National Conservation Council

Special General Meeting
(**National Trust Meeting Room – Dart Park, Wednesday 3rd May 3:30pm- 5pm**)

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
   a. Attendees, Apologies, Quorum
   b. Declaration of Interests

2. Confirmation of Minutes of <Last Meeting> - no Minutes available due to illness of Secretary.

3. Matters arising from previous meetings

4. New Matters
   a. Screening Opinions:
      i. Ministry PLAHI – Spice Drive extension (**WP-03**); and
      ii. Ministry PLAHI – Proposed Spine Road, Little Cayman (**WP-04**)
   b. DoE Report on results of public consultation for Terrestrial Protected Area nominations (**WP-06** - as consultations close on May 2nd the report will not be available until the meeting).
   c. Request from MRCU/Oxitec to import additional eggs for release in permitted area.

5. Any Other Business

6. Adjournment

7. Attendance Appendix

Council Member	**03 May. 2017**	**Representation**
Christine Rose-Smyth		Chairperson; Bodden Town, Plants, Terrestrial & Marine Biodiversity
Davy Ebanks		West Bay and Marine Conservation
Lisa Hurlston-McKenzie		George Town and Sustainable Development & Climate Change
McFarlane Conolly		East End and Sustainable Development
		North Side
Wallace Platts		Sister Islands and Terrestrial Biodiversity
Christina Pineda		National Trust for the Cayman Islands
Patricia Bradley		Avifauna & Biodiversity
Fred Burton		Terrestrial Biodiversity
Adrian Estwick		Director of Agriculture
Haroon Pandohie		Director of Planning
Colleen Stoetzel		Planning Officer, representing the Director of Planning
Gina Ebanks-Petrie		Director of Environment
Timothy Austin		DoE Deputy, Research
John Bothwell		Secretary

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CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

National Conservation Council

Department of Environment
DATE STAMP
and
SIGNATURE
of Authorising Officer
required here for validation

Cayman Islands Environmental Centre . 580 North Sound Road .
PO BOX 10202GT . George Town . KY1-1106 . CAYMAN ISLANDS
TEL: (345) 949 8469 . FAX: (345) 949 4020 . www.DoE.ky

PERMISSION TO IMPORT & RELEASE ALIEN OR GENETICALLY ALTERED SPECIES

Once date-stamped and signed by the by the Department of Environment on behalf of the National Conservation Council, this permission constitutes

1) Advice to the Department of Agriculture on the application to import alien or genetically altered species;

2) Permission or denial to release alien or genetically altered species.

APPLICANT NAME	Dr. William Petrie
POSITION	Director
INSTITUTION	Mosquito Research & Control Unit
ADDRESS	Marco Giglioli Centre 99 Red Gate Road P.O. Box 486 Grand Cayman KY1-1106 Cayman Islands
PHONE	(345) 949-2557
EMAIL	William.Petrie@gov.ky
Intended Date Of Importation	15th May-28th July (1 shipment only required)

Please submit application electronically, in MS Word form, via email to DoE@gov.ky.

1. SPECIES & QUANTITIES APPLIED FOR IMPORT OR RELEASE

row	Species Common Name	*Species Scientific Name*	Quantity
1	Yellow Fever mosquito	*Aedes aegypti (OX513A)*	500 g.
2			
3			

Under the National Conservation Law and the Animals and Plants Laws the import and release of alien or genetically altered species without permission of the Department of Agriculture and the National Conservation Council respectively is illegal.

Add rows as necessary, or attach list separately.

For those species which are IUCN listed certification of captive breeding or sustainable harvest should be provided along with application to import.

2. PURPOSE OF IMPORT

	Pet		**Breeding**	
	Display		**Farming or other consumption**	
	Human Interaction		**Retail**	
X	**Other:** *Aedes aegypti* population control			

Tick as appropriate. Fill in if other purposes.

3. LOCATION WHERE SPECIES WILL BE KEPT

OX513A eggs (500 grams) will be shipped from Oxitec Ltd. In the UK to support the continuity of program requirements in the Cayman Islands. Following clearance and release of the shipment at Cayman Customs, eggs will be transported and stored at the central MRCU compound, 99 Red Gate Road, George Town, Grand Cayman. Eggs will be processed through to adult stages at the existing rearing facility at the MRCU compound.

4. BIOSECURITY MEASURES

Biosafety Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) are in place and staff have been trained to ensure conformance with these standards.

The production facilities incorporate certain elements of Arthropod Containment Level 2 (ACL-2) standards appropriate to the chosen facility design for the specific stages of program expansion. Mosquito life stages not used for the release or other procedures are frozen below -15 degrees Celsius for more than 12 hours and disposed of.

Additional Biosecurity measures unique to the OX513A strain have been described in permission issued by the Department of Environment (DoE) June 8th, 2016. There has been no additional information since that time which warrants increased biosecurity measures for the OX513A program.

Indicate whether biosecurity measures (anti-escape & species/people security) are in place or intended.

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5. Health & Safety Considerations / Measures Taken

Health and safety considerations have been described in permission issued by the Department of the Environment (DoE) June 8th, 2016. There has been no additional information which increases the health and safety risk profile of the OX513A program since that time.

6. Location Where Species Will Be Released

Following operational initiation in West Bay through to the end of 2017, releases are planned to expand over the entire island of Grand Cayman from 2018. Additionally, in response to surveillance and monitoring, other areas in the Cayman Islands such as Cayman Brac would be prioritised for treatment thereafter if the MRCU deems the OX513A program would be best suited for deployment in those areas.

The particular shipment of eggs (500 grams) requested would be to provide continuity of releases between phase 1 of the project (within the initial/current operational area of West Bay), and phase 2 comprising a wider roll-out of the releases island-wide for which MRCU is currently seeking permission from the NCC.

A general description of the activities being proposed/requested/permitted.

7. Release Considerations / Measures Taken

As per previous documentation. The timing of the OX513A releases will be in response to the local population levels of *Aedes aegypti* in West Bay, bridging the gap between phase 1 and phase 2 from mid-May possibly through to the end of July.

8. Other Relevant Information to be Considered

The permission issued by the Department of Environment (DoE) June 8th, 2016 outlines other relevant information to be considered at the time when the application was made. The information therein remains relevant and no new information which substantively changes the environmental or human and animal risk profile has been identified.

An Environmental Risk Assessment document has been submitted to the NCC recently to be considered alongside the application for continuation of the project island-wide (phase 2).

Under the National Conservation Law and the Animals and Plants Laws the import and release of alien or genetically altered species without permission of the Department of Agriculture and the National Conservation Council respectively is illegal.

By signing my initials to each line, I, **The Applicant,** confirm that I have read, understand, and agree to the following:		**Applicant Initials**
1.	I will conduct my actions as described in this document, and will abide by the terms set forth. Imported species will be used only for the reasons listed above. Any change of use of these species should be reviewed by the Department of Environment on behalf of the National Conservation Council, and the Department of Agriculture.	**WP**
2.	I will get the permission of and abide by all requirements of the Department of Agriculture before importing any species.	**WP**
3.	I will follow all requirements set out in this permission.	**WP**
4.	There will be no unpermitted release of live organisms or their offspring (if incidental reproduction occurs) or viable material, e.g., seeds, cuttings, etc., into any uncontrolled environment, either natural or artificial, of the Cayman Islands.	**WP**
5.	To avert possible introduction of exotic parasites or diseases, as well as offspring, there will be no discharge of effluents, disposal of waste, transport or housing media or other materials associated with the alien species or disposal of diseased or dead organisms or parts thereof except via lawful municipal waste discharge or disposal methods, i.e., sewage or garbage disposal.	**WP**
6.	These conditions follow the specimens imported and applicant should inform recipients of specimens (offspring, retail sale, etc.) of the above stipulations.	**WP**
7.	I understand that previous import permission for a listed or related species does not mean continuing permission to import nor does it mean that future permission to import will necessarily be granted.	**WP**

Under the National Conservation Law and the Animals and Plants Laws the import and release of alien or genetically altered species without permission of the Department of Agriculture and the National Conservation Council respectively is illegal.

I, **The Applicant,** undersigned, confirm that I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the permissions, conditions or denials outlined in this document.	
Wilna D. Petrie	25 April, 2017
SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT	**DATE**

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY:	**EXPIRES:**
IMPORT PERMISSION GRANTED	**YES / PARTIAL / NO**
RELEASE PERMISSION GRANTED	**YES / PARTIAL / NO**
REQUIREMENTS, RESTRICTIONS or REASONS FOR DENIAL 1) All conditions and undertakings included in the application form and attached documents making up part of the application (if any) shall be complied with.	
NAME OF AUTHORISING OFFICER	**DATE**
SIGNATURE OF AUTHORISING OFFICER	**DATE STAMP**
ON BEHALF OF THE NATIONAL CONSERVATION COUNCIL **Gina Ebanks-Petrie,** **Director, Department of Environment**	

SPECIES IMPORT RECOMMENDATIONS & RELEASE PERMISSIONS

row	*Species Scientific Name*	Quantity	Import	Release
1				
2				
3				

Under the National Conservation Law and the Animals and Plants Laws the import and release of alien or genetically altered species without permission of the Department of Agriculture and the National Conservation Council respectively is illegal.

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENT

Cayman Islands

19 April 2017

Screening Opinion for Proposed Extension to Spice Drive, Bodden Town

Originating Entity - Ministry of PLAHI

Prepared by the Department of Environment for the National Conservation Council

The ***National Conservation Council's (NCC) Directive for Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA)*** issued under section 3(12)(j) and which has effect under section 43(2)(c) of the National Conservation Law (NCL), notes that all activities listed in Schedule 1 will be considered against the screening criteria outlined in sections 1 to 3 of Schedule 1 of the Directive to determine whether an EIA may be required. These screening criteria are: the type and characteristics of development, the location of the development, and the characteristics of the potential impacts.

The **proposed project** is for a 40-ft extension to Spice Drive, an existing public road in Bodden Town. The proposed road extends from the current terminus in a north-westerly direction, in effect granting access to Block 44B Parcel 287 by traversing Parcels 343 and 351 (see Figure 1).

Having considered the proposal detailed in the email from the Ministry of PLAHI (dated 11 April 2017) against the screening criteria outlined above, the Department of Environment (DoE) is of the opinion that **the proposed road extension does not require an EIA** based on the following factors:

1. While the proposal clearly falls within Section 5(ii) of Schedule 1 of the EIA Directive, i.e. *Transportation infrastructure, including planning or construction of new roads, and of road extensions*, the scale of impact and environmental resources affected by the proposal are not such that they would warrant an EIA simply for this portion of road works.
2. The project lengthens an existing 30-ft wide public road located in Medium Density zoning and is confined to a footprint of approximately 1,200 sf. The subject parcels being traversed are man-modified with each containing single family homes and associated landscaping. Greater ecological value lies in the landlocked parcel 287, consisting of mixed primary dry shrubland and dry forest and woodland vegetation (see Figure 2). No indication has been given of the type or extent of future development on this parcel.

After considering the Screening Opinion detailed above, the NCC is required to issue its decision to the originating entity on the requirement for an EIA pursuant to Section 43(1).

Figure 1 Boundary Plan No. 578

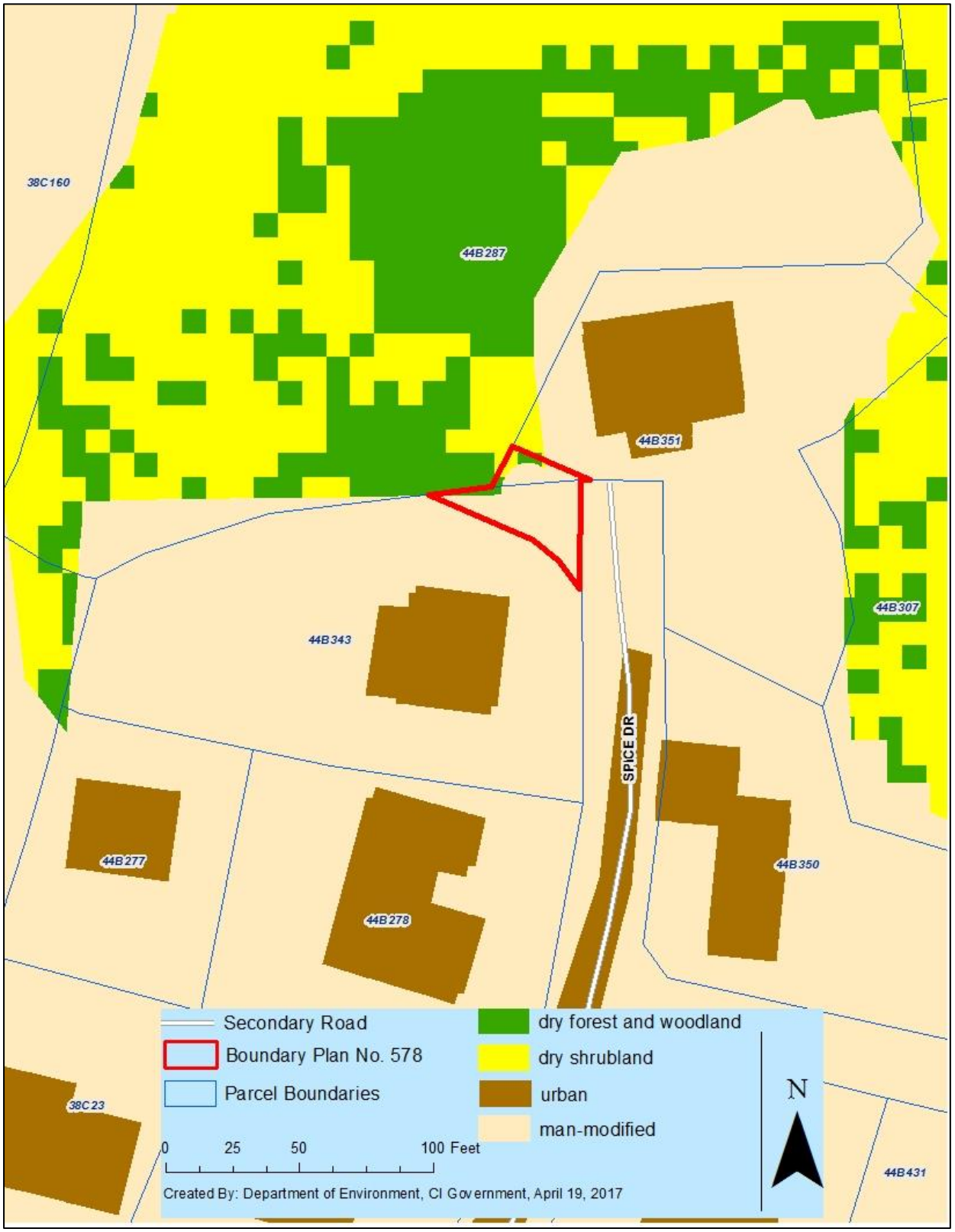

Figure 2 Proposed road extension proximity to primary habitat

Cayman Islands

24 April 2017

Screening Opinion for Proposed Spine Road, Little Cayman

Originating Entity - Ministry of PLAHI

Prepared by the Department of Environment for the National Conservation Council

The ***National Conservation Council's (NCC) Directive for Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA)*** issued under section 3(12)(j) and which has effect under section 43(2)(c) of the National Conservation Law (NCL), notes that all activities listed in Schedule 1 will be considered against the screening criteria outlined in sections 1 to 3 of Schedule 1 of the Directive to determine whether an EIA may be required. These screening criteria are: the type and characteristics of development, the location of the development and the characteristics of the potential impacts.

The **proposed project** is for a 30 ft wide public road proposed for gazettal under Section 3 of the Roads Law. The corridor would run approximately 2,872 ft (0.54 mile) west from gazetted road BP558 (June 2013) at Block 89A Parcel 8 REM 1 to the western boundary of Block 87A Parcel 19 - see Figure 1 below. A turning circle or hammerhead is intended at the terminus. The proposed road represents a portion of a larger previously proposed route, which extended westward from this terminus a further 5,534 ft (1 mile) to Block 88A Parcel 32, and was the subject of a Department of Environment (DoE) review in August 2015. The Ministry of PLAHI submits that "[t]he purpose of the road is to provide a potential means of access to several landlocked parcels. The proposal has the support of District Administration. Although the Roads Law makes no distinction between the 3 islands, the practical reality is that District Administration is responsible for public roads on the Sister Islands, not the NRA."

International best practice carried out in other jurisdictions requires that new road corridors be *firstly* informed by a strategic level overview – commonly known as a **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)**. SEAs ensure the **integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of policies, plans and programmes** and enable consultation on the potential effects with a wide range of stakeholders in order to inform the decision-making process at a strategic level.

It is unclear from the materials provided by the Ministry of PLAHI (email dated 5 April 2017) what level of strategic assessment has been undertaken for the proposed road to ensure that the proposed road represents the least environmentally damaging alternative for meeting the stated purpose of the road. Additionally, it is unlikely that the proposed road corridor has been evaluated against a **formal development plan or strategy** as one does not exist for Little Cayman despite past strategic planning efforts. The arbitrary selection of a road corridor without an SEA or any form of

strategic consideration against a long-term development strategy is not an approach supported by the DoE.

Having considered the proposal against the screening criteria outlined in the EIA Directive, the DoE is of the opinion that **the proposed road requires an EIA** to inform the review process **prior to consideration of its gazettal** predominantly based on the following factors:

1. **Screening Criteria:** The proposal falls within Section 5(ii) of Schedule 1 of the EIA Directive, i.e. *Transportation infrastructure, including planning or construction of new roads, and of road extensions.* The activity triggers other screening criteria, in particular:
    a. The characteristics of the development in terms of the use of natural resources and cumulative effects of incremental development after gazettal (screening criteria 1);
    b. The location of development within pristine primary habitat (screening criteria 2(c)(i) and (iii)); and
    c. The extent of impact in terms of geographical area affected (7 parcels totalling 218 acres either side of the road), the magnitude of change and probability of the long-term impact having both sub-national and national implications, and likely irreversibility of impact from future development (screening criteria 3(a)-(d)).

2. **Environmental Sensitivity:** The proposed roadway will traverse areas of high ecological and biodiversity value within the central dry shrubland habitat which supports numerous critically endangered **NCL Part 1 listed Sister Islands endemic plant species** such as *Encyclia kingsii* (Banana Orchid) and *Banara caymanensis,* and **Little Cayman endemics** such as the *Dendropemon caymanensis,* as well as Part 2 listed plant species such as *Turnera triglandulosa*. The western portion of the road (at block 87A parcel 19) also bisects seasonally flooded mangrove shrubland – see Figure 2 below. The transitional vegetation will become fragmented and will likely be adversely affected by the presence of the road.

3. **Impact Evaluation:** The scope and characteristics of the potential significant effects of the proposed road scheme on these natural resources will require assessment of the direct, indirect and cumulative impacts including but not limited to:

    a. An assessment of the ecological functions and value of the specific natural resources that will be affected by the construction and use of the road. In particular an ecological assessment of the area is required to assess the presence of the protected species noted above and other critically endangered flora and fauna;

    b. An assessment of the impacts associated with changes to the hydrology and drainage patterns of wetland areas in particular as a result of the road construction;

    c. Detailed geotechnical investigations along the entire proposed road in order to identify any potential constraints on the proposed alignment and/or construction methodology, due to its current route through varied terrain including wetlands; and

    d. An assessment of the aggregate quantity required to construct the proposed road, including significant cost implications and impacts to off-site natural resources associated with the extraction and/or quarrying of material sourced on Little Cayman.

4. **Project Need:** The need for a public east-west interior road along this route does not appear to have been objectively evaluated nor adequately demonstrated. No rationale has been provided for the revised proposal which, although reduced in scale from the originally

proposed corridor, still opens up over 200 acres of pristine primary habitat to potential development.

The DoE **does not support a decision to gazette** a major road corridor in the absence of a long-term development strategy for Little Cayman or an EIA for the proposed road. Gazetting of this major road without proper development control mechanisms is certain to transform land use on either side of the corridor leading to wider reaching development impacts affecting the character of the island. NCC should bear in mind that the local community holds very strong views regarding the long-term development vision for Little Cayman, with most residents desiring the island remain predominantly undeveloped with low-density residential and boutique tourism. An EIA would ensure that the proposed road project requires consultation with appropriate Government departments and agencies (e.g. National Roads Authority, District Administration, Department of Environment, Planning Department, Water Authority), landowners (direct beneficiaries of the road and adjacent interests) and the wider Little Cayman community. Additionally the EIA would determine if the proposed corridor is the most suitable option and, if so, what can be done to mitigate both on and off-site environmental impacts.

After considering the Screening Opinion detailed above, the NCC is required to issue its decision to the originating entity on the requirement for an EIA pursuant to Section 43(1).

Figure 1 Proposed Spine Road, April 2017

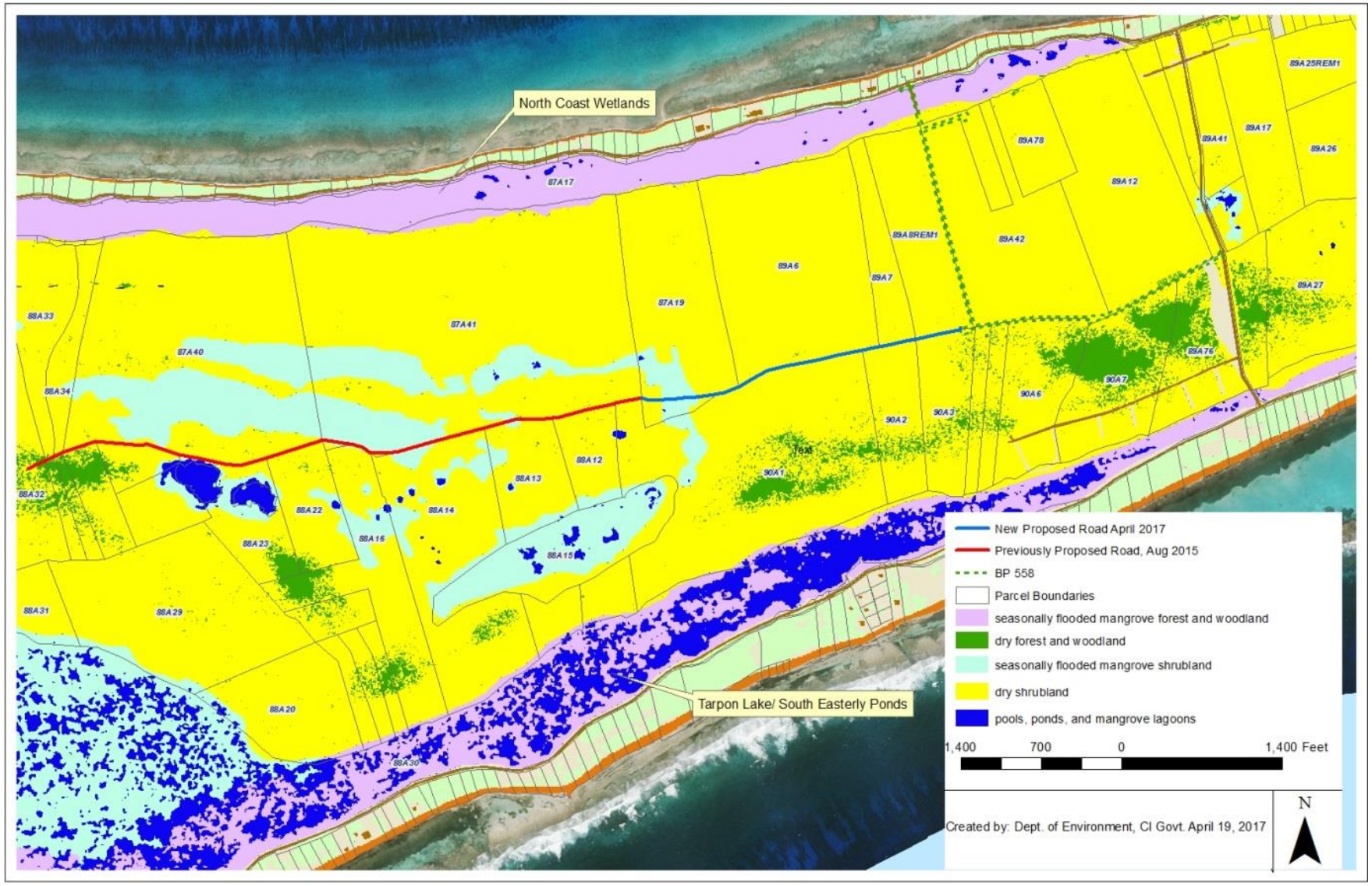

Figure 2 Habitat affected by proposal relative to previously proposed road