

# CRMC DECISION WORKSHEET

2024-09-054

Town of Portsmouth

Hearing Date:	
Approved as Recommended	
Approved w/additional Stipulations	
Approved but Modified	
Denied	Vote

APPLICATION INFORMATION						
File Number	Town	Project Location		Category	Special Exception	Variance
2024-09-054	Portsmouth	1010-1070 Narragansett Avenue		B	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Plat 75 7 7	Lot 69,70 109			
		Owner Name and Address				
Date Accepted	9/23/24	Town of Portsmouth		Work at or Below MHW	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Date Completed	1/22/25	c/o Brian Woodhead, Director 143 Hedley Street Portsmouth, RI 02871		Lease Required	<input type="checkbox"/>	

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

As-Built 600ft Structural Shoreline Protection Facility on bluff adjacent to Narragansett Ave between Edda Ave and Alice Ave on Prudence Island

## KEY PROGRAMMATIC ISSUES

**Coastal Feature:** Cobble coastal beach backed by riprap revetment

**Water Type:** Type 2, Narragansett Bay East Passage

**Red Book:** 1.2.1(C), 1.2.2(D) 1.3.1(G)

**SAMP:** NA

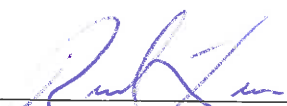
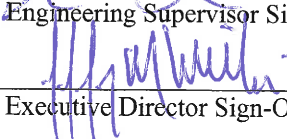
Variances and/or Special Exception Details: NA


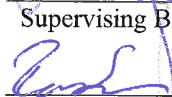
Additional Comments and/or Council Requirements: NA

Specific Staff Stipulations (beyond Standard stipulations): NA

## STAFF RECOMMENDATION(S)

Engineer	<u>RAS</u>	Recommendation:	<u>Approve</u>
Biologist	<u></u>	Recommendation:	<u></u>
Other Staff	<u></u>	Recommendation:	<u></u>

  
Engineering Supervisor Sign-Off 1/22/25 date  
  
Executive Director Sign-Off 1/22/25 date

  
Supervising Biologist Sign-off 1/22/25 date  
  
Staff Sign off on Hearing Packet (Eng/Bio) 1/22/25 date

Name: Town of Portsmouth  
CRMC File No.: 2024-09-054  
Staff Report



STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL  
STAFF REPORT TO THE COUNCIL

DATE: 1/15/2025  
TO: Jeffrey M. Willis, Executive Director  
FROM: Ross Singer

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Applicant's Name:	Town of Portsmouth
CRMC File Number:	2024-09-054
Project:	Maintain an as-built 600 ft riprap revetment adjacent to Narragansett Avenue between Edda Avenue and Alice Avenue Prudence Island
Location:	1010-1070 Narragansett Avenue; Portsmouth: Plat(s): 75 77; Lot(s): 69,70 109
Water Type/Name:	Type 2/ Narragansett Bay, East Passage
Coastal Feature:	Cobble coastal beach backed by coastal Bluff
Plans Reviewed:	"Narragansett Avenue Seawall Prudence Island, Rhode Island, Seawall As Built" dated 8/9/2024 prepared by East Coast Construction. "Existing Conditions and Work Plan Narragansett Avenue Prudence Island, RI", "Cross-Section Narragansett Avenue Prudence Island, RI" prepared by VHB

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## INTRODUCTION:

Following the winter storms of December 2023, the coastal bluff adjacent to Narragansett Ave suffered severe erosion, putting the integrity of the municipal roadway in danger. An emergency Maintenance Assent M2024-1-097 was issued April 15, 2024, for the construction of the revetment to protect Narragansett Avenue. This Category B application has been submitted as a condition of the Maintenance Assent. Construction of the approximately 600 ft riprap revetment has been completed.

## COMMENTS ON APPLICATION/APPLICABLE POLICIES, STANDARDS & ETC:

1.2.1(C)	Type 2 Low Intensity Use	Structural shoreline protection facilities are permitted along Type 2 waters.
1.3.1(G)	Shoreline Protection	The riprap revetment was constructed in accordance with the policies and standards. See discussion below

Name: Town of Portsmouth  
CRMC File No.: 2024-09-054  
Staff Report

### Pre Construction Conditions



### Post Construction (July 2024)



Name: Town of Portsmouth  
CRMC File No.: 2024-09-054  
Staff Report

Pre-construction conditions of the project site consisted of a heavily eroding bluff with scattered stone and limited vegetation consisting mostly of invasive species. In most cases, non-structural and hybrid shoreline protection methods are preferred over structural methods. However, due to the proximity of and the need to maintain the municipal roadway, it is Staff's opinion that nonstructural methods would not have been suitable for site conditions. The revetment was constructed landward of the high tide line and does not block lateral access. It is Staff's opinion that the project has minimized impact to the public and environment. All Category B requirements listed in Redbook section 1.3.1(A) and the additional shoreline protection Category B requirements listed in Redbook Section 1.3.1(G)(4) have been addressed and satisfied.

Public Notice was issued 10/30/2024. No objections were received. However, a letter to Senator Reed written by a community member dated May 15, 2024, was forwarded to CRMC staff. The letter stated support for the construction of the revetment to protect Narragansett Avenue, however they were concerned about maintaining access to the beach. As part of the Maintenance Assent, a stipulation that all unpermitted structures were to be removed, including multiple of stairs and a storage rack. The letter stated that many members of the community would not be able to access the beach without stairway access. The project did not incorporate the construction of new timber stairways to access the beach. The applicant had considered incorporating stone steps into the revetment, however they could not comply with the building code regulations. The applicant further stated that foot access over the revetment is possible due to the low height and shallow slope. The construction of new timber stairways was not a requirement of this project, however CRMC Staff would eagerly support an application for new public access to the beach.

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

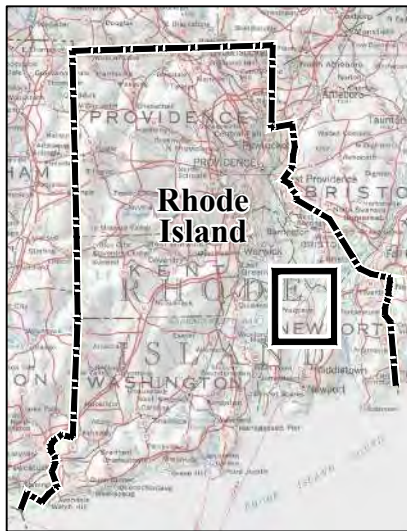
A post construction as-built survey plan was submitted with the application and the structural shoreline protection has been built in accordance with the emergency Maintenance Assent. It is the opinion of CRMC reviewing Staff that the project meets the RI Coastal Resources Management Program policies and standards, and the construction of the structural shoreline protection facility was necessary to protect public infrastructure. CRMC Staff recommends approval for this project.

Signed



Staff Engineer





Project Location Key



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USGS 7.5-Minute Series Topographic  
map, Bristol, RI-MA Quadrangles, 2012.



Project Locus Map  
Riprap Revetment Construction  
Narragansett Ave  
Portsmouth, RI

Figure 1





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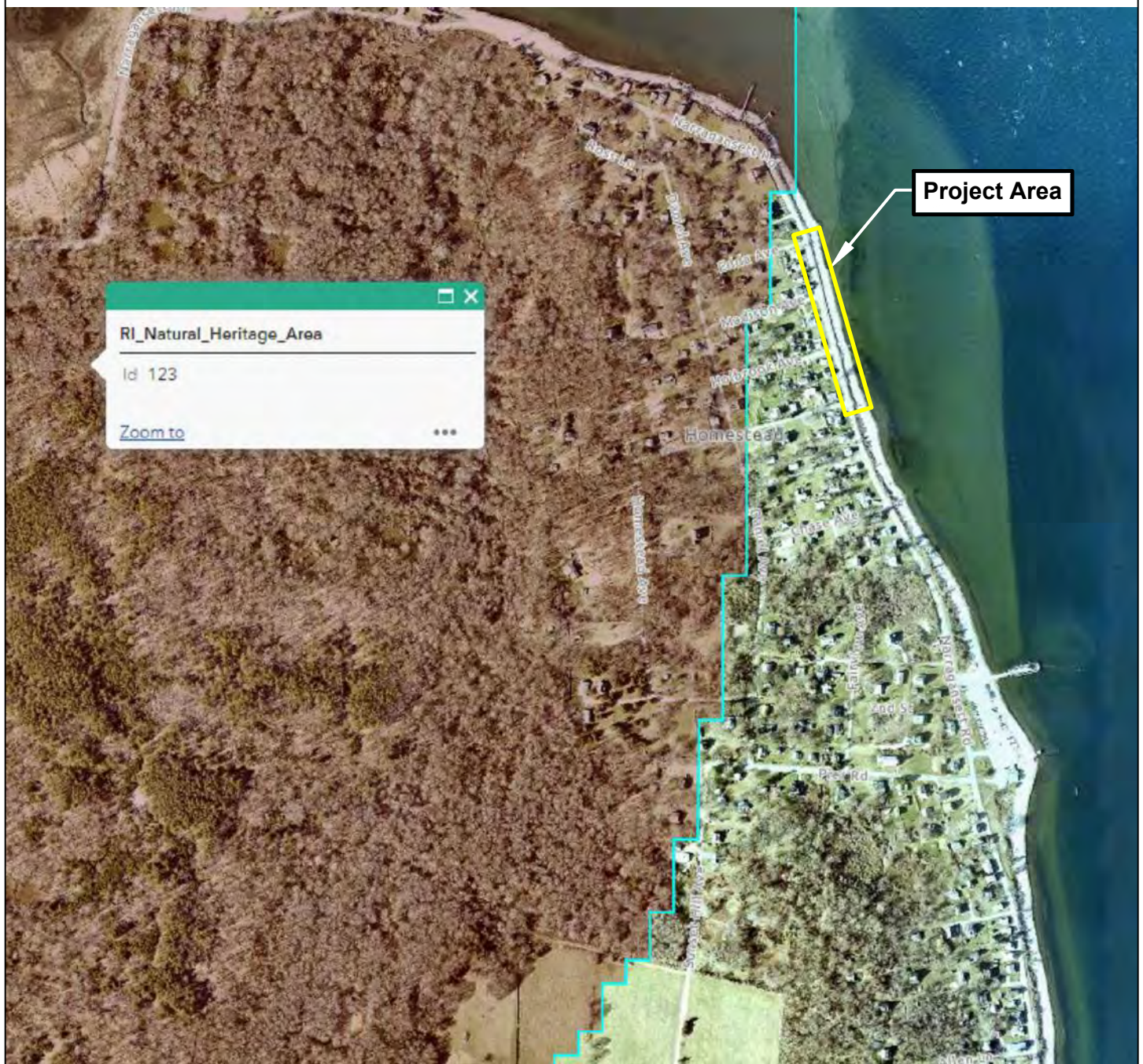
0 120 Feet



Proposed Project Work Area  
Riprap Revetment Construction  
Narragansett Ave  
Portsmouth, RI

**Figure 2**





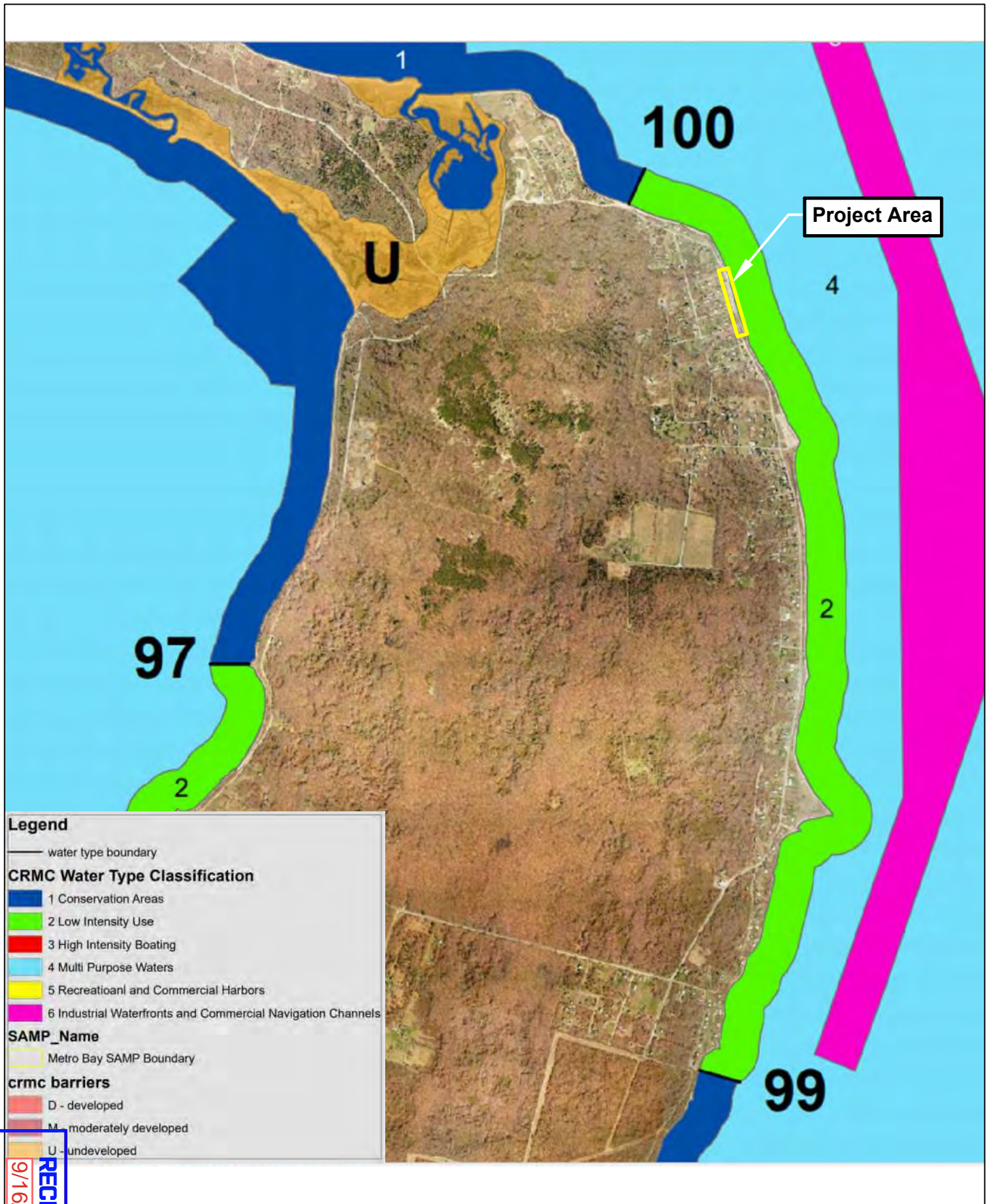
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Natural Heritage Polygon Mapping  
Riprap Revetment Construction  
Narragansett Ave  
Portsmouth, RI

Figure 3





CRMC Water Type Classification Mapping  
Providence, RI, accessed May 2024



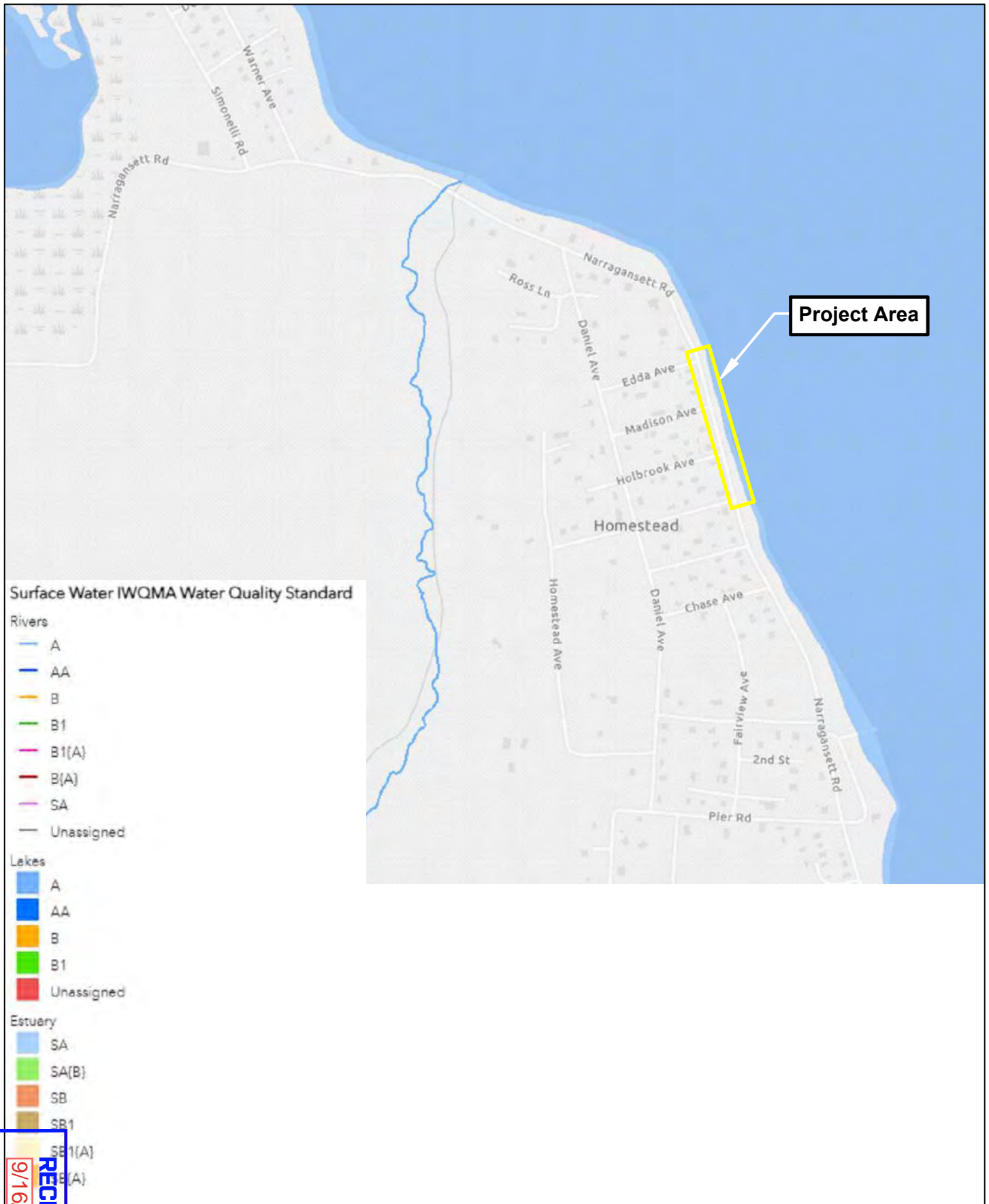
CRMC Water Type Classification Mapping  
Riprap Revetment Construction  
Narragansett Ave  
Portsmouth, RI

**Figure 4**

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CRMC Narr Ave Riprap Revetment, Accessed May 2024

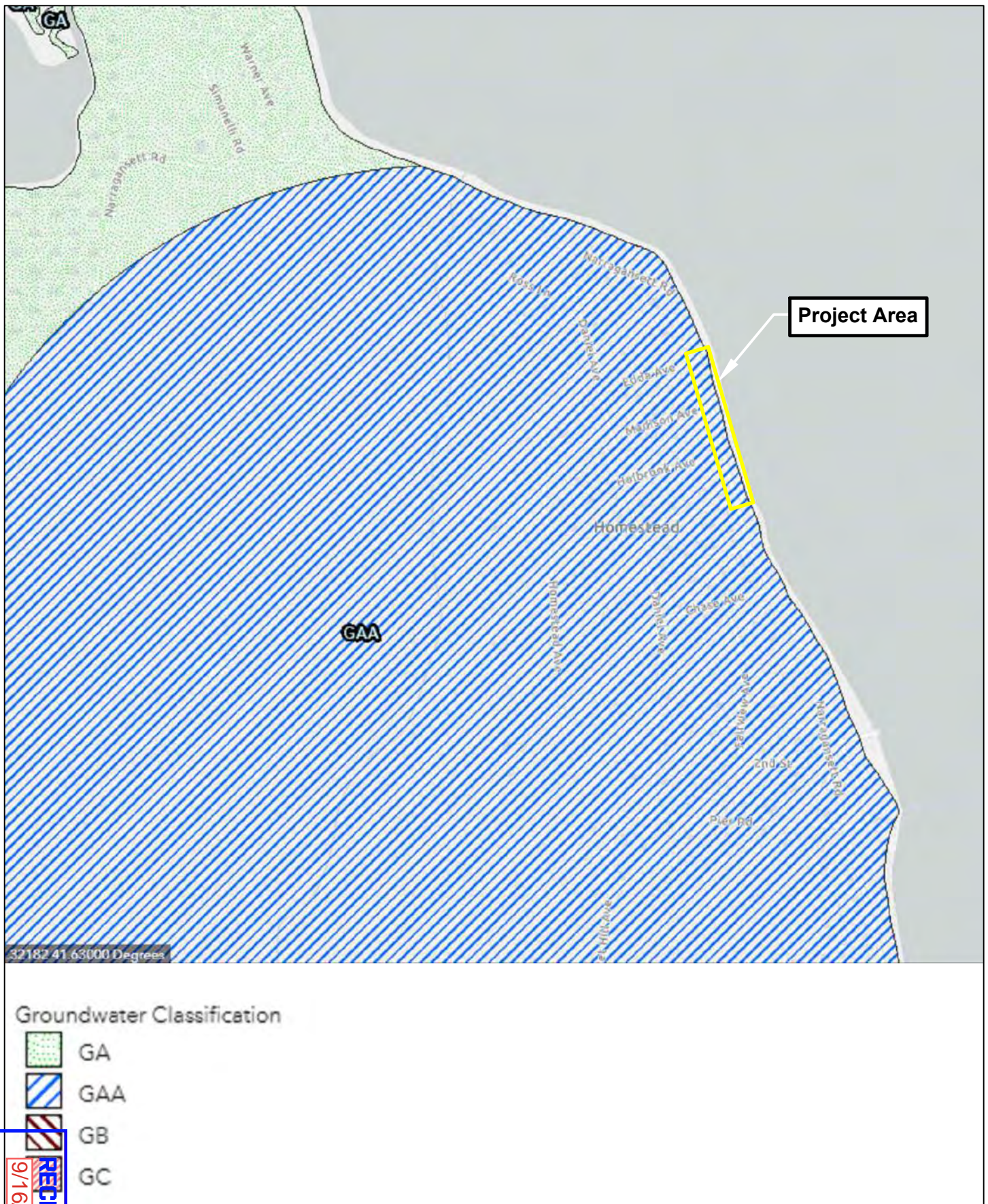


RIDEM Surface Water Quality Mapping  
Riprap Revetment Construction  
Narragansett Ave  
Portsmouth, RI

**Figure 5**







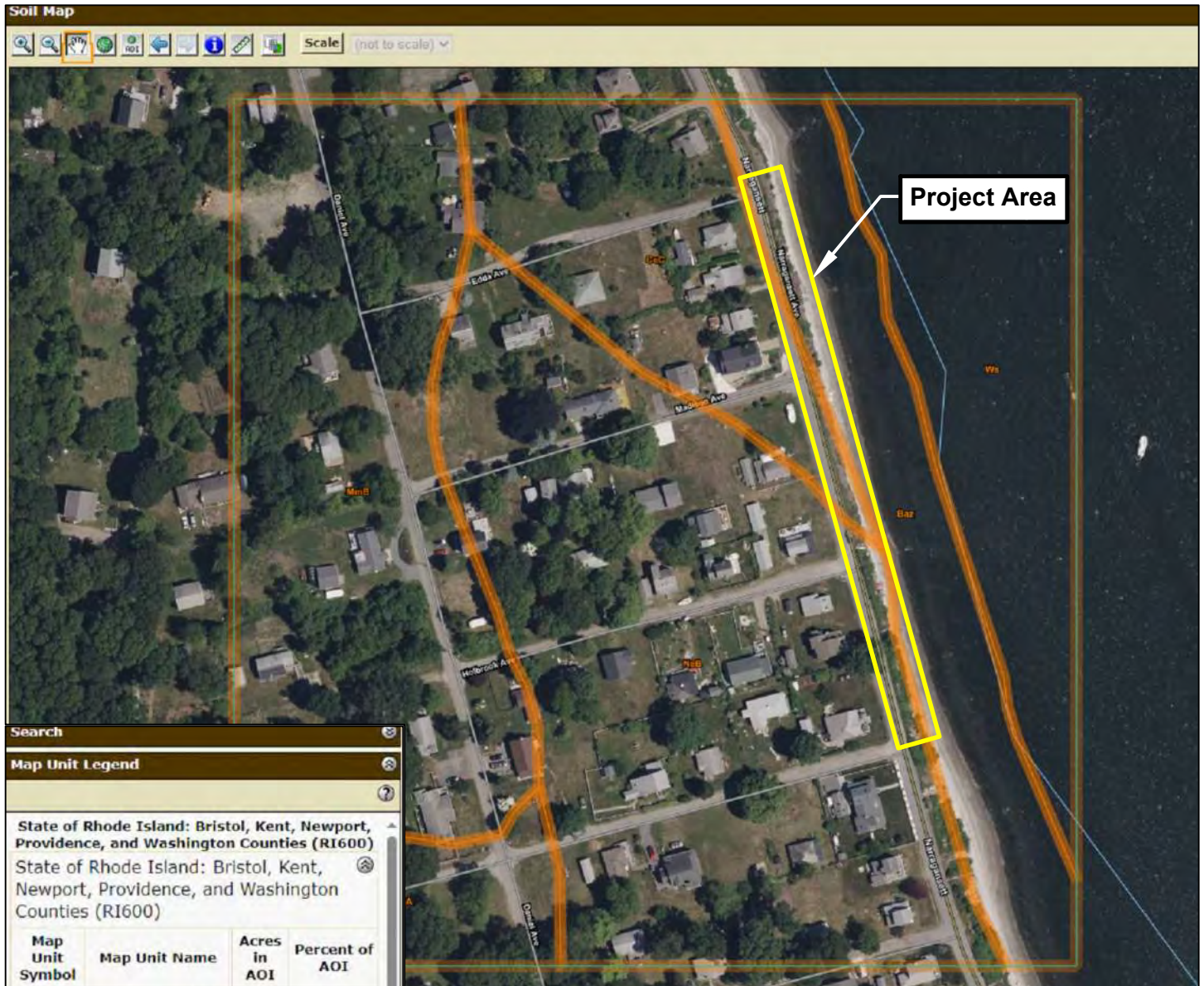
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RIDEM Groundwater Quality Mapping  
Riprap Revetment Construction  
Narragansett Ave  
Portsmouth, RI

Figure 6





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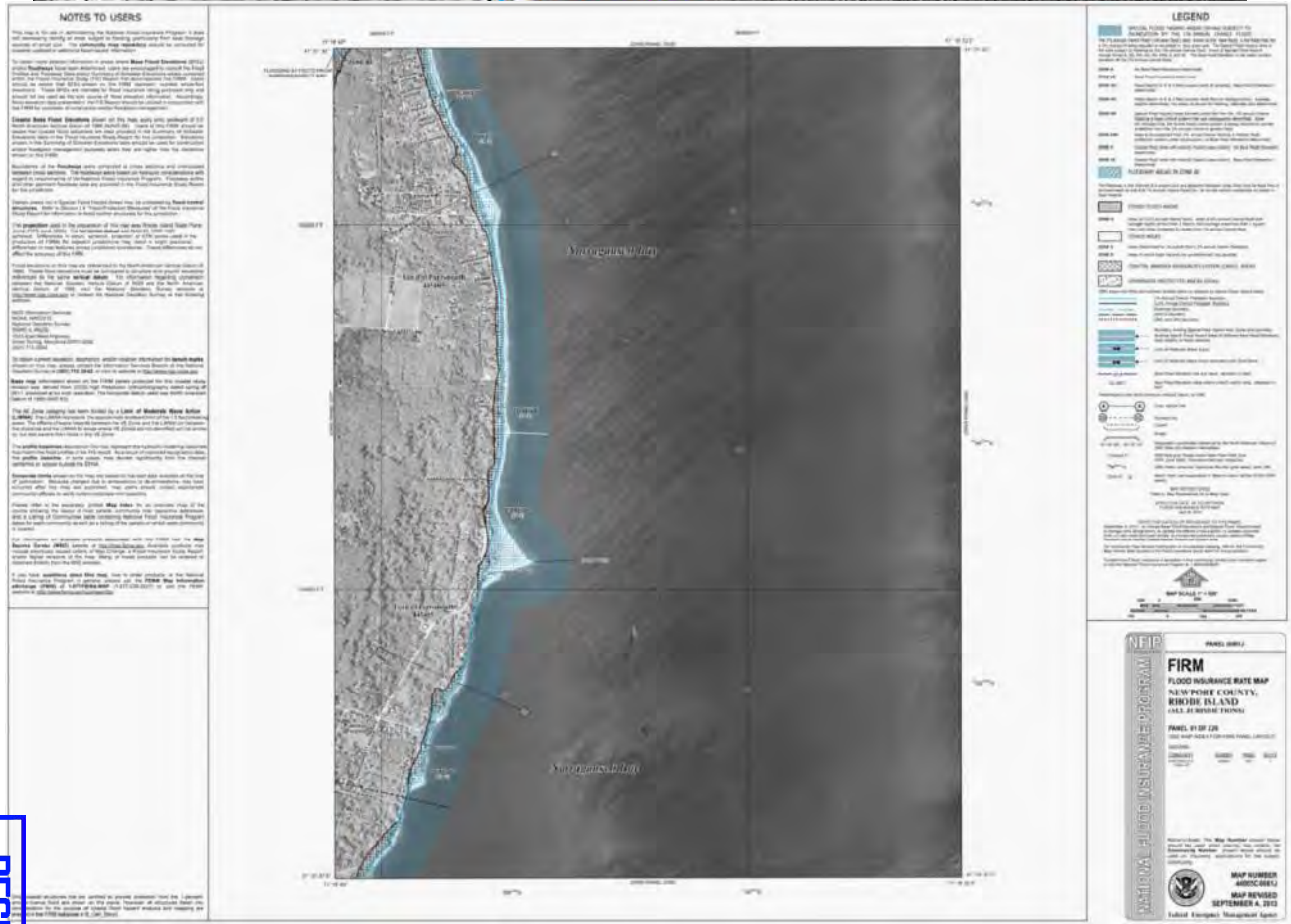
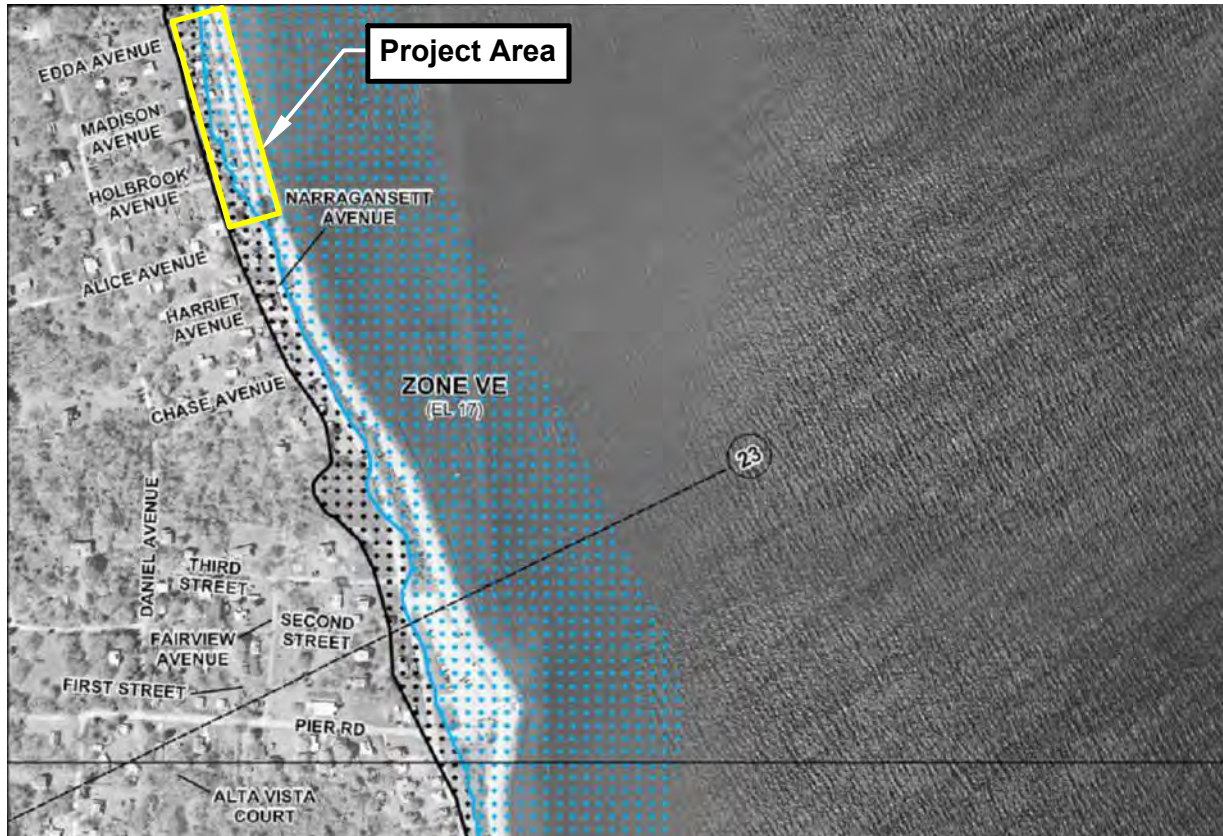
NRCS Web Soil Survey Map,  
Accessed May 2024



NRCS Web Soil Survey Mapping  
Riprap Revetment Construction  
Narragansett Ave  
Portsmouth, RI

**Figure 7**





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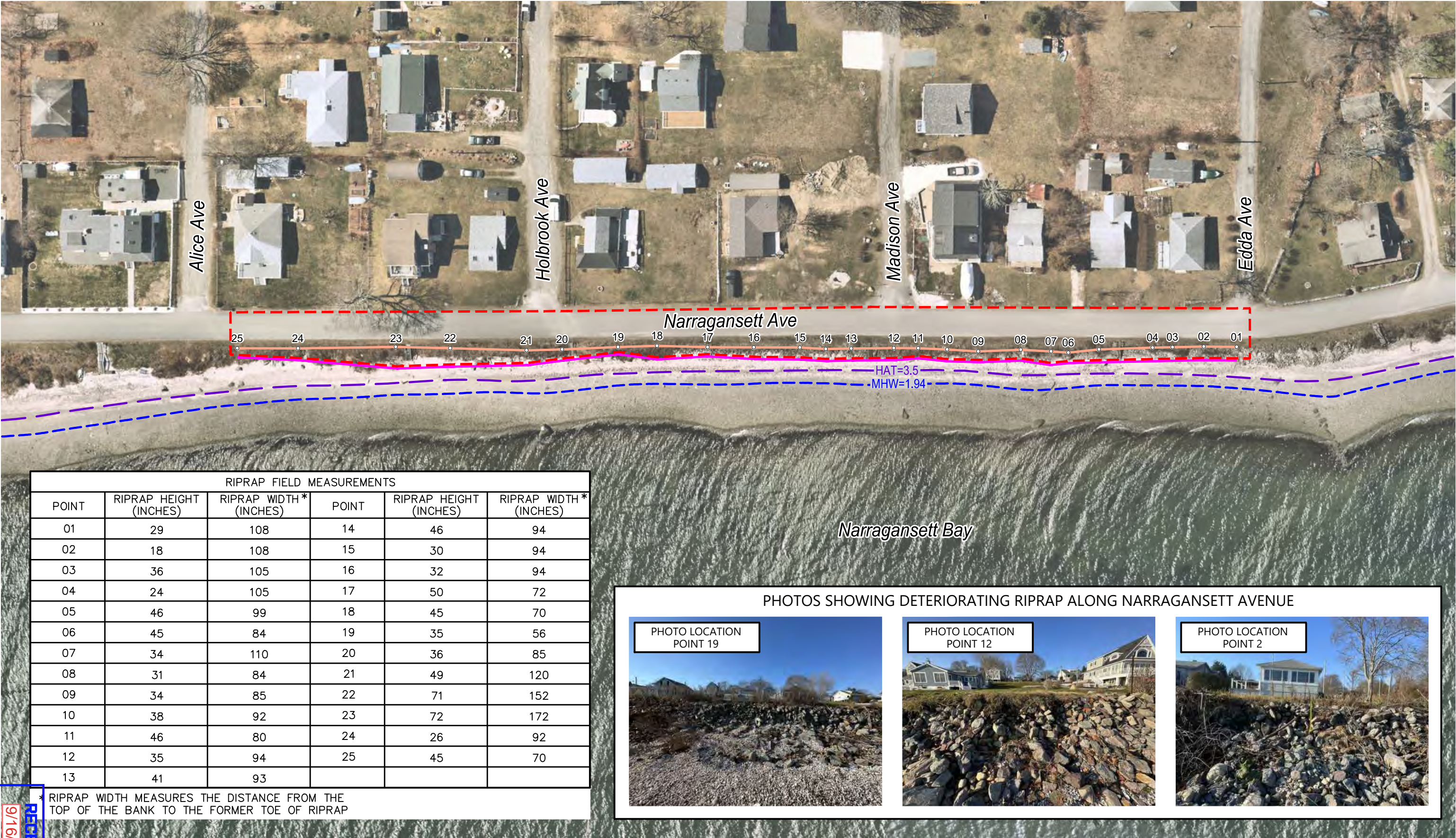
FEMA FIRM Map No. 44005C0081J,  
dated 9/4/2013



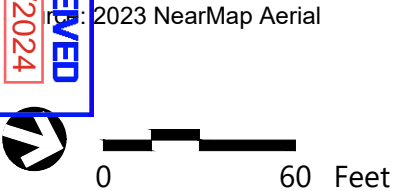
Special Flood Hazard Areas Mapping  
Riprap Revetment Construction  
Narragansett Ave  
Portsmouth, RI

Figure 8





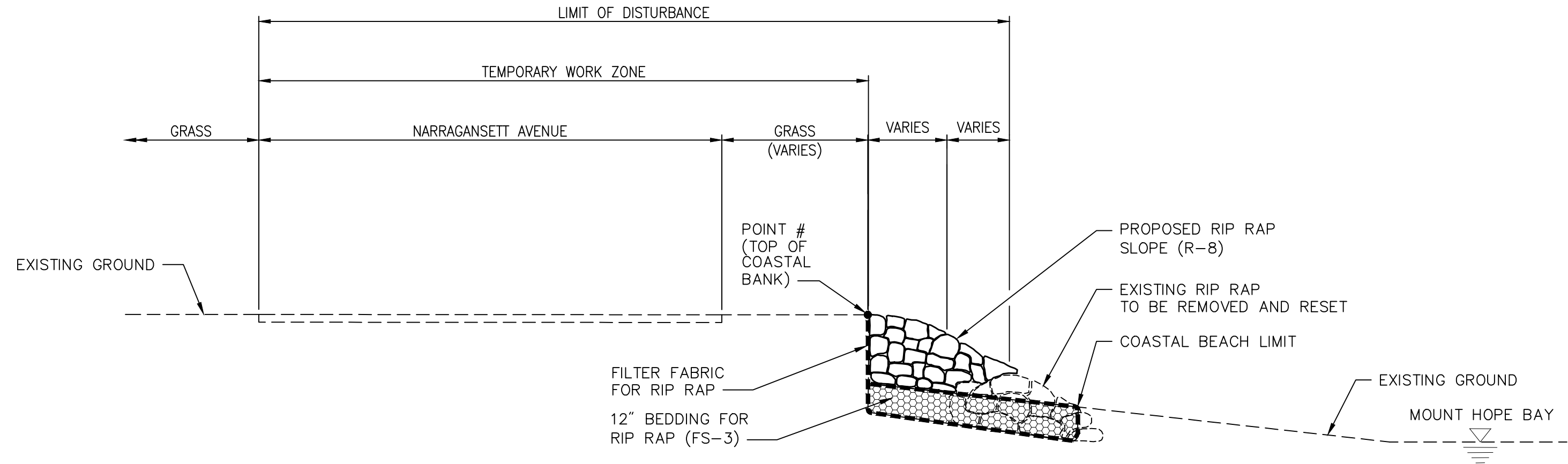
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MANAGEMENT COUNCIL



Existing Conditions and Work Plan  
Narragansett Avenue  
Prudence Island, RI

Figure 9





PLAN NOT TO SCALE



Cross-Section  
Narragansett Avenue  
Prudence Island, RI

Figure 10