



April 15, 2024

Jake Tibbles
Executive Director
Thousand Islands Land Trust
135 John St., PO Box 238
Clayton, New York 13624
Submitted via email to: jtibbles@tilandtrust.org

RE: *Supplemental Environmental Assessment for the Proposed New Border Patrol Station in the Wellesley Island Station Area of Responsibility, Jefferson County, New York*

Dear Mr. Tibbles:

United States (U.S.) Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is preparing a Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) to address the potential effects, beneficial and adverse, resulting from the proposed construction and operation of a new U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) Station in the USBP Buffalo Sector, Wellesley Island Station Area of Responsibility (AOR), Jefferson County, New York. The proposed new 75-agent Border Patrol Station (BPS) would replace the current BPS, which lacks the capacity to meet current and future needs for USBP operations in the area. It would accommodate existing staff and provide flexibility for moderate enforcement expansion and provide adequate equipment storage facilities, vehicle parking spaces, and a safe working environment for station personnel and visitors. The construction of a new BPS would address the operational deficiencies that are found at the existing Wellesley Island BPS and would allow USBP to effectively anticipate and adapt to current and future law enforcement challenges. The new BPS and associated support infrastructure would be designed for continuous operation in support of the U.S. Border Patrol Strategy to gain and maintain operational advantage of U.S. borders.

The proposed new 75-agent BPS would consist of a 17,322-square-foot main administration building; 16,475 square feet of support space; 15,180 square feet of enclosed parking to accommodate 33 vehicles; outdoor parking to accommodate 10 service vehicles, 30 government-owned vehicles, and 60 employee-owned vehicles; and a boat dock and ramp on the property of the facility in the St. Lawrence River. Support space infrastructure would include the following components: a short-stay canine facility with three kennels, an ATV/snowmobile storage facility to accommodate 12 vehicles, a marine patrol canopy to accommodate four boats, a one-bay indoor vehicle wash, a one-tank fuel island, a communication tower that would not exceed 100 feet in height, an emergency generator, and perimeter fencing. The boat dock would be approximately 30-40 feet long to accommodate two 25-foot Secure All-Around Flotation Equipped (SAFE) boats. A boat ramp would be constructed near the dock to allow for quick

deployment of CBP vessels. Public power, water and septic systems, communication systems, and gas utilities would be utilized by the new BPS.

CBP is currently evaluating two potential locations meeting CBP requirements for the proposed action: the Preferred Location and one Alternative Location (see Figure 1). The Preferred Location is an 18.9-acre undeveloped parcel of privately owned land located in the northwestern portion of the Town of Orleans, Jefferson County, New York, along New York State Route 12 (NY-12) with approximately 250 linear feet of waterfront access to the St. Lawrence River at Blind Bay (Lat/Long: 44.267139°, -76.009152°; see Figure 2). The Preferred Location was previously scoped and evaluated in a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) that was made available to the public on February 9, 2022. However, to address questions and concerns raised during the 2022 Draft EA public review process, CBP is conducting additional environmental surveys at the Preferred Location and evaluating an Alternative Location that was not included in the 2022 Draft EA. The Alternative Location is an 18.7-acre parcel of partially developed land with approximately 100 linear feet of waterfront access to the St. Lawrence River located at 40263 NY-12, Clayton, New York (see Figure 3). CBP will continue to evaluate viable alternatives throughout the SEA process.

All previously submitted comments for the Draft EA remain applicable to this process and the SEA. Therefore, CBP is requesting new data and input for inclusion in the SEA from federal, state, and local governmental agencies, departments, and bureaus, federally recognized tribes, and private citizens that may be affected by, or that would otherwise have an interest in this proposed action. CBP is seeking your input of knowledge and expertise regarding the potential, likely, or anticipated environmental effects resulting from the proposed action or viable proposed action locations. Your response should include any state and local restrictions, permitting, or other requirements with which CBP would have to comply during project siting, construction, and operation.

All scoping comments must be received or postmarked by May 20, 2024. Comments may be submitted via email or U.S. Mail per the instructions below. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Email: Mr. John Petrilla at BPAMNEPA@cbp.dhs.gov

U.S. Mail: Mr. John Petrilla
85 Enterprise
Suite 450 (4th Floor)
Aliso Viejo, CA, 92656

Mr. Tibbles

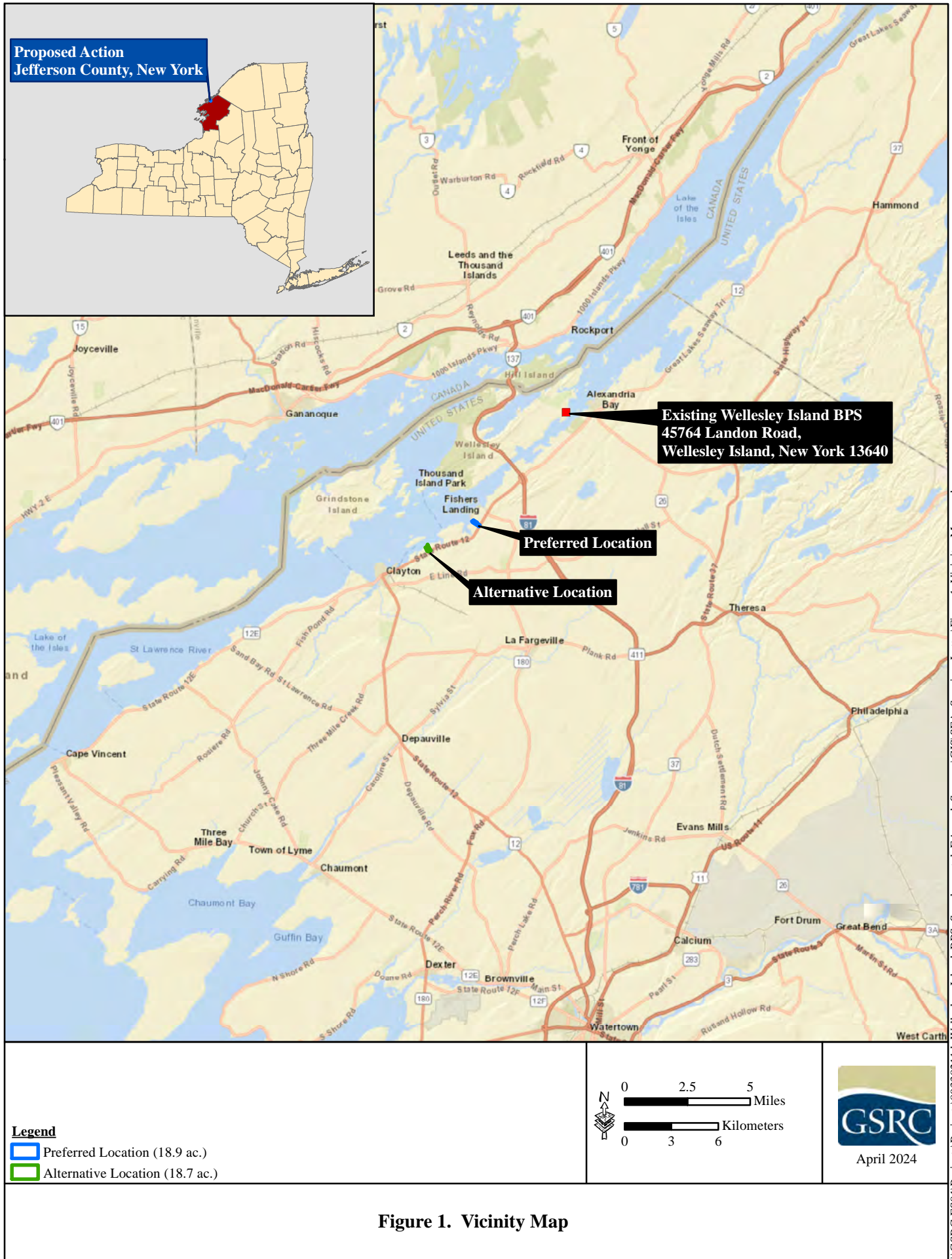
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Additional information regarding the proposed action and a copy of the 2022 Draft EA are available on the CBP website at: <https://www.cbp.gov/about/environmental-management>. A copy of the Draft SEA including the results of the additional surveys at the Preferred Location and evaluation of the Alternative Location will be provided to your office and made available to the public for review and comment. CBP anticipates completing and disseminating the Draft SEA in early 2025.

Sincerely,

Timothy Smith
Team Lead | Environmental Section
Energy and Environmental Program Management Office
Office of Facilities and Asset Management
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Enclosure(s): Figures 1 through 3





Legend

- Preferred Location (18.9 ac.)
- Aquatic Survey Area (0.4 ac.)

0 150 300 Feet

0 40 80 Meters

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Figure 2. Preferred Location



Legend

- Alternative Location (18.7 ac.)
- Aquatic Survey Area (0.2 ac.)

0 150 300 Feet

0 40 80 Meters

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Figure 3. Alternative Location

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