



Soil & Environmental Consultants, PA

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October 16, 2006
S&EC Project #10467.W1

Robbie Swain
P.O. Box 5689
Cary, NC 27512

Re: Environmental Status Report for The Banner Tract
Chatham County, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Swain:

The purpose of this report is to advise you on the status of environmental evaluations conducted for The Banner Project. The site is located at the end of Rock Rest Road and is adjacent to the Haw River. The site is approximately 200 acres in size.

Currently, the following environmental evaluations have been performed: 1) Preliminary wetland delineation, 2) Natural Heritage Program and State Historic Preservation file searches and 3) A field survey of plant community types and the potential for protected and listed terrestrial plant and animal species. The above listed evaluations are discussed briefly below.

Preliminary Wetland Delineations

S&EC completed a preliminary wetland delineation of the property in September of 2006. During the preliminary delineation, perennial streams, intermittent streams, and wetlands were identified. Jurisdictional waters on the property are classified as WS-IV; NSW in NC-DENR's "Classifications and Water Quality Standards Applicable to Surface Water and Wetlands of North Carolina".

NC State Historic Preservation Office File Search

The most recent records' check at the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) conducted in October of 2006 revealed that there are no structures on the property that appear on the National Registry (NR), Determination of Eligibility (DOE), Study List (SL), or Locally Designated (LD) lists. One historical site, Rock Rest Multiple Structures (CH408) occurs approximately .5 miles from the site and has been architecturally reviewed. A Natural Registry Property, Baldwin's Mill (CH 535), is located approximately 2 miles west of the site along Terrell's Branch. The Mitchum Site, an archeological dig site, occurs approximately 1 mile to the north of the property in the floodplain of the Haw River.

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NC Natural Heritage Program Office File Search

NC NHP records occurrences of rare plant and animal species, exemplary natural communities, and special animal habitats known to occur in North Carolina. A record check was performed in November 2004 and again in March 2006. The file reviews yielded no federally or state listed plant or animal species found within the project boundaries. The subject property is located on the Bynum USGS quadrangle. However, the Silk Hope quadrangle also was checked for possible nearby occurrences.

The Haw River borders the eastern portion of the property. An Identified Priority Area (IPA), as designated by the Natural Heritage Program (NHP), is documented adjacent to the site. In addition, another locally designated IPA, Terrell's Creek Galax Bluffs, occurs along Terrell's Creek approximately 1.5 miles northwest of the site. Within the Haw River downstream near Bynum, North Carolina are known locations of the federally-listed and state-listed Endangered Cape Fear shiner (*Notropis mekistocholas*), state-listed Endangered yellow lampmussel (*Lampsilis cariosa*), and a state-listed Significantly Rare septima's clubtail (*Gomphus septima*), a dragonfly. An occurrence of Buttercup Phacelia (*Phacelia covillei*) is recorded approximately 1 mile northwest of the site along the floodplain of the Haw River.

Threatened and Endangered Species Survey

In September, 2006 S&EC completed a field survey of the existing habitat types and the potential presence of protected plant and animal species on the property known as the Banner Tract. There are four federally listed Threatened and Endangered Species in Chatham County, NC, none of which were observed onsite during the field survey. Suitable habitat for The Four-Toed Salamander, Carolina Ladle Crayfish, and the Buttercup Phacelia exists on site.

If you have any questions or need additional services please call us.

Sincerely,

David Gainey
Environmental Specialist