



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 60267
NEW ORLEANS LA 70160-0267

April 19, 2016

Regional Planning and
Environment Division South

PUBLIC NOTICE

33 U.S.C. SECTION 408 PERMISSION EVALUATION OF A REQUEST TO ALTER A UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS PROJECT

TITLE: Proposed T-Wall Construction – Larose to Golden Meadow Hurricane Protection Levee, LA 1 Improvements Project

COMMENT PERIOD FOR THIS PUBLIC NOTICE EXPIRES: 4 May 2016

INTRODUCTION: Sigma Consulting Group, Inc., as an agent for and on behalf of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LaDOTD, the requester), has requested permission to alter the Larose to Golden Meadow Hurricane Protection Levee near Golden Meadow in Lafourche Parish, Louisiana. Based upon information provided by Sigma Consulting Group, Inc, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Mississippi Valley Division, New Orleans District (CEMVN) is soliciting the public's input regarding the proposed alteration. USACE is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA), based upon information provided by the requester, to analyze the potential impacts of altering the Larose to Golden Meadow Hurricane Protection Levee by replacing a portion of the levee with a T-wall near Golden Meadow in Lafourche Parish. The Larose to Golden Meadow Hurricane Protection Project was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1965 (PL-89-298). The authorized project (formerly called Grand Isle and Vicinity) provides hurricane and storm damage risk reduction to the communities located along both banks of Bayou Lafourche between Larose and Golden Meadow in Lafourche Parish, Louisiana. The project essentially forms a ring levee approximately 48 miles long and includes levee, floodwalls, pump stations and floodgates. The system is operated and maintained by the South Lafourche Levee District. The EA will not be published for public comment. Any comments regarding the proposed alteration should be submitted during the current public review period.

REQUESTED PERMISSION AUTHORITY: The authority to grant permission for temporary or permanent use, occupation or alteration of any US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) civil works project is contained in Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, as amended, codified at 33 USC 408 ("Section 408"). Section 408 authorizes the Secretary of the Army to grant permission for the alteration or occupation

or use of a USACE project if the Secretary determines that the activity will not be injurious to the public interest and will not impair the usefulness of the project.

REQUESTERS PROPOSED ACTION: The LaDOTD proposes to degrade a portion of the existing levee and to replace it with a floodwall 400 feet in length in the Larose to Golden Meadow levee at "Section A West" near levee station 118+00 approximately 2 miles north of the Leon Theriot floodgate. The floodwall is part of the overall LA 1 Improvements Project which includes construction of an elevated 17-mile four lane controlled access highway between Golden Meadow and Fourchon Louisiana. The proposed floodwall would be a T-wall configuration supported on two rows of H-piles with a steel pile cutoff wall. The top of the T-wall base would be at elevation (EL) +13.5 feet NAVD 88 (2004.65); on top of the base would be a wall stem of 7.5 feet. This corresponds to a total EL of +21.0 feet and a 2% chance of exceedance in any given year. The proposed elevation would be above the current +14.8 feet EL. A vicinity map and proposed plans are attached.

The Larose to Golden Meadow levee would be degraded to EL 11.0 feet to accommodate a proposed 9-foot wide, 4-inch thick concrete stabilization pad. Additional 4-inch degrading is required for areas where the stabilization slab would sit. Degrading the existing levee would only be authorized outside of the June 1 to November 30 hurricane season.

In addition, a stability berm consisting of compacted fill would be constructed on the protected side of the levee along the entire floodwall length to eliminate unbalanced forces of the T-wall between these stations. Levee fill would be placed at the floodwall tie-ins to the existing levee and for construction of the stability berm on the protected side of the levee. To achieve a good bonding between placement of new fill and the existing levee, the existing levee would first be excavated and backfilled before placing the new fill. Concrete scour protection would be utilized for the levee/floodwall tie-ins, in accordance with USACE standards.

A rock berm consisting of 55-lb riprap would be constructed along the protected side of the levee toe from approximate levee station 115+89 to approximate levee station 122+00 for stability and scour protection.

Access for construction would include working from floating barges located in the canal on the protected side of the levee; material and equipment may be transported along the levee toe. The levee would be graded to provide a vehicular access ramp down the levee slope at each end of the floodwall. The ramps would be designed to approximately 1V:15H slope and a width of 14 feet. The surface would be grassed consistent with the rest of the levee crown.

A silt fence would be placed along the existing rights-of-way on both the flood and protected sides of the levee to minimize erosion and movement of soil off the construction project. All new construction and disturbed areas would be repaired and

returned to design grades, or pre-construction condition, seeded and maintained until final turf is established.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE: Applicable environmental compliance documentation for the requesters proposed alteration is summarized below:

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbor Act. The proposed alterations are encompassed within the larger LA-1 Improvements Project and a Section 404/Section 10 permit application is currently being processed by the CEMVN Regulatory Branch (MVN 2004-01455-MS). A Joint Public Notice was issued on 24 October 2015. This evaluation includes anticipated impacts to 2.2 acres of saline marsh associated with the proposed T-Wall construction. If authorized, compensatory mitigation for these marsh impacts will be required in the Sections 404/10 permit. The proposed rock berm consisting of 55-lb riprap to be constructed along the protected side of the levee toe from approximate levee station 115+89 to approximate levee station 122+00 for stability and scour protection will be processed as part of the on-going permitting action (MVN 2004-01455-MS).

Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. An application for Water Quality Certification (WQC Number 151020-01) was submitted to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality for the LA 1 Improvements Project, in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. Construction associated with the proposed Section 408 alteration is encompassed in the application.

Section 402 of the Clean Water Act. A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan will be prepared in conjunction with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting process prior to construction. The DOTD will minimize non-point discharge water quality impacts and will comply with all requirements of the Clean Water Act, as amended, for the construction of this proposed highway, and will include all specifications and best management practices (BMPs) necessary for control of erosion and sedimentation due to construction related activities.

Coastal Zone Management Act. A Joint Use Permit Application (CUP number P20150558) was submitted through the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources – Coastal Management Division for a Coastal Use Permit for the LA-1 Improvements Project in accordance with the State and local regulations of the Coastal Resources Program. Construction associated with the proposed Section 408 alteration is encompassed in the application.

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The proposed section 408 alteration is within the existing levee footprint; thus, no known historic properties would be affected. Intensive cultural resources surveys for the larger LA-1 Improvements project were conducted in September 2003 and August 2008, and these surveys did not reveal historic resources within the Section 408 project footprint. USACE is unaware of properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places near the proposed alteration. Input was requested from the State Archeologist and State Historic

Preservation Officer during the public comment period for the Section 404 permit application; however, no response was received.

Endangered Species Act. The proposed Section 408 alteration is within the levee footprint, and was determined to have no effect on threatened or endangered species or to designated critical habitat pursuant to the Endangered Species Act. The marsh adjacent to the Larose to Golden Meadow Hurricane Protection Levee is not suitable habitat for the West Indian Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*).

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided threat minimization measures for the West Indian Manatee for the LA-1 Improvement project. If the project is authorized, these measures will be incorporated into the Regulatory permit (MVN 2004-01455-MS).

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act): Coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service, in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Act, is being conducted as part of the MVN Regulatory Permitting action of the LA-1 Improvements project (MVN 2004-01455-MS). The National Marine Fisheries Service provided the following Essential Fish Habitat Conservation Recommendation associated with the Regulatory permitting action:

The applicant should be required to provide compensatory mitigation sufficient to fully offset all anticipated direct and indirect project impacts to marsh. The mitigation plan should be required to be developed in coordination with NMFS, made a special condition of any permit authorizing highway construction, and its implementation should be required by permit special condition to be concurrent with the construction of the causeway.

Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Waste (HTRW) Assessment: A Phase I Site Assessment was conducted for the entire Louisiana 1 Improvements study area in accordance with the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Standard E-1527, as described in the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Golden Meadow to Port Fourchon Project prepared by the U.S. Department of Transportation – Federal Highway Administration and the Louisiana DOTD, dated September 2002. There were no potential hazardous materials sites located within the Section 408 project boundaries. Proposed excavation activities within the Section 408 project footprint would be within the existing levee rights-of-way; thus, the risk for encountering HTRW is low.

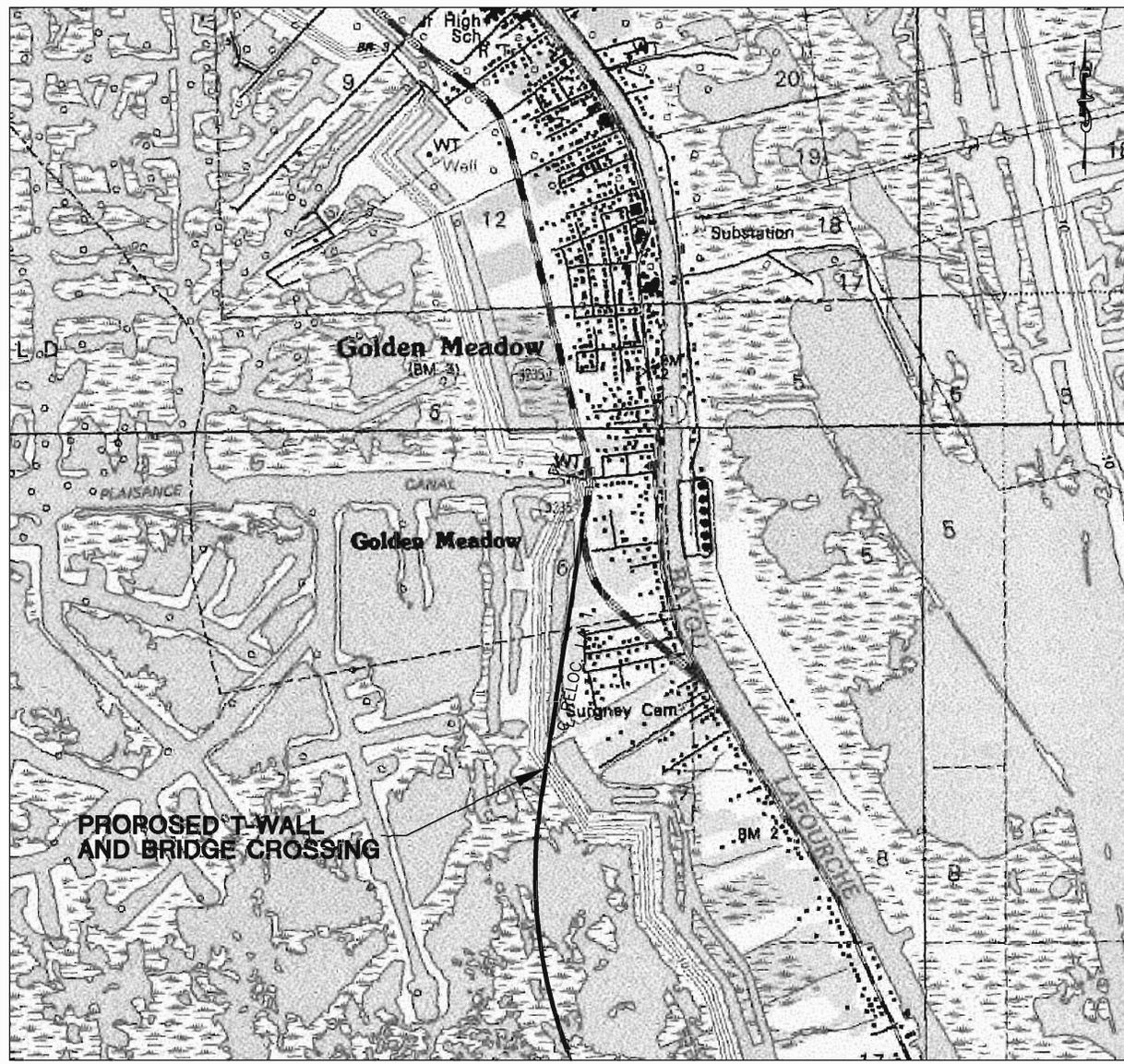
National Environmental Policy Act. A Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Louisiana 1 Improvements, Golden Meadow to Port Fourchon, Project was prepared by the U.S. Department of Transportation – Federal Highway Administration and the Louisiana DOTD, dated September 2002. Cooperating agencies included the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, USACE- New Orleans District, U.S. Coast Guard – Eighth Coast Guard District, and U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – National Marine Fisheries Service. The Record of

Decision was signed in January 2003 and revised in May 2004, March 2009, and February 2011. The proposed highway alignment was evaluated in this EIS. The EIS for the Larose to Golden Meadow, Louisiana, Hurricane Protection Levee (formerly called Grand Isle, Louisiana, and Vicinity Hurricane Protection) was prepared by USACE in 1974; the Statement of Findings for the EIS was signed on April 4, 1974. Additionally, USACE is preparing an environmental assessment specific to the Section 408 request pursuant to NEPA. Comments received on this public notice will be used in the evaluation of potential impacts of the proposed alteration on important resources. The EA will not be published for public comment as this notice fulfills NEPA requirements for public participation.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT: The purpose of this notice is to solicit comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties regarding the proposed alteration to the USACE project. Comments received within 15 days of this publication will be used in the evaluation of potential impacts of the proposed action on important resources and in the evaluation of whether the proposed alteration would be injurious to the public interest and/or would impair the usefulness of the authorized project. All comments will be considered in preparing an environmental assessment pursuant to NEPA. This request will be evaluated pursuant to the standards set forth in 33 USC 408 and HQUSACE guidance pertaining thereto. Only the specific activities that have the potential to occupy, use or alter existing USACE projects will be evaluated. Please limit comments to the area of the alteration and those adjacent areas that would be directly or indirectly affected by the alteration to the federally authorized civil works project described herein. **Comments may be submitted to john.m.thron@usace.army.mil and should be received by 4 May 2016.**

Sandra Stiles
Acting Chief, Environmental Planning Branch

Enclosures

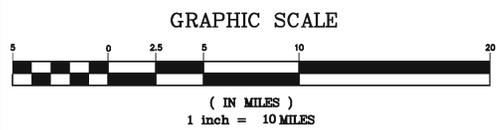


LAYOUT MAP



PROJECT LOCATION
VICINITY MAP

**SOUTHEASTERN LAND DISTRICT
T20S - R22E
SECTIONS 6 & 7
LAFOURCHIE PARISH, LA**



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & DEVELOPMENT
LOUISIANA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

**LA 1 IMPROVEMENTS
GOLDEN MEADOW TO FOURCHON, LA
LAFOURCHIE PARISH, LOUISIANA
SECTION 408 APPROVAL**



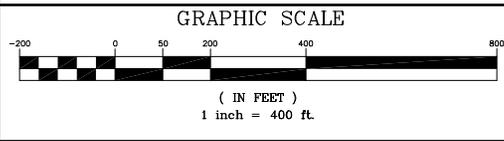
STATE PROJECT	H.008145
FEDERAL PROJECT	H008145
DATE	MARCH 2015
REVISED DATE	
SHEET NUMBER	FIGURE 1



VICINITY MAP



© 2020A US201 04820 Construction Permit Fig. 18 - Wall Location.dwg [1-2020] May 14, 2015 - 4:16pm



LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & DEVELOPMENT
 LOUISIANA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY



**LA 1 IMPROVEMENTS
 GOLDEN MEADOW TO FOURCHON, LA
 LAFORCHE PARISH, LOUISIANA
 CONSTRUCTION PERMIT APPLICATION**



STATE PROJECT	H.008145
FEDERAL PROJECT	H008145
DATE	APRIL 2015
REVISED DATE	
SHEET NUMBER	FIGURE 18

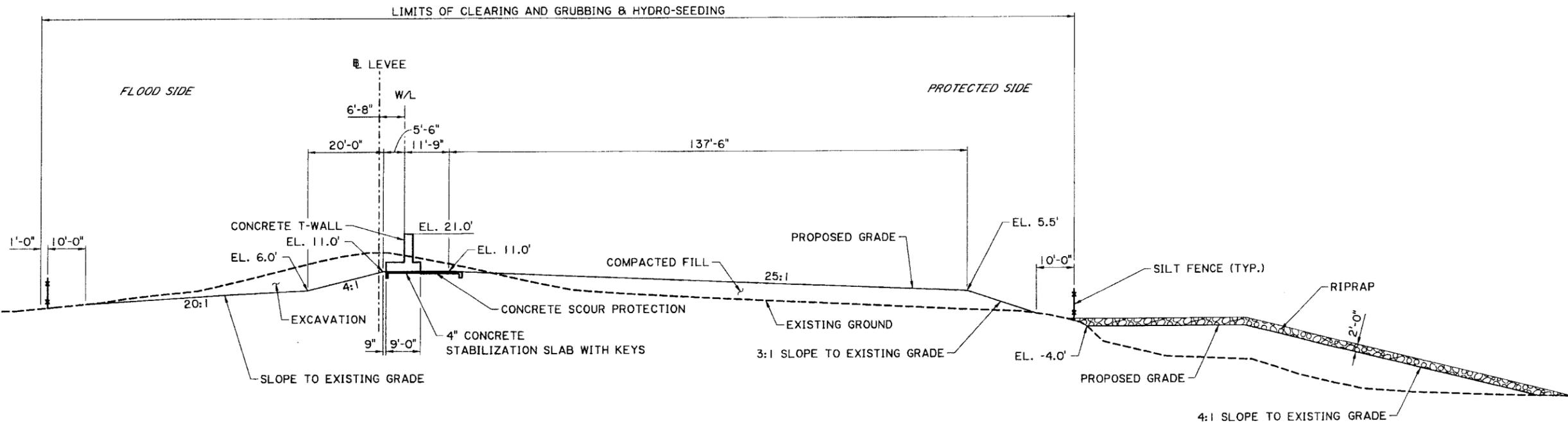


PRELIMINARY - THIS DOCUMENT IS NOT TO BE USED FOR CONSTRUCTION, BIDDING, RECORDATION, CONVEYANCE OR SALES.
 ROBERT J. LEAR JR, PE, LSI LA PE NO. 29394

T-WALL LOCATION



FINAL PLANS



TYPICAL LEVEL SECTION AT T-WALL

STA. 116+94.15 TO STA. 118+71.85
N.T.S.

NOTES:

- 1. T-WALL SHEET PILE AND HP PILES NOT SHOWN FOR CLARITY.
- 2. SLOPES SHOWN ARE HORIZ : VERT.

**PLANS ARE FOR
INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES
ONLY AND ARE NOT
INTENDED FOR BIDDING.**

JOHN BERNARD
 License No. 51025
 PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER
 CIVIL & SANITARY ENGINEERING
 3/14/2016

DESIGNED	B. GOODNER	PARISH	LAFOURCHE
CHECKED	J. BERNARD	CONTROL SECTION	829-32
DATE		STATE PROJECT	H.008145
NO.		REVISION OR CHANGE ORDER DESCRIPTION	



TYPICAL LEVEL SECTION
 AT T-WALL
 LEEVILLE TO GOLDEN MEADOW (PHASE 2C)

