BALANCE
ENVIRONMENTAL
4720 Hollow Road • Nibley, UT 84321

Justin Maughan
Public Works Director
Nibley City
455 West 3200 South
Nibley, Utah 84321

Subject: Review of Property for the SR-165 and 3200 South Re-Configuration.

Dear Mr. Maughan,

Thank you for giving Balance Environmental the opportunity to provide you with environmental consulting services.

On December 3, 2014, Balance Environmental personnel conducted a site review of the property located on the east and west side of SR-165 as shown in the attached project site map (property). The review was conducted to determine if any wetlands exist on the site.

For preliminary wetland site visits such as this, vegetation is typically used as the primary wetlands indicator, with hydrology and soils as supporting indicators. Plant species observed are assigned an indicator status according to the *National List of Plant Species that Occur in Wetlands: Intermountain Region*. The indicator status is associated with certain environmental conditions whose presence indicates the existence of wetlands. Of the dominant plant species recorded, greater than 50 percent must have an indicator status of facultative (34-66 percent probability of occurring in wetlands), facultative wetland (67-99 percent probability of occurring in wetlands), or obligate wetland (greater than 99 percent probability of occurring in wetlands) for a site to be classified as having hydrophytic vegetation for wetland delineation purposes. Due to the time of year and extensive grazing in many locations, the majority of the property's vegetation was in poor condition, and identification was difficult in some areas. Uplands were typically dominated by smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*) (FACU) and other upland grasses and wetter areas contained a dominance of baltic rush (*Juncus articus*) (FACW) and Nebraska sedge (*Carex nebrascensis*) (OBL). Although many plants were unidentifiable, the wetland boundaries were apparent in most areas due to changes in topography.

Conclusions

The investigation revealed wetland indicators typically in the lower areas near waterways; however, the field west of the dike adjacent to Wetland 5 had historically been drained with ceramic tile. Although it did contain some small amounts of wetland vegetation, it would likely now be considered an upland . Wetland 1 is located in an area that appears to have a high water table and likely several small springs, as it forms a small drainage that flows to the north. This area varies in the amount of ground water and wetland vegetation present, but overall, the entire area would likely be considered wetland.

Similar to Wetland 1, Wetland 2 appears to be created from ground water near the surface, creating first a wetland seep area that then forms a small drainage. However, the adjacent areas around the drainage appear to be drier and not wetland. Wetland 3 is a small square open water area that is likely manmade. Wetland 3 contained cockleburs emerging from the water surface and supported duck habitat at the time of the investigation. The large area south of wetland 3 is an obvious wetland with areas of saturated and flooded soils with a large dominance of wetland vegetation, including baltic rush (Juncus articus) (FACW) and Nebraska sedge (Carex nebrascensis) (OBL). This area has a very high water table as well as several springs that flow into it from the south. There is a slight chance there are a few small upland islands on the south end of the area, but they would likely be too insignificant to be mapped in an official delineation.

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Wetland 4 is located at the northeastern corner of the tiled field near Wetland 5.. This area is in the lowest portion of the field and is likely caused by surface flow getting trapped behind the created dike in the field. This area contained reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea)* (FACW).

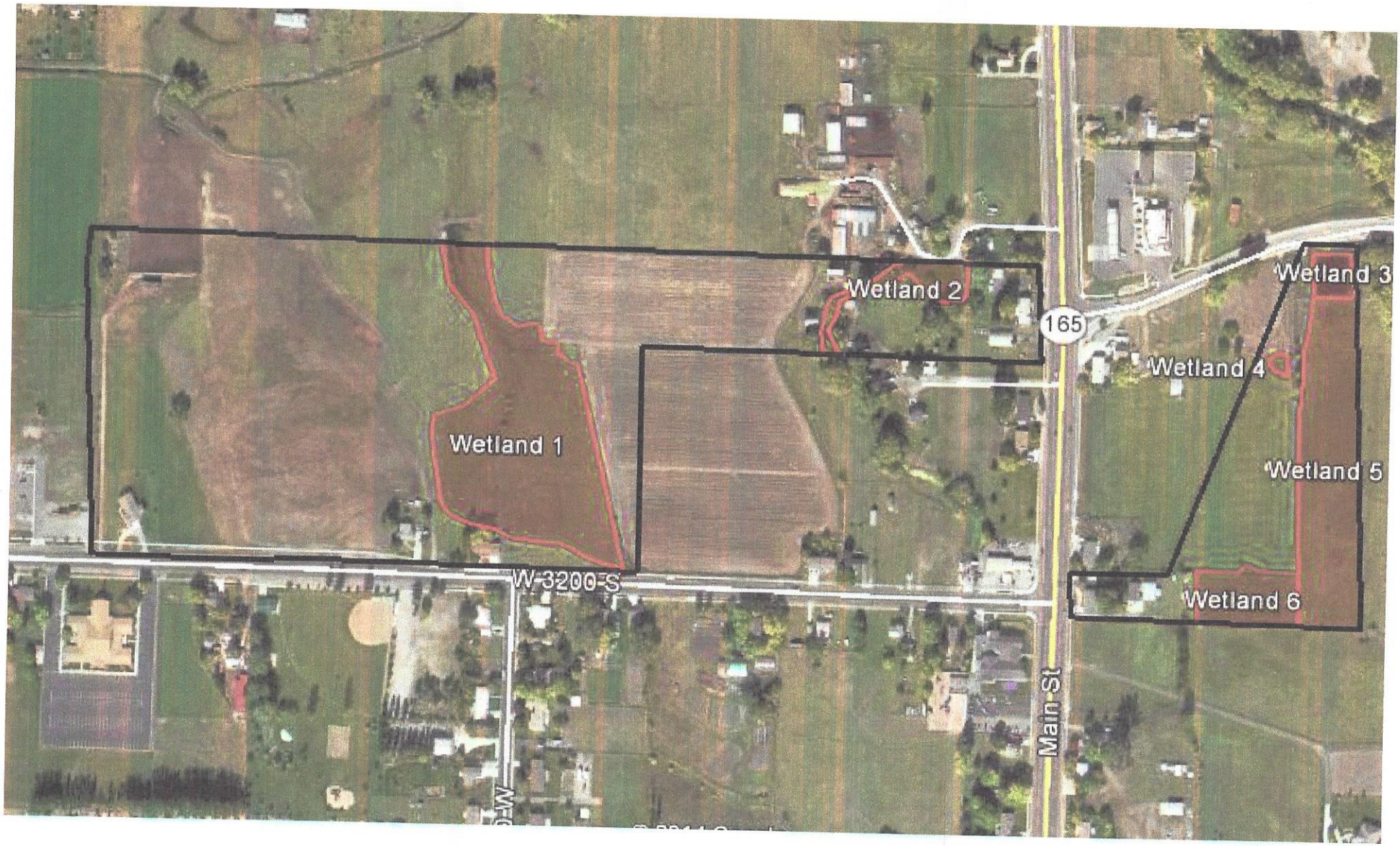
Wetland 6 is in an area that Balance Environmental did not have authorization to enter, but from the fence line it was obvious that the area contained a dominance of baltic rush (Juncus articus) (FACW) and appeared to be a lower depression in the landscape.

Other areas within the project area (ie. corn fields, feed lots, etc.) have been significantly impacted by farming practices and no longer contain much, if any, natural vegetation. These areas were reviewed and not considered to be wetlands based on the soils and hydrology evident at the time of the investigation; however, these conditions could change with changes to the farming practices or time of year. These areas could, but not likely, be different at the time of an official wetland delineation. The US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has final jurisdiction over the determination of whether or not a wetland is officially a wetland and if it is subject to interstate commerce and therefore is a "water of the United States". A wetland permit will be required from the Corps for any regulated activities proposed within the boundaries of waters of the United States. If all waters of the United States can be avoided and no fill placed within any wetlands, a 404 permit will not be required.

If you have any questions concerning this information, please contact me by phone at 435.757.3815, or by electronic mail at norman.nate@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Nate Norman, PWS
Wetland Scientist
Balance Environmental


Wetland 1
Wetland 2
Wetland 3
Wetland 4
Wetland 5
Wetland 6
165
W 3200 S
Main St