



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, ST. PAUL DISTRICT
ST. PAUL DISTRICT OFFICE
332 MINNESOTA STREET SUITE E1500
ST. PAUL MINNESOTA 55101

MVP

April 10, 2024

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Approved Jurisdictional Determination in accordance with the "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'"; (88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023) as amended by the "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'; Conforming" (8 September 2023) ,¹ MVP-2007-02886-JST MFR 1 of 1

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.² 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.³

On January 18, 2023, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of the Army ("the agencies") published the "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States,'" 88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023) ("2023 Rule"). On September 8, 2023, the agencies published the "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'; Conforming", which amended the 2023 Rule to conform to the 2023 Supreme Court decision in *Sackett v. EPA*, 598 U.S., 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023) ("*Sackett*").

This Memorandum for Record (MFR) constitutes the basis of jurisdiction for a Corps AJD as defined in 33 CFR §331.2. For the purposes of this AJD, we have relied on Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (RHA),⁴ the 2023 Rule as amended, as well as other applicable guidance, relevant case law, and longstanding practice in evaluating jurisdiction.

1. SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS.

¹ While the Revised Definition of "Waters of the United States"; Conforming 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 33 CFR 331.2.

³ Regulatory Guidance Letter 05-02.

⁴ 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.

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- 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
 - i. Wetland 1 (0.75 acre), non-jurisdictional
 - ii. Excavated Pond (377 square feet), non-jurisdictional

2. REFERENCES.

- a. "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States,'" 88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023) ("2023 Rule")
- b. "Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'; Conforming" 88 FR 61964 (September 8, 2023))
- c. *Sackett v. EPA*, 598 U.S. ___, 143 S. Ct. 1322 (2023)

3. REVIEW AREA. The review area is located in Section 34, Township 31 North, Range 23 West, Blaine, Anoka County, MN. The center coordinates for the site are Latitude: 45.138596, Longitude: -93.190138. The review area is solely limited to Wetland 1 and the Excavated Pond as identified in the wetland delineation report. The review area is located off of 93rd Avenue NE, west of Interstate Highway 35W within a 4.71-acre parcel. The nearest waterbody is County Ditch 1 which eventually connects to Rice Creek downstream approximately 2 miles south of the review area.
4. NEAREST TRADITIONAL NAVIGABLE WATER (TNW), THE TERRITORIAL SEAS, OR INTERSTATE WATER TO WHICH THE AQUATIC RESOURCE IS CONNECTED. N/A
5. FLOWPATH FROM THE SUBJECT AQUATIC RESOURCES TO A TNW, THE TERRITORIAL SEAS, OR INTERSTATE WATER. N/A
6. SECTION 10 JURISDICTIONAL WATERS⁵: Describe aquatic resources or other features within the review area determined to be jurisdictional in accordance with

⁵ 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

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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 10.⁶ 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 2023 Rule as amended, 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 2023 Rule as amended. 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. Traditional Navigable Waters (TNWs) (a)(1)(i): N/A

b. The Territorial Seas (a)(1)(ii): N/A

c. Interstate Waters (a)(1)(iii): N/A

d. Impoundments (a)(2): N/A

though it is not presently used for commerce, or is presently incapable of such use because of changed conditions or the presence of obstructions.

⁶ 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.

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e. Tributaries (a)(3): N/A

f. Adjacent Wetlands (a)(4): N/A

g. Additional Waters (a)(5): N/A

8. NON-JURISDICTIONAL AQUATIC RESOURCES AND FEATURES

- a. Describe aquatic resources and other features within the review area identified in the 2023 Rule as amended as not “waters of the United States” even where they otherwise meet the terms of paragraphs (a)(2) through (5). Include the type of excluded aquatic resource or feature, the size of the aquatic resource or feature within the review area and describe how it was determined to meet one of the exclusions listed in 33 CFR 328.3(b).⁷ N/A
- b. Describe aquatic resources and features within the review area that were determined to be non-jurisdictional because they do not meet one or more categories of waters of the United States under the 2023 Rule as amended (e.g., tributaries that are non-relatively permanent waters; non-tidal wetlands that do not have a continuous surface connection to a jurisdictional water).

The aquatic resources within the review area are not TNWs, territorial seas, or interstate waters and are therefore not (a)(1) waters. This determination is supported by the national wetland and hydrography datasets which do not identify any aquatic resources or other potential connections between these

⁷ 88 FR 3004 (January 18, 2023)

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aquatic resources and any other waters. An AJD was previously issued for the subject aquatic resources dated April 18, 2017 under Regulatory File Number MVP-2007-02886-RMM which determined Wetland 1 and the excavated pond to not be Waters of the United States and are not subject to Corps of Engineers' jurisdiction. Under the 2023 Rule as amended, there does not appear to be any flow paths or discrete features that may provide a continuous surface connection to any downstream waters or the nearby County Ditch 1. This is supported by the USGS 3DEP LiDAR data. As shown in the aerials, the aquatic resources are surrounded by uplands with no swales, erosional features, streams, or ditches connecting them to any stream or river downstream. The wetlands do not physically abut a relatively permanent (a)(2) impoundment or (a)(3) tributary and are not separated from a jurisdictional water by a natural berm, bank, dune, or similar natural landform. The wetlands within the review area do not have a continuous surface connection to a relatively permanent jurisdictional water and as such do not meet the definition of adjacent and cannot be evaluated as (a)(4) wetlands; therefore, these aquatic resources are not jurisdictional under the 2023 Revised Definition of 'Waters of the United States'; Conforming" 88 FR 61964 Final Rule.

Because the Supreme Court in *Sackett* adopted the *Rapanos* plurality standard and the 2023 rule preamble discussed the *Rapanos* plurality standard, the implementation guidance and tools in the 2023 rule preamble that address the regulatory text that was not amended by the conforming rule, including the preamble relevant to the *Rapanos* plurality standard incorporated in paragraphs (a)(3), (4), and (5) of the 2023 rule, as amended, generally remain relevant to implementing the 2023 rule, as amended

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. Office (Desk) Determination: 4/5/2024
 - b. Data sources used to support this determination (included in the administrative record).
 - i. 93rd Avenue Parcel, Blaine (KES 2024-016) Joint Application Form prepared by Kjolhaug Environmental Services dated March 11, 2024
 - ii. USFWS NWI Map Service. Accessed April 5, 2024.
 - iii. USGS NHD Map Service. Accessed April 5, 2024.
 - iv. USGS 3DEP DEM. Accessed April 5, 2024.
 - v. Google Earth Aerials dated 2013, 2018, 2021, 2024.

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- vi. Approved Jurisdictional Determination Issued on April 18, 2017 under File Number: MVP-2007-02886-RMM

10. OTHER SUPPORTING INFORMATION. N/A

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.

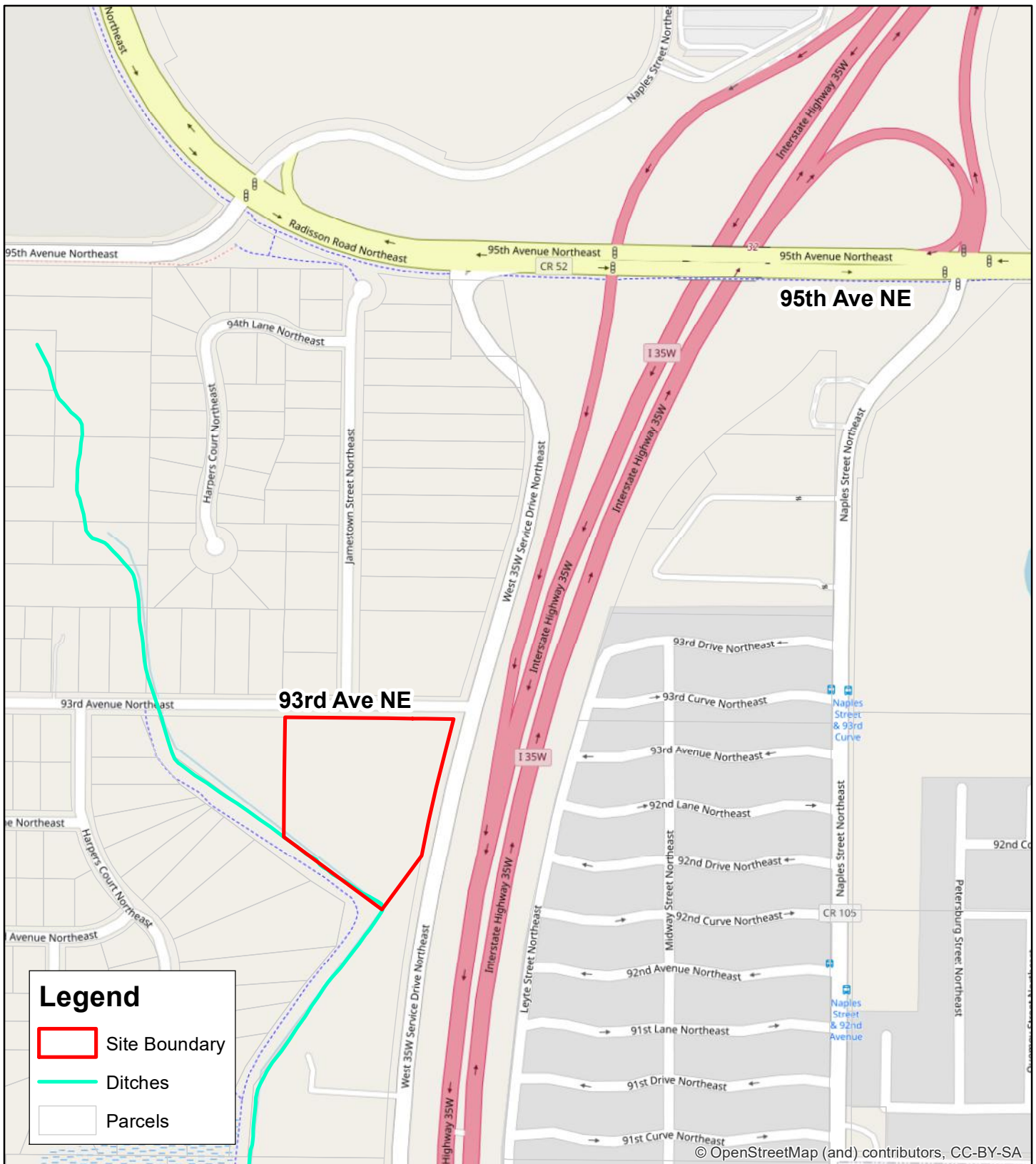


Figure 1 - Site Location



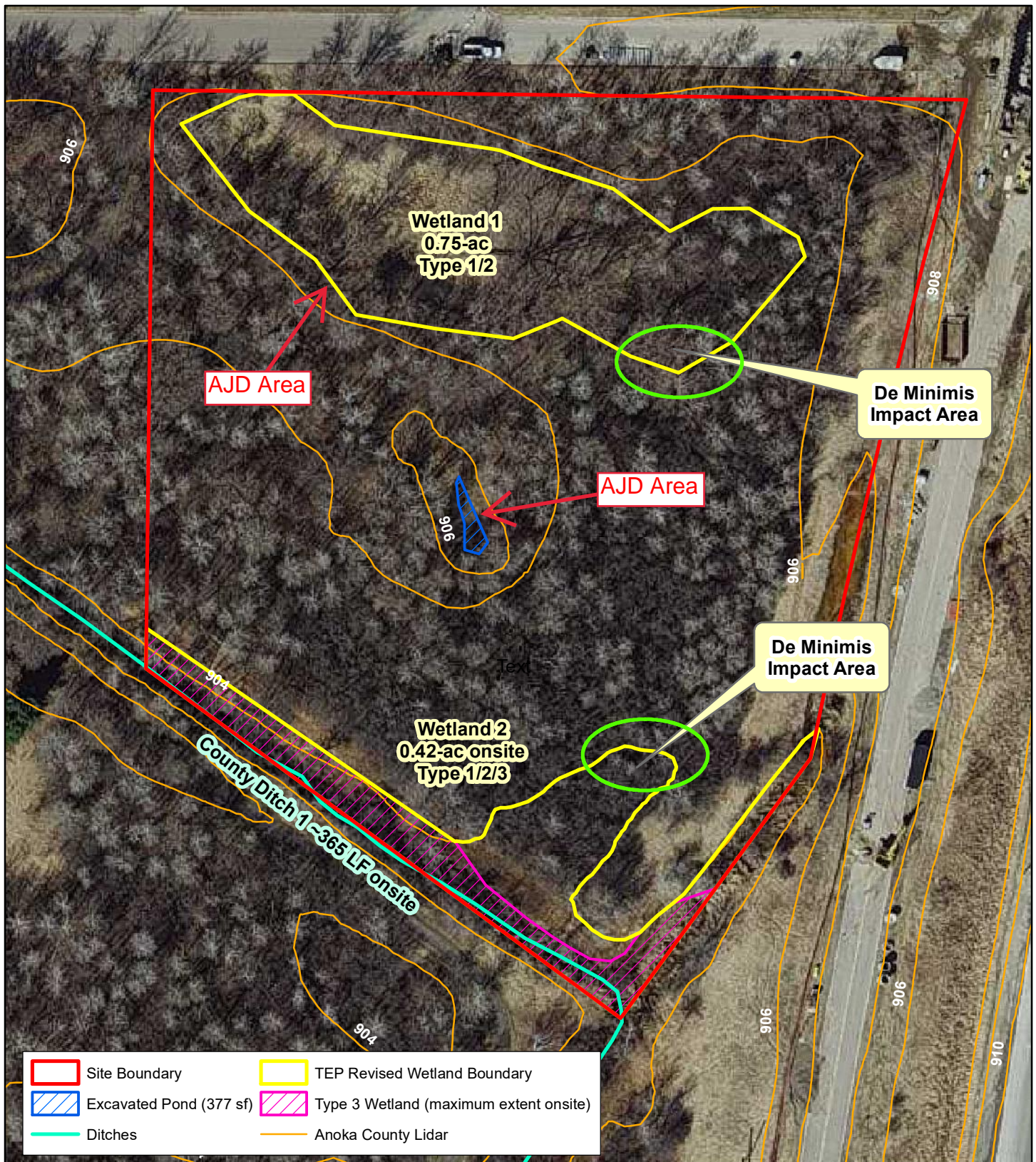


Figure 2 - Existing Conditions (2020 Metro Photo)

