration Date: January 25, 2007

Reference No.: NWS-2007-1999-NO  
Name: Bellingham School District #501

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Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) have received an application to perform work in waters of the United States as described below and shown on the enclosed drawings.

The Corps will review the work in accordance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Ecology will review the work pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA, with applicable provisions of State water pollution control laws and the Coastal Zone Management Act.

APPLICANT: Bellingham School District 501  
Mr. Manuel Babayan  
1306 Dupont Street  
Bellingham, Washington 98225  
Telephone: (360) 676-2691

AGENT: Northwest Ecological Services, LLC  
Ms. Vikki Jackson  
1229 Cornwall Avenue, Suite 313  
Bellingham, Washington 98225  
Telephone: (360) 734-9484

LOCATION: On property at 4420 Aldrich Road, Bellingham, Washington.

WORK: Fill and grade 1.31 acres of wetlands to facilitate construction of an elementary school and attendant features.

PURPOSE: Provide educational facilities in the northern portion of the school district.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION – A jurisdictional determination for the subject wetlands was issued on October 18, 2005, (Corps reference number NWS-2005-399-NO). One wetland, Wetland L, was determined to be isolated and does not fall under the Corps' Section 404 jurisdiction.

**MITIGATION:** As mitigation for the proposed impacts to 1.31 acres of palustrine scrub-shrub wetlands and 6.92 acres of upland buffers, the applicant has proposed both on-site and off-site mitigation. The proposed on-site mitigation is the re-establishment of 0.47 acres of wetlands, the enhancement of 3.28 acres of wetlands, the preservation of 2.27 acres of forested wetlands, the enhancement of 2.26 acres of buffer enhancements, and 1.67 acres of upland preservation. Off-site mitigation will involve either 2.81 acres of wetland re-establishment with 100-foot buffers at the "Slater Road" site or the enhancement of 7.09 acres of wetlands, plus establishment of 100-foot buffers, at the "Ferndale Road" site. The applicant is currently negotiating to secure an off-site area. Additional mitigation details are available on request.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES:** The Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires federal agencies to consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and/or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) pursuant to Section 7 of ESA on all actions that may affect a species listed (or proposed for listing) under the ESA as threatened or endangered or any designated critical habitat. A preliminary determination indicates that the activity will not affect endangered or threatened species, or their critical habitat. Consultation under Section 7 of the ESA is not required.

**ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT:** The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996, requires all Federal agencies to consult with the NMFS on all actions, or proposed actions, permitted, funded, or undertaken by the agency, that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). The proposed action would impact EFH in the project area. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has determined that the proposed action will not adversely affect designated EFH for federally managed fisheries in Washington waters. No further EFH consultation is necessary.

**CULTURAL RESOURCES:** The District Engineer has reviewed the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places, lists of properties determined eligible and other sources of information. There are no recorded historic properties within the permit area. The proposed work is of such a limited nature and extent that little likelihood exists for the project to impinge upon an unrecorded historic property. The District Engineer invites responses to this public notice from Native American Nations or tribal governments; Federal, State, and local agencies; historical and archeological societies; and other parties likely to have knowledge of or concerns with historic properties in the area. This public notice initiates consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act with any Tribe that has information or concerns with historic properties in the proposed permit area.

**EVALUATION – CORPS** - The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That 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 proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Native American Nations or tribal governments; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for the work. 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 activity.

The described discharge will be evaluated for compliance with guidelines promulgated by the Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b)(1) of the CWA. These guidelines require an alternatives analysis for any proposed discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States.

EVALUATION—ECOLOGY: Ecology is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, Native American Nations or tribal governments, State, and local agencies and officials; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Ecology will be considering all comments to determine whether to certify or deny certification for the proposed project.

ADDITIONAL EVALUATION: Whatcom County has issued a determination that the project is outside the Shorelines Management Program boundaries – no Shorelines Substantial Development Permit will be required for this project.

COMMENT AND REVIEW PERIOD: Conventional mail or e-mail comments on this public notice will be accepted and made part of the record and will be considered in determining whether it would be in the public interest to authorize this proposal. In order to be accepted, e-mail comments must originate from the author's e-mail account and must include on the subject line of the e-mail message the permit applicant's name and reference number as shown below. Either conventional mail or e-mail comments must include the permit applicant's name and reference number, as shown below, and the commentor's name, address, and phone number. All comments whether conventional mail or e-mail must reach this office, no later than the expiration date of this public notice to ensure consideration.

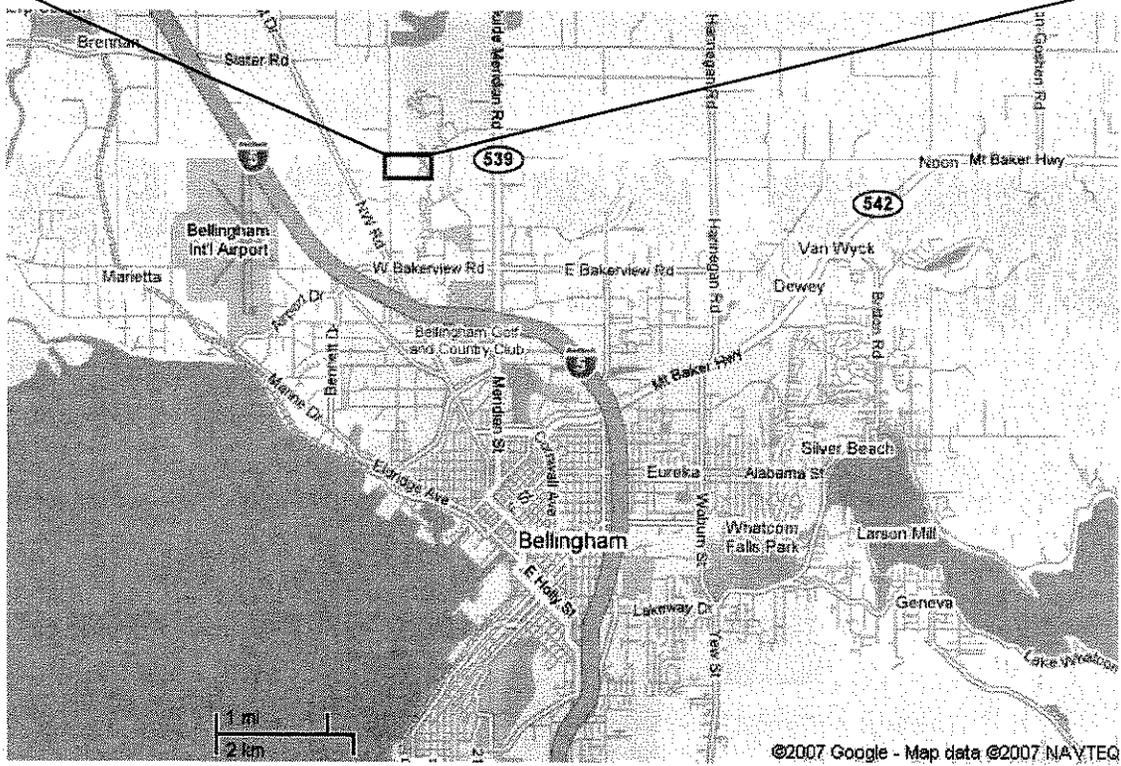
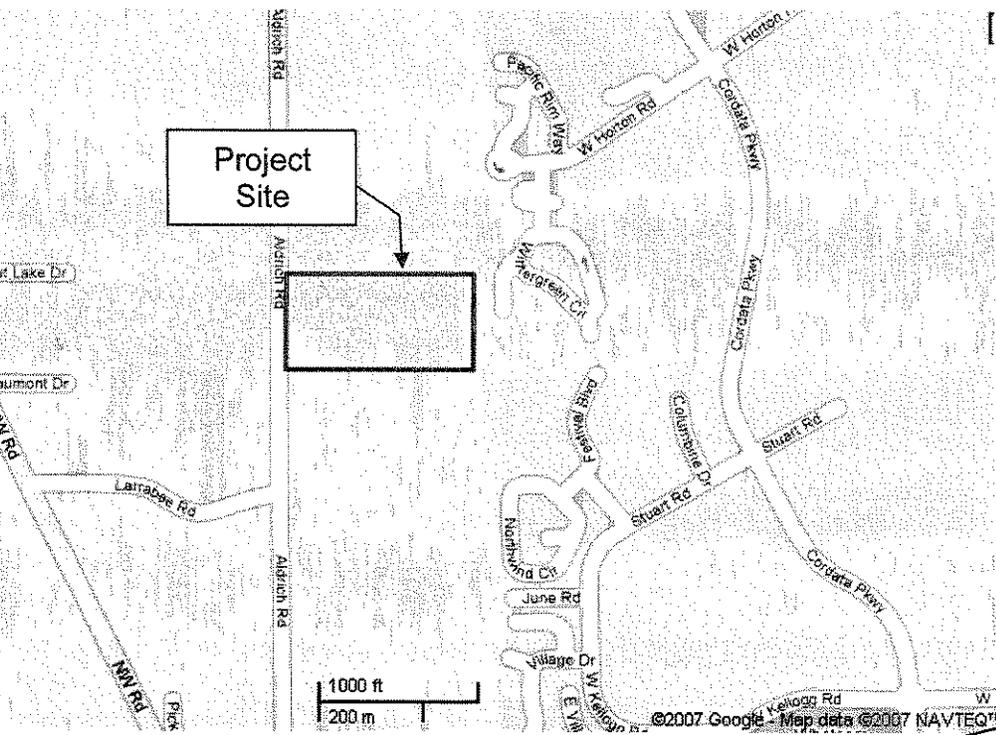
Corps comments: All e-mail comments should be sent to [randel.j.perry@usace.army.mil](mailto:randel.j.perry@usace.army.mil). Conventional mail comments should be sent to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch, Mr. Randel Perry, Post Office Box 3755, Seattle, Washington, 98124-3755.

Ecology Comments: Any person desiring to present views on the project pertaining to a request for water quality certification under Section 401 of the CWA and/or Coastal Zone Management consistency concurrence, may do so by submitting written comments to the following address: Department of Ecology, Attn: SEA program – Federal Permit Coordinator, Post Office Box 47600, Olympia, Washington, 98504-7600, or e-mail to [ecyrefedpermit@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:ecyrefedpermit@ecy.wa.gov)

To ensure proper consideration of all comments, responders must include the following name and reference number in the text of their comments: Bellingham School District #501, NWS-2007-1999-NO.

Encl: Figures (12)

**Directions:** Head north on I-5. Take exit 257 at Northwest Ave. in Bellingham. Make a slight right at Northwest Ave. Continue north on Northwest Avenue for 0.4 mile. Turn right on Aldrich Road and head north for 0.6 mile. The site is located east of Aldrich Road.



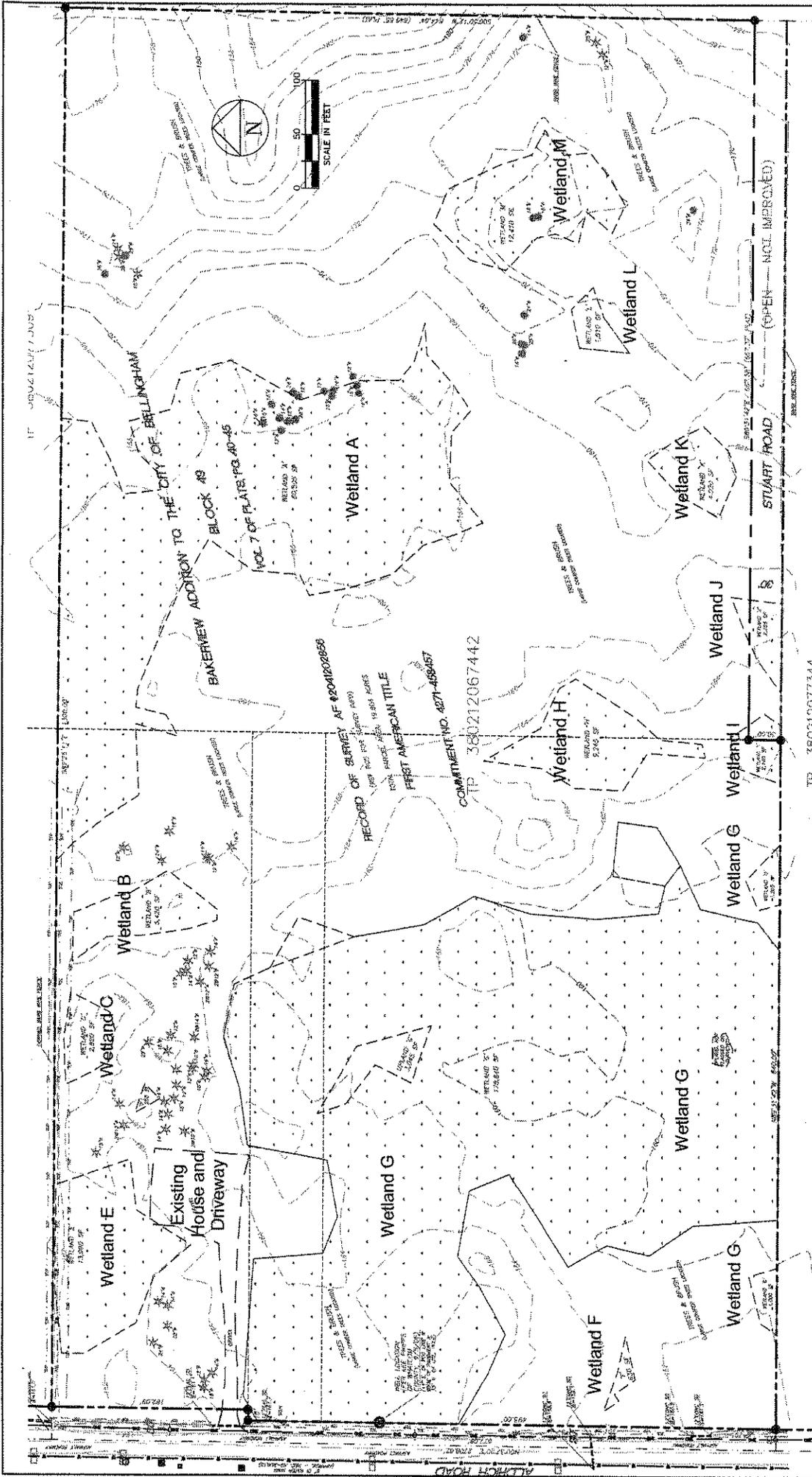
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**Applicant:** Bellingham School District 501  
**Project #:**  
**Adjacent Prop. Owners:** See Pg 4 JARPA  
**Date:** Nov 12, 2007

**Aldrich Road  
 Elementary School**

**Vicinity Map**

**In:** Wetlands  
**Location:** East of Aldrich Road  
**Sec/Twp/Rng:** 12/38N/2E  
**County:** Whatcom **State:** WA

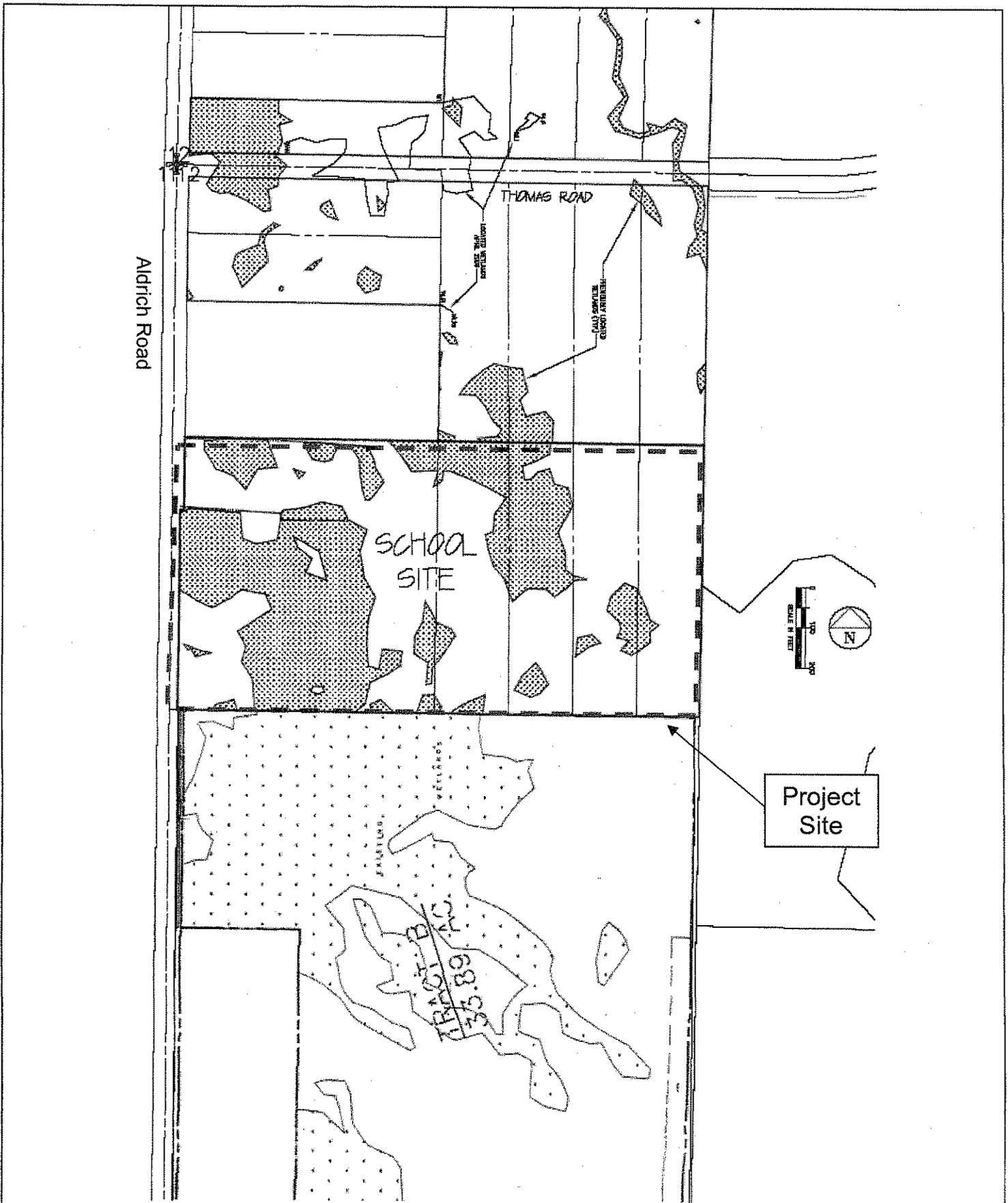
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**In:** Wetlands  
**Location:** East of Aldrich Road  
**Sec/Twp/Rng:** 12/38N/2E  
**County:** Whatcom **State:** WA

**Aldrich Road Elementary School**  
**Existing Conditions**

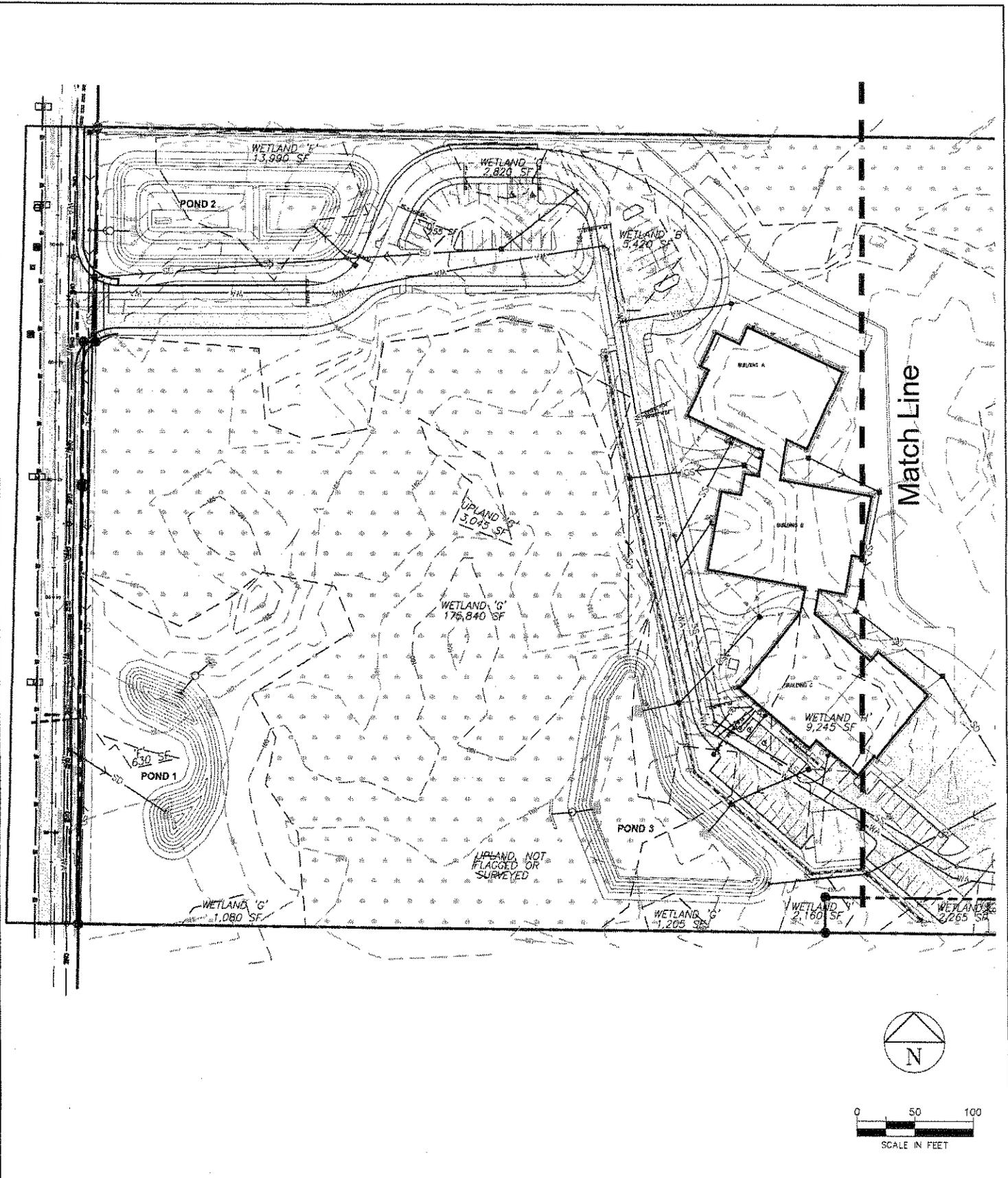
**Purpose:** Elementary School  
**Applicant:** Bellingham School District 501  
**Project #:**  
**Adjacent Prop. Owners:** See Pg 4 JARPA  
**Date:** Nov 12, 2007



**Purpose:** Elementary School  
**Applicant:** Bellingham School District 501  
**Project #:**  
**Adjacent Prop. Owners:** See Pg 4 JARPA  
**Date:** Nov 12, 2007

**Aldrich Road  
 Elementary School**  
**Adjacent Parcel Wetlands**

**In:** Wetlands  
**Location:** East of Aldrich Road  
**Sec/Twp/Rng:** 12/38N/2E  
**County:** Whatcom **State:** WA  
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**Purpose:** Elementary School  
**Applicant:** Bellingham School District 501  
**Project #:**  
**Adjacent Prop. Owners:** See Pg 4 JARPA  
**Date:** Nov 12, 2007

**Aldrich Road  
 Elementary School**  
**Proposed Site Plan (A)**

**In:** Wetlands  
**Location:** East of Aldrich Road  
**Sec/Twp/Rng:** 12/38N/2E  
**County:** Whatcom **State:** WA  
 Sheet 4 of 12

Match Line

Proposed City of  
Bellingham Trail

WETLAND 'A'  
80,505 SF

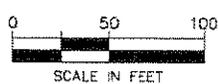
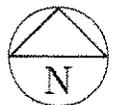
WETLAND 'M'  
12,410 SF

WETLAND 'L'  
1,610 SF

SOFT  
PLAY AREA  
WETLAND 'R'  
AREA

MULTI-USE  
FIELD

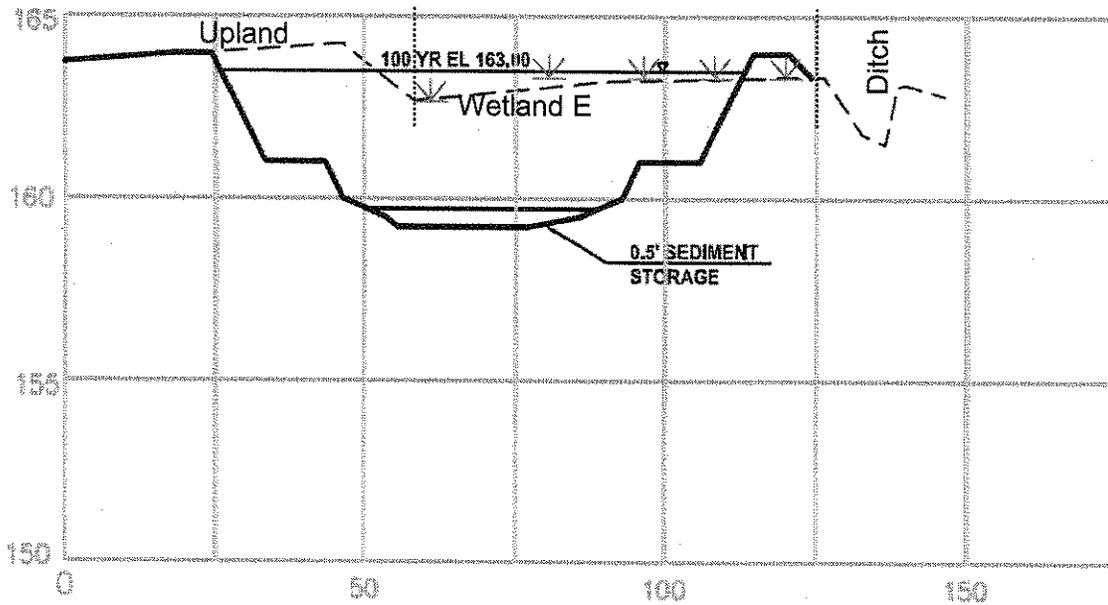
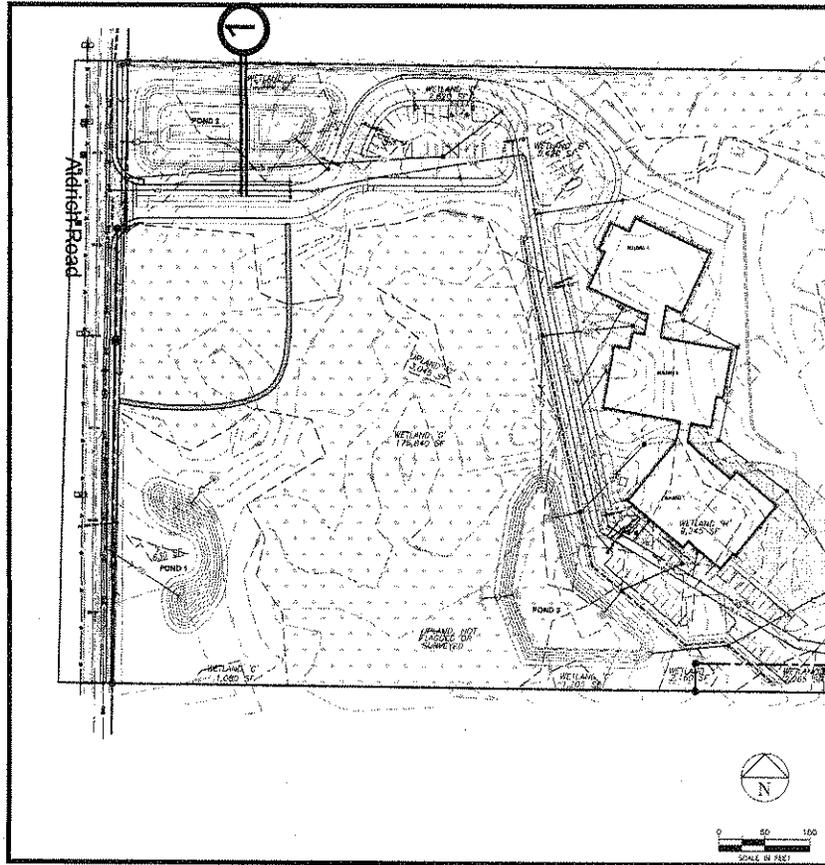
WETLAND 'S'  
2,265 SF



**Purpose:** Elementary School  
**Applicant:** Bellingham School District 501  
**Project #:**  
**Adjacent Prop. Owners:** See Pg 4 JARPA  
**Date:** Nov 12, 2007

**Aldrich Road  
Elementary School**  
  
**Proposed Site Plan (B)**

**In:** Wetlands  
**Location:** East of Aldrich Road  
**Sec/Twp/Rng:** 12/38N/2E  
**County:** Whatcom      **State:** WA  
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## SECTION - POND 2

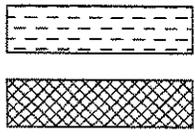
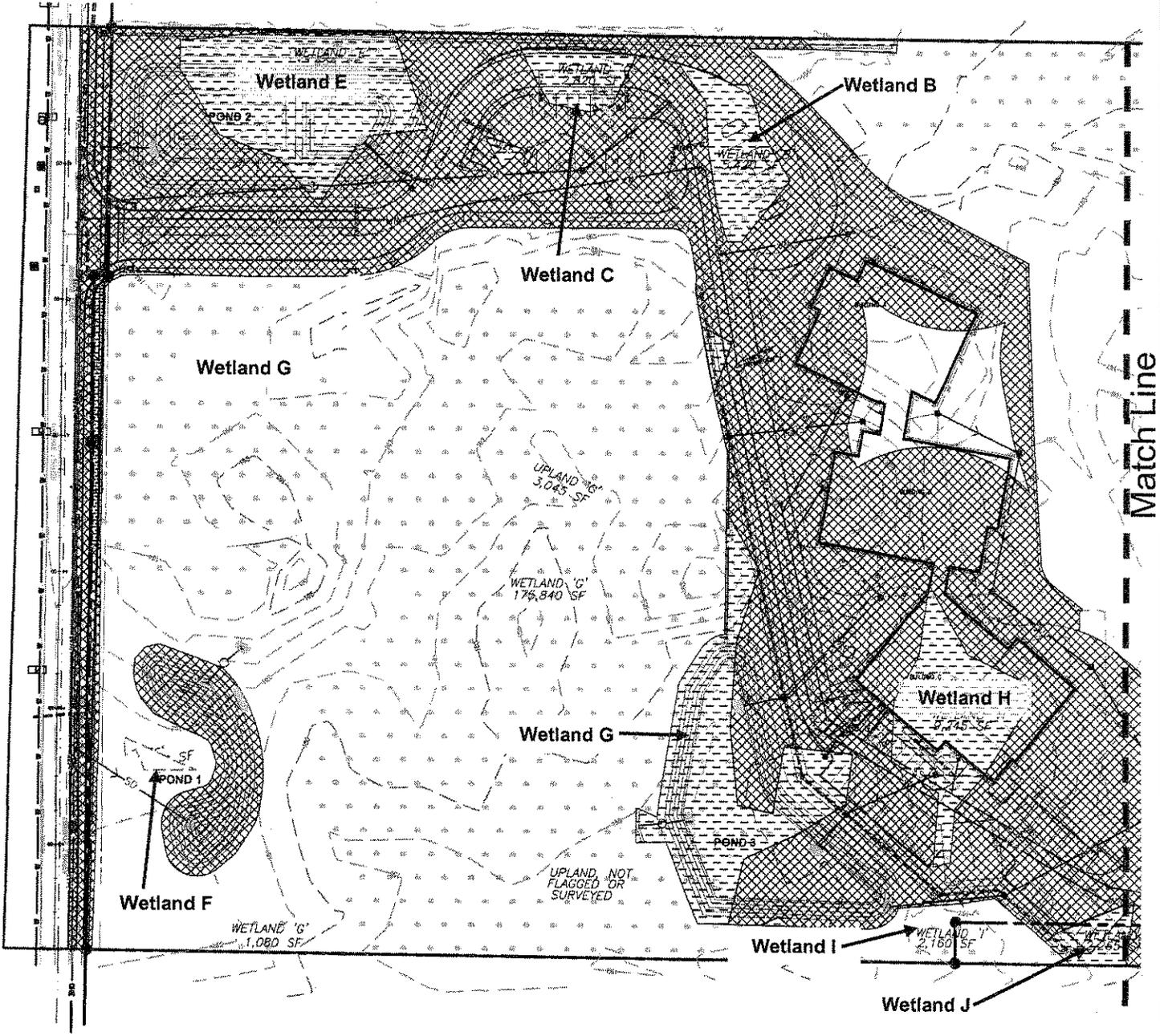
STORMWATER

1

Purpose: Elementary School  
 Applicant: Bellingham School District 501  
 Project #:  
 Adjacent Prop. Owners: See Pg 4 JARPA  
 Date: Nov 12, 2007

Aldrich Road  
 Elementary School  
 Cross Section (A)

In: Wetlands  
 Location: East of Aldrich Road  
 Sec/Twp/Rng: 12/38N/2E  
 County: Whatcom State: WA  
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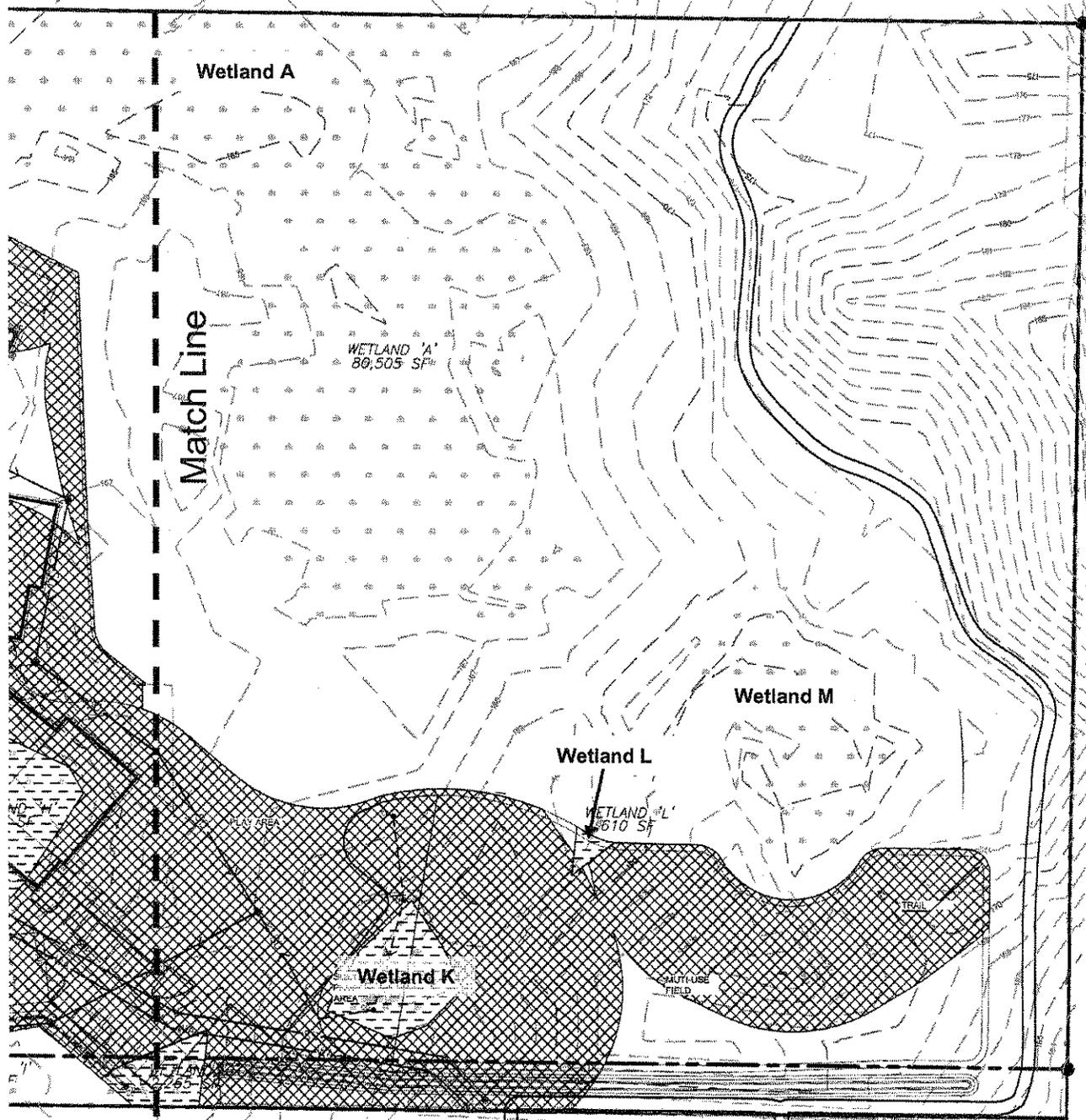


WETLANDS IMPACTED: 56,307 SF

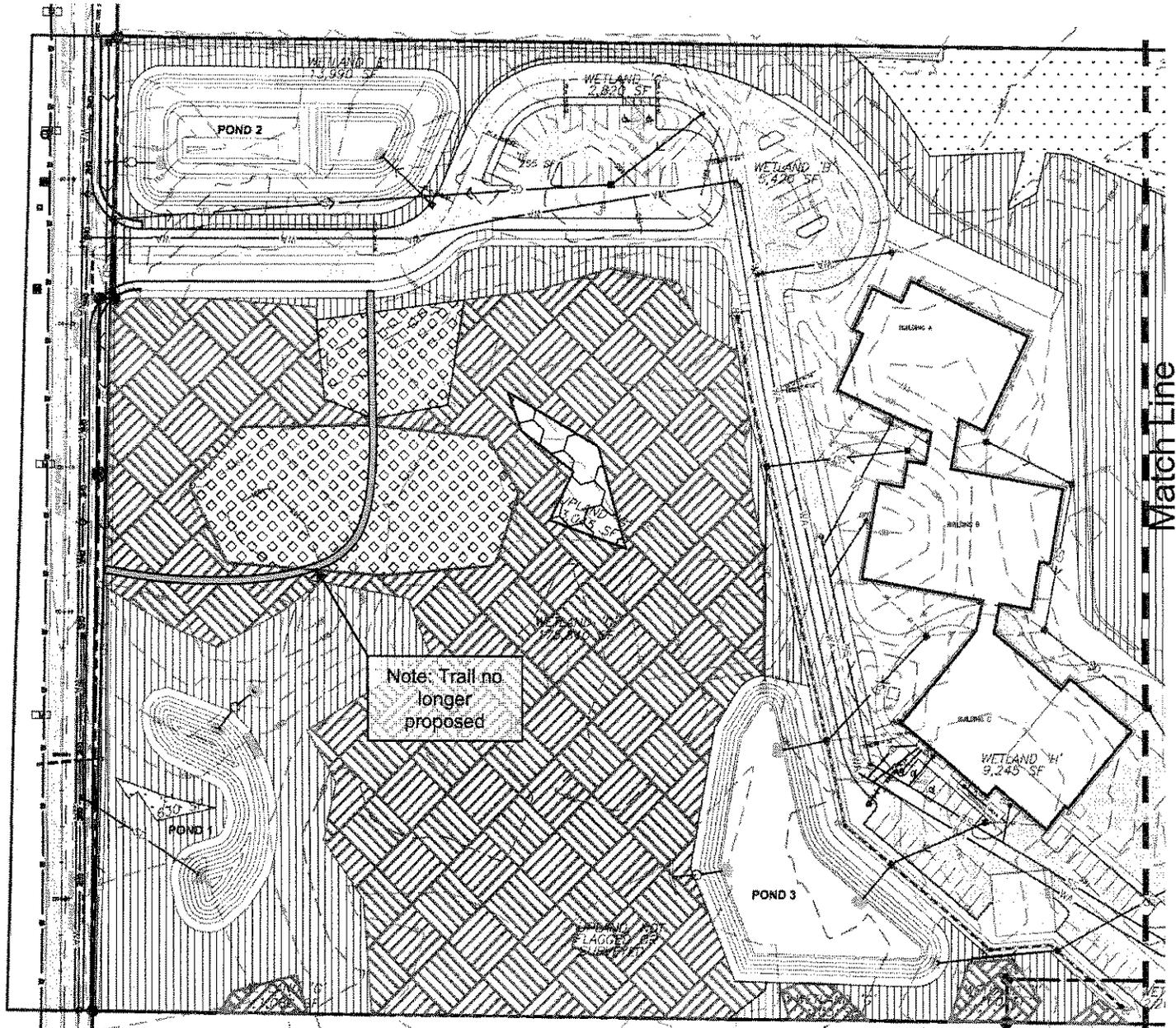
BUFFER IMPACTED: 301,318 SF



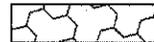
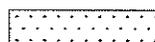
<p><b>Purpose:</b> Elementary School  <b>Applicant:</b> Bellingham School District 501  <b>Project #:</b>  <b>Adjacent Prop. Owners:</b> See Pg 4 JARPA  <b>Date:</b> Nov 12, 2007</p>	<p><b>Aldrich Road Elementary School</b></p> <p><b>Wetland &amp; Buffer Impacts (A)</b></p>	<p><b>In:</b> Wetlands  <b>Location:</b> East of Aldrich Road  <b>Sec/Twp/Rng:</b> 12/38N/2E  <b>County:</b> Whatcom      <b>State:</b> WA</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Sheet 7 of 12</p>
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<p><b>Purpose:</b> Elementary School  <b>Applicant:</b> Bellingham School District 501  <b>Project #:</b>  <b>Adjacent Prop. Owners:</b> See Pg 4 JARPA  <b>Date:</b> Nov 12, 2007</p>	<p><b>Aldrich Road  Elementary School</b>  <b>Wetland &amp; Buffer Impacts (B)</b></p>	<p><b>In:</b> Wetlands  <b>Location:</b> East of Aldrich Road  <b>Sec/Twp/Rng:</b> 12/38N/2E  <b>County:</b> Whatcom      <b>State:</b> WA  Sheet 8 of 12</p>
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Note: Trail no longer proposed

	ENHANCED REGULATED BUFFER 98,366 SF		UPLAND PRESERVATION 72,687 SF		UNDISTURBED REGULATED BUFFER 110,229 SF
	WETLAND ENHANCEMENT AREA 142,870 SF		WETLAND PRESERVATION 98,869 SF		WETLAND REESTABLISHMENT AREA 20,544 SF

Purpose: Elementary School  
 Applicant: Bellingham School District 501  
 Project #:  
 Adjacent Prop. Owners: See Pg 4 JARPA  
 Date: Nov 12, 2007

**Aldrich Road  
 Elementary School**  
**On-site Mitigation (A)**

In: Wetlands  
 Location: East of Aldrich Road  
 Sec/Twp/Rng: 12/38N/2E  
 County: Whatcom State: WA  
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Match Line

Proposed City of Bellingham Trail

Note: Trail no longer proposed

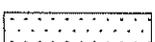
WETLAND 'A'  
99,505 SF

WETLAND 'M'  
12,430 SF

WETLAND 'N'  
10,000 SF

WETLAND 'K'  
SOFT PLAY AREA

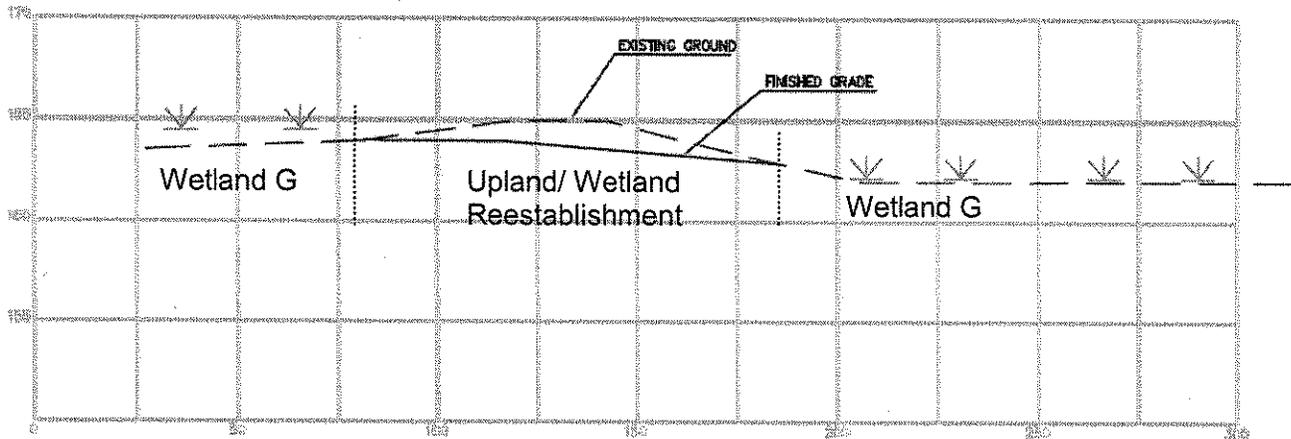
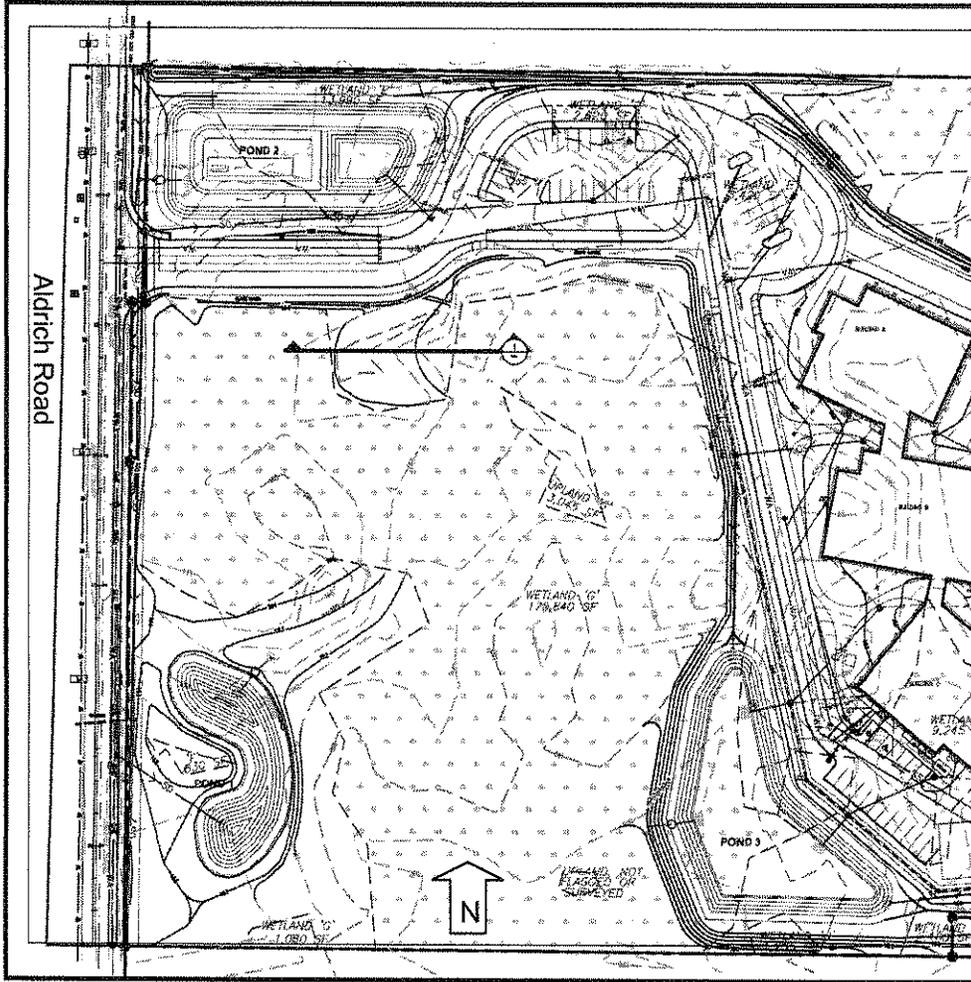
WETLAND 'L'  
2,265 SF

	ENHANCED REGULATED BUFFER 98,366 SF		UPLAND PRESERVATION 72,667 SF		UNDISTURBED REGULATED BUFFER 110,228 SF
	WETLAND ENHANCEMENT AREA 142,670 SF		WETLAND PRESERVATION 98,869 SF		WETLAND REESTABLISHMENT AREA 20,644 SF

**Purpose:** Elementary School  
**Applicant:** Bellingham School District 501  
**Project #:**  
**Adjacent Prop. Owners:** See Pg 4 JARPA  
**Date:** Nov 12, 2007

**Aldrich Road  
 Elementary School  
 On-site Mitigation (B)**

**In:** Wetlands  
**Location:** East of Aldrich Road  
**Sec/Twp/Rng:** 12/38N/2E  
**County:** Whatcom **State:** WA  
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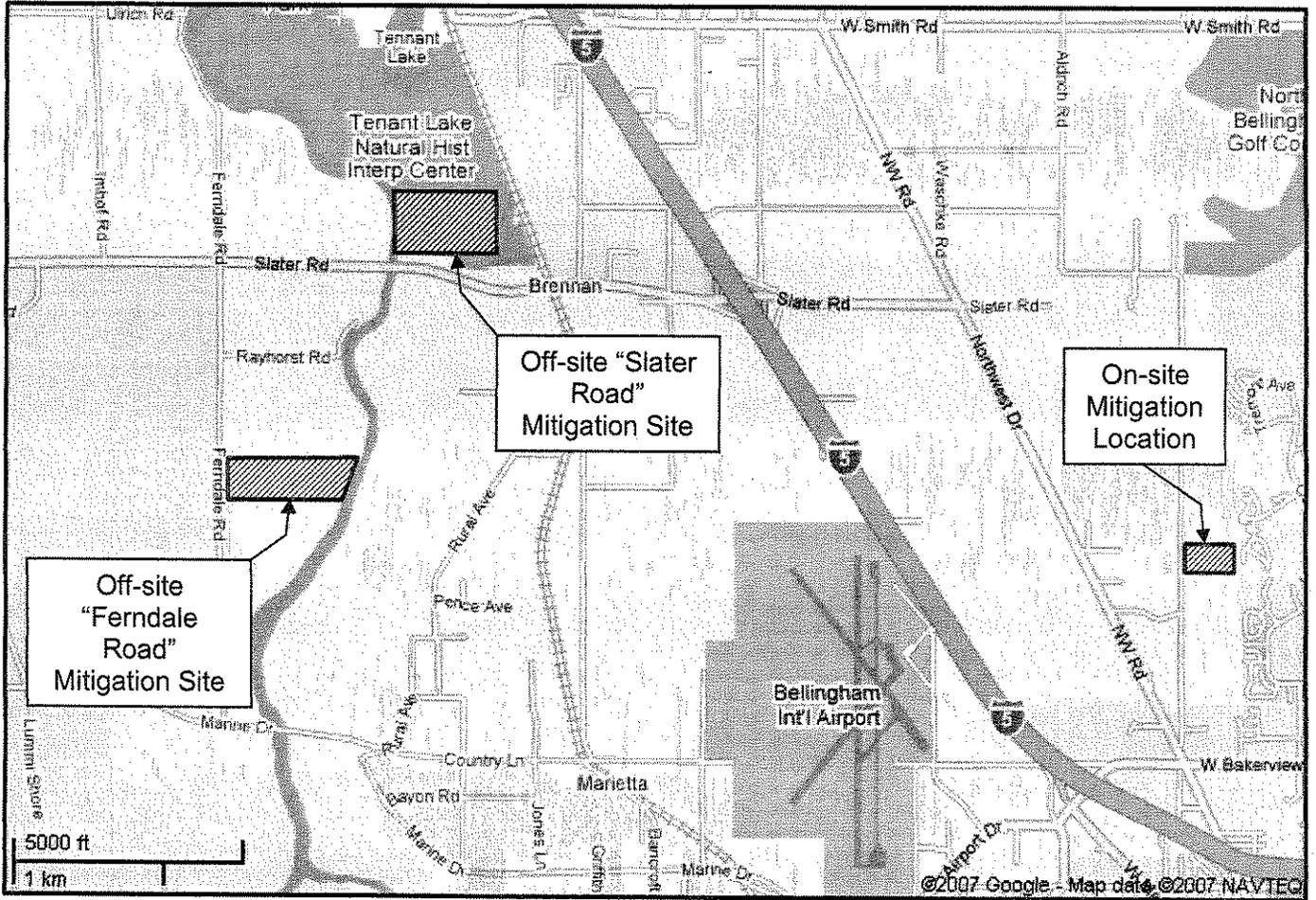
**SECTION - SOUTH OF POND 2**



**Purpose:** Elementary School  
**Applicant:** Bellingham School District 501  
**Project #:**  
**Adjacent Prop. Owners:** See Pg 4 JARPA  
**Date:** Nov 12, 2007

**Aldrich Road  
 Elementary School**  
**Cross Section (B)**

**In:** Wetlands  
**Location:** East of Aldrich Road  
**Sec/Twp/Rng:** 12/38N/2E  
**County:** Whatcom **State:** WA  
 Sheet 11 of 12



**Purpose:** Elementary School  
**Applicant:** Bellingham School District 501  
**Project #:**  
**Adjacent Prop. Owners:** See Pg 4 JARPA  
**Date:** Nov 12, 2007

**Aldrich Road  
 Elementary School  
 Conceptual On- & Off-site  
 Mitigation Areas**

**In:** Wetlands  
**Location:** East of Aldrich Road  
**Sec/Twp/Rng:** 12/38N/2E  
**County:** Whatcom      **State:** WA  
 Sheet 12 of 12